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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

Rural Poverty, Food Security and the African Elephant

Gerhard Damm

CIC members and guests from various African and European governments as well as representatives from governments and international treaty organizations like FAO, CITES, CMS, AEWA as well as many hunting associations from the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa assembled in Marrakech/Morocco in April for the 55th General Assembly of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC). For more details please read the report on page 8.

In the editorial of a joint printed special edition of African Indaba and the CIC, my co-author Rolf Baldus and I said that the renewable resource wildlife can be utilized forever provided the use is sustainable. We stressed that wildlife use takes place on land, which is nearly everywhere a scarce commodity. It consequently competes with all other forms of land use. Many well meant efforts advocating the total protection of wildlife do not consider the social and economic consequences for the people living with or close to wildlife. Total protectionism as well as emotional blackmail by some animal rights organizations make wildlife lose most of its economic and socio-political value. Consequently wildlife comes out second best and often last in the competition for the most appropriate land use, although International Agreements, like the "Convention on Biological Diversity" and the "Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity", confirm the right and the need for the sustainable use of natural resources. It is well understood that uses and human interventions, particularly in national parks, need to be minimized. But wildlife populations have to be managed to balance their impact on other species and on vegetation, even in the most protected national parks – the elephant culling issue in South Africa is a case in point. Management processes should include a combination of hunting, culling, live game sales and ecotourism to maximize economic, ecological and socio-political benefits.

The public needs to be made aware that sustainable use and long term protection of wildlife do not exclude, but complement each other. They are two sides of the same coin. Together they are called "conservation", although this particular meaning is all too often overlooked, sidelined or intentionally misinterpreted.

Regulated hunting is recognized internationally as a legitimate and essential part of conservation, but we must not overlook the fact that a small but vociferous faction actively tries

to undermine this. They replenish their ammunition from many forms of unsustainable and unethical hunting. Consequently hunters have a dire necessity to look at and act upon such abuses. Sustainable use of nature is not only a recognized principle which underlines our right to hunt. It is at the same time a binding obligation and lifelong commitment for all hunters. If we fail to stand up to this task, our passion will not have a future.

Hunting tourism has a special significance. Of all wildlife uses, (trophy hunting) tourism is of particular economic relevance. It has the potential to generate extraordinarily high revenues with a minimal take-off of individual game animals – usually older male specimens. The "ecological footprint" of hunters is considerably smaller than any other form of ecotourism. Hunting tourism can therefore develop into an economic and social force of significant impact in underdeveloped rural, remote and agriculturally marginal areas, underpinning the ecological, economical and socio-political pillars of sustainability.

At the same time there is significant potential for abuse and malpractices inherent in hunting tourism: corruption, fraud, bad governance, overshooting of quotas, bad management and

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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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consequently the loss of wildlife numbers and biological diversity. Examples of bad practices exist on all continents. On the other hand there are many best practices, showing the opposite as proof of the positive impact hunting tourism on game and non-game species alike, their habitats and the people who live with wildlife and manage it.

Hunting tourism is indeed widely accepted as an integral part of rural development. However, every effort has to be made that hunting and hunting tourism are practiced in proper, ethical and sustainable ways. Only then will hunting tourism be a positive management tool and powerful incentive, generate revenue for conservation and at the same time provide economic and social benefits for the rural populations who usually bear the direct and indirect costs of wildlife on their land.

The discussion and development of best practices in hunting tourism are a special and important responsibility of the global hunting community and the CIC has taken up this challenge. Hunters have to demonstrate that they are conscious of the consequences hunting engenders and that they accept responsibility for the wild resources they are using.

In line with these thoughts and the ideas expressed during the CIC General Assembly in Marrakech ("Global Forum for Sustainable Hunting"), we should encourage the decision makers of the South African National Parks Board and Minister van Schalkwyk to stand steadfast by their policy of sound wildlife management, in particular regarding the important issues contained in their elephant management policy (see articles by Dr. John Ledger and Robert Woodward in this issue).

I go as far as to suggest that DEAT and SANParks could go even further to extract maximum economic and social benefits from this ecologically necessary elephant management process. The global efforts to reduce poverty and provide food security for the rural poor could find workable solutions in the sustainable use of the burgeoning populations of elephants in Southern Africa. Poverty and hunger contribute to a range of social costs that exacerbate the cost of protecting natural resources and poverty reduction and food security are acute problems crying for fast-track solutions.

Just imagine: the South African authorities would consider regulated sustainable use as expressed a decade ago in T'Sas Rolfe's paper "The Kruger Park – A Heritage for All". I elaborated on T'Sas Rolfe's proposals in my 2005 paper "Hunting in South Africa – Facts, Risk and Opportunities": it is a sad fact that regulated hunting is prohibited in SANParks managed protected areas. I suggested that a careful policy review with the objective of making parts of the SANParks protected areas available for closely monitored conservation hunting is overdue. Such a step will instantly create many Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) opportunities and contribute significantly to African empowerment objectives.

Consumptive use of wildlife within protected areas will certainly open conflicts and heated discussions driven largely by moralistic or emotional arguments of the animal rights faction. To counter these, we should not forget that the operating costs for protected areas could theoretically be fully met from a combination of photo tourism, conservation hunting and herbivore man-

agement (i. e. elephant culling and sale of ivory, meat or skins, antelope culling for venison export and skins, etc). The degree of combination of the various options needs be open-ended, and adaptive depending on biodiversity management objectives. "Incentive-Driven-Conservation" would have major positive implications for the South African conservation strategy – and indeed for the conservation strategy of any African state – since it would open socio-politically important management options for protected areas.

Some 300 hunters spending about 3,500 nights in SANParks areas and hunting not more than 1,100 animals (incl. about 80 elephant) could improve SANParks' net bottom line by an estimated 35 million Rand (= ca 3.05 m Euro or 4.7 m US \$). This additional income could be used for housing, medical assistance, etc. for those living adjacent to the parks, for conservation projects like land acquisition, conservation-favorable settlement of land claims, create BEE opportunities, etc. The meat from hunted and culled game is a cheap protein source for needy neighboring communities, of particular importance in a time of rapidly rising food prices. In short – it is an excellent tool for rural poverty reduction and to increase food security – two issues at least just as important as elephant conservation. An intelligent combination of culling, hunting, live game sales and eco-tourism would clearly be the most appropriate solution and lead to a win-win situation for sociological AND ecological development.

Strict hunting regulations and a concise protocol governing conservation hunting are essential. For elephant, this would mean that only mature bulls older than 45 years with a maximum single tusk weight of less than 35kg should be hunted. These bulls have exhausted their tusk development potential. Younger bulls which still have exponential tusk development, and designated super tuskers, should be strictly protected..

As mentioned earlier, these proposals do not apply to South Africa alone – the member states of the South African Development Community (SADC) – in particular Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania – could and should look at this model. In particular Botswana and Zimbabwe, with their burgeoning elephant population, should not succumb to any blackmailing tactics. Their elephants are valuable assets, which must be managed and used responsibly instead of risking horrendous elephant die-offs of immensely larger scale than in Tsavo some decades ago.

The European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity, which has been adopted by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention in November 2007 may assist in further developing a sound regulatory frame work for sustainable hunting in the SADC region. (download the full text from the website of the Council of Europe at :

www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/conventions/Bern/Recommendations/tpvs07erev_2007.pdf

or order a hardcopy from the CIC Technical Series (Publication No 2) at office@cic-wildlife.org)

My arguments may not convince outspoken adversaries of consumptive sustainable use and "Incentive-Driven-Conservation". They state that killing of wild animals is brutal, uncivilized and anachronistic. Killing animals to save them seems illogic on the surface, but it takes a healthy productive

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population to produce a few large trophy lion or elephants. Eco-tourism often has far more detrimental general environmental impacts. Game viewing and photographic tourism affects wildlife in a number of negative ways. Behavioral changes like habituation from feeding and interaction with humans are possibly those of least concern to ecotourists, since it enhances the perceived experience. Nevertheless, these changes take the "wild out of the wild". Far more serious consequences are caused by the disruption of feeding patterns of mammals and birds or the hunting success for large carnivores like lion, cheetah, leopard and wild dog as well as physiological challenges with repercussions on breeding success, growth rate and interspecific interactions.

The demand for unprecedented luxury in up-market lodges with the resultant pressure on resources, waste disposal, the expectation of comprehensive infrastructure and services and finally the large numbers of eco-tourists create a significantly higher environmental pressure than conservation hunting. One of the most successful lodge operators in Southern Africa said: "[our lodges] are generally world standard and some are even rated in the top five anywhere. These lodges are attracting the very top end of the international tourists [...] [paying] a lot and demanding incredible service". Has he ever considered their "Ecological Footprint"? Exclusive eco-tourism is limited to specific and spectacular areas with charismatic and easily observable wildlife - does he have any suggestions for the less spectacular African regions?

In conclusion: the combined effects of the various eco-tourism activities on biodiversity are indirect, less obvious, but potentially more lethal to wildlife; non-consumptive use generates certainly benefits for some Africans but it cannot improve the lot of the vast majority of Africans, unless combined with sustainable consumptive use.

ECWP Releases Houbara Bustards in Morocco

Source: Gulfnews (<http://www.gulfnews.com/>)

In line with the UAE's strategic efforts to increase the number of houbaras in the wild, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince General Shaikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan has participated in the release of more than 5,000 North African houbaras in the eastern desert of Morocco, the largest reintroduction of houbaras into the wild so far. The houbaras had been bred at the Emirates Centre for Wildlife Propagation (ECWP) in Missouri, Morocco. About 35% were fitted by satellite transmitter to track their movement. Since the ECWP's primary objective is to restore a sustainable wild houbara population, tracking the released birds and monitoring their behavior in their natural habitat is crucial.

The Abu Dhabi Government has built a sound scientific knowledge base about the houbara and initiated sound management and conservation measures. Conservation efforts of

the houbara started as early as 1977, when the late Shaikh Zayed started a breeding program for the Asian houbara.

"The UAE is committed to restoring an unlimited houbara population in the wild," said Shaikh Mohammad. He noted that the integrated program set by the UAE, in which the ECWP is participating, has made tremendous progress and has already succeeded in creating a self-sustaining captive houbara population and producing about 5,000 birds per year.

The centre's breeding complex is the headquarters of a vast network of specialized stations distributed over 40,000km² in eastern Morocco. The integrated, state-of-the-art facilities use the latest scientific innovations to breed, acclimatize and reintroduce the houbaras into the wild. After release, their movements are closely tracked and their behavior is studied in their natural habitat. In studying the houbara's efforts to survive, ECWP scientists monitor everything from weather systems to vegetation and wildlife in the release areas.

Don't Fence Me In

Craig Boddington

Professional Member, Boone and Crockett Club

This is an edited and abbreviated version of the full article as printed in "Fair Chase" (Spring 2003), the official publication of the Boone & Crockett Club

In recent years one of the issues the Boone and Crockett Records Committee has continuously attempted to deal with is the business of fenced animals. In some contexts the answer is simple.

