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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

Tanzania: Facts and Rumors

Is there an alternative to "Use it AND Lose it"?

By Gerhard R Damm

Africa Indaba supports - in line with major international Conventions - a conservation policy which combines conservation of natural resources, in particular wildlife, with sustainable use. In a simplification of a complex issue, this is packed into the phrase "Use it OR Lose it".

Tanzania followed this philosophy and fared quite well as compared to neighboring Kenya, which has banned hunting 30 years ago and which has lost 70 % of its wildlife during that time. In the past years, we heard frequent news about bad Governance in wildlife management and hunting in Tanzania with negative consequences for the conservation of wild areas and wildlife. Now the issue became the focus of public debate and controversy in Tanzania. Coupled with critical reports about increasing poaching and hunting areas, which are turned into photographic safari areas by the local communities, one could ask whether the country presently follows a policy leading to "Use it AND Lose it" rather than "Use it OR Lose it"!

Since African Indaba champions the "Use it OR Lose it" philosophy we provide readers with information about the recent development and with background material. We have collated news reports in the first part of this article and condensed the main findings of relevant papers on hunting and conservation in Tanzania in the second part. In the third part we are offering suggestions on how to achieve a win-win situation for the Tanzanian Government, the rural communities who live with wildlife, the hunting operators and the visiting hunters and last not least the wildlife of Tanzania.

Part 1: What happened in the past three months?

The Minister of Finance's remarks in her budget speech were a first indication: "it is proposed to review the rates for various fees and charges imposed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT) to bring them in line with current prices and protect our natural resources ... to generate Shillings 33,616 million in additional revenue" and "... the proposed measures shall become effective on 1st July 2007. The House Committee appealed to the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism to speed up the review of the national legislation on wildlife management and recommended that the revised legislation incorporate more effective structures and

mechanisms to check the misuse of wildlife resources saying "... that the government should set up a special agency to deal with all hunting-related activities. The move would allow the ministry's Wildlife Department more room to concentrate on policy and legal issues, including the management of protected areas, game reserves and national parks".

A letter from the MNRT Wildlife Division, dated 11th July, signed by F. Lyimo informed the global hunting world of the increase in government concession fees and license cost. The letter was accompanied by Government Notice No 159, dated and published on 29th June 2007, referring to the Wildlife Conservation Act (CAP 283) and stating that the Hunting Regulations 2005 in particular the Third Schedule has been revoked and substituted. This was accompanied by a list of Hunting Blocks (Category A with a minimum area of 800 km² and Category B with a minimum area of 100 km²) and the new concession Fees of US\$50,000 (A) respectively US\$40,000 (B) and a list with "Game Fees" for the huntable species and the fee

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For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

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Tanzania: Questions and Uncertainty, But There May Be A Solution

structure for rifle/shotgun hunting and bow hunting (the bow hunting fees being double the rifle/shotgun fees). The fee structure sheet is signed by the MNRT Minister Jumanne A Maghembe and dated 27th June 2007. Apparently this was sent to all hunting concession holders in Tanzania.

Some safari operators and in particular the Chairman of TAHOA, who were contacted by [The Hunting Report](#), immediately dismissed the claim that the new prices would come into effect for the 2007 season which began on July 1st. Other operators reportedly either cut down the hunting days for clients already on safari, or advised booked clients that the increase would have to be met. The Hunting Report informed readers on August 17th that one subscriber said that Zuka Safaris cut his 21-day safari to 11 days because of the new fees. Another subscriber stated that Game Frontiers had demanded payment of the new fees for a safari starting in early September. A refusal would mean forfeiture of all deposits. The Hunting Report qualified the news about Game Frontiers on August 23rd, saying that the company had confirmed that the new game fees will not be implemented this year and "*what appeared to be a disturbing development was simply a miscommunication between the agent, the client and the company*". In the same communiqué obviously serious shortcomings were reported about safaris of Usangu Safaris, and that hunters reportedly had been told that the concessions they booked are unavailable, unless they pay additional fees of \$15,000 to \$18,000.

Tanzanian media reported that the present director of wildlife, who is near retirement, seems to be under heavy pressure to allocate hunting blocks as political patronage. According to these sources there is a strong demand for hunting blocks by people outside the hunting industry. Allegedly these people are looking for a quick profit through sub-leasing. Back in the 90's sub-letting had led to a subdivision of hunting blocks and to unsustainable quota increases. In June the Tanzanian paper ThisDay mentioned that "*the real culprits have been left untouched*" after an earlier reshuffle in MNRT. The same paper wrote that some well-connected individuals have been monopolizing licenses for hunting blocks, which they covertly sublet to foreign hunting companies for exorbitant fees. Most of the criticism fell on the Wildlife Division for favoring a select group of hunting outfitters. The paper cited a research report into the local hunting industry, which claimed widespread corruption and a lack of proper controls by the Wildlife Division thus seriously depleting revenue and excluding communities.

Later in the month an explosive PowerPoint presentation surfaced in Dar Es Salaam and was widely distributed on the internet. The anonymous document purports to expose some of the corrupt practices in the hunting industry. Speculations ran wild about the author or authors; insiders, who seem to know the author(s), say that the source(s) are reputable and reliable. The same insiders say that many of the allegations are based on facts, although some are evidently made without presenting proof. Other reports spoke of a number of cancellations of hunting safaris and of "*Professional Hunters hanging around in Dar*". These sources linked the price increases to an effort of self

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CIC Delegation Southern Africa Reactivated

By Gerhard R Damm

Individual and Association Members from all over South Africa met at the Center for Wildlife Management at the University of Pretoria in August. This meeting was a follow-up to the discussions held during the 54th CIC General Assembly in May this year, where CIC members from all over Southern Africa had gathered in Belgrade/Serbia. The Belgrade meeting decided already to formalize the active work of CIC members resident in Southern Africa and to create an encompassing base for proactive hunting and conservation advocacy work within the SADC region. The objective is engaging the SADC governments and the SADC wildlife group together with the IUCN groups in the region, conservation organizations like WWF and the parastatal wildlife management and nature conservation authorities in a constant dialogue.

The discussions at the Center for Wildlife Management centered on creating the organizational frame work. In a next step, before the end of 2007, registered and potential CIC members from all over SADC will meet again to discuss objectives and strategies and to refine the organizational structure.

The **International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)** is a politically independent advisory body internationally active on a non-profit basis. With its renowned scientific capacity, the CIC assists governments and environmental organizations in maintaining natural resources by sustainable use. CIC is unique in its diversity: it unites Member States (mostly represented by the Ministry responsible for wildlife management and conservation), universities, organizations engaged in hunting, as well as individuals such as private members and scientific experts from 81 countries. CIC experts from all parts of the world address technical issues, undertake projects and develop recommendations within their areas of specialization. The administrative organs of the CIC consist of the General Assembly, the Council and the Executive Committee. The legal seat is located in Vienna and the Executive Office operates from Budapest.

The CIC is active assisting governments in wildlife policy and law development, cooperating with United Nation organizations such as UNEP, FAO etc. as well as IUCN and all prominent international environmental conventions with relevance to wildlife conservation and management. Under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the CIC enjoys the status of an Intergovernmental Organization (IGO).

If you are interested to learn more about the work of the CIC and in particular about the work in Southern Africa, or about membership in CIC please contact the chairman of the delegation, Mr. Gary van den Berg at gary@prismeb.co.za or check the CIC Website www.cic-wildlife.org

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Kenya: As Hunting Debate Rages, Focus Must Turn to Local People

By Ole Turana, Kenya

The debate on wildlife sport hunting, which has been characterized by hard positioning, especially from those who are passionately opposed, has ebbed off the public limelight. As the vitriol raged on, it came out clearly that we continue to view wildlife from a paternalistic and colonial mind set. Man remains the number one enemy and everything must be done to stop the annihilation of our precious wildlife.

Kenya Wildlife Service is the most prized asset as far as resource utilization is concerned. Besides financial resources, other resources channeled toward wildlife include human resources in the form of well trained rangers, huge space allocation in terms of the astronomical acreage put aside to allow the animals to roam, and machinery to aid in relocation and protection.

It's time we faced some hard questions: Is this massive resource usage commensurate with the returns from the animals? Can the communities that bear the brunt of the wildlife benefit directly and consequently participate in conservation? Conservationists hold that natural resources and environmental policies are premised on the assumption that markets are responsible for resource misallocation and environmental degradation. The failure is attributed to decision makers who do not take into account all costs and benefits hence distorting prices and output. The view is buttressed by the inherent fear on how we are running out of resources. The future is portrayed as one of want, and pestilence.

A replay of Malthusianism comes into one's mind. The failure by market mechanisms to reflect environmental costs has elicited the need to have policies to address this deficiency. Those calling for sport hunting have been portrayed as blood-thirsty and gun-toting adventurers out to destroy. However, statistics bear the naked truth; notwithstanding five decades of highly committed wildlife conservation, over 40 per cent of our wildlife has disappeared.

The dilemma of land use and its conflicts to meet both wildlife conservation and human needs has exasperated the minds of people for a long time. The implementation of the conservation policy presupposed the neighboring communities in Protected Areas (PAs) to be hostile and detrimental to the very existence of wildlife. The complex patterns of natural resource utilization practices, accumulated over a long period of time were inadequately understood or singled out for eradication. The fact that the indigenous pastoralists, their livestock and wildlife had evolved a system of mutual coexistence, optimal utilization of the environmental resources made nonsense to the conservationists. Policy measures adopted included blocking traditional access to watering points, denial to buffer grazing zones during dry seasons and

criminalization of control mechanisms such as burning.

It is estimated that over 70% of wildlife is found outside the PAs. Wildlife is a cost to communities on whose land they live. Basic economics tells us that a rational consumer would optimize the returns from a basket of goods. In order to eliminate the additional costs associated with wildlife, land holders have resorted to killing straying animals. This is a clear vindication of failure of commercialized wildlife. The resulting poverty has trapped people into short-term horizons with respect to wildlife resources and they are excluded from the market economy.

Wildlife conservation in Kenya has come full circle. It is widely acknowledged that despite massive efforts to protect and conserve it, the results aren't so rosy. Whereas, the efforts have largely been centered on use of coercive power to subject communities to accept to live with the wildlife, little has been done to motivate the communities to co-exist with wildlife on the basis of superior returns compared to other economic activities that exist. Such a short-term approach has not been as successful as envisaged earlier on.

A more pragmatic all inclusive approach is needed. Such an approach will ensure our precious wildlife remains and grows and at the same time the real custodian of this resource reaps full benefits commensurate with the real market cost of having the animals. It's time we engaged in consumptive wildlife utilization to its fullest. Consumptive utilization allows harnessing the power of market forces in determining the value of the resources. By creating efficiency through market instruments, the full opportunity cost is determined.

Southern African countries that engage in the practice have highly developed markets for live game species and wildlife products. Besides, it has a comparative advantage over other developing countries, Kenya included, in terms of diversity of wildlife species and large wildlife populations.

Common forms of wildlife consumptive utilization such as culling or cropping, live game sales, safari hunting and subsistence hunting for meat are a more sustainable means toward the same end. For example, in South Africa a single antelope such as a Kudu or Oryx to a trophy hunter is worth four cows. This has seen landowners convert their land from cattle rearing to wildlife keeping. After all, we have been consuming and trading in domestic animals since time immemorial and their population has never diminished.

This calls for a paradigm shift and an accommodative policy where a "conservation unit approach is adopted as opposed to conservation island approach".

Data for Pre-1977 ban shows land holders husbanded and encouraged wildlife hence their survival in significant numbers. Experience has shown that where communities participate fully in all conservation aspects, success is achievable and sustainable. This means top-down and centralized management by executive order is ineffective and the perception of conservation as a narrow sectoral technical issue, a subset of the environment management has failed.

What is required is a comprehensive integrated approach that appreciates the critical role of the inhabitants.

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African Elephant Status Report 2007

By Gerhard R Damm

This fourth African Elephant Status Report is based on the most comprehensive database on the conservation status of any single species of mammal in the wild and provides the most authoritative, comprehensive and up-to-date source of knowledge on the distribution and abundance of the African elephant at national, regional and continental level. The report contains data collected until end of 2006.

The majority of continent's elephant range (around 70%) is most likely outside protected areas the wildlife authorities are therefore challenged not only to manage elephant populations within protected areas in terms of viable elephant numbers but also in terms of human-elephant conflict in unprotected areas where human and agricultural expansion move into elephant range.

The report provides a history of the African Elephant Database and offers specific explanations about the various data types like elephant range, the methods of estimating elephant numbers, the survey data quality and reliability, information quality, etc. These data are used in categorizing elephant numbers on a national, regional and continental level into four distinct categories: Definite, Probable, Possible, and Speculative.

The report devotes some space to the often incorrect method of comparing different AESRs and mentions in particular the governments of Kenya and India of having used such incorrect comparison methods.

Region	Elephant Numbers			
	Definite	Probable	Possible	Specul.
Central Africa	10383	48936	43098	34129
West Africa	7487	735	1129	2939
Eastern Africa	137485	29043	35124	3543
Southern Africa	297718	23186	24734	9753
Total	472269	82704	84334	50364
Selected Country Totals				
Kenya	23353	1316	4946	2021
Tanzania	108816	27937	29350	900
Botswana	133829	20829	20829	0
Namibia	12531	3276	3296	0
South Africa	17847	0	638	22
Zambia	16562	5948	5908	813
Zimbabwe	84816	7033	7367	291

The report is organized into a continental overview, regional overviews (Central Africa, Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and West Africa) and national overviews within the regional subsections. The data sets are comprised of general statistics, a discussion of current issues (like poaching, political conflict, land use), range and population data and cross-border movements of elephant, maps and an interpretation of changes in estimates.

