Report by African Conservationists on Namibia's Mass Cull of Wildlife

In a country of 2.5m people and 6m livestock, the question no-one's asking is: why attack 730 protected wild animals? The answers are shocking and Namibia's election-timed cull raises concerns about setting a terrifying precedent already dubbed 'Africa's conservation crisis'.

These notes—compiled by 14 wildlife conservationists, scientists or researchers in Namibia and Southern Africa—provide a fact-based response to the government's press release, including over 50 linked independent sources.

4th September 2024

Note on the Safety and Anonymity of African Conservationists working in High-Risk Areas:

Many African countries take statements they perceive as 'anti-government' very seriously, with some enacting increasingly authoritarian 'patriotic laws' designed to imprison those who speak out.

Wildlife conservationists, scientists, and researchers—who often work or maintain significant operations in the countries that are home to Africa's last remaining elephants—face considerable risks. Many have received threats or have been subjected to actions such as the revocation of permits, deportation, or worse.

This oppressive environment tragically results in media outlets often publishing government statements and strategies without the benefit of opposing views from the conservation community[16,33,47].

Because of this, the contributors to this document can not be directly named within it. We ask instead that readers use the 50 or so links to independent articles, quotes and other materials provided in the document, which support the notes provided.

For journalists covering this story, we ask for your understanding and professionalism in this and future publications, to ensure the voices of those on the frontlines of nature conservation are heard. When direct attribution is not possible due to safety concerns, we encourage you to look deeper into the motives behind those claiming the need to kill protected species, and to find ways to incorporate other perspectives while respecting their need for anonymity.

Thank you.

Legal Disclaimer

The notes and content of this document have been compiled from over 50 publicly available sources, including media reports, scientific studies, and other publicly accessible data, some of which are linked within the document. All statements regarding past corruption charges involving officials related to environmental exploitation are similarly based on publicly available information. The information presented are notes intended solely as a journalistic aid and reflects the data available in the public domain. As compilers of this publicly accessible information, the contributors do not necessarily endorse or express personal opinions in the document. These names provided as press contacts are provided exclusively for media enquiries. Their inclusion as contacts for interviews does not imply their endorsement of the content.

Notes on Namibia's Press Release

Summary (*Original Press Release on pages 8 & 9*)

The Namibian government is proposing to undertake a massive cull of endangered species and protected wildlife, with the majority of shooting taking place inside the country's protected national parks. The cull is for 723 wild animals including 83 elephants, 300 zebras, 30 hippos, 60 buffaloes, 50 impalas, 100 eland and 100 wildebeest. The government, whose actions have faced public scrutiny following the jailing of ministers for environmental-related charges in 2021, claim the move is necessary to feed people affected by the drought. However, no proper environmental or food insecurity assessments have been conducted, there are concerns that the move may disproportionally benefit key voting areas ahead of the election, and statistics suggest the percentage of population affected by drought is among the lowest in the region. Critics argue that if the scheme is allowed to proceed, it could set a dangerous precedent that may inspire similar actions across the continent.

Press Release Analysis:

1. **A Dangerous Precedent:** First and foremost, there is wide concern that the precedent such a scheme would set, if allowed to continue, would open up the remains of Africa's fragile wilderness to the arbitrary exploitation of governments, under the guise of humanitarian relief. According to statistics, elephant numbers have plummeted from over 5 million in 1900, to around 400,000 today; less than the population of a small town[29].

2. **November Elections:** The timing of the cull coincides with upcoming elections, leading to speculation that the scheme may be politically motivated, particularly as it exactly targets rural areas in Kavango and Caprivi where the ruling party needs to increase its support[9,10]

3. **No Grounds for Cull:** The proposal has reportedly been made without comprehensive environmental impact assessments, stakeholder consultations, game counts, or food insecurity evaluations in the targeted areas. While the recent rainy season was poor, Namibia's food insecurity statistics, as reported by organisations like the FAO and World Bank, have remained relatively stable, and among the lowest when compared to other countries in the region (see graph, below). Suspicions are further raised by reports that culling had already begun by the time the press release was issued. All of this raises concerns that the cull may not be justified on the grounds presented.

