

MYTH:
Trophy hunting
is pushing species
to extinction

FACT:
Sustainable hunting programs
have enabled
the recovery of threatened species



MARKHOR
(*Capra falconeri jerdoni*
[Suleiman])
Torghar, Pakistan¹

<100



1986

x35



3500

2012

BLACK RHINO
(*Diceros bicornis*)
Namibia^{2,3}

<458



1980

x4,8



2188

2017

LION
(*Panthera Leo*)
Bubye Valley Conservancy,
Zimbabwe¹

13



1999

x38



>500

2012

BACKGROUND

The critical question is: how does hunting affect a species conservation status? There are many examples where well-managed, sustainable hunting programs have contributed to the recovery of threatened species such as markhor (*Capra falconeri jerdoni* [Suleiman]) in the Torghar region of Pakistan, black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) in Namibia, and lion (*Panthera leo*) in Bubye Valley Conservancy, Zimbabwe. These examples also underscore that while a species can be classified as 'threatened' globally, they can still thrive as a species locally.

The underlying threats to hunted species tend to be - according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species - habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict, poaching, drought, prey base declines, illegal capture and trade, and unregulated tourism.¹

References

Infographic

https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/iucn_sept_briefing_paper_-_informingdecisionstrophyhunting.pdf

http://www.rhinoresourcecenter.com/pdf_files/117/1175859929.pdf

<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/18/doc/E-CoP18-083-01.pdf>

Background text

https://www.iucn.org/resources/conservation-tools/iucn-red-list-threatened-species#RL_categories

Rowland Ward thanks the CIC for sharing this graphic.