The Boone and Crockett Club records system tabulates listings for native North American big game. Non-native big game animals are excluded from the Club's records program. A much knottier problem arises when it comes to the disposition of native big game animals that are confined within game fences. Again, some questions are easier than others. Due to the tremendous value of large specimens of high-profile species there is now a growing "game ranching" industry.

The most common situations are whitetail deer and elk, partly because of availability of captive-reared individuals, and partly because of demand. Mind you, it is quite possible for an operator to offer a quality experience (if not a quality "hunting" experience) with a captive herd. Horror stories are also possible. These days there are some very big elk and some very big whitetails confined on some very small properties, awaiting someone with a big enough checkbook. Personally, I don't blame the operators; we have a free enterprise system, so I blame the shooters who support this industry. I also blame all of us, collectively, for placing such a premium on size of antler and horn that some of us have forgotten what our sport is all about.

Montana has taken decisive action, outlawing game ranching. Maybe that's the wave of the future. However, to date this has not been an issue for the Boone and Crockett Club's North American Big Game Awards Program, because animals

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that qualify for inclusion must not only be hunted by legal and ethical means; they must also be taken from unfenced breeding populations.

So now we get to the real rub. What about native game in natural habitat, existing in breeding populations, hunted legally and ethically . . . but confined by game-proof fencing?

In the context of fair chase and the impact of questionable hunting practices upon the future of the hunting in an increasingly urban society that lacks an appreciation of hunting as a recreational pastime, the harvest of farmed animals from non-breeding populations is very important to the Boone and Crockett Club. The Club's concern to date has been focused on how to maintain a system of records for native big game in a country where stewardship of wildlife lies in the public domain; and how to keep that records system as clean and pure as possible in the context of legal, ethical "fair chase" hunting.

The proliferation of game-fenced ranches in recent years has presented the problem to the Club's North American big game records committee of how to deal with free-ranging North American big game animals taken in native habitat, from breeding populations, but within game-fenced acreage.

Game fencing is becoming much more common, especially in Texas where the state has official programs aimed at better managing habitat and whitetail deer on private land. In certain situations in Texas, wildlife may be considered a commodity for sale or exclusive use of the private property owner. This has come about for several reasons.

As a state, Texas is something like 98 percent privately owned, with an accordingly strong tradition of protecting property rights. Unlike most parts of the U.S., wildlife in Texas has long had economic value; Texans have grown up understanding that, in order to hunt, they needed to either own their own land (or have friends or relatives who did), or invest in a hunting lease. Texans love their whitetails, and have long been in the forefront in managing deer for quality. In order to manage a ranch for quality deer, both habitat and deer numbers must be managed. Hunting and fences are two important tools for a sound habitat and herd management program. Fences are as important in keeping deer out of an area as they are in containing them. Unless all of your neighbors are like-minded or your property is huge, the only way to really manage for quality is to fence the land.

So we have a situation where some hunters and landowners, and not just in Texas, are producing spectacular whitetail deer (and occasionally elk and other species) that have antlers large enough for inclusion into the Club's records book. They are producing them without tricks, from breeding populations in native habitat, and they are hunting them by legal and ethical means. The only problem is that many of these animals are coming from game-fenced acreage, and under the current rules are not eligible for inclusion into Boone and Crockett Club's Awards Programs. Obviously this rankles many hunters, so the discussions have been long and heated.

Personally, I have come full circle on the issue. The whitetail is a homebody, a creature of close cover and edge habitat that normally establishes a very finite home territory.

If you know anything about whitetail deer it will be apparent that, in proper habitat, a whitetail confined within a relatively small area is not handicapped in its ability to evade hunters. Many years ago a Texas outfitter had a huge, hand-raised, non-typical buck in a brushy pen of just a couple of acres. He wanted to show him to me, so we went to look. No deer. Perplexed, we walked that entire pen for quite a while looking for him. Still no deer. My friend was horrified, certain that either the deer had escaped or had been purloined. No, he was just being a whitetail. The next day he was standing placidly by the gate—on the inside.

Expand that concept to the fenced hunting ranch of several hundred to a few thousand acres, and it's clear that there is likely no ethical issue, nor should any be implied. Knowing all this, and having some experience with game ranching in South Africa and elsewhere, for years I imagined that there must be some way to recognize the great animals taken under such conditions.

I've finally circled back to the simple fact that there isn't a way to recognize big game taken from fenced ranches under the Boone and Crockett Club's current North American Big Game Awards Program, and I applaud the strength and determination of the records committee in holding a very difficult line: Excluding North American big game animals taken within a game fence into Boone and Crockett Club's Awards Program as we know it today.

This is unquestionably patently unfair to the landowners and hunters who have done so much for quality deer management and have produced spectacular animals, using game fencing as just one of their tools. I still support the decision, because the ultimate problem is really quite simple: How do you decide how much acreage is enough, which management practices are acceptable and which are not . . . and who decides?

It depends on the habitat, as well as the size of the area for the animal, using its natural defensive behavior, to elude its pursuers. In some areas a mature whitetail deer could take good care of himself in a few dozen or a few hundred acres, but he couldn't if you put him in a fenced parking lot of several thousand acres. Where do you draw the line?

Who draws it? Could you realistically create a formula for acreage versus habitat, inspecting and certifying properties on a case-by-case basis, deciding what constitutes "fair chase" and what doesn't?

This isn't just about whitetails, either. The rules are the rules for all North American big game, as it should be. To behave naturally and use their senses and defenses properly, elk require a lot more country than whitetails, and how could you fence strongly migratory animals like caribou and create a "natural" situation? Mind you, the records committee does not impugn or imply that a great whitetail taken by ethical means from a breeding population on a large fenced area is a lesser trophy than a buck of the same size taken on unfenced acreage. It's a can of worms. Our records system is, admittedly, a work in progress, but it's a work of several generations now, and crossing a line that is now very clearly black and white is a very difficult task.

It's said that people who live in glass houses shouldn't

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throw stones. I'm not personally rabidly against fencing, and I have enjoyed several good hunts within fenced areas . . . not only on other continents, but here at home as well. I have hunted whitetail deer on game-fenced ranches, and I make no apology. A great whitetail taken by ethical means from a natural, free-ranging, breeding population is a super trophy . . . whether it qualifies for inclusion into Boone and Crockett Club's Awards Program or not. Very few of us actually hunt "for the book" anyway, but these are personal decisions we must all make.

The entry requirements for the Club's North American Big Game Awards Program are clear, and if you are hunting behind a game fence—under any circumstances— your animal will not be accepted. This is not fair to all, but on the whole I think this is fair for our sport, because some animals taken behind fences are not from breeding populations, and should not be allowed to compete with, nor gain the recognition of, animals taken in unfenced circumstances. And, of course, some fenced areas are smaller than others . . .

Whether or not you choose to hunt behind a game fence is purely a personal decision. I personally have issues with hunting our native big game behind game fencing. Partly this is because there are unfenced options, and partly it's because there have been so many abuses. If you don't have a problem with fencing that's okay by me so long as it's legal, ethical, and you understand the end result will not qualify for the Boone and Crockett Club's records book.

This is all a very personal matter and I deal with it on a case-by-case basis. I know I don't want to hunt whitetail or elk behind a fence because I have lots of unfenced options, and the idea of hunting North American wild sheep on a game farm horrifies me. But I'll probably hunt in South Africa—behind a game fence—a few more times before I'm done, and I enjoyed a really great hunt here in the U.S. for which I make no apology.

I went on a bison hunt near San Acacio, Colorado. There are a few genuine, native range, free range, breeding population bison hunts that Boone and Crockett Club will accept, but very few and all by permit drawing. I wanted a midwinter bison, a big bull, for a head mount, under the best circumstances I could find. I hunted a big bull that was free-ranging on 60,000 acres — none of it *game* fenced, and the southern quadrant not fenced at all. That's free range, and southern Colorado is native habitat. However, that bull was not part of a current breeding population, and no hunting license was either available or required.

By Boone and Crockett Club's standards the spectacular bull does not qualify for the North American Big Game Awards Program. I can live with that. My bull is a great trophy taken on an enjoyable hunt.

I have no problem with his exclusion from Boone and Crockett 'cause them's the rules, but I won't have any severe attacks of conscience over participating in such a hunt, either.

The CIC Trophy Measuring and Monitoring System

Gerhard Damm

The author presented a paper on the evolution of the CIC Trophy Measuring and Monitoring System and its synergies with the CIC Project on Sustainable Hunting Tourism during the CIC General Assembly in Marrakech to highlight that the innovative CIC Trophy Measuring and Monitoring System may serve regionally and globally as key wildlife management tool, as indicator of sustainable trophy hunting practices and as a bridge for cooperation with the IUCN Sustainable Use Specialist and Species Specialist Groups.

Vision

"The innovative CIC approach to trophy hunting, trophy evaluation and trophy monitoring will concentrate on scientifically viable trophy measurements focusing on methods which provide on one hand comprehensive and species-specific biological data and on the other hand the means to intelligently use and interpret these data."

Rationale

Global scientific circles like the IUCN species specialist groups and many field researchers have demanded such an approach for years. Regulatory authorities in the European Union and the United States, but also international treaties like CITES require detailed data sets based on sound science and broad sampling sizes to determine the non-detrimental status of game hunting, particularly for the high profile game species in the CITES appendices. The evolutionary development of the CIC system will position the CIC model to connect the hunting trophy and the environment with scientifically viable data as foundation stone of the ethical and sustainable extractive use of game species.

At the CIC General Assemblies of Warsaw (1934) and Prague (1937) the first rules and regulations of the CIC Trophy Measuring were established based on the work of Graf Meran, Bieger and Nadler (1930). Minor alterations were adopted for the International Hunting Exhibition, Berlin 1937. Further development of the system led to the Madrid Formula (CIC General Assembly 1952), which again formed the basis for more adaptations in Dusseldorf (1954) and Copenhagen (1955).

Subsequently a working group with numerous international experts, prominent amongst them CIC members like Andre-Jacques Hettier de Boislabert, Kenneth Whitehead, Werner Trense and Veljko Varicak presented further results at the international exhibition in Budapest (1971). The end result was the establishment of the current CIC trophy scoring system in 1977. **Hence, change and adaptive evolution are not new to the CIC system, but actually formed an essential part of its historic development.**

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The CIC Trophy Measuring and Monitoring System

Existing systems should not be changed for the sake of change, but it is common knowledge that every system needs to adapt to changing circumstances in order to remain relevant. Changes need to be based on significant new knowledge about game, game populations, game genetics, zoogeography and the socio-biological importance of horns and antlers in terms of geometry, morphology etc, but also on changing societal perceptions of hunting. Much of the scientific facts known today as well as new scientific statistical evaluation methods based on state-of-the-art information technology were not available 30 or 40 years ago..

Comparability with existing trophy data will not disappear, if existing formulae are adapted and/or changed, provided the complete historic data sets are available to be incorporated into a new relational data base. Comparability of scientific datasets is achieved as a result of the statistical evaluation of individual measurements, trophy characteristics and habitat parameters and not by comparing mere point totals.

