

AFRICAN INDABA

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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

Editor's Notes

Dear Reader,

We are having a glorious and cold winter in Southern Africa and the hunting season has been kind to me, despite of a truck load full of work in the review of the CIC trophy scoring system. I barely managed to catch my breath after returning from a very interesting CIC General Assembly in Paris hosted graciously by Victor Scherrer, head of the French CIC delegation, and his able delegation members. You can read more about the CIC General Assembly on Page 6 and even more on the [CIC Website](#). Suffice it to say here that I had most interesting discussions with from people hailing from all over the globe. And I realized that I have to polish my rudimentary Russian – besides Africa and North America, this vast country stretching from eastern Europe to the shores of the Bering Sea has such a lot offer for the hunter, not only hunting, but also knowledge of wildlife species and conservation. Truly a unique country worth while exploring.

Closer to our own shores in Africa we are hit with a bevy of news – true, half-true and fabricated-emotional – about the situation of the rhinoceros species in southern Africa. The regular readers of African Indaba may recall that I have touched this topic quite frequently in the past. The recent media reports make it necessary to touch on it again.

You can read some accurate and unbiased details in the IUCN-WWF-TRAFFIC report presented to the CITES Standing Committee earlier this month on page 18. Poaching, illegal trafficking and even burglaries (i. e. in the rhino horn storage room of SA's Addo National Park) are rife and the hunting community must do whatever is in its power to cooperate with the national authorities and international agencies in order to put a stop to this. PHASA's president Peter Butland recently announced welcome and necessary measures to all PHASA members advising them not to "book and conduct hunts with nationals from Vietnam or other Far Eastern countries" until the government had "removed this abuse of the SA legal system." PHASA again rallied to the cause. Butland said evidence from enforcement and trade monitoring agencies show a direct link between Far Eastern syndicates and the export of rhino horn from recent legal rhino hunting by Vietnamese, rhino poaching on private and state land, cross-border smuggling and theft of rhino horn from stockpiles and museums. Butland continued stating that "we do not want to be part of anything that is illegal, that is linked to crime syndicates or to organized crime in the Far East.

It is of extreme concern to us." (compare also PHASA PR on pages 19 and 20). This development is indeed of grave concern, since it could undermine the future of South African professional hunting and game ranching. In fact the South African Conservation Model is being put at peril!

A recent case of two rhino shot at Dwesa Nature Reserve (Eastern Cape Parks Board) highlights the problem. The "trophies" have been exported to Vietnam. The outfitter who was involved in the controversial hunt is quite wrong with his published post-hunt statement that "*[my] two Vietnamese clients could now do 'anything' with the horns. They can put them on the wall or sell them or make them into dagger handles – whatever they want.*" As matter of fact the CITES regulations DO NOT allow that at all. Any parts of the trophy can be only used as just that – as personal hunting trophies – and no sale is allowed! Of course it would also fall into the moral responsibility of the outfitter to make sure that his clients are true bona-fide hunters, and not draw on, as the outfitter in question, the cheap excuse "*that is the job of the authorities when they receive the application and decide whether to issue the permit.*"

The blistering attacks launched on the Kruger National Park authorities by some notorious animal rights groups are just

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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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as mistaken. These groups should rather remember who and whose money was and is responsible for the astonishing conservation successes in the last 50 years or so, which brought both African rhinoceroses back from the brink of extinction. Hunters' money most of it – giving a decisive economic value to this pachyderm! The emotional saber rattling of these people, that the commercial trade in white rhino holds a far greater threat to the endangered animals than poaching, is blatantly untrue and their call for a boycott of the Kruger National Park at FIFA 2010 does not help to save a single rhino. It's about time that these people are identified for what they are – members of the Flat Earth Society!

David Mabunda and Hector Magome of SANParks said in an interview *"Before 1994 the park's management sold the animals indiscriminately and the auctions were never advertised. We wanted to take the democratic route and thus decided to place advertisements. Thus we are now the victims of our own democratic decision."* According to them, the park has a sound rhinoceros population of between 9,000 and 12,000 and the profits from surplus rhino sales are used to buy more land for conservation and to initiate special conservation projects. Some of the individuals and organizations who attack SANParks seem to forget that even the huge KNP has a limited carrying capacity for rhino – and the wildlife ranching community of South Africa has hundreds of thousands of hectares of suitable land where the surplus KNP rhino can be relocated. They also raise, voluntarily or involuntarily, the dark shadows of racism by implying that that conservation and black people are two mutually exclusive concepts.

Of course, both KNP and the game ranchers who buy the rhinos, do have a conservation and a moral responsibility of what happens to the animals after the sale. Denying this does not serve the purpose at all! Shooting the rhinos a couple of days after they have been relocated is insensitive to say the least, and does certainly not do justice to the social responsibility of conservationist and hunters alike. Hunting has a triple bottom line, as I said so often before; apart from the ecological and the economic parts, the socio-cultural part, which incorporates some moral obligations to society, is often overlooked. I am sure that the protagonists don't forget the economic side of the deal – and that throws out enough benefits to sensibly cover the ecological and socio-cultural parts! Rhinos eat only grass or twigs – and not precious sable or eland – so the dead beaten argument of the lion breeder faction that one cannot keep lion for two years since it's too expensive, does not count at all. Yes, I am all for hunting also rhino which originate from any of the SANParks territory. But let's be reasonable – give them a chance to adapt to their new and hopefully adequately sized home before stalking them! Let them be part of the system on the game ranch. Don't risk that the authorities have to jump in again and make yet another unnecessary regulation and be sensitive to the feelings of the public.

Talking about regulations – there is certainly one I consider good and valid – the two-year-rule for lion which hopefully will now be enforced. The international scandal of South Africa's

Royal Sable – From 2002 to the Present

Peter Flack

Over 30 years ago I was at a loose end in London on a Saturday morning and so I took a taxi to what I think is one of London's most beautiful buildings – the Natural History Museum. In the entrance hall, the bust of my hunting hero, Fredrick Courteney Selous, caught my eye in the far left corner at the foot of the stairs leading up to the second level. I walked over and, after looking my fill, followed the stairs up and to the left, wandered along and to the right and, unexpectedly, arrived at three dioramas prepared by that greatest of all taxidermists, Rowland Ward. It was the massive bongo and okapi that first caught my eye but, as I turned around, I stopped in my tracks and simply gawped open mouthed at the next diorama. It was my first sight of a royal sable in all its glory. From that moment I was smitten. All these years later, in my opinion, the royal or giant sable is still the greatest of all the hunting icons of Africa.

