

AFRICAN INDABA

Volume 3, Issue No 6

e-Newsletter

November 2005

Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

1 Editor's Notes

Dear Reader:

This issue completes three years of African Indaba. In January 2003 the e-Newsletter started with a couple of hundred subscribers from the then existing SCI African Chapter. Within half a year list grew by leaps and bounds. Towards the end of the second year numbers breached the 5000 barrier. The new website of African Indaba (www.africanindaba.co.za) – so ably developed and maintained by Andreas Jarisch of [Bishops Lodge](#) in Port Elizabeth – contributed to further exponential growth as did the cooperation with Richard Lendrum's [African Sporting Gazette](#) who took over the mailing of the e-Newsletter.

Today we have over 11,000 registered subscribers African Indaba has indeed developed into a communication tool between hunter-conservationists and a variety of researchers, field conservationists, national parks authorities, universities, conservation NGOs, and many others too numerous to mention.

The feedback is overwhelmingly positive. This can certainly be traced back to the caliber of the various contributors who all provide their service free of charge. To name a few – Rolf Baldus, Craig Packer, Petri Viljoen, Ian Parker, Debbie Peake, John Jackson, Kas Hamman, Peter Flack, Brendan O'Keeffe, Andrew Cauldwell, Paul Funston, Simon Milledge, Terry Cacek (those not mentioned by name should please not feel offended). African Indaba would not be possible without them.

The last 2 issues were dedicated to the South African hunting discussion. Many interested parties submitted their comments to the DEAT installed Panel of Experts on Hunting. After a public hearing in August and based on papers by contracted consultants the Panel has presented its recommendations to the Minister on October 25th. They suggested draft norms and standards for the regulation of professional and recreational hunting and in the report recommended the prohibition of hunting of any animals that originate from intensive wildlife production systems. Other recommendations include a ban on captive breeding, except for scientific and conservation purposes, prohibition of hunting in national and provincial parks, transformation of the hunting sector through processes like a Black Economic Empowerment Charter and Scorecard. DEAT will publish a departmental draft of the norms and standards for public comment in early 2006 and finalize, in partnership with the provinces, national hunting regulations, which will also be published for comment in the first quarter 2006..

It is important to keep up-to-date with the developments. Therefore **African Indaba** has downloaded relevant documents

from the DEAT website and they are available for online reading and printing on our website. You can inform yourself in detail by going to the **African Indaba** welcome page and clicking "Hunting Discussion in South Africa" or access the page directly at <http://www.africanindaba.co.za/Discussion/hunting.htm>. We will update this page continuously.

The background papers of Vernon Booth about "Best Practices in Hunting", Claire Patterson's "Status Quo of the Professional & Recreational Hunting Industry", Conrad Steenkamp and Daniel Marnewick's "Conservation Impacts of Hunting" and Markus Burgener on "Legal Aspects" offer a wealth of information. The comments submitted by organizations like the Game Rangers Association, and various South African hunting associations are also worth reading. Of particular importance are the comments and proposals made by the communities who live cheek by jowl with wildlife. Obviously thoughts expressed in these documents need to be taken into serious consideration.

In order to give you a complete picture some statements of other interested parties are available. Please bear in mind that all

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2 Conservation Force Hit by Katrina: Request for Help

By Gerhard R Damm

John and Chrissie Jackson – the main driving forces behind the successful work of [Conservation Force](#) – live and work (or rather lived and worked) in Metairie, a suburb of New Orleans. They survived Hurricane Katrina. Shortly after Katrina struck John wrote me an email saying “We are OK, but stressed. We mobilized. Chrissie and I have temporarily relocated to Natchez, Mississippi, which is about 150 air miles upriver from New Orleans. We have leased a temporary office at Natchez, MS”.

John later wrote that “for the next week we will largely focus salvaging of our home and Conservation Force's office both located in Metairie. The office contents (file cabinets, library, equipment, etc.) are thought to be safe, but not accessible. Our home is nearby and one-half block from the lake. The two-story structure was under water,” and he continued “we hope to save Conservation Force, but it will take a supreme effort. The core operating property of Conservation Force should have survived the storm, but some has been destroyed. Our staff are thought to be alive but have lost their homes, are displaced and out of touch.

After John and Chrissie were permitted to return to their home they saw the real extent of the disaster. John wrote “{this} was one of the toughest days of our lives. Our home is a mess. We will be able to save many of our possessions on the second floor but almost everything on the first floor is beyond salvage. Though the water had receded, it remained in the carpet and in the walls. Mildew has saturated our clothing, shoes and is climbing the walls. We worked feverishly with flashlights to race the 6 pm martial law curfew. We didn't speak for an hour after throwing away all of our safari videos and thousands of photographs and many dozens of safari diary books. Each diary was handwritten by Chrissie. All of them were destroyed. It was so painful I can hardly write about it even now. Never did we think we would ever lose all of those.

John said further “it was even worse when I threw away stacks of hundreds of thousands of pages of Conservation Force and SCI documents that have long filled our living room, where I have done most of my writing over the past 15 to 20 years. The elephant lawsuit, the Polar Bear/Marine Mammal Protection Act Reform, the Quota and Trophy Import Resolutions materials, the historical and possibly only existing records of the draft of the CITES Convention and underlying debate over each clause... and so much more. Some of the documents were so important and irreplaceable that the whole hunting world is more at risk because of their destruction. The loss of some is too sensitive to mention. There were tens of thousands of hours of legal documents and legal research to protect hunting on its many fronts. Some of the documents are so important that they will have to be done again from the start. No access was permitted near our office building. We also won't be able to return to our home again for several weeks. Then we will knock out the walls, re-roof and begin the

rebuilding, if and when we can afford the salvage... and if we can find the help.”

John and Chrissie, and with them Conservation Force, are unexpectedly facing a huge challenge. The emergency is putting them in a situation where they are fighting on two fronts: Firstly, the ongoing battles of Conservation Force and all its projects, which they must carry on with, and, secondly, the material loss of most of their home and belongings.

All hunter-conservationists need Conservation Force to continue the lobbying, advocacy and John's participation in international meetings in the months to come. I know that John is a man who stands up after a knockout. That is why he left his courageous wife Chrissie to attend to things in Louisiana and traveled to Gabon to represent Conservation Force and the hunters' interest at the first Lion Expert Meeting in Douala/Cameroon in early October (see separate article in this issue). For John, duty to Conservation Force is first priority. John serves also as the head of the Sustainable Use Commission of the [International Council for Game & Wildlife Conservation](#) (CIC) and Chrissie is head of the US-Delegation of CIC. John also represents the hunters' interest as board member in numerous NGOs, sits on various CITES commissions and is a past president of [SCI](#). Both John and Chrissie are most valuable defenders of your right to hunt. [African Indaba](#) is proud to be associated with Conservation Force and the editor of African Indaba is proud to serve on the Board of Directors of Conservation Force.

This Conservation Force Board has approved emergency disaster funding to John and Chrissie so that they can get their lives back in order and Conservation Force back up-to-speed. The approval is limited to available funding.

The ball (or rather an appropriate donation) is now in your court! If you are a US citizen the following is important in relation with your contribution: The US Congress passed the [Hurricane Katrina Relief Tax Package](#). (H.R. 3768) It makes contributions to help Conservation Force and its staff easy and tax attractive. The package permits individuals to donate “*penalty free*” unlimited sums from their retirement accounts [IRA's, 401(k), and 403(b) plans] to nonprofit public charities like Conservation Force. Normally funds drawn from these accounts would be treated as taxable income; under the Katrina Relief Package withdrawals will be deductible and early withdrawal (before age 59 1/2) is without penalty. The withdrawal sum is unlimited but must be completed before December 31st. That is only a small window of two months and urgent action to come to the aid of Conservation Force is advised. Under the Relief Package, contributions made before December 31st can be used for any purpose by Conservation Force, not just disaster relief. Funds can be used to continue Conservation Force's ongoing battles and projects. Of course, Conservation Force and its prime drivers, John & Chrissie Jackson, need support to recover and the activation of IRS Code Section 139 allows Conservation Force to pass through contributions to John & Chrissie Jackson and the Conservation Force staff free of income taxes for qualified disaster relief.

The Relief Tax Package also offers a unique chance to make

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2 Conservation Force Hit by Katrina: Request for Help

Conservation Force, this extraordinary hunting advocacy, better than ever and provide much needed funding for a number of existing and future projects.

Please be aware that this same relief package may create substantial financial windfalls for nonprofit animal extremists; therefore it is imperative that you – the hunters around the world – make it work for Conservation Force's general mission above and beyond disaster recovery. It presents an opportunity to advance Conservation Force work and future efforts.

This is an opportunity to built on past successes of Conservation Force and further the cause of hunting and *incentive based conservation* because of the attractiveness of donating during this two-month window until Dec 31st. Tax wise this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to make an extra contribution for what you as hunter and conservationist care so very much about.

The most important thing to do:

Make a tax-deductible contribution to Conservation Force. Conservation Force is temporarily operating out of a one-room office in Natchez, Mississippi. Donations should be mailed to Conservation Force, P.O. Box 786, Natchez, MS 39121-0786. You can make a credit-card contribution of \$1,000 or more by going to the Conservation Force web site, www.conservationforce.org click on "Contribute." Communications should be emailed to jjw-no@att.net. Phone: 601-304-5609 Fax: 601-304-5612.

John and Chrissie Jackson have served the hunting community many years without pay. This time John and Chrissie need your assistance. African Indaba and the Board of Conservation Force are asking for your help to continue the progress and leadership of Conservation Force. The special tax window closes December 31st but the destiny of Conservation Force is being decided before that. **There is no alternative to Conservation Force. Please rush your tax-deductible contribution.**

3 Botswana: Trophy Quality Monitoring for Lion

By Gerhard R Damm

One of the major concerns facing sustainable hunting of lion is the age of the hunted lion. Scientists, conservationists and hunters agree that there is an urgent need for reliable methods to determine trophy animal age. A reliable age-assessment technique is to x-ray the lion's second premolar P² to determine the extent of pulp-cavity growth. This method can be used for also for leopard and any other large predator to obtain a close age approximation. In the process, P² will be removed from each skull and radiographed with a dental X-Ray machine. The radiograph will be scanned and inserted into an architectural computer program to determine various dimensions of pulp and non-pulp according to a process developed by Ann Cheater at Tshwane University of Technology in South Africa and validated by Prof. Craig Packer's

research unit.

