

AFRICAN INDABA

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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

1 African Lion - Rolf Baldus Interviews Prof. Craig Packer

Editor's comments: Kenya's proposal to transfer the African lion from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I has again highlighted the IFAW-abetted protectionist wildlife policy of this country. Since sport hunting was prohibited in Kenya almost three decades ago, the country has lost a considerable – and in our opinion unacceptable – percentage of its precious wildlife. The propaganda campaigns of the international animal rights movements cannot change this sad fact. Fortunately more and more conservation scientists worldwide now go public in exposing the failure of the Kenyan approach.

RB: Dramatic lion figures are being published by the world media: According to some scientists there are only 15,000 lions left in the whole of Africa as compared to 100,000 in the past. Is the lion an endangered species?

CP: The earlier figure was never meant to be taken seriously as a population estimate; it was just a rough guess of the order of magnitude of the overall population size. Instead of a million lions or ten-thousand, the authors said there were probably on the order of a hundred thousand. The recent numbers stem from the first systematic attempts to tally all the lions on the continent. This time each guess was scaled down to the size of a single reserve or park, and then the guesses were summed up to give a crude total. The two most widely cited total guesses used different techniques, and the more inclusive estimate came up with a larger number. So it is simply wrong to claim that these surveys show a "dramatic decline" in lion numbers – we'll never know what happened to lion numbers over the past 20 years. On the other hand, I do think that there probably are fewer than 100,000 lions left in the wild – which is less than the number of chimpanzees or elephants – so it is important to take active steps to conserve the species while we still can.

RB: What are the main causes for declines of lions where they occur?

CP: Lions are dangerous animals that kill people and livestock. Rural Africans face real threats from lions, and they retaliate to livestock losses or personal injury by trying to remove the "problem animal." The number of lions killed by vengeful humans each year is far greater than from any other cause.

RB: If international trade or trophy hunting are not threatening the lion, then the Kenyan uplisting proposal at CITES would have no basis?

CP: The Kenyan listing is irresponsible. It recognizes the inadequacies of the recent censuses, yet it immediately turns around and cites them as if they were perfectly accurate. Even worse, the Kenyans claim that lions are being decimated by FIV (feline

immunodeficiency virus) and distemper. Our Serengeti studies are by far the most exhaustive investigations on lion health, and we cannot find any evidence that FIV causes significant health effects. While Canine Distemper Virus did cause a 35% decline in the Serengeti lions in 1994, the population recovered completely within 5 years – and is currently at its all time high. By far the most important threat to lions comes from problem animal control, and by putting lions on Appendix 1, the Kenyans would do much more harm than good. Tanzania has more lions than any other country in the world, and the majority of these animals live outside the national parks. If lion trophy hunting were stopped, they would have no economic value, and there would no longer be any incentive to conserve the lions. Opponents of trophy hunting have provided no alternative mechanism for funding the large-scale conservation efforts required to protect the species.

RB: Kenya has had no hunting of lions since 27 years and the lion population has been greatly reduced. Tanzania has lion hunting and at the same time the biggest population on the continent. What is the role of well managed lion hunting for conservation?

CP: I think that the situation in Kenya illustrates that lions would be viewed only as threats to people and livestock in the absence of trophy hunting. Lions in Amboseli National Park were exterminated by angry Maasai in the early 1990s, and three-fourths of the lions in Nairobi Park were speared in the past year. Lions inflict serious damage to these people's livelihoods, so why should they be tolerated outside the parks? The Tanzanian hunting industry

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1 – African Lion: Rolf Baldus interviews Prof. Craig Packer

certainly has the potential to play an important role in lion conservation, but there is significant room for improvement. Hunting companies need to engage local communities directly and help them to co-exist with lions.

RB: *It is argued that the phenomenon of maneless lions is a result of trophy hunting. Why are there lions with and others without manes?*

CP: Mane size is largely a response to average temperature in the environment. Serengeti and Ngorongoro lions live at fairly high altitudes where temperatures are quite mild, and they have luxurious manes; lions in the hotter climates of Tsavo, Selous and India have quite short manes. Even in the 1890's these hot climate lions were known for being maneless – long before there was any significant trophy hunting.

RB: *How can lion hunting be improved?*

CP: Lion trophy hunting must be recognized as the primary mechanism for protecting viable lion populations outside the national parks. First and foremost, hunters must work to discover the circumstances where people and livestock are attacked by lions. Conservation of such a dangerous animal rests with the tolerance of local people, and practical projects improving animal husbandry and personal safety should be implemented in cooperation with the local and regional governments.

Lions kill dozens of people each year and hundreds of livestock. Rural Africans are becoming less and less tolerant to these losses, and I wouldn't be surprised if they eventually started to view problem animals with the same intense hostility as rural Swedes or Americans!

Second, it is essential to restrict lion hunting to males that are at least 6 yrs of age – old enough to have raised their first set of offspring. By enforcing an age minimum, the wildlife authorities will make giant strides in forcing hunting companies to prevent over-exploitation.

Finally, the business of trophy hunting needs to be based on providing its clients with an unforgettable adventure – rather than selling them dead animals. African hunting companies must become associated with wildlife conservation in the same way that Ducks Unlimited is associated with wetlands conservation – rather than being associated with dead ducks.

Lion conservation is going to be very expensive, and hunting companies will have to raise more and more income from diversified activities – there is no way to stake their fortune on shooting more and more animals. In addition, the industry needs to attract more long-term investors. By increasing the stability of the hunting blocks (through extended contracts and restrictions on who can actually hunt in those blocks), hunters will increasingly regard the young lions on their properties as their crop of the future rather than something that should be hastily plucked before it is ripe.

Dr. Craig Packer is a Distinguished McKnight Professor from the University of Minnesota. He has done 26 years of research on the lions of the Serengeti and is regarded as one of the world authorities on lions.

The interview was conducted by Dr. Rolf D. Baldus in Tanzania and first published in German in "Jagen Weltweit", Paul Parey Verlag, Hamburg, <http://www.jww.de>

For more information about Dr. Packer's work please go to the following website: <http://www.lionresearch.org/>

2 Tanzania: Lion Conservation And Human-Lion Conflicts

By Dr. Rolf D. Baldus

Tanzania has the largest lion populations on the continent, and they are not threatened with extinction. The population is stable in nearly all protected areas. Outside these protected areas it is of significant size and mostly stable. Exact data are lacking, but lions most probably have become less during the last decades in areas with high population growth, expansion of agriculture and livestock husbandry and in some areas in North-western Tanzania where an influx of refugees occurred.

Although the lion range has been reduced in Tanzania in the last 50 years due to population growth and agricultural expansion, lions benefit from a widespread network of protected areas (30 % of the country) and from vast tracts of unpopulated and populated lands with relatively undisturbed habitats suitable for lions. Lions are protected throughout the country, and it is the policy of the Government to conserve them both inside and outside of the protected areas as part of biodiversity. Some problem-animal control in extreme cases of human-lion conflict occurs. Approx. 250 lions are shot per year by tourist hunters, which is overall a sustainable yield. Empirical evidence from the Selous Game Reserve shows that offtake levels are sustainable. Lions play a major role in the hunting industry, which is economically significant and greatly contributes to paying the conservation bill. As a consequence of the Wildlife Policy of Tanzania (1998) Wildlife Management Areas are being created where villages manage the wildlife on their land and are increasingly earning revenues, including those from lions. This raises tolerance levels towards wildlife including dangerous game and improves the potential for wildlife as a land use option. Areas which otherwise would be lost for wildlife are thereby safeguarded.

As a consequence of this relatively good conservation record, in particular when compared to many other countries, lions are a major source of conflicts with the human population. We estimate that around 200 people are killed in Tanzania every year by dangerous animals, of which around one third on an average could be by lions. Lion inflicted injuries and loss-of-life are more acute in Southern Tanzania. Not less than 35 people were killed by one or several man-eating lions in an area of 350 km² just 150 km south-west of Dar es Salaam between the Rufiji River and the Selous Game Reserve within the past 20 months. This is one of the most extreme incidents ever recorded of man-eating by one or two lions and at the same time one of the best documented cases, at least from Tanzania. Further analysis might help to understand the underlying causes better and thereby devise strategies to protect humans without eradicating the lions.

The reasons which have led to such a tremendous loss of lions in Kenya or in West-Africa are not connected to international trade. To upgrade the lion to CITES App I as proposed by Kenya would not address any of the issues that adversely affect lion populations, i.e. loss of habitat to agriculture, problem animal control, poaching and killing of lions by pastoralists. It would however, make the hunting of lions more difficult or even impossible. This hunting is sustainable giving value to lions and is one major element in the range of conservation tools which Tanzania has successfully applied to protect the future of the lion.

Download the study at www.wildlife-programme.gtz.de/wildlife

3 Hunting Creates Financial Benefits in Zambia

The Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) last year disbursed over K1.8 billion to 49 communities living in and around game management areas (GMAs) across the country. Tourism Minister Kalifungwa announced that the money was generated from hunting licenses from the 2003 hunting season. Mr Kalifungwa said that the groups were among eligible communities living along boundaries of GMAs, open areas and chiefdoms with interests in wildlife and natural resources. ZAWA was still owing the communities about K417 million for the 1999/2002 hunting seasons because the Government had imposed a ban on safari hunting and the authority was unable to collect enough revenue. "The public will appreciate that the issue of outstanding payments to communities for the years 1999/2000 is beyond the control of ZAWA, as the safari hunting ban was imposed by the previous administration," the minister said.

Among the communities that got the largest shares was Kasempa along Lunga Lushwishi GMA in North-Western Province, which was given K118 million, of which K11.8m was shared by chiefs around that area. Nabwalya of Munyamadzi-Luwawala GMA received a total of K117 million, with K17.7 million going to the chiefs, while Chikwa CRB of Chikwa GMA got K106,668,558, of which K10,668,755 was for the chiefs.

4 Sustainable Use In Burkina Faso

"We succeeded in creating suitable conditions for in Burkina Faso", commented Lassane Sawadogo's, Director of Wildlife and Hunting (Ministry of the Environment), on the significant elephant conservation success. In the 1980s the elephant numbers were put at 350; a recent study shows now more than 5 000 pachyderms.

Burkina Faso presently allows 600 sightseers and hunters into its wilderness areas. This earns locals a considerable amount of foreign exchange and provides more than 500 permanent and 1200 seasonal jobs. However, the expansion of the elephant population causes also damage in agriculture and habitat destruction. Frank Kabore – a game rancher on a wildlife concession in Arly, where he manages the land and its animal population for the government in return a cheap rent – says that maintaining land where elephants roam is costly. Kabore agreed with Sawadogo that urgent action to control elephant numbers was needed. He argued that restricted elephant hunting would attract the economically lucrative elephant hunting tourist to Burkina Faso. Two years ago, concession owners asked for permission to hunt a couple of elephant a year to help them meet the environmental cost caused by the exploding population. In this respect Kabore highlighted that elephants are listed under CITES App II and controlled hunting is allowed in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Kabore recently attended a government meeting on the matter, but he does not expect his own country to join the elephant hunting club any time soon.

