



Trophy hunting in the world

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Abstract: Trophy hunting is defined as killing wild animals for their body parts, such as head and hide, for display but not primarily for food or sustenance. Trophies include, but are not limited to, parts—such as elephant ivory tusks, rhino horns or deer antlers—to entire heads that can be mounted on walls or complete bodies that can be formed into life-like poses by a taxidermist. Trophy hunters display their trophies in their homes or offices. Throughout history, hunting has been a sport for royalty and the elite. In 1887, President Teddy Roosevelt founded the Boone & Crockett Club, which established the Boone & Crockett Trophy Scoring System in 1930 for North American mammals. The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) established the CIC trophy formula in 1930. All three of these systems focus on comparative analysis and the achievements of individual trophy hunters. Each of these three record books also already have required or are contemplating requiring trophy owners who wish to enter the records to sign an affidavit confirming that the trophy was taken under “Fair Chase.” In the mid-1970s, Safari Club International (SCI) established its own international record book, accessible only to its members. The development of record books and record keeping systems does not merely record kills, but also evidences the rising popularity of trophy hunting over time. A recent study that examined the motivation for trophy hunting found that hunters glamorize the killing of an animal so as to demonstrate virility, prowess and dominance. Trophy hunters are also motivated by the competitions sponsored by trophy hunting organizations. The world’s largest trophy hunting advocacy organization is U.S.-based Safari Club International (SCI) which reportedly has 50,000 members. SCI gives hunting awards in dozens of categories, including the Africa Big Five, for which a hunter must kill an African lion, an African elephant, an African leopard, an African rhino and an African buffalo. Other competitions include Bears of the World, in which a hunter must kill four of eleven types of bears; Cats of the World, in which a hunter has to kill four of seven types of cats; and Spiral-horned Animals of Africa, in which a hunter has to kill 17 different types of animals. “Inner Circle” awards recognize various hunting achievements, such as killing animals with a handgun, killing animals on each continent and getting the most entries into the SCI record book. To win the highest SCI award, known as “World Hunter of the Year,” a hunter must kill more than 300 animals across the globe. More than 1.26 million wildlife trophies, which is on average more than 126,000 trophies every year. Trophies of more than 1,200 different kinds of animals, including nearly 32,500 trophies of the Africa Big Five species (including approximately 5,600 African lions, 4,600 African elephants, 4,500 African leopards, 330 southern white rhinos and 17,200 African buffalo).

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