













DEBUNKING THE MYTHS

MYTH VS **FACT**

WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO
KNOW ABOUT "TROPHY HUNTING"

Table of contents

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 1. | Sustainable hunting programs have enabled the recovery of threatened species |  |
| 2. | Hunters carefully manage wildlife populations to ensure their long-term health and genetic biodiversity |  |
| 3. | Up to 100% of proceeds from hunting programs can benefit local communities |  |
| 4. | Hunting is a regulated, legal activity that is based on clear management plans. Poaching is illegal, and disregards the health of wildlife populations |  |
| 5. | In many areas photo-tourism and other non-extractive wildlife-related activities are not realistic options |  |
| 6. | The canned shooting of lions is not hunting |  |
| 7. | Ethics are culturally derived and are engrained in the act of legal, regulated hunting |  |
| 8. | Outside interference that seeks to prevent local people from making use of wildlife resources is a form of neo-colonialism |  |
| 9. | Banning hunting trophy trade will be detrimental to wildlife and livelihoods of local communities |  |
| 10. | All parties who want to achieve conservation can work together to reach their common objectives |  |



What is *Debunking the Myths?*

The term “trophy hunting” is misleading and fails to represent many of the intricacies, realities, and scientific foundations associated with well-managed, sustainable hunting.

In this series, we look at 10 myths commonly associated with this proven wildlife management, conservation and livelihood supporting activity.

While often an emotional issue, we present the facts relating to international hunting and its conservation and livelihood outcomes in this series of infographics.

The principle fact is that sustainable hunting is an effective conservation tool, one that has contributed to the recovery of threatened species around the world. Much care is taken to ensure that hunting operations are conducted appropriately, from the collection of data on wildlife populations to the use of carefully formulated, tailored management strategies.

International hunting also supports human-wellbeing and livelihoods, particularly those of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs). Benefits to IPLCs and other communities range from direct employment and meat distribution to infrastructure development and more.

Unfortunately, many people are often unaware of the full range of benefits associated with international hunting.

Those unfamiliar with hunting may conflate it with poaching (i.e. illegal killing), when the truth is that regulated hunting actually plays an important role in the global fight against poaching and illegal wildlife trade.

Others believe that “trophy hunting” is unethical, however, if the ultimate goal is to support whole ecosystems, international hunting can be seen as an essential and ethical solution.

In some cases, people may suggest that hunting is an activity that is imposed on nations by foreign hunters. In these instances, it is important to recognise that hunting is a common part of broader conservation strategies, with international hunting providing added value as part of them.

Those misinformed on international hunting often put forward alternative practices, such as photo-tourism, that they feel should be used as a replacement for hunting in terms of conservation and livelihoods. While photo-tourism can be an effective tool for conservation if practiced sustainably, it should not be seen as a stand-alone activity, but rather complimentary to hunting. Activities can be separated in time and in space but still complement one another.

Many are now calling for an end to the practice of international hunting, with several countries looking to introduce bans on the import and export of hunting trophies. When looking at the science presented in this series, a move such as this would be catastrophic for wildlife and human-wellbeing.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated travel interruptions worldwide are a real-life example of the devastation that any ban on international hunting, and on the import or export of hunting trophies would have on wildlife and communities.

In order for us to support global biodiversity and human wellbeing, it is essential that those with different ideologies on these issues work together towards their shared common goals.

Ultimately, the aim should not be to support one particular viewpoint, but rather to support wider ecosystems through the use of the best available tools, which may include the use of sustainable hunting initiatives.



