



For the sustainable use of wildlife

Conseil International de la Chasse et de la Conservation du Gibier
Internationaler Rat zur Erhaltung des Wildes und der Jagd
International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation
Международный Совет по Охоте и Охране Животного Мира

AFRICAN INDABA
The CIC Newsletter for Africa
Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

Volume 10, Issue No 1

African Indaba eNewsletter

October 2012

A Word from the CIC President

Dear African Indaba Readers!

Since the last issue was sent out in September 2011 many of you may have been wondering what happened to African Indaba. I must confess that I am partly to blame for the newsletter becoming dormant. I had convinced its editor and publisher, Gerhard Damm, to stand for election as president of CIC's Division for Applied Sciences. After taking office in May 2011, Gerhard had an extremely busy schedule. At the same time he was one of the leading persons involved in preparing for the CIC General Assembly in South Africa, which took place last May. Not to mention his tremendous workload in compiling the soon-to-be-published two-volume *CIC Caprinae Atlas of the World*. The readers of African Indaba are used to high-quality content – and his new obligations just did not allow Gerhard enough time for African Indaba.

However, we are all conscious that the free-of-charge electronic African Indaba newsletter had developed into an important source of information on conservation, management, and hunting of wildlife in Africa. The large worldwide readership, which presently includes around 12,000 addresses from over 130 countries, is proof enough. It is a proud fact that during its 10 years of existence African Indaba had earned itself a reputation as a precise, objective, and non-commercial information tool. The newsletter is read not only by hunters, but also by wildlife researchers, students, members of a broad spectrum of conservation NGOs, and government agencies, amongst others. Many enquiries by readers demonstrate that there is a continuing demand to keep African Indaba alive and vibrant.

The main thanks for the past achievements must be given to Gerhard Damm. He conceptualized African Indaba in 2003 and provided a large share of his time on a completely honorary basis for its six-times-a-year publication in the past. Gerhard has agreed to continue, provided that he finds more support and that the workload can be better shared. I am very happy, therefore, that we have now found a competent editorial team which has agreed to take on the task. Apart from Gerhard Damm, the team is made up of:

- Dr. Rolf D. Baldus, from Germany, who had already supported Gerhard as a contributing author in the past; Rolf was head of the former CIC Tropical Game Commission and is now my advisor on communication. He has many years of on-the-ground experience with African wildlife and protected areas and has a reputation as an author of popular and scientific papers and books;
- Vernon Booth from Zimbabwe, a recently appointed CIC expert. Vernon has worked with wildlife throughout his long professional career and featured as author and co-author of many peer reviewed publications; he has many years of practical hands-on experience in African wildlife and conservation management.
- Peter Flack, a CIC member from South Africa, also known as a frequent African Indaba contributor, and highly competent author on books about hunting and conservation in Africa. Peter usually describes himself as a lawyer, businessman, conservationist, author and hunter ... although not necessarily in this particular order;
- Dr. Ali Kaka from Kenya, where he serves as Regional Director east and southern Africa of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Dr. Kaka assists me in the CIC as special advisor on Africa. Previously Ali held high profile engagements in the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, the East African Wildlife Society, and the Kenya Wildlife Service.

In addition, there will also be a number of highly reputed contributors, who will regularly provide articles and information on an *ad-hoc* basis. You will find out the names of this select group in the next few issues. The entire team works on an honorary basis. The editorial team also invites readers to contribute to future issues of African Indaba. From now on African Indaba will appear as the official CIC medium on African affairs. The CIC Executive Committee considers the special focus on African wildlife matters to be of particular importance.

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources. African Indaba is the official CIC Newsletter on African affairs, with editorial independence. For more information about the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC go to www.cic-wildlife.org

Africa is a continent with unique and rich landscapes and wildlife. This exceptional richness is part of the heritage of mankind and must be conserved for future generations. Africa provides many case studies on how wildlife can be managed soundly and for the benefit of both people AND wildlife. On the other hand, the emotionally-influenced utopian dreams of some, which are at least partially put into practice in certain African countries, have resulted in abysmal failures for wildlife and nature conservation – and at the same time for the people resident in those areas.

Hunting is a direct form of sustainable wildlife use when practiced with sound management and regulated by good governance. Hunting-tourism has been and continues to be a strong tool for conservation in the developing world. This is particularly obvious in Africa and Central Asia. Countries which have banned hunting tend to have some of the worst wildlife conservation track records. Nevertheless there are still some who are contemplating, for example, a ban on lion hunting. Such a ban however would be detrimental to the survival of the African lion.

On the other hand, photographic tourism is, as we all know, by no means non-consumptive, but a generally acceptable form of use. However, looking at these two forms of sustainable use, one must ask, which one leaves the smaller ecological footprint? I dare say that of the two hunting tourism will certainly take first place.

Conservation programs should be developed within the region and tailored to the local context. They must not be unduly constrained by emotions and well-meaning opinions from New York, Berlin, Sydney, or London. Theoretically, wildlife conservation can be pursued with or without local people but experience has shown that better conservation outcomes are achieved by involving them.

The incentive-driven conservation approach of Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) is a good example of how to overcome Hardin's *Tragedy of the Commons* effect. The late Elinor Ostrom, 2009 Nobel Prize Laureate, highlighted the importance of stimulating the self-interest of participatory groups, and all CIC Markhor Award winners (read the article on the 2012 Markhor Award Winner in this issue of African Indaba) show exemplary conservation successes achieved by applying incentive-driven conservation methods and a combination of extractive (e.g. hunting) and non-extractive (e.g. photo tourism) use forms. The outcomes benefit wildlife and ecology, further the economic underpinning of conservation, and contribute in appropriate ways, including economic, to the well-being of those communities, indigenous, rural and local, that live side by side with wildlife.

This leads me to the recently adopted and published IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) *Guiding Principles on Trophy Hunting*, which demonstrates the potential of proper wildlife use (see the comment by Rolf Baldus and the article of Rich Harris and Rosie Cooney in this issue). The IUCN SSC guidelines elaborate how hunting should be organized in order to be sustainable and supportive of rural livelihoods and conservation at the same time.

The IUCN guidelines correctly put hunting within a socio-economic context. But this also presents some pitfalls: hunting or photographic tourism are appropriate and

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economically viable use-forms on agriculturally marginal lands; however, other use-forms, for example the exploitation of rare metals and fossil energy, and the harnessing of rivers for hydro-energy, may very well create higher economic value. However, when we evaluate the complex range of ecosystem services provided by the areas used for hunting and photographic tourism, even these latter use forms may take second place. Expressing ecosystem services in monetary terms in addition to the socio-economic benefits of hunting may well provide additional and solid justification for setting aside land for wildlife in Africa and Central Asia.

The 59th General Assembly of the CIC in Cape Town has already focused on this central issue. In the meantime our expert groups have engaged in two key-activities:

- to coordinate the interrelated fields of wildlife conservation, food security, cultural aspects and animal-human health interrelations within a *Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management* under the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- to calculate and demonstrate with the help of standardized toolkits the wide-ranging contribution of sustainable wildlife management to the *Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity* within the *Green Economy Initiative* of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

Together with a broad coalition of partners, the CIC teams will be involved in both initiatives. We will ensure that apart from the clearly visible conservation and socio-economic benefits which sustainable hunting generates, the highly significant, but hidden, monetary values of ecosystem services provided by economically viable hunting and conservation areas are receiving their due attention.

Finally, I wish to congratulate our friends from Namibia, the 2012 recipients of the CIC Markhor Award, for this well-deserved recognition of their successful conservation programs. We celebrated their illustrious precursors from the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor in Tanzania and Mozambique in the year 2008 in Bonn, Germany, and the Society for Torghar Environmental Protection (STEP) from Pakistan in 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. The third CIC Markhor Award Winner will be celebrated by the participants of the 11th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Hyderabad, India. Our Namibian friends have worked hard for many years and they richly deserve this global stage.

Bernard Lozé
President
International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation

Namibian Conservation Wins Markhor Award for its Communal Conservancy Program

Steve Felton, NACSO/WWF, Namibia

On October 18 the 2012 Markhor Award for Outstanding Conservation Performance will be awarded to the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) and the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO). Through the Markhor Award, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) honors conservation projects that link human livelihoods with the conservation of biodiversity.

Conservation means using resources so that they will be available for future generations, and in Namibia this is happening through the CBNRM Program: Community Based Natural Resource Management.

Rich in wildlife and stretching over a wide geographical area, Namibia's desert, savannah and riverine areas are as biologically diverse as they are fragile. It was the Namibian post-independence government's visionary approach to the sustainable utilization of natural resources that created the conditions in which rural Namibians could benefit from wildlife whilst conserving the environment. Legislation in 1996 led to the establishment of the first communal conservancies.



Photo 1: Meat for distribution in Torra Conservancy

The partnership that followed, between the Ministry of Environment & Tourism, support NGOs under the umbrella of NACSO, and rural communities themselves, has created conditions in which conservation has been able to prosper.

The two Namibian ladies collecting the award on behalf of their organizations have a remarkable story to tell. As Minister of Environment and Tourism, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has managed the growth of Namibian communal conservancies from 50 when she became Minister in 2008 to 76 today, covering almost a fifth of Namibia’s land area. Maxi Louis, through NACSO, has provided consistent and solid support to CBNRM, allowing conservancies and the program to grow.

Communal conservancies are self-governing entities which enjoy the same rights over wildlife and tourism as private farms, and they are democratic. Conservancy members vote for a committee, and collectively earn money from trophy hunting and game sales, as well as from joint ventures with lodge operators on conservancy land.

In giving the Award to the MET and NACSO for the Namibia Communal Conservancy Movement, the CIC noted that the introduction of communal conservancies in Namibia, and their growth, had “initiated a paradigm shift in community attitudes towards wildlife.” In the 1980’s wildlife populations were threatened with local extinction. A severe drought exacerbated a decline in numbers caused by rampant poaching – both by the South African armed forces occupying Namibia, and by locals who saw little value in wildlife that ate their crops and livestock.

Now, in contrast, wildlife is seen as a growing asset by rural communities. Communal conservancies derive a direct income from trophy hunting, with 42 concessions run by professional hunters, and they sell excess game to commercial farms. In addition, meat from hunting is distributed to conservancy members. It is important to understand hunting in the context of conservation. Conservancies and the MET work closely together to monitor wildlife numbers, which have been increasing since the CBNRM policy began – thus ensuring viable and sustainable harvests of game.

A cornerstone of conservancy management is the employment of game guards. A typical conservancy will have six or more guards who routinely patrol conservancy areas and keep in contact with local farmers. Everybody knows who is who, and strangers looking for poaching opportunities are quickly spotted.