In addition to the elephant, the increased hippopotamus population from fewer than 100 just 2 decades ago to more than 1400 has become an issue. According to Joseph Boni, the Provincial

Director of the Environment, officers had to kill 3 hippos after complaints from villagers. One animal seriously injured a farmer and the others wreaked havoc on crops. Hippos are increasingly being seen as a nuisance by the rural population. The government has therefore made hippo hunting legal again with the start of the next hunting season. Lassane Sawadogo said that his department will set an annual quota since the number of hippos is big enough to allow monitored sustainable use. Each special permit will cost around 600,000 CFA (US\$1,100). Game rancher Kabore welcomed the reopening of hippo hunting. Sport hunting hippos will benefit the local population also with a welcome source of free meat. There will be no shortage of takers, since hippo meat is considered a delicacy across much of West Africa.

Source: UNIRIN, June 2004

5 National Association of Conservancies of South Africa

KwaZulu-Natal Conservancies Association successfully hosted the 2nd conference of the National Association of Conservancies of South Africa at the Ithala Game Reserve from the May 14th to May 16th.

At a workshop chaired by Dr At Kruger, prior to the formal opening of the conference, certain structures were put in place to streamline the administration of the recently formed [National Association of Conservancies of South Africa](#) (NACSA). The conference was opened by Khulani Mkhize, CEO Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife where after invited speakers illustrated how all aspects of the environment need our attention, from suburbia to rural community; from agricultural land to formal nature reserves; and from a few hectares to many thousands of hectares.

An Annual General Meeting will be held in the Free State on 5th and 6th November 2004 to formalize these decisions and plan the way ahead. The meteoric growth of conservancies throughout the country and the passion with which they were being driven augured well for conservation in South Africa and the role to be played by the private sector (83% of threatened ecosystems in South Africa are in private hands). Five of the provinces had independent conservancy associations in place, the others still being nurtured by helpful provincial government authorities. The national body resolved to bring to the attention of Min. Marthinus van Schalkwyk (Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism), as well as the provincial governments, the extent of their representation and their desire to be informed of environmental matters, especially those affecting private landowners and users.

NACSA is intent on establishing a good working relationship with the farming community and hunting fraternity (hunting brought R1 billion in foreign currency into the country in 2003) since both play an important part in environmental conservation. Members of the hunting associations are invited to offer their ideas and opinions for discussion through the NACSA channels. For more information please contact Albert Zinn, e-mail: albert.zinn@nacsa.org.za, or visit the NACSA website at www.nacsa.org.za

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www.africanindaba.netfirms.com

6 Rifa - A Unique Zimbabwe Wildlife Education Experience

By Leslee Maasdorp

Editor's Comments: *Rifa is a commendable initiative of the Zimbabwean Hunters' Association – it combines practical exposure of young people from all walks of life to conservation issues and sustainable use. The Rifa initiative deserves full support of the worldwide hunting community, and this support might well be the funding of student classes at the camp. Hunting organizations could well assist with a relatively small amount of money to expose young Africans to issues which are close to our hearts. Please contact Rifa directly or use African Indaba as a conduit for more information about cost and possibilities to support a deserving project. Contact details in box on page 8.*

Rifa Camp is a wildlife and environmental facility situated on the edge of the Zambezi River flood plain 4 kilometres upstream from Chirundu border post. It is in a wilderness on the edge of the Rifa Safari Area of Hurungwe in the Middle-Zambezi Valley and holds a good population of big game. The program offered at Rifa was originally designed for the top end of the school - Advanced Level students were in the early days the only group catered for. Soon thereafter, however, primary schools were invited to fill up the gaps in term time for courses in environmental studies and bush craft. After seventeen years in action Rifa is a very well known camp to Zimbabweans but not to folk outside Zimbabwe's borders. However, some British and German groups have twinned with local students to attend camp. A Namibian school has just completed a very successful week at Rifa.

Citizen hunters belonging to the Zimbabwe Hunters' Association had the vision to set up a permanent education camp in their favourite hunting grounds - the mid-Zambezi Valley. Land was allocated to them by Parks and Wildlife Authority who have over nearly two decades also provided a Scout for the programme. Rifa became operational in 1987 capable of housing 30 students and 10 adults (teachers, hunters, guides and resource persons).

A number of schools from throughout Zimbabwe have a long history of association with Rifa. These include Moleli and Mutoko High from rural areas, St. George's College, Chisipite and Peterhouse whose biology and geography students learn field study techniques. These practical exercises lead to a better understanding of ecosystems, river processes and rifting. Several primary schools have also developed a long association with the camp.

Children of the Scouts and from Chirundu are well adjusted to the very hot season and attend camps in October and November. They are rewarded with good wildlife viewing. One late afternoon some of the children watching from the camp terrace saw a lioness leap up and catch one of the wild dogs from a pack racing after an impala. She had a leisurely meal and downed even the skinny ends of the legs. Westridge, a Hindu school, has pupils from many races who put on an excellent display of their week at Rifa. Their visit in the relatively cool month of June at times coincides with receding pans where trapped barbels are taken by numbers of Marabou Storks.

Several adult groups also attend camps. These include Birdlife Zimbabwe who try to arrange their trip around the arrival of the carmine bee-eaters, or with the ripening of fruits on the huge Zambezi fig that shades the camp buildings. Learner Professional Hunters and Guides, Wildlife and Environmental Society and Archaeological and Astronomy groups are attracted by the brilliant

night skies. The total eclipse of 2001 drew in 90 people. For this spectacular show people camped around the rustic buildings. Recent important archaeological discoveries in the area have added a new and exciting dimension to our programme.

Keeping the camp ticking over is a hard working staff of a Superintendent and his wife and two helpers. In Harare the programme is run by an administration official backed by the Rifa Education Committee and the Zimbabwe Hunters' Association. Procuring volunteer hunters/guides and spare parts for equipment is not easy.

The revenue base of the Association has been eroded through the loss of traditional hunting areas, the loss of members who no longer have farms and livelihood and the ever deepening national crisis. Despite this, it is heartening to note that five underprivileged schools have been sponsored for a Rifa camp this year by local and overseas donors and that the camp is fully booked and those on the waiting list will have to be fitted in next year. There is an air of optimism at Rifa!

What are some of the reasons for the success of the Camp? One significant draw card is the provision of a hunter/guide and scout each week who lead long walks in the cool early hours of the morning. These outings offer the closest possible encounter with the African bush where young people are encouraged to develop bush skills by using all their senses.

Another reason for the sustainability of the camp is that each school has a tailor-made programme to work to with guidance from resource persons. The latter volunteers have developed the capacity of teachers who now mainly run the courses. The projects are backed up by books, activity sheets and posters especially written on the natural and earth sciences of Rifa and also by a well equipped library and museum. All participants are fully aware that Rifa is a working facility not a holiday camp. There are fun things to do as well as curriculum studies like creeping into a hollow baobab, having a mud fight at Hot Springs, and fishing on the Zambezi, campfire concerts, night game drives and participating in an Impala hunt for a few lucky students...

A very powerful reason for returning to Rifa year by year is its stunning landscapes and sunsets over the Zambezi River, its variety of habitats - Mopane woodlands, grassy channels, big riverine trees, pebble-beds in imposing cliffs and its amazing array of ungulates and attendant predators. Dominating the environment are giants, the huge baobabs, parties of elephant and the fourth largest river in Africa, all of which have irresistible appeal.

I often meet up with returning overseas varsity students and past Rifa participants who ask "Is Rifa still there?" and I am happy to report that against all odds Rifa Camp is not only still running but is thriving.

RIFA CONTACT DETAILS

Where is Rifa? On the Zambezi River upstream of Chirundu.

When is it available: From March to November

Numbers the camp can facilitate: 30 children and 4 adults

Fees: A camp fee is paid and participants bring their own food.

Who is eligible: Schools, colleges and adult interest groups

Contact persons:

Brian Peters - Chairman Education Committee

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7 Proposals For Consideration At CITES 2004

Editor's note: African Indaba brings you a synopsis of the current CITES proposals for consideration at the 13th Conference of Parties in Bangkok. The full text of the proposals is available from the CITES website (click on the respective link in this article for a pdf file of the individual country proposal).

Namibia – Elephant

Namibia requests an annual export quota of 2 000 kg of raw ivory from natural and management related mortalities and permission to trade in worked ivory products, elephant leather and hair for commercial purposes in order to create empowerment and employment through local value-addition. The revenue accrued is to be managed through a trust fund restricted to be used for elephant conservation and community conservation and development programs as well as the maintenance of elephant habitat. The major forms of resource use will be the selling of sport hunting quotas, an ivory carving industry using ivory from the central government stock and controlled trade in recovered ivory. Namibia requests an annual sport hunting export quota of 75 trophy hunted elephants per year (150 tusks per year). This is necessary to allow for the possibility that the tusks of elephants hunted in one year may only be exported the following year. The actual number exported amounted to 1997: 23 (46 tusks), 1998: 48 (96 tusks), 1999: 38 (76 tusks), 2000: 43 (86 tusks), 2001: 34 (68 tusks), 2002: 33 (66 tusks) and 47 (94 tusks) in 2003.

Namibia - Leopard

Namibia requests to increase its export quota for leopard trophies and skins for personal use from 100 to 250. The proposal reasons that the leopard belongs to the category of "populations with full compensation", i.e. populations are able to compensate easily a reasonable harvesting. On the basis of habitats available, the total sub-Saharan leopard population was estimated through models at around 700,000 (600,000 – 850,000) allowing a safe off-take of 6,000 p a (Martin & De Meulenaer 1988). Namibia argues that the listing of leopard on App I was not appropriate. In Namibia, the leopard population was estimated at 7,745 (4,182 – 14,483) and the potential safe harvest at 332 animals. Hanssen & Stander (2003) calculated the Namibian leopard population at 8,039 (5,469-10,610) animals with a different method. The leopard is much more valuable through sport hunting than it could be through commercial trade. Namibia's trophy hunting is strictly controlled. The numbers of trophy hunted leopard (TH) since 1997 have increased annually. There has been a notable increase in the numbers shot as problem animals (PAC) over the past 7 years (2002: PAC 122, TH 98, 2003: PAC 145 TH 106). As a mechanism of increasing the value of leopard to land users, and hence enhance the survival of the species, Namibia tries to encourage trophy hunting as a preferable alternative to destroying problem animals. Namibia wants to trophy hunt leopard that would otherwise be destroyed as problem animals. In comparison to trophy hunting, killing a problem animal has no financial benefit to the farmer as these skins may not be exported and the local market for leopard skins is very limited. An export quota of 250 trophies would be sustainable, and would allow for a greater number of the animals currently shot as problems to be trophy hunted, thus increasing the value of this species to the land user.

Namibia – Black Rhinoceros

Namibia requests an export quota of 5 black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) hunting trophies (<0.5% of the population). In the past 2

decades, the Namibian population has been steadily increasing with a current population estimate of 1134. All black rhino in Namibia belong to the State, but the populations occur within different land tenure systems (protected areas, as well as on communal and private land and registered conservancies).

Currently, 137 rhino in 16 sub-populations are under an innovative custodianship scheme on qualifying land and the growth rate in some has reached as high as 14% pa. The management objective is to maintain populations below carrying capacity and ensure the highest increase rates. Each rhino in the scheme is individually known and is of known age. Translocation options are very limited for males, and post-reproductive old males are not suited for translocation at all, as their introduction into existing populations often results in fighting and mortality.

The vision of the national management strategy for black rhino in Namibia is that by 2030, the subspecies *D.b.bicornis* will be re-established in viable, healthy breeding populations throughout its former range, and will be sustainably utilized.

