Rewarding sustainable conservation hunting in Namibia

Hunting is part of Namibia’s wildlife conservation strategy, as it provides income for wildlife landowners and promotes biodiversity conservation and tourism by allowing legal harvest of wild animals. Conservation Namibia brings to you:

Hunting in Namibia is regulated by Namibia’s Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism. It is widely practised as a harvesting method to control overgrazing and prevent land degradation. With the implementation of the “Age-Related Trophy Measuring System” (ARTMS) in 2010, Namibia professional hunters are encouraged to focus on a sustainable, age-related harvesting strategy that favours older animals.

Different types of hunting have different purposes: sport, trophy or commercial hunting. Conservation hunting is linked to the conservation of natural and cultural resources and hence is managed and monitored accordingly. It is a key component of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism’s strategic plan to increase wildlife population sizes and promote sustainable hunting practices.

Conservation hunting guidelines will help the hunting industry ensure its long-term sustainability and further increase its positive contribution to Namibia’s wildlife conservation and tourism. Ultimately, these guidelines will help Namibia apart as a hunting destination that tackles the negative issues head-on through practical interventions like age-related trophy measurements, while maximising the benefits of this form of international tourism. In the age of social media, the Namibian hunting industry is under pressure to prove that it is responsible and sustainable.

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism and the Namibian Chamber of Environment are working in partnership with NAPHA to develop a comprehensive Best Practice Guide for conservation hunting in Namibia. This guide will cover every aspect of hunting and will be distributed to hunting outfitters and made publicly accessible for hunting clients coming to Namibia.

Although there are some local age-related trophy measuring practices, there are no standardised and widely accepted guidelines in Namibia. The Artographic Working Group (NAPHA) recognises that an over-emphasis on large trophies can have clear benefits for wildlife conservation and the economy.

While the ARTMS guidelines focus on Trophy Hunting, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism also promotes the use of other hunting methods, such as Cull Hunting or Wildlife Management. The working group developed similar detailed criteria for animals with tusks (i.e. elephant and warthog) and carnivores. This new system of record-keeping is part of a larger effort to define best practices for hunting in Namibia. The working group avoided using traits that could reflect the local environment on animals, and selected traits for their ability to distinguish age-related features. They refer to the authors and researchers who have contributed to this field.

This new system of record-keeping is part of a much larger effort to define best practices for hunting in Namibia. The working group avoided using traits that could reflect the local environment, although these could be used as supporting evidence. They refer to the authors and researchers who have contributed to this field.

As with any system, it has its critics, especially for the multi-year pole measurements. Some critics argue that because of the age-related features, the results of the measurement system could be questioned. In Namibia, the ARTMS is considered to be a more reliable method of measuring age-related features. The ARTMS is based on a comprehensive guide developed by NAPHA and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism.

In 2010 the Namibian conservation community brought together a working group of researchers experienced in trophy hunting, biology, and animal behaviour. The group’s aim was to develop a comprehensive guide on Trophy Hunting, which would be available for use by hunters. Although the aging of the age of a large tusks is a simple technique, it is based on knowledge of how large, mature and mature tusks grow and change over time. Immature antelope, for example, have soft, velvety tissue around the base of their horns. As they mature, the tissue hardens and is lost once the animal reaches its prime. During their prime, the horn growth slows down and the horns and skulls grow and change over time. Immature antelope, for example, have soft, velvety tissue around the base of their horns. As they mature, the tissue hardens and is lost once the animal reaches its prime. The group avoided using traits that could reflect the local environment, although these could be used as supporting evidence. They refer to the authors and researchers who have contributed to this field.

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