I highly recommend that the readers of African Indaba download and read the full report. For those with limited time, However, I have extracted the most relevant data below:

Elephant occur in 37 Range States in sub-Saharan Africa .Southern Africa accounts for 39% of the elephant range, followed by Central and Eastern Africa with 29% respectively 26%.; West Africa accounts for only 5%. It is noteworthy that the figures from Eastern and Southern Africa (which account for 88% of the continental definite and probable estimates) show an increase of 66,302 elephants (estimated annual increase of 4%).

Please observe that the totals in the shown statistics are derived by pooling variances, therefore totals do not necessarily match the simple sum (see AESR for details).

Human-elephant conflict continues to be among the most prominent issues affecting elephant conservation in Kenya. Tanzania has developed a National Elephant Management Plan with the objective to protect elephant populations through sustainable utilization and community-based conservation schemes. The country submitted a proposal to the 14th CITES CoP to transfer its elephant from App 1 to App 2. Southern Africa holds the largest elephant population and elephant numbers continue to increase. South Africa, Namibia and Botswana are the only countries on the continent fund their regular elephant survey programs from their national budgets, whereas all other countries depend on external funding. The three countries plus Zambia have developed or updated national elephant management strategies. In January 2007 Botswana and Namibia submitted a proposal to CITES to maintain their elephant on App 2 together with those of South Africa and Zimbabwe and to establish annual export quotas for these four countries to trade in raw ivory. Botswana requested also a quota for trade in hide and leather and a once off sale of 40 tons of ivory. Kenya and Mali contrasted this liberalization move with a proposal to ban all trade in raw and worked ivory form any of the four Southern African countries for 20 years.

Trophy hunting for elephant remains the single highest source of income in the sustainable utilization of elephant populations, especially when viewed in connection with the minimal ecological impact on habitat and elephant themselves.

The **African Elephant Status Report 2007** is available as download from the African Elephant Specialist Group Website <http://iucn.org/themes/ssc/sqs/afesg/aed/aesr2007.htm>.

African Elephant Status Report 2007 (Blanc, Barnes, Craig, Dublin, Thouless, Douglas-Hamilton, Hart), 2007, an update from the African Elephant Database, Occasional Paper Series of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, No.33 IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group, IUCN, Gland Switzerland, ISBN 978-2-8317-0970-3

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Fences and Lions

By Ludolph Swanevelder, National Chair: CHASA

Editor's Note: Readers are reminded of the article "Hunting Behind High Fences by Gerhard R Damm" published in African Indaba Vol 2 No 3. You can download this article at <http://www.africanindaba.co.za/Archive04/AfricanIndabaVol2-3.pdf>

The generation who lived in the beginning of the previous century, referred to game as "res nullius" – a Latin legal term which means that game "belongs to nobody". Since mankind's numbers have exceeded the 3 billion mark a few decades ago, this principle has become totally unsound when it comes to the successful conservation of wildlife. Game animals have no chance of survival if they belong to nobody. The successful North American model of conservation is based on game being owned collectively by the people, and the said people's representatives manage the animals. This model also applies to Southern Africa's national parks.

The South African model, responsible for the most successful conservation story of all times, is based on the principle that game is owned by an individual landowner. Seventy percent of all game animals in South Africa are owned by ranchers and this success story is based on the necessity of fencing, enabling the individual to own and manage the animals.

All animals on this planet have borders which restrict their movement. The home range of the majority is restricted by natural topography, or the availability of suitable habitat. Most are surrounded and restricted by human settlements or manmade infrastructure. Fences are just one more border restricting animal movement – but in a world of increasing human numbers, these fences have become an imperative for the survival of game.

The principles of ethical hunting requires that the hunted animal have a fair chance of escape from his pursuer, and further that the animal be located in suitable habitat where it can be self-supporting. The vast majority of South Africa's fenced game farms comply with these requirements, and we can therefore deduce that the presence of fences is compatible with the principles of ethical hunting. During the last years a practice has developed to "hunt" lion in camps where they have no reasonable chance to escape, and the term 'canned hunting' has been coined to describe this practice. Responsible hunters totally reject the shooting of canned lions, and also reject the "hunting" of any other species under similar circumstances.

The scientific approach towards conservation does not make any distinction between indigenous species and does not favor one over the other. Favoritism of 'celebrity-species' is the style of animal rights activists – normally with the view of soliciting money from a well meaning but ill informed public. And favoritism is always detrimental to biodiversity. People who are serious about conservation will manage all wild species according to similar principles. The rules on which we manage other game species, must thus also be applied to lion.

When we then reject the shooting of canned lion, we must not overreact and reject all forms of lion hunting. Game conservationists acknowledge that sustainable utilization and game management require fenced areas, and this must also apply to lion. But lion hunts in these areas must be conducted according to ethical norms which comply with the requirements of fair chase, and in suitable habitat where the individual hunted lion is a part of a self-sustaining lion population.

Without the income incentive from responsible hunting of lion, no landowner will make land available for lions, and the conservation of lions will then become the responsibility of SANParks alone. What a tragedy for "*Panthera leo*".

SADC Looks at Food Security

By Gerhard R Damm

SADC is making efforts in is to improve the food security in the region and prepared the business plan for the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) to improve the availability of food in the region. The major goal of the FANR is to move the SADC region towards sustainable food security by focusing on some critical interventions.

The plan says while the majority of the farmers in the region are small scale farmers who depend on own production, insufficient utilization of natural resources is one of the major factors retarding progress in agriculture and food security. On access to food, the document says regional food security cannot be achieved unless the people have access to food produced and purchased thus high production of crops and livestock may not be a good indicator of food security.

The plan also has a component on safety and nutritional value of food where it wants the region to produce, export, import and consume safe and high quality food. On ensuring equitable and sustainable use of the environment and natural resources, SADC has been striving to create the requisite harmonized policy environment, legal and regulatory frameworks to promote regional co-operation on issues related to the environment.

Insufficient utilization of the abundant natural resources such as water, fisheries, forest and wildlife is one of the major factors retarding progress in agriculture and food security.

It seems to be safe to suggest that the leaders of the SADC member states should spend more time explaining to their people the benefits of belonging to such regional bodies. One way would be a declaration of intent towards effectively using the abundant wildlife resources for the benefit of the people of the individual SADC states whilst maintaining high conservation objectives. This would result in a win-win scenario for people and wildlife. Eliminating the unqualified and emotional interventions of well-fed members of animal rights organizations at the cost of rural Africans would be a first step.

African wildlife must not serve only for the emotional and recreational benefit of visitors from North America and Europe.

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Trophy Hunting: Perspectives of an International Hunter

By Kimberly L. Kanapeckas

Editor's Note: Kimberly's original version of this article was first printed in *African Sporting Gazette*, 11(4):64-67. I felt that Kimberly's views are relevant with regard to the trophy discussion and the two special issues of *African Indaba* "Trophy Hunting, Hunting Trophies and Trophy Recording" published in cooperation with the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC. Kimberly Kanapeckas and Brooke Lubin, the editor of *African Sporting Gazette*, kindly agreed to the reprint in this issue.

A crucial aspect of a hunt is forsaken when only the trophy's size is valued. That every game animal has its unique beauty and story can only enrich both the hunter and the hunt. The temptation to prize only the biggest trophies –or to consider any (representative) trophy inferior for any reason - does nothing for the brotherhood among hunters.

A brisk wind opens the covers of the hunting magazines on the outdoor bookstand. Out pop images that make even the hunter who has "seen it all" salivate: the heavy boss crowning a massive Cape buffalo; an impala ram with an incredible spread; a kudu with horns winding upward like a spiral staircase to the sky. Such striking visuals revive a childhood wish to emulate the hunting hero in a favorite adventure book. The creatures market themselves: whether in life or in print, a beautiful buck, ram or bull quickens the heart and piques the desire to bag the quintessential specimen and morph the hunter into a hero – all in a crunching 10 to 21 days.

That's why each year hunters hire the best outfitters and PHs to guide them through foreign lands to their intended quarry. Unfortunately, some hunters restrict themselves to taking only animals with the biggest headgear, forgetting that nearly any hunt for any animal can prove rewarding, culminating in a journey of real personal discovery. So much more than merely a bottom line of figures is available for the hunter to take away from his safari.

Each hunt offers the chance to become personally acquainted with the game and everything with which it interacts. Should the hunter return to camp empty-handed, the only emptiness is on the den wall, because the memory bank overflows, important lessons have been learnt. And there is always another day, another hunt.

Reducing a trophy to a score in a record book reduces the objectives of hunting to a black hole of superficiality. The real 'trophy' from a hunt is the totality of the experience and memories. Nowadays one sees a huntress displaying the latest waterbuck she arrowed, admiring the unusual inward curvature of the right horn that lends the trophy character. More important, she considers how that hunt for that waterbuck strengthened her own qualities. The boy kneeling with his springbok, his first big-game animal, notes the cotton candy-like smell from the tuft of rump hair; he will always remember it.

How do you define your trophies? What do you champion as most fulfilling on your hunts?

While we continue to make progress securing a future for hunting, caution should be taken not to unduly exude the message that success as a hunter rests only on taking the largest horned (or antlered) prize – emphasizing the big in big-game animal. Novice hunters discovering the pleasure of teamwork in the field are ideal reminders of this. A well-shot duck causes lips to curl into a smile just as fast as does a big warthog. The real hunter who downs his first grey duiker is just as ecstatic as the huntress who downs her elephant of a lifetime. Apples just can't be compared with oranges.

Hunting is grounded by those mature and grateful sportsmen who are equally elated when they take a doe for population control as when they hold off, waiting for a better shot to connect with a record-class buck.

Are you too anxious, zealous or giddy to have taken the time to really observe a PH at work? I encourage you to do so. As experienced hunters, they have been enlightened by a lifetime of triumphs, catastrophes and odd predicaments, and would be truly content to sit back with the binoculars, glassing the veld while their hunter pursues his dream. A PH knows that the mature sable with horns arching far over his withers is both a breathless sight and an amazing opportunity. But he also knows that although it is intriguing to study other hunters' trophies, the real gauge of success in hunting is deeply personal, accentuated when shared. The meaning of a 'successful' hunt and of a 'trophy' should be discussed over the years with those who will carry the torch of hunting into the next generation, especially as that definition might evolve as the hunter matures. What we take from hunting, or what we seek from it, varies as we grow, change and age.

I must confess that the red hartebeest is at the top of my 'wish list.' Not the bongo nor the Spanish ibex or the barren-ground caribou outclasses my intrigue with the hartebeest. Many a PH friend has shaken his head in dismay, commenting that I have crossed to the 'dark side.' (Surely the hartebeest does not look that much like the devil.)

All jokes aside, most PHs are not only judges of trophy-quality animals, but also appreciate each species' distinct splendor - hartebeests included. Only the eye of the beholder limits the beauty of a trophy, which is what makes each trophy and each species unique. If the worth of a trophy is dependent upon the trophy-taker: What constitutes a successful hunter?

When someone deems a hunter 'accomplished,' he may mean that the hunter has pursued countless creatures in countless biomes and habitats for many years, gaining unsurpassed experience and expertise in the pursuit of game. The hunter may have traversed many foreign lands and observed a wide variety of creatures in their natural surroundings, noting their behavior and response to human intervention. He may have used various guns and calibers. He may have pushed himself beyond human limits to take an animal.

But too often in the world of hunting, the success of a

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Trophy Hunting: Perspectives of an International Hunter

hunter is judged mostly by the size of his trophies. Don't get me wrong: I, too, close my eyes and see a 40-inch-+ bull gemsbok dancing around like a sugarplum. But I also dream of that 'Rowland Ward' female gemsbok to provide meat from time to time.

Scoring systems, while useful, must be put into perspective. The more mass an animal's horns has, the better the trophy? Does a higher-scoring animal decide the skill of the hunter? The 'value' of the trophy? Personally, I simply do not equate the size of the horns with expertise. Some of the sneakiest, most intelligent animals taken in the most trying terrain do not make the trophy record books; yet they required awesome forethought, endurance, and even luck, on the part of the hunter.

Regardless of one's own criteria for a meritorious trophy animal: Is trophy size indicative of the worth of the hunter? Willingly or not, the hunting industry finds itself with the opportunity to issue a statement of value. What the industry chooses to emphasize influences where the hunting community places value. Africa sees that, when legally obtained, commodities like ivory and horns carry rightful potential for revenue. (Too many NGOs, unfortunately, have yet to fully grasp this.) Thus, on species like kudu, where only bulls have horns, the bull is more highly valued and sought after (acknowledging, of course, the need for the female to raise her offspring.) But essentially, it's the hunt for kudu itself that is invaluable. And each trophy – if it is taken at all – is each hunter's own unsurpassable trophy. Hunting is not shopping. Of course, almost any hunt can be improved, but not necessarily by taking a larger trophy.

Some supplementary yardstick might be beneficial to safeguard hunting's validity, perpetuity and validity. For me, the congratulatory handshakes, friendly backslaps, and personal satisfactions with any quick, clean kill are what hunting is all about. But any 'successful' hunter is the one who takes seriously the origin, direction, and future of hunting.