I immediately looked for and found the book, *Some African Milestones*, by H. F. Varian after whom the royal sable was named. He had come across the animal during the course of his time in Angola. Right at the end of the book, in his chapter on game, he wrote as follows,

"On one of my visits to London from Angola, I had taken to the curator of the Natural History Museum, Mr. Oldfield Thomas, specimens of a number of smaller mammals..... I mentioned to him that in spite of the official lack of interest in the larger animals of this province, I considered that some of them showed a distinct difference from the classified varieties, and would repay a little study. I told him of a large sable antelope which I had already described in an article published in The Field, which differed in face-markings and other important respects from the ordinary sable antelope found in most parts of Africa, and as I knew it to be far larger than any they had in the Museum, I offered to present him with a specimen. He welcomed the offer, and I accordingly sent him the head and skin, pointing out the differences, and suggesting that this might be a link between the common sable and the 60 inch single horn that had puzzled Selous when he saw it in the museum at Florence, the record measurement of the ordinary sable being then about 51 inches. In due course I received a warm letter of thanks from Mr. Thomas, in which he stated that this was one of the most important gifts the Museum had received for a long time. At a subsequent meeting of the Zoological Society, the head was exhibited and the difference demonstrated between it and the common sable, Hippotragus niger. It was decided to name the new species after me, and it was duly called Hippotragus niger variani."

In 2002, John Frederick Walker published *A Certain Curve of Horn*, to date, the most complete book on all aspects of the royal sable. He reported that Selous, *"On one of his return trips from Africa, Selous visited what is now the zoological collection of the Natural History Museum of Florence. That particular collection, "La Specola," housed south of the Arno, was first*

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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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opened to the public in 1775. By the time of his visit it held a vast collection of specimens. Selous could probably have identified virtually any large mammal found in southern Africa from the most minimal of clues – a claw, a hoof, a scrap of skin. But he was taken aback by a single five-foot-long horn, a huge half-loop of ringed thickness trailing off into a perfect point. What animal grew that great arc of ridged keratin? It looked like an immense sable horn, but it hardly seemed possible. The best sable he'd ever shot was from Mashonaland (in today's Zimbabwe) and carried horns of forty-four and a half inches. "I measured this phenomenal horn," he wrote, "and I am sure that there is no mistake about its length of 61 inches, though where it came from nobody knows."

Walker went on to write that, "And the horn is still there; in the old catalogue its provenance is given as "Africa australe" – southern Africa. It was added to the museum's collection in 1873. Unfortunately, nothing else is known about it. One can make guesses about where it came from, and how it got there, but all that is certain now is that it is a giant sable horn. Selous could not know that, but he knew what it had to be – evidence of a grander, more impressive animal, one not yet seen for what it was. The hunter never forgot it."

For years he tried to find out where it came from," John Guile Millais wrote, "without success." That the great horn in Florence must have come from a race of extraordinary sables made the enigma all the more worth solving. Selous had a special regard for sable; like many, he regarded them as the most "high couraged" of all the antelope tribe, and was impressed by their tenacity when pursued..... but it was more than fierceness that drew Selous to the sable. "Where they have not been much persecuted, sable antelope are amongst the least shy of wild animals; and the bold and noble bearing of a herd of these antelopes, standing on the slope of a wooded hill, gazing with curious though fearless eyes at the first mounted man to invade their haunts, could not fail to strike the least impressionable of hunters."

Written over 120 years ago, these words are as true today as they were then and have inspired hundreds of hunters to seek out these majestic and magnificent animals.

Walker's book ends on a depressing note, however. Despite all his determined and dedicated efforts, by the time he completed his book, no one had been able to conclusively prove that royal sable still existed. Worse still, based albeit on only three samples, the DNA evaluation by Professors Bettine van Vuuren and Terry Robinson, now of Stellenbosch University, seemed to indicate that, genetically speaking, the royal sable was not significantly different from the typical or common sable. In fact, Walker wrote that Professor Robinson was confident that any more specimens he could gather would only further support that contention which, subsequently, proved to be wrong. At that time, however, he explained to Walker that "sables may have been widely distributed across southern Africa into Angola, but changes in climate since then had left certain populations isolated. The giant sable could simply be a sable population with a high incidence of the genes that are responsible for giant sable characteristics – primarily facial markings and horn length."

Last year a friend of mine, Steve Kobrine, a bow hunter of international repute, arranged for Peter Fisher, the fourth generation, Zambian owner of Nchila Wildlife Reserve, to send me pictures of three sable bulls on this property in the far northwestern corner of Zambia, some four kilometers from the Congo border and 28 kilometers from Angola. As soon as I saw them, my heart skipped a beat. The facial markings looked exactly the same as those of the royal sable from Angola and the horns of one of the bulls looked to measure at least 50 inches.

Within days the telephone lines were buzzing between myself, Steve and Peter and the upshot was that I booked the first available hunt of the 2009 hunting season.

I have just returned from a very successful time at Nchila (which means puku in the local Lunda language), during the course of which I shot not one but two sable bulls. The first was a good representative bull with common sable (*Hippotragus niger niger*) markings, the horns of which measured a very respectable 41 ½ inches. The second bull was an entirely different kettle of fish. The facial markings resembled those of a royal sable and the horns measured a fraction under 47 inches but the haunches were a shiny brownish black. When I stood next to the incredible animal it triggered off a whole series of memories.

I remember an attractive, dark haired woman coming to see me at a SCI convention in the late 1990s. She explained that Professor Van Hoven had told her that he had seen royal sable during the course of a low level flight over north central Angola and had asked for help in raising funds to verify his sighting. She asked whether I thought there was any likelihood of any of these animals surviving the bitter, long lasting, civil war that was still ravaging the country. I replied by asking her, in return, whether the good professor had had a camera with him and, if so, whether he had taken any photographs. The answer was, yes, he had a camera but had been too excited to take any photographs. The cynical corporate lawyer in me reared its ugly head and scepticism fought against my strong hope that this magnificent animal had somehow survived.

On my return to South Africa, I and a few friends questioned our contacts in Angola, including various embassy staff members who were uniformly negative about the chances of survival of any of these iconic beasts. They pointed out that the area in and around the Cuanza and Luando Rivers which housed the original herds of royal sable had seen much fighting and been occupied, at different times, by both the MPLA and UNITA forces. The latter was known for its ability to live off the land, not to mention the ubiquitous land mines in the area. I advised Ann Donaldson accordingly but her inherent human hope was stronger than mine and she raised substantial amounts of money which were forwarded to Professor Van Hoven to assist him in his attempts to prove that his original sighting was correct.

A good friend of mine, Brendan O'Keeffe, the former chairman of AGRED, accompanied three missions to Angola to assist in this process and raised substantial funds from two members of the Shikar Club, the African Chapter of SCI and Dallas Safari Club to fund the 2004 expedition and supply four still cameras with infrared triggers. It was one of these cameras

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that in March, 2005, took the first pictures of royal sable cows in Cangandala National Park, north of the confluence of the Cuanza and Luando Rivers. Along with Luando National Park, which lies between the two rivers, these parks housed the two royal sable population groups estimated by researchers such as the world famous Richard Estes and Brian Huntley to amount to no more than 2000 to 3000 animals.

