

Trophy hunting: The good, the bad, and the ugly

Trophy hunting: some love it, some hate it. An incredibly important part of advocating for or against a cause is to understand the opposition's point of view. In this brief analysis, we present two differing points of view on the topic, and we'll let you decide what side you take!

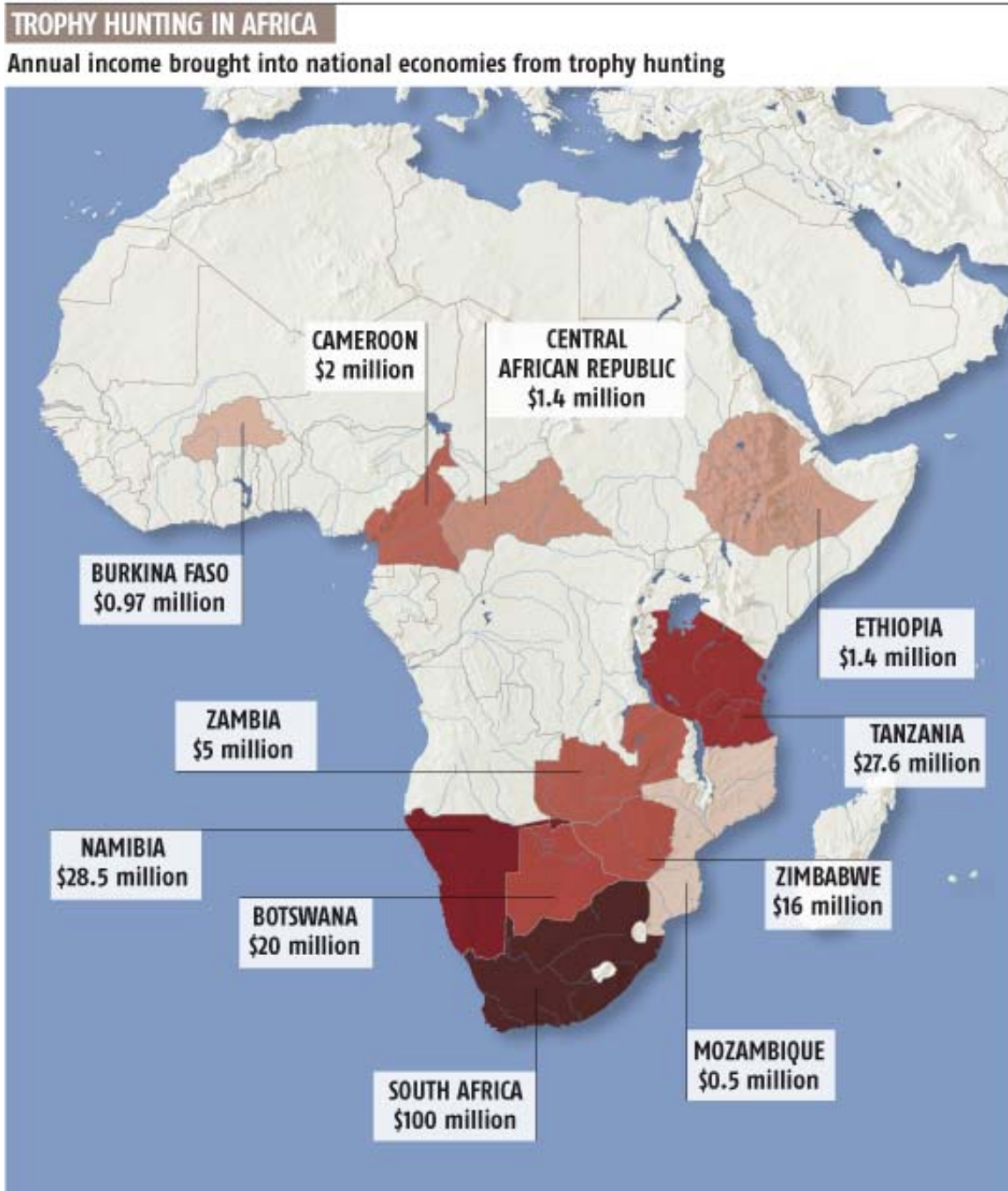


Figure one: Annual income brought into national economies from trophy hunting.
Source: <http://bit.ly/1K1q6u3>

Pro elephant life advocates	Pro-hunting advocates
<p>Trophy hunting is an elitist hobby for those excited to pay tens of thousands of dollars for a safari with the goal of killing a beautiful, large or rare exotic animal.¹</p> <p>Needless killing of endangered species for trophies is inherently unsustainable, economically short-sighted, ecologically unsound and morally wrong.”²</p>	<p>Some people say "hunting is in my blood" because our ancestors were hunters. It feels good to know we can still survive on our own in Nature the way our ancestors did. Hunting, growing food and making things by hand are all things that people love to do. Even though those things may not seem to be absolutely necessary, they are very important to people who enjoy them. ³</p>
<p>Critics say the blood sport is cruel and point out that Kenya, the only African country where trophy hunting is completely outlawed, enjoys a vibrant safari industry, worth around \$800m (£480m) to the annual economy. ⁴</p> <p>Some scientists say that systematically hunting the most mature members of an animal population can adversely affect its gene pool. This will reduce the average size of future generations and threaten the ability of the species to thrive in its habitat. Researchers claim repeated hunting over many years has gradually diminished the size of the Kodiak bears of Alaska. ⁵</p>	<p>Advocates of trophy hunting claim the fees paid by tourists pays for wildlife conservation, creates an incentive to protect natural habitats, boosts tourism, prevents poaching and controls numbers.⁶</p> <p>Additionally, commercial trophy hunting brings significant revenue to cash-poor, nature-rich regions like sub-Saharan Africa. Governments, in turn, can use some of that revenue to promote conservation and sustainability efforts ⁵</p> <p>Elephants are hunted strictly under permit, issued by the government in line with CITES recommendations. ⁷</p>

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