Luckily, some of the hunters who enjoy exposure in the 'public eye' of the hunting industry realize their influence and are beginning to emphasize the character-building aspects of hunting – from the growth that results from the challenge of becoming intimately acquainted with any game animal in its natural environment, to the reward of acquiring venison for sustenance. To them I say: Keep up the good work, for we have generations of future hunters and their PHs that we mustn't let down.

Kimberly holds a BSc in Biology and is a 22-year-old student earning a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia, USA. A big-game hunter for many years, she is an Official Measurer for Safari Club International, a field staff writer for the organization WomenHunters, and on the Advisory Board of the African Hunters Guild. Her keen interest in issues related to Africa has led her to pursue a dual career in wildlife medicine and professional hunting.

Call for an Expression of Interest: Conservation and Tourism Concession, Niassa National Reserve

The management entity for **Niassa National Reserve**, SGDRN, is advertising this rare opportunity for investors to develop and operate the following management units:

- Nkalapa Management Unit – Block L1 – 3308km²
- Luatize Management Unit – Block L2 – 4180km²
- Lucabanga Management Unit – Block R2 – 2251km²
- Mazeze Management Unit – Block R3 - 2671km²
- Chuilexi Management Unit – Block R4 – 3712km²
- Licombe Management Unit – Block R5 – 1470km²

Further information on each of these areas can be obtained by sending a request to sgdrn.map@tvcabo.co.mz for a mini electronic prospectus.

Expressions of Interest from parties who wish to tender for the above Management Units should not exceed 5 pages but, as a minimum, should include the following information:

- 1 **Proposed Bidder Details:** (a) Name; (b) Corporate Structure; (c) Date of Foundation; (d) Base Location; (e) Ownership / Shareholders; and (f) Directors / Principal Officers.
- 2 **Past / Current Operations and Relevant Experience:** Summary details of all current and past operations that have been developed and managed by the proposed bidder. Specific reference should be made to experience that has been gained from these operations that will be relevant to the Niassa context.
- 3 **Preferred Management Unit(s):** Identification of the management unit(s) for which the bidder will be interested in tendering.

The following should also be noted:

- 1 SGDRN reserves the right not to issue a formal invitation to tender following receipt of an Expression of Interest.
- 2 SGDRN will reserve the right to charge a non-refundable tender qualification fee which will be payable to SGDRN by all parties invited to tender.
- 3 The deadline for receipt of the Expressions of Interest will be midday (Mozambique time) 31st October 2007.

Expressions of Interest may be submitted in Portuguese or English and should be emailed to the Executive Director, SGDRN using the following address: sgdrn.map@tvcabo.co.mz

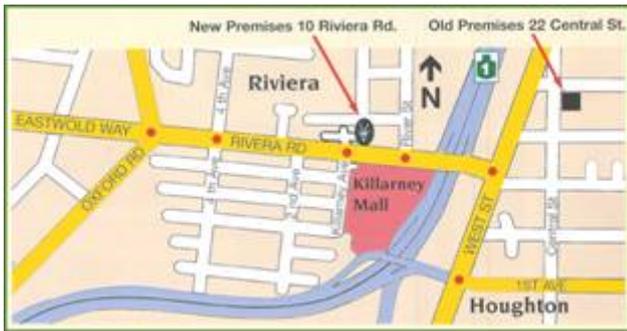
For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

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Rowland Ward – “An Exciting Future”

Press Release Rowland Ward

Almost a year has passed since we published our first Press Release detailing the future plans for Rowland Ward. Much has happened in a short time. In fact, Rowland Ward has all but completed its three year strategic plan in one year, certainly insofar as revenue growth is concerned.



Key among these achievements was the successful capital raising exercise to fund the growth of Rowland Ward; the signing of the mutual distribution agreements with Safari Press; the move to new premises and a showroom (just across the M1 motorway opposite the Killarney Shopping Centre); the doubling of Rowland Ward's turnover from a year ago; the growth in Guild membership; and the hugely successful launch of the new Rowland Ward website.

Two new books, *The Hunting Blackbeards of Botswana* and *Giorgio Grasselli's award winning African Sunsets* [Editor's note: I recommend both books to the readers of African Indaba, they give an authoritative glimpse into the hunting history of Africa], have hit the shelves in the last few weeks, while another four books are currently in production – Anno Hecker's, *That's Africa*; Gordon Cundill's exciting lessons on lion hunting; a new edition of Tony Dyer's book, *Men for All Seasons*, which has been re-written in part by him and then the riveting autobiography of a true adventurer and professional hunter, Dan Landrey, who unfortunately passed away three years ago and has not lived to see his wonderful story in print.

Rowland Ward's new clothing line, designed and endorsed by Tony and Isabelle Sanchez-Arino and Brian Marsh is due out in October, too late for the current southern African hunting season – the special, all cotton fabric simply took too long to arrive – but the good news is that if you buy the introductory offer, you will have time to try it out properly before the start of the next season. The clothes and a new line of accessories, bags, coats and boots will be available in the new showroom and Richard Flack, the new marketing director of Rowland Ward, is determined to establish it as the destination store of choice for both local and visiting hunters, shooters, fishermen and game viewers.

The showroom will be open from the end of August and will be officially launched in October. Please visit the website

www.rowlandward.com for more detail. The Rowland Ward website also boasts the brand new “[Trophies of the World](#)” section; an online story board that will provide all our website visitors with a glimpse of some of the most worthy trophies ever taken. Visit us now to view what could be the new world record Bongo and read the story that goes with it.

Rowland Ward staff have visited Europe three times in as many months to re-establish links with a view to creating a distribution, marketing and sales presence in the United Kingdom to service its growing wholesale and retail customers better, more speedily and more cost effectively. In fact, the largest expenditure in the current budget is dedicated to this purpose. In a way, it's back to the beginning for Rowland Ward as London was where the company was first established some 115 years ago! In another sense, this is also important as the company never wants to lose track of its roots or its traditions, something which will always permeate what it does.

The next months will see an increasing focus on Rowland Ward's Guild of Field Sportsmen and, in particular, what the company can do to serve its members better, not only in Africa but in North America and Europe as well. For starters, the Guild magazine will change its name and simply be called *The Field Sportsman* as well as being extended by a further eight pages.

The Record Book is also currently receiving critical attention from a group of experts at the request of major hunting organizations in Europe and North America. This evaluation includes an examination of all the different species, their descriptions, distributions and measuring methods to ensure that *The Book*, in both its physical and electronic format, encourages the hunting of old, male animals, outside the breeding cycle and, at the same time, increases its usefulness to conservationists and hunters alike.

These are very exciting times for Rowland Ward as the company breathes fresh life into this highly respected and well loved, global brand. During times like this, it is sometimes difficult not to make the odd mistake. We will try hard not to but, if we do, please do not suffer in silence. We would like to hear from you so that we do not repeat the error. Similarly, if you like some of the things we are doing, please encourage us. A teaspoon of the latter is worth a bucket of the former to our young, energetic and enthusiastic staff.

African Indaba e-Newsletter

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Subscription requests, comments or article submissions should be sent to: gerhard@muskwa.co.za please include your name, full address, e-mail address and organization

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

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Southern Sudan: A Paradise Not Yet Lost

Source: *The Economist* print edition, Jul 26th 2007

In many respects, south Sudan is already its own country. It issues its own visas, decides most its own policies and mishandles its own budget. Of course, tricky deals over the ownership of oil and the Nile waters must be negotiated before full independence. And there is always a small chance that the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), which runs the south, may do well enough in elections for all of Sudan (due to be held in 2009) to alter the shape of Sudanese politics overall, the north included. But as things stand, almost all southerners believe that, after a referendum promised by the central government in Khartoum, south Sudan will become a sovereign country by 2011.

That raises new questions. For one thing, what would the new country be called? The betting is on New Sudan, the name favored by John Garang, the SPLM's charismatic leader killed in a helicopter crash in 2005. But establishing the new country's identity will be harder. Even SPLM zealots accept that the largely Christian and animist south cannot define itself just negatively, in opposition to the Muslim north.

Many leading lights in the south Sudanese government, including the president, Salva Kiir, want the new country, whatever it is called, to become part of east Africa rather than a southern spin-off from the rest of Sudan, which is mainly Arab and Muslim and looks more to the Arab world. South Sudan's economy would tilt to the south and east.

Most trade goes via Uganda. In Juba, the southern capital, the most-used mobile-phone network operates from Uganda with a Ugandan code and Ugandan local rates, while calls to Khartoum are deemed international. There is also talk (in South African and German circles, among others) of building a railway from Juba, south Sudan's capital, to Gulu in Uganda, to connect with the main east-African network. Most of south Sudan's diplomatic links are through Kenya. Some schools are already replacing Arabic with English.



Another new way to nudge south Sudan into east Africa is through wildlife and tourism, especially after a recent discovery that south Sudan's wild game is far more abundant than had previously been reckoned. Earlier this year, the Wildlife Conservation Society, an American outfit, uncovered one of the world's biggest animal migrations in south Sudan. Conservationists flying low over uncharted territory discovered a vast array of wildlife, especially in Boma, along the border with Ethiopia. Paul Elkan, the Kenya-based Wildlife Conservation Society's main man for south Sudan, says the scale of migration may exceed that of Tanzania's Serengeti (**African Indaba reported about Sudan in Volume 5/Issue 4 – see www.africanindaba.co.za/Archive07/AfricanIndabaVol5-4.pdf**)

"It is a paradise not yet lost," says an ecstatic Mr Kiir, who has already signed agreements with the conservationists. An immediate goal is to limit the destruction caused by the oil business. Thanks to graft and negligence, Chinese and other contractors have installed massive and polluting infrastructure across the south with no environmental oversight.

In the long run, Mr Kiir hopes to set up a national parks system to protect the Boma migration, improve land management and provide jobs for former fighters as rangers and guides. A grander hope is that it could bolster New Sudan's new identity—and its claim to be part of east Africa.

The Black-faced Impala in Namibia

By Tammie K Matson

Synopsis of the paper "Future management of the Black-faced Impala in Namibia: A co-operative, multi-pronged approach to the conservation of a vulnerable subspecies"

Editor's Note: In a very recent communication (August 2007), Conservation Force Chairman John J Jackson III informed David Mallon, Co-Chair of the IUCN Antelope Specialist Group that the estimated number of black faced impala within Etosha National Park and on private land surrounding the park is mostly around 3,200 animals, substantially up from 2,200 reported by Rod East in the 1998 Antelope Report. Jackson further reports a small number (50-100) that have been introduced and are increasing in Namibia's communal conservancies. According to personal communication between Jackson and Chris Weaver of WWF-LIFE Namibia, as many as 1,000 of this antelope, endemic to Namibia and southern Angola have recently been discovered in one of the northern conservancies bordering Angola. The Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism has a management plan to prevent the hybridization with common impala that's in the process of being adopted. The plan also strictly regulates trophy hunting of black-faced impala together with the black-faced impala committee of the Namibian Professional

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The Black-faced Impala in Namibia

Hunters Association (NAPHA). Conservation Force has been involved from the beginning in all aspects of black faced impala conservation, including the funding of the national management plan, and is confident in its status. There is every reason to believe the impala is safe and well-managed in Namibia as a valuable game animal.

The Black-faced Impala *Aepyceros melampus petersi* is a vulnerable, arid-adapted subspecies of impala that is endemic to Namibia (IUCN Red Data Book, 2005) and classified as specially protected according to the Namibian government's Nature Conservation Ordinance (1975). The subspecies evolved geographically separately in the north west of Namibia and south west Angola to become phenotypically and genetically distinct from the more abundant common Impala *Aepyceros melampus melampus*. Widespread poaching during the war for independence, competition with livestock and severe droughts decimated the population in their historic range, the Kunene Region, and in the early 1970s the then Department of Nature Conservation translocated approximately 200 black-faced impala to Etosha National Park to establish a population which has thrived ever since. In this short note a brief overview of the current status of this endemic subspecies in Namibia is provided and suggestions made for future reintroduction strategies for the conservation of black-faced impala in Namibia.

Current status

Namibia's black-faced impala population is estimated at less than 4000 animals remaining in the wild, with few subpopulations exceeding 200 animals. The population is composed of many small populations across a range of land use types: Almost half (~1500) of the population occurs in Etosha National Park in five distinct subpopulations, perhaps 1800 occur on commercial game farms across the country and the population in the Kunene Region is uncertain, but has been estimated at approximately 500. In Angola, the population is probably extinct. This overall small population size remains a threat to continued survival. Small captive populations exist in zoos outside Namibia, but ex situ populations are small and are not considered pivotal to safeguard the population in the wild. Private reserves such as Ongava Game Reserve, managed by Wilderness Safaris and containing one of the largest populations of black-faced impala on private land (~200 animals), have contributed enormously to the conservation of the subspecies. Ongava's population has been the subject of considerable research focusing and in recent years, much knowledge has been gleaned of the black-faced impala's previously little known ecology. Crucial information on the habitat preferences of the subspecies and the factors affecting the success of translocations over the past 30 years has provided a foundation for a calculated reintroduction program to new areas.

Introducing founder populations of more than 16 black-faced impala has been found to be essential to ensure a successful translocation. Further, the discovery that black-faced impala are genetically different from common impala elsewhere in Africa provides great incentive for conservation). The Etosha

population contains high genetic variation and does not exhibit signs of genetic hybridization, which means it can be used as a 'pure', source population for enhancement of the distribution outside the park.