MYTH

"TROPHY HUNTING" IS PUSHING SPECIES TO EXTINCTION

1/10



FACT

SUSTAINABLE HUNTING PROGRAMS HAVE ENABLED THE RECOVERY OF THREATENED SPECIES

MAKRHOR (CAPRA FALCONERI JERDONI [SULEIMAN]) TORGHAR REGION, PAKISTAN¹

<100



1986

x35

3,500



2012

BLACK RHINOCEROS (DICEROS BICORNIS), NAMIBIA^{2,3}

<458



1980s

x4.7

2,188



2017

LION (PANTHERA LEO) – BUBYE VALLEY CONSERVANCY, ZIMBABWE¹

13



1999

x38

>500



2012

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HERE
TO
RETURN
TO THE
FULL
LIST OF
FACTS



MYTH

"TROPHY HUNTING" WEAKENS WILDLIFE SPECIES BY TARGETING THE STRONGEST AND HEALTHIEST INDIVIDUALS

2/10



FACT

HUNTERS CAREFULLY MANAGE WILDLIFE POPULATIONS TO ENSURE THEIR LONG-TERM HEALTH AND GENETIC BIODIVERSITY

AGE RELATED TROPHY MEASURING SYSTEM – NAMIBIA⁴

Individuals past their "prime" are favoured. The shooting of immature individuals is discouraged, in order to maintain genetic biodiversity.



POPULATION MONITORING METHODS^{5,6}

Different methods are used to assess population health. This data is used to issue relevant quotas, or none at all if population numbers are too low.



Aerial surveys



Hunter's observations



Pellet counts



Track counts

EFFECT OF HUNTING ON ANTLER LENGTH OF RED DEER (CERVUS ELAPHUS) – HUNGARY⁷

1885



Average antler length: 109cm

2008



Average antler length: 112cm

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TO
RETURN
TO THE
FULL
LIST OF
FACTS



MYTH

ONLY 3% OF REVENUES FROM "TROPHY HUNTING" REACH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

3/10



FACT

UP TO 100% OF PROCEEDS FROM HUNTING PROGRAMS CAN BENEFIT LOCAL COMMUNITIES

CONSERVANCY MODEL & COMMUNITY BASED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (CBNRM) – NAMIBIA⁸

100% of hunting concession fees go back to communities.

Government gives communities ownership rights over wildlife



Communities can choose to, either:

- A: Lease hunting rights to hunting operators (100% of hunting concession fees retained by communities); or
- B: Act as the hunting operators themselves (100% of proceeds from hunting retained).
Option available, but yet to be implemented.

TRUE HUNTING RETURNS TO COMMUNITIES – TANZANIA (2008)⁹

Many sources have sought to claim that communities in Africa receive only **3%** of hunting revenues. This single figure was extracted, and falsely extrapolated, from data on estimated returns to communities from hunting in Tanzania in 2008.

The true estimated minimum return to these communities at the time was at least 24.9%

Today, this figure is much higher.

The expenditure of the hunting industry in Tanzania (2008)		
Expenditure/budget line	Percentage (%)	US\$
Area and Community Development	3.10	\$1,649,200
Wages & Welfare	11.90	\$ 6,330,800
Support Service Industries	9.90	\$ 5,266,800
Minimum Total Contributions to Communities	24.9	\$13,246,800

COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUNDED BY HUNTING PROGRAMS (1986-2012) – TORGHAR, PAKISTAN¹

Total Revenue: US\$ 3.186 million

Government Earnings

US\$ 486,400

Revenue to Local Communities

US\$ 486,400



80 game guards employed



Schools



Healthcare facilities

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CLICK
HERE
TO
RETURN
TO THE
FULL
LIST OF
FACTS



MYTH

"TROPHY HUNTING" EQUALS POACHING

4/10



FACT

HUNTING IS A REGULATED, LEGAL ACTIVITY THAT IS BASED ON CLEAR MANAGEMENT PLANS. POACHING IS ILLEGAL, AND DISREGARDS THE HEALTH OF WILDLIFE POPULATIONS.