Many researchers have highlighted the influence that selective hunting may have on the population dynamics of game and non-game species. Yet data sourced from hunts are inherently biased. Hunters typically select a non-random subset of a game population usually based on anthropocentric intentions thus making hunting the contrary of a random process. A similar constraint applies to the trophies scored for traditional recording purposes – in many cases only a relatively small percentage of the trophies taken are scored resp. are entered into databases or record books. We need to adopt corrective measures for bias introduced this way, since it may have important consequences for the correct interpretation of hunting and trophy data.

The hunter's anthropocentric objectives during the hunt and the resulting selection usually has an effect, sometimes significant, on the characteristics of the hunted game and consequently on the antlers or horns of trophy males since hunter selection usually focuses on males bearing larger trophies and/or trophies with certain characteristics. This focus could result that these animals are more likely to be killed when actually still needed in the reproductive cycle. At the same time, game animals usually experience natural selection pressures towards being large and/or heavy to ensure breeding success and survival. These complex dynamics need to be taken into account to safeguard the scientific and ethical integrity of hunting trophy scoring and monitoring methods and to elevate a scoring system above mere anthropocentric purposes often with a competitive undertone, i. e. like in "I killed the best, largest or heaviest".

Trophy scoring and monitoring methods based on state-of-the-art species-specific conservation biology will assist in developing and applying the most appropriate wildlife management regimes; they will encourage that trophy animals are targeted primarily after having reached the transition period between prime and post-prime status. As a consequence, hunter induced mortality will not significantly increase natural mortality patterns, since the targeting of post-prime age classes will by-and-large result in compensation between natural and hunter-induced mortality.

Scientifically, antlered, horned or tusked trophies today

are seen today as bio-indicators. Their precise measurements and statistical evaluation can play an important role for the implementation of sustainable use regimes of wild living resources, if the data come from a sufficiently large pool. However, to a greater or lesser extent, the existing trophy measuring systems provide only a relatively limited data pool, and more importantly, often neglect geometry, morphometry, statistics, socio-biological value and metabolic achievements. They value subjective anthropomorphic "ideals", which are often the reason for controversies (Bubenik, 1988).

A. Bubenik said in a contributing chapter to former CIC Secretary General Werner Trense's "The Big Game of the World" (Paul Parey 1989) "in dealing with [the assessment of trophies] I have to question the legitimacy of the present assessment formulas From a historical point of view, most of the inadequacies of the formulas are understandable". The proposed evolutionary development of the CIC Trophy Measuring and Monitoring System intends to incorporate Dr. Bubenik's challenges and will work on adequate solutions.

At the CIC Press Conference in Vienna/Austria (April 2007), Dr. R Guertler said "game deserves the name game only if it is free-ranging year-round" and CIC Expert Prof. F. Reimoser stated that "the hunt focuses on hunting of self-sustaining wild and free ranging game". Prof. K. Hackländer mentioned that "trophy scoring methods based on number of points, length of beams and presence of crowns lead to a reduction of genetic diversity". CIC President Dieter Schramm announced during the same press conference that "the CIC will start to re-evaluate existing trophy scoring methods at the 54th GA and re-think the inclusion of subjective beauty criteria (color, pearls, etc) and give greater emphasis to the age of the trophy animal. Ad-hoc scoring should be abolished and hunt area managers and/or owners should sign an affidavit that the hunted game originated from free-range conditions". These remarks formed the basis for the present work.

The 2007 Trophy Workshop at the 54th General Assembly in Belgrade analyzed the complex issue of trophy scoring and trophy recording. At the final meeting of the workshop participants, CIC Honorary President Dr Nicolas Franco stated „that ongoing cooperation with scientists seems to be of essence, especially since a trophy record book should be monitoring species and habitat and include scientific data. Trophy recording is for the good of the species and not for the ego of a hunter."

During the past twelve months, ongoing individual discussions, correspondence with CIC members and outside scientific experts kept the topic on the agenda – last not least in connection with the objectives of CIC 2010!

My interpretation of the objectives of CIC 2010 require the CIC and its partners to assume a global leadership position in the scientific evaluation of sustainable trophy hunting through the establishment and administration of a comprehensive database of hunting trophies combined with current detailed descriptions of the hunted species, their geographical distribution and the habitats these species live in.

The imminent creation of a task force of committed CIC

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The CIC Trophy Measuring and Monitoring System

members cooperating with representatives of national and international hunting organizations, IUCN specialist groups, field researchers, universities and national regulatory authorities will be an important milestone on this path. The proposed task force got its mandate through clear terms of reference from the CIC Executive Committee at the CIC General Assembly in Marrakech in April this year. Gerhard Damm has been appointed to coordinate the task force and present detailed reports to the CIC Executive Committee. The task force will review and if necessary, adapt, the existing CIC Red Book and the objective will be the establishment of a scientific database suitable to support exemplary wildlife management regimes and sustainable hunting tourism.

Principles, Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Trophy Hunting

Gerhard R Damm

The frequency, intensity and quality of social contacts and interchange of thoughts and views with the non-hunting sector on local, national and global level influence the opinions hunters and non-hunters hold of each other. Prejudices on both sides can only be assuaged by way of regular contact and communication.

The elected representatives from the hunting associations and the community of hunters exert considerable influence in determining how hunting is practiced and are, to a certain extent, able to influence hunting legislation. They have the opportunity to shape the public image of hunters, both with regard to everyday hunting practice as well as at events and in the media. Moreover, they are role models for their own community. It is therefore essential that they display a high level of knowledge in terms of wildlife ecology, hunting economy and social aspects.

During the general Assembly of the CIC in Marrakech, the author presented – together with his paper on trophy measuring and monitoring – a concept module to analyze the ecological, economical and socio-cultural aspects of hunting, pinpoint linkages to other sectors of society, and highlight where cooperation for best-possible outcomes is essential. This module has been adapted from the original work done by Fostner, Reimoser, Hackl and Heckland (Vienna, 2007) and the Sustainable Hunting Tourism Initiative of the CIC (Budapest, 2006).

The module can be easily adapted to assess hunting activities per hunting area or in a regional, respectively multi-regional context, as well as on a species basis or a combination of all. It is not limited to game species and hunting activities but includes the interaction of game and non-game wildlife species. Interfaces with other land use options such as photographic tourism, pastoral and agricultural activities, or biological research activities etc. are investigated only in terms of direct interaction

and potential use protocols, respectively regarding potential interaction and/or willingness of partners to interact.

The hunting management unit (hunting concession, hunting block, game management unit, etc.) is the primary unit to be used for assessing sustainable hunting and hunting tourism respectively trophy hunting are investigated in particular. Game demographics in terms of game populations extending from the primary unit into non-hunting areas such as photographic and agricultural/pastoral areas as well as into formally protected areas are included.

In order to obtain a practical assessment system further work-shopping is essential with experts, practical hunters (outfitters and amateur hunters), scientists (i.e. IUCN groups like African Lion Working Group, Caprinae Specialist Group, Antelope Specialist Group, Deer Specialist Group, etc.) and representatives of other stakeholder groups (i.e. landowners, rural communities) of relevance to hunting. The result of this participatory process will be an unbiased assessment framework which is transparent and comprehensible.

The provisions on the sustainable use of natural resources contained in international agreements, initiatives and processes as well as in national implementation strategies must be incorporated and it must be cross checked with international standards for the construction of criteria and indicator systems.

The principles, criteria, indicators, and sub-criteria which are defined by the author in three tables in the final outcome each sub-criterion needs to be completed with an assessment scheme of positive to negative values as suggested by the original authors. Knockout criteria, which, upon non-completion, will immediately render a hunting practice non-sustainable, i.e. a negative result regarding one such criterion would not be compensated by scoring particularly well in others. A preliminary version could be used for field testing in selected concession areas, before a final version would be published.

Hunting in general and trophy hunting in particular should not be looked at in isolation and sectors which have no direct involvement in hunting, but which could either impact on hunting, or hunting could impact on them need to be considered.

African Indaba eNewsletter

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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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Conclusions of the 2008 CIC Congress: Sustainable Hunting Promotes Conservation

CIC Press Release

Record attendance at the 55th General Assembly of the CIC in Marrakech; International hunters' organization recognized as a global adviser and partner; Dieter Schramm unanimously reelected as CIC President.

The 55th General Assembly of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) – the World Forum for Sustainable Hunting – closed with a positive and cohesive note in Marrakech on the 25th of April. The meeting, held under the patronage of King Mohammed VI of Morocco, also marked the 80th anniversary of the organization and had attracted over 500 participants, a record number, representing 48 countries from around the world. Among those who attended were representatives from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) as well as the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), representatives from the IUCN as well as government delegations, national hunting organizations and scientists. Central to the discussions was a critical review of trophy hunting. Trophy hunting was identified as a significant factor in the rural development, provided it is carried out in a sustainable manner and with integrity and respect for local conditions. Many positive examples of recreational hunting were documented from around the world including Africa, Asia and Central America.

Against Ecological Apartheid

Professor Jon Hutton (UK), Chair of the IUCN Sustainable Use Specialist Group, argued that a one-sided protectionist stance of European and American-dominated conservation organizations does not consider the needs of indigenous populations. This approach represents what Hutton called a 'continuation of colonialism by 21st-century methods.' He added that 'human rights are constantly being violated in the name of conservation without anybody uttering a word.' Hutton continued that 'none of the anti-poaching campaigns in Africa have prevented illegal use, but merely served to drive it underground. Actions against legal and regulated hunting caused direct and indirect losses. For example, while African schoolchildren have to keep watch over crops in the field to protect them from marauding elephants, they are prevented from attending school. Experience shows only one solution: the value of wildlife must be enhanced - nature and game conservation need to be based on material incentives. The higher the direct profit from the use of wild natural resources, the more rural people are willing to contribute to conservation of these resources.'

Creating Tangible Values for Wildlife

This new form of resident-friendly, sustainable wildlife management has been demonstrably successful. Prominent among the many successful examples cited was the Abu Dhabi

initiated and supported Houbara Bustard conservation and rearing project, carried out in Eastern Morocco. Another example comes from Benin, where 30 percent of hunting generated income is directly spent on the needs of the local population. Over 300 jobs have been created in the past six years, poaching is down and biodiversity has been enhanced. The decrease in agricultural income was offset by the revenues from hunting.

A similar scenario emerged in Namibia, where hunting tourism is growing at a rate of 12 percent a year, while conventional agriculture declines. In Namibia, stocks of all indigenous wildlife species rose by an average of 112 percent from 1972 to 2005. The population increase of the most popular game animals (i.e. hunted animals) like kudu, zebra and springbok - has been especially significant. Hunting tourism already accounts for 2.3 percent of Namibia's gross national product, now just about half of the contribution of the once dominant conventional cattle ranching sector.