4. **Livestock Vs Elephants:** Contrary to the press release claims, livestock are not allowed inside national parks and do not compete for the same food. Elephants feed mainly on woody plants in dry seasons and droughts, even if outside National parks. There are also concerns about the practicality of relying on a large volume of meat for short-term relief during a prolonged drought. If meat supply is the only solution, a bonafide scheme would involve livestock, which rarely survive a genuine drought, unlike wild animals that are adapted to the harsh Namibian climate. The population of Namibia is 2.5m with over 6m livestock. A livestock purchase program would provide authentic assistance to farmers and communities, who could then sell their animals before they die from starvation. It would also support Namibia's financially-struggling government 'Meatco' abattoirs, and increase the available water for people and grass for remaining livestock, until rainy season arrives once more.

5. **Government Creditability:** Concerns about government integrity have been raised, particularly in light of past corruption cases related to environmental exploitation in the Fishrot scandal,

which jailed two Namibian ministers[1]. Namibia's constitution includes provisions to prevent the exploitation of national parks and protected species. Questions are being asked about the real motive for the scheme, as the cull is already being marketed to trophy hunters online[34].

6. **Previous Schemes:** Acceptance of the government's proposal is not aided by the long list of previous schemes, apparently aimed at monetising the country's limited natural resources. In 2021 the government triggered an international outcry when they proposed to auction off 170 wild elephants from national parks to zoos and trophy hunters[2]. In 2022, the government captured and sold 22 elephants to UAE[48]. Reports indicate efforts to explore the sale of Namibia's ivory stockpile to the Far East, despite international laws preventing the trade in ivory[44]. In 2021 they sold oil rights in the protected upstream watershed of the Okavango Delta[4,6]. In 2019 they tried to auction 1,000 animals from national parks[3]. In 2009 the government sold 10 tonnes of ivory from its stockpile. In 2012 they captured and sent 10 baby rhinos, 5 wild elephants and other wildlife to a zoo in Cuba[45]. In 2018 it captured and sold 100 wild elephants to a small private reserve, and auctioned a rare black rhino to hunters for $350,000[46].

7. **Culling Worsens Conflict:** Elephants who witness culling, which typically targets entire families including young calfs, is well established to exacerbate Human-Elephant-Conflict, rather than relieve it. Elephants who escape are known to experience lasting trauma from witnessing family members being shot. Elephants are highly intelligent, socially complex, have long memories and show a documented increase in aggressiveness toward humans, following the loss of individuals through culling or trophy hunting[7,8,30,31,39].

8. **Tourism Impact:** Namibia's N$14.2 billion tourism industry, which employs 58,000 people, is heavily reliant on wildlife and would suffer significant negative impacts, including potential mass layoffs, if the cull proceeds. The inevitable social media videos of the deeply-disturbing culling process could lead to international tourism boycotts. Elephants, in particular, are valuable not only for their ecological role but also for their contribution to tourism income, which supports local communities and the broader economy. Over the course of an elephant's long life it is worth over $1.6m to communities from its contribution to poverty-alleviation through tourism income and its critical role in ecosystem services, as well as indirect incomes to travel companies, airlines and others. Contrary to the government's claims, elephants are far more valuable alive than they are for their meat to the citizens of Namibia[11,31].

9. **Environmental Impact**: There is concern that hunters could cull trans-national elephant herds passing through the country, such as the herd featured in the Namibian desert regions for Disney's documentary 'Elephant'[42]. The Huab and Ugab areas also being targeted are home to some of the rarest animals on earth, known as Africa's 'desert elephants'. These desert-adapted elephants know how to survive the worst droughts by digging for water, and helping other animals with the pools they create. But populations are already in trouble, with 9 out of their last recorded 14 newborns dying. Just 62 desert elephants are known to populate these areas, where the government aims to cull 21 of its planned 83 elephants. In other areas, the elephants being targeted are *not* established to be the cause of any Human-Elephant-Conflict incidents, as the press release misleadingly implies. The negative impacts of mass culling extend beyond elephants to other species such as hippos, zebras, and antelopes, potentially altering their natural behavior around tourists for decades. Predators like lions, leopards, cheetahs, hyenas, and scavengers such as vultures, all of whom depend on drought-weakened prey, are also affected, further disrupting the fragile ecosystem.[30,31,41].

10. **Action:** The conservation community is exploring the avenues for legal action and an international petition has been launched, which has already gained thousands of signatures[12].

The Bigger Picture: Why the Namibia Proposal is Among the Biggest Conservation Stories of our Time

The world now faces a critical choice: will it commit to safeguarding nature for future generations, or will it permit a dangerous precedent, allowing governments to bypass legal protections and authorise the killing of protected and endangered species—even within national parks—in the name of feeding people?