POACHING IS ILLEGAL KILLING

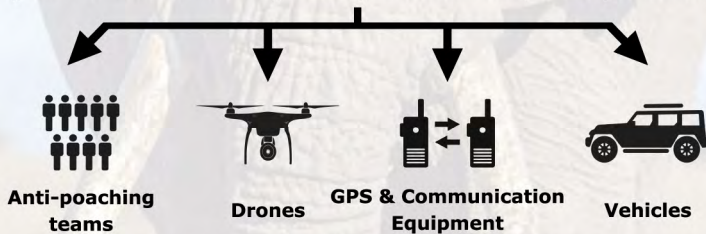
Hunting  poaching

Indiscriminate and unregulated killing of wildlife species, whether protected or not¹⁰



HUNTING FUNDS ANTI-POACHING ACTIVITIES – TANZANIA (2017/2018)¹¹

Hunters spent \$1.7 million on anti-poaching and community development in 2017/2018



Poachers are enemies of regulated hunting.

HUNTING DISCOURAGES PEOPLE FROM POACHING¹

Hunting generates benefits for people coexisting with wildlife species, including those that damage crops and livestock, or even cause the loss of human lives.



These benefits reduce the likelihood of illegal retaliatory killing of problem animals, or poaching for meat/cash.



MYTH

"TROPHY HUNTING" CAN ALWAYS BE REPLACED WITH PHOTO-TOURISM.

5/10



FACT

IN MANY AREAS PHOTO-TOURISM AND OTHER NON-EXTRACTIVE WILDLIFE-RELATED ACTIVITIES ARE NOT REALISTIC OPTIONS

HUNTING AND PHOTO-TOURISM REVENUES CAN BE COMPLEMENTARY – NAMIBIA¹²

Hunting and photo-tourism in Namibia generate benefits in different ways, but have similar overall returns.



PHOTO-TOURISM IS NOT ALWAYS FEASIBLE¹³



NO TRANSPORT
LINKS



NO
INFRASTRUCTURE



NO SCENIC
LANDSCAPES



LOW DENSITIES
OF WILDLIFE



DISEASE RISK
(E.G. TSETSE FLIES)

HUNTING INDUSTRY HAS SMALLER ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

Fewer hunters overall, high revenue per hunter. Many photo tourists, low revenue per tourist.
 Less local resources used. More local resources used.



1 Hunting \$



1 Photo-tourism \$

In Botswana, hunting based tourism accounts for¹⁴:
1% of all tourists. 15% of all tourism revenues.

Compared to 1 photo-tourist, 1 hunter generates¹⁵:
30x more revenue in Zimbabwe. 14x more revenue in Tanzania.

Photo-Tourism Revenues are often Not Retained in the Country – Botswana¹⁴
75% of photo-tourism revenues are leaked overseas; 25% of hunting revenues are leaked overseas.

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HERE
TO
RETURN
TO THE
FULL
LIST OF
FACTS



MYTH

CANNED LION HUNTING IS THE SAME AS ANY OTHER TYPE OF “TROPHY HUNTING”

6/10



FACT

THE CANNED SHOOTING OF LIONS IS NOT HUNTING

“CANNED LION HUNTING” IS NOT HUNTING

“Canned lion hunting” is a misleading term. It refers to the shooting of lions, which have often been bred in captivity, and are shot in a small enclosure – **this is not hunting!**

There are also captive bred lions which are shot in larger enclosures or translocated to the wild, with too short of a period for acclimatisation. This shows the other angle of “captive bred”.

WHAT IS HUNTING?

Hunting is the regulated and sustainable offtake of wild animals, which supports conservation efforts and human livelihoods¹⁶. It is often engrained in local cultures. Responsible hunters abide by fair chase principles¹⁷ – an ethical and lawful approach to hunting.

Breeding lions in small enclosures, to then release and shoot them shortly afterwards, is not fair chase hunting.



Shooting is shooting



Hunting is hunting

“CANNED LION HUNTING” IS NOT HUNTING¹⁸

The shooting of captive bred lions has for a long time been legal in South Africa. Legislation on this activity has differed based on province, with no national government standards and regulations in place.

Certain practices often associated with captive bred lion shooting are illegal:



Use of dogs



Unable to escape



**Shooting from
motorized vehicle/
aircraft**



Luring



MYTH

"TROPHY HUNTING" IS NOT ETHICAL

7/10



FACT

ETHICS ARE CULTURALLY DERIVED AND ARE ENGRAINED IN THE ACT OF LEGAL, REGULATED HUNTING

INTERNATIONAL HUNTING SUPPORTS CONSERVATION GOALS AND HUMAN WELL-BEING

The needs of ecosystems and people are placed above those of individual animals.