Drawing on over two decades of experience, development consultant and author, Dr. Rolf D. Baldus stressed that the sustainable use of game makes sense in all possible combinations: photo tourism, hunting safaris, licensed hunting and the leasing of hunting concessions. Some well-meaning attempts have failed since they concentrate too single-mindedly on one type of use, e.g. photo tourism or meat production. With regards to sustainable hunting tourism, expert Rolf Baldus made it crystal clear: 'Sustainable hunting tourism is decisive for the success. It yields the highest returns for the lowest off-take rates. It requires less investment, takes up less land and has a significantly lower ecological footprint than any other form of tourism!'

CIC Concentrates on Three Core Areas

During the Opening Session, The CIC Members unanimously approved a new structure for the CIC, which focuses on three core areas of activities: Policy and Law, Applied Science, and Culture. This new structure will be the basis for focusing CIC's work around the globe and funding of the Commissions and Working Groups. Dieter Schramm, who has headed CIC since 1999, was reconfirmed in office for a further three-year term. Schramm was reelected unopposed and unanimously in open ballot with a roaring applause from the delegates.



Opening Session of the CIC General Assembly in Marrakech with His Royal Highness the Crown Prince attending

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Governance in Hunting Tourism

Dr Rolf D. Baldus

Hunting Tourism: Potentials and Risks

Recreational hunting, in particular by tourists, who pay for the hunt, has a great potential to contribute to conservation and promote biodiversity, especially of wildlife populations, to create income and to support rural livelihoods, often in disadvantaged areas. It can serve as a powerful incentive to maintain or increase game numbers by giving wildlife and habitat economic values as opposed to purely intrinsic ones. This enables habitats and the concomitant wildlife to compete with alternative, mostly less nature friendly types of land use.

Hunting tourism is practised in 23 sub-Saharan African countries and due to bad Governance levels it is often connected to corruption. It is widely recognized that the misuse of entrusted power for private gain and illegal "rent seeking" whereby officials and the public seek illegitimate personal gain through bribery, patronage, graft and embezzlement reduce economic growth and aggravate poverty reduction. At the same time it can contribute to the overuse and destruction of natural resources, e.g. the tropical forests or wildlife. "Natural resources often have high commercial value, making them a prime target for plunder." (World Resources Institute) However, the current state of knowledge is underdeveloped (Smith and Walpole). Empirical studies are rare. This is particularly true in the case of wildlife with the exception of some flagship species like rhinos or elephants (cf. Smith et al.) and a thorough empirical study on the Tanzanian hunting industry (Baldus and Cauldwell; Baldus 2006).

Hunting tourism in the form of traditional hunting safaris has been actively practiced in Africa during colonial times and on an increased scale since independence. Yet, despite many recognized conservation effects, its long term sustainability in developing countries in Africa and transformation countries in Asia is endangered, in particular by the greed of key stakeholders, widespread graft in the administration and the professional hunting industry and generally by bad or haphazard Governance.

Therefore, hunters and the outfitting and guiding enterprises need to recognize that without effective reforms the greed, graft and bad Governance endanger the sustainability and indeed the survival of the resources on which hunting is based.

Practical proposals for reform and improved Governance have been developed and proposed by wildlife managers, NGOs and donors of development assistance during the past 15 years, but a variety of powerful interest groups in the wildlife administration and the hunting industry have continuously hindered or even blocked any meaningful development.

It is not possible to generalize, as the quality of the management of the hunting industries varies from country to country. One can say that those industries perform best where reforms have been instituted along the following lines:

1. Effective market-based competition between safari outfitters exists, i.e. outfitters bid publicly against each other for concessions;

2. Clear laws and regulations as well as a Government Policy for Tourist Hunting exist and are implemented.
3. Transparency of Government decisions is secured through appropriate mechanisms, so that the public can monitor whether the rule of law is adhered to.
4. Local communities become the principal decision makers for allocation of concessions and quota setting for hunting on their land, and they receive and manage the funds thus generated.
5. A substantial percentage of revenues from hunting is reinvested into the conservation of wildlife and habitats.

Governance in Conservation – a worldwide Challenge

In order to support such types of reform donors, NGOs and international organisations should follow a "no-tolerance" policy against Governments which do not perform up to standard. Presently the widespread graft is only bemoaned and is the subject of studies and declarations. As long as doubtful Governance is rewarded with untied and badly controlled budget support, little is going to change in reality.

If donors including NGOs are really serious to bring about change they can jointly exert significant pressure for better Governance, as has been tried – admittedly with little success - in the wildlife and forestry sectors in Tanzania in recent years. "The international donor community should, therefore, continue to use their influence to encourage appropriate reform." (Smith et al.)

An unsophisticated system of certification of tourist hunting along the lines of forestry certification could also help to improve safari hunting standards as proposed by the author earlier (Baldus 2003). Involving local and central hunting administrations in the process of developing and applying such certification systems could lead to capacity building and empowerment. The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) should continue developing such systems with broad involvement of stakeholders, in particular landowners and "enlightened" safari hunting operators.

A simple abolition of hunting would not help, but rather make things even worse. Even in badly managed systems, hunting is still a powerful tool to finance protected areas, to motivate rural people to maintain bio-diversity and allow wildlife on their land. Trade bans are advocated by many as a means to conserve, but in corrupt societies these well meant strategies do not work. They cannot be controlled and open only new gates for illegal profits.

Sustainable extractive use, including recreational and tourist hunting, and protection of wildlife in Africa are complementary and two sides of the same coin. Hunting will not, or only within limited measures, produce its beneficial effects for biodiversity conservation, if existing bad Governance continues and does not allow best practices to be introduced.

The same might be said, however, for all kinds of so-called "non-consumptive" (non-extractive would be the better word) wildlife use and the protection of nature in national parks. Despite a confessed commitment to minimising the ecological footprint, photographic safaris and recreational use of national parks by eco-tourists are essentially consumptive activities – common problems include pollution, natural resource degradation, externization of benefits, and more diffuse cultural effects

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Governance in Hunting Tourism by R D Baldus

(Borgerhoff, Mulder and Coppolillo).

The struggle for good Governance is universal, neither restricted to hunting, nor to certain countries. Corruption in conservation should not be simply ignored, as Smith and Walpole conclude, "and it is crucial that the lessons learned in one location are made available elsewhere." (Smith and Walpole, p.254.) Further research is useful, but enough is known about the problem and its negative consequences to initiate action.

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South African Vultures Threatened

The dwindling populations of vultures in South Africa are being threatened by power cables, agricultural chemicals and a superstition that the birds' body parts carry mystical powers. Scientists said they also suspect that feeding sites called "vulture restaurants" promoted as part of conservation programs might instead be killing the endangered creatures.

WWF South Africa said there was an urgent need to research whether the feeding sites were harming the birds, and has teamed up with agricultural services company AFGRI to sponsor the Vulture Evaluation Project to tag and monitor vultures. "Although vultures are often and correctly associated with death because of their scavenging nature, their very presence can be regarded as an indication that all is well," said WWF

director of conservation, Rob Little. He said farmers also needed to be taught about the dangers of offering carcasses contaminated by lead pellets, painkillers, antibiotics or other potentially harmful medicines, it said.

Because South Africa's farming industry is more efficient than elsewhere on the continent, vultures have less access to livestock carrion. So many farmers regularly take carcasses to the 236 "vulture restaurants," which have become tourist attractions. "Vulture restaurants are a good idea," Little said. "But we must do it in a clean way." The head of the new research program, started up late last year, also said conservation efforts may be backfiring. "For many years we addressed issues like power lines and poisoning," Kerri Wolter said. "But we are still losing our vultures and we are not quite sure why. The restaurants might be one of the factors." Another threat comes from traditional medicine traders who — amid beliefs that vulture body parts hold good luck and clairvoyant powers hunt the birds with shotguns, traps and poison. Little said the trade in vulture parts was "big," and estimated its worth at 1.2 million Rand. "Traders sell anything from an eyeball to a whole vulture," Little said, adding that the problem existed in other African countries as well.

Many species of vultures worldwide are now classed as threatened, and some could face extinction. In India and Pakistan, some species have been driven to the verge of extinction in the past 12 years by eating carcasses tainted with diclofenac, an anti-inflammatory painkiller given to sick cows and which is highly toxic to vultures. Diclofenac is not used in South Africa, but in East Africa.

In order to protect wildlife on the Indian subcontinent and in Africa, the 55th CIC General Assembly in Marrakech, Morocco, 22-26 April 2008, passed a resolution

informing the concerned Governments of the dramatic decline of vulture populations caused by diclofenac on the Indian subcontinent and respective threats in Africa;
urging the concerned Governments not to licence and use non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in cattle and small ruminants which result in the death of vultures;
and proposing to follow-up on the ban of diclofenac for veterinary use by the Office International des Epizooties, FAO, Governments as well as respective NGOs and health authorities.

2008 AGM of the International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) and South African Falconry Association International Field Meeting

14th to 20th July, 2008
 at Protea Black Mountain Hotel, Thaba Nchu,
 near Bloemfontein
 For details please contact: Adrian Lombard lombarda@mweb.co.za

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The South African Elephant Debate: A Veteran's View

Dr John Ledger

One topic that is bound to kindle deep disagreement is elephant culling. It seems that views on the subject are extremely polarized, and that 'the scientists' are in two camps as well. One side says management of elephant numbers in protected areas is essential to achieve biodiversity conservation goals; the other side says you can manage them without killing them! We take a look at the issue by summarizing the thoughtful perspective of Dr John Ledger who has been involved in the debate for a quarter of a century. He is a former Director of the Endangered Wildlife Trust and now an independent writer, teacher and consultant on the environment and renewable energy. This article was first published in VISION No. 6 (2008) and we acknowledge the permission for reprinting Dr. Ledger's article. See also Peter J Mundy's abstract of the paper "The African Elephant – Something to cherish and to use" at the end of this article.

Peter Mundy was the first person to obtain a doctoral degree through the support of the Endangered Wildlife Trust. He was employed as the EWT's first Scientific Officer in 1983, before joining the Zimbabwe Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management as government ornithologist in 1984. He recalls the period from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s when innovative research flourished in the Department – with ten researchers working on more than 30 projects, many involving elephants. Peter also attended and participated in five CITES conferences as part of the Zimbabwe government delegation, and so heard all sides of the elephant debate.

His experience has been captured in a recent insightful article *The African elephant – something to cherish and to use* by P.J. Mundy. *International Journal of Environmental Studies*, Vol 63, No 5, October 2006, 587-597. But here's the rub – his article is lucid, well written, and should be in the hands of politicians, decision-makers, park managers, game ranchers and wildlife enthusiasts. At the very least, it should be in a library somewhere nearby. Astonishingly, a year's subscription for six issues of this publication will cost an institution several thousand dollars and an individual several hundred! At that price, access is clearly beyond the means of most individuals and institutions in Africa. In an age where information seems to be so freely available, it is paradoxical that commercial scientific publishing houses prosper through the system used to rate academics! I shall be careful to use double quotation marks around all *verbatim* extracts from Peter's article in this text:

Long agomany different elephants

The African and the Indian Elephant *Elephas maximus* are the last remaining relics of an elephant dynasty that once had many members. The African and Indian races with us today are a pale reflection of the proboscidean menageries during their heyday of the late Miocene and Pleistocene. At around 20 million years ago the group spread out of Africa, their original homeland, and went global (but for Australia and Antarctica) and in

so doing diversified dramatically, with a total species count approaching 200. A second radiation within this Leviathan group, leading to the two living forms as well as the mammoths, initiated with *Stegodon* in the upper Pliocene [4.5 million years ago]. Ironically this Plio-Pleistocene radiation exactly parallels that of the hominids, who were – in the Holocene – to wield their scythe of extinction.

