



# Importing Your Leopard or African Elephant Sport-Hunted Trophy

## Do I need a permit?

Yes, you need permits under the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as well as the United States Endangered Species Act (ESA) to bring a personal sport-hunted trophy of a leopard or African elephant into the United States. Permits must be issued before the trophy is exported and must be presented to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) when the trophy arrives in the United States.

## Elephants:

- African elephant populations in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe are included in Appendix II of CITES. All other populations are included in Appendix I, which affords the highest degree of protection.
- Export permits from the country of export are required under CITES for all African elephant specimens.
- All African elephants, throughout their range, are classified as threatened under the ESA.
- Import permits are required under the ESA for all African elephant personal sport-hunted trophies and under CITES for Appendix I populations.
- The Service can issue both CITES and ESA import authorizations under one consolidated permit.
- Under the ESA hunters may import two African elephant trophies per hunter per calendar year.

## Leopards:

- All leopard populations are included in Appendix I of CITES, which affords the highest degree of protection.
- Southern African populations of leopard are classified as threatened under the ESA. All other populations are endangered. Contact the Service before your trip to confirm from which countries we allow import.

- Export permits from the country of export are required under CITES for all leopard specimens.
- Both CITES and ESA import permits are required for all leopard personal sport-hunted trophies.
- The Service can issue both CITES and ESA import authorizations under one consolidated permit.
- Under the ESA hunters may import two leopard trophies per hunter per calendar year.

## Why does the Service authorize the import of personal sport-hunted trophies?

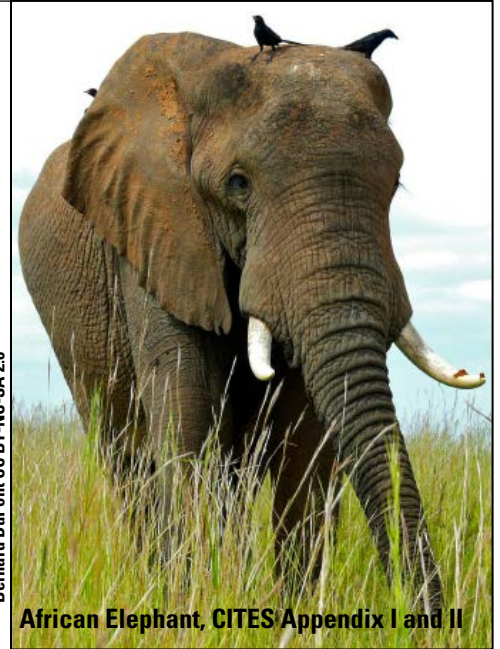
The main purpose of CITES and the ESA is to conserve protected wildlife for future generations. Legal, well-regulated sport hunting as part of a sound management program can benefit the conservation of listed species by providing incentives to local communities to conserve the species and by putting much-needed revenue back into conservation. To support conservation, hunters should choose to hunt only in countries that have strong governance, sound management practices, and healthy elephant populations.

## What are the requirements under ESA and CITES to import a personal sport-hunted African elephant or leopard trophy?

Under CITES, before export permits can be issued, the country of export must find that the specimen is legally acquired and the export will have no detrimental effects on wild populations. For Appendix I species, before import permits can be issued, the Service must further find that the import is not for primarily commercial and for purposes not detrimental to the survival of the species.

Under the ESA, before an import permit can be issued, the Service must find that:

- All permit requirements under 50 CFR Parts 13 (general permitting) and 23 (CITES) have been met if applicable.
- For elephants, the import of a sport-



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African Elephant, CITES Appendix I and II

hunted trophy will enhance the survival of the species in the wild.

- For elephants, the exporting country has set an annual quota for the export of elephant ivory (number of tusks).

The Service looks at the overall management program for a species in each country. Factors considered may include: the biological needs of the species, possible threats to the populations, current population estimates, quotas, management plans, legal protection, and other relevant factors.