Potential reintroduction strategies

Armed with these recent additions to our knowledge of black-faced impala ecology and given the success of the Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Program in Namibia, a national management strategy for the conservation of the subspecies has been drafted. The vision of the draft management strategy is to re-establish black-faced impala as a distinct, valuable subspecies in viable breeding populations in Namibia and promote black-faced impala as an economically viable alternative to common impala. A core exclusive Area for black-faced impala is proposed, in which all common impala and hybrids will be removed and phased reintroductions of black-faced impala will take place in the next 20 years.

The draft plan, developed in partnership with the Ministry of Environment & Tourism of Namibia, includes reintroductions of founder populations back to the subspecies' historic range. Much of the core historic range is comprised of communal conservancies and a comprehensive survey of the population's status and an assessment of the suitability of these areas black-faced impala reintroductions is now essential. Also of huge potential are private game ranches. An incentive scheme similar to the Wildlife Breeding Stock Loan scheme is suggested to allow both land-owners and communal conservancies to establish viable populations of 30 black-faced impala, loaned to them by MET from Etosha, on the proviso that they meet all criteria and return 30 black-faced impala to the MET after 5 years or when the population exceeds 60 individuals. Farmers in a minimum two-farm or 20km buffer zone around Etosha, especially those with common impala, will be prioritized for loans, pending total removal of all common impala. Farmers/conservancies are responsible for the complete removal of all common impala on their properties to be eligible for registration as a 'pure' black-faced impala property and the Wildlife Breeding Stock Loan scheme.

The growing commercial game farm industry in Namibia has both facilitated the growth of the population of black-faced impala on private land, while also causing one of the most serious threats to the subspecies: That of hybridization with common impala, introduced from South Africa and north-eastern Namibia. Black-faced impala fetch a relatively high price at game auctions (R9500) compared with common impalas (R1300), and this must be seen as an incentive for farmers to build up their populations of the endemic subspecies. Preventing further hybridization between common and black-faced impala on private land is essential for the conservation of Namibia's endemic subspecies. The tourism and hunting industries have important roles to play in promoting the importance of this endemic, arid-adapted subspecies as a key component of Namibia's unique biodiversity and an attraction for visitors and both will benefit from preventing hybridization.

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The Black-faced Impala in Namibia

In partnership with the Ministry of Environment & Tourism of Namibia, a study to determine which of the fifteen communal conservancies in the Kunene Region are suitable for reintroductions of black-faced impala has been proposed for 2006/7. This will pave the way for a calculated reintroduction program to particular conservancies, based on environmental and social criteria. The study has the support of the Kunene Communal Conservancies Association (KCCA), as the return of black-faced impala is perceived as important for the sustainable development of the Region. These proposed reintroductions are important to local ecotourism projects and several conservancies involved in joint ventures with Wilderness Safaris will be involved, including the Marienfluss Conservancy, located on the Kunene River, and the Torra and Doro !Nawas Conservancies in Damaraland. In addition, the communal conservancies bordering the Palmwag and Skeleton Coast tourism concessions, currently held by Wilderness Safaris Namibia, will be considered for reintroduction suitability.

The draft management plan identified black-faced impala stakeholders as the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Namibia, the international community (IUCN, USFWS), the Namibian Professional Hunting Association, the Namibian tourism industry (FENATA), communal conservancies in the Kunene Region, relevant NGOs (NNF, WWF, IRDNC & NACSO) and the Namibian Agricultural Union (NAU), among others. Future management and conservation of the black-faced impala population will require a co-operative, multi-pronged approach that implements incentives for landholders on commercial farms and communal conservancies, whilst simultaneously protecting the source population occurring in Etosha National Park. A widespread publicity scheme, with the co-operation of all stakeholders is recognized as essential to the success of the actions outlined in this plan. This is intended to ensure that both the international and Namibian community are aware of the economic and ecological value of black-faced impala and to develop interest and participation in the opportunities for development of black-faced impala populations on off-park land. Ethical trophy hunting and community-based tourism will continue to play a vital role in the conservation of this unique subspecies of impala in the future.

Acknowledgements:

The draft management plan for black-faced impala was funded by the Namibian Professional Hunters Association (NAPHA) and Conservation Force (USA) and was developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment & Tourism of Namibia. The black-faced impala research project (2000-2003) was sponsored by the Universities of Queensland and New England (Australia), Wilderness Safaris, Ongava Game Reserve, Namibia Nature Foundation, the Biodiversity Trust, Dunlop Tyres, NAPHA, Conservation Force, Erongo Mountain Wilderness Conservancy and African Wildlife Services.

Whatever Happened to Hunting?

By Justin H Phillips

On late August evenings I have always enjoyed sitting quietly in my backyard and immersing myself in the dry heat and decreasing daylight. The two phenomena signal the end of summer, as do the mourning doves I observe that are beginning to gather in flocks and the juvenile ducks that wing across the darkening sky. I find soul-soothing comfort in the fact that autumn and the hunting seasons will soon begin.

For many years hunting was central to my existence. Over the decades I had the good fortune to travel the length and breadth of the North American continent in pursuit of waterfowl, my favorite quarry. I was obsessed with ducks. I can honestly state that over the past half-century nary a day has passed in which I have not thought about ducks. Nor am I alone. Other dedicated hunters think each day about white-tail deer or bull elk or wild turkeys or bobwhite quail or whatever their preferred quarry. All of us wonder what the upcoming season will bring. Will we bag a big buck? Will we be covered up with multitudes of decoying ducks? Will a plethora of coppery pheasants erupt from a fencerow with a loud clatter?

But the other evening as I sat in my backyard, I once again got to thinking about hunting. I pondered how it has changed over my lifetime — and not for the better. I am not referring to the gradual change in the species make-up or abundance of game. Locally, we have more whitetail deer and Canada geese than in my youth, but fewer ducks, pheasants and quail. What disturbed me was the changing mentality of so many of today's hunters, especially younger ones. Devoting years to learning the skills necessary to become a consistently successful hunter, or the reward of coming home empty-handed, as occasionally happens to the best hunter, has become abhorrent. The new generation of hunters views success afield and a heavy bag as an entitlement.

Naturally, a new industry has developed that caters to these individuals. It began, I suspect, with game farms that offered pheasants and quail. The pen-raised birds are released shortly before hunters enter the field. Success is guaranteed, and you can kill as many as you are willing to pay for. The emergence of these farms began decades ago. They were mostly found on the fringes of urban areas, places where dense, sprawling human populations had more or less eliminated wildlife habitat or a place to hunt. The hunting community did not object. They were viewed as a harmless escape for urban-dwelling outdoorsmen who wanted to go afield and shoot something. Nowadays, these game farms are found everywhere, even in rural states where wild game abounds. They cater to individuals who want success guaranteed, who want to kill a lot of birds, and who want to feel as if they have escaped the trappings of daily life.

In the interest of journalistic honesty, I should add that I have shot domestically reared pheasants and quail at game farms, mostly as a guest. I do not find them ethically offensive.

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But I do not consider my game-farm outings as hunting. I would have no issue if game-farming had remained confined to upland birds. But it has grown today beyond anything one could have imagined. Along the Atlantic Flyway sporting clubs each year release tens of thousands of pen-raised, free-flying mallards. These provide shooting when diminishing numbers of "northern ducks" sit tight. Thousands more pen-raised quail are released on southern plantations where wild bobwhites once flourished.

"High-fence" deer-hunting preserves are springing up like dandelions. These enterprises keep deer confined behind fences, assuring a hunter of success. The prices are astonishing. A whitetail buck scoring 135 Boone and Crocket antler points will cost you \$4,000. This would be considered a very good but not fabulous buck. A fair number of bucks of this quality are killed each year by local hunters. The price goes up according to antler size. Expect to pay over \$8,000 for a buck scoring 155 or above. You can even hunt elk or exotic game. A new and expanding livestock industry has emerged to supply high-fence hunting operations with trophy animals. A friend recently recalled that while he was visiting (not hunting) a high-fence operation an employee walked in and announced, "The elk are here." A truck transporting three elk had arrived. The big bulls were to be released for hunters to kill.

The practice is so widespread that South Africa recently passed legislation prohibiting outfitters from the common practice of releasing domestically raised game animals to be shot by unsophisticated sports who believed they were bagging wild African game. Even pen-raised lions were released for hunters to shoot. What is the allure of these pay-to-shoot operations? In part it reflects our growing cultural demand for instant gratification. You don't have to hunt for years to bag a big buck. Dollars substitute for years afield. It further reflects our cultural belief that each of us — even a beginning hunter — is entitled to a heavy bag. Dollars substitute for hunting skill.

In my youth, some hunters put out a salt block to attract deer. Others dumped shelled corn into a pond to attract ducks. These acts were very effective in bringing game to the gun. They also were illegal. Both sportsmanship and the law demanded you earn your game. But this attitude has disappeared from hunting's moral firmament. Fair chase has been tossed on the trash heap, along with the chase itself. This attitude and the industry that fosters it represent the future of hunting. I see no way to stop its continued growth. I hear no loud groundswell of opposition to these practices by concerned hunters or sportsman's organizations. As I sit in my backyard on these warm August evenings and think about the upcoming season, I am saddened by this development. It represents a step backward in moral evolution. I give thanks that I came of age in an earlier time when we actually went afield to seek "wild" game, coming home exhausted, wet, cold, scratched by briars and what-not, when we sometimes bagged our limit and sometimes were skunked. It was a time when the rules of sportsmanship and fair-chase were more than empty platitudes.

This article was first published at www.fwdailynews.com and we thank the author for his permission to publish it in African Indaba

News from Africa

Angola

Pedro vaz Pinto reported that he and his companions observed Giant Sable bulls during a field trip in July at the "anhara" (natural clearing) burned in March. Pedro said *"as soon as our vehicle came out of the woodland and the anhara opened, we had three giant sable, and they seemed just as surprised as we were. They were out in the open and less than 50 meters from the car, so it turned out to be closest encounter to date! I focused my binoculars on one of the animals, and I could see it was a young male, probably around 2.5 years old. Quite likely one of the well known 4 pure males born in 2005. Couldn't be sure about the remaining two, but I would guess they would be two of the remaining males, constituting a small bachelor group."*

Botswana

A leopard - collared for research purposes - has been shot by a foreign client on safari in the Sankuyo concession (NG34). The licensed professional hunter, who was with the client, has been suspended from hunting in the area for the rest of the season and "in the foreseeable future," said the Botswana Wildlife Management Association (BWMA). The professional hunter, who has not been named, told his Maun office and Tico McNutt of the Botswana Predator Conservation Program about the incident and said that neither he nor his client saw the collar on the leopard, and would not have shot it had they seen it. The matter was referred to the BWMA EC, which submitted a written report to the Department of Wildlife and National Parks.

The BWMA has strongly condemned the hunting of collared animals and any professional hunters found guilty of intentionally killing a collared animal faces suspension from BWMA and may lose the professional hunter status. The BWMA stated it "recognizes the value and support given to the industry by the Botswana Predator Conservation Program and other researchers in Botswana, and will ensure that all members comply with requests from researchers to monitor, support and encourage all research efforts."

Botswana

We have received information that an American hunter has taken one of the biggest elephant bulls during the 2007 season in NG32 community concession (Johan Calitz Hunting Safaris) in Botswana's Okavango Delta. The right tusk of the bull weighed 93 pounds and the left tusk tipped the scale at 87 pounds.

Botswana

At Kweneng North Agricultural District show in Lentswe Le Tau, the Botswana wildlife department introduced the pilot project at Dithopho farm to domesticate eland for the benefit of local communities. Reportedly, eland cows have already been milked and its milk enjoyed by those responsible for taming it. It has also been trained to pull sledges, as well as to communicate with its herd boys.

European Union

The European Parliament's LIBE Committee adopted 26 amendments to the "Firearms" Proposal of the *European*

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Commission. The Committee approved the maintenance of the currently existing four categories of firearms as well as the European Firearms Pass (EFP), regarded as the only document needed by hunters and sport shooters to transport their firearms. The outcome of the decisive vote on the proposed amendments to the 1991 "Firearms" Directive in the Committee can be considered satisfactory. Almost 150 amendments were considered for a vote. At this stage some provisional conclusions are that a) the direct threat that firearms' Categories C and D would become abolished (so that all sporting firearms would become either "*Prohibited*" or "*Subject to authorization*") was avoided; b) significantly more weight will be given to the *European Firearms Pass*; c) the minimum age of 18 for possessing a firearm should not apply to young hunters accompanied by an adult hunter; d) the idea of a 15-day "cooling off" period before acquiring any firearm has been abandoned. These decisions generally recognized that hunters and sport-shooters do not pose a threat to public safety and should be allowed to benefit from a less restrictive firearms regime. (Source: FACE Diary July).

Kenya

Lion populations are in acute decline in Kenyan Masailand, where local residents are spearing and poisoning lions at a rate which will ensure local extinction within very few years. Kajiado and Narok Districts contain two of Kenya's most important tourist destinations, Amboseli National Park and the Masai Mara National Reserve, where lions are the primary attraction for overseas visitors. Limited data from the Tsavo-Amboseli Ecosystem indicate that a minimum of 108 lions, and probably many more, have been killed since 2001.