Through a network of hunters and the assistance of African Indaba, a portable dental X-Ray machine was located and purchased in South Africa and subsequently shipped to Maun. Debbie Peake will provide facilities at Mochaba to house the x-ray machine and undertake photography work. Thanks to generous funding from [Conservation Force](#), the scientific groundwork of Craig Packer and Ann Cheater and the enthusiasm of Debbie Peake, the Botswana Wildlife Management Association (BWMA) will be now able to reliably age all trophy hunted large carnivores and share/discuss the data obtained with staff from the Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks and wildlife researchers. This is extremely important for the future of safari hunting of lion and leopard in Botswana.

The safari operators and hunting clients are aware that the P² will be removed from each skull. Outfitter and professional hunter members of the BWMA are also committed to providing series of photographs of all hunted lion trophies, as well as completing a number of in-depth questionnaires for submission to DWNP Research and the African Large Predator Research Unit (ALPRU). In addition, all operators will provide written additional information on lion sightings, natural mortalities, predator/prey relationship, problem animals, etc. in their respective wildlife management areas.

Peake will coordinate the inspection of each trophy by DWNP staff prior to export and submit an annual report to the DWNP Licensing and Research Unit on lion hunts and individual trophies. This report will include copies of all reports, ALPRU forms, age analysis, photographs of the trophy and especially the facial area with nose coloration. Results of this analysis will be shared with all stakeholders at the end of the hunting season (September) for discussion with the DWNP Research Division to evaluate ages, growth, nose colorations, etc. The data will provide invaluable base material for future allocations of quota. The facility will also be made available to private researchers in Botswana, i e: Wild Dog Research (Tico McNutt), Lion Research Center (Winterbach et al) and DWNP Problem Animal Control Division

Results of age validation for lion and leopard would significantly contribute to an ongoing Trophy Quality Monitoring Project, carried out by Debbie Peake since 1997, in which measurements of key species are maintained in a database and are reviewed by DWNP annually.

East & Southern African Lion Conservation Workshop: Conservation Biology and Conservation Strategies

Organized by IUCN, IUCN-SSC, WCS and ART and supported by SCIF, WCS and UK Dept of Environment
Johannesburg South Africa

January 8 to 10, 2006: Range-wide Priority Setting
January 11 to 13, 2006: Strategic Planning for Conservation and Management

For details about the workshop, background and information about attendant please go to the [Cat Specialist Group](#) website and hit the workshop concept paper link

4 Promote Sport Hunting in Northern Kenya

Summary of an article originally published in *The Nation* (Nairobi)

The Kenyan "The Nation" called for the promotion of Sport Hunting in Northern Kenya in an article published on July 30st. Wycliffe Muga reported about a paper presented to the Kajiado Wildlife Forum by Ian Parker. In "The case for Reintroducing Hunting", Parker explained that whereas there is a limited amount of land in Kenya that would be suitable for game viewing or game cropping (15%) there was much more land that was appropriate for recreational hunting (80%). Parker said that recreational hunting is radically different from game viewing or game cropping. It does not need high densities of animals. It is suited to rough terrain, thick vegetation, hillsides, as well as open ground. This is another way of saying that much of northern Kenya may be ill-suited to the sort of game viewing that takes place in the Maasai Mara, Amboseli, Tsavo East, Lake Nakuru and other game parks. But it would be eminently suited to recreational hunting. Hunting is a multi-billion dollar industry worldwide. Kenya is one of the very few countries which do not allow it.

Muga challenges the Kenyan government to make the Wildlife Bill, which was passed last year [*but vetoed by the president*] by Parliament, a law, if it wants to generate funds in that part of the country. Of significant importance is that also that Muga states that the Kenya Government has long been conned by various internationally-funded "animal welfare" NGOs into believing that hunting wild animals would lead to diminishing of wild life populations. However regulated hunting puts a premium value on all wildlife, and encourages local communities living near wildlife to take steps to ensure the survival of these valuable animals.

Muga mentions the example of Hungary, where hunting is one of the carefully nurtured resources for providing the government with revenues of about Sh6 billion from hunting fees per year. Earnings for the private sector for the provision of accommodation, food, and other services are not included. He continues by quoting official documents from Hungary's ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development: "*The basis for the international fame of the Hungarian game management is the game stock of excellent quality living in the free hunting area of the country, with a high standard management. It is necessary to maintain our advantage arising from our natural and geographical endowments, by utilizing game stock with a protective approach.*" *Hungarian legislation for recreational hunting explicitly recognizes that the conservation of wild animals goes hand in hand with the recreational hunting.*"

For Northern Kenya the answer is that Kenyans should follow the Hungarian example and create an expansive free hunting zone in that area according to Muga. He states that a combination of the perspective offered by Parker's paper with the Hungarian experience of hunting offers a blueprint for the economic empowerment of the people of northern Kenya. With the appropriate legislation in place northern Kenya should be empowered to generate its own funds for infrastructure and services would be

managerial and regulatory capacity.

In 2002, Tanzania earned the equivalent of Sh1.4 billion in gross revenues from just 600 hunters who visited that country. Out of that, the Tanzanian government received Sh680 million equivalent, as direct revenues arising from game and trophy fees, and other official receipts. A good part of these government revenues went into community projects in the areas where this hunting was done.

No doubt, Kenya has something to learn from Tanzania on establishing a viable and self-sustaining recreational hunting.

5 News from Africa

Angola

Pedro Vaz Pinto reported in August that the results from the previous month were disappointing, as no giant sables were photographed. Vaz Pinto still encountered abysmally bad road conditions to Cagandala. However, he was for the first time able to drive inside the park crossing the Maube river and clearing 10km of an old road, crossing the Cazela river and getting within 1km of the salt licks. Next time he intends to camp well inside giant sable territory. The rainy season will certainly stop the researchers from November till May. The park was very dry, and in a few areas trees remained leafless. Several recent bush fires were obvious. Despite information received in Malanje that although the areas had been burned and had damaged the cameras and kits, Vaz Pinto was relieved that most of the equipment survived.

Of the 4 complete operating kits (transmitter, receiver and camera), all the cameras and transmitters seem to be working, although one camera "refused" to take pictures (maybe due to defective batteries) and one transmitter was slightly burned. One old model receiver was out of combat, another one is apparently is not performing. All connecting cables were completely destroyed, but these should be easy to find and a new set can then be installed. Vaz Pinto decided to bring the kits to Luanda for service and repair. The researchers expect the giant sable to be more attracted to the salt licks during the rainy season, when the nutrients are leached from the soils. If everything goes as planned, Vaz Pinto will return the kits back on site in October.

During this trip the researchers saw tracks and spoor and could confirm that a group had been present at one of the salt licks just a couple of days earlier.

DR Congo

Corneille Ewango, the winner of the 2005 Goldman Environmental Prize for Africa stayed on in the Okapi Nature Reserve in the Ituri region throughout the civil war after most other staff fled for their lives. The reserve was named a World Heritage Site in 1998. At the height of the fighting, he hid in the forest for 3 months. He helped discover a new tree species and protect the okapi from rampaging gunmen. Ewango also managed to persuade militia commanders to stop their men poaching elephants and primates. Ewango is currently doing a master's degree pro-

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1 Editor's Notes

ideas expressed and discussed in the papers are the opinion of the authors – some are diametrically opposed to what I am thinking and what I stand for. I want to single out in particular the papers presented by the Limpopo Carnivore Association, the Lion Breeders and the Xwe Group. I have made my opinion clear in the article "Hunting in South Africa: Facts, Risks and Opportunities". You can re-read the complete article or cross-reference by selecting the [Archives 2005](#) page and clicking on the download button.

Brendan O'Keeffe, Chairman of the African Gamebird Education & Research & Development Trust (AGRED) wrote to me in August: *"Surely, within a year or two from now, the South African constitution on wildlife" should be widely regarded as the best in the world? We have the experience, the brains, the willingness, the resources and above all, the opportunity here and now to do exactly that. When our political constitution was mapped out, we consulted the world widely, brought our best people together and stuck to it night and day until the final result emerged. I call on the Hon. Minister to raise and broaden his vision for the future and adopt exactly this attitude. Once we have our house in order, other African countries will be grateful for the opportunity to integrate their "wildlife constitutions" with ours so as to form a holistic African one. After all, African wildlife knows not about politics and political boundaries, only we the stewards and consumers do. The current DEAT discussions are a very good start but it is not yet clear how broad or how ambitious the objectives are which it seeks to reach."*

I cannot but agree with Brendan – Minister van Schalkwyk has created is a historic opportunity and it would be a pity if the wildlife community would not make full use of it.

My proposals to fast track Black Economic Empowerment with a combination of intensive training and the carefully managed hunting in National Parks have fallen on deaf ears for now. The time may not be ripe yet, and DEAT might have to create a solid legislative basis first. Eventually, however, the issue of hunting in National Parks will have to be addressed again and economic and conservation objectives must be combined to a holistic entity. I will certainly follow-up on this issue.

The overwhelmingly positive comments on hunting should make stakeholders in the hunting and wildlife industries join hands with conservationists. In terms of international obligations within the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#), South Africa must introduce the Biodiversity Bill and the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA). The wildlife translocation policy is part and parcel of this obligation. This will require adaptations in game ranching and hunting. For many it will be painful. Bill and Act, however, provide sound parameters for what I termed "conservation hunting and ecologically sound game ranching". There will be economic rewards. Public recognition will follow the elimination of practices like "canned or put & take shooting" and "intensive breeding schemes". Hunting operators and game ranchers should contemplate this before voicing opposing opinions.

Hopefully, the minister's actions will also lend some teeth to PHASA. It needs to be empowered to assist in industry regulation with expertise and decisive actions. Significantly, this would mean that every hunting outfitter and every practicing professional

hunter must be a member of PHASA, just like every Dedicated Hunter has to be a member of a recognized hunting association.

I would like to suggest that international hunting associations, like the [International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation](#), [SCIFirstForHunters](#), [Dallas Safari Club](#), and others use their considerable influence to voice support for the process. It will be as beneficial for the future of hunting in Africa.

And, by-the-way – there is the case of "Damage Causing Animals (DCA)" as problem causing animals (PAC) are called in South Africa. I was quite astonished to read recently of "special offers for DCA elephants and lion" specifying twelve 14-day safaris between 1st November 2005 to 31st January 2006. Can somebody explain the definition of six damage causing lion and six damage causing elephant, offered for hunting via the internet in October and then hunted from November through January? Something's wrong here!