Photo 2: An MET ranger and community game guard on the Caprivi game count



Photo 3: Minister Nandi Ndaitwah (left) and Maxi Louis share a moment at Namibia’s Tourism Expo



Photo 4: The CIC Markhor Award

With increasing wildlife numbers there are more opportunities for tourism. Conservancies make joint venture agreement with tour operators, who invest capital in lodges and campsites. The result is more income to conservancies and greater job opportunities.

It’s a concept that was exemplified in Pakistan, where the name ‘Markhor’ comes from a mountain goat species. Once threatened with extinction, the population has multiplied 25 times in recent years because of benefits derived from the sustainable use of the species. It’s a paradox that awards like the Markhor help the public to understand that benefits from the hunting of wildlife have improved the lives of community members by placing a value on wildlife, which local people now want to conserve.

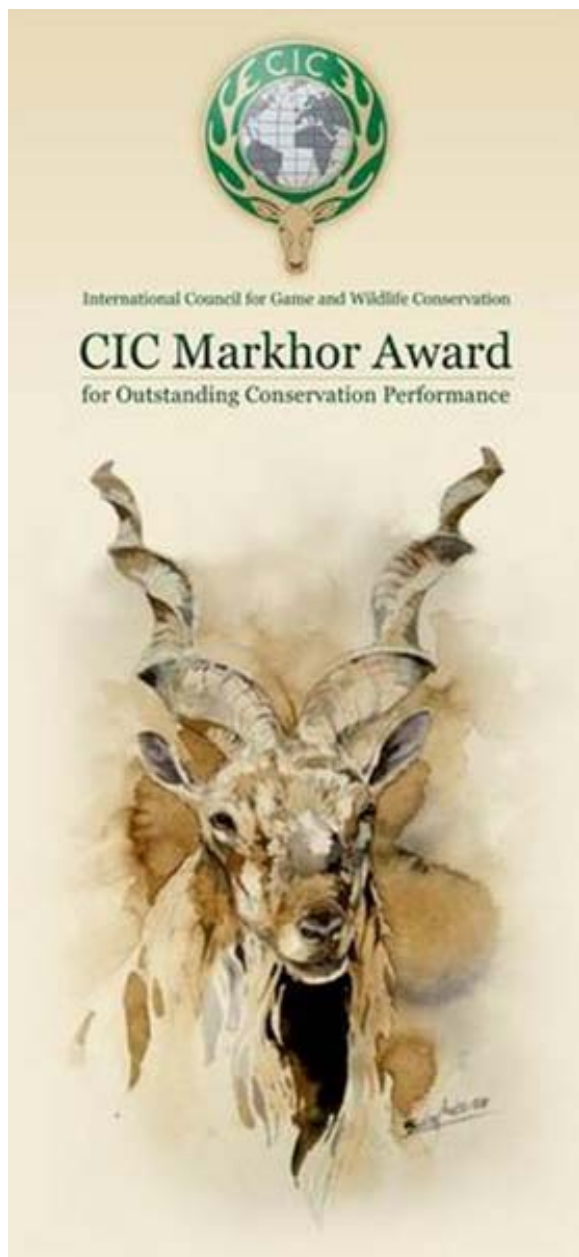
The work of the MET and NACSO in supporting the Namibian communal conservancy movement has led to a widespread and sustained growth of wildlife populations in Namibia, where communal conservancies have grown from four, in 1998, to 76 in 2012.

In Namibia, communal conservancies are required by the MET to have a sustainable game management plan based upon annual game counts.

The north west count, taking in the vast expanses of Kunene Region, is the largest road based game count in the world. In Caprivi Region, which is a mosaic of forests, floodplain, and riverine areas, the game count is done on foot, with over 800 kilometers walked in a few weeks. By spotting wildlife from the same paths and tracks, at the same time every year, reasonably accurate estimates of wildlife numbers can be drawn up.

Under sustainable use management, wildlife numbers have steadily increased. In the north-west, for example, Hartmann's Mountain Zebra numbers have grown from an estimated 1,000 in 1982 to around 27,000 today, and the population of the desert-adapted elephant has grown from about 150 to 750 in the same period. Lions in Kunene have expanded in range and number, and Namibia is the only country in Africa with an increasing giraffe population.

Minister Nandi Ndaitwah and Maxi Louis will be able to point to these successes when they receive the prize in India, on behalf of the communal conservancy program. Both ladies would, no doubt, place the credit elsewhere – and it is indeed a grass roots Namibian story of rural Namibians exercising good governance and control over wildlife, improving their livelihoods and benefitting biodiversity.



History of the CIC Markhor Award

Gerhard R. Damm

The CIC Markhor Award celebrates outstanding conservation performance by individuals, private or public institutions, enterprises, or projects that link conservation of biodiversity to human livelihood through the principles of sustainable use, in particular hunting, as part of wildlife and ecosystem management.

Rolf D. Baldus conceived of this award whilst president of the former CIC Tropical Game Commission. The search for a name that would do the concept justice soon led to the exemplary Pakistani success in the conservation of mountain ungulates. Spearheaded by communities in the provinces of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Balochistan, and in close cooperation with WWF-Pakistan and IUCN-Pakistan, a number of different projects resulted in an astonishing recovery of markhor subspecies such as the Astore Markhor (*Capra falconeri falconeri*), the Kashmir Markhor (*Capra falconeri cashmiriensis*), and the Suleiman Markhor (*Capra falconeri jerdoni*). The efforts also benefited other mountain ungulates and even predators like the snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*).

The well-known German wildlife artist Bodo Meier created an impressive Suleiman Markhor head as logo and the Spanish taxidermist and artist Ramon Garoz from Los Yébenes, a village close to Toledo, sculpted an impressive 44 cm-tall Suleiman Markhor head in bronze.

The Markhor Award and Bronze is presented biennially at the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD CoP). The first award ceremony took place at CBD CoP 9 in Bonn in 2008 and the CIC Markhor Award was presented jointly to the Niassa National Reserve, Mozambique, and to the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor which links the Niassa Reserve with Tanzania's Selous Game Reserve. In 2010, the award ceremony took place during the CBD CoP 10 in Nagoya, Japan. Members of the Society for Torghar Environmental Protection (STEP) celebrated their deserved recognition enthusiastically on the main stage of the conference venue. And now in 2012, at the 11th Conference of the Parties in Hyderabad, India, the CIC Markhor Award goes back to Africa

and recognizes the achievements of the Namibia Communal Conservancy Movement represented by Namibia Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) and Namibia Association of CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO).

IUCN SSC Guiding Principles on Trophy Hunting Released

Rolf D Baldus

The Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has adopted guiding principles on trophy hunting. The intention is that IUCN members, governments and others will use these guidelines widely for policy and management decisions related to trophy hunting, for instance in the design of new trophy hunting programs or review of existing ones. A similar directive was published several years ago by the Sheep Specialist Group of IUCN.

The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) is a science-based network of more than 7,500 volunteer experts from almost every country in the world, all working together towards conserving biodiversity. The majority of members are deployed in more than 120 Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities, and Task Forces.

The IUCN has long recognized that the wise and sustainable use of wildlife can be consistent with conservation, and in fact contribute to it, because the social and economic benefits derived from sustainable use can provide incentives for people to conserve species and their habitats. These new IUCN guidelines can therefore build on existing IUCN policies. Trophy hunting is seen as a tool for creating incentives for the conservation of species and their habitats and for the equitable sharing of the benefits associated with the use of natural resources. Species which are rare or threatened may be included in trophy hunting as part of site-specific conservation strategies.

Interestingly enough, in the annex to their document the IUCN SSC picks out two successful examples of sustainable trophy hunting – the Namibian conservancies and the Torgar Markhor hunting project – both of which are winners of the prestigious CIC Markhor Award.

The CIC will assist IUCN SSC in the translation of the Trophy Hunting Guiding Principles into languages like French, German, Russian, and Spanish.

Full text of the IUCN SSC Guiding Principles on Trophy Hunting

Download at:

https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/iucn_ssc_guiding_principles_on_trophy_hunting_ver1_09aug2012.pdf

The SSC Guiding Principles on Trophy Hunting as a Tool for Conservation Incentives

Rich Harris* and Rosie Cooney**

*Deputy Chair, IUCN/SSC Caprinae Specialist Group

**Chair, IUCN CEESP/SSC Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group

Hunting of wild animals with particular “trophy” characteristics takes place in many countries, involves many taxa, and has variable conservation consequences. The IUCN Species Survival Commission has developed the following set of guiding principles that articulates what IUCN/SSC views as the key characteristics of a trophy-hunting program that make it likely to deliver positive benefits for conservation. They are intended to differentiate hunting that generates tangible incentives for conservation, from hunting which may simply be sustainable but does not necessarily produce such direct benefits. They primarily apply to species where sport hunting of a few (“trophy”) individuals can generate a large amount of benefits to conservation with limited impacts on population dynamics or genetic variability. The new draft includes an annex providing two examples that illustrate positive benefits for conservation arising from trophy hunting, and there is scope to include further positive and negative examples in this annex in the future.

These guiding principles arose from discussion around Caprinae (wild sheep and goats). Caprinae are among the taxa most prized by many trophy hunters for the magnificence of their horns, yet some species exist only in low numbers. Accordingly in 2009, SSC Chair Simon Stuart began discussions with Marco Festa-Bianchet, chair of the SSC Caprinae Specialist Group (CSG) about whether the SSC could become more engaged in assuring the conservation effectiveness of this form of hunting, noting that CSG had, in 2000, produced a position statement (<http://pages.usherbrooke.ca/mfesta/thunt.htm>).

One of us (RH) became interested in the possibility that SSC involvement could be particularly helpful in central Asia (including China), having worked there for many years with local biologists and managers in and around trophy-hunting areas, and where most systems had yet to realize their full potential to link wildlife conservation with local people’s livelihoods. Initial ideas centered on the potential that SSC might, in the future, provide some sort of public endorsement of programs that met biological and social criteria, thus providing backing for successful programs facing scrutiny or criticism, while also providing an incentive to improve for programs not yet incorporating generally agreed-upon elements.

With the help of SSC leadership, seed funding was obtained in 2010 from the Wild Sheep Foundation (in association with Grand Slam/OVIS), the Conklin Foundation, and Safari Club International, to initiate conversations with range-state wildlife managers about their trophy-hunting programs. We elected to prioritize working with the People’s Republic of China, where a trophy-hunting program focused on

Caprinae had been operating since 1986, but where public concern had prompted its suspension in 2006. In October 2011 in Cambridge, UK, SSC organized a workshop with senior officials from China's State Forestry Administration, which oversees the various provinces' trophy-hunting programs. We shared our thoughts about how hunting has succeeded in motivating funding and support for habitat conservation in various places throughout the world, and how local participation has so often been shown to be crucial in programs' success. Our Chinese colleagues shared information about their programs, and the difficulties they faced. It was pointed out that despite the existence of various documents detailing best practices in trophy hunting (such as the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity), and despite IUCN's existing policies on sustainable use, SSC had no stand-alone statement regarding trophy hunting. From the SSC side it was agreed that a reasonable next step was to produce such a document, and further that it should be general enough to cover all terrestrial species where high-value, low-volume hunting was intended to produce tangible conservation incentives. Richard Harris took the lead in producing this document, with Rosie Cooney joining the core writing team soon after her appointment as SULi Chair in December 2011.