These photographs were announced to the world by Mr. Pedro Vas Pinto, who accompanied the original mission as well as the 2004 expedition as an interpreter in his position as an adviser on conservation projects to the Catholic University in Angola. At no stage did he acknowledge the contributions of O'Keeffe or the Shikar Club and, rightly or wrongly, since that time, has attempted to establish himself as the sole expert and gate keeper on current royal sable issues.

To date, there have been no further discoveries of royal sable other than the original seven cows which, it would appear, are led by a roan bull which has bred with these cows and produced hybrid animals. As one of my friends explained, they looked like a pair of roan ears with a little sable attached.

To date, as far as I am aware, there have been no prolonged, properly planned, manned and equipped attempts to track or trace royal sable in Luando National Park since O'Keeffe's attempt in 2004 which produced dung samples evidencing royal sable DNA and two of which indicated that they had been produced by royal sable bulls.

Despite being heavily criticized by the Angolan authorities at the time for taking the dung samples out of the country without permission, it was those selfsame samples that provided the first concrete evidence in December, 2004, that royal sable still existed. In the paper, *DNA-led Rediscovery of the Giant Sable* by Prof. Christian Pitra et al, not only did O'Keeffe receive acknowledgement for the first time but it was stated that, "*Comparisons of mitochondrial DNA sequences derived from dung samples recently collected in the field and from old museum specimens of certain provenance provide the first documented evidence to date that this enigmatic antelope has survived.*" Its DNA-led rediscovery in the former combat zone was subsequently confirmed by photographic evidence. "*The Angolan isolate constitutes a distinct monophyletic group that shows a dramatic population decline from historic levels. It represents a diagnosable conservation unit which is characterized by unique cranial morphological features.....a highly restricted range, and the presence of fixed genetic differences in all of its common relatives.*"

In a recent conversation with O'Keeffe, he mentioned how difficult it would be for aerial surveys to identify royal sable given their chosen habitat of predominantly *brachystegia* woodland. He explained that, on his 2004 trip, when use was made of a microlight aircraft, despite being in radio contact with the pilot and providing him with the requisite GPS coordinates, the pilot was unable to spot three people on the ground waving at him while trying to guide him towards them over the radio. His view was that, if people were serious about wanting to save the royal sable and, in this regard, the identification and capture of one or more royal sable bulls was essential, they would have to plan at

least a three month expedition to Luando National Park and use the local *sobas* together with a large number of well trained trackers with suitable cameras and GPS equipment supported by helicopters. If this was properly planned and implemented, he was absolutely convinced that additional sable herds, including bulls, would be found.

So what has happened since 2002 after Walker's book was published? Firstly, we know now that an unknown number of animals exist in the wild in Luando and at least seven royal sable cows in Cangandala although they are led by a roan bull. Secondly, having now analyzed well some 150 samples, Professors Van Vuuren and Robinson have modified their original views and come to the clear and inescapable conclusion that royal sable are an entirely separate sub-species whose closest relatives, incidentally, are those common sable found near Ugalla in the south western side of Tanzania, followed by those on Nchila Wildlife Reserve.

Altogether then, there are currently five sub-species of sable recognized by science, namely, royal sable from Angola, *Hippotragus niger kirkii* from Kenya, *Hippotragus niger roosevelti* from in and around the Selous Game Reserve in the south western corner of Tanzania, *Hippotragus niger anelli* from Malawi and eastern Zambia and common sable, *Hippotragus niger niger* from most of southern Africa including, South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mocambique and Tanzania. There are still question marks over the sable from Malawi and Mozambique as insufficient or no samples have been obtained from sable populations there although the best guess is that the ones from Mocambique are probably typical or common and not Roosevelt and those from Malawi may well be the same as or similar to the Ugalla specimens. Time will tell.

Yes, all the monster sable from the West of Zambia whose DNA has been tested, including those from Nchila, some of which bear similar facial markings and skull shapes to the royal sable, are all common sable. Having said this, however, to date the testing has focused only on their mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and nuclear DNA tests have not been done. In layman's terms, what this means is that scientists in South Africa have only been able to establish where the mothers of the tested sable have come from but not the fathers.

Why is this important? Well, if I were prepared to or was about to hand over R3 million (\$375 000) or so for a sable bull (as was done at an auction last year), I would most definitely want to know precisely where the bull came from, particularly given the questions surrounding the provenance of so many of the animals with facial markings and horns that are similar to royal sable. As a friend of mine says, while not everyone in the game ranching industry is a crook, at times, it seems as if every crook is in the game ranching industry.

The fact of the matter is, although some of the bulls recently on auction in South Africa have carried horns measuring in the high 40 inches, none has been measured independently at over 50 inches. The merest glimpse at Rowland Wards Records of Big Game will show that the biggest royal sable measured 64 7/8 inches and was shot in Angola in 1949 by Count de Yebes. A picture of this awesome beast can be seen at page 379 of James Mellon's magnum opus, *African Hunter* (*Editor's note:*

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and on this page in African Indaba – courtesy of Inigo Moreno, Marques de Laula, Spain)



Count Yebes with his magnificent trophy

More importantly, the next 25 royal sables recorded in The Book all measured over 60, yes 60, inches! On the other hand, not one of the typical or common sable entered in The Book over the 117 years of its existence measured 60 or more inches while the biggest, shot in 1898 in Tshokwane, South Africa by S.W. van Ee, stretched the tape to a “mere” 55 ¾ inches. Makes you think doesn’t it?

What are people paying all this money for? As of now, no sable tested outside of those from Angola have shown royal sable DNA. Those that look like royal sable, other than those from Western Zambia (of which the Nchila animals are the best examples), seem to have been selectively bred from typical or common sable much like those people trying to re-create the quagga from animals that most look like them. And what is wrong with that you might ask seeing as all the sable in South Africa seem to be *Hippotragus niger niger*.

Even the authorities seem a little confused. The relevant government authorities have given approval for the importation of sable from Zambia and, in fact, many have been imported from this country in the past, but now it seems that the State Vet is having second thoughts and has recently refused permission for this practice to continue. Why? Is this not like shutting the sable door long, long after the bulls have bolted? And on what grounds, as all the sable from Zambia bear exactly the same DNA as those from South Africa? Is this not just one more bit of madness introduced under the brief but damaging reign of the previous Minister for the Department of the Environment and Tourism along with his controversial TOPS legislation?

In my humble opinion, the government should not ban the import of typical or common sable. The only thing that possibly still needs to be done in South Africa in this regard is to establish the base, nuclear DNA body of information to enable complete testing of all sable. That way all buyers and sellers of sable, including hunters and game ranchers, will know for sure what they are dealing with.

Given all of the above, the question must be asked, is it

not time to form SASA – the Southern African Sable Association? Game ranchers, capturers, breeders and hunters alike could become members and help fund the future research on royal sable as a benefit to all? The association could also direct and focus attention on this magnificent antelope and the pathetic efforts currently being made in Angola for their preservation and protection. And this would be a good thing don’t you think?