There is another heavy load on Minister van Schalkwyk's desk – in the truest sense of the word: South Africa's elephant population. The pachyderm numbers have reached all time highs and effective and immediate measures must be taken. The Minister said on the DEAT website *"I am persuaded that the 'do nothing option' is not an option"*. He tasked experts from DEAT and provincial authorities to draft National Norms and Standards for elephant management. These will be published for public comment by the end of 2005, with the goal of publishing the final document in the first quarter of 2006. The finalized document will then guide and inform the drafting of location-specific elephant management plans for all parks and elephant ranges – each of which will also be required to be thoroughly consulted with all interested and affected local stakeholders.

This is a lot of consulting and discussion in anybody's book. Some protectionist organizations might again find ways and means to delay the process. We had ample discussions, broad-based scientific and public input, and the papers written on this topic fill libraries. I suggest that the policy of public transparency is being taken a bit too far here. It cannot be made more transparent – and all the while the elephant numbers keep on growing relentlessly, making any action ever more drastic. Valli Moosa, now IUCN president and van Schalkwyk's predecessor even singled out the *"ad nauseam discussed elephant culling question"* in his speech at Oxford. It's about time that SANParks gets the clear mandate to manage South Africa's biodiversity including its elephants without blackmailing interventions.

Finally I would like to point your attention to the plight of John and Chrissie Jackson of Conservation Force. Both have served the worldwide hunting and conservation community beyond the call of duty for many years. Now Katrina has struck a heavy blow to their personal lives and to the future of Conservation Force. Read the article on page 2 and the many references to Conservation Force in various articles in this and previous editions of African Indaba. Please listen to the call for help and take the opportunity to make Conservation Force stronger than ever!

I wish you a happy holiday season.

Gerhard R Damm
Editor

6 We (Almost) Buy A Canned Cheetah

By Fiona Macleod, Mail & Guardian 11 August 2005

Editor's note: This article was published in Mail & Guardian but has been edited for space. According to information received from PHASA the Steyns mentioned here are NOT members of PHASA. PHASA totally rejects canned hunting and has appropriate policies in place. The president of PHASA is a member of the Minister's Panel of Expert on hunting.

The Mail & Guardian stopped short of buying 2 tame cheetah for a "canned" hunt when we refused to fork out R100,000 and failed to produce a letter from a European embassy approving the [import] of the cheetah.. Our investigation into cheetah hunting started 2 months earlier, when an overseas contact alerted us to a website. The site prominently features a hunter showing off a dead cheetah. South Africa does not have a quota for the sport hunting of cheetahs or for export of trophies. Believing the hunt illegal, we contacted the advertiser -- Alexander Steyn, of Steyn Safari in Northern Cape. Steyn and his brother started near Kimberley in 1994 and claim to "have seen the company grow to one of the leading hunting operations in the region". Through an Afrikaans-speaking "agency" in Limpopo, we negotiated with Steyn to buy 2 cheetah and 2 lion. He told us the cheetah were available at R45,000 each, permits included. The prices for lion ranged from R180,000 for "the biggest lion available in South Africa at the moment" to about R30 000 for a lioness. Various other species, like rhino and sable, and novelties such as white lions and scimitar oryx were also on offer.

We posed as a Greek woman hunter who planned to visit South Africa with her Saudi boyfriend. Steyn said the cheetah would come from a tourism project, where they had been captive-bred and "were not suitable for breeding any more". They would be moved into a hunting area. He maintained the hunt would be legal because of a provincial regulation allowing the hunting of captive-bred predators. To organize CITES permits, Steyn asked the agent to organize a letter from the Greek embassy saying it would not object to the importation of cheetah trophies.

We went back to the conservationists, who had told us no CITES permits could be issued. They added that the system was totally unregulated and hunting outfits were taking advantage of this. Last year the owner of an outfit in North West province brazenly admitted on TV that he was hunting cheetah, but no action had been taken against him. "We know about a lot of cases where people are doing canned cheetah hunts, particularly in the Free State and North West. They are catching wild, free-roaming cheetah, keep them in one-hectare camps and release them into larger areas when they have a buyer," said an expert.

M&G contacted the DEAT law enforcement branch. They put us in touch with a police officer from the Northern Cape, who said the police had been keeping an eye on Steyn's operation. But he could not bust Steyn if the cheetah he offered us were genuinely captive-bred and if he had a CITES permit. We set up a meeting with Steyn, pretending to be a friend of the "hunter" who wanted to

check the animals. Steyn said the accommodation was about 90km from Kimberley and the cheetahs hunting area was in another province, about 220km away. The lions were being bred about 150km from Kimberley, but would be hunted about 500km away. Steyn sent M&G photographs of the lions, but not of the cheetah. "I spent hours trying to take photos of the cheetahs, without results," he e-mailed. "They are shy and hide in the long grass." He could not understand why we wanted cheetah pictures. "I understand a client wanting a lion photo because of the mane but all cheetah look the same."

Steyn phoned at the last minute to say he wanted a 30% deposit before he would drive us out. Because we used a false passport for the "hunter", we could not get the CITES approval letter. When we revealed to Steyn that his cheetah hunting was the subject of a newspaper investigation, he responded furiously: "This was a setup by those green people who want to taint the names of professional hunters, while we are just good, honest Afrikaans people trying to run an honest business." When asked if his business was canned hunting, he replied: "What is canned hunting? Canned hunting takes place in a fenced-off area. Yet the whole of South Africa, the whole of Africa, is fenced. The whole of Africa is canned."

In a separate article on August 11th, M&G reported about the "godfather of canned hunting in South Africa", a Portuguese game farmer in the 1970s. Gauteng zoos sold him "surplus animals". He took them to a piece of open veld in the Magaliesberg for "hunters" to shoot them. One incident reportedly involved a cheetah that was pumped full of drugs and died before the client arrived. The cheetah was propped up in long grass and after driving around for a while, he shot the cheetah. There was a lot of explaining when the client went to pose for his trophy photo and discovered a stiff carcass. M&G continued saying that there are indications that profiteering in the hunting industry seems to have escalated to the point where it is defeating the conservation cause. Corruption is rife and professional ethics are absent

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5 News From Africa

gram in tropical botany at the US University of Missouri. He plans to return to the reserve after graduating later this year.

Namibia

The allocation of state-owned hunting concession areas in Namibia experiences a further delay until early 2006. This move by the Namibian Government makes it impossible for safari operators to market the hunts at the major international conventions. Black rhino hunting will also be affected. The cause for this second postponement is the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment policy of the Government. Obviously there are still discussions on how and to what extent this policy will be enacted. Namibia's ranch hunting and hunting in conservancies is not affected at all.

South Africa

The National Agricultural Marketing Council of South Africa (NAMC) undertakes an investigative research into specific issues of the game ranching industry. NAMC advises the Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs as a statutory body. The committee charged with carrying out the investigation includes representatives from the professional and amateur hunting organizations, game meat processors and the game ranching industry. **Editor's Comment:** *It will be interesting to compare this committee's report with the findings of the Panel of Experts installed by DEAT. The thought comes to mind that the two ministers could have combined their.*

South Africa

Two days of public hearings into the hunting industry took place in Pretoria on August 11th and 12th. There were 39 submissions. The hearings showed an overwhelming support for hunting. Most submissions centered on monitoring and control, ethics and conduct and the need for national legislation and regulation rather than provincial regulation. African Indaba has the most important submissions as well as three studies contracted by DEAT in downloadable formats on the website. Go to [African Indaba](#) and click the "Panel of Expert button"

South Africa

The request to the Minister to recognize PHASA as representing the professional hunting industry and to engage the association is bearing fruit. The Minister appointed Deputy Director General Fundisile Mketeni to set up a forum with the industry. The first meeting has taken place. It appears that the formalization of that forum is imminent. That will empower PHASA with the possibility to dialogue at the highest level.

South Africa

The **2005 PHASA Convention and AGM** are set for 21 to 24 November at the Mpekweni Beach Resort, Port Alfred. Mr. Dieter Schramm, President of the [International Council of Wildlife Conservation \(ICWC\)](#) will deliver the key-note address to South Africa's Professional Hunters and their guests during the gala dinner. For details and hotel reservations, contact the [PHASA](#) office at +27-12-6672048 or email to phasa@pixie.co.za

South Africa

September 28th, the inaugural meeting of the Wildlife Forum

was held in Pretoria with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), the industry and the provinces. The Deputy Director of DEAT was instructed by the Minister to set up this forum after PHASA made representation to the Minister to engage the industry. This is a major advancement for PHASA and entire hunting and game ranching. The forum includes PHASA, CHASA, SAH&GCA, SA Wingshooters, TASA (Taxidermists) and SA Game Ranchers Association.

Tanzania

You can now access the newest edition of "Endeleza Hifadhi" (Supporting the Conservation of the Environment) the newsletter published by the Cullman & Hurt Community Wildlife Project (CHCWP is the Conservation Division of Robin Hurt Safaris) at the [CHCWP website](#). If you want to receive the newsletter directly please contact newsletter@cullmanandhurt.org

Tanzania

The Karatu District Council has turned down a request from the United Arab Emirates based tourist hunting company known as Tanzania U.A.E Safari Ltd, which wanted to exploit a wide variety of wildlife in the Lake Eyasi basin for hunting. The councilors wanted to be first see the contract itself, the hunting company profiles, its objectives as well as thorough explanations on how the company will guarantee the sustainable utilization of wildlife prior to granting the Abu Dhabi-based hunting company green light. Lake Eyasi basin historically reserved as the most important corridor for immigrants wildlife, for animals moving between Lake Manyara National park and the Ngorongoro Crater basin. A salt lake situated between the Rift Valley's Eyasi escarpment and the Kidero Mountains, the area around Lake Eyasi is home to the Hadzabe Bushmen, some of the last remaining hunter-gatherers on the continent. The Hadzabe have inhabited the Acacia forests and scrub land around the Lake Eyasi area for reportedly over 10,000 years. African Indaba reported in a previous issue about the Abu Dhabi hunting concession

Uganda

Two lions have been poisoned in Queen Elizabeth National Park, after they mauled livestock that strayed into the park. The carcasses of the lions were surrounded with 42 dead vultures.

Uganda

The elephant population in the Queen Elizabeth National Park has almost doubled in two years from 1,300 in 2002 to 2,400 today. Apart from an increase through reproduction, conflicts in the eastern part of DR Congo seem to push herds across the border.