CONSERVATION GOALS¹⁹



Removing invasive species



Controlling predators



Managing species over-abundance



Preventing natural habitats from being converted into agricultural land

HUMAN WELL-BEING



Dealing with human wildlife conflict



Provision of meat



Supporting livelihoods

CONSEQUENTIALIST AND DEONTOLOGICAL APPROACHES²⁰

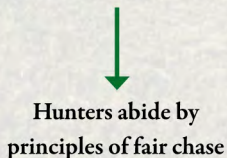
CONSEQUENTIALIST APPROACH

Actions judged on their outcomes



DEONTOLOGICAL APPROACH

Actions judged on whether they are "intrinsically" wrong



HUNTERS ARE COMMITTED TO FAIR CHASE²¹



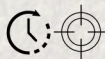
Animal given reasonable chance to escape



Abiding by quotas



No firing from vehicles (car, boat, plane, helicopter)



Animal experiences minimal suffering (quick, accurate)



Only selecting certain individuals (age, health, sexual maturity)

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HERE
TO
RETURN
TO THE
FULL
LIST OF
FACTS



MYTH

"TROPHY HUNTING" IS A NEO-COLONIAL IMPOSITION

8/10



FACT

OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE THAT SEEKS TO PREVENT LOCAL PEOPLE FROM MAKING USE OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES IS A FORM OF NEO-COLONIALISM

SUSTAINING A BALANCED ECOSYSTEM REQUIRES THE OFFTAKE OF ANIMALS

To address/prevent human wildlife conflict¹



Crop damage



Property damage



Loss of livestock



Injury/disease/death

To address/prevent species overbundance¹⁹



Habitat preservation



Population balance



Disease risk

INTERNATIONAL HUNTING CAN BE A SIGNIFICANT VALUE-ADDING ACTIVITY

Animals will be removed, regardless. Removal carried out by foreign hunters generates substantial wealth, when compared to local utilisation.

EXAMPLES OF FUNDS

Namibia¹

1  = \$20,000
& 3,000kg of meat
Elephant

Mongolia^{1, 22}

1  = \$10,300
& up to 61kg of meat
Argali

Nunavut, Canada^{1, 23}

1  = \$10,000 - \$25,000
& 200kg of meat
Polar bear

WHAT IS NEO-COLONIALISM?

*"The use of economic, political, cultural, or other pressures to control or influence other countries, especially former dependencies."*²⁴

Within context of international hunting



States and other powerful/influential entities dictate how other nations and people should manage their wildlife

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TO
RETURN
TO THE
FULL
LIST OF
FACTS



MYTH

BANNING THE IMPORT OR EXPORT OF HUNTING TROPHIES WILL HELP WILDLIFE

9/10



FACT

BANNING HUNTING TROPHY TRADE WILL BE DETRIMENTAL TO WILDLIFE AND LIVELIHOODS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

WHAT BANS TEND TO BE

Regulations that ban, or restrict, the international movement of hunting trophies, without consultation with stakeholders and range states of targeted species. These decisions should not be determined unilaterally, but must be based on sound science and involve meaningful discussion with local representatives from affected regions.



**No consultation
with stakeholders**



**Lack of consideration
for wildlife science**



**Import &
export bans**

IMPACT OF PAST BANS ON WILDLIFE & LIVELIHOODS

Banning the movement of hunting trophies will lead to an end to international hunting activities. Stopping international hunting would have these effects:

Kenya²⁵

Ban on international hunting in 1977

70% decline in wildlife numbers (1977-2016), largely due to a lack of incentives to maintain natural habitats.

Zambia²⁶

Ban on international hunting during 2001-2003.

Increase in poaching, due to removal of community incentives.

