



## Community Leaders Network of Southern Africa (CLN)

### Participation at the 2022 African Wildlife Consultative Forum (AWCF)



03 – 07 October 2022

Maputo, Mozambique



## 1. Background

Through financial assistance from [Jamma International](#), [Safari Club International](#), [Resource Africa South Africa \(RASA\)](#) and the [Southern African Trust \(SAT\)](#); the [Community Leaders Network of Southern Africa \(CLN\)](#) was able to send a sizable delegation to represent the voices of local communities in Southern Africa at the annual gathering of government representatives, hunting operators and NGOs in the hunting industry. The delegation included representatives from six (6) of the nine (9) CLN member countries (Botswana [Siyoka Simasiku and Ditiro Mmreki], Namibia [Vilio Muunda], Tanzania [Mohamedi Kamuna], Malawi [Chifundo Dalireni], Zambia [Dr Rodgers Lubilo], Zimbabwe [Kevin Mfishani]).

## 2. CLN Activities

### a. Community Voices from Southern Africa Presentation



On the 4th of October (Tuesday), during a session titled "Indigenous People and Local Community Engagement" – moderated by the CLN Chairperson, Dr Rodgers Lubilo; CLN delivered a presentation on the voices of communities from Southern Africa. This presentation was delivered by the CLN Treasurer, Mr Siyoka Simasiku. The session started by giving an overview of CLN as a regional

institution mandated to amplify the voices of rural communities in Southern Africa through the participation and involvement of communities at key decision-making assemblies regionally and internationally. The presentation highlighted where and with whom CLN works in Southern Africa, with the representatives that were present all given a chance to briefly inform the Forum of the CBNRM and IPLC-related activities in their respective countries.

Of key significance, this slot was used to elaborate on the shared opinions/voices of communities regarding trophy hunting in Southern Africa. The presentation stressed that to preserve the hunting industry, there is a need to have common standards in contractual agreements between hunting outfitters and the local community (CBOs), clearly outlining the basic benefits for all. Further, the perception of communities being viewed as mere beneficiaries needs to be challenged, as communities should be regarded as involved shareholders and not just stakeholders. Communities need to be involved at all stages of negotiation and decision-making regarding sustainable utilisation of the natural resources that they (communities) have been looking after



for a long. In addition to this, most communities still do not have ownership of the land, and this negatively disadvantages them when negotiating the length of hunting contracts with outfitters.

### **b. African Leadership in Fighting Global Trophy Bans**



On Wednesday the 5th of October, the CLN Coordinator, Vilio Muunda, gave a brief overview of the work of CLN in the face of renewed global efforts to ban the importation of hunted trophies from several African regions and the continent as a whole. With the United Kingdom (UK) being the first nation to launch the legal initiative of banning trophy hunting, there was a growing

fear that other European nations will follow suit. CLN strives to amplify the voices of the communities themselves, it has been able to send a delegation of nearly 30 community representatives to the [IUCN African Protected Areas Congress \(APAC\)](#) for them to speak on their behalf. To date, this was the largest delegation of community representatives that CLN has managed to send to an international event. The aim is for the voices of the communities to come from them, not someone else speaking on their behalf. In addition to APAC, CLN has also sent a delegation to the [Convention of Biological Diversity \(CBD\)'s Third Open Ended Working Group](#), as well as to the [IUCN World Conservation Congress](#). At all these events, the communities representatives were able to get their perspectives heard concerning trophy hunting, clearly stipulating that the need for improvement in the industry exists, but blanket bans will only negatively impact conservation efforts as well the livelihoods of rural communities who rely on the revenues generated from hunting to continue tolerating living with wildlife. In addition, CLN intends to send a delegation to the upcoming [CITES CoP19](#) and [CBD CoP 15](#).

In addition to physical participation at international fora as alluded to above, CLN has sent numerous letters to key government parliamentarians, charities and persons – highlighting the significance of trophy hunting on conservation efforts and the livelihoods of the local communities. In the letters, there are requests seeking an audience and hearing the side of the affected communities regarding the banning of trophy hunting. Addressed to various personnel, CLN sent letters to the UK, USA, Belgium, Finland, Germany, France – and many more -, after proposed bans on trophy hunting. In addition, CLN sent a delegation to attend the EU Public Hearing on trophy hunting, as well as having a direct audience with key decision makers and



journalists all over Europe – explaining the lived realities of the group for communities and how the proposed bans will further impact them

#### **c. Beyond the Trigger video preview**

CLN was honoured to introduce the opening of a 15-minute trailer for a documentary titled "Beyond the Trigger". The documentary sampled the views of local communities in several conservancies in Namibia, getting their perspective on trophy hunting, especially with growing international calls to ban the imports of hunted trophies.

The full documentary will be open to the public on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. It can be accessed [here](#) (on after the 12<sup>th</sup> October)

#### **d. CITES Preparation**

The AWCF served as a timely preparatory meeting for the upcoming CITES CoP19 in Panama. Party representatives and leading NGOs took part in several high-level CITES Strategies and Priorities discussions with AWCF countries. This was a perfect "Pre-CITES" event for the voices and concerns of local communities to be heard on key CITES proposals, as well as to learn the position of parties on these proposals. SADC National CITES Authorities from six (6) CLN Member countries were present (Eswatini, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) and involved in discussions regarding the introduction of resolutions and proposals submitted by Parties. This included the proposed transfer of the White Rhino (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) of Namibia from Appendix I to Appendix II; the removal of annotation on Appendix II listing of Eswatini's Southern White Rhino population; and the proposed amendments to Resolutions Conf. 9.24 (which was reviewed at CoP17) to include the aspects of community livelihoods and food security. Albeit these discussions were informative and opened a clear channel for communities to engage with their National CITES focal person to have a collective position, it does not restrict CLN as an institution from having a position of its own.

#### **e. SCIF Community Engagement Strategy**

Through the SCIF Conservation Manager, Joe Gooergen, SCIF committed to working with CLN over developing a clear strategy that entails how SCIF will support community projects in Southern Africa. A follow-up bilateral between CLN and SCIF is planned for detailed discussion.

### **3. Conclusion**

AWCF presented a great platform for CLN to extend the voices of local communities to key government personnel that represent Parties at the highest conference that regulates the use and protection of wildlife worldwide. Further, it created a direct link between like-minded institutions and government representatives in the continued advocacy against proposals to ban trophy hunting.