Zimbabwe

The Herald reported that the country's poached ivory stockpile reached 9 tons, (ca US\$2.3 million). This ivory can neither be exported nor sold locally due to CITES restrictions according to NPWA Director Dr Mtsambiwa. Zimbabwe had an elephant population of over 100,000 and a carrying capacity of half that number.

Zimbabwe

NPWA has suspended selling ivory to registered dealers to enable monitoring the destiny of 430 tusks sold in May and June for more than Zim\$1.5 billion. The suspension was prompted by busting an ivory smuggling syndicate, from which the Authority

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recovered 72 tusks in Harare. Registered dealers must engage in carving the ivory. The spokesperson also said the authority is checking loopholes at border posts following fears that Zimbabwe could be used as transit point for ivory trafficking.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe's revenues from tourism have fallen from \$700-million in 1999 to just \$60-million last year. Eddie Cross, a member of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) national executive does not want visitors to stay away. According to Cross, the MDC does not advocate sanctions of any kind. The MDC would love to see the tourists come back. "We have about 35 000 jobs in the industry, but there are at least a quarter of a million people who make their livelihoods supplying tourists with carvings, dancing and entertainment", Cross said.

Zimbabwe

Jim Mackie will run a **Learner Hunter & Guide Course** of the Zimbabwe Professional Hunters & Guides Association (ZPHGA) from 10th to 13th January 2006 (4 days). Because of hyperinflation in Zimbabwe the cost for this course presently set at Zim\$ 3,000,000 for members of ZPHGA and Zim\$3,200,000 for non members may increase. Participants must provide their own transport, accommodation, meals and their own weapons plus 40 ammunition. The course is geared to both theory and practical aspects. For details contact ZPHGA at +263-4-702402 or e-mail zatso@mweb.co.zw or zatso1@mweb.c.zw.

7 Exchange of Conservation Tips Benefits African Nations

By Emmanuel Koro

A Kenyan delegation of policy makers and representatives from rural communities and NGOs recently completed a whirlwind tour of Southern Africa. The Kenyans returned to their country with a greater knowledge of sustainable development projects in the region and information on how to replicate the successes in their nation. The Kenyan delegation visited Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) Projects in Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe. They interviewed communities implementing CBNRM Projects and also met with policy makers, community and NGO representatives from the three Southern African nations.

"Our purpose to come to the Southern Africa is to come and learn," said George Kaniri, Kenyan Deputy Minister of Environment and Tourism. "Our visit is at the right time because we are in the process of trying to overhaul our Wildlife Management and Conservation Act and we believe that when we embark on that process we will share the experiences that we would have learnt from the Southern African region. We know that they have done well - better than us - and we want to learn from them." The visit by the Kenyan delegation emphasized Africa's timely entry into a new conservation era, which hopes to unite African countries exploring diverse conservation and development approaches. African countries obviously have different conservation problems and also different approaches towards solving these issues. There are some areas, however, where their wildlife management dilemmas overlap, creating the need for African countries to learn from one another how they are tackling common problems.

Similar exchange visits between African countries are increasingly becoming an effective approach to addressing challenges in the continent. In 2002, for example, a delegation from West Africa visited Southern Africa to learn how the region was addressing their conservation and development problems. For the past 10 years, Southern African countries have been successfully implementing initiatives that promote sustainable utilization of natural resources in rural areas. Sustainable utilization of natural resources is popularly referred to as CBNRM. Through this conservation and development approach, Southern African countries have demonstrated that if local communities are given sustainable user and management rights over their natural resources, they will be motivated to accept the costs of living alongside wildlife and jealously protect it from poachers.

"Conservation in Southern Africa has demonstrated its economic potential on both public and private land," said Dr. Harrison Kojwang, regional representative of WWF's Southern African Regional Program Office. "We can improve poverty alleviation through wildlife management which need not only be viable within fences of national parks. We can do that ourselves." Dr. Kojwang cited Namibia's Torra Conservancy as an example of how sustainable use concept is helping to improve the growth of wildlife

DWNP Aerial Survey Reports With Estimates for Botswana's Elephant Populations

1999	120604 ± 18%	
2001	116988 ± 19%	(excl Tuli block)
2002	123151 ± 14%	(excl Tuli block)
2003	109471 ± 17%	
2004	151000 ± 13%	

9 objectives for the DWNP Elephant Management Strategy

- 1 Reduce human-elephant conflict to acceptable levels
- 2 Prevent, reduce or reverse unacceptable elephant-induced environmental changes
- 3 Maximize utilization of and benefits from elephant
- 4 Protect elephants through law enforcement
- 5 Meet international obligations
- 6 Improve public awareness of management activities
- 7 Improve communications and coordination within and between stakeholders and role players
- 8 Acquire adequate information for DWNP to manage elephant effectively
- 9 Improve institutional and technical capacity for management

8 Africa – Whatever You Thought, Think Again

National Geographic 09/2005, reviewed by Gerhard R Damm

"Africa – Whatever You Thought, Think Again" is the title of a special issue of National Geographic (September 2005) and National Geographic Editor-in-Chief, Chris Johns stated "My hope and belief is that Africa can be a model for the world in finding a balance between the needs of the people and the needs of wild places". I couldn't agree more and this is one of the reasons to draw your attention to the NG September issue. For those who will travel to Africa in future (and also for those who have drunk from African waters before) this is an information-packed booklet. It comes with a magnificent map illustrating the relationship between Earth and 900 million Africans (map made by scientists of the **Wildlife Conservation Society** and **Columbia University's Earth Institute**) and a map of Africa's natural landscapes. Stunning photographs are a common feature of all National Geographic issues and this particular one does not fall short. But I enjoyed most of all the articles.

I highlight in particular Alexandra Fuller's story "Return to Zambia". Alexandra was born in England and at barely three years of age moved with her family to Rhodesia in 1972. She experienced the hardships of the last years of Rhodesia and the changes brought by independent Zimbabwe. Alexandra grew up on remote farms in Zimbabwe and later the family moved to Zambia and Malawi. Her captivating style caught my attention already in her magnificent book "Don't Let's Go To The Dogs Tonight" (2003 Random House Paperback Edition, ISBN 0-375-75899-2) and the NG article does not fall short. Her inimitable staccato narration style paints true-to-life pictures of the Zambia of today.

Another article worth reading is Paul Salopek's account of a journey to the Ituri forest of DR Congo "Who Rules the Forest?". It invokes memories of Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness" with disturbing accounts of atrocities ravaging the Mbuti Pygmies and the violent ethnic front between the vast emptiness of the Congo and overpopulated areas of Burundi and Rwanda. Last not least Salopek highlights the immense task facing a few intrepid conservationists struggling to conserve the invaluable fauna and flora.

Teresa Hart, wife of WCS conservationist John Hart, writes about the traditional hunts and beliefs of the Mbutis and the terrible toll ivory poaching levies on forest elephant and the rare Okapi. She recounts the efforts to create Okapi Faunal Reserve and the valiant struggle together with their Congolese associates to preserve it against all odds. Their project would be a worthwhile destination for funds from hunting associations.

African Indaba already reported in previous issues about WCS's Mike Fay's gigantic project "Tracing the Human Footprint" across Africa. In his Megaflyover Fay set out from Pretoria in June 2004 in a modified Cessna 182, flew at low altitude over 21 countries for 6 months, used 10,000 gallons of fuel, shot 92,000 photographs and collected a laptop full of data. David Quammen's article gives the reader an impression of Fay's perseverance and achievement.

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7 Exchange of Conservation Tips Benefits African Nations

population. There have been tremendous increases in animal population in northwest Namibia outside protected areas. "It is very clear that through the responsible management of these areas, these communities are managing their wildlife on their own," said Dr. Kojwang. "This is just an indicator of what has happened in one particular area."

In Botswana, the Kenyan delegation met with communities in the Chobe Enclave and also visited Namibian CBNRM projects in Mayuni Conservancy and Zimbabwe's Hwange CAMPFIRE Community. Dr. Rutina, a senior officer for Botswana's Department of Parks and Wildlife Management, explained to the Kenyan delegation how Botswana, along with other Southern African countries were facing challenges to manage an overabundant elephant population. "The wildlife biomass is increasing," said Dr. Rutina. "The elephant is transforming the vegetation and that transformation is affecting many species. That's why we have some of the species populations going down, like herbivore grazers in the Chobe River."

Pelonomi Venson, Botswana's Minister of Environment and Tourism, said she was convinced that the Kenyans' visit to Southern Africa would help promote sustainable use of wildlife in Africa. "It's going to be a great moment when we next meet with other countries that we can speak on a common ground on issues that we would have had an opportunity to share with you," she said while addressing the Kenyan delegation in Sankuyo, a CBNRM Community in Botswana. After the exchange visits, the West African and Kenyan delegations and the Southern Africans learned that - although their conservation policies and approaches might have differed - their interests in wildlife and natural resources management and the need to alleviate poverty through promotion of development in rural Africa brought them together.

First published by World Resources Institute (Washington, DC), April 28, 2005

**AFRICAN INDABA WISHES ALL READERS
A MERRY CHRISTMAS, HEALTH AND SUCCESS
FOR THE YEAR 2006**

**MAY YOU SHARE MANY CAMPFIRE WITH
YOUR FRIENDS AND MAY THE WONDERS
OF AFRICA'S FAUNA AND FLORA
CONTINUE TO AMAZE YOU**

**PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO FIGHT AT
THE FOREFRONT OF "INCENTIVE-BASED-
CONSERVATION"**

9 Sustainable Use in Conservation

By Dr. James G. Teer

Editor's Note: Dr Teer is Professor Emeritus, Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, Member of the Board of Directors of [Conservation Force](#); he holds BS, MS and PhD degrees in Wildlife Conservation and Management and is a recipient of the Fulbright Senior Scientist Research Award, Africa. He held offices and positions with government conservation agencies, universities and the private sector. The following text is an extract from a letter to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the proposed changes in the administration of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to improve permit practices to selectively allow importation of species listed on the US Endangered Species Act as "endangered" in cases where their survival is enhanced. Dr Teer's initiative supports the decade-long fight by **Conservation Force's John Jackson III** for African species like Cheetah, Black Faced Impala and the Black Rhinoceros.

Sustainable Use as a Strategy In Conservation of Living Resources

Sustainable use has been debated for at least two decades and needs to be firmly established in the lexicons and action of national and international conservation agencies. It was debated in five general assemblies of IUCN at three-year intervals before a resolution was passed to endorse the concept. Other non-government agencies have announced their support, but their actions have not been true to their lexicons. Government members of IUCN have almost universally supported the adoption of sustainable use in conservation with the constraints of strict monitoring and adaptive management in their plans. They also have been adopted by all those more than one hundred countries who have chosen to ratify the Convention on Biodiversity.