Botswana²⁷

Loss of community benefits as a result of international hunting ban in 2014:



Okavango Delta²⁷

Economic impact within 12 months of hunting ban:

- Loss of 7 million Pula (approx. 600,000 USD)
- Loss of 200 jobs

WHAT "BANS" SHOULD BE

The movement of hunting trophies from endangered species is regulated by CITES– the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), an international agreement between governments.²⁸

Instead of blanket bans, one could assist the recovery of specific species by introducing time-bound moratoria, which follow appropriate consultations and research, and have specific targets associated with them.



**Consultation with
stakeholders**



**Regard for wildlife
science**



**Time bound
moratoria on hunting**

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HERE
TO
RETURN
TO THE
FULL
LIST OF
FACTS



MYTH

DIFFERENCES IN IDEOLOGIES ON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION MEAN THAT PARTIES CANNOT WORK TOGETHER

10/10



FACT

ALL PARTIES WHO WANT TO ACHIEVE CONSERVATION CAN WORK TOGETHER TO REACH THEIR COMMON OBJECTIVES

DIFFERENT METHODS OF CONSERVATION

Many tools are used to generate benefits for conservation and human wellbeing.

Examples include:



Hunting, Fishing and Forestry



Strict protection



Photo-tourism



Guided by local leadership, participation and benefit sharing

International hunting is recognised, for example, by CBD²⁹, IUCN¹ and WWF³⁰ as an important conservation tool

DIFFERENT APPROACHES, WHEN COMBINED, CAN LEAD TO ENHANCED CONSERVATION RESULTS



Namibia³¹



Mexico³²



Norway^{33, 34}

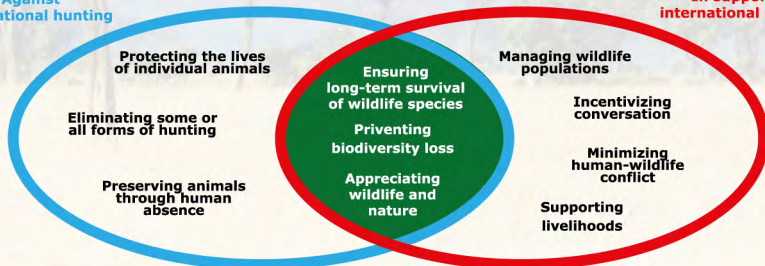


These countries integrate sustainable use, strictly protected areas and photo-tourism as part of their wildlife management strategies, while ensuring critical local leadership, participation and benefit sharing.

INTERNATIONAL HUNTING SHARES COMMON GROUND WITH ALTERNATIVE CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Against international hunting

In support of international hunting



PLEASE
CLICK
HERE
TO
RETURN
TO THE
FULL
LIST OF
FACTS

What have we done?

Our aim with this series was two-fold:

1. Educate those who are misinformed on international hunting activities; and
2. Provide factual information for people to have at hand when communicating on the subject.

Public opinion tends to drive policy decisions at local, national and international level. It is therefore important that the full range of benefits of international hunting are, at the very least, brought to people's attention.

It is often regarded as an emotional issue. No matter where you stand on the subject, seeing beyond the emotions is essential. It is important to explore all of the facts, and to consult with relevant stakeholders and experts, in order to build an informed view on the issue.

This is precisely why we have taken a factual and evidence based approach to this series, with each of our myths created using only reliable and accurate information.

As the title of this series suggests, we have sought to **debunk** some of the worrying myths associated with “trophy hunting.” We cannot sit back and allow myths to make their way into everyday conversation as “facts”.

What can you do?

Help us to spread the facts; and dispel the myths!

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) has been working to distribute this to both the wider public through our media network, and to policymakers around the world.

For those reading this and wishing to play their small part, the easiest way is to share this series with your family, friends, and colleagues.

Don't hesitate to refer to this brochure when engaging in any discussions on international hunting. Myths are dangerous and can ultimately harm nature, wildlife and humans. We need to make the evidence known and heard through the sea of emotions.