The guiding principles have benefited from several rounds of review within the SSC, both from members of taxonomic specialist groups focused on taxa subject to trophy hunting, and from members of SULi, many of whom have been involved in trophy-hunting programs. Unsurprisingly for a topic that can elicit strong emotions, various views were expressed during the process, and we have found it challenging to produce text that is general enough to cover a myriad of situations while specific enough to differentiate programs that truly create the desired incentives from those that do not. However, after many rounds of review the Guiding Principles were adopted by the SSC Steering Committee in August 2012.

Our hope is that these guiding principles will help and prompt range states, hunting groups, and other NGOs to work together more productively to ensure that trophy hunting can continue to produce incentives for conservation where it is currently doing so, and improve its ability to do so where that potential has not yet been achieved.

IUCN Introduces Green List

Gerhard R Damm

In September, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) presented delegates to the World Conservation Congress in Jeju, South Korea, with the concept of an IUCN Green List, complementing the IUCN Red List that tracks endangered species.

While the IUCN Red List warns about imperiled species across the globe, the Green List will highlight not just survival of a species, but abundance. The list will include species that are identified as fully conserved; that is, exist in ecologically significant numbers, interacting fully with other species in their ecosystems. The Green List is intended to "incentivize conservation action and encourage investment in programs and policies that enhance and measure conservation success," said Dr. Simon Stuart, Chair of IUCN's Species Survival Commission. The Green List will probably appear only some years from now, since scientists need first to establish the listing criteria.

The Jeju delegates approved the IUCN Green List concept, and also approved motions to set up a Red List of Ecosystems and Green List of Protected Areas. The Green List will highlight some of the world's most successful protected areas, while the Red List will shine a light on ecosystems most in need of conservation and better management efforts.

Is this the Future of Cape Buffalo Hunting?

Rolf D. Baldus

Harry looked at the buffalo through the glasses. "There's a damned good bull in that herd," he said. "Better than the one you've got by six inches at least. I'd think we'd best go and collect him." I didn't say anything. I just prayed inside me and hoped we would not have to crawl too far in order to scare me to death. I don't know what there is about buffalo that frightens me so. Lions and leopards and rhinos excite me but don't frighten me. But that buff is so big and mean, and ugly, and hard to stop, and vindictive and cruel and surly and ornery. He looks like he hates you personally. He looks like you owe him money. He looks like he is hunting you. I had looked at a couple of thousands of him by now, at close ranges, and I had killed one of him, and I was scarer than ever. He makes me sick in the stomach, and he makes my hands sweat, and he dries out my throat and my lips.

All hunters know this passage from Robert Ruark's *Horn of the Hunter*. It describes better than anything else why we hunt buffalo and cannot give it up, even if charged or, on occasion, worse.

Artificial Breeding of Buffaloes on the Increase.

How different is the incident described by Robert Ruark from the adventure of hunting artificially bred buffaloes, which are advertised by some South African Game ranches. Advertisements, advertorials, and auction results clearly demonstrate that some South

African breeders and game ranchers have started to produce bulls with horns that regularly measure 45+ inches. Such trophies have always been difficult to find in wild Cape buffaloes. And so all successful methods based on the breeding of cattle and other livestock, including the latest technologies, are now being applied to buffalo breeding. At the Thaba Tholo auction (September 11, 2012) in Thabazimbi (Limpopo Province, South Africa) a nine-year buffalo breeding-bull named *Senatta* was sold for 18 million Rand (approximately 2.142 million USD); at an auction in Swartruggens (North West Province, South Africa), a buyer forked out 20 million Rand (2.38 million USD) for a buffalo cow and her heifer in April 2012. Photos of big-bossered, large horned buffalo bulls for sale (like "Horison", a 5-year-old bull with a 51 3/8 inch spread and two conspicuous red ear tags) dominate the advertisements in some South African media. One advertisement for an auction on October 27, 2012 even mentions "*the largest buffalo gene pool exchange in the world*".

The breeding of such buffaloes does not serve any conservation purpose. Rather, it is producing animals that will be killed solely because they possess large horns. The process reduces a formerly wild animal to a domesticated one and brings with it many dangers for biological diversity – and for the future of our beloved sport of hunting.

Pecunia non Olet?

A friend of mine in the South African wildlife-breeders industry said to me: "*What do you want to do? There's a market demand for such bred buffs. And we breeders and game ranchers just follow the demand.*" Well, he is right insofar that money does not stink. "*Pecunia non olet*," said Emperor Vespasian, after imposing a urine tax. However, there are demands, like those for child pornography or heroin, which must not be satisfied, according to law or the general consent of society.

Accordingly, we must either have the artificial manipulation of wildlife banned by law or, if that is not possible, proscribed by ethical hunters who follow the rules of fair chase. We must face the fact that the manipulation of formerly wild animals is increasing in many parts of the world; and that many people who call themselves hunters are losing their natural feeling that killing such animals has nothing to do with hunting, especially when it happens within a confined area, which is normally the case.

CIC Recommendation: Wildlife and Commercially-bred Formerly Wild Animals

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Management (CIC), which is actively engaged in the conservation of our biological diversity, has recently repeated its condemnation of such malpractices. It has confirmed its support for fair-chase hunting and urged all hunters and hunting associations to oppose such unethical, manipulative practices.

In its recommendation on *Wildlife and Commercially-Bred Formerly Wild Animals*, the CIC expressed its concern that such exploitation and manipulation of formerly wild animals, if uncontrolled, may have detrimental effects on biodiversity and unwanted consequences for the genetic integrity of animals that live in the wild. In particular the following is feared:

- uncontrollable impacts on natural evolutionary processes, including changes in behavior, breeding patterns and reproductive cycles;
- genetic pollution of naturally occurring taxa;
- loss or irreversible alteration of evolutionary significant local wildlife populations;
- uncontainable expansion of exotic wildlife species outside their natural habitats;
- elevated risk of zoonotic disease outbreaks;
- unpredictable impacts on habitats and ecosystems.

On 8 November 2011, the CIC Council, therefore:

1. **Expressed** its full commitment to further develop and promote principles, criteria and indicators for sustainable fair-chase hunting;
2. **Opposed** artificial and unnatural manipulations of wildlife, including the enhancement or alteration of a species' genetic characteristics (e.g. pelage color, body size, horn or antler size) in particular through
 - a) the intentional crossbreeding of species, subspecies, or evolutionary significant local phenotypes;
 - b) the use of domestic livestock breeding methods, like flow cytometry or genetic testing, germplasm and semen production or trading, artificial insemination, embryo transfer, castration, growth hormone treatments, controlled or unnatural breeding programs, and cloning.
3. **Excludes** all "trophies" of animals so manipulated from being scored with the copyrighted CIC Trophy Evaluation Methods;

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Full Text of the CIC Recommendation
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English
http://www.cic-wildlife.org/uploads/media/Rec_on_Wildlife_manipulation_EN.pdf

Français
http://www.cic-wildlife.org/uploads/media/Rec_on_Wildlife_manipulation_FR.pdf

Deutsch
http://www.cic-wildlife.org/uploads/media/Rec_on_Wildlife_manipulation_DE.pdf

4. **Encourages** all governments to develop enforceable policies and establish relevant guidelines in their national wildlife conservation models;
5. **Offers** assistance to national governmental agencies to develop policies and establish guidelines;
6. **Urges** all CIC members to abstain from hunting manipulated animals;
7. **Invites** all national and international hunting organizations and associations to adopt similar guidelines and policies.

One of the buffalo breeding/hunting advertorials ended by saying: "*Ethical hunting should be promoted and practiced at all costs.*" I agree. However, killing buffalo and other wildlife that has been artificially manipulated with the objective of producing big trophies is unethical.

Such practices and the killing of such animals by people who pretend that this is hunting, will ruin the reputation of hunting in the short run and destroy fair chase hunting in the long run. Ruark and many renowned big-game hunters of the past would turn in their graves if they could see how their successors have turned the *mbogo* of Africa's savannas and *miombo* forests into some kind of Frankenstein creature. Anyhow, the recent buffalo price explosion looks more like a cleverly devised pyramid system, benefiting a few, and eventually ruining those who join the bandwagon late.

This text is a modified version of an article which appeared first in the African Hunting Gazette, Vol. 17, Issue 4

Book Review: Glen Martin's *Game Changer, Animal Rights and the Fate of Africa's Wildlife*

Johannes Siege

Glen Martin takes us on a journey through today's African wildlife politics. The reader meets with eminent conservationists such as Ian Parker, now retired in Australia; with active wildlife researchers and animal rights activists as well as local people in still wild places, whose encounters and relationship with wildlife should be at the core of any conservation effort. Highly engaging and colorful in style, Martin paints a picture of animal rights-based conservation policies, which neglect the livelihoods of local people.

Central focus of his book is the excitingly displayed evidence that the priority of animal rights over wildlife management just achieves the opposite of what is intended – it has fatal results for the very existence and future of the African fauna. In this respect the animal rights activists are the "game changers". They dominate public debate and media on issues of sustainable wildlife management. They block the rational and science-based discussion of management decisions about, for example, reducing wildlife numbers that exceed the carrying capacity of their ecosystems or come into conflict with humans. According to Martin, in Kenya animal-rights organizations such as the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) have changed the game effectively to the detriment of human beings and wildlife, because they mistake "loving animals for saving wildlife". These NGOs bank on this popular confusion, and collect million dollar donations from people in the urbanized environments of industrialized countries. Martin finds evidence for this all over Africa, but specifically in Kenya, which, after the hunting ban was imposed in 1977, has lost 70% of its wildlife. Nevertheless, Kenya's wildlife policy is still dominated by animal-rights groups from Europe and America, who, for the selfish benefit of their NGOs and dollar donations, block any progress for the rightful landowners and local people towards benefiting from the sustainable use of the wildlife. For the animal rightist, wildlife does not have an economic value and should not have any. But according to Martin and the majority of conservationists whom he meets on his journey through Africa, progress depends on putting an economic value to game. For the people living with wild animals and whose farming activities compete with game, such value provides incentives to protect animals and space for management options, if for example the lion's trophy value is higher than the value of the cattle it feeds on.