Now, we see wildlife and its habitats being given over to the private sector in one form or another: outright transfer by legislation and regulations, co-managers and administrators of transboundary migrants and parks, community conservation projects, game ranching and conservancies comprising thousands of hectares of wildlife habitat.

The important point of this transfer is that people are being directly benefited by uses of wildlife. In past years, wildlife in many regions of the developing world was a negative resource and was destroyed at will to protect crops and reduce contacts and conflicts between it, humans and their livestock.

Ample evidence is available to state that "people will save that which has a value." This is especially true in Third World nations. In developed nations, species that were on the very brink of extirpation and even extinction – deer, turkeys, waterfowl, pronghorn antelope and others – have recovered and even exceeded their pristine numbers through management. Enhancement of populations through sport hunting is indeed possible as peoples' lives are being improved and wildlife has been made secure. In my view, sustainable use is the most important conservation strategy whose time has come and will be used more extensively with

time.

Sovereignty of Range States

Range states have objected to the western world's incursion in their sovereignty. Designation and placement of species on lists that prohibit use and management have been made without data to support proposed action. Range states vehemently react to unilateral action by outsiders. Some aver that too little contact is made between the US and range states in assessing the status and threats to wildlife in their jurisdictions.

When affluent nations in the western world ask range states for data to determine what is to be done with this or that species, many cannot comply or do not have extensive or robust data. They simply do not have the resources to satisfy requests. Further, most cannot determine what must be done in offtakes to satisfy "enhancement" requirements of ESA. Funds and personnel to conduct extensive field studies are not available. Oftentimes, protectionist and animal rights organizations use this hiatus to prevent uses of wildlife resources. Years may pass before data are available to break the impasse. Misuse of the precautionary principle may be the "quick gun" approach with waste being the result.

I understand the push and pull of various groups and philosophies on policies and programs of the USF&W Service. It seems to me that the Service in recent years has favored the protectionist points-of-view over sustainable uses of wildlife resources. Hunters and citizen conservationists started and nurtured conservation for the past 150 years. Theirs is a story of success in the United States. Their interests in other lands and its wildlife can extend that story.

I recommend that [the changes proposed in ESA import permitting are firmly adopted]. The improved practice could remove inequities and inflexibilities of the old ESA [to enhance wildlife and the people who must live with it]. Finally, the United States and other western countries must increase their support of studies of wildlife range states to gain their respect and cooperation.

10 Sable Antelope Subspecies

By Dr. Rolf Baldus

Discussing antelope sub species is a contentious matter. This statement applies also to the sable antelope, which occur in the large Miombo zones in sub-equatorial Africa. For hunting purposes, the classification is rather simple. All sable sub species are lumped together and are kept as one in the record books, with the exception of the Roosevelt Sable and the Royal Sable from Angola. An approach which seems to be to generalized if one takes a serious view of the hunters' obligation towards the conservation of diversity of sub species and genetics.

The scientific literature shows five sable sub species. The sable populations of the Rift Valley in Central Tanzania are considered to be Kirk's Sable (*Hippotragus niger kirkii*). The

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10 Sable Antelope Sub-Species

Common Sable (*Hippotragus niger niger*) occurs in Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique all the way into South Africa; some have been observed in the Caprivi (Namibia). In East Africa, starting at the Shimba Hill Game Reserve close to Mombasa in Kenya down the coast of Tanzania and into northern Mozambique, we find the Roosevelt's Sable sub species (*Hippotragus niger roosevelti*), named after Theodore Roosevelt's son Kermit, who accompanied the former US president on his epic safari to Africa in 1909. The Roosevelts also bagged sable antelopes during their safari and scientists in the United States later classified the hitherto unknown sable sub species from the Roosevelt trophies. This was quite an achievement, since there are only slight morphological differences like the horn length. A horn length of a fully mature Roosevelt Sable bull rarely exceeds 38 inch. Nevertheless, some sable hunted in the Selous GR brought in excess of 43 inch. An exact genetic classification would have been interesting in these cases. Some people maintain that Roosevelt Sable are smaller in body and bulls do not have the jet black color, but rather a more brownish tone. I cannot confirm these observations, and I have seen many of these animals. The core concentration of Roosevelt Sable occurs within the Selous GR and along its eastern and southern buffer zones. The western border of its range has not been determined exactly yet, but I assume that it should cross the Kilombero valley.

SCI classifies trophies from the Selous GR for some years correctly as *roosevelti*, and not as *kirkii* as in the past. I presented the scientific basis for this re-classification – also with a view to increase the economic value of these antelopes. Until now, SCI has not yet reached a decision to also accept the sable antelope of the Selous buffer zones as *roosevelti*. This concerns mainly the very large populations between the Selous GR and the Rovuma River. The Australian professor Colin Graves considers these populations and those in the bordering areas of Malawi and Eastern Zambia as another subspecies yet, *Hippotragus niger anselli*.

The Royal or Giant Sable (*Hippotragus niger variani*) of Angola is the fifth and last recognized sub species.

These taxonomic subdivisions are based on exterior and anatomic differences, which are subject to habitat influences; they do not always permit a clear differentiation between populations. Today, scientists have the modern and exact DNA methodologies as tools to determine genetic variations and to examine the validity of traditional sub species. In the case of the sable antelope, a team of scientists from Copenhagen, Stellenbosch and Berlin – supported by many hunters – collected genetic material throughout the entire sable range. They used the results to create a genetic map for this antelope. The map shows surprisingly large differences between three geographical groups, which coincide to a large extent with the sub species *kirkii*, *niger* and *roosevelti*. Although the visible differences between these three groups are relatively small, the genetic difference goes up to 18%. This is the greatest difference found so far within one mammal genus. Just to put this statement into perspective: The genetic difference

between two humans is measured in promille and the genetic difference between humans and chimpanzee has been calculated at 1.23%!

The classical sub species *variani* and *anselli* have been white spots on our genetic maps so far – now to be filled in!

As hunters we should look forward to the final completion of the genetic sable map – we will then have an excellent basis to support the conservation measures of the local authorities and the initiate scientifically based programs to maintain the genetic diversity of the species. This will then hopefully also prevent the uncontrolled genetic mixing of sub species on certain South African game ranches.

Source: Prof. C. Pitra pitra@izw-berlin.de Institut für Zoo- und Wildtierforschung, Berlin

11 Tshwane University Dept. of Nature Conservation

By Gerhard R Damm

In an interview published in **Endangered Wildlife** Number 53/2005, John Ledger talks to Attie Botha of the Tshwane University Department of Nature Conservation. Ledger also asked Botha whether he gets funding from the safari industry. Here are extracts from Botha's statements:

[Tshwane University] has an ongoing agreement with Shikar Safari Club, and this year their scholarships are worth US\$30,000. SCI has supported the project from the beginning [and] has funded two Master's Projects. [There] are also private individuals that have become involved as benefactors and donors. One of the Cameroon students, Armand Arthur Biko'o, sponsored by Shikar Safari Club, stated to John Ledger that he and a fellow student want to develop a community NGO in Cameroon to manage natural resources, including safari hunting, for the communities' benefit.

Botha also mentions that the main focus of the institute's research is on best management practices in the wildlife industry (Management of Large Carnivores, Translocation of Megafauna, Biodiversity Conservation, Decision Support for the Game Industry, Monitoring Faunal Components, and Vegetation Dynamics). The institute has two professional hunters on staff.

Not mentioned in the EW article is the significant input by faculty member Ann Cheater who developed a method to analyze the age of large predators by measuring second premolar P² to determine the extent of pulp-cavity growth. Cheater's method was validated by lion scientist Craig Packer of the University of Minnesota (see also Article on page 3).

I also want to refer the reader to an article in African Indaba Volume 3/5 about Dr Paul Funston's "Lion Demography and Abundance" project. Dr Funston's project was almost entirely funded by Conservation Force in 2005 with R78,000.

So – what's the answer to Dr. Ledger's question about funding from the hunting community for Tshwane University?

12 The Eternal Discussion: Tipping on Safari

By Gerhard R Damm

Walt Prothero's article "*The Tipping Dilemma*" in the Summer 2005 issue of Wild Sheep (Quarterly publication of the [Foundation for North American Wild Sheep – FNAWS](#)) prompted me to write this article. I am aware that I am treading on dangerous ground – but many hunting trips around the globe during the past thirty years give me some perspective, albeit a personal one influenced by my own experience. However, the fact that the tipping question comes up at many hunting forums on the internet with regularity, and the fact that [The Hunting Report](#) felt it was important enough to conduct two surveys (1997 and 2004 – contact The Hunting Report at mail@huntingreport.com or go to their website www.huntingreport.com) prove that the "Tipping Question" moves many a hunters' heart and mind – I am certainly not the exception.

Is a tip justified? What amount? A percentage of the hunt cost? How to distribute amongst those who helped on the scene or behind the scene on the hunt? These are difficult questions and depending on the answers, the outcome can be everything from a congenial, friendly farewell to a downright display of sour faces after a hunt is concluded.

I have always more than only an uneasy feeling when the final day of a hunt approaches – because the very last day will invariably be the day of reckoning, and instead of enjoying my hunting days to the fullest and to the very last moment, thoughts often wander away pondering the eternal and difficult question of how much money to spent in addition to a usually very expensive hunt. And then there is the other dilemma – guides and professional hunters tend to become friends in the course of a hunt. This is quite normal when one shares most of the waking moments during a fortnight or more, and especially when the going got tough irrespective of the outcome. To tip a friend – well I don't know! It just doesn't seem appropriate and it devalues the common personal experience to a commercial transaction.

This commercial transaction is usually done before going hunting – I pay the agreed deposit months, or years ahead and the balance before going into the field. What remains to be paid are trophy fees after the conclusion of the hunt (... not always – since some hunts – especially the costly sheep hunts require full payment in advance of everything including trophy fee).

One should assume that businessmen – and I suggest that today all hunting outfitters/operators are astute ones – calculate the cost of a hunt and build in reasonable and justified profit margins. Therefore my first conclusion is: tipping an outfitter/operator who owns the hunting business is akin to tipping your doctor, lawyer, garage owner, auditor, building contractor, etc!