In spite of a generous compensation program which pays people for livestock lost to predators, lion numbers on Mbirikani Group Ranch have declined steadily, and evidence suggests that the situation is as bad or worse elsewhere in the region. Young warriors who engage in traditional lion killing do not face significant consequences because of lax law enforcement and judicial corruption. Unless that changes in future, Kenya will lose its most important tourist attraction. (Source: Lion Killing in the Amboseli -Tsavo Ecosystem, 2001-2006, and its Implications for Kenya's Lion Population, Dr Laurence Frank et al)

Kenya

A spokesman for the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) said in early July that rangers have arrested seven professional Tanzanian hunters and their Kenyan guide for illegally hunting around Tsavo West National Park. The suspects' vehicle impounded was impounded. This incident is allegedly the second involving professional hunters straying across the border.

Mozambique

On June 5th 2007, the Mozambique Minister of Tourism Fernando Sumbana and the Director of the Fondation Internationale pour la Sauvegarde de la Faune (IGF) Philippe Chardonnet (Editor's Note: Chardonnet is also a member of the board of Conservation Force) signed a memorandum of

understanding about the rehabilitation of the Gile Game Reserve in the Mozambique province of Zambezia. IGF committed a total of US\$ 300,000 to the project, which includes amongst others the reintroduction of the black rhino and the creation of 150 jobs for local community members. The signing ceremony took place in the presence of the ambassador of France, a representative of the Rothschild Foundation and the director of the French Development Agency.

Namibia

Two game guards of a group of anti-poaching guards were trampled to death by an elephant in the Mahango Game Park in the Kavango Region end of May. Environment Minister Willem Konjore said in a statement that the elephant had been killed.

Namibia

The Namibian Minister for Mining and Energy announced on June 14th that the government has shelved the controversial project of damming the Cunene river near Epupa at the Angolan border.

Namibia

The Namibian Cabinet approved the draft policy on Tourism and Wildlife Concessions on State Land, which will see the parks and wildlife resources contributing to rural development, employment creation and economic growth. Concessions provide access for tourists to Namibia's protected areas, diversify the range of hunting opportunities and generate sustainable additional revenue for the state from Namibia's indigenous plant and wildlife resources. They also give opportunities for business development and the economic empowerment of formerly disadvantaged Namibians through access to ecotourism and hunting industries. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism is already administering existing long and short-term tourism concessions. In the near future, new initiatives will be introduced. The policy makes provision for four types of concessions, namely, tourism, plant materials, trophy hunting and other uses of wildlife. The relevant legislation, which is being used at present, does not provide guidance on the method or criteria to be used when granting concessions, which resulted in some problems due to lack of standardization in concession agreements and insufficient compliance monitoring. The concession policy was developed to serve as a basis of the new legal provisions concerning concessions that will be proposed as part of future parks and the Wildlife Management Bill, which will replace current legislation.

In future, traditional authorities, regional councils and communal land boards will have to be consulted throughout the process to ensure that wildlife concessions complement regional development objectives. Government further considers transferring specific responsibilities with regard to these concessions to regional councils.

Namibia

The office of the Prime Minister announced the reshuffle of ten permanent secretaries, one of these being the Permanent Secretary of Wildlife and Tourism, Dr Malan Lindeque. Dr. Lindeque has been transferred to the Ministry of Trade and Industry and has been replaced by Kalumbi Shangula, the

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former Permanent Secretary for Health and Social Services. NAPHA expressed thanks to Dr. M. Lindeque for his dedication and hard work during his years of service as the Permanent Secretary for the M.E.T and welcomed Mr. Shangula to his new appointment as the Permanent Secretary of Environment and Tourism and assured him the continued support of Namibia's Professional Hunters to master the challenges that face him.

Namibia

The Namibian government said on August 15th that it would continue culling seals after a meeting with animal rights activists failed to provide any workable alternatives. In July, at the start of the five-month hunting season, the Namibian government set a three-year total allowable catch of 6,000 adult males and upped the number of pups to be killed by 20,000 to 80,000 from an estimated 850,000 seals which live on a group of islands off the southern coast. It was also reported that a local hunting operator, Kataneno Hunt, is advertising "hunting for Cape Fur Seal bulls at the coast not far from Swakopmund" on the internet for 860 Euro.

Namibia

More than 20 farms from seven regions have been named as first beneficiaries of the Wildlife Breeding Stock Loan Scheme. The recipients of the game will be contacted for final inspections of their farms, contract signing and translocation date. The game includes zebra, springbok, oryx, ostrich and eland. Through the scheme, MET will provide recipients with viable founder populations of which, within a number of years, the original number of animals would be removed, leaving the recipient with the balance of the population.

The objectives of the scheme are to promote diversification of economic activities on farmland, support MET's rare species management program and promote the maintenance and restoration of biodiversity for sustainable utilization. Beneficiaries placed on the highest priority category of the scheme are those who are historically disadvantaged, those who have land suitable for the program acquired through Agribank's affirmative action loan scheme, and those that have been resettled on land suitable for the program by the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement. MET also wants to partner with game farmers and game dealers for them to contribute to the program by donating additional wildlife that can be translocated through the scheme.

South Africa

Leseho Sello, a chief director in DEAT said at a parliamentary briefing in August that culling elephants would only be considered as a last resort, mentioning that translocation and even contraception are the preferred ways of managing South Africa's growing elephant population. The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Marthinus van Schalkwyk, had instructed that culling be considered only as a very last resort. Sello conceded that massive international pressure against culling - led by a variety of animal welfare groups and others - made it a very unattractive option. Anti-culling lobbyists had sent the minister many petitions against culling and some

lobbyists had threatened to organize tourist boycotts of the country should the government use culling to reduce elephant populations.

South Africa

Foreign individuals who enter the RSA with their firearms need the SAP form 520. Normally it takes anywhere from 2-4 hrs to get firearms checked through customs, but now PHASA is marketing a service of registering your firearm early that will help to expedite your time spent in South Africa's airports. This service is available for \$110 from the Professional Hunters Association of South Africa website, www.phasa.co.za. Click on "General Hunting Information", then "Temporary Importation of Firearms" and you will see step by step instructions to walk you through the process of filling out for your SAP 520.

South Africa

A 9-year old boy was killed by lions on a lion breeding farm near Vryburg in July. Apparently the lion breeding facility operated without the required permits and the fencing of the lion pens did not comply with regulations. In the meantime 10 lions believed to be part of a pride of 65 responsible for the mauling and eating of the boy have been captured and taken to an undisclosed destination by environmental affairs officials, pending possible criminal action against the owner of the farm Woodborrow. However a court order later instructed that the lion be returned. MEC Mayisela said that his department would embark on a provincial inspection of all predator keeping facilities. There are currently 48 predator animal farms in the Northwest province.

In another case a lioness was discovered in a garden near Bela Bela and later darted and caught by nature conservation officials. It is assumed that the lioness escaped from a game transport on the N1 highway.

South Africa

A farmer killed a leopard in the Baviaanskloof wilderness area in the Eastern Cape; according to an NGO this is the loss of the 20th leopard in the Baviaanskloof area since 2002. The farmer was allegedly hunting the leopard with dogs, when the leopard attacked and mauled him. During the melee the farmer shot the leopard. It is said that the incidence occurred while the hunter was off his own property and on adjoining conservation land.

South Africa

Johan van Niekerk (69) of a farm near Gravelotte was put behind bars following the disappearance of a man who allegedly had been illegally hunting on his farm. Van Niekerk appeared in Court on a charge of abduction following the disappearance of Richard Mkhari. A police spokesperson said Van Niekerk had found Mkhari on his farm on July 15 poaching with his dogs. Van Niekerk had reportedly shot and killed 4 of the 6 dogs and apparently told the police that he had tied a man to a tree while he fetched a vehicle to take him to the nearest police station. When he returned, the man had disappeared without a trace.

Van Niekerk has been released in the meantime.

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South Africa

Gideon van Deventer and his brother, Nicolaas, who were arrested in August 2006 in KwaZulu-Natal's Hluhluwe/Imfolozi game reserve after they hunted two white rhino, have been jailed by a Free State court for eight and two-and-a-half years for poaching rhino and illegally trading in rhino horns. At the time of the arrest, Gideon van Deventer was out on bail of R10,000 after he and a Kroonstad man, Pieter Swart, were arrested in May 2006 for illegal purchase of rhino horn. The brothers entered into a plea agreement with the state in which Gideon van Deventer admitted he had hunted rhino and sold the horns to a syndicate at R12,000 a kilogram; and that he continued to do so after his initial arrest in May 2006. Gideon van Deventer confessed to nine charges of illegally hunting protected animals. He received 10 years, of which two years were suspended. Nicolaas van Deventer, who admitted to three counts of poaching, was sentenced to five years, of which half was suspended.

Southern Sudan

International wildlife experts have located hundreds of wild elephants on a treeless island in the swamps of South Sudan, where they apparently avoided unchecked poaching during more than 20 years of a north-south civil war. "We flew out of a cloud, and there they were," said Thomas Catterson, working on a United States-financed environment program in South Sudan.

Tanzania

We have received alerting and even frightening reports about increased poaching activities in the Northern sector of the Selous. This part of the game reserve is a tourist area where no safari hunting takes place. It is said that elephants have been killed close to the tourist camps. In a most disconcerting incident near Lake Mzizimia four lion were observed by tourists feeding on a hippo carcass on July 7th; the next day, two of these lion were found dead close by, and later the carcasses of the other two lion were discovered. This incident of poisoning lion in tourism area does not make sense at all and we cannot offer any explanation at this stage. On July 19th two fresh elephant carcasses were seen near Manzi lake. The tusks had been removed. Our contact said that game scouts usually arrive very late on the scene, like in the case close to Matmabwe, when the scouts arrived after 36 hours – Matmabwe is 90 minutes drive from the scene. It is also reported that incidents of elephant poaching on both sides of the Ruvuma are on the increase.

USA – South Africa

The Denver Post reported that Jan Groenewald Swart, a South African hunting outfitter has been sentenced to 18 months in federal prison for smuggling five hides and three skulls of sport-hunted leopards into the United States. He also will undergo three years of supervised release on one felony charge of importing merchandise contrary to law, according to a news release from the Denver U.S. Attorney's Office. According to Rod Potter, chairperson of the KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife Crime Working Group, the contraband was seized during a random

search of luggage at the airport. The outfitter was accused of taking U.S. clients on leopard hunts in South Africa without obtaining the necessary permits and then smuggling the hides and skulls of the animals into neighboring Zimbabwe and bought fraudulent export permits. From Zimbabwe, the hides and skulls were shipped to a Denver taxidermist.

As part of the plea deal, Swart has agreed to cooperate with U.S. authorities probing international poaching and smuggling. Swart and Willem Basson, another South African, outfitter, were arrested at a Pennsylvania sports show earlier this year. According to Potter, Basson was convicted, warned for his part in the importation and deported to South Africa. Leopard in southern Africa are considered threatened under the Endangered Species Act. They can be hunted in South Africa under a strict quota and permit system. Permits are required to import their parts into the United States.

USA

According to the 2006 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey of outdoor recreation, the number hunters count has dropped by 4 percent since 2001. Migratory bird hunters dropped a whopping 22 percent while small-game stalkers fell by 12 percent. The number of big-game hunters has remained relatively stable over the last half decade, falling only 2 percent. "Though the final report won't be available until November of this year, the preliminary findings reveal a downward pattern that worries many sportsmen: over the last 15 years or so, in a country with a rapidly expanding population. There are countless reasons for the trend, chief among them urbanization and changes in America's rural culture. Video games and cable television vie for the attention of young kids, and their parents can't find the time or gain access as readily to the nation's rapidly disappearing hunting fields and fishing holes." *Of all Americans age 16 or older, 12.5 million or 5 percent hunted and spent \$23 billion, and 71 million or 31 percent observed wildlife and spent \$45 billion.* These numbers do not reflect the entire hunting fishing and outdoor community, but it gives a solid look at the economic benefits that are generated through proper wildlife conservation and management annually.

USA

Congress now has the opportunity to decide whether hunters should be allowed to hunt elk in North Dakota's Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) introduced legislation...that would allow the National Park Service to use volunteer hunters to thin the overpopulated elk herd in the park. The National Park Service has been considering options to reduce elk numbers in the south unit of the park, where the animals were reintroduced in 1985. The unit can sustain about 360 elk, but officials estimate between 750 and 900 elk are there now. Elk have multiplied rapidly in the park because there are few natural predators, hunting is not allowed inside the park, and the animals' winter survival and reproduction rates have been good. The practice of shipping them elsewhere stopped in 2003 because of fears of chronic wasting disease. Rep. Mark Udall (D-CO) has introduced a

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similar bill in the U.S. House that would allow hunters to thin the elk population at Rocky Mountain National Park."

Zimbabwe

Rhino dehorning has been temporarily stopped owing to logistical complications, national wildlife veterinary surgeon Dr Chris Foggin said on July 2nd after they had dehorned about 30 rhinos, mostly from the Save Conservancy. "Unfortunately, we are not able to continue with the exercise at the moment because we were having problems in ensuring we had a helicopter all the time, adequate human resources and drugs," Dr Foggin said. Zimbabwe has a population of around 800 black and white rhinos placed in intensive protection zones. The World Wildlife Fund a few weeks ago briefed the responsible minister on the poaching of rhino indicating that at least 40 rhinos had been poached in the last three years.