As for Angola, that is another question altogether. Since the publication of *A Certain Curve of Horn* in 2002, what has been done by this country to try and preserve or conserve this majestic animal which is, after all, its national animal, known there as *palanca negra* and which appears on the tail plane of its national carrier. The short answer is not much. On the one hand, the Angolans seem to want everything in connection with royal sables to be done in and by Angolans. Now that is perfectly fine. But, on the other hand, in the five years that have elapsed since their re-discovery, they have done nothing meaningful to preserve, let alone conserve the last remaining royal sables and, as each year goes by, the seven sable cows are one year closer to extinction without giving birth to any pure bred offspring. What is wrong with them?

Martin Meredith, author of *The State of Africa – A History of Fifty Years of Independence*, wrote as follows: “A large proportion of Angola’s oil wealth was siphoned off for private purposes. Oil production rose six fold after 1983. Between 1997 and 2002 the oil sector generated \$17,8 billion. Yet what happened to the income was shrouded in secrecy. An International Monetary Fund report in 2002 showed that 22 per cent of government expenditure between 1996 and 2001 was “unexplained”; a further 16 per cent was listed as “extra-budgetary”. Using IMF figures, a Human Rights Watch report published in 2004 calculated that between 1997 and 2002 an amount of \$4.2 billion went “unaccounted for” – an average of \$700 million a year, nearly 10 per cent of gross domestic product, roughly equivalent to the total sum spent on education, health and social services over the same period. What had occurred, said the report, was gross mismanagement and corruption on the part of the Angolan rulers.”

And yet none of this immense wealth has been used to save the own national animal! To add insult to royal sable injury, capable and reputable foreign experts are prevented from helping in any significant way and Angolan efforts remain feeble. If the precious royal sable is lost, the entire world will not only call Angola to account but will hold it in contempt as well.

On my last evening in Lusaka at the end of my recent hunt, I had dinner with Anthony Hall-Martin, previously a highly respected head of department with South African National Parks and now a founding director of African Parks. He was in Zambia to conduct negotiations with the government who appeared interested in contracting out the management of certain of their parks. He was also involved in similar negotiations in Angola and his organization had funded a helicopter capture team to catch and translocate the seven aging royal sable cows to a secure, fenced enclosure. So maybe, just maybe, moves are also afoot in Angola to do something meaningful to preserve and then conserve Angola’s and Africa’s top game icon. If so, it’s about time!

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Southern African Wildlife Management Association (SAWMA) Symposium: 13-16 September 2009



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY

Protea Black Mountain, Thaba 'Nchu, Free State

1st keynote address: Prof. Brian Huntley, who recently retired as chair person of South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)

2nd keynote speaker: Dr Gert Dry, president of Wildlife Ranching SA (WRSA)

3rd keynote speaker: Prof. Christo Fabricius, Principal of Saasveld, the George Campus of NMMU.

- Putting a price tag on sustainability
- Managing small reserves and fragmented populations
- Sustainable projects for rural upliftment
- Managing ecosystems
- Maintaining biological processes
- Alien and invasive species as a threat to sustainability
- Monitoring and criteria for sustainability

For more information about the Symposium, including registration fees and online registration, please visit www.sawma.co.za

CIC Takes Positions in Paris

CIC Press Release

At the 56th General Assembly of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) – the World Forum for Sustainable Hunting – members took important steps on the development and promotion of best practices in hunting. Furthermore, Recommendations were passed on topical issues, such as lead shot, the conservation of the African lion or the ban on seal hunting.

This year's CIC General Assembly was hosted by the French CIC Delegation in Paris, the city where the CIC had its home for nearly 70 years. 380 participants from 36 countries from around the world attended, among them high ranking representatives from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 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 numerous scientists. The pre-congress symposium "Hunting: a Passion for the Future" aimed to present the characteristics of national hunting organizations and how they meet the great strategic challenges

of hunting, e.g. recruitment of new hunters, image of hunting in the broader public etc. Models were presented from France, the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, Switzerland and Eastern Europe.

Sustainable hunting worldwide

During the Opening Ceremony the representatives of major international bodies stated that the CIC has gained appreciation and recognition as a professional global organization within the world of conservation in general and the sustainable use of nature and wildlife in particular.

Jan Heino, Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department of the FAO highlighted in his speech the very fruitful cooperation with the CIC in supporting Central Asian and Caucasus countries to develop their wildlife management laws. He commended CIC "for the important work being done in actively advocating the principles of sustainability".

Robert Hepworth, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) stressed that the tradition of hunting and gathering is fundamental to the human condition, and still not out-of-date. He thanked CIC for its support in publishing the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity, and the creation and presentation of the new CIC Markhor Award, as an excellent way to honor and raise awareness of sustainable cross-border conservation-hunting projects.

Clyde Jackman, Minister for Tourism and Culture of Newfoundland thanked the CIC for its commitment to rural and indigenous peoples around the world. He pointed to the significance of the Canadian seal harvest to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador and added that "the anti-sealing lobby is the largest and best-coordinated animal rights effort in the history of humanity. Once they declare victory on the Canadian seal harvest, make no mistake, they will be looking in other directions for one simple reason. They need a cause for fundraising."

Bert Lenten, Executive Secretary of AEWA, valued CIC as a strong international NGO dealing with hunting related issues. He urged CIC to further cooperate with AEWA in stopping unsustainable hunting practices in some flyways, which have a detrimental effect on the species involved but also on the long-term survival of hunting as such.

Tamás Marghescu, Director of the Regional Office for Europe of the IUCN, drew attention to the economic values of wildlife as natural resources. "Nature must have a price!" he stressed.

"The CIC promotes, on a global scale, sustainable hunting as a tool for conservation while building on valued traditions." – says the CIC Brand Positioning, which was adopted at the Closing Session by the participating members. Active in 84 countries worldwide, CIC is "a global community of friends and professionals advocating sustainable hunting through knowledge, networks and valued traditions to benefit people and conserve nature".

Stay unique and be unanimous

CIC is known in the hunting world for its trophy point system. A major discussion point Paris was the careful review of the CIC's Trophy Measurement System; these discussions based on the extensive preparatory work done after the last General Assembly in Morocco. The CIC wants to update its proprietary trophy measurement system according to latest scientific

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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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CIC Takes Position in Paris

ic knowledge and retain global leadership position in the scientific evaluation of sustainable trophy hunting. The CIC name has been very recently misused in the advertisement for another obviously manipulated "new world record" trophy red deer stag (*Editor's remark: see article in the last African Indaba issue*). The CIC has therefore undertaken steps to prevent such misuse of its name in future.

Lead shot, seals and lions – what do they have in common?

The 56th CIC General Assembly adopted three recommendations. After the ban on lead shot in wetlands, CIC is urging governments to closely work together with the hunting community in solving this hot potato issue. CIC also calls on the industry to give priority to the development and production of satisfactory alternatives to lead shot. CIC will organize an international Symposium on lead and its alternatives.

