



July 17, 2007

The Honorable Professor Jumanne Abdallah Maghembe
Minister, Natural Resources and Tourism
Tanzania

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Dear Minister Maghembe:

I am writing to you on a matter of urgent concern to our organization. We have been informed that there has been a very recent announcement of a significant increase in the trophy fees and the concession fees related to safari hunting in Tanzania. We are told that in some cases concession fees have been increased by as much as 500% and that the trophy fees for several species have tripled.

Our organization supports the sustainable use of wildlife and the equitable sharing of the benefits from such use, as called for in the Convention on Biological Diversity. However, we are concerned that an unanticipated and large increase in fees, coming at the very beginning of a hunting season, could have the opposite effect. These actions may lead to widespread cancellation of hunts and result in a loss of revenue to Tanzania, not an increase in revenues.

You were kind enough to give the opening address at a meeting of the African Wildlife Consultative Forum in Dar Es Salaam last November. The meeting was hosted by your country, sponsored by the Southern African Development Community, and supported by our organization. Wildlife officials, hunting outfitters and non-government organizations from throughout the region attended the meeting. During the meeting, the importance of safari hunting to the economy of the region was discussed many times, with presentations being given by several governments.

Our organization represents more than 50,000 hunters in more than fifteen countries. Our main goal is to protect the hunting heritage, worldwide. A key to that, especially when considering safari hunting, is the existence of a stable, healthy business sector of hunt outfitters and professional hunters. These people make it possible for safari hunting to occur. Without them, the revenues and other benefits associated with safari hunting would not continue. Therefore, we favor the establishment and continuation of a reasonable, reliable and predictable business environment wherever safari hunting occurs. This benefits everyone – the hunters, the outfitters, the governments, the local people who derive benefits from the hunting activities, and at the end of the day, the conservation of the game species themselves.

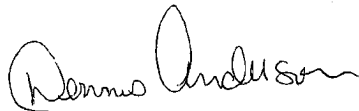
We request that you undertake an investigation of the situation that we are hearing about. At such a great distance from your country, it is difficult for us to know the facts of the situation or the reasons for any decisions that may have been made. If you find that the situation is as we have been told, then we recommend that the recent decisions be reconsidered. In any case, we recommend that decisions that may have a substantial impact on this sector of your economy be made with enough time to consider all the ramifications and to allow businesses and their clients to make the necessary adjustments.

Washington DC Office

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We thank you in advance for taking the time to consider our concerns. Tanzania is one of the most significant destinations in the world for hunters. Its reputation for hospitality, for abundant game, and for a well-run wildlife program is among the best in the world. We hope that we can work with you to maintain that status for Tanzania.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dennis" and last name "Anderson" clearly distinguishable.

Dennis Anderson, President
Safari Club International
Safari Club International Foundation

CC:

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