Zimbabwe

Almost a ton of elephant tusks and rhino horns were impounded by police in Chiredzi end of June as the van taking the loot to Buffalo Range aerodrome overturned, spilling its contents after hitting a stray donkey as it entered the farming town. The two men who were in the car, are in Chiredzi Hospital under police guard. The pair, both employees of HKK Safaris, implicated a South African national of British descent, a Gerrard Harvey, who was believed to be waiting for the cargo in South Africa. A Cesna 172 aircraft meant to fly the loot was also impounded at Buffalo Range aerodrome at the weekend. The pilot of the plane was under police custody.

Zimbabwe

The Community Areas Management Program for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) announced earnings of US\$2.25 million for 2006 from the sustainable use of wildlife, a big jump from 2005. CAMPFIRE director Charles Jonga said 52% of the 2006 earnings were disbursed to communities in CAMPFIRE areas either in cash or funding for community projects. Jonga said that Nyaminyami and Chiredzi districts accounted for more than 50% of the total hunting revenue. Jonga also stated that sport or recreational hunting contributed almost all the earnings in 2005 and 2006. However, there are also other projects in Campfire areas such community-based tourism, beekeeping, commercial fishing and harvesting and sale of mopani worms. Among community projects funded from revenue generated from exploitation of wildlife in Campfire areas are construction of schools and clinics, fencing of arable land and drilling of boreholes.

Under the Campfire program, 55% of revenue generated in a participating area is returned to the community, 26% is earmarked for wildlife management, 4% to cover administrative expenses and 15% is allocated to rural district councils in the regions. Founded 18 years ago, Campfire's membership includes 56 out of the 59 rural councils in Zimbabwe.

2007 Annual Meeting: Society for Conservation Biology

Editor's Note: The SCB Meeting in Port Elizabeth featured also a half-day symposium about recreational hunting as a follow-up meeting to the 2007 IUCN workshop at the London Zoological Society. Amongst the presenters were Chris Weaver (Namibia), Ali Kaka (Kenya), Gerhard Damm (South Africa), Nigel-Leader Williams (UK) and Lee Foote (Canada). African Indaba will report in the next issue in detail. John Jackson III (Conservation Force) was one of the prominent international hunting advocates who participated in the entire SCB Meeting

The 21st Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth in July 2007 was convened by Prof. Graham Kerley, director of the Centre for African Conservation Ecology.

This first SCB meeting in Africa was attended by over 1500 delegates from 88 countries. 75 symposia/forums took place with over 600 presentations included these themes: Partnerships for Effective Conservation; Communication in Conservation; Interactions between Biodiversity and Society; Conservation of Wide-ranging Taxa and Transboundary Conservation; Conservation economics; Conservation and Human Rights. Topics from an African sustainable utilization perspective included: The Role of Hunting in [Gabon] Household Expenditure; Is the Supply of Trophy Elephants to the Botswana Hunting Market Sustainable; Investigating the Role of Trophy Hunting in Conservation and Poverty Reduction. Other presentations included: The Importance of Involving Local Communities in Lion Conservation; Changing Land Tenure: Increased Bushmeat Trade and the Implications for Wildlife Conservation in Zimbabwe; Reducing the Threat of Illegal Wildlife Harvesting Using Community Policing and Promoting Economic Activity.

Elephants were very topical, for example, in the symposium "Sharing the Range: Elephants, People and Biological Conservation in Africa". Dr Holly Dublin, Chair, IUCN SSC and African Elephant Specialist Group, gave a perspective on the status, threats and challenges facing the management and conservation of Africa's elephant. The updated status of ivory poaching in Central and West Africa was presented. The forest elephant range in these regions is rapidly shrinking as poaching and human activity expands. Rowan Martin from the Southern African Sustainable Use Specialist Group (SASUSG) spoke on the ecological and socio-economic costs and benefits of alternative elephant conservation approaches. The Total Economic Value Theory can provide a useful method of evaluating the elephants' economic value.

Socio-economic considerations are becoming increasingly important in elephant management. From a southern African perspective there will invariably greater human-elephant conflict with expanding elephant and human populations competing for space.

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Some Thoughts about Trophy Hunting and Hunting Trophies

By Basie Maartens, Past President PHASA

"Trophy Hunting and Hunting Trophies", that is how Gerhard Damm put it when he asked me to submit an article regarding the 54th CIC General Assembly in Belgrade. To me it seems that both are the same. What needs to be examined are the words 'hunting' and 'trophies'.

So we will not explore the skull of the lion or the boss of the buffalo, what it measures or how hard it is, these are details which will be dealt with by the hunter who actually hunts (and not just shoots) the animal. Rather how it was obtained –for that we need some clarification, and examination, of the philosophy of hunting.

Hunting needs to be clearly defined, and one should not use the word incorrectly. For instance, "culling" is not hunting, nor is "harvesting" or "taking" of an animal. These are euphemisms used for killing or shooting. There are people who are afraid of using the right word or would consider it politically incorrect and want to disguise what they are actually doing. There is no reason for a hunter to make excuses for what he is doing, providing it is in fair chase.

To give a definition to 'hunting' has racked my brain but I have come up with the following: *"Hunting is the pursuit of an animal in fair chase and its ethical killing in a humane manner for a recognized purpose."*

In the case of trophy hunting, the recognized purpose is to collect a trophy. Robert Ruark said: *"I shoot him when he is ready for heaven and his tusks are the monument, as the Cross is revered in Christ's name. When I shoot an old elephant, I shoot the memory of a man and my particular hope of heaven, which is to be put down at the ultimate prime time, by any man – or beast – like me."*

But that however, is only part of the exercise. In collecting the trophy, you are also performing a conservationist duty because conservation is not practiced by little old ladies in tennis shoes knitting winter socks. The real conservationist is the hunter because how can you be a conservationist without being a hunter.

The trophy is identified by the hunter by virtue of its size, age, or configuration, or even rarity. In each case it is the hunter who determines what value the trophy has to himself, which makes the selection of a 'trophy' a very personal choice. I will therefore not go into the statistics of trophies, for that we have enough books and more to come.

Hunting for a trophy puts 'hunting' on a different level than just shooting, which is what you do when you have to cull animals, a necessity in game management, if sometimes reluctantly performed. That is why Herman Jonker says you must cull with a cold hand and a warm heart.

Trophies and books seem to go hand in hand. Trophies must be recorded to be referred to in the future, to be compared

and discussed. Trophy books are a source of information but also a source of great rivalry, many try to get a higher listing than the fellow hunter. Unfortunately, in a competitive world we will always have people who are given to one-up-manship, and they might not be honest about their achievements. These people are not worthy to be called hunters and will be a discredit to whatever they profess to be.

Unfortunately the printed page only has half the story – the heat or cold, the miles of walking, the careful stalking are not recorded. Therefore record books serve a purpose and are there for us to use, but they are not the holy grail of hunting.

Considering that hunting has come through the ages and has during that time evolved into the form that we know today, it is understandable that it is subject to continuous change. From stone age implements to flintlocks and black powder, today we know rangefinders, 140 grain bullets, 3000 foot-pounds of energy, GPS and laser range finders. So why don't we condone hunting on game farms, and other enclosed areas? Within reason we will have to move with the times or forever kiss our hunting days goodbye.

Here again, trophy record books play a role by recording whether animals were taken with a rifle, bow and arrow, handgun, or were simply picked up. Although most trophies are taken with the help of a professional hunter, he does not get credit by having his name appear, even in brackets, among those who are responsible for the entry. On the other hand there are already listings whether the trophy was taken on a game ranch or in the wilds..

One thing is sure, we will still be hunting for many years and under conditions which are forever changing and there will be more changes, that I can guarantee. So, let us keep our trophy record books, our safari clubs, and our personal trophies on the wall which can remind us of the wild places where we found them.

So to hunt trophies [or is it trophy hunting? It will be with us as long as we change with the times and not shoot ourselves in the foot by being holier than thou. All said without compromising our commitment to 'fair chase', but not to tether ourselves to impractical restraints.

At the moment I do not yet know what the CIC General Assembly has formulated as a statement on Trophy Hunting. Hopefully those involved in the decision making process will have the wisdom of how to have a position paper to present to the CIC Executive Committee by November 2007.

It is only such a pity that records and record books attract strange bed partners, which is not in keeping with things such as ethical behavior and fair chase. These can be compared to those who are never satisfied with doing things the right way but have to cheat to get in the front of the line. If we can get rid of them, the world would be a wonderful place.

I would therefore suggest that all entries into any record book be accompanied by a statement of 'truthfulness', at least morally committing the entrant to be "under oath"!

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US-Petitions Filed to Release Namibian Leopard Trophies

By John J Jackson III, Conservation Force

In August, Conservation Force filed petitions for remission and stay orders for those Namibian leopard trophies that were seized for forfeiture because the type CITES tags used by the Namibian CITES authorities were no longer acceptable to some law enforcement agents of the USF&WS. We understand that most trophies were only detained temporarily. We filed on behalf of those hunters that had received formal notices of seizure and forfeiture. There may well be others that failed to learn of our free public services through these pages.

It is our understanding that the tags have been in use for 15 years. There is no mandatory tag requirement. The Parties to CITES "recommend" a self-locking tag in its quota resolution for leopard. The USF&WS did not timely advise the Namibian authorities or the hunting community of their disagreement over the tags. It just seized the trophies.

At the recent CITES COP 14, Conservation Force helped arrange a face-to-face meeting between Namibian officials and those of the U.S. delegation to resolve the inter-governmental issue. The Namibian CITES Management Authority understands the issue and has changed its choice of tags so there should not be any further problem. We hope and expect that those trophies formally seized will be returned in due course, but it was necessary to file petitions.

A greater problem is that there is no provision in USF&WS regulations for return of Appendix 1 trophies when there has been a technical error on the part of either the importing or the exporting country. Import brokers, taxidermists and hunters report to us that governmental errors are the basis of most trophy seizures. Conservation Force and other representative organizations such as the USSA and SCI have asked the International section of the USF&WS for regulatory change which has been denied. Now the International section of the USF&WS is adopting regulations codifying the practice of seizing and destroying trophies of Appendix 1 species even when the problem is a governmental error or perceived to be one. Conservation Force called for help with legislative oversight and reform at the most recent AWCP meeting. We have to establish protection of innocent trophy owners/hunters from the inevitable human technical and clerical errors of government employees.

In May, Conservation Force and the Presidents or leaders of USSA, DSC, HSC, Shikar Safari Club International, and African Safari Club of Florida met together with the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Interior in Washington, D.C. to oppose a bundle of new internal CITES regulations of the International section of the USF&WS. The meeting subject included the abusive seizure policies of trophies from foreign countries. We discovered that the restrictive regulations that are proposed had already cleared the signature chain and are now under review by the Office of Management and Budget.

Policies on Wildlife Still Drawn From Colonial Era

By Joseph Magiri

Are economic growth and environmental conservation mutually exclusive? Animal rights' activists say they are. Free market environmentalists say they are not. In groundbreaking research, Prof Terry L Anderson, an environment economist at Stanford University in the US, shows that market approaches to conservation can be economically sound and environmentally sensitive.

In the book, *You Have to Admit It's Getting Better — From Economic Prosperity to Environmental Quality*, Anderson argues that economic growth and environmental quality are getting better — at least in northern America and southern Africa.

Anderson's research helped launch free market environmentalism and prompted public debate over the role of government in managing resources in US. Government subsidies often degrade the environment, but private property rights encourage resource stewardship and market incentives harness individual initiative for protecting environmental quality, Anderson argues. Data supports his argument.

In Kenyan parlance, Anderson says local communities and not Government should manage wildlife. Currently, local communities shoulder the costs of living with wildlife, but parties from outside reap the benefits. Although tourism is a top foreign exchange earner, communities living with wildlife are in abject poverty. And infrastructure such as the road to the Maasai Mara Game Reserve deteriorates to deplorable levels because those who use the road are not responsible for fixing it. Anderson's broad-ranging ideas have provided a refreshing and stimulating look at complex and seemingly intractable environmental problems.

A wildlife report prepared under the auspices of USAid is informed by free market environmentalism and not sport hunting, as critics seem to be saying. **Free market environmentalism holds that costs and benefit should be the central issue in wildlife conservation** [editor's emphasis].

Godfrey Ntapayia of Kitengela Land Owners Association, a group that has trailblazed leasing land to create wildlife corridors, says a new policy addressing compensation, ownership and who-plays-what-role in conservation is needed. Ntapayia adds that Sessional Paper No 3 of 1975 did not address resource sharing. Wildlife conservation policy is informed by outdated and draconian colonial thinking. The net effect is that wildlife populations have continued to decline despite huge funds spent in equipment and personnel to bar locals from using wildlife.

Ian Parker, a former Kenya game warden and founder managing director Wildlife Services Ltd, East Africa's first research private outfit, says: **"Commerce and consumption of wild animals lumped under 'poaching' reflects a far older**

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Policies On Wildlife Still Drawn From Colonial Era

situation going back into Kenya's distant past. Late in the colonial era, it became appreciated that the negative approach to wildlife use was failing — colonial reaction to African wildlife use was one of preventing Africans from using wildlife [editor's emphasis].

The first clear evidence of the failure of the colonialists' obstructive policy as far as Africans' use of wildlife was the creation of the Galana Game Management Scheme, closely followed by weak and half-hearted measures that allowed landowners to use wild animals commercially. Land owners were allowed to sell trophies, but not meat, or meat but not trophies. The policies sputtered and fizzled erratically after independence. Today the arguments for and against legitimate wildlife use do not reflect more than the situation that has persisted since the colonial era.