The outfitter's costing should also include reasonable wages and salaries for the staff of the outfit. The entire staff contributes to the success of a hunt or safari – those in the offices who do all the paperwork behind the scenes, the meet and greet service at the airport, the drivers, skimmers, trackers, cooks, tent attendants, camp helpers, and last not least the professional hunter and the

nowadays common camp manager. I suggest that their just, adequate and commensurate compensation is the responsibility of the hunting outfitter and safari operator. They know (or should know) the individual capabilities and personal dedication/professionalism. Their wages should reflect their professionalism, experience and their dedication to the job. This is especially important for the local staff - their wages should be well above the respective national average, considering that hunting safaris are usually priced at the very high end of the tourist market and that their contribution largely determines the success or failure of a hunt. I suggest that the daily rates of a hunting safari – which are in most cases well above those charged by the most luxurious photographic safari lodges – give the outfitter/operator ample opportunity to pay such wages/salaries. I consider that statements such as "*the staff (or individuals of the staff) depends on tips to make ends meet*" or "*the staff needs to earn during the hunting season enough to last out the year*" are no reasons for a hunter to tip. The responsibility for a living wage/salary lies squarely with the outfitter/operator. And the visiting hunter can and should expect that the staff including the PH will perform at their level best during the safari – that's what he contracted and paid for!

The outfitter/operator should definitely avoid to raise expectations by telling staff that they will "earn" a certain percentage over an above their wages with tips from hunters. African old-timers like Glen Cottar and Tony Dyer made this abundantly clear to their staff – including the professional hunters – *do not expect tips!*

Just like the old timers, outfitters/operators should select and train the staff well, pay fair and square wages/salaries and expect truly professional service of everybody in the camp. The outfitters/operators are no different in this respect to any other entrepreneur who employs people to run a business.

I have the impression that many outfitters of the 21st century Africa unduly raise staff expectations with regards to tips (especially when discussing salaries – "*you will earn soandsomuch in tips!*" – and thus are part of the problem. And the problem is basically that of a backhanded bribe at worst or moral blackmailing the visiting hunter at best!

A typical African safari camp consists of between 20 and 30 people – a few less in South African and Namibian ranch hunts – and if camps are changed during the hunt, we quickly approach or exceed 50 people who might expect tips! It has clearly gone out of hand! Finally there is the question of who is responsible for the success of the hunt (measured in this context in the trophies obtained): The driver, who maintains the hunting vehicle in good shape so that you are able to leave early in the morning for a days hunt? The sharp eyesight of the assistant tracker, who spots the game? The phenomenal skills of the trackers who follow and interpret spoor, with few professional hunters being able to compete? The dexterity and professionalism of the skimmers who preserve the trophy for years to come? The professional hunter who skillfully brings the hunter into shooting position and judging potential trophy animals? The anonymous office worker who arranges the dipping, packing and shipping of the trophies? Or is it the outfitter/operator, who obtained prime concessions and assembled an excellent staff complement through business acumen

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12 The Eternal Discussion: Tipping on Safari

and hunting savvy? Then there are those whose responsibilities concern the hunter’s personal comfort: the kitchen staff whipping out delicious meals; the camp attendants having a hot shower ready after a dusty day in the field; the camp manager who has to oversee a million things every day and who has to entertain the hunter and company together with the professional hunter every evening around the camp fire.

Looking at the previous paragraph one quickly realizes that there cannot be a just solution to the tipping question. I also suspect certain racial inequalities having crept into the common tipping procedure, at least the Hunting Report study (2004) points towards that direction. The tips for the professional hunters ranged from \$100 to \$8500 with a median of \$1325 for a full bag traditional safari to \$50 to \$2000 with a median of \$550 for a plains game safari, whereas the tips for other camp staff ranged from \$20 to \$3000 and a median of \$400, respectively from \$20 to \$2000 with a median of \$187. These figures are based on approx 260 (full bag safari) and 300 (plains game safari) respondents in 2004 (see table below).

The results must not be interpreted as being representative; however they certainly shed some light on hunter tipping behavior and give food for thought for a discussion.

Evaluating the written comments of respondents and the contributions on internet forums one fact quickly becomes obvious: most hunters confirm that they tip; they also state that they do so under pressure (from peers, agents, outfitters and/or staff) or simply because a “tip is expected”. A common thread in their comments is that they clearly would rather not be part of the tipping scheme as it exists today.

Very few hunters tip extraordinarily high. I consider tipping percentage (from the total hunt price) of between 30 and 44% an extravagant folly or a hidden bribe of some sort. Those who tip extraordinarily low with a tipping percentage between 0.3 and

0.8% are also few and I suspect that these tips are sometimes regarded more as an insult.

There have been a number of different suggestions: from no tipping at all towards adding a percentage (range between 5% and 15%) on either the daily rate or on the total hunt cost. The later obviously would alleviate the operator/outfitter from some of his responsibilities, since it would place the onus of paying a substantial part of the staff salaries on top of the hunting bill. This solution must therefore discarded entirely, since I believe – as stated earlier in this article – that salaries and wages should form part of the cost calculation of the entrepreneur.

Tips – if any – after a safari should be spontaneous and for a service and performance well above average and beyond the call of duty. It is a personal gesture of the hunter towards a particular person or an identifiable group of persons who performed at levels well beyond the expected and usual!

A tip is NOT a routine procedure and neither professional hunters nor camp staff should openly or subtly solicit the client pay for perceived or real shortfalls in a just salary or wage (they should rather negotiate with their employer). Tips are NOT part of remuneration packages.

Tips are also definitively NOT to be measured as a percentage of the hunt cost as some agents and outfitter/operators suggest either directly when asked about tipping by visiting hunters or indirectly when saying “tips and gratuities not included”.

A tip or the promise of a tip at the end of the safari are NOT “bribes” to make sure that the trophies arrive at the final destination, that a hunter is taken to a particular trophy or gets away with illegal or unethical actions.

It’s about time that lessons from old-timers like Tony Dyer and Glen Cottar are internalized – especially by their successors as outfitters and safari operators!



	10 day Plain Game Safari	% of Cost	14 Day Full Bag Safari	% of Cost	14 Day Elephant Safari	% of Cost
Total Safari Cost	\$9,000	100.0%	\$38,000	100.0%	\$27,000	100.0%
PH Lowest Tip	\$50	0.6%	\$100	0.3%	\$100	0.4%
PH Highest Tip	\$2,000	22.2%	\$8,500	22.4%	\$6,500	24.1%
PH Average Tip	\$580	6.4%	\$1,481	3.9%	\$1,256	4.7%
PH Median Tip	\$550	6.1%	\$1,325	3.5%	\$1,225	4.5%
Staff Lowest Tip	\$20	0.2%	\$20	0.1%	\$20	0.1%
Staff Highest Tip	\$2,000	22.2%	\$3,000	7.9%	\$3,000	11.1%
Staff Average Tip	\$241	2.7%	\$587	1.5%	\$450	1.7%
Staff Median Tip	\$187	2.1%	\$400	1.1%	\$489	1.8%
Total Lowest (PH & Staff)	\$70	0.8%	\$120	0.3%	\$120	0.4%
Total Highest (PH & Staff)	\$4,000	44.4%	\$11,500	30.3%	\$10,500	38.9%
Total Average (PH + Staff)	\$821	9.1%	\$2,068	5.4%	\$1,706	6.3%
Total Median (PH & Staff)	\$737	8.2%	\$1,725	4.5%	\$1,714	6.3%

Data Source: The Hunting Report (2004)

13 Valli Moosa in Oxford

Extracts from a Speech (edited by Gerhard Damm)

"Different Times Demand Different Answers" – this was the title of a Trapnell Lecture at Oxford University on October 12th by Valli Moosa, former South African Environment and Tourism Minister, and now President of The World Conservation Union (IUCN). Moosa borrowed the title from the writings of South Africa's Es'kia Mphahlele, *"Indeed different times will always demand, and bring, different answers: a chastening lesson to those who continually strive to live outside of history, heedless of the human drama."*

Moosa spoke about the African perspective on development and the role of the environment and some of his remarks deserve to be shared with the readers of African Indaba.

Moosa criticized "benevolent" outsider interference and doubts towards the independence of Africans and their capability to find their own solutions and he is concerned that this interference that often passed-off as a good thing for Africans.

"I do believe that the animal rights groups have a right to their view. But, what concerns me is that it is often pronounced, and advocated in a manner that does not build on an understanding of circumstances in Africa. It is often seen as 'imperial' by Africans. In this loud noise, African voices are muted: there is no discussion to be had on the matter; except to accept that this position is non-negotiable," Moosa said.

The IUCN President singled out the *ad nauseam* discussed elephant culling question and stated "if Africans were needing to cull elephants, as a case in point, in a national park where their numbers are so large that they are destroying the ecological balance, we must be able to be in a position to do so – provided there are proper scientific studies, relevant stakeholders are consulted, and where the purposes is purely to achieve a management objective rather than any other interest."

Moosa also stated that the old static paradigm of conservation and idea of protected areas from which humans are excluded is alien to African culture, but often international pressure and the pouring of aid and philanthropy "persuade" sovereign African States. He questions whether it makes sense for a country like Tanzania or Malawi to have 30-40% of their land under protection, in total exclusion of any human use.

14 APHA Letter to African Geographic's Peter Borchert

Editor's Note: Adam Hill, Executive Secretary of the African Professional Hunters' Association (APHA) wrote to Peter Borchert, Editor of [Africa Geographic](#), regarding a viewpoint in the June edition of the magazine. Here is the full text as submitted and printed in African Geographic. Mr Hill mentioned in his email to African Indaba that he should have added to the comments below the fact that a major factor in the return of game to SA. is the legislation that recognizes that the game on private land be-

longs to the land owner and not the law that pertains in Tanzania and Kenya to the effect that all game is the property of the government

In your June "Viewpoint" Mr. Martin Strauss in Saudi Arabia asks that the hunting fraternity should express their stance on canned "hunting". Our Association's claim to represent a vital part of the "hunting fraternity" is briefly summarized below.

