



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE SPORT HUNTING PERMIT PROGRESS UPDATE

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) International Affairs Program issues an average of **20,000 permits** per year under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and other laws protecting at-risk species of plants and animals.
- Permits support legal, traceable, and biologically-sustainable trade and combat wildlife trafficking by 1) ensuring the legal and biologically-sustainable use of regulated species, 2) documenting legal trade, and 3) discerning legally-traded wildlife from illegally-traded wildlife.
- We take a conservation risk-approach to making biologically-sustainable use determinations and prioritize based on conservation impact.

HUNTING STAKEHOLDERS: CONSERVATION IMPACT

- Well-managed & scientifically-based hunting programs can be valuable conservation tools for wildlife populations.
- The USFWS issues trophy import permits under the authority of the United States Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- We have developed a process to document how the import of legal, biologically-sustainable hunting trophies is enhancing the survival of the species in the wild.

*Our permitting program supports the U.S. international wildlife trade, valued at over **\$1 billion** annually.*





2023 PERMITTING UPDATES

The USFWS has issued positive determinations for certain permitting decisions related to the following species in 2023:

	Botswana	Mongolia	Mozambique	Namibia	South Africa	Tanzania	Zambia	Zimbabwe
Argali		✓						
Bontebok					✓			
Elephant	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
Leopard	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Lion			✓ (Niassa)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Southern White Rhino				✓				

**Permit determinations are made on an application-by-application basis, taking into consideration the information available to the Service, including but not limited to information provided in the application, information submitted by the public, and the information the USFWS has obtained from the range country.*



What to Expect in 2024:

- Significant progress on permit application backlog
- Decisions on Tanzania elephant import applications