The controlled hunting of surplus males is one of the only options left to maintain rapid population growth. Removing a small number of surplus black rhino through trophy hunting will be both sustainable and contribute significantly to the success of the black rhino conservation program by placing a significant value on this species. Considerable funds can be raised through trophy hunting of one animal, which can be used to enhance the conservation efforts for the species. All revenue from hunting will be reinvested in conservation programs through a trust fund. Only surplus adult male animals designated by the Management Authority will be considered for trophy hunting. Preference will be given to hunt post-reproductive males. However, occasionally other males could be targeted, where they have fought excessively, repeatedly broken out of certain areas, or disrupted the existing social structure. Hunting will be supervised by hunting guides registered with the Management Authority.

South Africa – Black Rhinoceros

South Africa requests a hunting quota of 10 adult male Black rhino, *Diceros bicornis minor*. By 1930 only 2 breeding populations of about 110 remained in South Africa. In 2003 approximately 1200 black rhino were spread through 24 populations. The private sector has made valuable contributions over the past 10 years. The 1998 report for the Rhino Management Group by Brooks and Adcock indicates that the South African population has increased at a rate of 6.7% pa since 1990. A future limiting

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8 News From Africa

CAR

The CITES CoP recommendation to not authorize any trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with the Central African Republic as it had failed, without having provided adequate justification, to provide annual reports for three consecutive years has been withdrawn with immediate effect following CAR's compliance with providing the Secretariat with copies of CITES permits that had been issued during the years 2000, 2001 and 2002. These documents have been passed to UNEP-WCMC for compilation into annual reports.

CAR

Mr. Blatz, of Central African Wildlife Trust attempts to stop poachers stripping the CAR of elephants, lions, and other game. "Poachers come across the border from Sudan to the north", Blatz says, "killing everything in sight." Their caravans of donkeys and camels carry out skins and smoked meat. Blatz hopes to solve the problem with the right people, equipment and about \$150,000. With hunting experience in Africa and an US Army intelligence background Blatz said, "I've hunted animals - hunting poachers is more fun!"

DR Congo

A dramatic rise in poaching in DR Congo's Garamba National Park is threatens the last wild population of northern white rhinos. Warring factions from neighboring Sudan have reached the heart of the park and are killing rhino and elephant. 6 rhino carcasses have been found in the last 2 months. Before the recent killings, the northern white rhino population was estimated at only 33. If urgent action is not taken to combat the upsurge in poaching, the rhino population could be wiped out. A few years ago, rebels from the Sudanese People Liberation Army moved into the park and began poaching eliminating larger wildlife in the northern two thirds of the park. There are currently 150 park guards in Garamba but they lack the resources to combat the poachers.

Kenya

Up to 300 tons of bush meat is illegally finding its way into the Kenyan market every year. Poachers have turned to the use of illegal firearms, bows and arrows, spears and wire snares to kill the animals, mainly outside protected areas. The meat is sold on rural and urban markets.

Kenya

The East African Standard reported on May 21st Minister Kulundu saying during a wildlife utilization and management conference that a new Wildlife Bill will be passed in 2004. The Government was in the process of reviewing the outdated wildlife policy and was involving stakeholders in a new workable wildlife policy. Speaker of the National Assembly, Francis Ole Kaparo, KWS Director Mukolwe and Chairman Colin Church attended. Kulundu said the Wildlife Act lacked clear mechanisms and incentives for involving local communities and land owners in resource management. He said the Government would like to achieve the best policy framework to resolve burning issues facing those living near wildlife. Earlier the same paper reported that the new bill will also propose higher compensation for losses caused by wild animals, after MP A Kimetto stated in parliament that "it is absurd that when a person kills an animal, he is liable to a 7-year maximum jail sentence yet if the animal kills a human being, the compensation is a paltry Sh15,000."

Kenya

Elephants from the Samburu National Game Reserve invaded

9 Uganda & Sustainable Use

Local pastoralist communities on the ranches outside Lake Mburo National Park in Mbarara district have started reaping the benefits after a pilot sport-hunting project began 3 years ago. The project allows the communities to manage the wild animals and benefit from sport-hunting trophy fees. With an economic value attached to game animals, the prospects of pastoralists co-existing with wild animals look brighter. The ranch owners have built 2 schools, 6 teachers' houses, a health centre and a dam to provide water for livestock with funds to the pilot project. Game Trails Ltd, a company belonging to the Kampala investor Mr. Kaka Matama, and the communities are working together under this lucrative sustainable use deal.

The communities get 65% of the trophy fees, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) 15%, landowners 10%, sub-county local government 5% and the Community Protected Areas Institutions 5%. UWA gives the communities annual quotas to hunt animals such as impala, zebra, topi, hippo, baboon, duiker and buffalo.

Dr. Arthur Mugisha, director of UWA blamed the destruction of habitats on the exclusion of communities in managing wildlife after more than half of the park was de-gazetted due to population pressure in the 1990s. At last year's World Park Congress, Mugisha displayed sport-hunting as an example of sustainable use of nature in a report entitled "Protected Areas in Uganda". The local communities were empowered under the project. This helped reduce poaching and charcoal burning. Edward Asalu, the chief warden of Lake Mburo NP said ranchers used to complain that they did not benefit from game, which instead transmitted diseases, destroyed fences and consumed a lot pasture. Fred Kamugira, the LC5 chairperson of Mbarara district stated that disputes between wildlife authorities and pastoralists have ceased to exist. "What is wrong with a few animals being killed so that many others and their habitat become secure?" Director Mugisha asks. He says sport-hunting would replace poaching outside the protected areas since government does not have any enforcement capacity.

As expected animal rights activists and in particular IFAW are opposed to the project. It seems that Wolfgang Thome of the Uganda Tourism Association, who argued that those responsible for the introduction of "backdoor hunting under the guise of pilot projects has ill motives" is one of their spokespersons.

The concept of utilizing wildlife for the benefit of local communities is sweeping across the southern and eastern African countries under the catch phrase: "use it or lose it." Two more locations, Kairo Tonya in Hoima and the Kafu basin in Mubende, Masindi, Nakasongola and Luweero are being targeted for the expansion of sport-hunting.

Source: New Vision, Kampala, Uganda

farms in Samburu destroying hundreds of acres of crops. The animals posed a threat to those living around the animal sanctuary and their livestock. They asked the KWS personnel to drive away the jumbos before the residents kill them.

Mozambique

About 10 businesses, Mozambican and foreign, have expressed an interest in investing in the Limpopo National Park but the park is endangered by police and local officials collaborating with poachers. The park in the southern province of Gaza is the

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10 International Foundation for Conservation of Wildlife

Courtesy: [IGF](#), Paris France

The [International Foundation for the Conservation of Wildlife](#) was created in France in 1977 with the status of tax-exempt non-profit organization. A sister foundation was created simultaneously in Switzerland. H.I.H. Prince Abdorreza of Iran, who passed away on May 11th, 2004, was the Founder-President of both Foundations. The goal of IGF is to conserve and develop wildlife and its utilization in the interest of people. In 1998 the Prince wrote: *"We need not stand idle as we watch this process. Instead, in the face of human populations whose motivation is to survive and improve their quality of life, we can and must reconcile the conservation of humanity's biological heritage with sustainable development, within the limits of what our planet can produce. We should also, in this process, preserve the diversity of cultures and landscapes which make this world so wondrous. It is our responsibility."*

African Indaba will bring in future periodically reports about the work of IGF. **In this issue we want to explicitly highlight the very substantial document about the African Lion compiled and edited by Dr. Phillippe Chardonnet.** For the first time this study can be opened and/or downloaded from IGF's website (see links provided below). We recommend that all those concerned with the conservation and sustainable use of the African lion take a look at the wealth of information provided there.

Lion: IGF has coordinated a comprehensive survey of the conservation status of the African Lion, *Panthera leo* throughout the whole distribution range of the taxon. The purpose of the survey is to provide interested parties with additional data on the conservation status of the lion in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). This survey is considered as a contribution to the issue, which is already addressed by a number of scientists, managers and authorities, etc. The intention of the survey is to be much more a "food for thought" than a conclusive statement. **Download the full text of the publication:**

- Chapter I - Introduction [Open](#) | [Download](#)
- Chapter II - Population survey [Open](#) | [Download](#)
- Chapter III - Driving forces [Open](#) | [Download](#)

Elephant: IGF has completed an elephant radio-collaring operation in the W Regional (transfrontier) National Park in January. Four adult female elephants from different herds have been successfully darted from the ground, collared and released in good condition. The first female was collared in the Djona Hunting Zone, next to the Benin side of W Regional Park, the tree others in the Tapoa area of the Niger side of W Regional Park. 4 Argos/VHF collars are already operational and are transmitting geographical location data. This study will bring the first ever available information on ecology and movement of the most important elephant population of West Africa. The project is being conducted in the countries of Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger, in cooperation with the regional ECOPAS program, and financed by the European Union.

Chad: Lion and Tiang: IGF conducts a major research operation on lion and Tiang in Zakouma National Park, in partnership with Chad authorities, the CURESS project, CIRAD and the Zakouma lion project. 5 adult lions (3 females and 2 males) have been successfully immobilized and VHF radio-collared by IGF

within the framework of a research program on the ecology of large predators and preys. 5 Tiang, *Damaliscus lunatus tiang* have been successfully immobilized and ARGOS radio-collared by IGF to study their migration routes during the rainy season when they travel upnorth to Sahelo-saharan habitats.

Central African Republic: Eastern Giant Eland: 2 wild free-ranging Eastern Lord Derby's Eland, *Tragelaphus derbianus gigas* adult females have been successfully immobilized, equipped with GPS/VHF radio collars and released "in situ" in good condition. The first individual was collared on February 23^d. 2004 and the second one on March 6th. This operation has taken place in Sangha area, in the Northern region of Central African Republic, within the framework of the PDZCV project ("Projet de Développement des Zones de Chasse Villageoise") under the auspices of the ECOFAC Program within the CAR Ministry in charge.

11 The People and Predators Project Tanzania

Principal Researcher: Laly Lichtenfeld

Assistant: Charles Trout

Study Area: Tarangire National Park and Monduli/Simanjiro Districts, Tanzania

Date Started: 2002

Academic Institutions: Yale University

Affiliated Institutions: Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute, the Wildlife Division, and Tanzania National Parks Authority

Summary: The People and Predators Project is committed to developing realistic strategies for conserving large carnivores in areas where these animals interact with a variety of people including local community members and professional sport hunters. This project is one of the first in Tanzania to focus on the status of the African lion outside of national parks. Ecological data is collected on the abundance of large carnivores in different land use areas including professional sport hunting blocks and village lands. This information is compared to data collected in the nearby Tarangire National Park. Recognizing the wary nature of carnivores outside of protected areas, the project is working to develop cost effective methodologies for estimating lion abundance when the likelihood of actually seeing these animals is low. Following work pioneered in southern Africa, the project currently uses traditional Hadzabe hunter-gatherers to track the animals and estimate their abundance via spoor counts. The knowledge of the Hadzabe is impressive, and they have reliably and consistently estimated the age, sex, and group composition of lions from their tracks. In addition, the project has developed several programs focusing on the attitudes of local community members, professional sport hunters, and photographic tourism operators toward lions and lion conservation and the nature of human-lion interactions. This includes research on the impacts of livestock depredation and local retaliation by spearing and poisoning. The results and recommendations of this project will make an important contribution to the current debate regarding the status of lion populations and the effects of sport hunting. In addition, lessons learned will be widely applicable throughout Africa in areas where lions come into contact with local communities and professional sport hunters.