The African Professional Hunters Association (APHA) is an exclusive and elite association of only the most experienced and principled Professional Hunters who regularly guide big game hunting clients in pursuit of the six species of dangerous game animals. Members are drawn from every country in Africa wherever Big Game Hunting is permitted. The emphasis of membership is that all hunting is conducted only in accordance with a strict code of hunting ethics. The A.P.H.A. represents the top Professionals' views of the "hunting fraternity" therefore we are qualified to express our view of "canned hunting" which is as follows:

The African Professional Hunters Association states categorically that the despicable concept and practice of "canned hunting" is completely unacceptable and totally condemned by this Association. We do not have the power and influence of SCI, however, we will certainly bring all possible pressure to bear on the relevant authorities to refuse hunting licenses and professional hunters associations to exclude from their membership any person who is involved in "canned hunting". The procedure should more correctly be termed "canned slaughter". The only form of Big Game Hunting that is acceptable is that of "Fair Chase" undertaken in strict conformity with a set code of ethics. The ethics must be agreed between the Professional Hunter and the client prior to the start of the hunt. Not only must big game hunting be conducted in conformity with a code of hunting ethics but the conservation of wildlife and its habitat must be of prime importance.

In your June edition Mr. Strauss mentions how the money earned from Fair Chase hunting contributes significantly to conservation. In his reply Mr. Borchert states that there are land owners who set fine examples of conservation. These two factors surely are the cause of one of the most remarkable occurrences in conservation that have happened over the past 30 years which it would seem that you have not mentioned. This occurrence is the restoration of thriving wildlife populations to large areas of South Africa, areas in which I understand many species were extinct and others occurred only in small numbers.

Whatever, ones' opinions on the rights and wrongs of Fair Chase hunting, if the activity has re-established wildlife in areas where for many years it was practically extinct then Fair Chase Big Game Hunting is totally justified. The question must be posed as to whether the wildlife would have been restored to its natural habitat if it were not for the substantial economic returns earned from hunting? I would suggest that without hunting the land would have continued to be used for marginal and ecologically destructive livestock farming. The amazing revolution in South African wildlife conservation has been achieved by the use of the land for big game hunting. In sad contrast to South Africa is the situation in

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14 APHA Letter to Africa Geographic

Kenya where hunting is banned. There the wildlife has been decimated, except in the National Parks and on a few large ranches. Because of the hunting ban the animals have a minimal commercial value and that is only realized through the illegal bush meat trade. There are no Professional Hunters with a vested interest in careful conservation of Africa's most valuable asset. There can be little doubt that Africa's precious wildlife is best conserved by careful husbandry through fair chase big game hunting.

15 First African Lion Workshops Are Successful

By John J Jackson III, Conservation Force

The lion workshops for West and Central Africa held in Douala, Cameroon in October were a great success. The meetings advanced lion conservation in both regions and recognized hunting as an important tool for the long-term survival of lion. The Participants formulated the Vision "A West and Central Africa which sustainably manage their biodiversity" and the Goal: "To ensure the conservation and sustainable management of the lion in West and Central Africa."

Both 3-day workshops were organized by the [World Conservation Union \(IUCN\)](#), the [Species Survival Commission](#) and its [Cat Specialist Group](#), as well as the [Wildlife Conservation Society](#) and [Africa Resources Trust](#). The first was a technical workshop financed by WCS to create an agreed upon database of the number and range of lion in West and Central Africa. A second objective was to identify and prioritize lion conservation units in the two regions. The workshop developed an updated distribution map for lions in the region, modeled on similar exercises for the tiger, jaguar, and other species. The objectives were achieved with the caveat that new field data that had recently been collected by Philippe Chardonnet through a "bush book" reporting system will be added. Philippe has created a field network that is recording and reporting lion observations in "Carnet De Brousse" note books. Its focus is outside of parks as no systematic attempt has been made by other researchers beyond the borders of protected areas. Chardonnet's contribution supplies important, complementary data. The technical workshop was funded by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), represented by Luke Hunter and a team of WCS technical specialists. It was attended by a total of 27 individuals.

The second workshop focused on identifying conservation problems and to develop conservation strategies to deal with the threats to West and Central Africa lion. It was attended by directors of wildlife departments, stakeholders and decision makers. 41 individuals from 21 countries participated.

The single largest financial contribution to this workshop came from the [Safari Club International Foundation, SCIF](#). This fact and the positive demeanor of SCIF's two representatives, Bob Byrne and George Pangeti, reflected very well on the hunting

community and its conservation concerns (read the [Final Statement](#) drafted by the workshop participants).

The three primary causes of the decline in lion were thought to be (1) habitat reduction/degradation, (2) reduction in prey populations, and (3) the human-lion conflict. Hunting can be a conservation tool to help solve all three. The action plans to contend with these threats are still being formulated over the internet and should be finalized before the East & South Africa workshops scheduled for early January 2006 in Johannesburg.

By general agreement the regional workshops should be followed by national workshops in each lion range state to develop individual national action plans. A similar protocol was first established for the African elephant. It is very ambitious and will be expensive. If the hunting community is to maintain its role and leadership, it will have to continue funding the processes. The fate of the lion rests on it. On the positive side, this is an uncommon opportunity to join hands and save what is so very important to us. One could only wish that we had taken this kind of proactive approach before the listing of markhor, argali, elephant and rhino.

Philippe Chardonnet who did the all important African lion study for [Conservation Force](#) and the [International Game Foundation IGF](#), was an important expert in both workshops and provided invaluable contributions. He co-authored the two substantive background papers that were used to kick-off both workshops. He was clearly the most knowledgeable about lion population and range in the technical expert workshop and the most informed about the problems and solutions in the conservation strategy workshop that followed. Conservation Force's lion study proved to be the most comprehensive and authoritatively referenced resource.

At times it seemed that we had already done all the work and the workshop was used by everyone else to catch up. Our years of work have paid off big time. Our lead was quite obvious. Those that have supported our efforts need to know and share this uncommon, total success.

The workshops were organized in response to the growing concern that number and range of African lion are declining. The [African Lion Working Group, ALWG](#), which is an affiliate of the IUCN Cat Specialist Group, Conservation Force and IGF were the first to raise concern for the African lion in 2 studies completed in 2002. It grew more serious when the media exaggerated the ALWG "partial" population estimate amidst claims that the lion was endangered. ALWG was already planning a technical meeting to develop a more comprehensive database and Conservation Force also planned an Africa Lion workshop with over 100 participants to develop a conservation strategy to deal with the "driving forces" described in the [Chardonnet Lion Study](#) (you can download the entire study by going to the [IGF Website](#) and clicking on the Chardonnet Study)

The Kenya proposal of CITES COP13 caused a reaction that has temporarily shuffled the roles of some interests but the outcome should still be the same. The workshops are covering the same ground the original workshops were designed to cover.

Potentially, the lion may become one of the best-managed species in the world

15 Silent Spring

By Eddie Cross, Bulawayo

This is a harsh time of the year in southern Africa. We have had 7 months of dry weather and the hot season is upon us with temperatures in the 30's and sometimes low 40's. It is also absolutely dry - rivers have stopped flowing and pools are drying out, the grazing is almost exhausted and the colors of the open veld are stark and vivid. The yellow/white of the remaining grass, the early green flush of the figs and the pod mahogany, the startling pastel colors of the mountain acacia and Msasa.

But it is always a time of great expectation. All of creation knows that soon the storm clouds will arrive and with them the first rains and that unmistakable scent of the wet African earth. The birds know it and are nesting, the migrants have arrived from their European and Central African winter sojourns and the swallows are back.

Normally the countryside is alive with activity - tractors crawling across the dry lands with clouds of red and gray dust billowing up behind, oxen straining their harness in front of steel ploughs and harrows. In many parts, man is speeding up the whole process with his usual impatience and the irrigation lines are out and the sprays fly into the wind and bring fourth the first early seedlings. The flowering shrubs throw off the burden of winter and burst out in their new costumes of purple and red, white and yellow, defying the realities of the winter world they have just been through.

In the days of the civil war in Zimbabwe, I always took comfort in the subtle shift in human activity that took place in the spring. Somehow if we went out and ploughed our lands and brought in all that we would need for the summer rains, seed, fertilizer, herbicides, insect sprays, fuel and oil, we knew that we had committed ourselves to another season, another year. This year it is quite different, this year the spring is silent, almost eerily so.

The farms are abandoned, homesteads which once rang with the games of children home from school at the weekend, are derelict and occupied in many cases by miserable squatters. Some are occupied by families whose real lives are in the cities nearby and they come out at the weekend to uneasily sit where they do not belong and enjoy the use of things that are actually the property of others. They ride guiltily through the weed-encrusted fields and past the broken down sheds and cattle kraals. The spirits of those who are buried there and whose lives are bound up in the springs of the past make for uneasy companions.

But it is not only on the farms that this spring has died before it began - in the peasant farming districts, the specter of another hungry season is upon the communities that live there. The majority of the young people - especially the men folk, have left for Egoli or Gaborone, London and New York. Those that are left have nothing to live on except from what comes in from the outside. Perhaps strutting, threatening Party men in trucks and Mercedes cars. Perhaps World Vision or Save the Children. Perhaps the World Food programme or the USAID. Sometimes help comes in the form of a letter with some greasy pounds inside or a mysteri-

ous deposit in a Post Office account of which they were alerted by a phone call or a message from the local store.

But they are exhausted before they even begin. Their cattle are thin, the grazing and water sparse. Seed and other essential inputs are either not available or are too expensive and there are now so many demands on their limited resources that they have to spend their money wisely, dollar by dollar. The other problem is that each family has new burdens - the children of other families left behind when both parents died or left the country. Sick relatives from the urban areas told by the last hospital or doctor they saw to "go home" - better to die there where your relatives do not have to rent a truck to carry your body home. Many of the actual breadwinners are in fact sick with many ailments - tuberculosis, pneumonia, malaria and various forms of carcinoma. All made more deadly by HIV and Aids.

We know what this failure to prepare for the summer means - it means there is no commitment to this season, to next year. Our streets are unusually quiet, people do not have the fuel to use their cars and transport is just prohibitively expensive. Factories are closing their doors and sending their staff home without pay, customers walk through the stores looking at the prices and wondering just what they can afford to buy. The sight of people leaving empty handed or with tiny parcels of essential foods is heartbreaking - you want to step in and take over and allow them to use your debit card to fill their baskets.

This is a nation that is dying on its feet, exhausted after a long trek through a winter of hardship and struggle. A nation that cannot smell the scent of early rains and now thinks that even if it does rain, it is simply too late. The Bible says that a nation without vision dies. We have no vision of the future, just of survival like shipwrecked passengers hanging onto flotsam in the open sea.

Watching Mugabe rant and rave at the FAO Conference in Rome brought into my mind an image of the passengers in the sea watching as the Captain of this ship, who was criminally responsible for its capsizing, sails past in a life boat. The image extends to Mugabe making a speech to the sailors in the boat with him. While this is going on a pleasure cruiser sails past us both - the passengers in the water and Mugabe in his lifeboat and this cruiser called the UN Fair and Ample Oligarchy is jammed with overweight slugs that clap and cheer the silly old man in his Captain's uniform.