The African Conundrum

Africa south of the Sahara holds an abundance and diversity of fauna and flora unequalled in the world. The mixture of landforms, climates and biomes is also unique, and offers an irresistible attraction to all the citizens of the planet who desire to see the continent of their ancestors and the ecosystems in which they evolved. This asset is the foundation of a global ecotourism economy that can benefit Africa and its people enormously, if it is properly managed.

The African Elephant – something to cherish and to use

P J Mundy, Department of Forest Resources and Wildlife Management, National University of Science and Technology, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, Email: pmundy@nust.ac.zw

Published in: *International Journal of Environmental Studies*, Volume 63, Number 5, October 2006, 587-597
<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals>

Abstract:

The African savannah (bush) elephant *Loxodonta africana* is a wonderful animal, yet at the same time it is a problem both for the environment and to rural people. Aspects of its biology are listed, and its valuable products are noted. These latter are its economical potential, its trophy (some spectacular tusks are tabulated), the ivory itself, skin curios and meat. The 'elephant problem' became apparent in Africa in the early 1960s: the bulls in particular can severely damage trees, and this effect is seen from an elephant density of 0.5 per square kilometer. Throughout Africa, with the exception of southern Africa, poaching has been rampant and has culled the populations. Management aspects, such as legal culling, are considered. Ecotourism dollars should be reinvested in the resource, and sustainable use of the animal should be the governing idea.

African Indaba has a copy of Peter Mundy's paper in its archives which is available on request.

On the other hand, human populations in Africa are growing faster than anywhere else, despite high mortality and plummeting life expectancy (life expectancy cited in Zimbabwe was 36.9 years and in Swaziland 32.5 years). So the question

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The South African Elephant Debate by J. Ledger

that forms the core of Peter Mundy's paper is how can Africans benefit from their natural resources, yet conserve them for future generations?

South Africans have benefited hugely from the gold and diamonds bequeathed to them by the fortunate historical juxtaposition of the geological riches beneath the lucky people - yet I don't know of any rich deposits that have been deliberately set aside by our leading mining houses to benefit future generations! There is no sustainability at all in the exploitation of mineral wealth, despite the lip-strumming by those spinning the industry sustainability fairytale. Yet the continent has many very valuable natural living assets that could be managed sustainably, given the will and the mindset. One of Africa's most valuable resources is the African Elephant, and unlike diamonds and gold, it is a sustainable living resource.

Elephant products

This largest living terrestrial mammal may weigh 6 metric tons, live for 65 years, consuming 170 kg of vegetation and 200 liters of water a day if it is an adult bull. This formidable consumption makes the elephant a 'keystone' species or an environmental 'engineer'. The African Elephant's prodigious appetite converts Africa's abundant solar energy through green plants into a number of valuable products that can be utilized to address African needs.

The first of these is the living elephant in the viewfinder of the tourists' cameras and the images to take home to family and friends. Here is the flagship of 'Wild Africa' and the culmination of a visit to the continent to see the last and greatest of the megaherbivores that have walked our planet!

African elephants are photogenic, interesting, attractive – always with a sniff of danger, awesomely huge, and they evoke many emotions in all humans who observe them. The living elephant in a wild environment is an extremely valuable, non-consumptive asset for any African country.

The second product is the elephant in the telescopic sight of the overseas trophy hunter. Peter estimates that a three-to four-week safari in Zimbabwe that includes hunting a variety of species such as buffalo and one trophy bull elephant could cost the client US\$ 100,000. Of course not all of this would go to the host country, but with smart management and hunting license fees, a lot of it could (currently the Zimbabwe government takes US\$ 12,000 for an elephant trophy fee alone).

Once the trophy elephant is dead, the client is usually satisfied with a pair of tusks as a memento of his unforgettable visit to Africa – he might want to spend some extra money on a head mount with the tusks in place, which will cost a lot more and put food on the tables of the workers in the taxidermy shop. Each trophy elephant killed in Africa can produce up to two tons of meat for local communities. Protein is in short supply in most parts of Africa where people will eat elephant meat whenever they can get it. Elephant tusks are their upper incisor teeth, and for many centuries this 'ivory' has been prized as raw material by skilled craftsmen, for carving into intricate works of art, sought by collectors worldwide; the demand for ivory is behind most of the illegal killing of elephants, or 'poaching'.

Elephant leather is another valuable product and can be used to make footwear, briefcases, bags and more. "In summary, it is clear that the African Elephant is a very valuable animal, whether alive or dead. It must be acknowledged, however, that to get value from dead elephants, one has to have enough live elephants in the first place, at least if it is to be done legally."

The elephant problem

"Not only have elephants got huge appetites, but one of their methods of feeding causes great concern for wildlife managers. Older elephants, particularly bulls, strip bark from trees, break branches and frequently push over the smaller trees. There is an alarming loss of mature trees."

In the 1960s wildlife managers in Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa considered that culling to reduce elephant numbers was the solution to an alarming loss of mature trees. By 1995 Zimbabwe had culled more than 50,000 elephants. *Africa Geographic* cites that country's elephant population at 30,000 (1979); 43,000 (1989) and 89,128 (2001), so the productivity of elephants is prodigious, and the biomass of useful products that can be sustainably harvested is enormous.

"Indeed, elephants have relentlessly increased in numbers in Botswana, Namibia, Namibia and South Africa, while just as relentlessly decreasing in countries to the north. As one example from many, the estimated population in Kenya fell from 160,000 to 16,000 in 1988. Successful management and conservation allow elephants to increase at about 5% per year. They 'damage' and kill an increasing number of trees leading to a loss of woodland. Probably there is also an overall loss of biodiversity, obviously in species that depend on the tree canopy, though biodiversity loss is disputed in some quarters. To stop the 'damage' one must therefore reduce the density of the elephants. But how to do this – by culling, translocation, contraception, opening up extra land, allowing poaching?"

The issue of population reduction by culling is at the centre of the elephant controversy, with animal rights organizations crusading vociferously against the idea. "Why does culling generate such criticism? Indeed so much criticism has been voiced that Zimbabwe's program has been put on hold since the early 1990s. In spite of the relentless increase of elephant populations in southern Africa, and in the face of low levels of poaching in the region, the countries have been pressured – one could say frightened – out of the culling activity, fearing international condemnation, reprisals perhaps. It is clear that culling offends the sensibilities of vociferous groups of westerners, and also certain parties to CITES, including some which are range states for the African and Asian elephant. This is a great pity, because culling is a necessity in southern Africa for ecological reasons."

As Peter Mundy points out, almost all range states have had their elephants culled, the southern African countries doing it themselves, while "most other countries have effected population reduction 'by delegation' to the poachers – it is they who have done the culling."

The perversity of the animal rights movement is that it targets the very states that successfully conserve their elephants. It is said that the former South African Minister Valli Moosa refused to discuss the issue of elephant population re-

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The South African Elephant Debate by J. Ledger

duction in the Kruger National Park because he feared this would jeopardize the World Summit on Sustainable Development, hosted by South Africa in 2002. His successor is made of sterner stuff. Marthinus van Schalkwyk issued the *Draft National Norms and Standards for the Management of Elephants in South Africa* in March 2007 and said "We have taken care ... to set out *Guiding Principles that will inform decision making. These principles are based on respect for elephants, reverence for humans and recognition that we are faced with a degree of scientific uncertainty in our decision making.*" Both culling and trophy hunting are catered for but no specific provision is made for the sustainable utilization of elephants for the benefit of rural communities. It is to be hoped that any culling operations will maximize benefits to such communities in a transparent manner. The last thing we should want is this being done 'by delegation' to poachers.

Population control by culling in the new South African Regulations

- (1) Culling may be used to reduce the size of an elephant subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) due consideration of all other population management options;
 - (b) culling must be undertaken in terms of a management plan that sets out the conditions under which culling can take place and the manner in which the cull is to be implemented; and
 - (c) an elephant may not be culled if it is-
 - (i) part of a cow-calf unit unless the entire cow-calf unit, including the matriarch and juvenile bulls, is culled; or
 - (ii) part of a group comprising only juvenile elephants, unless the entire group is culled.
- (2) The person carrying out the operation must do so without direct or indirect remuneration to the responsible person or the person designated by the responsible person to carry out the operation.

Culling methods

- (1) Culling must be done with -
 - (a) quick and humane methods;
 - (b) a rifle with a minimum calibre of .375 inches; and
 - (c) a bullet of a full metal jacket or monolithic construction with a minimum weight of 300 grains and shall not include bullets of soft-nosed construction.
- (2) The use of *suxamethonium* in culling is prohibited

In November 2005 seven South African conservation NGOs (BirdLife-SA, Botanical Society of SA, Elephant Managers & Owners Association, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Wildlife & Environment Society of SA, Wilderness Foundation and WWF-SA) issued a joint statement: "We therefore support SANParks in its efforts to control and manage elephant populations, and any other species, which pose a significant threat to the continued existence of indigenous and endemic species in their environ-

ment, and believe that SANParks is obliged to address this issue, in terms of their obligations to the country and in terms of South Africa's national, as well as international obligations."

It is good that the local NGO community took an objective and rational stand to counter the overseas animal rights groups who use the elephant as their flagship species to raise funds. The last word is Peter Mundy's:

"Finally, it must again be emphasized that African elephants are not the only species in the ark, though they can be a most successful one if given the chance. If a country's definition of national parks and wild areas is based on biodiversity and citizens' benefits, then elephants may need to be culled. A country such as Zimbabwe, for example, does not cull elephants because it wants to make money on ivory, but because of that definition. One has to wonder and be saddened that the aforementioned international groups and other national parties cannot see and understand the point."

Only Option or Elephantine Overkill?

Emotional Arguments Don't Help Wildlife Conservation Robert Woodrow

Editor's Note: Robert Woodrow is a retired international correspondent, magazine editoreditorialist and columnist writing chiefly on politics and economics. He has been a contributor to Encyclopaedia Britannica, Asiaweek (a Time Inc. magazine), Reader's Digest and numerous other publications, chiefly in Asia. For a time he worked for the Economist Intelligence Unit. In opinion pieces, Robert Woodrow writes from the point of view of a non-religious libertarian conservative. He approaches most issues from the position of a sceptic. Though sometimes labeled a contrarian, he applies rigorous standards of logic to unpopular stances. For direct news reporting, his commentary is invariably balanced with opposing views and is fact-checked from multiple sources. For more details on his outlook on national and international affairs, click on <http://robertwoodrow.com>. African Indaba appreciates the permission for reprint by the author.

