



## REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

# MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

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Honourable Steffi Lemke  
The Federal Minister  
German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Conservation,  
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection  
Stresemannstraße 128-130  
10117 Berlin  
Germany

Dear Honourable Steffi Lemke,

### **Efforts by the German Federal Government to further restrict or ban imports of hunting trophies**

We are astonished to learn from various sources that the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection plans to "make the import of hunting trophies of animal species listed in Appendices I and II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) more difficult and, in some cases, completely prohibited".

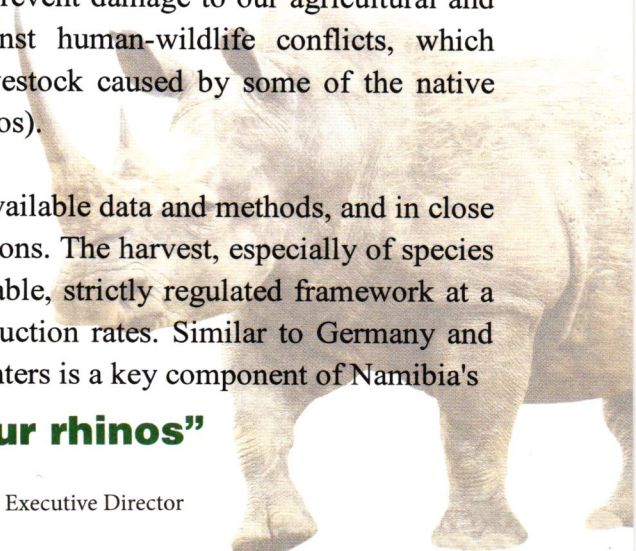
We would kindly like to ask you for the basis of this intention and what kind of imports you specifically intend to restrict beyond CITES-regulations in place.

The use of our natural resources is enshrined Namibia's constitution (refer to Art. 95 (l)). Some of the species listed in the CITES Appendices are abundant and/or increasing in our country. These include savannah elephant, black and white rhino, lion, leopard, Hartmann's zebra, giraffe, etc. Like in Germany and Europe, wild species need sustainable, regulated management to ensure the conservation of their populations and habitats, as well as to prevent damage to our agricultural and forestry resources. Another aspect is the protection against human-wildlife conflicts, which sometimes result in fatal outcomes for humans and their livestock caused by some of the native species here (such as elephants, lions, hyenas, leopards or hippos).

The management of our wildlife species is based on the best available data and methods, and in close alignment with internationally recognised and binding regulations. The harvest, especially of species listed in CITES Appendices I and II, occurs within a sustainable, strictly regulated framework at a very low percentage and always below the respective reproduction rates. Similar to Germany and Europe, sustainable, regulated hunting by local and foreign hunters is a key component of Namibia's

**“Stop the poaching of our rhinos”**

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species conservation strategy. In our country, revenue from conservation hunting is essential for achieving our national and international climate protection goals by preserving habitats, ensuring human rights through job and food security, and developing a thriving wildlife economy through balanced photo- and hunting tourism.

Let us take the example of our elephant population, a wildlife protection success story, which sees growth of an annual progeny of around 5%. Sustainable utilisation provides the funds needed for protection of this species. Direct benefits from sustainable use made the protection of the elephants a rewarding task for the local populations. Thus, sustainable and controlled use proved to be the single most successful conservation model, which model your suggested ban of trophy importation would eliminate through the resultant elimination of sorely needed income.

We are very concerned about the current developments in Germany regarding the legal import of hunting trophies, as further German and/or European restrictions and import bans will inevitably harm Namibia's species conservation strategy. German guests play a crucial role for our communal and private landowners, with 80 percent of German hunters naming Namibia as their favourite hunting destination in Africa.

We consider any import restrictions or bans of trophies listed in CITES Appendices I and II which go beyond the CITES regulations as unilateral, unlawful, neo-colonial interference with our sovereign right to the sustainable use of our resources. We assume that before your Ministry will adopt any import restrictions, it would consult with the Namibian Government, our specialist authorities and the private and communal landowners affected by such measures. However, this form of consultation is necessary for a sound decision and is, for example, part of the CITES resolution 6.7/ Interpretation of Article XIV, paragraph 1, of the Convention and further recommendations of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

We are therefore once again offering a professional dialogue between the Namibian Ministry for Environment, Forestry and Tourism and the German ministry and the relevant expert authorities. We invite you, Minister, to visit Namibia at any time to witness our successes in wildlife conservation through sustainable use, or we are also ready to advise you in Berlin.

Yours sincerely

  
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Pohamba Shifeta, **MP**  
MINISTER