- **Africa is Watching**: Leaders across the region are likely monitoring Namibia's actions, and the international reaction, closely. If Namibia proceeds with its plan, it could prompt other nations - many with much bigger claims of food insecurity to instigate similar measures to exploit their national parks and wildlife on the grounds of humanitarian need.
- **Monetisation of Elephants:** There is wide concern about the explosion of initiatives to monetise wildlife in Southern Africa, such as the sale of over 130 baby elephants to Chinese zoos[36,37,38] and a hugely increased focus on trophy hunting across the entire region, including the sales of some of the world's last 'big tuskers'[26,27]. Additionally, there have been aggressive efforts to modify or bypass CITES regulations to allow the sale of ivory stockpiles to the Far East[17,43,44].

Potential Side Effects of the Scheme

1. **Short-term Income:** The proposed scheme is expected to generate significant revenue from premium trophy hunting licenses, allowing hunters to target protected species both outside and *inside* the country's 'protected' national parks. Trophy hunts for the culls are already being marketed[34.] The timing raises concerns that officials, who may soon be replaced in the upcoming elections, could be seeking to secure short-term financial gains before they lose power.
2. **Ivory Stockpile:** The culling operation could result in the accumulation of a substantial ivory stockpile, which aligns with the government's ongoing efforts to apply for permission to sell these stockpiles to the Far East[17,43,45]. The move has garnered criticism because studies show that past sales triggered demand for more ivory, helping to drive the elephant poaching we see today[18,19].
3. **Electoral Influence:** The rollout of the meat distribution program in areas where the ruling party faces strong opposition has raised questions about whether the timing of this initiative is related to the forthcoming elections.

Too Many Elephants?

- **Overstating Populations:** Some African governments have been accused of significantly inflating elephant population figures. This practice can be used to justify higher hunting quotas, lucrative foreign zoo sales, culling operations, lifting trophy hunting bans, the sale of baby elephants to China, and other schemes to monetise the last of the species. To lessen sympathy for the elephants, overpopulation claims are typically accompanied by references to recent Human-Wildlife-Conflict statistics which, while tragic, are usually the result of human populations relentlessly expanding into elephant territory, rather than the other way around. In their defense of inflated statistics governments may even block independent elephant censuses. Many Southern African governments are openly involved in trying to overturn regulations to allow them to sell the ivory stockpiles they have amassed, and some have been caught trading them illegally[50]. Unfortunately for elephants, they are seen as taking up coveted space, having valuable body parts, serving as a tasty food source, and are perceived by short-sighted governments as assets worth more dead than alive.

- **Media Coverage:** International media has been criticised for reporting, and thereby validating, government figures without proper scrutiny, especially when the transparency and ethical standards of reporting countries are questionable. This includes instances where media outlets inadvertently fall for strategic narratives, such as the proposal to ship thousands of elephants to countries opposing elephant exploitation, without considering the broader implications[28]. Elephant 'business' is so lucrative that a Southern African country recently sent a delegation to Europe to influence a vote against trophy imports, using now-commonplace tactics to frame opposition as neo-colonial or racist. The pro-government bias in conservation reporting[16,33,47] is exacerbated by African conservationists' fear of speaking out due to potential repercussions like permit revocation, deportation, or legal action.

- **Namibia's Statistics:** Namibia, in particular, has frequently faced criticism for manipulating population numbers[5] and asserting that it has 'too many elephants', especially when engaging in controversial activities such as capturing and selling elephants to foreign zoos, auctioning them to trophy hunters, or transferring national wildlife assets to private reserves[2,23,49]. In 2016, the dispute between government and conservationists over elephant numbers led to the government blocking history's biggest elephant survey, the 'Great Elephant Census', from conducting their work in the country[5]. However, official data consistently shows that elephant populations in Namibia have remained stable for many years, casting doubt on the narrative that the country is overwhelmed by elephant numbers.

- **Elephant Nuisance:** Elephants have historically inhabited these areas of Namibia for millennia. However, current land use priorities include beef production by farming groups, logging rights granted to Chinese companies, and oil prospecting rights sold to Canadian entities. According to local sources, much of this land is considered ancestral territory of the indigenous San people, which has reportedly been reallocated by the government to political elites.[24,25,].

