

To the attention of,

M. le Premier Ministre de la République Française, M. Sébastien Lecornu
Hôtel de Matignon, 57 rue de Varenne, 75007 Paris, France

And

M. le Ministre de la transition écologique, M. Mathieu Lefevre
246 Bd Saint-Germain 75007 Paris, France

September 3, 2026

Subject: A Conservation Case Against a Blanket Ban on Hunting Trophy Imports

Dear Monsieur le Premier Ministre, le Ministre de la transition écologique

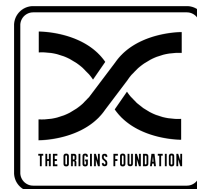
I'm the founder of [The Origins Foundation](#), a U.S.-based nonprofit organization that chronicles, through documentary filmmaking and direct field partnerships, the measurable impact of regulated, science-based hunting on wildlife conservation and rural community development around the globe.

We don't take a stance on whether any individual personally chooses to hunt. Rather, we document real-world examples of what regulated hunting funds and sustains, so that decisions like the one now before France can be rooted in scientific evidence.

I respectfully urge you to reconsider the proposed prohibition on the importation of legally obtained hunting trophies. I'm concerned with the consequence of removing the economic value that gives rural communities and landowners, in Africa and elsewhere, a direct incentive to protect wild landscapes. If you wanted to boil it simply down to one thing, it's this: hunting provides value and incentives for wildlife to exist; without it, wildlife will be replaced by something else.

Across the world, revenue from science-based, quota-managed hunting is one of the few reliable funding sources for anti-poaching patrols, habitat protection, wildlife research, and rural infrastructure in areas where photographic tourism alone is not economically viable. Removing the import market (which is an indirect mechanism to stop hunting) eliminates one of the few income streams that makes wildlife more valuable alive, and worth protecting, than converted to livestock or agricultural land.

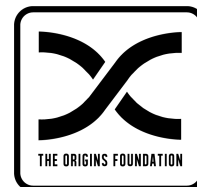
France is already a party to CITES, the international framework that governs trade in threatened species. Under that framework, an exporting country's own Scientific Authority must certify, species by species, that a given regulated hunt won't harm that species' survival before any trophy can legally cross a border. A blanket import ban replaces a scientific, case-by-case judgment that already exists with a single political framework, simultaneously applied to every country and species.



I also ask you to weigh Kenya's experience. Kenya banned all hunting in 1977, and researchers have since documented significant wildlife declines because legal, regulated hunting ceased. Conservationist Richard Leakey later made the same point, stating that unregulated killing continued regardless of the ban. The revenue from legal hunting disappeared. Removing a regulated system doesn't extract the underlying activity. It simply removes the ability to control it.

I don't ask you to consider this argument without the facts to back it up. We launched [100 Proofs](#), a public, ongoing archive of field-documented case studies, each one a data-backed example proving regulated hunting yields a measurable conservation or community outcome.

- **Panyame Cheetah Project, Mozambique** — the largest single cheetah relocation on record, moving 16 cheetahs from South Africa to expand critical range, funded by hunting revenue for a species that will never itself be hunted.
- **Sandymount Park, Fauresmith, South Africa (with Jannie Otto Safaris)** — hunting-operator revenue funded the renovation of a local pre-kindergarten, including new play equipment, water storage, and kitchen facilities.
- **Cabañeros, Spain** — a rural economic impact study documenting how a regional hunting ban depressed local employment across catering, muleteer, and construction trades.
- **Sauvons Bambi, Belgium** — hunters and farmers have rescued more than 1,100 roe deer fawns since 2020 in partnership with over 840 farms ahead of the spring hay harvest.
- **Yearly Soccer Tournament, Dande Safari Area, Zimbabwe (Charlton McCallum Safaris)** — a community tournament now in its 17th year, drawing roughly 2,000 people and organized alongside the local anti-poaching unit.
- **Robin Hurt Safaris, Engushay, Tanzania** — funded construction of pre- and primary-school buildings and a clean water supply for a remote community.
- **Splitting Image Taxidermy, Gqeberha, South Africa** — a hunting-dependent taxidermy business directly employing over 300 people and supporting an estimated 1,500 family members.
- **Wild Sheep Foundation "Coming Home" Project, British Columbia** — a \$109,000 hunter-funded donation supporting the reintroduction of California bighorn sheep to their native range.
- **Community Meat Distribution, Dande Safari Area, Zimbabwe (Charlton McCallum Safaris)** — roughly 34,000 kg of game meat distributed annually to local communities as a source of protein.
- **John X Safaris, Eastern Cape, South Africa** — funded a full school upgrade, including staff housing, a school bus, kitchen, classrooms, and a soccer field.
- **Sika Foundation, Taupo, New Zealand** — processed and delivered more than 10,600 kg of wild-harvested venison to local food banks.
- **Fiordland Wapiti Foundation, New Zealand** — deploys over 500 predator traps across 40 km of river frontage to protect habitat in one of the country's most remote landscapes.
- **Preston Wildfowlers, West Coast, England** — a hunter-led self-regulation program that voluntarily cuts bag limits and hunting days well below what national law allows.



- **Thabang's Children's Home, Thabazimbi, South Africa (Inkulu Adventures)** — a hunting operator provides regular supplies of meat, clothing, and bedding for more than 80 children in residential care.

Beyond *100 Proofs*, our [documentaries](#) examine these questions in depth.

- The [Last Wild Islands](#) follows a scientist to an isolated island chain on Lake Kariba, Zambia, to study how regulated hunting can protect wildlife from the environmental pressure caused by encroaching human settlement.
- [A Fine Balance](#) tackles one of the most controversial subjects in African conservation, elephant hunting in Botswana, and the population and land-use consequences of removing it.
- [Wire and Water](#) documents the Mangwa South District of Zimbabwe, a rural community where regulated hunting is one of the only economic bridges between subsistence livestock farming and wildlife conservation.

I recognize that France's own hunting community and the National Hunters' Federation are engaging you directly on the legal and procedural dimensions of this decree. I'm drawing on the conservation evidence, because I believe the consequence of this decision will not stop at France's border.

A prohibition adopted here risks becoming the reference point for broader European action, at exactly the moment when African governments and rural communities who manage these landscapes are requesting partnership in land management.

We welcome the opportunity to make our staff and field partners available to briefing staff. Conservation, in our experience, is best strengthened through evidence and partnership.

Respectfully,

Dr. Robert Kröger
Founder & Executive Director
The Origins Foundation

About Origins Foundation

The Origins Foundation is a global nonprofit organization dedicated to telling the truth about hunting, wildlife conservation, and the sustainable use of natural resources. Through documentary filmmaking, journalism, education, and on-the-ground conservation initiatives, the Foundation highlights the connections between people, wildlife, and the landscapes they share. By elevating authentic stories from around the world, The Origins Foundation works to foster informed conversations, support conservation efforts, and promote a deeper understanding of how sustainable wildlife management benefits both communities and ecosystems: www.theoriginsfoundation.org