But Africa also provides examples of where the game has not yet fundamentally changed in favor of animal rightists, and to the detriment of humans and wildlife. For Martin these examples are mainly in Namibia and South Africa. In these countries wildlife and suitable ecosystems have increased dramatically since they have become valuable to the landowner and local people. The value is based on a variety of options of sustainable use such as photo tourism, trophy hunting, eco-tourism, meat production, and allowing for problem-animal control.

However, as Martin points out, with animal rights-based environmentalism being in the ascendancy, and with progressing urbanization, even these countries are not immune to the "game changers". Let's hope with Glen Martin that those who just love animals do not in the end win the game against those who try to save them.

Glen Martin: *Game Changer, Animal Rights and the Fate of Africa's Wildlife*, University of California Press, Berkeley, 2012

Save Valley Conservancy: Myth versus Truth - the Facts

Lisa Jane Campbell and Willy Pabst

Editor's Note (RDB): *The Save Valley Conservancy (3,200 km²) in southeastern Zimbabwe is an association of over 20 private properties which has more or less survived the forceful land-appropriation in Zimbabwe, despite losing a third of its area, so far, to the Government. The conservancy is a cooperative private partnership for wildlife and natural resource conservation. The major income earner is sustainable hunting tourism. Photographic tourism does not play a significant role anymore due to the political crisis and the previous turmoil in the country. Contrary to the general situation of wildlife elsewhere in Zimbabwe the conservancy still holds viable game populations, including 140 rhinos. However, major efforts by the owners are needed to protect this wildlife against professional poachers. The ranches employ their own game scouts and a special force for rhino protection. Last August it became known that so-called "black farmers" – mainly ministers, politicians and VIPs - would be awarded large tracts of the conservancy for hunting purposes. In addition, hunting licenses for the private properties were given to 25 party heavyweights. The local press has reported widely on the incidents.*

Several owners leapt once again to defend their properties and engaged in a major political negotiation process. This culminated in the ZANU-PF Politbureau under President Mugabe condemning the illegal move and ordering that hunting licenses should instead be given to the lawful owners. Conservancies are not subject to land reform or indigenization in the normal form but should seek "community participation" as the official statement put it. Nevertheless the respective Minister and some interested parties in the administration have ignored this directive and have persisted with the appropriation. It remains to be seen how the saga continues.

Conservancy members published the following text to explain the facts to the public in Zimbabwe.

Myth: *The Save Valley Conservancy (SVC) is made up of the last vestige of white "Rhodesians" in Zimbabwe*

Truth: The Save Valley Conservancy was founded in 1992, twelve years after independence.

- A founding partner is the Government controlled Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (ARDA),
- All properties that have changed hands since the early 1990s received Government's "Certificate of no present Interest", i.e. Government expressly did not exercise its right to purchase the properties.
- Bikita Rural District Council became a full member in 2002.
- Two thirds of all members have indigenous partners in some form.
- SVC can accurately say, and prove, that the conservancy is 32% indigenized at present.
- SVC is made up of international investors, local investors, on-the-ground investors, government, and some local communities. The Conservancy was created in 1992 with the involvement of:
 - the Government of Zimbabwe
 - the National Parks and Wildlife Authority
 - the Beit Trust
 - WWF
 - the Department of Veterinary Services.

Myth: *The Parks and Wildlife Act of 1975 was a "colonial" tool used to benefit only white people*

Truth: The Act introduced the concept of landholders, irrespective of race, obtaining wildlife-utilization rights as a consequence of taking responsibility for the conservation of animals on their land. After independence this Act was recognized and accepted by the Zimbabwe Government. The Act is considered one of the most modern and progressive of its kind and the idea has since been adopted in other countries. Dr. Rowan B. Martin said in September 2012: *"Zimbabwe has led the way in southern Africa by adopting liberal and farsighted policies, and giving effect to these policies through enlightened legislation and innovative institutional reforms that have enabled all Zimbabweans to benefit from wildlife as a land use without racial discrimination. It is an insult to those pioneering Ministers such as Victoria Chitepo and Herbert Murerwa to cast their efforts in such a poor light as some have done."*

Myth: *Conservancies are an invention from the "Rhodesia days"*

Truth: Conservancies, including the Save Valley Conservancy, were founded in the early 1990s, i.e. some eleven or twelve years after independence. Conservancies were registered with and approved by the Zimbabwe Government in the 1990s. All properties that changed hands at that time were offered to Government first; Government issued "Certificates of no present Interest", declaring that it had no interest in the land and its proposed use. Conservancies did not exist prior to 1980.

Myth: *Wildlife belongs to the state or the people*

Truth: Incorrect. Wildlife enjoys the legal status of "*Res Nullius*", meaning wildlife belongs to nobody. User rights accrue legally to those exercising control over wildlife areas. In a fenced area the legal occupier enjoys user rights of wildlife. This applies to conservancies. [*Editors' Note: This is a fundamental principle of the Parks and Wild Life Act, 1975, as amended in 1982 – the primary reason why Zimbabwe's conservation program was successful.*]

Myth: *Zimbabwe has a wildlife based land reform policy*

Truth: No such policy has ever been approved by Cabinet or Parliament; it does not exist in legal terms.

Myth: *Twenty-five-year leases for SVC or wildlife properties are legal and binding.*

Truth: No original leases have ever been presented to anyone. The copies, dated from 2007, that were seen show signatures from the Minister of Environment and the Director General of National Parks. The Minister of Lands and many other members of Cabinet as well as legal advisors have made it clear that the leases are illegal, the signatures without authority, and doubt exists that these documents are available in the original.

Myth: *The Wildlife Industry is poorly indigenized:*

Truth: Government records show that 28% of Zimbabwe's total area is designated for wildlife.

- 93% of all wildlife areas are in indigenous hands. The wildlife estate covers an area about 47,000 km² (18,000 sq. mi.), 12.5% of the total land area of the country. The wildlife industry is the single most indigenized industry in Zimbabwe.
- Conservancies comprise only 7% of wildlife areas outside of the Parks and Wildlife Estate.
- Of this 7%, about one third is in indigenous hands, and over 50% is owned by foreign investors covered by Investment Protection Treaties.
- Therefore less than 5% of privately owned wildlife areas in Zimbabwe are not directly in indigenous hands or control.

Myth: *The SVC has refused to engage on the issue of indigenization*

Truth: The SVC has long held the view that indigenization should take the form of community involvement and benefit and to this end formed the Save Valley Conservancy Community Trust, incorporating five neighboring Rural District Councils. This was achieved between 1996 and 1998, pre-dating the current indigenization act by some years.

For years the SVC has engaged with the Ministry of Environment and the National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority. Over three years, between 2006 and 2009, professionally prepared plans to bring increased benefit to neighboring communities, as well as to increase indigenous shareholding in the Save Valley Conservancy, were presented. Requested documentation was supplied by the Conservancy to the Ministry on many occasions without any formal or directional feedback from either Ministry of Environment or National Parks.

At the beginning of 2011 a steering committee comprised of would-be investors and members of the SVC was formed to guide the legal, accounting, and business processes that would be necessary to ensure smooth transactions. This process ran aground in July 2011 when the "would-be investors" stated they had no intention of investing but wanted "cash on the table". Despite this the SVC and its members are still seeking to implement a viable indigenization plan incorporating communities. The door to genuine indigenous investment remains open today as in the past. Plans would have been implemented long ago had the authorities involved engaged with the procedure.

Myth: *The SVC is closed to black investors*

Truth: If that were so, why would ARDA have become a founding partner of the SVC and Bikita a later partner? SVC welcomes business investment (and always has), irrespective of race or nationality. The SVC Constitution, recognized by National Parks, provides for responsible land and wildlife management. All members and investors are committed to work within the boundaries of the balanced and non-racial SVC constitution.

Myth: *The SVC is part of a Government- or President-approved land redistribution policy. The forced deployment of shareholders onto the SVC is part of a national indigenization policy.*

Truth: Various senior members of Cabinet – notably the Minister of Lands and the Office of the President – have made it clear that Conservancies

- are not subject to Fast Track Agrarian Land Reform;
- should engage with their neighbors in community participation;
- will honor foreign investments, which are subject to Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (BIPPA).

Neither the President, the Vice President, nor the Prime Minister have given approval to the attempts of some 25 individuals from the Masvingo Province to gain access to the wildlife assets of the SVC, by using leases issued in the name of a policy (the Wildlife Based Reform Policy) that has no legal existence in Zimbabwe. Genuine attempts by the SVC, to create and implement a viable plan that will benefit communities, have run aground on the ambitions of a few apparently self-nominated individuals who enjoy the support of the Ministry of Environment and the directorate of National Parks. If these "enforced partners" prevail, it will be at the expense of our employees, the local communities, and local as well as overseas investors.

Myth: *There is only one property – German-owned – to which BIPPAs can be applied.*

Truth: South African, Italian, and Dutch BIPPAs are applicable and the American investment is guaranteed by the *International Law of Cross Border Investment*, which Zimbabwe acknowledges as a member of the United Nations.

Myth: *Sustainable agriculture is possible within the SVC.*

Truth: Since 2000, about 2,000 people have been forced to move to the SVC, an area designated as part of region V (unsuitable for sustainable agriculture). These people are slowly starving to death and their only possible survival lies in obtaining annual food aid. Thus, political expedience in Masvingo endangers the lives of thousands.

Myth: *Members of the SVC needed no investment because the bush and animals were just there. Wild animals require no ongoing investments*

Truth: SVC Members and investors expressly invested some 40 million USD in:

- expensive wildlife re-stocking exercises, bringing many species back to the SVC including elephant, rhino, lion, giraffe, sable, nyala and numerous others;
- white rhinos, which were brought in under an endowment policy by the Save Valley Conservancy Trust;
- infrastructure, camps and lodges, water points, kilometers of water pipes, pumps, high electrified game fences, a radio system, vehicles and workshops, staff housing, and so on.

Note: The Conservancy took a one million USD loan from the International Finance Corporation with the approval of the Government of Zimbabwe. The loan was underwritten and paid back by members. Some 40% of the annual overheads are spent on managing, evaluating, monitoring, and sustaining the precarious balance of fauna and flora. A substantial portion of the workforce is trained towards these specific needs.

In addition, investment has been necessary over the last two decades to maintain, service, and improve the assets created. At present the expense of running these wildlife areas exceeds income by a factor of over 30%. Who better to attest to this than National Parks and Wildlife Authority themselves?

Myth: *The wildlife industry is a very lucrative one in which shareholders are reaping huge dividends for little financial input.*

Truth: Summarizing the above financial numbers, it becomes clear that running a current wildlife operation costs from 10 to 13 USD per hectare per year. The income generated, as per audited financial statements which are available for inspection, does not exceed 7 to 8 USD per hectare per year. To a great extent this is caused by the general environment in the country, which presently discourages tourism. The myth is probably generated by publicity about expensive elephant or lion hunts costing between 50,000 and 70,000 USD per hunt. Whilst these individual numbers can be achieved for some hunts, hunting occurs in only a few months of the year, yet expenses for staff and upkeep need to cover the entire 12-month period.