- **The Reality:** The reality of elephant numbers is very different to the picture painted by those who may be incentivised to exaggerate them. According to statistics, elephant numbers have plummeted from around 5 million in 1900, to around 400,000 today; less than the population of a small town. One thing is indisputable: there are almost never 'too many elephants'[40].

Legal Notes

Investigations into the legal implications of the government's new scheme are ongoing. If pursued without proper legal and ecological justification, the actions could lead to serious violations of Namibian law and international conservation obligations. Should further breaches of the country's laws be confirmed, additional officials may face legal consequences, joining the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Fisheries, and other officials currently serving custodial sentences for environmental corruption. While a formal legal assessment is pending, potential breaches of the following legal codes are under review:

Constitutional Breaches
Article 95 (l) of the Namibian Constitution mandates the state to promote the maintenance of ecosystems and biodiversity. The mass cull, which includes protected and endangered species, may contravene this provision by failing to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources. Culling for political or economic gain, particularly within national parks, undermines constitutional commitments to conservation.

Nature Conservation Ordinance No. 4 and 115
This ordinance governs wildlife protection, particularly within National Parks. Permits for trophy hunting can only be issued to professional or master hunters and must specify authorised areas. Additionally, Regulation 115(2) prohibits charging fees for the hunting of problem animals, and these permits are not transferable. If such permits are being sold to trophy hunters or used outside authorised areas, this would likely constitute a breach of the ordinance. Officials may be acting unlawfully by permitting such activities.

Environmental Management Act 7 of 2007
The failure to conduct Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) prior to the decision to cull wildlife may constitute a breach of the Environmental Management Act. Section 27 of the Act requires EIAs for activities that significantly impact the environment. Furthermore, the lack of public consultation may violate the Act's provisions on community involvement in environmental decision-making processes.

International Conventions
Namibia is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). If any part of the cull involves trade in wildlife products (such as ivory or trophies from endangered species), it could breach international regulations. Officials facilitating such trade may be acting contrary to Namibia's obligations under CITES. Additionally, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) requires Namibia to protect its biodiversity through sustainable practices. The mass cull may contradict these commitments.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1962
The inhumane treatment of animals during the cull, particularly in cases where entire families of intelligent species like elephants are targeted, may violate the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. The Act prohibits unnecessary suffering, and officials overseeing or permitting cruel methods of culling may be held responsible for breaches of animal welfare laws.

Trophy Hunting Regulations
The cull has been reportedly marketed to trophy hunters, which raises questions about compliance with Namibia's hunting regulations. If hunting permits have been issued outside of regulated quotas or ecological considerations, officials may be acting unlawfully by allowing hunting in protected areas or of protected species.

Communal Land Reform Act No. 5 of 2002
The targeting of wildlife in communal lands, particularly in rural areas like Kavango and Caprivi, may violate the Communal Land Reform Act. The government is required to consult with local communities before allowing activities that impact their natural resources. Failure to do so could result in legal breaches related to the use of communal land and its wildlife.

Report Wildlife Crime "SMS to 55555"

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

PRESS RELEASE

26 August 2024

UPDATE ON THE CULLING OF WILD-ANIMALS AS A RESULT OF DROUGHT AND FATAL REPORT INVOLVING ELEPHANT

The Ministry with Cabinet approval is contributing game meat to support the drought relief programme by government. The Ministry will contribute 723 animals comprising 30 Hippos, 60 buffalos, 50 impalas, 100 blue Wilderbeast, 300 Zebras, 83 elephants and 100 elands. The animals are sourced from national parks and communal area with sustainable game numbers. Cabinet in decision number 14th/29.08.23/001 approved the "Namibia Livelihood Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA) Report requiring the Ministry to support the drought relief programme with the provision of meat. The animals are being sourced from Namib Naukluft Park, Mangetti National Park, Bwabwata National Park, Mudumu National Park and Nkasa Rupara National Park.

Additionally, the National Conference on Human Wildlife Conflict Management in 2023 resolved among other things that elephant numbers need to be reduced as a measure to assist in reducing prevailing cases of human wildlife conflict. With the severe drought situation in the country, conflicts are expected to increase if no interventions are made. To this effect, 83 elephants from identified conflict areas will be culled, meat will be allocated to the drought relief program under the Office of the Prime Minister.