For further information, please visit the project website at www.predators-tz.org.

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Mozambican contribution to the Greater Limpopo TFP, a wildlife and tourism venture between Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

One headache is the large number of firearms believed to be in the hands of the people living in and around the park. People are encouraged to hand over illicit weapons, on a no questions asked basis, and in return they are given agricultural implements or other means of production. There are still 2,000 people living inside the Limpopo National Park, and the park administration wants to resettle them in other areas, outside the park. The administration wants the transfer to be voluntary. Unless they will be given options for sustainable living, these efforts will prove to be in vain. One option would be certainly to re-consider sustainable trophy hunting with a large percentage of the profit flowing into the communities.

Namibia

The agricultural officer at the Tsumkwe settlement, which is situated within a conservancy, complained about livestock being killed by lion and of extensive damage to agricultural equipment by too many elephant. The area is mainly settled by San people who have received annual dividends from the Nyae Nyae Conservancy, but obviously not sufficient to compensate their losses. There is now the distinct danger that the San community will be influenced to deviate from their traditional hunting lifestyle to engage in crop and livestock farming and to dedicate part of the former Bushmanland to livestock. A better solution would be the expansion of the ecotourism and safari hunting programs towards generating substantially more funds, a conservation orientated education program for the San and a concentrated effort towards providing employment and sustainable livelihoods for the community members.

Namibia

Cattle farmers in the Namibia's north have threatened to declare war on lion and elephant and accused the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of not properly fencing off the Etosha National Park. According to the farmers, the lack of a fully functioning game-proof fence has resulted in many lion and elephant crossing the fence line. They say they have lost livestock to large prides of lion. It is reported that MET sent their officials to the area to investigate, but no financial compensation is contemplated

Namibia/UK

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) has opposed Namibia's application for a yearly quota to trade in ivory. IFAW's Campbell-McRae called on CITES to vote against the re-opening the ivory trade. In typical neo-colonialist manner she said "if rich countries such as Britain cannot control ivory trade within its borders, poor countries with significant elephant populations certainly will not be able to do so". Campbell-McRae's call based on the report *"Elephants On the High Street: An investigation into ivory trade in the UK"*, authored by (whom else than) IFAW UK. It immediately prompted the ever opportunistic Dr Richard Leakey to call on Britain to take a lead role in pushing for a stay in the lifting of the ivory trade ban. The IFAW "report" fails to meet scientific criteria, but leans heavy on emotionally charged statements. The animal rights authors of the report try to throw into serious doubt the ability of any country to control its domestic and international ivory trade. This is another effort costing huge amounts of

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IMPORTANT NEWS

Conservation of the African Lion: Contribution to a Status Survey

[Conservation Force](#) and the [International Foundation for the Conservation of Wildlife](#) (IGF) have published this important study in print two years ago.

Now the full text is available on the Web. It is essential reading material for anyone interested in the conservation and sustainable hunting of the African Lion!

Download the full text of the publication:

- Chapter I - Introduction [Open](#) | [Download](#)
- Chapter II - Population survey [Open](#) | [Download](#)
- Chapter III - Driving forces [Open](#) | [Download](#)

12 Irregularities on Zimbabwe's Hunting Scene

Police sources revealed that senior officials at the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority may have been involved in faking professional hunting licenses in connection with the competency test to obtain a PH license in Zimbabwe. Anybody who wants to become a PH has to undergo a 3-stage training period – a learner license, as well as a theoretical and practical test after the mandatory 2-year training period. It is reported that 60 fake licenses have been issued. The case erupted when a trainee PH with a leading safari company allegedly bribed a junior clerk with US\$50 after he had failed the examination. The PH trainee was arrested.

Investigations showed that the scam involves log books for practical training of apprentice PHs. A learner PH is required to undergo 2 years of tutelage under a PH before the final tests and record this in a log book with recorded serial numbers. Zimbabwe media quoted an official with a safari company having said "instead of going through the whole process, some people just buy the licenses from officials, who create a fake file with a log book of alleged activities during the 2-year training period," Police are reportedly investigating 3 officials, who have been implicated. Some license books with serial numbers missing were recovered. Director-General Dr Mtsambiwa confirmed the scam, but offered as excuse the administrative tangle of responsibilities.

Early June the Financial Gazette reported that the axe could soon fall on some high-ranking National Parks & Wildlife Authority officials since a crack police team investigated allegations of corruption in connection with PH licenses. Officers from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) sought clarification from Mr. Nhema on the role of his ministry in this respect. Nhema denied being questioned by the CID, but confirmed that a law enforcement unit was investigating officials accused of corruptly giving out licenses and faking hunting licenses.

The Authority has also been named in a clandestine fuel scheme involving board members who got fuel for private use at a fraction of the official price. Authority Board Chairman Ambassador Mothobi had in his non-executive function an office, 2 cars and a driver. It is also reported that there is infighting between Mothobi and Mtsambiwa.

In another case the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe's Exchange Control Department is investigating some safari operators for

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13 Traditional Hunting – Denmark and Malawi Civil Society Partnership

By John D. Balarin

All too often in development work we hear the term “Community Based Natural Resource Management” or its popular acronym CBNRM. Widely used in an African context, the belief is that to promote sustainable use of natural resources, the user groups must be involved in management. We hear of examples like CAMPFIRE, ADMADE, LIFE, etc as success stories in Africa to be replicated elsewhere in Africa. But, development work is also about north-south technology transfer. Why therefore do we not use CBNRM in a Western context? Do examples of CBNRM exist in the developed world? What can we learn from them? What principles can we share with Africa?

The above questions were the topic for debate when 5 countries took part in a recent Africa-Asia study tour of wildlife management in Denmark. The participants were astonished to learn that for over a century CBNRM has been practiced in Denmark. Community based initiatives had become so much a way of life, that Danish interest groups had failed to make the analogy between what they were doing at home and what was being promoted in the development agenda of CBNRM elsewhere.

CBNRM in Denmark

Public interest in conservation in Denmark is represented by over 325 000 individuals, collectively organized into hunters associations, conservation societies, birdwatchers and outdoor interest groups. This is a large lobby group! Some of these institutions date from as early as the 1880's. For years the conservation groups (i.e. birdwatchers) and the consumptive user groups (i.e. hunters) and the state were at loggerheads with each other. They proudly declared ... *“It was war!”*. Each interest group blaming the other for the decline in wildlife. Game watchers were blamed by hunters for damaging habitat and frightening off breeding animals, especially birds, and vice versa.

The turning point came in 1979 with the establishment of the National Wildlife Management Council. For the first time, all interest groups (conservationists and hunters) converged and united to form a community lobby group. They were well positioned as advisors of public interest to the Ministry of Environment. This united lobby group representing community interests began to negotiate for improvements to the legislation and the wildlife act. In 1992, they were instrumental in establishing a process that would add an additional 50 new wildlife sites. In all, Denmark now has over 120 graduated use areas with an untouched sanctuary core, designated areas for game viewing and areas where hunting is permitted. Most of these sites and their rules were set-up in co-management with community interest groups.

Hunting is regulated by state licenses and the hunters associations. Every hunter must undergo training, pass an exam and pay for the rights to use the hunting areas. In Denmark, with over 170 000 registered hunters, state license fees amount annually to over US\$15 million in addition to the US\$10 million paid as membership fee to hunting clubs and as much again paid by conservation society members. When added to state contributions this amounts to a large investment. The principle hinges on a tax based economy (public and private) where the users (i.e. the con-

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12 – Irregularities on Zimbabwe's Hunting Scene

... failing to declare foreign currency earnings. At least some operators have now submitted these forms through their banks. The probe into financial transactions of operators came a few weeks after police investigated allegations of extortion and/or corruption by Dr Mtsambiwa involving the externalization of millions of dollars. The money was allegedly extorted from some operators in Harare and Matabeleland for quotas, permits and concessions.

Safari operators said in the media that the investigations by the Authority were a smokescreen of what has been going on in the department for a few years. There were several allegations of corrupt tendencies by the board in staffing, quota allocation, concessions and power abuse. “It is surprising that the Authority wants to investigate one agent when there were more than 10 South African agents operating around the country... using basically the same payment method,” said H. Sibanda/Nyala Safaris.

The saga goes on with the Army and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management being accused of poaching activities in the country's conservancies. J. Rodrigues (ZCTF) told the Zimbabwe Independent that “it's a fact that the army is heavily involved in poaching in the Kariba/Chirara game area”.

And last not least Mr. B. Sibanda/Striped Safaris has threatened court action against Minister Nhema for approving the granting of the lucrative hunting and photographic concession Matetsi Unit 6 to ZANU-PF bigwig J. Mudenda without going to tender. Information indicates that the Authority entered an agreement with Mudenda regarding the concession. Striped Safaris' lawyers put Nhema on notice to bring an application to the High Court.

Several other concessions are believed to have been allocated to top ZANU-PF officials in a similar manner and safari operators who had hoped to get concessions in Matabeleland North are also instituting legal proceedings against Nhema. Some months ago, Nyala Safaris, already instituted legal action against Nhema for allocating a lucrative hunting concession to one Mabel Dete, again without going to tender.

According to the Act the Authority should call a public tender for hunting concessions to maximize economic return and award the successful bidder subject to Nhema's approval. It is reported that Striped Safaris has pursued hunting rights for Matetsi Unit 6 for several years and submitted a number of project proposals which were repeatedly turned down. Each time the safari operator applied, it was advised that the concession was being leased to an indigenous safari operator. Mr Nhema's comments in the media seem to brush off the allegations: *“I will send you a full list of who was allocated what, ... in fact, I have tasked National Parks to look into that issue. But everything was done above board.”*

Zimbabwean media also reported that the bad publicity the country is receiving has affected hunting and photographic safaris with occupancy levels estimated below 50%.

Ngamo Safaris, one of the largest safari operators in the country, said its photographic line of business has been adversely affected with occupancy levels around 20% consisting largely of domestic tourists. Ngamo Safaris was established by the State Forestry Commission to generate revenue for conservation programs in the country's indigenous forest areas through recreational hunting. It runs 4 hunting camps - Intundhla, Mubiya, Kazuma and Amandundumela and 2 photographic lodges, Ganda near Hwange and Jafuta near Victoria Falls.

Finally some good news: The increased trophy hunting fees

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money in preparing and launching it in world-wide media campaigns.

South Africa

Himalayan Tahr ate Table Mountain's indigenous fynbos vegetation as well as indigenous grasses, restios and woody species. The SANParks decision to resume the Thar culling program ended 5 years of intense and bitter negotiations between park managers and the "Friends of the Tahr" group. The war of words over the killing of Tahr took a serious twist in mid May with death threats against park official Brett Myrdal, who was told that he would be murdered if another Tahr is killed! In the meantime about 95% of the Tahr have been shot – so the problem seems to be solved!

South Africa

After sustaining a 12-month reign of terror by crocodiles the Maluleke community is relieved that 70 of these reptiles will be removed and sold. Last year's completion of the Maluleke Dam came as good news to the community. It addressed acute water shortage problems, but the arrival of unusually large numbers of crocodiles was not anticipated. Crocodiles have killed at least 14 people in the area during the past 12 months. 30 hippos also inhabiting the dam will be thrown into the sales deal as well, with proceeds that might total well over R1 million, to be ploughed into community development projects.