Proposed by hunters from Scandinavia and Canada, CIC emphasizes seal management according to sustainability principles, and expresses its deep concern that any ban on this traditional hunting method is in contradiction with these principles and affecting the livelihood of rural communities. Demonstrating CIC as a truly global organization, participants adopted a recommendation on the conservation of the African lion, encouraging Lion Range States to adopt national action plans as suggested in the CITES regional strategies with the cooperative help of international hunting community.

Boone & Crockett Club and CIC Cooperate

The participation from North America continues to rise. The US CIC delegation under the leadership of Chrissie Jackson included again the CEO and president of Dallas Safari Club. Jeff Crane, President of the Congressional Sportsmen Foundation, representing the bipartisan voice of the many US parliamentarians who hunt and fish, participated for the first time. Bob Model, Chairman of the venerable Boone & Crockett Club attended and Kaush Arha, Professional Member of the Boone & Crockett Club, addressed the CIC members and recognized vast areas of common ground. The close cooperation between B&C and CIC was initiated through a Memorandum of Understanding between both organizations.

Readers Comments

I read Peter Flack's review of Tim Caro's article with much amusement. His emotive use of the words ex-spurts and mumbo jumbo add some humour to critique of the article on which I am a co-author. Aside from the humour, I differ from Peter Flack's views in some respects. While I personally am not totally sold on complex computer-modelling approaches, I have the following perspective: Hunting quotas have traditionally been set on educated guess work, and currently many quotas are based on distinctly un-educated guesses, with the effects sometimes quite destructive. There is a big need for a better basis for quota-setting. In Tanzania I was able to consolidate data from 5,000 permits representing 30,000 animals from 48 types of game hunted in the Selous over a 14-year period. A remarkable opportunity that has yielded many valuable insights that have been proudly published in African Indaba. It is unlikely that such an opportunity will be repeated in the near future, and certainly

not from a single farm in the Karoo. The data was real and deserved a more comprehensive use than I was single-handedly able to achieve in Tanzania, and I thus offered the database to Tim Caro who with his co-workers has taken the analysis many steps further, supplemented with census results and his own observations. These computerised approaches under review are the new and powerful tools that are becoming available to science. While the results are not yet a Holy Grail to wildlife authorities, they are a positive step in the right direction. We would be very foolish to totally disregard any products of these tools prior to understanding their use, while at the same time faced with the current guess-work that limits quota setting. Instead we should encourage the academic world to further explore new avenues wherever possible, and their research must be management-related to keep a sense of reality. Nobody, as far as I am aware, is forcing the implementation of these results. The above review is reminiscent of the Dark Ages, characterised by a closed mentality that blocked the forward-thinking of science. Don't let us be such stubborn (and apparently blind) old bulls that immediately see a red flag when actually a green flag is being waved.

Andrew Cauldwell, andrew@eduaccess.co.za

Thanks for another packed issue of *African Indaba*. I do think that the review of applicable scientific articles – e.g. those that are related to conservation and especially sustainable hunting in Africa - is a good idea. However, the so-called "critical review" of a paper by Caro *et al.* (2009) that appeared in the most recent issue of *African Indaba* (Volume 7/3) has done nothing but reinforce the old stereotypes of "them trying to tell us hunters what we can and cannot do".

That response has become quite pathetic to say the least, and it is about time the hunting fraternity gets less defensive and more proactive. I would like to suggest that a professional conservation scientist reviews applicable papers in the future, or that *African Indaba* at the very least also includes a review by a conservation scientist in conjunction with the kind of "review" written by Peter Flack in your most recent issue.

Maartin Strauss wm_strauss@hotmail.com

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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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Readers Comments

I have hunted professionally, and now as a client, both Cameroon and the CAR over 12 years, and concur with most of Peter Flack's analysis expressed in Central African Giant Eland: Cameroon versus CAR (Vol. 7/3). Poaching is totally out of hands in CAR; Western kob and Defassa waterbuck have disappeared. Northern Cameroon offers today a much larger game diversity and density, which not only includes kob and waterbuck, but also damalisques and elephant. I have seen very good giant eland trophies, certainly on a par with Central CAR. I would say that for buffalo numbers, the CAR is still above Cameroon, especially in the Bamingui river area (Ba = buffalo, mingui = plenty), but it is not going to last. I still believe that the best eland trophies are in Eastern CAR, and it is most probably a matter of genetics. Due to their elusiveness, giant eland are normally the last to be poached out; the Haute-Kotto area is a good example, while most other species are gone or depleted, eland are still plentiful. I could have shot a very good trophy, conservatively well above 48", nearly every day in February this year; but they were in large herds and I was looking for a lone bull. However there is still something magic and wild about the CAR that Cameroon lacks and next year, I'll be back.

Richard Rouget richardrouget@yahoo.com

national and global treasure.

The Niassa Carnivore Project (NCP) serves to secure and conserve the large carnivore populations (lion, leopard, spotted hyaena and African wild dog) in Niassa National Reserve by promoting coexistence between the large carnivores and people. We acknowledge the costs to communities who live with carnivores while recognizing the potential of these carnivores to provide substantial ecological, cultural and economic benefits to the reserve and Mozambique. This mission is being achieved through targeted research and monitoring, mitigation of threats, mentorship, training and community outreach.

This project is lead by independent conservationists, Colleen and Keith Begg in close collaboration with the Management authority SRN Society for the Development of Niassa Reserve (Sociedade para a Gestao e Desenvolvimento da Reserva do Niassa) with assistance from Niassa communities and tourism operators. In Niassa there is a unique opportunity to secure these carnivore populations and mitigate threats and conflicts before a crisis develops and support for conservation activities is eroded.

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Niassa Carnivore Project and Niassa News

Gerhard R Damm



I highly recommend readers to subscribe to the Niassa Carnivore News - Newsletter Of The Niassa Carnivore Project (see also snippets in "News from Africa" in this edition).

Niassa National Reserve is located in northern Mozambique bordering Tanzania. It is considered to be one of the "Last of the Wild" and most undeveloped places in Africa. This spectacular and extensive (42,000 km²) wilderness supports the full complement of wildlife species as well as more than 30,000 people. For large carnivore conservation it is undoubtedly both a

Illegal Cattle Grazing in Nyae Nyae Conservancy

Gerhard R Damm

The illegal move of 1,210 cattle from Gam farmers into the Nyae Nyae Conservancy highlighted how easily the precarious balance between nature and human demands in that area can be disturbed. "We are not happy. We cannot find gamakhoe [devil's claw] along the cattle route. We do not hear the kudus at night anymore because they took flight because of the presence of so many cattle. The Gam cattle have taken over," said a member of the San community. Community members called for decisive and permanent action be taken by the government that will ensure the sustainability of the place. In June The Namibian reported that the invading farmers are refusing to go back to Gam, The farmers were reported to have said "that they came to permanently settle and want land here".³² farmers were arrested earlier for having moved livestock illegally through the veterinary fence into the conservancy. A confidential report to the Namibian Cabinet states that "it is important that a decision on this matter is made as soon as possible to both send a strong message to [land invaders of] the Nyae-Nyae Conservancy".