The big difference that has taken place over time, however, is that the wildlife resource is now a fraction of what it once was, and declines steadily."

This archaic approach to wildlife management has led to an unending human-wildlife conflict.

In a paper titled, *The status and challenges of human-wildlife conflict in Kenya: Novel and practical approaches towards mitigation*, Dr Geoffrey Wahungu, a senior lecturer at Moi University's Wildlife Department, argues that there are no models that have been developed from data collected or existing information to help predict and develop early warning systems or compile conflict mitigation measures for adoption and implementation. He adds that the methods applied now are not well documented, their relative efficiency and practicality of application undetermined and their potential in mitigating the conflict unknown.

In the paper, Wahungu documents approaches used to mitigate conflict to minimize conflict and at the same time conserve wildlife resources and save people's livelihoods. Although the communities living around national parks lose lives, limb and property among other burdens such as pests and diseases that wildlife spread to their livestock, they do not enjoy profits accruing from wildlife in the same proportion.

It is irrational to ask people affected negatively not to kill animals that destroy their crops or kill and maim residents. Farmers near wildlife conservation areas suffer loss of crops, but do not get compensated. They only get a consolation. To such farmers, wildlife conservation means lost crop, which translates to lost food or income. For conservation to work, wildlife should make a positive impact on the communities' bottom line [editor's emphasis].

Source: The Standard Group, Kenya

Human-Carnivore Conflict in Niassa National Reserve

Sociedade para a Gestão e Desenvolvimento da Reserva do Niassa, Moçambique

By Colleen Begg, Keith Begg, & Oscar Muemedi
(abbreviated for space reasons)

Summary

Wildlife can cause significant loss of human lives and livelihoods and if not responded to human-wildlife conflict can lead to a critical erosion of support for conservation initiatives. Niassa National Reserve, in northern Mozambique supports viable populations of lion, leopard, spotted hyaena and crocodile as well as approximately 25,000 people. This report provides a preliminary assessment of the scale and distribution of large carnivore attacks on Niassa residents, with particular emphasis on lions and crocodiles and to provide a baseline against which the level of future conflict can be compared. Data were collated from monthly reports of MOMS community scouts, NNR records, opportunistic conversations with local residents, concession operators and Reserve staff as well as from targeted questionnaire surveys for crocodiles and lions.

Since 1974, there have been at least 73 lion attacks in NNR. A minimum of 34 people has been killed and 37 injured with recent attacks concentrated in the north eastern region of NNR. Leopard attacks are rare however at least 9 people have been injured and 4 people killed by spotted hyaenas in NNR in the last 14 years. In these attacks sleeping in the open is the risk factor. At least 57 people have been killed by crocodiles in NNR in the past 30 years. A large portion of the Ruvuma River within NNR has not yet been surveyed so this is likely to be an underestimate. High-risk activities are repetitive behavior such as bathing at communal sites and wading at regular crossing points as well as Chingundenje net fishing. We strongly believe that providing locally derived, practical solutions to this conflict before it escalates any further provides the best opportunity for successful long-term conservation of the large carnivores in NNR.

While livestock depredation is probably the most common cause of human-carnivore conflict in Africa, one of the most serious causes is the fear of being killed or injured by a large carnivore. The death or injury of a person due to a large carnivore causes considerable trauma to the family and community, and may impact severely on the welfare of the surviving family. Retributive killing of the species of animal responsible (not necessarily the problem individual) can also cause serious population declines. In NNR livestock depredation by large carnivores is not a major problem as there are relatively few domestic livestock (mainly goats and chickens) and cattle are absent. However, loss of human life and injury do occur particularly due to lions and crocodiles, but up until now the extent of the conflict has been unknown. We strongly believe that providing solutions before this conflict escalates any further provides the best opportunity for successful long-term

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Human-Wildlife Conflict in Niassa National Reserve

conservation of the large carnivores in NNR.

Lion

In certain areas, particularly southern and eastern Tanzania, lion attacks have become increasingly common with more than 500 attacks since 1990. There are indications that a similar escalation in lion attacks has been experienced in northeastern Mozambique in Cabo Delgado particularly on the Mueda plateau. Recent reports suggest that 46 people were killed between 2002-2003 in Muidimbe district on the Makonde plateau with 70 people killed between 2000 and 2001 by lions in Cabo Delgado e. Since 1974, there have been at least 73 lion attacks in NNR. A minimum of 34 people has been killed and 37 injured with 11 people killed and 17 injured in the last 6 years alone. A total of 49 lion attacks representing 28 individual victims were reported during the questionnaire survey. Additional reports of 19 deaths and 22 injuries were provided from other sources, with 13 people injured and 9 killed in the northeastern section of NNR (Block A, Gomba). This is believed to be in the right order of magnitude since details of lion attacks (victim names, circumstances and year of attack) are remembered long after the event. However, this area has not been comprehensively surveyed and several more attacks may remain unreported. In addition conversations with Niassa residents do suggest that lion attacks in the 1980s may have been underestimated as some were believed to be the work of witchcraft and "spirit" lions not bush lions. The work of "spirit lions" appears to have declined in the 1990s due to the death of the powerful traditional healer who lived in Mecula. Further investigation into the cultural significance of lions and lion attacks in Niassa is warranted as this may have an effect on future mitigation strategies and conservation initiatives.

Little information is currently available on the exact circumstances of lion attacks. Where some details are provided 50% of the attacks have occurred in the village with the lions entering the living areas and on 4 occasions pulling people out of huts, 34% have occurred in the mashambas and only 18% have occurred in the woodlands. While it is likely that the spate of attacks in the Negomano area are exacerbated by low prey densities and heavy poaching pressure, spates of lion attacks on the Mueda plateau are not a new phenomenon but have been occurring in this region since the 1950s. Interestingly, no reports of lion attacks in Mbamba and Mecula have been recorded in the last 10 years, despite previous attacks and regular sightings of lions in the mashambas of Mbamba and Ncuti.

Spotted Hyaena

Attacks on humans by spotted hyaenas are likely underreported, however there are accounts of man-eating developing in spotted hyaenas in certain areas. An anecdotal news report indicates that there were 52 hyena attacks resulting in 35 deaths in a 12 month period in Mozambique along a 20km stretch of road near the Tanzanian border. Anderson suggests that the only hyaena problems that have been reported are from the northwestern region of Niassa province and at Goba in Maputo province.

In NNR, at least 9 people have been injured and 4

people killed by spotted hyaenas in the last 14 years. It seems that the majority of attacks have been on adults older than 40 (80%) with only 2 children attacked. Seven of the 13 attacks occurred when people were sleeping in the open, either in the mashambas or on the veranda. The circumstances of 6 attacks are not known. On 5 occasions the hyaenas were claimed to have been killed after the attack. It is of interest that 9 of 13 attacks have occurred in the same area (Naulala- Nalama) in the last 10 years. This may suggest that a particular clan of hyaenas is to blame and simply removing these hyaenas could solve the problem, however more details are needed on these attacks. Hyaenas have been recorded to kill goats and chickens on 4 occasions.

Leopard

Conflict with leopard appears to be minimal despite the fact that leopards are frequently seen within the villages at night. Leopards have injured two people in the last year. No reports of attacks prior to this have been collected. Outside NNR on the Mueda Plateau, leopard attacks are also frequently associated with sorcery ("spirit leopards") however at this stage no evidence of this has been found in NNR, perhaps due to the low incidence of attacks. In 2005, leopards were reported to be catching chickens at Chamba Posto. They are also likely to be attracted into villages by the presence of domestic dogs as has been found in other areas.

Crocodile

Between 1997 and 1998, crocodiles killed 17 people on the Ruvuma River with 59 incidents since 1985. At least 123 crocodiles were killed between 1989-1999 in the region. Subsequent surveys carried out on the Ruvuma suggest that crocodile densities are low. An aerial census in 1999 of approximately 150km of the Ruvuma at confluence of the Lugenda and Ruvuma Rivers calculated a density of 0.05 adult crocs/km; while spotlight counts over 10km of the river with the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor estimated a density of 0.6 adult crocs/km. On the Lugenda River preliminary spotlight counts revealed a density of 13.4 crocodiles/km; this count included juveniles as well as adult crocodiles.

At least 57 people have been killed by crocodiles in NNR in the past 30 years, with 46 people injured. Of these, 45 of the deaths have occurred on the Lugenda and 7 on the Ruvuma. This is likely to be an underestimate, as it does not include mortalities along the Ruvuma outside of the Selous Niassa Corridor. The data show a sharp and worrying increase in deaths due to crocodiles since 1970 with more than 40 people killed in the last 7 years. Like lion attacks the circumstances of crocodile attacks are remembered long after the event. At this stage it is impossible to determine whether this increase in attacks is due to an increase in the crocodile population as it recovers from past commercial hunting pressure, an increase in the human population utilizing the river, or a combination of both (most likely).

A survey of the Ruvuma bordering the SNWC showed that crocodiles have killed at least 3 people and injured 5 in the last 6 years and these attacks are happening in only near Milepa at the major crossing point and near the Lusanyando River crossing point.

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defense of a "cornered" administration under very high pressure, being accused of "institutionalized" corruption by the press and in Parliament.

Representatives of the hunting industry in Tanzania frantically attempted to meet with the minister to initiate a dialogue on how to solve an apparent impasse. They claimed that the increase could not be enforced in 2007, given that a previously agreed notice period had not been honored. TAHOA's arguments cited a 1994 document that was signed between the Stakeholders and the Wildlife Division, whereby hunting companies should have a 9 months' notice period regarding any price hike. Legal advice taken by TAHOA claimed that the sudden price increases breached this agreement.

Around August 14th, an email from the TAHOA Secretary General was sent to all TAHOA members saying "*The Office of the President has directed that TAHOA, on behalf of all hunting companies, has to sit with The Hon. Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism in order to resolve the issue of Block fees and Trophy Fees as announced in GN. 159 dated 29th June 2007 and promulgated on 11th July 2007.*" On August 24th the Tanzanian paper ThisDay reported that the MNRT flatly rejected to rethink the increases despite vigorous lobbying pressure. The Minister reportedly said that the revised game hunting fees were in line with prevailing rates in the rest of the 14-member Southern African Development Community. He asserted that hunting companies were using the blocks "almost free of charge," with a typical hunting block in the Selous Game Reserve of 100,000 hectares costing actually \$0.5 per hectare.

In an email bulletin of the same date, The Hunting Report classified ThisDay as tabloid with a history of anti-hunting stories. The Hunting Report said not to take the ThisDay report as the final word and cited TAHOA's chairman Gerard Pasanisi "*this situation is still open and TAHOA is ready to sit down next week [ed. note: last week August] with specialists from the minister's office to discuss the problem of fee increases.*" Insiders, however, are stating that although ThisDay may be considered tabloid, it is not anti-hunting, but anti-corruption.

The internet forum "[Accurate Reloading Forum](#)" has a number of posts on the situation. Of significance is a post by US agent Atkinson Hunting Adventures saying that "*we have been booking [buffalo] at the new price and see very little effect*". One participant posted: "*What I can't understand is why Tanzania doesn't have an open auction process for concessions and allow foreign companies to bid. With a 5 year lease and a rotating auction schedule so at least a few concessions come up for auction every year Tanzania would get fair [market value]. With a fixed price of \$50K some concessions may be under-priced while others may be over-priced. Tanzania will still lose revenue on under-priced concessions. Tanzania needs to fix its tender process, until it does, they will continue to have problems.*"

To make matters worse, MNRT had officially applied to sell 100 tons of ivory ahead of the recent CITES CoP but withdrew just before a CITES inspection was due and after major irregularities of the management of the ivory stocks, including the sale of stamped tusks, became public knowledge. Due to bad Governance and the apparent involvement of the

army and WD there is real danger that poaching for meat and ivory may again reach levels as in the 70s and 80s again. That would destroy wildlife including elephants in large numbers.

Part 2: A Review of Relevant Papers

Possibly the most significant paper about hunting in Tanzania was published in July 2004, authored by Dr. Rolf Baldus, at that time working for the Community Wildlife Management Program of the German Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) and by Andrew Cauldwell, who was with the EU-funded Kagera Kigoma Game Reserves Project (EDF). Titled "**Tourist Hunting and its Role in Development of Wildlife Management Areas in Tanzania**", all three parts can be downloaded from the African Indaba website (see "references" at the end of this article for the relevant links).

Fred Nelson from the Sand County Foundation Community Based Conservation Network, Simon Milledge of TRAFFIC East Africa, Dr Allan Rodgers, Regional Coordinator (Eastern Africa) UNDP-GEF Biodiversity Projects, the Tanzania Development Partners Group (DPG) and many others have also documented the problems, risks and potential solutions for the wildlife sector in Tanzania for years (see references).

The lack of an objective and transparent system for the allocation of hunting blocks has as consequence that blocks are leased at administered prices far below the true market value irrespective of size, quality or income potential. This represents a large loss of income to Tanzania.

The "official" complaints about the "insignificant" contribution of trophy hunting to the Tanzanian GDP fail to see that the safari hunting revenue has to be viewed not in isolation, but in connection with related items like travel, hotels, payments to outfitters, taxidermy, freight forwarding, air charter, souvenirs, tips, etc as well as the taxes paid to the State. By using multiplier effects, the hunting industry's contribution probably has been in excess of 130 million dollars in 2006.