South Africa

South African National Parks (SANParks) will not be embarking on a policy of culling the elephant population in the Kruger NP, despite recent widespread speculation on the matter, BuaNews (Pretoria) reported on May 28th. SANParks CEO David Mabunda stated that, although the culling process has been mentioned in recent reports by the park's ecologists as a valid management tool to restrict the unprecedented damage to vegetation by elephants, culling does not form part of the park's current action plan.

The debate in the media centered on a confrontation between culling proponent Dr Willem Gertenbach a former wildlife management director in the Kruger NP and IFAW animal rights activists Jason Bell. Mr Mabunda stated that Dr Gertenbach was talking in his own personal capacity

Mr Mabunda said that SANParks was working on the consolidation of a stakeholder forum that would discuss the existing elephant management policy and explore appropriate comprehensive elephant management strategies. The forum will comprise interested and affected non-governmental organizations, academics and private and public conservation authorities within the country.

South Africa

Limpopo called safari operators to apply to hunt 35 leopards. The proceeds from 7 of the 35 hunts are going to poor communities. "This industry generates a lot of money, and we hope to benefit the communities around reserves and farms that have leopards," said Hunting Regulations Manager Abraham Matsila. Hunting outfitters will have to provide a plan showing how they will spend the money they make from the hunts on the communities. "They'll have to visit the community to see what they need," Matsila said and mentioned that the department would only issue the hunting permits if the community projects were feasible.

Official sources stated that some communities are troubled by leopards, making this a win-win situation because a troublesome leopard will be killed, the community will benefit and someone will

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14 African Lion Research Projects

We continue to bring information about ongoing lion research projects. **If you are interested in knowing more about these and other research projects please contact the [African Lion Working Group](#) (Mr. Sarel van der Merwe, email mwnatura@mweb.co.za or sarel@civic.mangaung.co.za**

Serengeti Lion Project

- Principal researcher: Prof Craig Packer. Co-workers: Grant Hopcraft, Bernard Kissui, Dennis Ikanda, Dominic Smith, Peyton West.
- Study area: Ngorongoro Carter, Lake Manyara National Park, Serengeti National Park, Tanzania.
- Date started: 1963 (Ngorongoro), 1966 (Serengeti)
- Duration: ongoing
- Academic institution: University of Minnesota. Affiliated institutions: National Science Foundation (US), Frankfurt Zoological Society, Tanzanian Wildlife Research Institute, Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority, Tanzanian National Parks.

Summary: Long-term studies of African lions focusing on a broad array of topics. These include aspects of individual survival and reproduction, population trends, genetic health and variability, epidemiology, and conservation.

Makgadikgadi Lion Project

- Principal researcher: Graham Hemson Supervisor: Prof David Macdonald, Prof Gus Mills.
- Study area: Makgadikgadi Pans National Park and surrounds, Botswana.
- Date started: 1998
- Duration: 5 years
- Academic institution: Oxford University. Affiliated institutions: Rufford Foundation, Peoples Trust for Endangered Species, Wildlife Cafe, Kalahari Conservation Society, Conservation International.

Summary: Two main questions are addressed. Firstly, how do lions impact upon the local community through livestock predation and how does the local community impact upon the lion population through retaliatory killing. Secondly, how do lions deal with the large fluctuations in local prey distribution and density in terms of dietary preference and home range utilization and what influence does relative prey availability have on the killing of livestock.

Cameroon Lion Project

- Principal researchers: Dr. Hans Bauer, Dr. Hans de Longh, Mr. Stephen Van Der Mark
- Associates: Dr. Pim Van Hooft, Prof. Helias Udo De Haes, Dr. Jean Pierre Mvondo, Mr. Saleh Adam
- Study area: Northern Cameroon (Waza NP and Benoue NP)
- Date started: 1995
- Affiliated institutions: Institute of Environmental Sciences Leiden University, Centre for Environment and Development studies in Cameroon, Garoua Wildlife School, Waza NP Conservation Service, WWF-Netherlands, Dutch Federation of Zoos

Summary: This research project focuses on human-lion conflict. An extensive study was undertaken in Waza NP, including use of radio-telemetry, calling stations, Participatory Rural Appraisal and policy analysis for a study of livestock depredation and the impact on lion population viability. This work now continues, but has broadened to an assessment of the impact of all human activities. Activities in the Benoue area have so far been limited to surveys only, but may be extended in future. Research results were also used for a Lion Conservation Training Course for students of the Garoua Wildlife Schools and wildlife professionals (including park wardens).

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13 – Traditional Hunting – Denmark & Malawi Partnership

sumptive and non-consumptive community groups) collectively or through the state, are able to generate sufficient revenue to finance conservation. If CBNRM is simply defined as “co-management arrangements between state and user groups jointly treating the environment as economic goods, part of the tax based economy where user and polluter pays, and collectively, user groups, local government and state institutions, enforce sustainable management”, then Denmark is practicing CBNRM. It just has not been referred to in as many words!

The Danish Hunters Association (DHA) is one of the larger interest groups participating in the Danish National Wildlife Management Council. With a 95 000 strong membership association representing 930 individual institutions, the oldest dating from 1884, the DHA has been very active in promoting CBNRM (unknowingly!) in Denmark, Nordic countries and the EU. In 1995, DHA decided to share this experience with other interest groups in Tanzania, Malawi, Malaysia, Vietnam and Slovenia. In 2003, DHA embarked on a 10 year strategy to work on CBNRM of Wildlife in South East Africa. The experience in these countries will be reported in separate articles. This focus is on Malawi. DHA started with work in Malawi in 2001 to assist Danida to implement a small community game ranch and in 2004, with Danida support has expanded the program to include the following:

Danish CBNRM Guidelines:

DHA is summarizing the Danish experience of how civil society community groups came together and the principles that lead to the success of establishing the network of over 120 graduated use co-management areas. The experience is being documented as process guidelines in user friendly terms to share the knowledge so that other countries would be able to adapt the process elsewhere in the World. Malawi and Tanzania are being used as test cases to tailor make the process within an African context.

Traditional Hunting and Civil Society in Malawi:

Hunting with a traditional weapon in Malawi has, until recently, remained unregulated in most of the country, except for protected areas. Consequently, in 80-90 % of the country, wildlife, historically the most important part of animal protein in food security has now diminished to very low numbers. Pressure is increasing on National Parks. Despite that fact that traditional hunting was once the only form of animal protein it has been totally overlooked by development agencies. All attention has been on protection of select National Parks and little attention was paid to user groups...“the hunters”. The DHA is working with the state and local NGOs involved in natural resource management, to build their capacity to mobilize a civil society network and forum akin to the “Danish Wildlife Management Council”. Together with the state, the NGO Groups will study the present day status of “traditional hunting” as a livelihood and will develop a strategy for sustainable hunting where this is important to food security. Pilot trials are underway in a number of test sites as follows:

Lake Chilwa Bird Hunters Association:

Declared a Ramsar site in 1997, Lake Chilwa is a 2 400 km² wetland in southern Malawi that is along one of the main paleo-artic bird flyways in Eastern Africa. It is home to a significant percentage of the global population of certain species, namely 15 % of the Fulvas Whistling Duck, 16 % of the Blake Drake and 12.5 % of the Lesser Moorhen. With assistance from Danida, the State of the Environment of Lake Chilwa was published in 2002 and this

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announced by the government in February have been suspended following an agreement between the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management and representatives of safari operators. Safari operators requested that new prices should be announced with sufficient time before the main convention marketing season in January.

African Indaba advises all tourist hunters visiting Zimbabwe to ensure that the accompanying professional hunter has an official plastic picture ID with a serial number identifying him/her as licensed professional hunter for the type of game you want to hunt. Insist that the booking agent and/or safari operator (if you book direct) advises you prior to the safari of the name of the professional hunter and that you obtain a copy of the appropriate professional hunter's license document. **Insist on verifying the TR2 Form prior to starting the safari to ensure the hunt is legal and what animals have been allocated!** There are about 450 licensed professional hunters plying their trade in Zimbabwe – most of them hard-working, honest hunters trying to make a living under difficult circumstances. They deserve our full support. With regard to safari operators: be aware that not all are members of ZATSO – we do not say not to book with them, but do your investigative homework prior to paying a deposit. A South African PH/Outfitter is perfectly entitled to book a hunter for a safari in Zimbabwe, provided he goes through a registered local operator and a qualified, Zimbabwean-registered PH conducts the safari. **African Indaba** is aware that 2 South African companies who work with local politicians and two local operators are involved in most of the illegal hunting in Zimbabwe – it seems that they are now being prosecuted. Be also aware of the fact that under US laws and those of at least some European countries you may run a legal risk, when hunting on occupied farms. You may be charged with possessing stolen property when you bring the hunting trophies to your home country.

Obtain the master list of licensed professional hunters and safari operators in Zimbabwe from Don Heath, email: fishunt@mweb.co.za or the Zimbabwe Association of Tour & Safari Operators (ZATSO) at zatso@mweb.co.zw.

15 IUCN African Antelope Database Project

By Werner Eiselen

Africa isn't what it was six years ago, even a few months ago. Many things have changed across the continent, some for the better and some for the worse. This is also true for conservation: transfrontier parks have opened, many farmers are turning to wildlife instead of cattle and fences are falling throughout Southern Africa. So throughout Africa we have places where conservation is flourishing and we can definitely and proudly say that there is progress to be seen and moreover, great promise for the future. Unfortunately, throughout Africa we also have the other side of the coin, the situations that furrow eyebrows and make people wonder if there is any hope in that area for wildlife. Bovine tuberculosis is spreading, fighting continues in the Sudan and I, for one, am burning to know what is happening to the wildlife in Zimbabwe.

Seeing as matters pertaining to wildlife are changing, a defi-

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have a trophy. 15 of the remaining 28 leopards that will be hunted on land of more than 8 000 hectares with approved management plans, while 13 leopards will be on land of 8 000 hectares or less.

Limpopo accounts for 63% of all hunting in RSA and the department hopes to draw more black people into the industry. At the moment, there are less than 20 black PHs in Limpopo and no black hunting outfitters, safari operators or game farmers.

South Africa

Limpopo Tourism and Parks Board have announced its first trophy and public hunting programs, to ensure the sustainable management of provincial nature reserves. Hunting outfitters and the general public have been invited to participate in a tender process to gain access to the packages. In the public hunting category, 38 packages, involving 222 head of game, are available. Trophy hunters will be able to tender for 10 packages with 194 head of game. The duration of the hunting concessions will be from 14 June to 30 September. Hunting fees would be ploughed back into conservation management and the upgrading of infrastructure in the nature reserves." The LT&P Board is responsible for the management of 53 provincial reserves; this mandate calls for sound environmental, economical and social sustainability principles", Parks GM Fixon Hlungwane pointed out. The LT&P Board was pleased to report that legal hunters were among the most ardent conservationists in the country.

South Africa

The South African Red Data Book for Mammals covers 295 terrestrial and marine species and subspecies of mammals. It provides a baseline dataset for all terrestrial and marine mammals, highlights the species in greatest danger of becoming extinct, makes recommendations for strategic conservation and management of threatened mammals and their habitats. The project began 2 years ago and garnered expertise from 90 South African biologists, mammal conservationists, and taxonomists in the South African Mammal Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) process.

South Africa

The Limpopo Tourism and Parks Board (LTPB) hosts a Wildlife Conference & Game Auction on July 16th to 17th, to promote Limpopo as a wildlife destination. The event aims to create awareness of the advantages of the economies of wildlife, establish a forum for cooperative wildlife management and encourage career development in the wildlife industry. MEC Thabo Mufamadi will officiate at the opening ceremony.