There are too many African elephants. The continent can't support them all. Numbers are rapidly rising toward three-quarters of a million. They live in closely related all-female herds with their young; old bulls are solitary and young ones form loose bands. Overpopulation degrades vegetation and endangers other animals in wildlife reserves. But when the South African National Parks department announced a cull last week, the outcry was predictable. How could you do that to such majestic beasts? Anyone who cries out in anguish like that must come up with an alternative, and there is none.

Relocation, hugely expensive, only postpones the problem, because numbers become unsustainable elsewhere too. Performing vasectomies on hundreds of four-ton bulls would soon eat up the agency's budget, as would darting fertile fe-

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males regularly with birth-control hormones. Anyway, both practices destroy the highly structured “society” of this most social of mammals. So an exploding cartridge will be fired into the brain of every single member of selected herds, killing the matriarch and her sisters, daughters and nieces, plus adolescents of both sexes and new-born calves. A scientifically determined number of solitary bulls will also be dispatched.

Howls of protest reverberate. Elephants are a so-called charismatic species like pandas, polar bears and tigers. No one cares about rats, pigs and sheep. Furthermore, like chimps and dolphins, elephants are considered “intelligent.” Claims are made that they exhibit “emotions” like sorrow and mirth. They certainly have remarkable memories.

But any government that protests the cull had better think carefully first. Are Brazil, Argentina, Australia and the United States prepared to accept these herds when their own ecological balance is already delicate? Are European countries prepared to hand-feed them in wildlife parks? Are donations to be collected from animal lovers to buy farms and ranches that will eventually also be overpopulated? Don’t ask other African countries. However much lip-service they give to conservation, they really regard elephants as pests.

There is only one alternative: culling people. The global human population this month passed 6.7 billion. It will grow to at least 9.5 billion, probably more, before it stabilizes. The extra 3 billion or so will need land for habitation and production of food. Unless we are prepared to cull our own species, we must concentrate on preserving biodiversity and thinking less about biomass. As long as there are sufficient individuals of each species to sustain a viable gene pool, populations can decline sharply without loss of genetic diversity. Elephants, if they could think, would have to get used to the idea. *There is no alternative.* It’s us or them. We get most of their range for agriculture and grazing and they get small managed wildlife reserves.

But that raises a question. What is to be done with the tusks? And not just from the beasts felled by South African marksmen. Trade in ivory is illegal. Every year about African 12,000 elephants die of old age, leaving 24,000 tusks on the savanna to be collected by game wardens and stored in bulging warehouses. The African elephant population had been reduced by 50% in less than ten years when ivory was legal and poaching profitable.

The trade stopped one day in November 1989. All it took was a vote by national delegations to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland. By 76 to 11, with 16 abstentions, the vote outlawed all exports and imports of tusks as well as objects crafted from them. Southern African governments that were successfully managing their stocks were outvoted by an alliance of Western governments influenced by stop-the-slaughter activists and Central African governments that had shown themselves utterly incapable of controlling poachers in their game reserves.

Poaching stopped that day too. Overnight a tusk became less valuable than the bullet that killed the animal. Puzzled? Surely banning the trade created a shortage of the commodity, thereby raising prices, encouraging smuggling and providing

incentives to poachers to pursue their profession with renewed vigor. But ivory is not like cocaine or rhinoceros horn. It is not a substance consumed furtively and repeatedly. There is no point in acquiring a figurine if you are afraid a policeman will come knocking because a neighbor saw it on your mantelpiece. Furthermore, Japan, China, Taiwan and Hong Kong, the only significant importers, accepted the verdict they had opposed and agreed to punish any wholesaler who broke the law.

Carving workshops are not like opium-processing factories hidden in the forest. In Hong Kong, warehouses of ivory merchants were stacked to the rafters — enough to last centuries for local consumption (not banned) or for tourists willing to brave customs officials at both exit and entry points. Like Czarist railroad bonds, the tusks cannot be turned into cash, but having paid so much for them, owners won’t dump them. Why spend a week tracking down a fine bull, killing it, hacking out its tusks, transporting them to the coast and trying to sell through a middleman to a dealer in Hong Kong who already has too many?

That same year, the president of Kenya, surrounded by press photographers, ignited a gasoline-soaked mound of elephant tusks, all that remained of 1,800 slaughtered elephants. It was an empty gesture because the pile was worthless. No dealer with any business sense would have even attended an auction.

Banning the trade was not the wisest decision, because ivory is a renewable resource and 700,000 African elephants will go on producing it regardless of rulings made in Switzerland. The decision meant that ivory could be freely purchased, carved and put on sale in Hong Kong, but not exported. What ensured that the elephant slaughter ended was 474 tons of raw ivory (from 70,000 dead elephants) in stockpiles there. And there was nowhere to ship it. Japan, the final destination of perhaps 70% of ivory before the ban, outlawed imports, which were used to make personal seals pressed to legal documents, the Japanese equivalent of a signature (they now make the seals out of bone). Illicit imports into Taiwan or China for figurine carving are better sourced clandestinely from Hong Kong stocks than Kenyan elephants. An elephant tusk is not something to be smuggled past customs in your underwear.

In technical terms, what the CITES signatories did was shift *Loxodonta africana* from the 1973 treaty’s Appendix II, which allows controlled trade, to Appendix I, which forbids all forms of commerce in a designated animal or its body parts. Of Asia’s *Elephas maximus*, the only other species in the order *Proboscidea*, there survive about 30,000 in the wild and 12,000 domestic animals. With unimpressive tusks by comparison with the African beast — and usually entirely absent in the female — the Asian elephant had been rarely troubled by poachers for decades before the ban.

When the CITES votes were in, dedicated conservation specialists who had spent their professional lives saving the African elephant wept with joy, did they not? No, almost to a man they had fought to keep the ivory trade alive and flourishing. That was a paradox for many. Like most controversies about the environment, ivory was, and still is, too complex for the clearcut solution people prefer. What the scientific conservationists objected to was the ecologically slipshod way it was done.

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A much sounder method had been the verge of proving itself — a system of quotas for culling elephants (*surviving range shown*) that addressed the needs of conservationists, national park administrators and African governments, and at the same time accommodated the livelihoods of ivory carvers, wholesalers of tusks and retailers of artifacts. And the policing burden fell on importing countries.

While measures like South Africa's culling decision keep elephant populations stable, the ivory mountains do nobody any good. Efficiently regulated exports would have preserved ancient and honorable artistic traditions. Ivory carving could be revived without putting outlaw killers back into business. Before the ban, importing countries had already eliminated direct trade in unregistered tusks. CITES had devised a system using invisible markers to identify individual tusks to ensure that worked ivory was of legal origin.

It is absurd to waste an elegant, nearly indestructible commodity that has been prized down through the centuries. Since elephants have high fertility, relatively low mortality and no natural predators except man, numbers recovered quickly. The animals encroached on farmland and got shot by farmers who left them, tusks and all, to rot. One way or another, numbers will stabilize at the maximum level man will tolerate, a limit that, outside of national parks, will steadily decline as the need for more agricultural and pastoral land takes up the elephants' range. A wise and responsible world would eradicate elephant poaching while properly managing export quotas to earn revenue for African governments. To save elephant it is not necessary to kill the ivory industry.

Hunting Safaris in Namibia Attract Hunters Worldwide

The Namibia Professional Hunters Association (NAPHA) expects about 7,000 international hunters to visit Namibia during the 2008 trophy hunting season, which has started in February and goes through to November. Over the last 10 years, Namibia has seen an increased number of international hunters arriving, most of them from Germany and the US. Recent statistics from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism indicate that German hunters visiting Namibia over a 10-year period have increased from 1,490 to 1,905, whereas hunters from the United States have increased from 155 to 1,516. During the same period, Spanish hunters increased from 20 to 265. Other international markets that have become significant in the last decade include Austria and France.

NAPHA is currently investigating the possibility of attending more shows to increase Namibia's share in the international hunting market. NAPHA said international hunting conventions have proved to be an effective marketing tool for hunting outfitters from all over the world, giving them the opportunity to meet and interact with thousands of potential trophy hunting clients.

Earlier this year, more than 30 Namibian hunting outfits exhibited at the three international hunting conventions, namely Safari Club International's 2008 Hunters Convention in Reno/Nevada, Dallas Safari Club in Dallas/Texas and the annual German hunting convention, Jagd und Hunt in the Westfalenhalle of Dortmund.

Hunting contributes around N\$500 million per year from primary and secondary sectors to the Namibian economy. It employs 12000 people in both sectors. The most popular species in order of preference include oryx, kudu, springbok, hartebeest and warthog, but increasing interest has been shown in hunting the vast open areas in the north of the country for elephant, buffalo, leopard and lion. The new concession areas offer the visiting hunter a true and unspoilt African hunting experience. This also applies to specialized safaris for selecting trophy bucks from the migrating springbok herds – a fantastic and genuine hunting experience.

Dallas Safari Club Partners with Orion Multimedia and VERSUS

Wildlife conservation, education, and ethical hunting will benefit from a strong new partnership between Orion Multimedia, America's largest producer of field sports programming, VERSUS, the nation's preeminent outdoor network reaching 74 million homes coast to coast, and Dallas Safari Club, a premier international hunting organization.

Starting in January 2009, Dallas Safari Club with Sports Afield's annual convention in Dallas, Texas, will have a new partner: Orion Multimedia and VERSUS as they assume the "in Association with" sponsor position. Already one of the world's greatest international hunting conventions with more than 900 exhibits and over 20,000 attendees, the Dallas show is expected to grow exponentially.

Orion Multimedia and VERSUS Country's unmatched reach will bring additional national exposure to DSC and its important conservation, advocacy, and education programs. The partnership includes extensive on-air promotion in several VERSUS series as well as special features produced from the annual convention.

Dallas Safari Club has become an international industry leader and innovator. An active and progressive organization for the uncompromising hunter, the Club's mission is to conserve wildlife and wilderness lands; to educate youth and the general public and to promote and protect the rights and interests of hunters worldwide. Since forming in 1972, the Club has contributed millions of dollars to programs benefiting wildlife, habitat, people and the sporting community.

For more information, contact:
Ben F. Carter, Executive Director, Dallas Safari Club: 972-980-9800 - www.biggame.org

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News from Africa

Algeria

A conference highlighted the work being done by three foundations to conserve the threatened biodiversity of the Sahara. Directors from the World Deserts Foundation, the Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF) and the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) joined together with a wide variety of governmental non-governmental institutions to discuss cooperation in conservation of one of the oldest deserts of the world, the Sahara, and its vanishing gazelles and cheetah. During the visit, the Sahara Conservation Fund and the World Deserts Foundation signed an agreement to further cooperation. Minister Rahmani underlined the value of the agreement 'not just for Algeria but also in support of conservation efforts throughout North Africa and all peoples who share the Great Saharan Desert.' John Newby (SCF) underlined the critically important role that Algeria can play in international efforts to save endangered species, such as the slender-horned and Cuvier's gazelles, the cheetah and the houbara bustard. The Sahelo Saharan Interest Group (SSIG)'s annual science meeting will be held in Algeria in 2009 under the patronage of the Honourable Minister Rahmani.

