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Hunting in Ethiopia

Key Figures

Area 1,127,127 km²

Protected areas

Area under protected area 76226.2 km²

Controlled Hunting areas 7579.2 km²

This is equivalent to 9.94% of the area under protected areas which covers about 0.67% of the country's area

Population

85million (2009 estimate, US Census Bureau, International Database 2009)

Main Game Species

Big Game: Mountain Nyala (*Tragelaphus buxtoni*), Menilk's Bushbuck (*Tragelaphus meniliki*), Lion (*Panthera leo*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Grater Kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*), Gelada (*Theropithecus gelada*), Giant Forest Hog (*Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*), Oryx (*Oryx beisa*), Tiang (*Damalisca lunatus tiang*), Buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*), White Eared Kob (*Kobus kob leucotis*).

Small game: Salt's dik dik (*Madaqua saltina*), Guenther's Dik dik (*Madaqua guentheri*), Duiker (*Madaqua grimmia*), Klipspringer (*Oreotragus oreotragus*), Oribi (*Ourebia ourebia*), Porcupine (*Hystrix cristata*), and different species of birds including, ostrich, doves, ducks, francolins, geese, snipes, guinea fowl, sandgrouses.

Hunting in Ethiopia

Due to its altitudinal and geographic variations, Ethiopia is endowed with diverse wildlife and a large number of endemic species that provide a unique opportunity for tourist (sport) hunting. Though the number of sport hunters visiting Ethiopia (42 per year) is far less than its East African neighbours, it still plays an important role in the conservation and economic development of the country. There are a number of charismatic flagship species, most notably the gelada, (an endemic genus *Theropithecus gelada* and the world's only grazing primate) and mountain nyala, both of which can be hunted on a quota basis. Hunting can be practiced in Controlled Hunting Areas; but it is not permitted in the National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Wildlife Reserves.

Most Ethiopians living in the lowlands use bushmeat as a means of livelihood. For example the peoples of lower Omo, the Hamar and Arbore, hunt wildlife like Grevy's zebra for food, medicinal value as well as for social prestige.

The Game

Mountain nyala, Menelik's bushbuck, lion and several species of gazelle are the most commonly hunted wild animals. However, before the ban of elephant hunting since 1990, elephant was also a commonly hunted species in Ethiopia. The populations of the huntable species are decreasing from time to time due to habitat destruction, competition with livestock, overgrazing and illegal hunting by the local communities living adjacent to the habitats of these species.

HUNT is an interdisciplinary international research project, financed by the EU's 7th Framework programme, looking into the wider meaning of hunting in the 21st century.



Hunting Rights

According to the Constitution of the country, land is owned by the Government. No hunting is allowed without a permit from Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) and Regional counterparts. Safari companies take controlled hunting areas by concession from the regional governments. In doing so, they secure their hunting rights in that particular hunting ground (area). The safari companies or Professional Hunters (PHs) have the right to bring tourist hunters and carry out hunting in their specific controlled hunting area as per the quotas set aside for that particular hunting ground per year.

According to the new wildlife policy and strategy, the local community can have their own protected area where they can utilize the resources including controlled hunting on quota basis.

The Hunter

In Ethiopia, tourist and resident hunters are generally considered the hunters. On a yearly basis, both tourist and resident hunters go for hunting in various parts of the country where hunting is allowed (see above). On average 42 tourist hunters/year come to Ethiopia for sport hunting. For the last 12 years 1997/8-2008/9 a total of 4,034,655.50 US dollars were generated from wildlife trophies for sport hunting.

Prerequisites for hunting

No person is allowed to hunt wildlife without a valid license from the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA). In addition, hunting permits are divided into foreign tourist hunting licenses, resident hunter licenses, game bird hunting licenses, snipe hunting licenses, and special hunting license for scientific studies. In addition to obtaining a hunting permit, any person who has not attained age of 18 and/or hunting in the absence of a professional hunter or hunting controller of the EWCA or the concerned regional government is also prohibited. For a tourist hunter to hunt in a specific controlled hunting area, the hunter must pay the trophy fee in advance to the Government.

Current trophy prices for the most commonly hunted species:



Species	Price USD
Mountain nyala	15000.00
Menilik's bushbuck	6000.00
Lion	4000.00
Gazelle Soemmerring's	2600.00
Buffalo	3000.00
Gelada	3000.00

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Management

Hunting in controlled hunting areas is managed by the EWCA and regional governments together with concessionaires who need to abide by a hunting quota. The EWCA together with regional governments decide the number of animals to be hunted based on data from a wildlife census taken prior to hunting year. Concessionaires can be either private safari companies or communities with management rights. Concessionaires must pay concession fees for a particular hunting area to the relevant Regional government.

The revenue generated in sport hunting industry will be shared among the Federal and regional governments. 15% of the revenue will be utilized by EWCA while the rest 85% will be channeled to the regions where the local communities can benefit from it through community as well as infrastructure development projects.

The rules of the game

In Ethiopia hunting is carried out in accordance with the Wildlife conservation and utilization regulation number 163/2008. With the exception of the birds, hunters with valid permit are allowed to hunt an old male animal. Trophy size is typically used to determine the age of the animal. According to Article 25 of the Regulation No. 163/2008, no person shall hunt by: (i) approaching within the distance of 200 m using any motorized means of transport, (ii) setting fire or driving or surrounding any wildlife by fire, (iii) conducting hunting in darkness (except for nocturnal animals), (iv) using dogs (except in some cases for bird hunting). Hunting equipment like guns and ammunition are determined in accordance with the standards set for specific wild animals specified in Article 25 (1f-m) Regulation No. 163/2008.

Hunting using automatically set shot gun, pitfall, trench, net, enclosure, snare, poison or any self loading weapon, any explosive projectile, bomb or grenade is prohibited. Moreover, the use of any missile or projectile containing any drug or chemical which has the property of anesthetizing, paralyzing, any game animal except in accordance with the written authorization of the licensing body, is also prohibited.

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Protected areas

The total area under protection is 76226.2 km².

Controlled hunting areas cover 7579.2 km², equivalent to 9.94% of the area under protected areas which covers about 0.67% of the country's area.



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