South Africa

The Ngome community near Greytown considers hunting for economic empowerment and sustainable land use. They have signed a 4-year contract with the KZN Hunting and Conservation Association (KZNHCA). Income will be generated by hunting fees and through lodge accommodation. KZNHCA will rehabilitate the hunting camp, train local people as camp staff, game guards and field managers and set up a sustainable hunting program; members also agreed to become involved in community upliftment. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife will train the community in bushcraft.

Uganda

Scores of elephants and hippopotami from the nearby Queen Elizabeth National Park have destroyed hundreds of acres of crops in Bushenyi prompting residents threatening to kill them.

Zambia

Zambian Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) officers responded quickly killing an old lioness after it nearly killed an old man at Kakaro village. People living on the shores of the Zambian rivers were also assured that ZAWA was planning to crop the reptiles. The Times of Zambia editor challenged ZAWA towards sensitizing communities on the crocs potential to contribute positively to the tourism enrichment of Zambia. Crocodile farming for meat and leather, safari hunting for large crocs and eco-tourism would certainly assist in improving the economy of Zambia, he said.

Zambia

ZAWA has been severely hampered by lack of money following the withdrawal of European Union assistance of €10 million after Government diverted money meant for ZAWA to other areas. When pressed to explain, Tourism Director Wake said at the time the EU were to release money, then Finance Minister Kasonde opted to buy grain. CEO Kabeta said ZAWA was facing operational difficulties. The Authority's total budgetary requirement was K60 billion but it only received K4 billion from the Government. Currently ZAWA survives on proceeds from eco-tourism and safari hunting. Kapeta stated that ZAWA was promoting trophy hunting of elephants to ease pressure on the buffalo and was working towards removing settlers who had encroached on various protected areas.

Zimbabwe

The government newspaper "Herald" quoted Minister Nhema that wildlife would be promoted as legitimate option for using redistributed land. Nhema alleged that poachers had slaughtered game during the first 18 months of the fast-track land reform. While cases of poaching continue "at a low level", there is evidence of stability returning on game ranches with new settlers successfully reconstituting conservancies, like the Gwayi River Conservancy, Mr Nhema was quoted. He attributed the reduction in poaching to the combination of a vigorous extension campaign, enhanced anti-poaching efforts and empowerment of new farmers through quota setting.

Zimbabwe

The National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority has established its own safari firm, said director Mtsambiwa. "We have started operating Mugundumu Safaris at Matetsi Unit 5 to help the department enhance its revenue base," he told the (government controlled) Herald Business. Through Mugundumu, the Authority would be "in a better position to understand in detail how the hunting industry operates and should be able to identify where there are leaks within the system and how they should be sealed".

Zimbabwe

Iain Jarvis of Wilderness Africa Trust reported that people engaged in citizen hunting together with the National Parks personnel fired several rifle shots on the very edge of Hippo Pools Wilderness Camp on June 15th. They proceeded to the Umfurudzi turnoff and fired more shots. In the past the non hunting boundary has been at Come Again Mine and it appears that these well known boundaries are now being ignored.

... and last not least some good news from Canada

Between 1984 and 1999, anglers and hunters directly contributed more than C\$335 Million to wildlife habitat conservation. In 2000 alone, Canadian anglers devoted 1 million volunteer days to cleaning-up habitat and enhancing the fishing environment. Canadian hunters donate close to one million hours per year to habitat conservation. Hunter license fees brought almost C\$600 Million to government treasuries.

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Proposals for Consideration at CITES 2004

factor will be habitat availability as most state protected areas with the correct habitat and size are reaching ecological carrying capacity. Therefore more private owners must be encouraged to invest in black rhino. The sale of 71 black rhino by auction to approved private properties has generated R14.53 million between 1990 and 1997. The demand for founder breeding populations has declined over the years. At the auctions in 2000/2001 only 19 animals were sold. Since the revenue is re-invested directly in biodiversity conservation, including rhino conservation, the budgetary implications for conservation authorities are significant.

No black rhino has been legally hunted in South Africa since the listing of black rhino on App I. A number of male black rhino become available each year though the population re-establishment program and occasionally through their removal due to bias in population sex ratios or for extensive veterinary treatment. Their subsequent re-establishment in the wild has proved extremely problematic due to aggressive social interactions, as well as the lack of interest of the conservation authorities and the private sector in creating male-only populations.

Trophy hunting of black rhino would be strictly controlled through permits issued by the SA conservation authorities and in conjunction with the country considering the importation of trophies. The controlled hunting of southern central black rhino is likely to provide much greater revenue than white rhino, per animal hunted, and the potential negative effect on overall population growth will be minimal. In fact, the indirect effects of providing funds for protecting and managing populations and the increased incentives to invest in black rhino are expected to result in significant improvements in its management and to have a very favorable effect on population expansion. Rhino are generally not removed from populations until stocking rates reach at least 75% of ecological carrying capacity. Animals known to have successfully bred and passed on their genes, and have reached the age where there is an increased mortality risk from old age/nutritional stress or through territorial disputes with younger animals are likely to be those males over 30 years old. 10 males per year out of a total population of 1200 will have no impact, even if these were potentially reproductive animals.

South Africa – Leopard

South Africa requests to increase its export quota for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use from 75 to 150. The 1986 South African Red Data Book of Terrestrial Mammals classified the leopard as rare. The national assessment of 2003 classifies the leopard as Least Concern (LC). Widespread and abundant taxa are included in this category. The leopard population in South Africa is not regarded as threatened. Due to conflict with farmers and communities leopards are in some instances regarded as vermin as killers of livestock and prey species that are the livelihoods of the farmers and communities with little incentive to promote tolerance. The utilization of leopard through trophy hunting with a commercial value changes this viewpoint, but the CITES quota allocated is too small to adequately address the demand.

Over and above the 75 permits that are issued annually for trophy hunting, approximately 50 permits pa are issued to farmers to hunt problem leopards. Other damage causing leopards are killed without being reported, with the unreported killing possibly also reaching 50 animals pa. In order to monitor leopard utilization

patterns provincial nature conservation authorities keep a database of all leopard hunts. Hunting is not allowed to take place in consecutive years on the same property and is distributed between various regions in order to prevent over utilization. Local communities are included in the utilization of leopard with a percentage of the quota reserved for their use. The income generated from these hunts will be utilized for sustainable development.

Kenya Lion

Kenya requests the transfer of populations of *Panthera leo* currently listed in Appendix II to Appendix I due to the [perceived] ongoing decline in the number of individuals in the wild; and for the populations of West and Central Africa which, in addition to experiencing a [perceived] ongoing decline in the number of individuals in the wild, also are small and fragmented.

Kenya refers to a number of sources in its proposal (Bauer and Van Der Merwe, Nowell and Jackson, Creel and Creel, Macdonald, Loveridge, Loveridge, Whitman, Packer), but significantly omits referring to Chardonnet.

Namibia's official (negative) response to the Kenya proposal says "whereas we recognize that export of trophies is, in theory, permissible under an App I listing, experience has shown that an App I listing affects non-commercial exports, especially through stricter domestic measures. The listing of lions on App I would have economic consequences for local communities outside, and along the borders of protected areas where lions occur, which in turn will have a detrimental impact on our ability to manage and conserve this species outside of protected areas, thus effectively reducing the range over which lions can exist. We believe that this would be true in many other range States. The lion population decline, suggested in the proposal, from the 1996 estimate (Nowell & Jackson 1996) to the 2004 estimate (Bauer & van der Merwe 2004) is unconvincing and perhaps inappropriate. The proposal makes no attempt to verify the quality, accuracy, or compatibility of the two datasets. The results from these 2 estimates are, in all likelihood, not directly comparable. We believe that the suggestion of a population decline, using those references, is invalid. The proposal omitted reference to a third survey (Chardonnet 2002), where the population was estimated at 28,854 - 47,132 lions."

South Africa's official response is also negative saying "of overriding importance may be that the figures quoted in [the Kenya proposal] must be explained further. The estimate of Nowell & Jackson 1996 that has been widely quoted as a benchmark of the population of lions in Africa is nothing more than a speculative guess and not the result of a systematic survey. Thus it is not really a suitable benchmark. Two recent systematic lion surveys (Bauer & Van der Merwe 2004, Chardonnet 2002), suggest that the lion population in Africa is currently about 16 500 – 47 000, with 30 000 being the likely actual number. The review of Bauer & Van der Merwe is widely recognized as being an underestimate, as many large hunting concession areas in East and Southern Africa were not reported on. Chardonnet is probably more comprehensive and thus more reliable. According to Kenya, recent research indicates that current trophy hunting levels and practices are unsustainable in some areas. These threats are however not linked to the CITES App listing of the lion population, but to regulation and protection on a national level. Although it is recognized that the hunting of older males may increase infanticide rates this has not been shown in field studies, with lion populations breeding at similar rates in harvested and non-harvested populations. Sev-

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eral research programs are tackling this issue in various African countries, and guidelines on sustainable use of lions (Whitman *et al.* 2004) are available to decision makers.

For additional information about the African Lion please read also the interview with the recognized lion expert, Professor Dr Craig Packer on page 2 of this issue of African Indaba as well as our articles in previous issues (online access through www.africanindaba.netfirms.com)

Further working documents and proposals of interest are:

White Rhinoceros

Swaziland: down-listing from App I to App II for the exclusive purpose of allowing international trade in live animals to appropriate and acceptable destinations and hunting trophies.

Bushmeat

Ireland on behalf of the **European Union**

Nile Crocodile

Zambia: Annual export quota of 548 wild specimens (hunting trophies and problem animal control). The quota represents 4% of the estimated population. ZAWA will retain 100% of the concession fees, 50% of hunting right fees will be for the local communities, 40% will go to ZAWA and 10% to the central government

Nile Crocodile

Namibia: Transfer of the Namibian population of Nile crocodile to App II. The Namibian population of Nile crocodile is currently utilized through problem animal control and trophy hunting of 5 animals pa. Harvesting of the population other than export of hunting trophies is not planned. Namibia will establish an appropriate 2005 export quota for hunting trophies of this species.

Trade in Elephant Leather

South Africa: To amend the App II listing of the South African elephant population to allow for commercial trade in leather.

Synergy between CITES and the CBD: Sustainable use principles and guidelines

Namibia wants to expedite the synergy between and harmonization of CITES and CBD, and procedures and mechanisms within these two Conventions. This is particularly needed in the area of sustainable development and biodiversity conservation though trade in wildlife. Objectives and principles enshrined in multilateral environmental agreements concerning biodiversity conservation and sustainable trade have not always resulted in enhanced implementation of such conservation and trade. Developing countries in particular have encountered significant barriers to trade within the CITES framework. The CoP to CITES should in particular make use of opportunities and facilitate the implementation of objectives in common with CBD through the principles and guidelines for the sustainable use of biological diversity adopted by largely the same Governments.