Botswana

Two Sri Lankan elephant handlers working for the Mokolodi/Serendib Elephant Project were killed by elephants at the Mokolodi Nature Reserve in April. The project's spokesman van Wilgen said it is not known how the men died. The deaths are now under investigation.

Cameroon

In February 2008, Conservation Force Advisory Board member Wayne Lau went on a second pilot hunt organized by Cameroon Natural Resources (CAMNARES). This hunt was to extend CAMNARES' work to Cameroon's northern savannahs with Lord Derby Eland as the prime game. Wayne reports that they quickly managed to harvest a very old Lord Derby Eland bull and saw numbers of other species including Roan, western hartebeest, and buffalo. CAMNARES is also looking at developing an anti-poaching program involving community members. This will also help protect a National Park which borders the game reserve. In partnership with Conservation Force, proceeds of the hunt were used to complete a village meeting hall, build a much needed classroom, and repair a waterwell. Lau also had news about CAMNARES' first project area in Kong village in central Cameroon in Kong where he hunted Bongo last year. A prince from Kong who became interested in conservation because of the project has been awarded a scholarship from Shikar Safari Club to study at the Nature Conservation department of Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria. CAMNARES was founded by Armand Biko'o and Maliki Wardjomto, Cameroon's first two students at Tshwane University under the Shikar Safari Club Scholarships.

Cameroon

The Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, has expressed its determination to ensure the full implementation of the Yaounde Declaration of 1999 with the signing of an agreement with the Sangha Tri-National Foundation for the management of the Sangha Tri-national trans-boundary forest complex. This is an

area where three countries, Cameroon, Central African Republic and Congo Brazzaville committed themselves to jointly manage the contiguous National parks of Lobeke in Cameroon, Dzanga-Ndoki in Central African Republic and Nouabale-Ndoki in Congo. About 30 million Euros will be needed. The German KFW Bank and the French Development Agency announced to disburse five million respectively three million Euros to support the creation of a fund.

Kenya

Three lions have been speared to death close to Kenya's Amboseli national park raising concerns about the country's dwindling population of big cats. Five suspects have been arrested over the killings, which occurred over a one month period, The Maasai herdsman were suspected of killing the lions after the predators attacked their cows outside the park. The latest killings have alarmed conservationists in the east African country. The lion population has diminished by 75 percent to some 2,500 compared to 10,000 in the 1970s. The retaliatory killing of predators is now so widespread that it constitutes the greatest threat to Africa's big.

Kenya

Fourteen elephants that regularly use Amboseli National Park as the core of their range were speared in January and February in and around the 2,000-hectare (5,000-acre) Satao Elerai community conservation area some 20 km (12 mi) south-east of the Park, and four of the elephants have died, including two youngsters. The range of causes of elephant spearing are complex — revenge, political protest, self- or crop-protection, delinquency, and, to a lesser extent in Amboseli at least, ivory poaching.

Kenya

Kenya's roan antelope, *Hippotragus equinus langheldi*, is only found in Ruma National Park in western Kenya and only 56 animals exist. In the 1970s, there were more than 300 roan antelopes in the park and on the Kanyamwa escarpment, at the edge of the park. However, by the turn of the millennium, the number had gone down to 100. In 2004, there were 85 and the last census in 2006 showed only 56 roan. The park is surrounded by people and their farms and roan meat has been a delicacy among the local Luo people since time immemorial.

Traditionally, the roan meat had to feature on a Luo wedding menu. It would reflect the hunting skills of the groom and the clan. The skin was used as part of the dressing regalia and the horns were used as flutes at the burial of elders and the skull together with the horns was nailed to the front of fishing boats as a mascot. The roan antelope horns were used as flutes. Ruma National Park is smaller than Nairobi National Park - 120 square kilometers of savannah grassland and acacia forest with swamps. At one time, the park also had the Uganda cob, which disappeared around the middle of last century but Ruma National Park has suffered because of the institutional neglect of western Kenya.

Madagascar

Using data from thousands of species of lemurs, frogs, geckos, butterflies, ants, and plants, scientists from the Bronx Zoo-based Wildlife Conservation Society, University of Califor-

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News from Africa

nia, Berkeley and other organizations have completed an analytical colossus for Madagascar that will guide plans to safeguard the island's unique natural heritage.

The study is unprecedented in terms of not only the number of species examined (some 2,315 species in six groups), but also because of the project's scale and resolution. The biodiversity, climate and habitat of the entire 226,657 square-mile island were examined. The maps generated from the data analyses have a resolution of less than a square kilometer. On a national level, the study will help the Malagasy government reach a commitment made at the World Parks Congress in 2003 when President Marc Ravalomanana pledged to triple Madagascar's protected area network to 10 percent of its land mass. To date, it has already established over six percent. The massive study is the cover story in the most recent edition of *Science*.

Malawi

Majete Wildlife Reserve is a 700 km² wilderness area in southern Malawi where wildlife was largely wiped out by poaching. Now an innovative project to rebuild the reserve is being run by a partnership between the African Parks Network (APN) and Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) in Malawi. By now over 1,000 animals have been reintroduced to the new Majete including black rhino, waterbuck, sable antelope, buffalo, impala, nyala, warthog, zebra, eland and hartebeest and they are all breeding well. In August 2006 a start was made to rebuild a viable elephant population when 70 animals – bulls, cows and youngsters in complete family groups – were moved from Liwonde National Park to Majete.

Namibia

Silozi is the lingua franca of a multitude of ethnic groups in Caprivi/Namibia. Traditional leader of the Mashi community, Chief Joseph Tembwe Mayuni translated a whole range of a wide variety of game and other species from English into Silozi language (in brackets): Kudu (tolo), elephant (tou), lion (tau), hippo (kubu), crocodile (kwena), wildebeest (kokomu), eland (pofu), sable antelope (kwalata ye nsu), roan antelope (kwalata ye seta), impala (pala), lechwe (mazwi), reedbuck (mutobo), sitatunga (katutunga), and leopard (lina'u), buffalo (nali), zebra (pizi), python (mboma), puff adder (sibili).

Namibia

NAPHA's Big Game Committee presented an elephant hunting course in the Erongo Mountains at the Denker Family's homestead in March 2008 for seventeen aspiring elephant hunters. The curriculum included the essence of the elephant, fair chase, history, calibres, shot placement, age determination and the role and image of the Professional Hunter as a conservationist while elephant hunting.

Each morning started with a strenuous walk up the unique Erongo Mountains, with inspirational lectures being presented at the summit. Ernst Ludwig Cramer organized the course, Mrs. Denker catered for the group and Kai-Uwe Denker was principal mentor. Phase two of the course will take place in Bushmanland, with the top 8 participants from the course to experience practical elephant hunting.

Namibia

Louisa Mupetami, a conservation scientist in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism said that Namibia is close to granting an annual black rhino trophy-hunting quota in protected areas after Government has approved a policy on tourism and wildlife concessions on State land last year.

"MET is now preparing for the allocation of concessions on State land, including for the trophy hunting of the five black rhinos," Mupetami stated. The 13th conference of the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) held in Thailand in 2004 gave Namibia and South Africa permission to allow the hunting of five black rhinos a year. Namibia's black rhino population had recovered from 90 individuals in 1967 to an estimated 1 300 individuals today. Mupetami said only "surplus" animals will be considered for trophy hunting and preference will be given to post-reproductive males, but occasionally other males considered as problem animals would be targeted too.

Namibia

Two dozen vultures were found poisoned in the Aminuis area south of Gobabis. A dog belonging to a farmer in the communal area ate poison and died. The owner notified the Environment Ministry, and when the incident was investigated on Saturday, 12 vultures were spotted where they had gathered to feed on the dead dog. In all, 23 white-backed vultures (*Gyps africanus*), one lappet-faced vulture (*Aegypius tracheliotos*), and one tawny eagle (*Aquila rapax*) were found dead from poisoning on Saturday in the area where the dog had died. It is said that workers employed at a commercial farm were putting out poisoned bait to poison jackals in the area.

Niger

Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF) researchers surveyed of wildlife, vegetation and domestic live-stock over 23,000 km² of desert and mountain habitats in the Termit and Tin Toumma regions of Niger. Between the ground and air surveys, more than 70 addax were spotted in several groups. Estimates derived from the survey work indicate a population size of around 200 head.

Senegal

In April 2007, twenty captive-bred Saharawi dorcas gazelles (*Gazella dorcas neglecta*) were flown from Spain to the Réserve Spéciale de Faune de Guembeul, Senegal. The gazelles, born in zoos in Spain and the UK, were carefully selected for genetic and demographic qualities. The gazelles will spend some 12-18 months under controlled conditions before being moved to the *Réserve de Faune du Ferlo Nord* in Senegal's Sahelian zone. For more information on this project please contact Teresa Abáigar at abaigar@eeza.csic.es

South Africa

Does Barclay's Bank discriminate hunting companies? This is the question Steve Robinson of Kuduland Safaris asked in his comment published on <http://africanhuntinginfo.com/modules/news/article.php?storyid=749>. I suggest that the hunting community should also ask some pointed questions. Please go to the link provided to read Robinson's full comment.

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News from Africa

South Africa

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and the iSimangaliso Authority report that three white rhinos were found dead in the remote Tewate area on the Eastern Shores of Lake St Lucia in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park on 14 March 2008. The state of the carcasses indicate that the animals were shot some weeks ago and the horns removed. It was not possible to determine the sex of the three rhinos. Two were sub-adults and were found in open grassland, while the third, an adult animal, was found about 500 meters away close to a patch of forest. EKZNW and the iSimangaliso Authority are offering a R20 000 reward for information leading to arrests and a successful conviction. EKZNW, the iSimangaliso Authority and the SAPS are investigating the incident and although investigations are still at a very sensitive stage all three organizations are confident of early arrests.

South Africa

Two horns from a mounted white rhinoceros were stolen from the Iziko South African Museum in Cape Town. The thieves smashed their way into a reinforced glass cabinet and ripped the horns off one specimen, but could not remove those from another; they did not touch anything else, not even nearby elephant tusks. The two rhinos on display were historical specimens, dating back to the late 19th century. The museum director said the thieves could unknowingly be exposing themselves or their clients to more than the danger of arrest and prosecution, since these old taxidermy mounts were prepared using arsenic and had regular applications of DDT. If these horns enter the Traditional Medicine market, it could have deadly consequences. In 2002 a thief stole an 80cm horn off a prime specimen of white rhino in the Transvaal Museum in Pretoria. Two years ago thieves broke into the Reinet House Museum in Graaff-Reinet and made off with the horn of a rhino shot in the area 120 years ago. Police said at the time they suspected a syndicate was involved.

South Africa

A 29 year old Briton was bitten by a juvenile black mamba in the grounds of the South African Wildlife Campus in Hoedspruit. He was participating in a safari field-guide course organized by Bushwise when the incident happened. Bushwise staff acted immediately, calling an ambulance when Nathan reported symptoms of a snake bite. Nathan was pronounced dead soon after the ambulance arrived at the campus.

