

**CAMPAIGN TO BAN TROPHY HUNTING**  
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PRESS RELEASE

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[William Shatner, Edward Norton & Michael Palin call on Theresa May to ban hunting trophy imports](#)

**Shock new figures reveal 100,000 elephant hunting trophies taken - as population falls by ONE MILLION**

The Campaign to Ban Trophy Hunting has today revealed that the amount of ivory taken by trophy hunters has increased TWELVE-FOLD over the past 30 years.

The group said Britain is one of a 'Deadly Dozen' countries whose hunters have inflicted huge damage to Africa's dwindling elephant populations.

**It also named a man who has shot FIVE THOUSAND elephants.**

The revelations come as campaigners prepare to converge on Downing Street on April 13 to demand that the British Prime Minister stops hunters bringing back trophies to the U.K.

A letter demanding a U.K. ban on trophies has been signed by the leaders of 70 wildlife and animal welfare groups around the world, including Africa and the US, as well as international stars William Shatner and Edward Norton.

In a new report, the Campaign to Ban Trophy Hunting says Britain is one of just 12 countries in the world whose hunters have taken both 1,000+ trophies **and** brought home over a tonne of ivory from elephants killed for 'sport'.

The investigation by the Campaign to Ban Trophy Hunting (CBTH) reveals that hunters from around the globe have taken home a staggering total of **100,000** African elephant 'trophies' since the 1980s.

Elephant populations have plummeted from around **1.3 million** to just over **400,000** over the same period.

The group said there has been a **four-fold** increase in the number of elephant trophies taken in 2015 compared with 1985. The jump in the amount of ivory taken over the same period was nearly **twelve-fold**. The ivory trade was officially banned in 1989.

Whereas hunters from fewer than **20** countries were shooting elephants in 1985, the figure has now climbed to nearly **50**.

The Campaign to Ban Trophy Hunting investigation says some hunters have single handedly killed hundreds of elephants. It said one hunter, Ron Thomson, has shot **FIVE THOUSAND** elephants.

Eduardo Gonçalves, founder of the Campaign to Ban Trophy Hunting, said:

“The trophy hunting industry is slaughtering elephants left, right and centre. Killing elephants for ‘fun’ is unacceptable, even more so because of the serious threat to its survival.

“Trophy hunting is a cruel and abhorrent hangover from colonial times. The recent surge in elephant hunting shows the industry is out of control. It threatens to push endangered species to the point of no return”.

The Campaign to Ban Trophy Hunting recently named British man Malcolm King as one of the world’s top ‘big game’ hunters after its investigation uncovered he had killed hundreds of animals on virtually every continent.

Michael Palin, one of the signatories of a letter to Mrs May calling for a U.K. trophy import ban, said: “Of all the threats to our wildlife, trophy hunting seems to be the least justifiable and the most despicable”.

Star Trek legend William Shatner, another signatory, added: “Are we bloody nuts? How does the insanity of killing these magnificent animals, of which there is only a handful left, conserve them? A trophy animal is the best of the brightest of the breed so of course let’s kill them first. The madness.”

The Campaign to Ban Trophy Hunting accused the U.K. of being a ‘soft touch’ and is calling for loopholes exempting trophy hunters from laws to protect endangered animals to be closed:

“The Trump Administration prohibits imports of trophies from endangered animals such as cheetahs. Our government allows in body parts of cheetahs as well as those of lions, leopards, hippos, bears and zebras,” Eduardo Gonçalves added.

“The exemption in CITES that allows trophy hunters to shoot endangered animals is ludicrous. It must be closed at the May conference of CITES member states.”

The group strongly criticised plans to allow renewed elephant trophy hunting in Botswana - home to one third of all remaining African elephants - and to use meat from shot elephants in tinned pet food.

It said that as many as **1.7 million** animal trophies have been taken in the past 10 years, including over **200,000** from endangered species.

The letter to Mrs May has been signed by a number of global stars including William Shatner, Edward Norton, Jane Goodall, Joanna Lumley, Michael Palin, Jilly Cooper, Candice Berger, Bella Lack, Dan Richardson, Jan Leeming, and Lesley Nicol.

Other signatories include Stanley Johnson, father of Boris Johnson and who is one of the speakers taking part in the April 13 demonstration, as well as the Bishop of St Albans and renowned wildlife photographer Gordon Buchanan.

Campaigners against trophy hunting are organising a series of protests in **70** cities around the world - including in Africa - on April 13. Campaigners in London will march to Downing Street where they will hand in the letter to No.10.

**Over 160** MPs from across the House of Commons have signed a parliamentary motion supported by the Campaign to Ban Trophy Hunting which calls on the government to stop British hunters bringing back trophies.

The motion has been tabled by Conservative MP Zac Goldsmith and is supported by Lib Dem deputy leader Jo Swinson and Sir Graham Brady, chairman of the Conservative 1922 backbench committee, as well as the Westminster leaders of the DUP, SNP, Plaid Cymru and the Green Party.

The motion echoes an open letter coordinated by the Campaign to Ban Trophy Hunting signed by Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, Sir Charles Dunstone, chairman of TalkTalk, and Bishop John Arnold, the Catholic Church's official spokesperson on the environment.

The letter has also been signed by conservationists and public figures including John Bishop, Nicky Campbell, Annette Crosbie, Peter Egan, Ranulph Fiennes, Liam Gallagher, Eamonn Holmes, Eric Idle, David Jason, Piers Morgan, Gary Numan, Bill Oddie, Chris Packham, Sara Pascoe, Sue Perkins, Kevin Pieteresen, Jonathon Porritt, Julian Richer, Carol Royle, Ed Sheeran, and Carol Vorderman.

Other countries named as members of the 'Deadly Dozen' elephant hunting nations are Austria, Canada, China, France, Germany, **Italy, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Spain**, and the **United States**.

Ends

*Report:* "**The Deadly Dozen** - The Slaughter of Africa's Elephants by Twelve Trophy Hunting Nations" is available on request.

*Letters:* Also available on request are the letters to Theresa May calling for a ban on U.K. hunting trophy imports that are being handed into 10 Downing Street at **2pm** on Saturday 13 April