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IUCN Antelope Database Project

nite need exists to describe those changes to provide decision support for those working in the field. The Department of Nature Conservation of the Tshwane University of Technology has joined forces with the Antelope Specialist Group of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) in compiling the latest African Antelope Database, forming part of the Global Mammal Assessment. This database describes the antelope populations of our continent in terms

of population sizes, trends, distribution, habitat and the various threats to those populations specific to every country in sub-Saharan Africa. Therefore, we need your assistance, and not just in terms of numbers. We want to publish our findings after having heard from every single person who can provide information about what is really happening in the field. If a population is increasing, are other populations being out-competed as a result? Which species are being targeted the most in the bush meat trade? Are populations re-establishing themselves in areas from where they were previously excluded? Are some species changing their preferred habitat in response to habitat loss? These questions can only be answered by you, the researcher or hunter or landowner or safari guide with your ear to the ground. Any information can be useful, and if you possess such info please send it through to us at iucn@tut.ac.za, or fax to +2712 3185566.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the Endangered Wildlife Trust for making their database available to us, Dr Philippe Chardonnet/IGF for his information on the Francophone countries, and Fred and Elise Duckworth for their analysis of the Ethiopian antelope populations.

Distribution and Movements of Elephants and other Wildlife in the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor, Tanzania

Hofer, H., Hildebrandt, T., Göritz, F. et al, 2004

This study assessed the status and importance of the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor (SNWC) in southern Tanzania as a conservation area and biological corridor for wildlife, principally the African elephant and other key wildlife species between July 2000 and December 2002. To this end we investigated the distribution and movements of elephants and other wildlife species, their population structure and population size. With a view to identify key conservation and development issues, we also assessed the relationship between people and wildlife, in particular potential sources of conflict, local knowledge about and attitudes towards wildlife. The data were derived from a novel combination of local knowledge of wildlife, own field observations, and advanced technology including satellite-based location and tracking of radio-collared individual elephants. The present study also evaluated the data collected by village game scouts (VGS) to assess their potential and effectiveness as a low cost monitoring system for the number, distribution and population structure of elephants. Biogeographically, the SNWC is part of the extensive Miombo woodland system of eastern and southern Africa. Scientifically, it belongs to a habitat type of important conservation value about which relatively little is known. Census results and distribution records suggest that the SNWC should be viewed as an internationally important wildlife conservation area, and as a biologically important corridor, linking globally significant populations of Roosevelt's sable antelope (*Hippotragus niger roosevelti*), Liechtenstein's hartebeest (*Alcelaphus buselaphus liechtensteini*), Nyassa wildebeest (*Connochaetes taurinus johnstoni*), eland (*Taurotragus oryx*) and greater kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*) and other wildlife and plant-life in the Selous Game Reserve and ecosystem in Tanzania with Niassa Game Reserve and ecosystem in Mozambique.

Complete report (1,46 MB) at this link: [Download pdf-file](#)

16 Ezemvelo Auction Results

Established in 1989 and rated among the world's top auctions, the Ezemvelo Game Auction has earned a solid reputation for providing quality game. Proceeds from the auction account for a valuable portion of the Authority's R350m operating budget.

This year Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife got hit by the glut in life game already visible in the lackluster countrywide results of [2003 game sales](#) and the 2004 auction raised only R9.6 million (2003: R23 million). The strong rand and the prevailing drought conditions were two negative factors. However, the huge number of live game on offer every week on game auctions in South Africa and the finite habitat (respectively the near saturation of available habitat with game) are seen as major limiting factors to the live game sales in future. Especially the more valuable species like the white rhino are affected with several of the 30 white rhinos on auction withdrawn, as bidders missed the reserve price. Successful bids ranged between R50,000 and R142,500. In 2003 the hammer fell at between R102,500 and R420,000 during the rhino auction. Ezemvelo also changed its black rhino lot, offering 3 single lots of an adult male rather than the traditional 6-strong family package. The animals sold for R110,000, R140,000 and R145,000 against a record R3 million raised for the family unit several years ago. If South Africa is successful with its bid to obtain 10 black rhino hunting permits at the next CITES conference in October 2004, the price for black rhino could sky-rocket again, since private landowners will have a powerful economic incentive to keep this species on their land. The success-story of the white rhino would then be in for an even more lucrative and conservation-relevant replay.

Comparative analysis has already shown that the sustainable harvesting through sport hunting and game cropping will be THE practical solutions for the future. The number of properties under game in South Africa will slowly reach its limits and the properties will be approaching optimum carrying capacities. Surplus heads of live game will not find the ready market of the past 40 years, when huge tracts of land were converted from cattle to game and had to be re-stocked. For the future a more specialized live game trade will most likely be the result. In order to manage habitat and game numbers property owners as well as conservation authorities will have to turn towards consumptive sustainable use, with sport hunting certainly the economically most viable solution.

Maybe Ezemvelo will also have to look into trophy hunting within the provincial reserves in future in order to not only manage its wildlife but also to secure maximum economic benefit for KwaZulu-Natal and its conservation programs.

African Indaba again distributed several hundred copies of the textbook **"The Conservation Game – Saving Africa's Biodiversity"** and the **"Sustainable Use in Africa"** Poster to institutions and individuals in Tanzania, Uganda and South Africa in June to promote wildlife conservation.

If you want a copy of this material please contact us at gerhard@muskwa.co.za

17 MegaTransect II – Africa From The Air

*Editor's note: Mike Fay and his pilots from **MegaTransect II** need support in remote regions –landing strips and refuelling places all over Africa! Hunting outfitters and PHs are at home in some of the remotest regions. Please contact the project at the email address given below to not only provide logistical support to an important conservation project, but also make your views about conservation and sustainable use known and provide insight into practical hands-on conservation!*

Human activity has left its mark both in the utilization of African natural resources and the status of protected areas. Scientists estimate that we already influence more than 97% of those areas of the earth's surface where it is possible to grow our 3 main food crops: rice, wheat and maize. In the 21st century, as the needs of humans grow, some areas may no longer be worth protecting, whilst others not yet protected may need that status urgently. In all areas the needs of the human population have to be reconciled with the environment upon which we all depend.

In order to review and describe the weight of human influence across the continent, the pilots of **MegaTransect II** will take off from Cape Town in June 2004 and land in Gibraltar in March 2005. The project will be led by Michael Fay and co-pilot Peter Ragg with sponsorship from the [Wildlife Conservation Society](#) of New York and the [National Geographic Society](#). Between 1999 and 2000, Mike Fay walked the first 3,000km MegaTransect from the Congo to the coast. His findings led to the creation of 13 new protected areas in Gabon and the generation of more than \$50 million from US Government and other sources towards conservation and sustainable development in Central Africa. The intention of **MegaTransect II** is to:

- Review the "human footprint" in Africa's 93 major eco-regions by flying from the edge of each one at its highest area of human activity along a gradient to its area of lowest human influence
- Review the human influence on the largest protected areas in each eco-region
- Record by digital, still and video camera, GPS and tablet computer the land cover, land use, livestock, large mammals and human activity observed
- Interview both people making use of and those protecting these ecosystems in order to acquire other relevant data on biodiversity trends and to "ground truth" aerial data

The information gained in **MegaTransect II** will be fed back continuously to a global information system with the intention of:

- Generating world-wide media coverage
- Identifying both intact eco-regions and degraded areas
- Obtaining funding for enhanced and increased conservation, particularly in hitherto unprotected areas
- Reviewing how those who inhabit the eco-regions may gain more significant benefits from them without compromising their integrity in the longer term

For **MegaTransect II** to achieve these objectives, it will need to work through local partners in each country and eco-region – conservation and park managers, local aviation experts, local conservationists and local authorities. **The route map is under preparation. Further information on MegaTransect II can be obtained from Peter Morrison, email: pete@bateleurs.org**

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13 – Traditional Hunting – Denmark & Malawi Partnership

identified that some 500 hunters were annually taking off about 1.2 million birds, 14 % of whom were European migrants. This is as much as 75 % of the total of all wild birds hunted each year in Denmark. Most of these birds enter the informal economy. Concern at the large size of this unregulated off-take, lead to the formulation of a Lake Chilwa Management Plan in conformity with Ramsar requirements. Subsequently, organization of the bird hunters took place, forming 20 clubs and the establishment of 24 bird sanctuaries. With the withdrawal of Danida from Malawi in 2002, financing to implement the plan dwindled.

DHA together with local conservation NGOs (Wildlife and Environment Society of Malawi, WESM) and the state have secured Danida support for 3 years to re-activate the Lake Chilwa Bird Hunters Association and build their capacity to work collectively to sustainably manage the bird cropping, protect the flyway and conserve migratory stocks.

Kuti Community Wildlife Ranch:

Originally a cattle ranch, in 2000, a local hunters association (Wildlife Producers Association of Malawi, WPAM) together with the local community, some 10 000 villagers, represented by 24 village heads and 2 chiefs, acquired the 3 000 ha ranch with a grant from Danida. They proceeded to establish Kuti Ranch Trust, converting the Ranch into a game ranch, re-stocking it with giraffe, nyala, ostrich, guinea fowl, duikers, wildebeest, eland, waterbuck, zebra and others. The Ranch offers eco-tourism opportunities, sales of wild products (honey, planks, fuel wood, etc) and shares the profits and gate takings with the community (i.e. for such projects and schools, boreholes, etc). DHA inputs would be to build the community-ranch co-management structures to ensure sustainability.

Tuma Forest Reserve:

Located 45 minutes from Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi, Tuma has the last remnants of the forest animals that live on the escarpment of the Rift Valley. This includes a herd of 40-70 elephants. The reserve has been managed by a local NGO, Wildlife Action Group (WAG) with support from Germany. DHA support is to involve communities in a more active role in co-management of the Reserve.

Most of these projects have just started in March 2004 and if you require further information write to desps@malawi.net.

The African Elephant Status Report 2002

This report represents "the world's most authoritative and comprehensive source of knowledge on the distribution and abundance of the African elephant at the national, regional and continental levels". The text contains numerous presentational improvements over previous editions, colored country maps and more historical accounts of changes in elephant numbers. The authors state that compared with their 1998 report they now consider there to be 100,294 more elephants in the 'definite' category; 2,828 in the 'probable'; 39,033 in the 'possible' and 30,711 in the 'speculative'. Their 2002 total for all four categories is 660,211 as compared with 487,345 for 1998. This does not mean a population increase of that order, just a change in the assessed figure. But it is not bad news!

Download the entire AESR 2002 Report (~9 Mb) at <http://iucn.org/themes/ssc/sgs/afesg/aed/aesr2002.html>

18 Connecting the World's Largest Elephant Ranges: Results of the Selous - Niassa Wildlife Corridor Research Project

by Rolf D. Baldus and Rudolf Hahn

Breaking News

After three years of field work under difficult conditions in the unexplored, rugged frontier area between Tanzania and Mozambique and one year of sample processing and data evaluation in Berlin the results are now available. They are spectacular and provide scientific proof that the world's largest elephant ranges are connected.

The dry Miombo woodlands of southern Tanzania and northern Mozambique constitute one of the largest and for the global biodiversity most significant, trans-boundary natural forest ecosystems in Africa. Its size of over 154,000 km² is only exceeded by the forest ecosystem of the Congo basin. Two thirds are conserved through a network of conservation areas under various categories of protection. The Selous Game Reserve of Tanzania is, acknowledged as a World Heritage Site and home to Africa's largest elephant population, also to buffalo, sable and other wildlife populations. The Niassa Game Reserve is also well renowned for its large elephant population and it is Mozambique's largest protected area. These reserves together have a size of over 90,000 km².