The Service has been unable to make the necessary findings to allow the import of sport-hunted African elephant trophies from Zimbabwe and Tanzania. The suspensions will continue unless the Service receives additional information that would support a positive finding.

If you plan to import an African elephant sport-hunted trophy from Zimbabwe or Tanzania, you will need to provide documentation with your import permit application to show that the elephant was

## Leopard, CITES Appendix I



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hunted prior to the effective date of these decisions (January 1, 2014, for Tanzania; April 4, 2014, for Zimbabwe).

### Can I re-export the ivory of my African elephant trophy?

No. Although all parts of a sport-hunted African elephant trophy may be imported, the ivory may not be re-exported from the United States.

### Can I sell my leopard or African elephant trophy in interstate or foreign commerce?

No. It is unlawful to sell or offer for sale in interstate or foreign commerce or to deliver, receive, carry, transport, or ship in interstate or foreign commerce and in the course of a commercial activity any sport-hunted leopard or African elephant trophy.

### What should I know before I go hunting?

Contact the country you will hunt in for guidance on complying with all foreign laws during your hunt.

Some outfitters require a client to show that an import permit has been issued before scheduling the hunt.

A CITES permit for a leopard or elephant trophy is for the specific animal taken by the hunter for his or her own personal use only. Up to two leopard and two elephant trophies may be imported by a hunter in one calendar year.

Under CITES, sport-hunted trophy is defined as a whole dead animal or a readily recognizable part or derivative of an animal specifically identified on the accompanying CITES document that meets the following criteria:

(1) Is raw, processed, or manufactured;

(2) Was legally obtained by the hunter through hunting for his or her personal use;

(3) Is being imported, exported, or re-exported by or on behalf of the hunter as part of the transfer from its country of origin ultimately to the hunter's country of usual residence; and

(4) Includes worked, manufactured, or handicraft items made from the sport-hunted animal only when:

(i) Such items are contained in the same shipment as raw or tanned parts of the sport-hunted animal and are for the personal use of the hunter;

(ii) The quantity of such items is no more than could reasonably be expected given the number of animals taken by the hunter as shown on the license or other documentation of the authorized hunt accompanying the shipment; and

(iii) The accompanying CITES documents (export document and, if appropriate, import permit) contain a complete itemization and description of all items included in the shipment.

### How do I import my personal sport-hunted trophy?

- Obtain an import permit. The Service can issue CITES and ESA authorizations under one consolidated permit. Submit application 3-200-19 (<http://go.usa.gov/xavyx>) with the processing fee. Allow at least 60 days for processing.
- If you obtain the permit before you leave, keep the original permit at home as you will need to present it to the Wildlife Inspector upon import.
- Contact the [CITES Management Authority](#) of the country where you will hunt for guidance on applying for

CITES export permits (<https://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/component/cp>).

- Check expiration dates on your permits before having the trophy shipped to you. If the import permit will expire before import inspections, return the original unused permit with application form 3-200-52 (<http://go.usa.gov/xavQV>) and the processing fee. Allow at least 30 days for processing.
- Import through a United States port that is designated for wildlife (<http://1.usa.gov/1hJXt6x>). Contact the Service Wildlife Inspector at the port at least 72 hours prior to import to make an appointment. Upon import, present the original, valid import and export permits, as well as a completed Declaration for Importation or Exportation of Fish or Wildlife (Form 3-177), obtained at the port directly or by visiting the following website: <http://1.usa.gov/QLUO2X>.

Please be aware, there are different rules for importing leopard and African elephant items that are not trophies.

- The import of skins or products of leopard purchased as souvenirs is prohibited.
- Generally, the import of African elephant ivory is prohibited, except as part of permitted personal sport-hunted trophy. Visit our website for details: <http://go.usa.gov/xas7F>.
- An import permit is required for elephant bones or items made from elephant bones. Submit form 3-200-37 (<http://go.usa.gov/xaHaH>) with the processing fee.
- An import permit is not required for African elephant leather goods that originated in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa or Zimbabwe purchased as souvenirs for your own noncommercial use.

### U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service International Affairs

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