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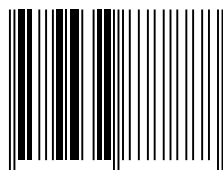
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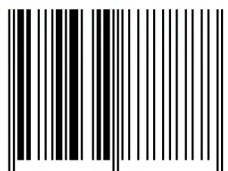
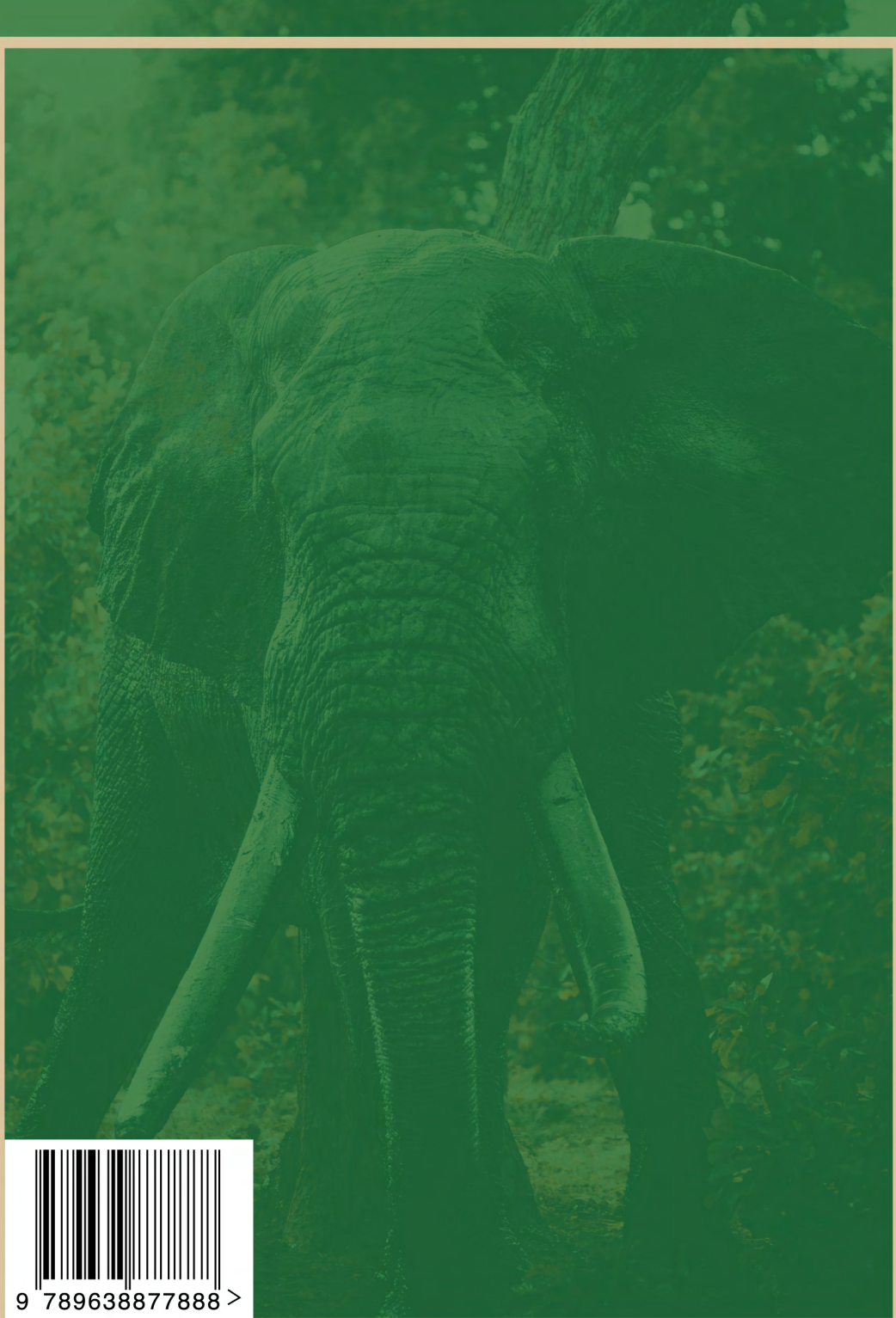
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