Research Project

In April 2000 the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor Research Project was launched to provide key information for the establishment of legal protection for a wildlife corridor between the two reserves. Research, financed by the German Government under its Tropical Ecology Support Programme, was carried out in cooperation with the Wildlife Division and the Tanzanian Wildlife Research Institute. The major actors were the Institute for Zoo Biology & Wildlife Research / Berlin, the Sokoine University and GTZ. The data were collected using local knowledge of wildlife, direct field observations and applying advanced technology satellite-based tracking of radio-collared elephants. During two years of field work, between July 2000 and December 2002, village scouts on patrol collected data about the movements of elephants and other mammals, their sex, age and cow-calf ratio and their preferred forage plants. Other relevant information was gathered by conducting public village meetings and interviewing individuals like traditional hunters (Warumba), fishermen, honey-collectors and farmers. All information was counter checked and further data accumulated during field walks to even the remotest areas.

In order to track the movements of elephants in the corridor, 10 elephants were collared with GPS/ARGOS satellite telemetry system devices. Body measurements were taken and samples (including hair, faecal, blood and semen) collected during the fitting of the GPS and radio collars. The animals were also examined, their locations were recorded and the ectoparasites (ticks and flies) were collected. The capture operations were organised for three different periods: during the first two, in late August early

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September 2000 and in November 2001, elephants were radio-collared and their health and reproductive status assessed. During the third period in October 2002 radio-collars were removed from the study animals.

During the first capture period, searching for elephants was performed on foot. When trackers found fresh signs the capture teams followed the ensuing elephant trail. Once spotted, elephants were approached under cover from downwind and darted at a distance of about 15-30 meters. The darting on foot proved to be difficult, time consuming and dangerous for the capture teams. The dense woodland and riverine vegetation, often in areas with steep terrain, did not allow the use of any vehicles. The whole equipment had to be carried on back. Elephants also tended to retreat into remote and extremely dense vegetation during the day and were very wary of people. Due to these obstacles, scouting and immobilisation during the second and third capture periods were performed with the assistance of a helicopter.

10 out of 12 immobilisations to fit radio-collars were uneventful. Immobilisation of one lactating female darted from the helicopter was soon reversed. She was lying on her sternum and her approximately 6 year-old calf persistently prevented the capture team from approaching her. One adult bull, severely sick by a massive parasitic infection, died before the capture team could reach him. The immobilisation and collaring of the remaining ten elephants was successful.

Evidence of elephant poaching in the corridor was observed during field-work. One elephant was seen with a shortened trunk evidently cut off by a snare. Two collared study elephants were injured or killed by poachers. The first, a large mature bull, had been shot in 2002 and compromised but not killed outright. There were several muzzle-loader bullets, which had entered the head but had not penetrated the bone. The elephant also had one soft-point .375 bullet lodged inside the heart muscle. This bullet created a large abscess, progressive weakness, and was responsible for a massive deterioration in condition. It caused the bull to restrict his movements to a very small area compared with his previous movements. He died of heart failure when he was darted in order to take the radio-collar off. After several months the GPS of the second animal, also a mature breeding bull, did not signal any movement. Two researchers failed to find this animal with the VHF radio system on the ground. Using the coordinates of its last position in Mozambique the Niassa game scouts found him killed by poachers and retrieved its radio-collar. Further investigations resulted in the arrest of a gang of poachers and the confiscation of automatic weapons.

Results

Landscape Linkage

The landscape of the Selous – Niassa wildlife corridor provides a significant biological linkage between these two largest Game Reserves of Africa and consequently for the Miombo woodland eco-system. The corridor covers 8000 km² of sparsely settled land over a distance of 160 km in the Districts of Songea/Namtumbo and Tunduru in Ruvuma Region, Southern Tanzania. Consisting of natural Miombo woodland it encompasses a wide variety of wildlife habitats. Those are wooded grassland, substantial areas of open savannah, granite kopjes, seasonal and permanent wetland, and riverine forests along numerous streams draining either towards the rivers Rufiji or Ruvuma. The area sup-

ports a large number of globally significant, threatened and CITES listed large mammal species. The dimensions of the corridor will allow even the largest herbivore, the African elephant to migrate between the two largest elephant ranges on the continent the Selous and Niassa Game Reserves. During the dry season aerial census of 2000, which was carried out in both countries at almost the same time, the total elephant population of the entire ecosystem was estimated at approx. 65,000 elephants, with the majority (85 %) in Tanzania.

Status and Distribution of Wildlife

Seventeen species of wild herbivores, six species of carnivores, and two species of primates were reported to be present. The distribution and occurrence varied substantially depending on the rainy or dry season and their location in the corridor. Species reported to be "migratory" comprised elephant, buffalo, hartebeest and zebra. Populations of buffalo, sable antelope, eland, common duiker, common reedbeek, yellow baboon and vervet monkey were reported to be increasing. Large numbers of sable antelope were reported to occur almost everywhere throughout the corridor. This assessment was confirmed by regular encounters during field-work and an estimate of a minimum population size of 4,500 animals. Amongst carnivores, lion, leopard, spotted hyena and African wild dog occur throughout the corridor. Jackal, African wild cat and civet seemed less widespread. Wild dogs were the only carnivores reported to be highly migratory and seasonal in occurrence. Their presence on village land appeared to peak during February, June/July and December.

Status and Movements of Elephants

The corridor is not only a transit route for elephants between the two game reserves in the North and South, but also sustains its own sizable resident population. There are at least 2,400 elephants that are resident or use the Corridor part-time. The population appears to be expanding, with a healthy calf:female ratio and excellent values in terms of the reproductive quality of semen of breeding bulls.

As the details of radio-tracked movements of individuals particularly in the centre of the Corridor indicated, the biological corridor stretches further in east-westerly direction than initially expected. Some elephants make use of large sections of the corridor by virtue of maintaining very large home ranges. Home range sizes varied between 330 and 7,000 km². Observed home range sizes fell into three groups: small home ranges (328 to 576 km²), medium home ranges (1,494 to 3,135 km²) and large home ranges (from 4,421 to 6,905 km²). Elephants with small home ranges spent their time mostly in areas between the Selous Game Reserve and the adjoining buffer zone at the northern end of the corridor. Elephants with medium sized home ranges stayed in the central areas of the corridor and occasionally visited Sasawara Forest Reserve. Elephants with large home ranges moved across the central and southern sections of the corridor, with extensive movements between Tanzania and Mozambique, and within the Niassa Game Reserve.

Three major movement routes leading from the Ruvuma River at the southern end of the corridor towards the centre were identified. From the centre of the corridor northwards the elephants follow four main routes, ultimately connecting the Ruvuma river and hence the Niassa Game Reserve with the Selous Game Reserve in the North. The major elephant movement routes as re-

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vealed by satellite-based tracking were known to local people, which proves the necessity of observing indigenous knowledge.

The fact that there are conspicuous and well-established major elephant movement routes that cross the entire corridor also suggests that some elephants may be entirely transient and move between the adjacent Game Reserves. Hence, any fragmentation of elephant habitat would be a grave disadvantage. The movement of the elephants depends on the season and thus correlates with the availability of food, water and shelter and the chance to cross the major rivers without risk. Large breeding bulls frequently move between the southern sections of the corridor in Tanzania and the Niassa Game Reserve. Not only does this emphasise the status of the corridor as a true trans-boundary ecosystem, it also pinpoints the value of the corridor as a link between the Selous and the Niassa elephant populations in terms of breeding and genetic exchange.

Human wildlife conflict

Crop damage attributed to wildlife was claimed to be a common cause of significant reduction of crop yield in Songea Rural (Namtumbo) District. Crop damage by wildlife occurs throughout the year. Several wildlife species were considered to be involved. Interviewed people and governmental records reported damage by elephants, hippo, buffalo and sable antelope. In contrast to these claims, data from satellite-based tracking of radio-collared elephants indicated that only a small proportion of crop damage could be attributed to elephants and other large mammals. However, elephants were feared because of their principal ability to sweep an entire farm in one attack and because they were not deterred by most traditional methods. This appeared to be the reason for regular reports of elephant raiding to the district game office. Crop damage by small mammals appeared to be overlooked. People are also increasingly returning to their old hamlets from which they were moved during the ujamaa villagisation process between 1973 and 1975. As a result, management of crop raiding mammals in a mosaic of isolated farms is often uncoordinated and complicated. Crop production would be increased if more efforts towards preventing crop damage were focused on the control of weeds, crop diseases, and smaller species such as bush pigs, baboons, rodents or birds.

Future conservation of the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor

The results of the research indicate that the corridor is of international importance for wildlife conservation and the maintenance of biodiversity. It links significant wildlife populations and harbours threatened, CITES listed species. The northern part of the corridor bordering the Selous Game Reserve is well protected by a buffer-zone composed of 17 villages that are practicing Community Based Conservation in their Wildlife Management Areas on pilot basis. But the southern part (3000-4000 km²) towards the border of Mozambique currently does not receive any attention.

There are severe threats to the entire corridor's continued existence, which if left unattended, will block this important link like:

- the unsustainable and illegal use of natural resources including the high value poaching of ivory across the national boundaries,
- the uncontrolled and unplanned conversion of land for agricultural use,

- and uncontrolled bush fires.

With the high human population growth rate and its impact on the mostly still intact natural habitat, the corridor area is predicted to be fragmented and destroyed unless adequately managed.

With the data provided from the research project, a new development cooperation project "**The Development and Management of the Selous – Niassa Wildlife Corridor in Tanzania**" will start this year. The concept of this project is to protect the southern part of the wildlife corridor through a network of conservation areas under village authorities. According to the Wildlife policy of Tanzania and its regulations these areas will be known as Wildlife Management Areas. Thus, not only will the conservation status of the corridor be improved, but also the local communities will be offered the opportunity for economic development through use of the area for eco-tourism and tourist hunting.

The project will be financed by the Global Environment Facility through UNDP and in cooperation with the Wildlife Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism of Tanzania. The German Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit International Services will be the executing agency. The GTZ, with its project "Community Wildlife Management" is still co-financing the conservation of the northern part of the corridor. The activities will be conducted by the local government administration of Namtumbo and Tunduru Districts and staff of the Wildlife Division. The District Councils have employed an international wildlife expert, placed by the German Centre of International Migration and Development, to coordinate and assist with the implementation of these activities.

This article is based on the research report "Distribution and movements of elephants and other wildlife in the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor, Tanzania", Berlin 2004, Tropical Ecology Support Programme, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ).

The full report is available on the web – see box on page 14 for the abstract and hyperlink to download the pdf-file

19 Ngome Community Reserve

Dr Andrew Venter of Wildlands Trust approached KwaZulu-Natal Hunting & Conservation Association (KZNH&CA) to develop and operate a sustainable hunting joint venture in the Ngome Community Game Reserve. The project prospered and KZNH&CA will be leasing the Bambatha Hunting Camp for an initial period of 4 years. Accommodation income will be split, 20% to the Association and 80% to the Trust. Hunting income will be split, 15% to the Association and 85% to the Trust. The contract has now been signed. The Association's commitment to this venture will be to fill the accommodation in and out of the hunting season. Families can utilize the camp for weekends and school holidays. A game count has been undertaken and the following animals were seen: 9 Common Reedbuck, 6 Blesbuck, 50 Nyala, 36 Blue Wildebeest, 4 Warthog, 1 Duiker, 27 Ostrich, 8 Bushbuck, 36 Zebra, 2 Baboon, 78 Kudu and 140 Impala. Game counters felt that from the number of spoor seen there could be 3 to 4 times as many animals on the reserve. Arrangements will shortly be made with Ezemvelo to obtain a hunting permit for the Ngome Game Reserve. Hunting packages will be advertised to association members, as soon as the permit is available and game offtake numbers are confirmed