Elephants to be culled include 12 from Kamanjab and Fransfontein areas in the Kunene region; four (4) from Kalkveld and eight (8) from Grootfontein area in the Otjozodjupa region; five (5) from Omatjete in the Erongo Region; 10 from Ruacana, Tsandi and Okahao in Omusati region; three (3) from EkuloLyanazi, Okasheshete, Uukanga, Ondomb, Tomykunzi and Onoolongo in the Oshana Region; two (2) from Onanke and Cham Cham in Oshikoto region; a total of 7 will be culled in the Kavango West Region in the areas of Tondoro, Musese, Maha, Nzize, Agro tour farms and Mangetti Cattle Ranch and two (2) from Kavango East region.

A combined total of 30 will be culled in the zambezi region of which 10 will be from Salambala, Lusese, Nakabolelwa and Kabbe areas. An additional ten (10) elephants will be culled from the North Complex of Mudumu, while another ten (10) will be sourced from the South Complex of Mudumu.

The culling is being conducted by professional hunters and Safari Outfitters contracted by the Ministry and conservancies in specific areas. To date 157 animals comprising of different species were hunted in Mangetti National Park, 20 in Mahango, 70 in Kwando, 6 in Bufallo and 9 in Mudumo delivering 56 875 kilograms of meat.

This offtake will assist in reducing the negative impact of drought on the conservation of wild animals in both our National Parks and Communal areas. There is no doubt that drought is affecting most sectors conservation included. This will assist in managing the current grazing pressure and water availability by reducing wildlife numbers in some parks and communal areas where we feel numbers exceed available grazing and water. An arrangement has been made with the office of the Prime Minister and Meatco for the Ministry to provide game meat for the drought relief programme.

This offtake will help mitigate the negative impact of drought on wildlife conservation in both our National Parks and communal areas. There is no doubt that drought is affecting most sectors, including conservation. By reducing wildlife numbers in certain parks and communal areas where we believe the population exceeds the available grazing and water resources, we can better manage the current grazing pressure and water availability. An agreement has been made with the Office of the Prime Minister and Meatco for the Ministry to provide game meat for the drought relief program.

This exercise in necessary and is in line with our constitutional mandate where our natural resources are used for the benefit of Namibian citizens. This is also a prime example that conservation of game is really beneficial. We are happy that we can assist the country in this very difficult time and when its absolutely needed. Not only do Namibians benefit through the meat provided for drought relief, but the ministry has over the years supplied meat for national, regional, and traditional events in line with our policies and laws. Game meat benefits are also extended to communities in rural areas especially those in conservancies.

This underscores the significance of conservation in the country. The Provision of meat improves on people's nutrition and contributes to poverty reduction. This is in addition to other ongoing economic benefits such as employment creation and income generation enhanced by conservation of wildlife species and associated sectors such as tourism.

On this basis, Namibian have reason to support ongoing conservation efforts of wildlife species. We must therefore collectively shun and condemn illegal activities against our wild animals. Poaching among other forms of wildlife crime will compromise on the benefits for which our conservation is intended.

On a unrelated matter, a 48 years old resident of Oshitumbe B Village, in Uukwaluudhi Conservancy was killed by elephants during the night of 25 August2024. The deceased's identified as Efraim Shivute was discovered earlier this morning by community members. A heard approximately 20 elephants were observed in the area. Officials of the Ministry have since been dispatched and investigations are ongoing. We extend our sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family. We also want to caution generally that communities in wildlife prone areas must refrain from walking in the bushes at night.

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Report Wildlife Crime
"SMS to 55555"

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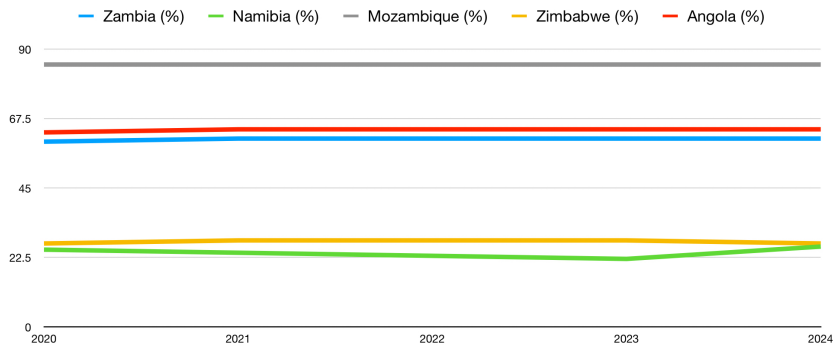
Food Insecurity - Last 5 Years. By Percentage of Population (Sources: FAO and World Bank)

Year	Zambia (%)	Namibia (%)	Mozambique (%)	Zimbabwe (%)	Angola (%)
2020	60	25	85	27	63
2021	61	24	85	28	64
2022	61	23	85	28	64
2023	61	22	85	28	64
2024	61	26	85	27	64



Left: Namibia, like its elephant-hosting neighbours, faces ongoing food insecurity challenges. However, Namibia has a comparatively lower percentage of its population affected by food insecurity than some of its neighbouring countries, according to official statistics.