The losses to the area according to Nyae Nyae Conservancy have been estimated to amount to a loss of income from devils claw harvesting; loss of grazing sufficient to fill one million 50 kg mealie-meal bags (the damage to devil's claw yields and grazing may take 3 to 5 years to restore); loss of over 600,000 liters of water consumed by the cattle); an increase in human/wildlife conflict as wildlife is driven out of the areas where

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Illegal Cattle Grazing in Nyae Nyae Conservancy

there are cattle; potential loss of trophy hunting fees as hunters are presumably not keen to hunt in areas overrun by livestock (trophy hunting yielded about N\$1 million in 2009); a potential reduction in tourism that is largely based on the untainted environment and wildlife; and the imposition on the rights of the conservancy's community to manage the area's resources sustainably for the benefit of its members. The conservancy members said they will seek reparation to the tune of N\$603,700.

Nyae Nyae with over 900 000 ha of Kalahari wilderness, lies south of the Khaudum National Park, was the first established conservancy in Namibia in 1998 under the Nature Conservation Act 1996 that calls for the sustainable use and management of fauna and flora to maximally benefit community members. The conservancy is the only place where the San, the Ju/Hoansi, live uncontested on the land that is proclaimed as communal land governed by the Ju/Hoansi Traditional Authority and currently headed by Chief Tsamkxao Bobo ≠Oma. Nyae Nyae is overseen by an elected board and run by a committee and staff with a management plan, wildlife management and monitoring systems, projects to develop water points and reintroduce game into the area. The management and staff oversee and monitor water development with the drilling of new boreholes, water protection against elephants attacking infrastructure, wildlife activities like trophy hunting (the Ju/hoansi is the only community allowed to hunt without a license provided they hunt with traditional gear like the bow and arrow, spear or traditional snares) and game translocations, veld food that is sustainably harvested, gardens to ensure greater food security, craft development and marketing. The Nyae Nyae Conservancy (former Bushmanland) is known to hunters as an area to consistently produce large elephant bulls. Last year, well known professional hunter and outfitter, Kai-Uwe Denker, with a reputation of traditional, hard-care foot hunting big bulls, secured a 89.3 x 82.5 pound bull and this season's opener produced another bull of 81 x 69 pounds.

Hunting Statistics of South Africa 2006-2007

Peter Flack

In 2007 the first edition of Safari Guide was published. It covered the eleven most popular hunting countries in Africa, namely, Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Mocambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Each chapter contained two sections. The first section dealt with factual information such as geography, climate, languages, money and banking, visas, firearms importation, areas and animals to hunt, quotas, the hunting regulations, harvest results and so on. The second section was subjective in nature and was usually written either by myself or Craig Boddington on what to expect when hunting in the particular country.

The book is the most complete guide to hunting in Africa on the market and, as a result, has not only sold well but a deci-

sion has been taken by the publisher, Safari Press, to produce an updated version. Insofar as the South African chapter is concerned, I have recently received the South African Trophy Hunting Statistics for the period 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007 from the ever friendly and efficient Magdel Boshoff from the Department of Environment and Tourism (DEAT). These are the latest statistics available as, from 2008, they have been compiled for the calendar year and, as yet, not all of the provinces have submitted their statistics. In addition, the current statistics have been compiled for the first time by the University of Free State under the leadership of Mr. Pieter Taljaard and not by government although they have been checked and verified by DEAT.

Up until receipt of these statistics, I have relied on similar information provided to me over the years by the Professional Hunting Association of South Africa (PHASA). Over the last five years or so, the numbers which they provided of overseas hunters visiting South Africa peaked at the 9,000 mark, then dropped to a little over 6,000, before climbing again to around about the 8,000 mark over the last two years.

The drop was ascribed to the introduction of the new Fire Arms Control Act and the chaos and confusion that reigned at ports of entry to South Africa which caused huge delays and major disruptions to the travel plans of visiting hunters. The bad publicity which resulted was compounded by further bad publicity relating to crime and the fraudulent and unethical conduct of a number of South African professional hunters both inside and outside the country.

Namibia seemed to be the beneficiary and recipient of large numbers of overseas hunters who might ordinarily have visited South Africa and reports indicated that, during the self-same period, the number of overseas hunters visiting this country climbed from some 3,000 to over 6,000. Access to Namibia was quick and easy and the government actively marketed the country as a safe and secure hunting destination in conjunction with the Namibian Professional Hunting Association (NAPHA). This was diametrically opposite to the South African approach where cabinet ministers have made numerous disparaging remarks about the local hunting industry, likening it to golf and referring to it as the exclusive preserve of rich, white men which did nothing for job creation or the economy.

In this regard, the last officially produced statistics which I saw on the effect of overseas trophy hunters on the local economy were produced by the Eastern Cape government well over six years ago. At that time, they showed that 1,128 overseas hunters had spent some R128 million via daily rates and trophy fees in the province that year.

The current statistics show a much more complete, detailed and, in many instances, quite surprising picture. For example, for the period from 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007, 16,394 overseas hunters hunted in the country for an average of 4 days each. They spent \$64,951,675 (nearly R520 million at rate) on trophy fees in respect of 45,764 indigenous species and 963 alien or exotic species. They spent \$26,261,200.00 (slightly over R210 million) on 65,653 days of hunting (which equates to an average of \$400 a day).

In total, overseas trophy hunters contributed some R730

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Hunting Statistics of South Africa 2006-2007

million to the economy for the twelve months to end September, 2007 and this did not take into account additional and inevitable expenditure on items such as hotels, car hire, taxidermy, curios, gratuities and so on. Nevertheless, it amounted to an expenditure of over R44,500 per hunter or nearly twenty times the expenditure of the average tourist to South Africa most of whom come from neighboring countries.

A number of interesting details were highlighted by the statistics. For example, 98 hunters came from Afghanistan and 119 from Saudi Arabia. Scandinavia accounted for 1,720 (over 300 more than Germany (650), France (560) and Italy (188) combined), while the runaway leader was still the U.S.A. with 6904 visitors compared to Spain at number two with 1,297 and Denmark third with 1,015. Nevertheless, Europe as a whole provided 7658 overseas hunters of which 591 came from Eastern European or previously communist countries with Russia (224) and the Ukraine (89) leading the way. I could not help wondering if South African outfitters spent as much time, effort and money marketing in Europe as they did in America how many more hunters they might attract from this continent.

The most popular game animals were impala (6,088), springbok (5,236) and warthog (4,404) which just beat common blesbuck by a short head of some 207 animals. From a monetary perspective, however, lions generated by far and away the most money at R13,689,837 and comfortably beat kudu at R6,689,900 into second place with nyala (R3,569,550) surprisingly coming in before buffalo (R3,560,000).

Clearly the canned lion hunting market has grown in leaps and bounds and raises a whole series of questions. Who is shooting them? Who is conducting the hunts? Where are they going? Which record books are entering them? When is the government going to stop this form of agriculture because hunting it certainly isn't?