All authors basically arrive at the same findings and similar conclusions – and we list some in no particular order:

- ✓ Despite the hunting sector's impressive growth little information and data are available, and even though a confidential report with empirical economic data was presented to WD in 2004 there was no response;
- ✓ WD uses a control system based on favoritism leading to reduced income generation for the country, excludes rural communities and resists efforts to introduce transparency and competition, whilst attempts to discuss the issues in public are curbed;
- ✓ a tourist hunting policy and management plan to introduce competition and to incorporate communities as decision-makers was developed, signed and accepted by the Director of Wildlife in 1995, but has never been implemented. Legislative changes do not adequately reflect the proposals.;
- ✓ concessions are leased at rates far below market value, favoring the development of a system of subletting to non-Tanzanian companies and reducing the tax-base of the Government. Hunting revenue is based on a "Pay-as-Used", rather than "Right-to-Use" system. This has not

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- changed despite political pressure to capture revenue potentials and real market value;
- ✓ calls for a transparent public tender process for hunting blocks with block fees charged according to open market values went unheard;
- ✓ the sector is suffering from sub-optimal management including a lack of normative hunting standards, monitoring of sustainable quotas, fair chase parameters, sustainable management of hunting blocks and limited participation of rural communities. Signs of unsustainable growth through block-division and expatriation of revenue are apparent, with neither Government nor communities receiving what is due to them according to Tanzanian law;
- ✓ the financial administration of the Tourist Hunting Section in the WD was computerized in the mid-nineties with financial assistance from a donor country at the request of MNRT, but never applied;
- ✓ that hunting blocks have been "allocated" on non-gazetted lands i.e. around Ruaha National Park, the Ngarambe-Tapika area south of the Rufiji, etc usurping village based wildlife enterprises, such as the Ngarambe-Tapika interim WMA against the principles of the 1998 Wildlife Policy document;
- ✓ that trophy hunting feeds funds only into central government with little filtering back into districts or to villages although the Wildlife Policy says *"wildlife benefits must flow back into the village communities who bear the costs of living with wildlife"*;
- ✓ neither the WD, the individual hunting outfitters, TAHOA nor the international hunting associations took proactive steps towards a reform process with a general reluctance notable amongst hunting safari outfitters to accept the WMA concept and effectively empower local communities;
- ✓ that biological, financial and hunt-return data, including monitoring of minimum trophy standards, for the adaptive management of the industry have not been integrated in a national hunting database. Minimum trophy size requirement for elephant, lion and leopard trophies are sometimes not enforced and sustainable trophy standards for buffalo have not been introduced;
- ✓ conservation basics, law and hunting ethics are frequently subordinated to market requirements, or in other words, to the high-fee-paying hunting tourist's will and whim. Serious efforts to prosecute violations are absent, despite a personal letter of the Director of Wildlife to every PH and hunting operator in 2005, saying *"there are reports about some professional hunters failing to pay serious attention to the law, regulations and guidelines used in the administration of safari hunting industry in Tanzania"*;
- ✓ that game viewing tourism and hunting safaris can be well combined in most areas, thus optimizing the revenue base, provided that protocols are established to regulate the interaction of both.

Is there a solution?

The events of the last three months can be described as implosion of a dysfunctional system, which begged for reform, but with the major players unable or unwilling to drive change. The resulting turmoil could also be viewed as a last opportunity for reform, as the consequences for not acting will be disastrous for wildlife, conservation and rural communities. Stakeholders need to think outside the box, forget the past and build a sustainable future. Those resisting reform will have to shoulder the responsibility of failure.

The history of the past 10 years has shown that commissions, stakeholder dialogue, round tables, policy development, and expert papers have brought no results, despite the members of the Development Partner Group (DPG) and the Government having spent millions of dollars and countless man-hours. Problems have been discussed and analyzed *ad nauseam* and solutions have been presented, but were ignored and policies have not been put into practice. The present Wildlife Policy reflects the goal to conserve wildlife and wild areas and to contribute to poverty reduction. Only minor parts of this Policy need to be adapted to changed circumstances, but the Government must make the political decision to introduce and enforce the policy. This decision has to come right from the top – i. e. the President's and the Vice-President's office as the elected representatives of people of Tanzania who are the owners of the wildlife resource, held in trust by their Government.

Nobody denies the fact the safari hunting industry needs to accept long overdue pricing adjustments to generate maximum sustainable hunting revenue for the country. Even substantially higher block lease costs will not necessarily drive up end-user hunting prices, although such a step would certainly affect excessive profit margins of some companies and certain practices deviating huge amounts into individual pockets. Yet, it must be permitted to say that price increases promulgated by MNRT in July do not address the basic problems inherent in the present system, nor do they offer a long term solution:

- Blocks lease costs (from \$7,500 to \$10,000 2 years ago and now at \$40,000 respectively \$50,000) still do not reflect the true economic value of the hunting block. Some blocks may be worth less, others substantially more;
- block adjudication is not subject to independent control, lacks transparency and disregards the principle that the optimal price is a competitive market-price. As the highest bidder is not necessarily the ideal candidate, adjustments along an agreed set of rules and regulations can be made by the tender committee;
- the revenue obtained by the WD is still based on a "Pay-as-Used" instead of on a "Right-to-Use" system, and since major revenue streams still come from trophy fees there is a tendency to overhunt quotas and wildlife populations;
- the "Pay-as-Used" system permits some hunting operators to restrict the number of exclusive safaris in prime areas. Their price structure allows working with minimum safari days and low off-take of trophy animals whilst maximizing economic return, thus reducing the Government's income.

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Moreover, the presentation and introduction date of the price increase after the hunting season had begun may be described as unwise, although insiders say that most of the current block holders can still afford the higher block fees. These sources also say "the process showed the Wildlife Division's lack of understanding on how the hunting industry works". Some insiders even suggest that "block contracts should be cancelled en masse, and the current holders invited to submit bids to the WD suggesting a revised fee". The WD can then enter a memorandum of understanding with the operators in the interim while the rest of the recommendations are implemented.

It is therefore suggested that the Government of Tanzania rescind the promulgated 2007 season increases and instead look for an optimal solution from 2008 onwards. With political will and immediate action a solution based on the proposals listed at the end of this chapter could be ready for implementation in the first quarter of 2008 well ahead of the start of the 2008 season. A parallel media campaign could be started in late December to transparently inform the global hunting market.

I submit that even a substantially higher increase in block leases, coupled with stable and market-related trophy fees would not necessarily drive up end-user prices, although it would certainly affect possibly excessive profit margins of some. We live in a competitive world; although nobody is denying the operators a reasonable profit margin, the international hunting associations – as responsible hunter-conservationists – should make sure that a substantial part of the funds paid for hunting safaris goes towards conservation and poverty alleviation of Tanzania. This route will result in a "win-win" situation for all.

Safari operators need to rethink pricing strategy and like in any other industry, must embark on strict cost saving measures in order to obtain an adequate profit margin. We also need price clarity in a way that safari prices (daily rates) should be inclusive of all extras, like hunting permit fees, block fees, conservation fees, community fees and trophy handling-preparation- and export-fees. Safari operators, who hold prime hunting blocks are entitled to charge premium prices for their services and the market will certainly accept this.

The Government should request transparency about concession lease holders, sub-letting of blocks, infrastructure costs, staff remuneration, office and administrative cost, marketing expenses, and the final destination of the funds paid by the hunting client, etc. It is the legitimate right of the Tanzanian Revenue Authority (TRA) to levy the appropriate tax on business conducted in the country.

Another issue, which must come under review, is the safari marketing at international shows especially expensive hunt donations. The US convention organizers benefit yearly substantially from booth rentals and donations from safari operators. In 2006, the donation value of safaris in Tanzania to the US convention circuit is estimated to be close to 0.5 million dollars, but very little of this amount flows back into the country. It is suggested that such donations should be done only along the example of the government permits donated by various US States, Mexico and some western Canadian Provinces, where, in the case of mountain sheep, the Foundation for North

American Wild Sheep (FNAWS) raised in excess of 5.9 million dollars in the past 3 years. This amount was paid directly to the donating wildlife departments and as such represented real value for conservation.

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), a politically independent advisory body involved in broad-based initiatives on Sustainable Hunting Tourism can assist the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania in the reform process. CIC unites Member States (mostly represented by the Ministry responsible for wildlife management and conservation), researchers from universities, organizations engaged in hunting, as well as private members from 81 countries and cooperates with UNEP, FAO etc. and all prominent international conventions with relevance to wildlife conservation and management and is a member of IUCN

In view of these arguments, I would like to present the readers of African Indaba the following multi-pronged approach to reform. I challenge all readers, but in particular international hunting associations like Safari Club International, Dallas Safari Club, Shikar Safari Club, etc. as well as the international hunting media to offer their views in this discussion. Last not least, Tanzania is the crown jewel of African hunting and we all want and need a sustainable and equitable solution.

1. Implement the Tanzania Wildlife Policy

- 1.1 Streamline the Wildlife Policy along the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty, better known by its Swahili acronym MKUKUTA (*Mkakati wa Kukuza Uchumi na Kuondoa Umaskini Taifa*) on how the wildlife sector can contribute to growth, revenue, and poverty reduction objectives along the Government policies of decentralization and democratic control. If necessary, have WD appoint lawyers to review the Act and present a new draft for debate with parliamentarians and civil society. A written agreement with Donor Partners Group on a joint implementation strategy for the MNRT policies would assist in securing full financial support for the Government programs;
- 1.2 Appoint a committee to revise and simplify the WMA Regulations so that they can be understood and applied by the rural population and secure WMA participation of WMAs and their members in decision making processes
- 1.3 Appoint resource economists and an international auditing company to evaluate the block lease system, establish estimated hunting block market values and introduce transparency into the revenue flow within the WD. Create a transparent block tendering process with additional tendering criteria over and above the block price (for details compare the [Bwabwata Tender Process](#) and the proposed [Niassa Game Reserve Tender Process](#) – see Page 7 this issue); and abolish sub-letting;
- 1.4 Commission an objective scientific examination of the economic, social and ecological consequences of all aspects of safari hunting across representative ecosystems to test the hypothesis that "*well-managed, transparent sport hunting can provide very tangible and quantifiable conservation and social benefits, as well as substantial and sustainable economic gain*";

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- 1.5 Assess funding situation in major game reserves to improve law enforcement and conservation.

2. Initiate Reform of Hunting Industry

- 2.1 Establish a permanent panel of experts with a secretariat at the Mweka Wildlife College in advisory capacity to the Permanent Secretary. Members could be Wildlife Division, the Parliamentary Committee for Lands, Natural Resources and Tourism, TANAPA, NCAA, Institute of Resource Assessment (University of Dar Es Salaam), community/WMA representatives, LEAT, WWF, WCS, independent experts, international hunting associations, organized (TAHOA) and independent hunting safari operators to review present procedures, comment on block allocation, pricing structures, WD hunting management, quota setting, computerization, and a system of self-regulatory certification methods for hunting blocks, safari operators and professional hunters;
- 2.2 Join the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC as a state member, represented by the Honorable Minister;
- 2.3 Establish a system where individual safari operators and the Wildlife Division cooperate to provide annual donations of full bag safaris (incl. of all costs and trophies) to be auctioned at international conventions subject to a reserve price. The convention organizers must commit to pay the Wildlife Division at least 90% of the hammer price and such funds will be used entirely for conservation in the hunting block where the safari will be conducted
- 2.4 Consider increased transparency regarding safari price components like infrastructure costs, staff remuneration, office and administrative cost, marketing expenses, and that safari payments arrive in full in the country.

3. Establish Public Trust

- 3.1 Create a Wildlife Division website with important decisions, policy documents, block tender documents, a detailed PH and outfitter register, hunting database, the hunting reform debate, etc in order establish trust nationally and internationally;
- 3.2 Create a hunting database with details of block, quota, success ratio, trophy quality (all trophies to be measured prior to export acc to RW criteria) in cooperation with IUCN Specialist Groups (elephant, cats, crocodiles, antelopes, etc);
- 3.3 Initiate on-the-spot dialogue between the Director of Wildlife and representatives of the major wildlife areas on district and communities level to discuss policy, the WMA concept, sustainable hunting tourism, revenue sharing, problem animal control, etc and distribute the Swahili version of the official Wildlife Policy.

4. Expected Outcome

- 4.1. To generate maximum sustainable hunting revenue from the "Right-to-Hunt", i.e. from hunting block leases adjudicated in a transparent tender process at market values determined by the quality of the block and by the

quality and numbers of the game therein, complemented by stable and internationally competitive trophy fees.

- 4.2. To establish appropriate methods to allow properly qualified Tanzanian citizens entrance into the hunting safari industry as partners or professional hunters
- 4.3. Best practices in the tourist hunting industry contribute to biodiversity conservation, safeguard resource sustainability, secure long-term and increased revenue, for the Government, the hunting industry, the local communities and the national economy and thus contribute significantly to poverty reduction

Tanzania still is one of the best wildlife and hunting destinations in Africa, but this status is threatened, if present trends continue. Change is easy to achieve, if there is political will in Tanzania to do so. Effective reform of the Wildlife Act will lead to good governance, realize the revenue potential of the industry, share benefits and reduce poverty through implementation the existing WMA concept.

This would be a true example of "Incentive-Driven-Conservation" and a proud step along the path shown by the first president of Tanzania, the Honorable Julius Nyerere in his 1961 Arusha Declaration on Wildlife protection.

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