



BUSH WARRIORS

A GLOBAL VOICE FOR WILDLIFE

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Would you like a glass of Tiger Bone Wine? Perhaps a glass of Lion Bone Wine?

It is long-known that China's appetite for tiger parts has driven the largest cat species in the world to the brink of extinction. This sickening appetite derives from a common misbelief that by consuming parts of majestic creatures, such as the tiger, one inherently obtains the desirable physical attributes of the animal. The consumption of tiger paws and penises must cause thirst, and now Asians and other delicacy-seekers can wet their whistles with a fine tiger bone wine. Myth has it that drinking this wine can have healing effects for arthritis and rheumatism. The recipe for the wine is simple. A tiger's skeleton, and sometimes the entire carcass, is soaked in a large vat of wine for an extended period of time. Having reached a point where there are no longer enough tigers to meet these demands, alternatives are being sought and tigers are slowly being replaced with another big cat's bones: the lion.



While lions are only listed under CITES 2, trade of lions and their parts is legal under government permit, making lion bones cheaper and easier to obtain than those of tigers. Amid rising concerns about declining lion populations, these large felines now face a new threat. Throughout Africa, the highly controversial breeding of lions specifically for trophy hunting, known as "canned hunting", has proved to be a valuable source for acquiring the bones needed for the wine. This breeding practice has come under scrutiny and a pending court case could potentially bring it to an end. With their business jeopardized by this, some breeders claim they have been forced to kill some of their lions to sell the bones. One even suggests, "You've bred for hunting and now it's being stopped.

What do you do with those things [the lions]?"



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Trophy hunters have also exploited this new demand for lion bones. Some even returning to canned hunting farms to dig up the bones they've left behind when there was no market for the bones. It's understandable since lion bones now fetch between US\$3,000-\$5,000 per kilogram. If the wine is sold as “tiger bone wine”, it sells for just over US\$151 for a single pint. That lion bone wine can so easily be sold as that of tigers only highlights the fact that this mythically powerful liquid actually has no medicinal properties whatsoever.



Many concerns are raised from this new trade in lion bones. While, coincidentally, the demand for lion bones has greatly increased as canned hunting and breeding practices face coming to an end, some are concerned that these breeders will now breed lions simply to sell their bones. The market for lion bones lies within these breeding facilities for now, but many worry that poachers will go after wild populations too. Of course, Chinese taste could turn to seemingly more powerful wild lion parts as opposed to captive-bred cats. It's possible that the illegal

market is already growing, as one [Vietnamese national was apprehended](#) last year in Pretoria, South Africa after being found with thirteen lions he had poached. The world has already seen many rare animals driven to the brink of extinction by extreme Chinese demands, such as rhinos, pangolins, sea horses, and others.



Read the full story [here](#).

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This entry was posted on July 6, 2010 at 2:36 pm and is filed under [Africa: Lions](#), [Uncategorized](#) with tags [Africa](#), [Animal Rights](#), [Animal Trafficking](#), [Animals](#), [Announcements](#), [Anti Poaching](#), [bushmeat](#), [Conservation](#), [Culture](#), [Current Events](#), [Economics](#), [Education](#), [Environment](#), [Ethics](#), [Events](#), [Extinction](#), [illegal](#), [Illegal Animal Trade](#), [illegal hunting](#), [killing](#), [Life](#), [Lion](#), [Nature](#), [News](#), [Photography](#), [poaching](#), [Politics](#), [Society](#), [South Africa](#), [stop poaching](#), [wildlife](#), [wildlife blog](#), [wildlife conservation](#), [wildlife conservation blog](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0 feed](#). You can [leave a response](#), or [trackback](#) from your own site.

8 Responses to “Would you like a glass of Tiger Bone Wine? Perhaps a glass of Lion Bone Wine?”



Anne Maher Says:

July 7, 2010 at 1:42 am

These stories become more revolting by the day. Awareness, Awareness. Awareness I suppose is the only answer. I hope all of the Africans Govts. are aware they will lose their heritage and livelihoods with the loss of their wildlife. They'd better get busy with stricter laws, enforcement and manpower to catch these foreign poachers and the insiders who are chasing the evil dollar as well. Time is very short.

[Reply](#)



Gary Walker Says:

July 8, 2010 at 10:21 pm

Why not feed the poachers to the Lions and tigers that are left. You may say this is wrong, but so is what they are doing and I am sure the penalty would deter them. The poachers must be so stupid to believe the properties of that cats bones are good for health.

[Reply](#)



Jim McIntosh Says:

July 9, 2010 at 7:27 am

Great idea Gary. Even better would be to sell the poachers bones to the Chinese.

I'm sure lion poacher bone wine would be more potent than just plain old ordinary lion bone wine.

[Reply](#)



Maren Dallmann Says:

July 12, 2010 at 10:22 pm

It's not so much the poachers I think it's those greedy vain b.....rds who sell them on. The poachers, although they do the killing are small fish really. It's the demand that needs to be stopped. The people who pay the poachers should be fed to the big cats. I also think all travel companies need to make their customers aware of what they may be offered when travelling to certain countries and of the fact that apart from it being illegal they would be contributing to the extinction of a species.

[Reply](#)



sauwah Says:

July 20, 2010 at 4:57 pm

we must voice our concern for the whole species and the unethically way of killing a helpless animal like these hand raised lions in the business of canned hunting. as one lion farm owner said, lions farming is like chicken farming. there is no sportmanship in killing any animal that will not run and hide or can't for that matter. and the killer can sit in his comfortable seat within an air conditioned vehicle. these hunters are nothing but a bunch of cowardly lazy killers ; and the owners of such farms and trophy hunting safari camps are as bad as those who own and rule the lives of some child prostitutes. since money is the base and cause of these motives. why not sell the rest of their victims' bodies to make more money! therefore, banning hunting on lions and other big cats is the only answer for saving tigers. they can use leopards' blood and flesh to sell as tigers' parts too. and the buyers will never know. and what the hell do they care? only themselves any way.

[Reply](#)



heike Says:

August 13, 2010 at 9:54 am

thanks Sauwah. Locally, in Southern Africa, we really need to actively take action. Do you know of any other campaigns existing at this stage we could join in making any sort of difference in changing this extreme cycle?

[Reply](#)



Lamia Harb Says:

September 1, 2010 at 4:43 am

What is a person to say??? This is very disturbing!
It's disgusting what money has made of human kind.
We need to be more active in regards to all these issues. Awareness may be a start.....but what else can be done? Super stars always hold concerts and special events for AIDS and CANCER. Maybe such concerts and events need to be held in the name of these abused and mistreated animals.
I want to help in any way that I can! Tell me how?

[Reply](#)



betty murphy Says:

September 26, 2010 at 11:41 pm

@Lamia.....u see what awareness does??????? Now u can tlel everyone u know who will listen and understand and STEP UP in any way they can.....you are part of the chain of help! Now u can never turn away..because YOU KNOW!

[Reply](#)

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