Ms. Boshoff advised me that the statistics had been compiled from the registers that professional hunters were now obliged by law to keep and she felt satisfied, after interrogating the statistics, that they were accurate. Later, she did advise me that there may have been a small measure of a double counting in arriving at the number of 16 394 overseas hunters as, if the same person hunted in more than one province during the course of the same safari, that would count as two overseas hunters. In my opinion, as this does not happen all that frequently, I do not think it will materially affect any of the conclusions that can be drawn from this data. A full set of these statistics can be found in the new addition of Safari Guide, published by Safari Press and due out at the end of the year.

International Day of Biological Diversity: Hunters Sustain Biodiversity

CIC Press-Release

At the International Day of Biological Diversity on May 22, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) points at the outstanding contribution of hunters to the conservation of biodiversity worldwide.

The year 2009 is dedicated to the invasive alien species. In many places hunters contribute to the reduction of introduced or invasive species, if these endanger endemic species and biodiversity. "The CIC is against the introduction of alien species for the sole purpose of hunting", says CIC's Director General Kai-Uwe Wollscheid.

However, there are also some species that migrated or were introduced to the wild a long time ago, like the fallow deer, mouflon and the rabbit in Europe or the red deer in Argentina. "They became an inherent part of the local fauna and a call for their eradication cannot be justified with ecological arguments", states the CIC.

On May 22 the secretariat of the International Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) wants to call attention to the issue of the immigration of non-autochthonous animals and plants, a phenomenon becoming more and more significant due to globalization. The CIC collaborates with the CBD on topics of common interest.

New CIC Publications

Best Practices in Sustainable Hunting

A Guide to Best Practices from Around the World

Available in English and now in Russian

CIC Technical Series # 1

Principles for Developing Sustainable Wildlife Management Laws

A joint publication of the FAO and the CIC

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Hunting: A Tool for Sustainable Rural Development Symposium Proceedings Marrakech 2008

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PHASA Does It Again for Southern Africa's Natural Heritage!

PHASA Press Release

The annual PHASA Conservation and Empowerment Fund Gala Dinner held in Johannesburg on Friday 8th May was again a huge success for hunting and conservation. The auction the highlight of this fundraising event for the local conservation and hunting fraternity raised R1.3 million to be used for conservation projects. Of this amount, R950,000 is earmarked for the award of bursaries to students to study Wildlife Management at Southern African Wildlife College at Hoedspruit. A further R350,000 goes to a newly created fund to assist in the fight against rhino poaching.

In his speech keynote speaker Gray Thornton President and CEO of the Wild Sheep Foundation in Cody Wyoming USA emphasised the key role professional hunting plays in wildlife management and environmental conservation. "The days of indiscriminate and destructive actions are long gone. Professional hunters understand their place in the circle of life and have a deep appreciation of and respect for nature."

The event well attended by hunter/conservationists was supported by donations of auction items from many private donors as well as conservation organisations including South African National Parks Zimbabwe National Parks Mozambique Ministry of Tourism Swaziland National Parks Malawi National Parks Eastern Cape Parks Timbavati Private Nature Reserve Klaserie Private Nature Reserve to name but a few. Included in the auction items was a pair of elephant tusks and other items from Peter Capstick's hunt in the old South West Africa in 1989 which went for an amazing R705 000.

PHASA has good reason to be proud of this achievement and its contribution to conservation which far exceeds anything tangible ever done for conservation by its critics or the anti-hunters.

News From Africa

Africa - Asia

Asian nations, principally China, South Korea and India, buy up vast tracts of African land at rock-bottom prices. A study by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), commissioned by FAO and the IFAD investigated cases in Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Madagascar and Sudan, finding that land-based investment has been rising in the past 5 years, totaling about 2.5-million ha. The report found that there are no known examples of single Chinese land acquisitions in Africa in excess of 50,000ha. China's "friendship farms" in various African countries are formally owned by a Chinese parastatal organization, but are mostly medium-scale, usually below 1,000ha in extent. For the most part Asian countries and companies are buying up African land to help them bolster food and energy security at home. China wants to grow palm oil for biofuel on

2.8-million ha in DR Congo, and also proposed growing biofuels on 2 million ha in Zambia. The report found that many countries do not have adequate mechanisms to protect local rights and shore up local interests, livelihoods and welfare. Media reports have estimated that this year a million Chinese farm laborers will be working in Africa.

Africa

Elephant Export Quotas 2009 (04/03/09) (Tusks and other trophies)

Botswana	400 animals
Cameroon	80 animals
Mozambique	60 animals
Namibia	90 animals
South Africa	150 animals
Tanzania	200 animals
Zambia	20 animals
Zimbabwe	500 animals

www.cites.org/common/quotas/2009/ExportQuotas2009.pdf

Angola

The Minister of Environment Fátima Jardim released the first guidebook on Angolan Mammals. The project is being implemented by the Unit of Biodiversity Management and Coordination of the Ministry of Environment and aims at reinforcing the management and inspection of conservation areas in Angola, through the training of human resources in the process of rehabilitating and managing the Angolan biodiversity.

China/Japan

The first 100 tons of ivory have arrived in the designated ports; China received its shipment (approx. 60 tons) in March and Japan received its shipment (approx. 40 tons) in April. Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, will share an amount of approximately US\$16 million which will be devoted to enhance community development and to further conservation of African elephants and the habitats they share with people.

DR Congo

The Bonobo Conservation Initiative (BCI) and the government of the DRC announced the establishment of the 4,875 km² Kokolopori Bonobo Reserve, a community-managed protected area which harbors one of the largest known wild populations of the endangered bonobo (*Pan paniscus*). Found only in the DRC, bonobos inhabit the heart of Africa's Congo Basin. The reserve is the model site for the Bonobo Peace Forest, a proposed constellation of community-based nature reserves.

Eritrea

Elephants in Eritrea are the most northerly distributed population in Africa occurring in areas like Antore, along the Setit River and the riverine areas of Gash River from Augaro to Haykota. Currently their number is believed to be around 150. Eritrea is also home to rare wildlife species like the Nubian Ibex and African wild ass.

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Kenya

Kenyan authorities seized 300kg of elephant tusks and rhino horn hidden in coffins at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. This large haul, valued at approximately \$ 1-million, is thought to have either come from Tanzania or South Africa and was headed for Laos. Officials of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) however speculate that the load's final destination was indeed China.

Kenya

KWS Head of Species Conservation and Management Patrick Omondi says Kenya had more than 20,000 African lions in 1963. It dropped to 2,749 in 2002 and stood at 1,970 last year. The African elephant numbers stood at 167,000 in 1963 before dropping to 16,000 in 1989, recovering to 32,000 today. Cheetahs and wild dogs roamed the bushlands in tens of thousands in the 1980s, but today there are only 1,160 cheetahs and 800 wild dogs left. KWS data show the country has only 100 roan antelopes, confined at Ruma National Park, in the 80s more than 20,000 roamed the country. Sable antelopes have been reduced from 10,000 in the same period to less than 200 today, while the population of the Hirola antelope has fallen from 14,000 in 1970 to 600 today. The Grevy's Zebra population, only found in Kenya and Ethiopia, has fallen from more than 20,000 in 1970 to less than 1,800 today.