The ongoing costs of wildlife management added to the costs of maintaining properties in a condition suitable for safari tourists are substantial. The current lack of non-hunting tourists visiting Zimbabwe means that SVC members have to rely solely on income from hunting and are under considerable pressure to cover increasing operating costs. Any money earned is invested straight back into the wildlife venture. In addition, levies and statutory costs such as rural district rates, SVC levies, ZTA levies, SOAZ levies, and so on, eat up a significant portion of the income. Members foot a considerable social cost, receiving and accommodating as far as possible a continual flow of requests from local government, police, national government, and surrounding local communities for donations, contributions, and assistance.

This is why it is vital to bring back non-consumptive tourism so that conservancies and National Parks can achieve financial independence. The myth of wildlife in the SVC being very lucrative is exactly that: a myth. Those willing to evaluate the financial statements would understand the truth soon enough.

Myth: *Provincial politicians are committed to wildlife conservation.*

Truth: From the late 1990s about one third of the Save Valley Conservancy was subject to enforced resettlement on instructions from the office of the Governor of Masvingo. During the course of this process over 160 km of expensive double fencing was destroyed or stolen; some 80,000 snares constructed from the fence material were confiscated; at least some 15,000 wild animals destroyed.

On July 6, 2011, after six months of discussions with the SVC, members of the Indigenization Committee formed by Governor Maluleke stated to his and other's applause: "*We are not interested in wildlife; we do not want to learn about the business. We want cash!*"

Savuli, a property within the SVC, was forcibly occupied by Mrs. Mahofa despite two High Court orders not to do so. Mrs. Mahofa is engaged in illegal hunting and a serious bush-meat poaching exercise.

Four hundred rhino poaching incidents occurred in the last decade in Zimbabwe, but very little has been done. Arrested poachers have been released, court records are lost, and in one case a records room burned down. Very few rhino poachers are behind bars. Only corrupt political involvement can create this legally unacceptable environment. This is a huge embarrassment to Zimbabwe's international conservation reputation.

Urgently Revise the Wildlife Law in Kenya

Gerhard R Damm

Michael K Gachanja, the Executive Director of the East African Wild Life Society, published an opinion on Kenyan Wildlife Law in The Star on 5 September 2012. Gachanja observed that human-wildlife conflict has been on the rise in country, the most recent incidents being the killing of six lions in June after they strayed from Nairobi National Park and attacked and killed livestock in Kitengela area. July saw massive demonstrations by the Maasai community around Amboseli National Park and the Maasai Mara Game Reserve, blocking access of vehicles to the game reserve. Gachanja further observed that wildlife policies and laws in Kenya need to adapt to such changed circumstances as, for example, increased population and fast growth in economic development. He concluded that the delayed enactment of a new law could be a major contributing factor to the conflicts. He also argued for the fast-track enactment of a new wildlife law, embodying clear guidelines for benefit sharing and generation of revenue from wildlife, and which would

- bring the needs and aspirations of landowners and communities in wildlife areas into conservation planning and decision-making;
- extend conservation and protection to wildlife outside protected areas;
- provide deterrent penalties to wildlife poaching;
- provide incentives to communities to engage in wildlife conservation;
- strengthen governance at local level by transferring substantial regulatory functions from the upper levels of control to county level;
- create local governance structures, such as county wildlife conservation committees, to handle the issues of user rights and licensing, in line with the decentralization process required by the Constitution;
- create local governance structures that would participate at county level in land-use planning initiatives, and which would consult with stakeholders with particular regard to critical wildlife habitats, corridors, and dispersal areas, for the better management of wildlife;
- create institutions (local and national) that were consistent with the Constitution and would reduce institutional conflicts over mandates.

Efforts to review the outdated Wildlife Law of 1975 have been on-going since 2004. African Indaba has reported on this process in a number of articles and opinion pieces. We agree with Michael Gachanja that much money and time has been spent, yet, eight years down the line, the Government has still to enact a new law. We support his call for putting the Revised Wildlife Law in the public domain.

African Indaba eNewsletter

The official CIC Newsletter on African wildlife and conservation. The publication, free electronic dissemination and global distribution is funded by the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation - CIC Headquarters, H-2092 Budakeszi, P.O. Box 82, Hungary.

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Opinions expressed in African Indaba are not necessarily those of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC, the publisher and editors. Whilst every care is taken in the preparation of this newsletter, publisher and editors cannot accept any responsibility for errors.

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Please include your name, full address, e-mail address and organization

CIC-Press Release: “Conservation in Southern Africa Benefits from Trophy Hunting of Elephants”

CIC Headquarters, Budakeszi, Hungary

There has been some misinterpretation in the media surrounding the sustainability of elephant hunting in certain southern African countries. The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) has noted these misleading views with deep concern. The current conservation status of elephant populations in the region speaks for itself and shows the positive role of sustainable hunting, which is fully in line with the principles of the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#)¹

At present, elephant hunting in southern African countries is sustainable. This has been demonstrated for example through the monitoring of tusks from harvested elephants and population surveys. Legal elephant hunting in the region is also in line with the guidelines and regulations of the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#)².

The Southern African countries can justifiably boast the highest populations of elephants on the whole continent. Botswana alone has witnessed an approximate four-fold increase in elephant numbers in the last 25 years to around 140,000 - 160,000 today. Together with high elephant densities, especially in the northern parts of the Botswana, there are obvious signs of a loss of biodiversity, such as the destruction of old growth stands of forest (for example Baobab trees). If recent reports on significant decreases in the numbers of other wildlife species, particularly herbivores such as the antelope species, are correct, it is most probably as a consequence of the habitat change and destruction by elephants. Scientists have also observed widespread elephant range expansion across the international borders of Botswana.

Some experts argue that “tens of thousands” of elephant should be culled in Botswana to reduce the negative ecological and social impacts. It has been stated that the present elephant population dynamics in Botswana can only be “controlled” by a natural catastrophe such as a serious drought or disease outbreak. Although commercial hunting for ivory has caused serious damage to elephant populations all across their natural distribution range in past centuries, recreational safari hunting as practiced for decades has never endangered the individual elephant populations. Safari hunting of elephants is strictly regulated within national and international frameworks. However, it is not a suitable instrument for population control.

Hunting tourism provides a means for creating financial incentives for rural communities and at the same time raising their tolerance towards elephants, which are the source of considerable conflicts and damages. However, during recent times there have only been up to 400 elephant hunting licenses allocated annually in Botswana. These harvest rates are absolutely sustainable in terms of population dynamics, age and ivory weight of bulls and absolute numbers. (*Editor's note VB: 1002 elephant were on license between 2007 and 2010; 753 = 75% were harvested. Even taking into account the fact that the 'total population' is not available for hunting since significant populations are inside parks, the number of elephants hunted relative to the overall population is very low. The data shows that the number of trophies taken has increased from 0.04% of the total population in 1996 to a maximum of 0.2% of the population in 2009*). The low harvest rates are a result of current trends in the policies of Botswana, with animal welfare organizations pressuring the government to restrict safari hunting. The latest alarming news suggests that most of the hunting, except elephants, will be discontinued.

While quotas for many game species are decreasing in Botswana, the number of elephant hunting licenses shows a steady increase, a result of the increasing populations and the number of mature old bulls within these populations. Reasons for the decrease in quotas for other species include both; natural factors such as population dynamics, but can also be attributed to political decisions.

Footnotes:

¹ *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) recognizes the sustainable use of natural resources as one of the three pillars in the conservation of biodiversity. (www.cbd.int)*

² *“CITES is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.” (www.cites.org)*

The New African Indaba

Now in its 10th year, African Indaba will undergo a major revamp to make the eNewsletter more user-friendly and easier to access. We will also redesign our website; this will include up-to-date links for subscribing and unsubscribing, and a streamlined distribution system, ensuring that all our subscribers receive the newest issue of African Indaba without delay, and an easily accessible archive of articles from past issues. We encourage our readers to inform their colleagues and friends of African Indaba, the only free and non-commercial eNewsletter on African hunting and conservation matters.

We will send you email alerts to keep you updated

Animal Rights Philosophy and Wildlife Conservation

The Wildlife Society, USA

The Wildlife Society (TWS) regards science as the framework necessary to understand the natural world and supports the use of science to develop rational and effective methods of wildlife and habitat management and conservation, as one of the pillars of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. The Wildlife Society recognizes the intrinsic value of wildlife, the importance of wildlife to humanity, and views wildlife and people as interrelated components of an ecological-cultural-economic complex. The Wildlife Society supports regulated hunting, trapping, and fishing, and the right of people to pursue either consumptive or non-consumptive use of wildlife. The Wildlife Society is concerned that foundational elements of the animal rights philosophy contradict the principles that have led to the recognized successes of wildlife management in North America. Selective or broad application of elements of animal rights philosophy to contemporary issues of wildlife management promotes false choices regarding potential human-wildlife relationships and false expectations for wildlife population management, and erodes the confidence in decades of knowledge gained through scientific exploration of wildlife and their habitats.

Although a range of individual philosophies exists within the realm of "animal rights," most adherents to such philosophies hold similar foundational beliefs, including that (1) each individual animal should be afforded the same basic rights as humans, (2) every animal should live free from human-induced pain and suffering, (3) animals should not be exploited for any human purposes, and (4) every individual animal has equal status regardless of commonality or rarity, or whether or not the species is native, exotic, invasive, or feral.

Animal welfare philosophy, such as that endorsed by TWS, focuses on quality of life for a population or species of animals. It does not preclude management of animal populations or use of animals for food or other cultural uses, as long as the loss of life is justified, sustainable, and achieved through humane methods. In contrast, the animal rights view holds that it is wrong to take a sentient animal's life or cause it to suffer for virtually any reason, even to conserve species or ecosystems or to promote human welfare and safety. According to animal rights philosophy, animals should be given all of the same moral considerations and legal protection as humans.

However, animal rights adherents have not come to consensus with regard to which species are sentient enough to qualify for these protections.

The animal rights focused emphasis on individual animals fails to recognize the inter-relatedness of wildlife communities within functioning ecosystems and holds that protecting individual animals is more important than conserving populations, species, or ecosystems. For example, conservationists may value the protection of an individual of an endangered species more than the existence of an individual of a common species, but for animal rights advocates these individuals are viewed as equally valuable and deserving of equal protection.