South Africa

A R600-million deal involving top Eastern Cape game reserve Shamwari and Dubai World Africa was signed in February with the Dubai group acquiring a majority shareholding in Shamwari. The Shamwari deal has been on the cards since the middle of last year and includes the acquisition of game reserves in the Mantis Collection Group, namely the Shamwari, Sanbona and Jock reserves. Shamwari and Mantis Collection founder Adrian Gardiner said he would be a minority shareholder and continue as managing director of the three reserves. The deal came about when Dubai World chairman Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem visited Shamwari some months ago. He said the investment in game reserves showed the company's commitment to South Africa and that it was strongly focused on establishing a

leading conservation-based company in the country.

Dubai World Africa also acquired Jock Safari Lodge which is located on a 6,000ha concession in the Kruger National Park, reserved for the exclusive use of the guests of the two five-star lodges with a total of 24 beds. The lodge is some 420km from Johannesburg. In close proximity is Dubai World Africa's most recent acquisition, the 30,000 hectare Nkomazi Game Reserve, near Badplas, also pegged for development of luxury lodges.

South Africa

A routine ranger patrol from Tshokwane (**Kruger National Park**) found suspicious tracks while on patrol in March 2008. Shortly after the rangers found the tracks, gunfire was heard. A team from CIS flew into the area by helicopter and, combined with the Tshokwane rangers; they quickly located and arrested three poachers. The carcasses of two white rhino cows were discovered nearby and further investigation showed that these animals had been shot earlier that day. Footprints in the area suggested the presence of a calf, the carcass of which was found. The calf had been killed by lions. The ranger team confiscated two rifles and four freshly harvested rhino horns. Kruger National Park (KNP) Managing Executive Dr Bandile Mkhize praised the quick reaction of the anti-poaching team: "We are proud of the combined team made up of Tshokwane Rangers, SANParks Corporate Investigation Services (CIS) and SANParks Air Services who all contributed to the successful arrest of these poachers," he said."

Tanzania

African Indaba reported in the last issue about the settlement between safari operators and the Wildlife Division; invoices have been sent out already and trophy shipments should have begun. The only reason an operator would not have started shipping trophies at this point is his failure to pay the invoice he got from the government. If he hasn't paid that invoice, your trophies are being held by the government. An additional word of caution: Should the expected trophy shipment from Tanzania include one or more CITES listed species, US hunters need to check the expiration date the USFW import permit Shipments could be returned or confiscated if arriving with an expired permit.

Zambia

In September 2007 it was jointly agreed by the communities surrounding the Bangweulu Game Management Area and ZAWA to create the Chikuni Community Partnership Park. It was agreed that the area should be protected and should be kept free of permanent human settlement and cultivation, managed by a partnership between the six communities, ZAWA and one or more private sector and/or NGO partners. In February 2008 it was jointly agreed by the Chiefs, over 30 community representatives and ZAWA representatives to invite African Parks as the private partner and to work out an agreement which sets out the terms of the partnership and eventually to form a company that will take over the management of the Chikuni Community Partnership Park. The company will be granted management authority through agreements with ZAWA and the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources. The Ministry, through the REMNPAS project, is going to fund the Chikuni Partnership

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Park in its development phase for a period of four years.

Zimbabwe

The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority raised about US\$900 000 (an unbelievable \$15 trillion Zimbabwean dollars – at that time!) from its annual auction of animals from three of its Zambezi Valley safari camps. Parks and Wildlife spokesman Mbewe said most of the people had started paying. "About 50 percent of the people who won bids that were sold in bags of 10 to 15 animals have started paying and are expected to continue doing so within the next seven working days." Attendance at the auction had surpassed Park's expectations with more Zimbabweans venturing into wildlife. Major Mbewe said that of all the animals that were hunted only those bought in foreign currency could be exported.

Zimbabwe

The US Government has just updated and expanded the list of individuals and entities in Zimbabwe with whom US citizens are forbidden to do business (please go to http://www.huntingreport.com/temp_zimbabwe_ban_list.cfm for details). The Hunting Report advises booked clients to study the list maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the US Treasury Department carefully. It is the mechanism by which the department implements its targeted sanctions program that seeks to isolate and financially punish individuals in Zimbabwe who have been flagged as enemies of democracy.

Rhino Horn

ScienceDaily reported that Scientists have discovered new details about the structural materials that form the horn and the role those materials play in the development of the horn's characteristic shape. The horns of most animals have a bony core covered by a thin sheath of keratin, the same substance as hair and nails. Rhino horns are unique, however, because they are composed entirely of keratin. Scientists had been puzzled by the difference, but an Ohio University study has revealed an interesting clue: dark patches running through the center of the horns.

The team examined the heads of rhinos and conducted CT scans on the horns. They found dense mineral deposits made of calcium and melanin in the middle. The calcium deposits make the horn core harder and stronger, and the melanin protects the core from breakdown by the sun's UV rays. The softer outer portion of the horn weakens with sun exposure and is worn into its distinctive shape through horn clashing and by being rubbed on the ground and vegetation. The structure of the rhino horns is similar to a pencil's tough lead core and weaker wood periphery, which allows the horns to be honed to a sharp point. Thus, the horn is not simply a clump of modified hair and most closely resembles the structure of horses' hoofs, turtle beaks and cockatoo bills. The study also found that the melanin and calcium patches appear in yearly growth surges but the effects of temperature, diet and stress on the growth are still unknown. The research findings were published in the Journal of Morphology.

WWF Publication: "Community-Based Natural Resource Management Manual"

Published in 2006 by the WWF-World Wide Fund for Nature Southern African Regional Office (SARPO), this manual is based upon materials originally published by the Centre for Open and Lifelong Learning at the Polytechnic of Namibia, Windhoek and prepared with the assistance of the Namibian Association of Community-Based Natural Resource Management Support Organisations (NACSO).

It has been written to provide an introduction to community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) in Southern Africa. Countries in Southern Africa are: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe. CBNRM is based on the principle that land and natural resources should be managed by those people who live with and depend on them. CBNRM does not involve wildlife only but other natural resources and community development as well. Hence aspects covered in this manual can be used by any community. This Manual is divided into seven chapters, each addressing a different aspect of CBNRM. The aim of the manual is to provide a good understanding of the social, economic, and ecological factors that affect the management of natural resources by communities in the Southern African region. Examples are taken from across the region, of descriptions of national situations or specific instances of CBNRM projects and programs.

What are the objectives of a CBNRM Manual:

For communities and those working with them it is important that they be able to:

- Understand the principles involved in CBNRM;
- Understand and use the tools available for resource management in CBNRM;
- Understand what is involved in the development and functioning of community-based organizations (CBOs);
- Understand the linkages between local level decisions and the wider environment within CBNRM;
- Understand and use the tools for adaptive management within CBNRM.
- Compare the differences in policy and legislation between various SADC countries;

The WWF Wildlife Management Series provides information and guidance to members of communities involved in the management of natural resources. These booklets are linked to training programs being undertaken by organizations supporting CBNRM in Southern Africa and include Human Wildlife Conflict, Problem Animal Reporting, Quota Setting

You can download the manual at

http://assets.wwf.no/downloads/cbnrm_manual.pdf

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

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the International Council for Wildlife Conservation CIC and Conservation Force

Namibia's Conservancies Go From Strength to Strength Thanks to Hunting

Since commencement of the communal conservancy movement in 1998, Namibia has seen a remarkable transition. Communities which once perceived wildlife as a detriment to rural livelihoods, now view wildlife as a livelihood asset and are fully integrating wildlife into rural development strategies.

Trophy hunting and other forms of wildlife utilization through communal conservancies are now recognized as valued assets to be managed as part of a conservancy's livelihood and rural development strategy. Trophy hunting has played a major role in this attitudinal adjustment, with competitive and transparent tender process generating significant returns in terms of finances, employment and meat. The cash income generated from conservancy trophy hunting concessions is escalating rapidly, increasing from about N\$500,000 in 1998 to almost N\$6,400,000 in 2007.

Game meat has become a greatly valued benefit to community residents. Prior to formation of conservancies, communities had no legal access to game meat. In contrast, during 2007, more than 360,000 kg of game, valued at slightly more than N\$4,000,000 was distributed to conservancy residents.

Conservancy residents quickly recognized the need to conserve key wildlife and habitat and local peer pressure has effectively ended poaching.

Wildlife populations across Namibia's communal areas are on a remarkable rebound. Every year, increasing amounts of land are available to hunting in Namibia's communal conservancies. These changes are obviously positive developments for communities, wildlife, the Namibia hunting industry, and hunters who seek a high-quality hunting experience under natural African conditions.

A total of 39 conservancies have applied for and received wildlife utilization quotas for the 2008 hunting season from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. In the Northwest, after consultations with various stakeholders, black-face impala, lion and desert adapted elephant were awarded on a quota basis to select conservancies. Including the Kyramacan Association Trust in the Bwabwata National Park (Caprivi), the conservancies encompass a total land area of 76,400 km², a dramatic increase from 1997, when no communal conservancies existed and communities had no rights over wildlife.

Eleven conservancy members have attended the local hunting guide exams in 2007 and passed their Practical Exams. They are now complying with other prescribed regulations to be registered as Hunting Guides. Other Conservancy staff continued to receive training on quota setting and wildlife monitoring.

However, there are many challenges still facing the conservancy program and the development and introduction of effective sustainable use management practices. As the number of conservancies expand, so do the demands for assistance to conservancies on quota setting, management plans, tendering of contracts, monitoring, and adaptive management. Given the

“Biodiversity Conservation: The Science-Management Interface“ at the 2008 Conference of the Southern African Wildlife Management Association (SAWMA)

**SAWMA Conference 2008, 16-19 September at
Mpekweni Beach Resort, Eastern Cape.**

**For details please contact Elma Marais, Southern African
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program's limited human and capital resources, meeting these demands is an increasingly more difficult task.

Perhaps one of the biggest threats facing the program is its conservation success with species such as lion, cheetah, and elephant. These species experienced a remarkable recovery in Namibia's conservancies, but their increased presence is also leading to escalating human/animal conflict and requires more effective human/animal conflict mitigation to increase tolerance for these highly valued hunting species.

Of concern is the limited recognition of the role that well managed sport hunting can play in the conservation of wildlife and of the linkages between conservation and sustainable hunting. Continued unfounded attacks by animal rights organizations remain a threat and need to be countered through increased public awareness and education. Success stories such as the Namibia conservancy movement should be a focal point to demonstrate the strong linkages between effective conservation and well managed hunting tourism and other forms of wildlife utilization.

The WWF LIFE Project, which has been a corner stone of the successful Namibian conservancy movement, has received material and advocacy support through two stalwart hunting organizations – Dallas Safari Club (DSC) and Conservation Force (CF).

With the assistance of DSC and CF, conservancy members are continually trained in scientifically-based quota setting, the development and implementation of conservancy wildlife management and zoning plans, the monitoring of wildlife populations and sustainable offtake rates and the tendering and contracting processes.

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