

# **Trinidad & Tobago Field Naturalists' Club Hunting Policy**

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**Purpose:** This TTFNC hunting policy is intended to serve as a guide to members when they are acting as official representatives of the TTFNC and to enable club representatives who serve on a variety of external committees to take a stand on behalf of the club. We recognize and accept that club members will have diverse opinions on hunting and this policy is not in-tended to restrict individual club members' opinions or actions as private citizens.

**Guiding Philosophy:** The TTFNC holds that protecting sustainable populations of all native species must be the top priority for wildlife management in Trinidad and Tobago. To this end we believe that, if hunting is to continue it must be managed based on sound empirical knowledge of the present populations and population trends of each targeted species. In the absence of sufficient scientific data, we support the precautionary principle, which dictates that hunting should be tightly restricted until adequate data can be collected and effective regulations can be formulated and enforced.

## **Policy Points:**

- 1) We consider the current legislation and enforcement, as of 2012, to be woefully inadequate for the protection of our wildlife populations.
- 2) We are of the opinion that commercial hunting is not sustainable in Trinidad and Tobago and should be prohibited. As such, any sale of wild meat, sea turtle, or wild-caught cage birds during the open or closed seasons should be prohibited and the law enforced.
- 3) We will actively support all efforts from government bodies and NGOs, including recreational hunters, to establish scientific management objectives, facilitate acquiring supporting data, and revise legislation in order to ensure that hunting will not jeopardize the survival of the local populations of targeted species.
- 4) For practical purposes, we accept that incremental improvements may be the most effective path forward. We are willing to work in good faith with other stakeholders, including hunters, as long as there is evidence of acceptable progress toward our desired standard of wildlife management.
- 5) The TTFNC believes that, in the absence of tangible progress toward managing hunting on a scientific and sustainable basis, all types of hunting should be severely curtailed.