The animal rights viewpoint is silent on the massive land use alterations that would be necessary to feed the human population in the absence of consumptive use of animals and the dramatic and continued loss of wildlife that would entail as habitats are converted to and maintained in intensive agriculture. Further, the animal rights viewpoint has no room for the use of animals in scientific and medical research, whether designed to benefit humans or animals. Curtailment of these uses will inhibit wildlife science and conservation and a whole range of human endeavor and progress.

The conflict between many tenets of animal rights philosophy and wildlife management and conservation philosophy is profound. Established principles and techniques of wildlife population management, both lethal practices such as regulated hunting and trapping, and nonlethal techniques such as aversive conditioning or capture and marking for research purposes are dismissed in the animal rights viewpoint. The Public Trust Doctrine, the foundation of many laws protecting wildlife in the U.S., is based on the premise that wild animals are a public resource to be held in trust by the government for the benefit of all citizens. Animal rights advocates philosophically oppose this concept of wildlife as property held as a public trust resource, and further advocate affording legal rights to all animals. Taken literally, under the animal rights legal framework, there would be no existing legal basis for wildlife conservation and management. If the Public Trust Doctrine concept was voided, it would be difficult, if not impossible, for wildlife professionals to manage endangered species, overabundant, invasive, exotic, or ecologically detrimental animal populations, and to protect human health and safety. See TWS position statements on The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and on Human Use of Wildlife for more details.

The policy of The Wildlife Society regarding animal rights philosophy is to:

1. Recognize that the philosophy of animal rights is incompatible with science-based conservation and management of wildlife.
2. Educate organizations and individuals about the need for scientific management of wildlife and habitats and about the practical problems relative to the conservation of wildlife and habitats, and to human society, with the animal rights philosophy.
3. Support an animal welfare philosophy, which holds that animals can be studied and managed through science-based methods and that human use of wildlife, including regulated hunting, trapping, and lethal control for the benefit of populations, species, and human society is acceptable, provided the practice is sustainable and individual animals are treated ethically and humanely.

Approved by Council August 2011. Expires August 2016. Contact: THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814-2144, USA. Tel: (1-301) 897-9770, Fax: (1-301) 530-2471' E-mail: twswildlife.org

Download The Wildlife Society position statements on Biological Diversity, Energy Development and Climate Change, Habitat, Hunting and Harvest, Human Dimensions, Invasive Species, and Wildlife Health at <http://www.wildlife.org/policy/position-statements>

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources. African Indaba is the official CIC Newsletter on African affairs, with editorial independence. For more information about the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC go to www.cic-wildlife.org

Number of International Hunters Drops in Ethiopia

Rolf D. Baldus

Ethiopia is known for its small but interesting – and also highly priced – hunting industry. The hunting season runs from July to June, which is possible, as the rainy seasons differ in the different parts of the country. A number of species or subspecies can only be hunted in Ethiopia, including some true rarities such as the Beisa Oryx, the Northern Gerenuk and Soemmering's Gazelle.

Since the reopening of hunting in 1997, there have never been more than 53 hunters visiting the country per year. Two years ago the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority raised the license prices two-fold, and for its flagship species, the Mountain Nyala, threefold (from 5,000 to 15,000 USD). In addition some new fees were introduced, among them a Conservation Fee of 100 USD per hunting day.

In the last season, only 39 hunters have visited Ethiopia, which is a drop of around 25 percent over the pre-price-increase seasons. In any other industry this would be regarded as disastrous, but in this particular case, the price increases have ensured that the direct income from hunting remains the same. Indirect income, such as air charters, the general tourism-spend of hunters, and hotel fees all fell, but this does not appear in the hunting statistics.

Experts believe that there is room for a considerable increase in sustainable trophy hunting, but the present rigid and over-administrated system prevents it.

Approximately 400 to 500 animals are harvested annually in Ethiopia by visiting hunters; a number that is much smaller than in other African countries. In addition 150 game animals are harvested by legal resident hunters. When compared to the very large illegal take-off, the official hunting harvest is insignificant. The potential income that trophy hunting could generate for conservation and local livelihoods is still to be fully exploited.



Boars of Africa is a project set up by a team of passionate hunters and film makers. Their vision is to bring African pigs and other species closer to you and encourage wildlife fans and hunters to explore the beauty of these animals. The website provides background information about Barbary wild boar, bush pig, red river hog, giant forest hog and common warthog.

Well worth a visit – check <http://boarsofafrica.com/>

CIC-Press Release: "Banning Lion Hunting Endangers the Survival of Lions in the Wild!"

CIC Headquarters, Budakeszi, Hungary

The present efforts by a number of European and US based animal rights' groups to stop selective and sustainable lion hunting is counterproductive for the survival of these magnificent large cats in the wild.

On a global scale, the lion population has decreased in recent years even though some populations remain in good shape at local level. This decline also affects many national parks. The main reasons are habitat loss, competition with livestock husbandry, revenge killings by livestock herders, and a lack of proper wildlife management by the authorities including anti-poaching. It should be noted that lions have fared much better in a number of gazetted hunting areas where more care is taken in their management and where the proceeds from lion hunting have been effectively used for conservation.

The countries and areas with the lowest conservation status of lions appear to be those without hunting! Two examples:

- Kenya lost most of its lion population since 1977 when hunting was banned. Less than 2,000 are remaining today. Tanzania in contrast has always had lion hunting and today still holds the largest population, with more than 15,000 lions in the wild. Parties to the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES) should acknowledge and promote the Tanzanian model of lion conservation with sustainable hunting as one of the pillars of lion management.

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources. African Indaba is the official CIC Newsletter on African affairs, with editorial independence. For more information about the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC go to www.cic-wildlife.org

- In the far-Northern Province of Cameroon, the lion population of *Waza National Park* is on the verge of extinction where no hunting has taken place for decades in the whole buffer zone and surrounding areas. In the northern Province, far south of Waza National Park, the lion population has been maintained in the whole region, in particular in three National Parks which are surrounded entirely and protected by operational hunting areas that act as (i) buffer zones against agricultural and pastoral encroachment and (ii) ecological corridors linking National Parks.

Nowhere has legal lion hunting been the reason for lion populations going extinct. There are many practical conservation and Governance problems in all lion range states that need to be resolved. All parties interested in lion survival should cooperate and seek for best lion management practices instead of fighting ideological battles against the sustainable use of natural resources, which is one of the pillars of the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD).

It is symptomatic of animal rights' organizations to ally themselves with certain wildlife administrations of a few African states that have no lion hunting and at the same time have a particularly poor track record in the conservation of lions. The same has happened with the elephant. The attempt to have lions listed in Annex I at the next CITES Conference of the Parties is not in line with CITES scientific criteria for up-listing. The objective, rather, is simply to stop lion hunting. However, this would severely damage lion conservation in those states that retain significant lion populations. An Appendix I listing would not, in principle, prohibit hunting. The risk however is that an import ban on lion trophies would be imposed, resulting in a loss of hunting revenues. Lions breed fast and hunting them (1) provides a valuable means of using their natural habitats in a sustainable manner and (2) avoids that these wilderness areas be converted to intensive agriculture and mining, land deprived of biodiversity and other ecosystem services. Well-controlled and managed hunting generates social, cultural and economic benefits for lion protection. This creates incentives for communities to protect them and adequate justification for politicians to resist land encroachment and to maintain or to set aside large tracts of wild land for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The tolerance of local communities for these large carnivores, which are often responsible for the loss of human life and predation of livestock, is indispensable for the survival of lions in the wild. The use of chemicals to poison lions is on the increase and reprisal killings are much higher than reported. If rural communities do not see any benefit from this resource, they will destroy it. Nobody is able to stop them; certainly not cash strapped governmental wildlife administrations. Living with lions is a cost to rural people – so why should they not benefit? The CIC therefore encourages not only national governments to maintain or improve local livelihoods through the sustainable use of species, but also CITES to take into consideration, in the future, rural livelihoods and poverty reduction through the sustainable use of natural resources. A strategic cooperation between CITES and the CBD would be beneficial to address this biodiversity-poverty conflict.

It is shameful that animal rightists from developed and relatively wealthy countries endeavor to deprive poor local communities in African countries to benefit from lions and other wildlife on their land.

It is regrettable but typical that in their battle against sustainable hunting some animal rights' activists resort to a dubious use of literature and misinterpretation of scientific publications. A particular UK based organization with a strong protectionist agenda has addressed British and EU parliamentarians in an attempt to convince them that they should advocate banning the import into the EU of legal lion trophies.

In their blog the organization claims that several publications, which have been co-authored by a CIC-member and which present a critical analysis of cases of corruption and of hunting management in need of improvement, allow the conclusion to be made that hunting per se is detrimental to the well-being of wildlife populations. Quite to the contrary, the authors conclude that in the case of practical deficits, the solution is reform of the hunting industry. Hunting bans only deteriorate the situation further. In one of the publications mentioned, the authors explicitly say that: "without the income generated from tourist hunting, many important wildlife areas would cease to be viable." This is quite contrary to what the blog claims.

The CIC is dedicated to sustainable hunting in line with the CBD. Such hunting

- is a strong instrument to ensure that large tracts of land are kept under conservation regimes, despite the competition with land uses that have negative environmental impacts;
- has conserved wildlife, even if hunting management regimes sometimes needed reform and hunting practices needed improvement.

The CIC promotes a critical analysis and debate on sustainable hunting in order to achieve and safeguard best practices. The CIC would like to see the animal rights' organizations show the same willingness to critically analyze the results of their protectionist campaigns, which are, more often than not, negative for conservation and wildlife.

At the 59th General Assembly in Cape Town (May 2012) the CIC continued its debate on best practices of hunting and how sustainable hunting in line with the CBD principles can contribute to the survival of Africa's unique wildlife.

The One Special Trophy

Carola Röhrich, MSc Genetics, Namibia

We live in a society of masses. Masses of people, mass production, mass destruction. Nonetheless we all have the desire to define ourselves as individuals, to have our very personal needs fulfilled, to be granted the privilege of unfolding our individual strengths and to stand out between 7 billion people, to feel unique, to feel "special". We believe to accomplish this by defining ourselves by our abilities, our experiences and our possessions. The typical hunter seeks a get-away from mass-consuming society, but he too, seeks a means to prove his individual strengths and abilities, a unique hunting experience and that one very special trophy to take home.

Depending on the species, some attention is given to form, age and marks testifying to a recent struggle or fight. But of course, size is the one word that in the mind of most hunters differentiates a special trophy from an average one. In fact, size matters so much that record books are established to set the bar high for ambitious hunters, noting the exact length and name of those who were lucky enough or worked hard enough or simply spent enough money to take home an above average-sized trophy. At some American game ranches you pay by inch – and there is actually not much more to a large trophy than that: money and some science. Hormones, enriched foods, some breeding and there you go – a trophy to fit the size of your pocket.

