

Moderate Debate on Contentious Conservation Issue

Overview: Biodiversity/wildlife conservation lies at the nexus of myriad issues spanning socioeconomics and human poverty, indigenous rights, asymmetries in GDP & wealth among nations, climate change, pollution, international trade, human wildlife conflict, industrial agriculture, tourism, and emerging zoonotic and human diseases. I will not pretend that this is a complete list. Potential solutions to these problems come neither easily nor without controversy – and no plan of action will please all stakeholders. I have chosen 5 focal ‘propositions’ related to conservation for debate. These are not clean, simple, dichotomous issues and you will have to discuss with your group mates how you wish to approach them. You must also ensure that both sides of the argument pro and con are well covered even if you all agree that one is more supportable than the other.

For each topic, I have provided a few key articles but you are, of course, permitted/ encouraged to add more. You should also seek to be creative in the arguments that you make pro and con the proposition, and be entertaining in your presentation. You will not have (good) internet connectivity in Kenya at most sites. Of course, you will have time for additional preparation during the field course and we will not start these in the first few days. The debates will be done without visual aids.

I have assigned groups at random and these are indicated below. For each group there are three roles: moderator, proponent for the proposition, opponent of the proposition. In advance of the trip, you must discuss among yourselves which role each of you will take (email, Skype, Google Hangouts whatever works for you). You should work together to find material on your assigned topic, but thereafter there will be some independent work that each of you must do,

Format:

- **Introduction** – approx. 2 minutes. Set up the debate with an overview of the issue
- **Opening arguments** – approx. 2 minutes per participant
- **Point-counterpoint debate** – approx. 10 minutes
- **Class discussion (all)** – approx. 10 minutes
- **Summation (moderator)** – approx. 4-5 minutes

Team 1. Chloe, Shannon, Arjun

Proposition: *Ex situ* strategies (zoos, seed banks, botanical gardens) can be a positive force for conservation of significant components of extant biodiversity.

Key references: Stokes. 2018. Why conserving species in the wild still matters. *Biodivers Conserv* 27: 1539–1544. Tabley et al. 2015. Amphibians and conservation breeding programmes: do all threatened amphibians belong on the ark? *Biodiver Conserv*. 24: 2625-2646. Cannon & Kua. 2017. Botanic gardens should lead the way to create a “Garden Earth” in the Anthropocene *Plant Diversity*. 39: 331-337. Useful website: https://www.bgci.org/resources/bgs_in_conservation/

Team 2. Mackenzie, Sherry, Sydney

Proposition: Trophy hunting is a useful tool for providing monies to enhance local conservation and the well-being of local communities?

Key references: Creel et al. 2016. Assessing the sustainability of African lion trophy hunting, with recommendations for policy. *Ecol. Appl.* 26: 2347-2357. Lindsey et al. 2007. Trophy hunting and conservation in Africa: Problems and one potential solution. *Cons. Biol.* 21 Issue: 3: 880-883. Useful on-line article: <http://www.conservationmagazine.org/2014/01/can-trophy-hunting-reconciled-conservation/>

Team 3. Hayden, Amber, Silvi

Proposition: International programs like 'debt for nature swaps' are powerful means to enhance conservation in developing nations.

Key references: Cassimon et al. 2011. The pitfalls and potential of debt-for-nature swaps: A US-Indonesian case study. *Global. Env. Change* 21: 93-102. Macekura. 2016. Crisis and Opportunity: Environmental NGOs, Debt-for-Nature Swaps, and the Rise of 'People-Centred' Conservation. *Environment and History.* 22: 49-73. Useful article: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/press-releases/central-africa-s-first-debt-for-nature-swap-invests-25-million-for-tropical-forest-conservation-in-cameroon>

Team 4. Charlotte, Lexly, Elaina

Proposition: Traditional medicine is of little demonstrated value for human health, but a leading cause of biodiversity loss

Key references: Nóbrega Alves. 2008. Reptiles used in traditional folk medicine: conservation implications. *BiodivConserv* 17: 2037–2049. Chassagne. 2017. Role of ethnopharmacologists in the conservation of endangered animal species. *J. Ethnopharmacol.* 207: 268-270. Alves and Rosa. 2005. Why study the use of animal products in traditional medicines? *J Ethnobiol Ethnomed.* 1: 5. Useful popular article: <http://time.com/4578166/traditional-chinese-medicine-tcm-conservation-animals-tiger-pangolin/>

Team 5. Kimberly, Damian, Nell

Proposition: International treaties and conventions are effective tools in diminishing illegal trade in wildlife and wild plants and enhancing conservation

Key references: Trouwborst et al. 2017. International wildlife law: Understanding and enhancing its role in conservation. *BioScience* 67: 784-790. Njogu. 2012. Wildlife management and conservation in view of international conventions. *The George Wright Forum.* 29: 109–117. Dickinson. 2012. International conservation treaties, poverty and development. *Natural Resource Perspectives Series.* Overseas Development Institute 74. pp. 1-4. Some useful web sites: <https://www.cbd.int/brc> <https://www.wcs.org/our-work/solutions/international-policy>