As this circus of clown and congregation sails out of sight, we the poor passengers are left with nothing but the sea and endless waves and the sharks. Our only hope is to either drift ashore or be rescued by another vessel. This is our silent spring, but tonight there is a beautiful full moon and one of my succulents has given birth to a spectacular single flower that will bloom overnight and be dead in the morning.

The one thing we cannot afford at this time is a fight for a better place in the water. Rather we should be caring for each other and helping each other to believe that there is a future and that when we finally get back to sanity, we will be able to live again. I am reminded of a shepherd who wrote, "even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, His rod and His staff will guide". Perhaps next spring will be better.

16 The Chinese Tiger Project: An International Effort to Save an Endangered Subspecies

By Petri Viljoen

Until the end of the 1800's there were eight tiger subspecies, which probably numbered well over a 100,000, ranging from eastern Turkey and modern-day Uzbekistan in the west to Russia's Siberia Region in the north-east, and south to beyond the equator to Java and Bali. This distribution included all or most of the countries such as India, Thailand and Vietnam and south-eastern China. The dramatic decline of tiger numbers combined with a rapidly shrinking tiger range since the early part of the 1900's is generally well known. During this period the Bali, Javan and Caspian subspecies became extinct. It is estimated that between 5,000 and 7,000 tigers remain in the wild today with the Indian or Bengal tiger, totaling about 3,000 to 4,500 animals, as the most numerous. The Chinese tiger (*Panthera tigris amoyensis*), also known as the South China tiger, is the most endangered of the remaining five living tiger subspecies. There are probably no more than about 20 individuals still in the wild while the captive population, all in Chinese zoos, number about 60-70. The Chinese tiger is therefore considered to be critically endangered.

The Chinese tiger is smaller than most of the other tiger subspecies. The stripes tend to be somewhat shorter, broader and spaced further apart than those of the other subspecies, particularly when compared to the Bengal or Siberian tigers. There are also distinct morphological differences between the skulls of the various subspecies. The Chinese tiger in particular has distinctive skull characteristics and it has been suggested that the Chinese tiger could, in fact, be the ancestral tiger.

Save China's Tigers (SCT), a UK, US and Hong Kong based charitable foundation, was established in 2000 by Beijing-born Ms Li Quan. SCT's specific mission is to save the Chinese tiger from extinction. To achieve this objective SCT aims to raise the awareness of conservation issues facing the Chinese tiger through public educational strategies and to assist with the development of conservation models in China. Furthermore, SCT also aims to act as a liaison structure for organizations concerned with the conservation of China's wildlife. The raising of sufficient funds to support these aims is also one of SCT's undertakings.

The Chinese Tiger Project is also a collaborative project between the Wildlife Research & Development Centre of the State Forestry Administration (SFA) of China, SCT and the charity's operational arm, the Chinese Tigers South African Trust (CTSAT).

A framework agreement, facilitated by SCT, was signed in November 2002 between the Wildlife Research & Development Centre of China and CTSAT. This agreement of co-operation concerns the breeding and re-introduction of Chinese tigers back into the wild as part of the establishment of new pilot nature reserves. Furthermore, the agreement also aims to familiarize Chinese officials with wildlife and game reserve management practices in South Africa. The experience and knowledge gained

would be of great importance for the eventual management of the new nature reserves in China.

The establishment of the new pilot nature reserves in China will also involve South African wildlife management expertise. A variety of indigenous Asian wildlife will be re-introduced together with Chinese tigers. Naturally, several of these species would also serve as prey of the tigers. The Chinese tiger will play an important role as a flagship species during this process and has already contributed to a general awareness of conservation issues in China.

The first two pilot reserves to be developed in China have already been selected from an initial seven possible areas in four of China's south-eastern provinces. The development of these two reserves, in Hunan and Jiangxi provinces, will not only involve the re-introduction of a variety of wildlife species, but also habitat restoration of old or abandoned farmlands.

Currently the only source for Chinese tigers is from Chinese zoos as none of the few remaining wild tigers in south-east China has even been seen in recent years. A very important component of the Chinese Tiger Project is thus the rehabilitation of captive-born Chinese tigers for the eventual release into the pilot nature reserves. These tigers will be non-siblings.

This tiger rehabilitation involves a well-planned strategy to allow young tigers originating from Chinese zoos to learn the necessary hunting skills so that they, and their offspring, would eventually be able to hunt successfully once released into the Chinese pilot reserves. It was decided to undertake the first rehabilitation phases of captive-born Chinese tigers in South Africa. South Africa was chosen primarily as a result of the available wildlife management expertise and the relatively immediate availability of a suitable area where the Chinese Tiger Rehabilitation Programme could be initiated while suitable areas could be identified and developed in China. The rehabilitation program, situated on the Laohu Valley Reserve in the south-western Free State Province, is confined to a set of tiger-proof camps of various sizes. The aim is to return the first rehabilitated Chinese tigers to the pilot reserves in China during 2008. This will coincide with Olympic Games in Beijing.

Any wildlife rehabilitation program demands a tremendous effort and a well-planned strategy. Rehabilitating captive-born Chinese tigers is even more challenging because of the extremely limited number of living Chinese tigers available for such an undertaking. This tiger rehabilitation strategy also differs from others in the sense that the emphasis will be on the eventual free-release of only tigers reared by rehabilitated mothers.

The first Chinese tiger pair was brought to South Africa in September 2003. They were named Cathay and Hope, a female and male respectively. Another two Chinese tiger cubs were relocated from a Chinese Zoo to Laohu Valley Reserve at the end of October 2004. A popular Internet naming exercise named the female Madonna and the male Tigerwoods. The first pair was about eight months old when they arrived in South Africa and the most recent two about six months old. The two tiger pairs each differ in age with about one month. (**Writer's Note:** Hope died in August 2005. The autopsy revealed that the primary cause of

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16 The Chinese Tiger Project

death was heart failure. Samples obtained at the post-mortem were submitted to two independent laboratories in South Africa. The results from both laboratories showed that the underlying causes of Hope's death were neither bacterial nor viral. The laboratories concluded that the tiger was suffering from immuno suppression, supported by the presence of relatively common, widespread opportunistic bacteria that are normally only found replicating in animals that are immune-compromised. In many respects there are no clear answers from the laboratory results as to the actual causes of the immuno-suppression, but indications are that genetics possibly played a major role. The autopsy also revealed that Hope had a smaller than normal heart. This was probably an additional contributing factor which affected his general fitness.-
Editor's Note: Dieter Ochsenbein of Highveld Taxidermists will make a full mount of Hope as a donation to the Chinese Tiger Fund; African Indaba will report in our photo gallery about the progress)

It has become very important, and most urgent, to identify and develop potential, appropriate and sustainable protected areas for tiger conservation to ensure the survival of the subspecies. Naturally it is essential that such areas should be large enough to meet the tigers' biological requirements. Ideally the aim should be to ensure that some of these protected areas are as far as possible linked to allow dispersal. This is indeed the aim of CTSAT and SFA ultimately to develop such corridors to link some of the tiger reserves. It is hoped that a reserve network spanning up to about 5,000 sq km will eventually be established. A high-level Chinese government delegation visited the Chinese Tiger rehabilitation project and certain game reserves in South Africa during October 2005. The seven-person delegation will include the Mr Duan Yongsheng, Division Chief in the General Office of the State Council, Mr Wang Zhenbjiang, Director General, Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council and Mr Guo Quanshui, Vice Director, Institute of Forestry Ecology and Conservation, Chinese Academy of Forestry.

If you want to know more about the Save the Chinese Tiger Fund, please contact kate.reynolds@mailbox.co.uk (Kate Reynolds). Webpage <http://www.savechinastigers.org/>

17 Avian Malaria in African Penguins

By Engela Duvenage - Media: Science Faculty, Stellenbosch University (edited for space)

A significant number of African penguin deaths especially during summer because of infection by avian malaria are problematic at South African rehabilitation centers. Malaria infections are now investigated. Prof Tom McCutchan, a world leader in malaria research visited Stellenbosch University to assist in the investiga-

tion. The new study will use blood samples to establish the level and type of malaria infection in the general population. The outcome will be used to shed light on mortalities in African Penguins during their rehabilitation period and in their natural environment. The aim is to reduce the mortalities through mosquito control and the relocation of rehabilitation centers to mosquito free areas. It is believed that mortality because of bird malaria has a significant impact on the population dynamics and therefore the long-term survival of the endangered African penguin. The parasitic protozoa that are responsible for malaria in birds are different than those that cause malaria in man.

In their natural habitat penguins are exposed to at least two types of malaria but these do not seem to cause serious disease. Research over the past few years has shown that many birds brought in for rehabilitation especially during summer, appear to contract malaria, which leads to lethargy, anorexia and regurgitation as well as sudden death.

In a previous study, Prof McCutchan has shown that a species of malaria (*Plasmodium juxtancleare*) common to land birds is correlated to these mortalities. The deadly strain is thought to be found predominantly on the mainland, and differs genetically from two strains of avian malaria found in breeding colonies on offshore islands. Unless treated with costly anti-malarial drugs, infected birds are likely to die from the disease. When the rehabilitation process is complete, the birds return to their colonies where they potentially may also infect other penguins This places a financial burden on the rehabilitation centers as well as reducing the effectiveness of rehabilitation

The African Penguin is classified as Vulnerable to Extinction because its population decreased in a dramatic and sustained fashion during the 20th century, from well over 1.5 million adults in 1930 to just 160 000 in the 1990s.

The Chimpanzees of the Budongo Forest

By Vernon Reynolds and reviewed by Gerhard R Damm

Vernon Reynolds, Professor Emeritus of Biological Anthropology of Oxford University first began to study the Budongo Forest chimpanzees in Uganda in 1962. In this book he presents a detailed account of the work. The book is a coherent and in-depth account of one chimpanzee community of more than 60 individuals living in an entirely natural state and which have been studied intensively over the past 15 years. Reynolds describes the chimpanzees' forest habitat, their diet and social organization, their diseases and the threats to them. Richard Wrangham accolades the book as "a classic demonstration of how to combine research and conservation [as well as] an elegant introduction to the natural history of a species that still offers important biological puzzles.

"The Chimpanzees of the Budongo Forest – Ecology, Behaviour and Conservation" is published by Oxford University Press, New York, 2005, ISBN 0-19-851546-4