The currently most sought after on the market are those very rare abnormalities, such as black impala, golden kudu, golden gemsbok, golden wildebeest. These strange animals, a one-in-a-million occurrence, stick out from all the other individuals of their species. Particularly the hunter who already has gathered a representative of every imaginable animal in his trophy room would pay a fortune to have one of them. The great demand of such rarities has resulted in attempts to artificially breed these animals. Already, several well-known outfitters and land-owners are holding them in small pens, hoping to produce offspring with the same outstanding features. Breeding animals has long been part of human society, but for the sole purpose of domesticating them, selecting for traits to meet human requirements. Natural selection on the other hand, will lead to collection of those traits which offer better chances of survival. It is no coincidence that a golden kudu is such a rarity under natural conditions – being golden must be a disadvantage for survival. In this case standing out from the many comes at a disadvantage.

Breeding wild animals for the sake of a specific appearance will inevitably lead to selection of traits which result in limited chances of survival in the wild. Firstly, the trait in itself selected for may lead to hindered survivability. A white blesbok will certainly be less camouflaged and an easier target for predators than normally colored peers. Secondly, pampering wild animals by supplementary feeding, keeping them in pens and wrapping them up in cotton wool denies the species facing the hardships which serve its adaptation, its strength and survivability. Thirdly, continuous selection for such rare traits requires mating individuals which may be related or at least have a similar genetic profile. The risk of inherited handicaps accumulating in inbred individuals is great, often leading to increased susceptibility to disease. What such breeding attempts will boil down to are animals which will not be capable of surviving in the wild, but will be held in captivity and released only once in order to be harvested. The question is: Will a mass produced trophy be as special? It most certainly will no longer be a unique rarity or be the same as hunting a truly wild animal and it most definitely will not serve the conservation of the species and its environment.

Nothing man-made can ever be as extraordinary as anything created, nurtured and formed in the wild and the scenario of artificially produced trophies defeats the essence, the soul and lifeblood of hunting. We need to remember that the deeply rooted hunting instinct is an artifact inherited from our forefathers to primarily facilitate the survival of our species and secondly, the sustainable survival of the species we hunt. Theoretically we, too, act as predators in an eco-system and as such should naturally harvest those animals easiest to catch, the weakest, the most unlikely survivors, thus acting as a selective force to promote the survival of the fittest and not the death of those we behold most beautiful to the eye. To the modern hunter, hunting should above all signify an appreciation of the natural world and therefore the sustainable conservation thereof in its most pristine form.

Clever market diversification gives us the illusion that we may define ourselves by mass produced product: the specific cars we drive, the personalized holiday experience down to our individual ice-cream preference that we probably share with 3 billion other people. The hunter however, has the opportunity to find appreciation in a 'commodity' which is not mass produced but truly unique and special, an animal born in the wild, with its very own unique constellation of genetic code which has been formed and shaped by the very specific environmental influences it has responded to during its lifetime. We may take comfort in the fact that essentially, we are all biologically unique. And so is each and every single animal taken. A golden Kudu is equally unique to any other Kudu out there and thus deserves no more and no less gratitude. Every trophy has an own story, every trophy is a testament to the fact that our fading natural world is being kept alive, every single trophy is the result of a unique day, a very specific hunting experience at a particular point in time, every single trophy is that one special trophy.

The letter of Carola Röhrich was first published in Game & Hunt No. 17/10 (September 2012) www.wildlifehunt.co.za and is reproduced here with friendly permission of Game & Hunt.

If Hunters Temper Desires and Landowners Greed ...

Stephen Palos, Vice-chair, Confederation of Hunting Associations in South Africa (CHASA)

If ever you decide to give a *Letter of the Year* award I would propose that "*The One Special Trophy*", by Carola Röhrich, which appeared in the September edition [of Game & Hunt, www.wildlifehunt.co.za], should be it for 2012!

It is no secret that we in the organized hunting fraternity have for some time now been debating the subject of specific breeding of color traits and trophy size. What makes it particularly difficult from my perspective is the fact that I am vehemently opposed to us, as custodians of the future of hunting, making demands on the state authorities to intervene with regulations and red tape in order to manage undesired practices and behavior. As a practice based on our humanity (which is genetically coded to hunt) and is thus more a part of our spiritual than our material side, hunting practices and priorities should naturally be done in the most intrinsically proper way (I shy away from using the word "sacred")

Personally, I have struggled to put into clear words and thoughts exactly what it is about the practices of genetically specific breeding, line breeding, etc., which make me so uncomfortable, whilst still sticking to my belief that what a landowner wishes to do behind his secure fences should be his own business, provided it poses no threat to the meta population of any species. And this is where Carola's letter comes in. How well she has spelled out the values!

Thank you, Carola, for the insight you have shared, and I sincerely hope your message is spread far and wide. If hunters temper their desires and landowners their greed, it will not be necessary for anyone to call on authorities to wield a big stick and intervene where we really should not need it.

The comment of Stephen Palos to the letter of Carola Röhrich was first published in Game & Hunt No. 18/10 (October 2012) www.wildlifehunt.co.za and is reproduced here with friendly permission of Game & Hunt.

Tanzanian Uraniumleaks: Secret Contract between Hunting Company and Uranium Miners Revealed

Rolf D. Baldus

Opposition shadow minister for Lands, Halima Mdee, revealed in the Tanzanian parliament, on July 12, 2012, a secret contract between Game Frontiers hunting company and the firms Uranium Resources PLC and Western Metals Limited. The contract had been drafted by the local law firm Rex Attorneys on March 23, 2007 and covers the Mbarang'andu village hunting-block, which is actually a Wildlife Management Area. According to the local newspaper, The Guardian, the MP leaked the information that the hunting company will receive 6,000,000 USD in two tranches, if uranium is found and mined. During prospecting the company will receive 250,000 USD annually. The village, which actually owns the block, will receive 10,000 USD annually, according to the secret contract.

The Guardian states: "*As a result of its presumed illegality, the confidential document is out for all to see and it names Mohsin M. Abdallah and Nargis M. Abdallah as the owners of Game Frontiers of Tanzania Limited, the leasing party. ...another 55,000 USD is to be paid annually, on every first of March to compensate the opportunity cost...*" Mdee went on to unravel the scandal. "*I have gone through the Wildlife Conservation Act of 1974 and The Wildlife Conservation Act Number 5 of 2009. These acts allow a person with a hunting permit to only carry out hunting activities and not otherwise...*".

After a lengthy and controversial parliamentary and public debate the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism told Parliament that the hunting license was to be revoked as a consequence of the illegal subletting of the block to other parties.

Local lawyers confirm that the owner of the block has hunting rights only and has no influence whatsoever on mining matters. In particular he cannot restrict in any way the prospecting rights of a mining company that has received a legal mining license from the responsible Ministry for Mining. The leaseholder of the hunting rights for many years paid 7,500 USD per year for hunting, although this may have been increased, meanwhile, to 25,000 USD a year. "*Why should an international mining firm pay millions of dollars to a hunting company for no possible services in return?*" was the question asked in parliament.

Local political analysts offer a possible answer by casting the contract as a fictitious transaction and a possible cover up. It is locally known that a high politician, who had been forced to resign from office due to a major fraud scandal, negotiated amongst others the uranium licenses in and around the Selous Game Reserve, Africa's largest protected area (50,000 km²). The hunting operator is well connected with some in the political elite of the country and has thus recently been able to amass 15 of the lucrative hunting blocks. This makes him the No. 2 in the Tanzanian hunting business. The owner has also acquired many hotel concessions in and around national parks, even on sites that were blocked for development in the respective management plans, while he was a member of the Tanzania National Park Board. The former Minister Meghji later had to dismiss him from the board, as he had too openly abused this function for his own business interests.

Local analysts argued during the discussion of the secret deal in Dar es Salaam that the payments by the mining companies might in reality be earmarked for different services and different people. The contract might be to serve as a legal justification, for the payments in question, in the home countries of the companies, where "helpful" payments in developing countries are prosecuted as criminal acts.

In June the "World Heritage Commission", under UNESCO, during its last meeting in St. Petersburg, had accepted in a very controversial decision that the Mkuju River uranium concession could be cut out of the Selous Game Reserve and degazetted. Uranium mining therefore can commence in the near future. Interestingly enough, this area is also inside a hunting block leased by Abdallah of Game Frontiers. Insiders alleged that an identical contract exists and that similar payments might therefore now be due. However, no contract was leaked in order to prove this claim.

According to a press article (see <http://www.ipppmedia.com/frontend/index.php?l=45611>) published on September 9, Game Frontiers responded to a letter to the firm from Tourism and Natural Resources minister Khamis Kagasheki, asking for clarification on allegations of subletting part of its hunting block to a mining firm.

African Indaba puts on record that a copy of the signed contract is in the archives of African Indaba.

Sources: Guardian, The Citizen, Daily News, IPP Media

Mozambique: Ministry of Tourism Elects not to Renew the Management Contract for the Niassa National Reserve

Vernon R. Booth

The Niassa National Reserve situated in northern Mozambique, with an area of 42,000 km², is one of the largest protected areas in Africa. In terms of the 2007 – 2012 management plan it is divided into seventeen management units: nine hunting blocks, six photo-tourism blocks and two zones of high biodiversity value (Medcula and Joa Mountains). Most of the reserve is *miombo* woodland interspersed with seasonally wet *dambos* and drier areas of bushed savannah. The landscape is scattered with granite monoliths or inselbergs. The presence of nine districts, three towns, and more than forty villages that support over 35,000 people within the reserve, introduces a management dimension particular to this area.

The area is home to the highest concentration of wildlife in Mozambique and one of the largest protected miombo forest ecosystems in the world. Its pristine wilderness supports a remarkably rich and diverse collection of wildlife: 15,000 elephants, 9000 sable antelope, and several thousand each of Cape buffalo, Lichtenstein's hartebeest, eland, and zebra. An estimated 400 endangered African wild dogs live in the reserve which also supports a significant lion population. Numerous biodiversity studies undertaken since 2000 confirm that the unique geological features of Niassa host remnant elements of East Africa's eastern arc forests, which are hotspots for endemism.

In 1998 a group of investors established a private company, Investimentos Niassa Ltd, which entered into a partnership with government to establish the *Sociedade para a Gestão e Desenvolvimento da Reserva do Niassa Moçambique* (SGDRN) in 2002. SGDRN was given exclusive rights to the management and development of the Niassa Reserve in terms of a 10-year contract. A board of directors was appointed to oversee the management of the reserve and a senior warden was appointed who was responsible for the day-to-day activities of the Niassa Reserve Management Unit (NRMU). The Warden reported directly to the Executive Director of SGDRN, based in Maputo, who in turn answered to the Board.