Quotes and Comments from Media

“We are calling upon the Namibian government to desist from attacking our wildlife and instead to embrace their resources and expertise to solve their challenges in a way which assists local people, without destroying their natural heritage.” *John Grobler, Namibian Environmental Journalist*

“The latest move by the government "is an election ploy where meat seems to be earmarked for contested constituencies." *Izak Smit of Namibia’s Desert Lions Human Relations Aid (DLHRA)*

“Conservationists here in Namibia have proven solutions to the government’s claimed human-wildlife-conflict - including moving water points away from villages and electric fencing - but the government are ignoring them all. Despite their claims, it’s clear that their plans are about money not wildlife.” *Stephan Scholvin, Namibian Professional Guide and Conservationist*

“One of the most concerning aspects, is that wildlife is being culled in national parks, which ought to be safe-havens for wildlife populations. Photographic tourism is a major sector in the Namibian economy with most visitors flocking to national parks to view wildlife. It may not sit well with tourists if they know the elephant or the zebra they are photographing one day will be butchered for meat production the next” *Dr Adam Cruise, Award-winning investigative journalist and academic.*

“The Namibian Government has a history of selling off the natural heritage of its people. In 2012 it captured and sent 10 baby rhinos, 5 elephants and other wildlife to a notoriously-bad zoo in Cuba. In 2013 they sold 10 tonnes of ivory, believed to have increased demand and poaching. Then it captured and sold 100 wild elephants to a small private reserve, and in 2018 it auctioned a rare black rhino to hunters, raising $350,000. This latest episode is another money-making scheme at the expense of our country’s dying biodiversity.” *John Grobler, Namibian Environmental Journalist*

“This is a tragic and short-sighted approach. Killing wild animals will not address the problem of food insecurity in this country. It will only disrupt ecosystems and endanger already vulnerable species,” *Emmanuel Kankara, Namibian Wildlife Conservation Trust (via DTE[51])*

“The impact of this culling could be far-reaching. Wildlife plays an important role in maintaining ecological balance. Killing such a large number of animals could have serious consequences for biodiversity,” *Arafat Mtui, wildlife conservationist, Southern Tanzania Elephant Program (via DTE[51])*

“Culling wildlife to alleviate immediate hunger may have long-term economic consequences. The loss of wildlife impacts tourism, a vital sector for Namibia's economy. This situation highlights the urgent need for sustainable agricultural practices and better drought management strategies. While culling may provide short-term relief, it's crucial to invest in long-term solutions that will mitigate the effects of future droughts and protect Namibia’s natural resources,” *Samuel Wangwe, Principal Research Associate at the Tanzania-based Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF). (via DTE[51])*

“There has been no comprehensive environmental impact assessment, no game counts, and no food insecurity evaluations. The latest move by the government is an election ploy where meat seems to be earmarked for contested constituencies” *Izak Smit of Namibia’s Desert Lions Human Relations Aid (DLHRA)*

“This isn't about feeding people; it's about winning votes. The government’s focus on these key regions, known for their importance in the electoral map, raises concerns about the true motive behind the cull,” *Edgar Toivo, Conservationist. (via DTE[51])*

“Elephants are adapted to survive droughts, unlike livestock. If the government were serious about helping farmers, they would implement a livestock purchase program, not a cull of wild animals. If Namibia gets away with this, what's to stop other countries from doing the same?” *Justin Ndlovu, an agricultural expert in Namibia. (via DTE[51])*

“These elephants are critical to the ecosystem, and their loss would be devastating. Culling wildlife might seem like a straightforward solution to control disease reservoirs, but it poses significant risks. The process of handling and processing these animals can create opportunities for pathogens to leap from animals to humans. When wildlife populations are culled, the stress and environmental disruption can exacerbate the risk of zoonotic diseases spilling over into human communities. It’s important to consider these consequences before thinking of taking such measures.” *Matana Ng’weli, Wildlife Scientist at Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute specialising in elephant conservation. (via DTE[51])*