SGDRN was established with a defined vision, *"to conserve the wilderness and biodiversity values of Niassa Reserve and to contribute to the economic development and welfare of the province and of the reserve's residents"*. Further, it proposed to do this through *"the creation and demonstration of a model for conservation that brings together the government, private sector and civil society in a partnership to collectively share the responsibility for the development, financing and management of national protected areas in Mozambique"*.

In 1999 Fauna & Flora International (FFI) was invited by SGDRN to assist with the development of a comprehensive strategy for the conservation and management of the Niassa Reserve. In 2000 SGDRN formed a strategic partnership with FFI - one of the world's largest and oldest conservation organizations - to provide essential technical and financial assistance. FFI's support continued over the next 10 years and was instrumental in implementing the management plan. During this time FFI provided approximately US\$4 million in direct funding and facilitated a further US\$1.5 million from US Fish and Wildlife Service, USAID, EU and other notable conservation-funding bodies. This enabled SGDRN to carry out many of the initial baseline biodiversity and community studies in the reserve and to equip and support the reserve protection program.

To address its vision, SGDRN set about attracting investment in the tourism potential of the reserve. From the outset, SGDRN realized that to effectively conserve and develop a reserve the size of Niassa and to address its vision, it would need the assistance of reputable private-sector partners to develop the tourism potential and to share the burden of financing and protecting the entirety of the reserve. Attracting investors proved to be a daunting task, given the remoteness of the reserve and lack of infrastructure. Nonetheless, beginning in 2000, SGDRN succeeded in awarding long-term contracts to 11 tourism operations. This was a gradual process, first with direct negotiations and later with the awarding of contracts following three tenders that were audited by an international accounting firm.

Apart from the investment made by donors, this process attracted about US\$11 million in capital investment and generated approximately 50% of the Reserve's operational budget. It also contributed significantly to Government coffers through the sale of hunting abate tickets and was responsible for directly and indirectly employing 600 people. Communities also benefited from hunting levies, and the reserve proactively engaged in various human-wildlife conflict mitigation activities.

SGDRN developed several systems to manage and administer the development of the reserve. The small but dedicated team in the Niassa Reserve had for many years been developing an approach to managing the vast Niassa National Reserve by building capacity and consensus with all stakeholders at the community, district and provincial levels. On many occasions it learnt lessons through trial and error but there was always a firm belief that funding the conservation of Mozambique's largest reserve mainly through sustainable tourism was the best option available under very difficult circumstances.

Managing community expectations in an environment where local government pursued a rural development agenda within a conservation area proved the most challenging aspect. SGDRN also developed best practice systems to manage all its hunting operations in a sustainable way that set the bar for the rest of the country to follow. It also invested heavily in conducting biannual aerial surveys, and supported the independent Niassa Carnivore Project.

In recognition of its achievements in sustainable hunting management, SGDRN was honored in 2008 (together with the communities of the Selous-Niassa corridor in Tanzania) with the prestigious "Markhor Award for Outstanding Conservation Performance" by the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) – a tribute to the commitment of both SGDRN and the Mozambican government to the sustainable development of protected areas.

However, with the passage of time perceptions of how the Niassa Reserve should be managed in the future have changed. Government has matured since the inception of the "Niassa Model" and has gained experience with other private sector partnership implementation models in the country, notably those developed by the Carr Foundation for Gorongosa and the development of the Transfrontier program in the Limpopo Province.

These experiences set the tone for future contract negotiations with SGDRN. From the outset it was clear that Government were no longer willing to accommodate an arrangement where all decision-making responsibilities were vested in a management such as SGDRN. Conversely SGDRN and its supporting donors were not willing to negotiate a "co-management" agreement where the decision-making responsibilities were unclear. Several protracted negotiations took place without resolving the impasse. In the end the contract expired 12 September 2012, which effectively ended SGDRN's management responsibilities and an era that had witnessed a bold new approach to managing a complex conservation area.

In the interim, the Ministry of Tourism has been negotiating separately with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), which has agreed to enter into "co-management". No details of this arrangement were available at the time of writing, but it is understood that the agreement is similar to that operating in the Gorongosa National Park.

The Niassa National Reserve is extremely challenging on several fronts: the dynamics are continually changing and it faces significant threats from illegal mining, illegal logging, and a marked increase in ivory poaching. Access to the reserve has improved considerably over the last 10 years, especially with the opening of the Freedom Bridge linking northern Mozambique to southern Tanzania. This, together with an expanding human population, introduces new dimensions to the way in which the reserve will be managed in the future.

Further information can be found at <http://www.niassareserve.org/>

News from Africa

Democratic Republic of Congo

The British government has come out in opposition to oil drilling plans by UK-based SOCO International in Virunga National Park. In March 2012, two oil exploratory permits came to light granting SOCO seismic testing inside the park by the government of the DRC. A statement by the British foreign office noted that "the UK opposes oil exploration within Virunga National Park, a World Heritage Site listed by UNESCO as being in danger". *We have informed SOCO and urge the government of DR Congo to fully respect the international conventions to which it is a signatory.* Earlier in the week, the DRC's Minister of Hydrocarbon, Crispin Atama Tabe, signaled that the government was ready to go ahead with drilling, depending on the size of oil deposits. Although it is currently illegal in the DRC to mine inside national parks, Tabe noted that that could be changed via legislation. *"The DRC has the right to know what resources it has under the earth, even if it's in the park or the forest, anywhere,"* Tabe said. *"We're going to evaluate the quantity of the deposit [in Virunga National Park]. If it's very significant we'll compare the value of the park with the oil... We'll see whether we'll respect the park or not. It's up to us."* SOCO International has also confirmed that it has a contract with the DRC government and will not be swayed by the condemnation from the UK although it will not drill in mountain gorilla habitat, rainforest, or Virunga's well-known volcanoes. In the past, SOCO has argued that it could provide benefits to Virunga in terms of security, given on-going conflict between the government and rebel forces in the park. In addition to mountain gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*), which are considered Critically Endangered by the IUCN Red List, Virunga is also home to eastern chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthi*), considered Endangered; okapi (*Okapia johnstoni*), Near Threatened; eastern

lowland gorillas (*Gorilla beringei graueri*), Endangered; and both savannah elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) and forest elephants (*Loxodonta cyclotis*). (Source: Mongabay.com <http://news.mongabay.com/2012/1001-hance-virunga-uk-government.html>),

United Nations General Assembly

Poaching and illicit trafficking of wildlife products were raised on the floor of the 67th United Nations General Assembly for the first time, during discussions on strengthening national and international governance. Permanent Security Council member United States highlighted "the harm caused by wildlife poaching and trafficking to conservation efforts, rule of law, governance and economic development." The rapidly growing illicit international trade in endangered species products, such as rhino horn, elephant ivory, and tiger parts, is now estimated to be worth \$5 billion per year globally. Permanent member France also emphasized the severity and negative impacts of wildlife crime. Gabon's President Ali Bongo said during the High-level Meeting on the Rule of Law that "such organized crime is increasingly affecting the environment and biodiversity through poaching and illegal fishing". Roland Melisch, Director of TRAFFIC's Africa & Europe programs said: "Good governance is essential to prevent crimes such as illicit wildlife trafficking. Countries need to be held accountable to their commitments under relevant United Nations treaties." (Source: TRAFFIC).

Tanzania

In August the AVAAZ NGO, a worldwide network dedicated to signing petitions against any assumed injustice worldwide, published an appeal for protest against the imminent eviction of 48,000 Maasai by a "big game hunting firm" in Northern Tanzania. As the only proof for this allegation the petition provided four links referring to the year 2009. Nevertheless, AVAAZ purports that, within a few days, over 930,000 people signed the petition worldwide. AVAAZ and a number of NGOs, which claim that they support the Maasai people, demanded that the Tanzanian Government suspends the plan. The Ministry for Natural Resources and Tourism in Dar es Salaam called the allegations a mere fabrication. The real background of the campaign is land conflicts in Maasailand and efforts by competing pro-Maasai NGOs to generate publicity. The hunting company in question, Otelo Business Corporation, is owned by the Minister of Defense of Dubai and manages a hunting block in Loliondo, which is used by members of the royal families of the Gulf States. Their activities have always been viewed critically by members of the public and the press. (Sources: AVAAZ websites, Daily News, own research.) (RDB).

Tanzania

On September 6 representatives from the government, development partners, academic institutions, and national and international civil society organizations gathered to discuss the status of community-based natural-resource management (CBNRM) in Tanzania. The workshop was hosted by the Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) and it was the first of a series of dialogues on CBNRM. The aim is to provide a platform for multi-stakeholder exchange of information, for sharing of experiences, and for agreeing on a common course for the success of CBNRM in the country. The platform is part of the regional Southern Africa CBNRM Forum (SACF). (Download workshop report at http://www.tnrf.org/files/CBNRM_workshop_report.pdf.)

South Africa

The latest rhino poaching statistics (status 2 October 2012) indicate that a total of 430 rhinos have been lost to illegal killings since the beginning of this year, with the total number of arrests at 205. Of the arrested individuals, 177 are at the level of poacher, 10 are receivers, and 18 are couriers. The Kruger National Park has lost 258 rhinos to poaching. Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and the North West provinces continue to be the hardest hit by poachers, collectively accounting for the loss of 141 rhinos.

South Africa

The journalist Ivo Vegter published an article with the title "Give hunting a chance" in [The Daily Maverick](#) on 18 September 2012. Vegter begins with the observation that

"from time immemorial, man has hunted beast. Whether it be for food, to protect farms and villages, to improve his competitive social standing, or simply to prove his ascendancy over nature to his own self, it is ingrained in the collective psyche of most cultures. Apologies for using the male pronoun. While I can sometimes be tempted to stoop to the grammatical crimes and stylistic dissonance necessary to preserve an accurate and fair gender-neutrality, I'll wager that few female hunters will object to the notion that historically, hunting has been both by nature and by numbers a mostly male endeavor. There are, of course, exceptions, as we shall see."

... and ends with

The CBS show 60 Minutes did a fascinating [investigation](#) of the cases of three species: the scimitar-horned oryx, the addax and the dama gazelle, all of which are extinct in the wild, but roam the Texas plains in their hundreds. While the opponents of hunting cling to idealistic fantasies of herds running free across the African savannahs, unthreatened by human encroachment, the reality in many countries where these animals ought to have been native is one of widespread poverty, occasional war, lack of institutional capacity and ultimately, political indifference. There's a reason they're extinct there. The anti-hunting lobbyists' dreams had no chance. Meanwhile, the supposedly cruel hunters are the ones that have saved the species.

Who are the true conservationists now?

Of interest also are the numerous and extensive comments of readers. We highly recommend that our readers access the full article and responses on [The Daily Maverick](http://dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2012-09-18-give-hunting-a-chance) at <http://dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2012-09-18-give-hunting-a-chance>