Mali

The future of the northernmost herd of 350 to 450 desert elephants in Gourma/Mali is under threat from a relentless drought. The elephants are being forced to trek extreme distances across the fringes of the Sahara to find scarce water. Very few options now exist for finding water and elephants undertake erratic movements further and further afield as they desperately search for water and forage.

[The WILD Foundation](#), in collaboration with the Direction Nationale de la Conservation de la Nature (DNCN), have monitored these last rare desert elephants using 9 GPS collars. Two pumps already exist at Banzena.

Mozambique

Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Zambia have agreed that the three countries will jointly manage the natural resources in their cross border conservation areas. The preparation of this cross-border conservation area, to be known as ZIMOZA, has dragged on for more than 7 years and the document from the tourism ministries must be submitted to the justice authorities in each country, to ensure that it is in conformity with their legal systems, and only then will it be formally signed. The joint management will cover such matters as fishing, hunting, access to water and the conservation of local cultural heritage prioritizing community participation. On the Mozambican side, the districts of Magoé and Zumbo, in Tete province, and much of Cahora Bassa lake are within the conservation area.

Mozambique

Bushpigs and warthogs are favored prey of lions in Niassa and major pests for subsistence farmers. Lions are being enticed into the fields by the pigs and this brings them into close

contact with people, increasing the chances of lion attack. The wet season is a peak period of lion attacks and the majority of attacks occur in the fields or villages. A few farmers in Niassa are building bamboo fences to keep bushpigs out and NCP wanted to test how effective these fences were. Just before the rains arrived NCP held a community meeting in Mbamba Village with traditional leaders and elders. In December, NCP and members of the community built the test fences. So far (March 2009) no bushpigs have broken through but the rains are late this year and the peak period of crop damage is still to come. If these fences are successful at keeping the bushpigs out then our next task must be to ensure bamboo can be harvested sustainably and to spread the message to other communities (Source: Niassa Carnivore News).

Mozambique

Between 1969 and 2007 lions attacked people on 18 occasions in the north eastern section of the reserve around Negomano village with 13 attacks since 2000 and a peak of six attacks in 2006. Surprisingly there were no further attacks in 2007 and 2008. Conversations with the communities showed that the majority of the attacks were on adult men. Risk factors included sleeping outside in fields and in the village, walking alone at night, chasing bushpigs and warthogs out of fields at night, walking to the toilet at night and provoked attacks when hunting lions or after they have been caught in a snare. After the 2006 lion attacks, people changed their behavior by building high bamboo and grass walls around their homes, stronger houses in the fields or decided to sleep in the village rather than the fields. In some cases people abandoned isolated fields all together. In 2009 a similar survey will be done in the Mavago-Msawize village complex in the west of Niassa completing the human-lion conflict surveys. (Source: Niassa Carnivore News).

Mozambique

Niassa Reserve has several sport hunting concessions within the protected area boundary. These concessions provide essential income to SRN for management and conservation activities and to Niassa communities. NCP provides independent assessment of the lion and leopard trophies and collects information on hunting effort to ensure the sport hunting of lions and leopards in Niassa is sustainable. Each year we age and assess all lion and leopard trophies before they leave the protected area. We have also been working in collaboration with professional hunters, and SRN to develop lion hunting regulations and validate ways for hunters to accurately age animals in the field from manes, nose pigmentation and general body condition.

Over the past 5 years the number of underage (younger than six years old) lions taken as trophies has dropped from 75% of the quota to zero in 2008. All four of the lions taken as trophies in 2008 were over the age of six. This means that the sport hunting of lions in Niassa is unlikely to be having any negative effects on the lion population at present. We commend all professional hunters, Niassa sport hunting operators and SRN for their commitment to sustainable lion hunting. (Source: Niassa Carnivore News).

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Sesse Island Sitatunga

Peter Flack

Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game contains the following reference to Island Sitatunga (*Tragelaphus spekii sylvestris*), "Distribution – the Sesse Islands of Lake Victoria (Uganda). The validity of this sub-species has not been fully established, as it is known that sitatunga swim across from the islands to the coast of Lake Victoria where they doubtless mix with the mainland population. It is true however that certain specimens have horns more rounded in section rather than triangular, but it may be that the differences between the island and mainland forms will prove to be individual rather than of sub-specific character."

There are only 38 entries in Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game of which the biggest, according to the current measurement method (around the spiral), is 26 ¾ inches which was shot in 1965 by Rudolph Sand. Many famous hunters have visited the islands to hunt this sitatunga. Colonel Meinertzhagen appears to be the most prolific island sitatunga hunter with three entries to his name, the largest measuring 25 ½ inches which comfortably beat the minimum entry level of 22 inches.

Last month the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) reopened island sitatunga hunting after it had been closed for a period of 32 years. The first three hunters have come and gone. The first one went home empty handed after a two week hunt. The next two both shot excellent quality animals which, if the field measurements hold up, will be the new numbers two and three, respectively.



Peter Kennedy with superb Sitatunga

Both these animals were shot over dogs. In the first case, local dogs were used which physically captured and restrained a three legged sitatunga – the fourth leg appeared to have been lost in a snare.

Poaching is rife on the islands and it has been estimated that as many as 200 animals a month are being taken and sold into the bushmeat market. A number of poachers have been employed by the hunting operation which should reduce this

number significantly. The poachers use dogs to chase the sitatunga into the water where they are then speared or drowned while swimming. Peter Kennedy, a South African professional hunter, bought a set of horns for \$15 - the going price payable to a poacher for a sitatunga - from one newly killed. The horns have been officially measured at 30 1/8 inches which make them the new world record.

The Sesse islands make up a chain of over 200 islands, both big and small. Sitatunga is the only game animal present on the islands which are almost all privately owned. The land owners have formed a body, organized by Mr. Bruce Martin of Lake Albert Safaris, to regulate the hunts and a quota of ten island sitatunga has been granted by UWA for 2009. The 14 day safaris are expensive. Steve Kobrine Safaris is the sole booking agent is

Courtesy Rowland Ward Publications

www.rowlandward.com

Wild Heart of Africa launched in Tanzania

Gerhard Damm

The Selous Conservation Project (SCP), which was launched in 1987 after the Tanzanian and German governments agreed that their bilateral cooperation be extended to the conservation and management of the vast Selous Game Reserve, has set a precedent in wildlife management as one of the first projects on biodiversity conservation in the context of development cooperation. Sustainable trophy hunting plays an important role within this project. While GTZ provided technical assistance, the German Development Bank (KfW) supported the infrastructure development. Many aspects of the program are now accepted as modern best practices in sustainable wildlife conservation. Mr Gerhard Anger, a German aid agency (GTZ) official, says SCP has contributed significantly "to the knowledge of how to manage biodiversity projects in the context of development cooperation. It has also influenced Tanzania's wildlife policy development. At the same time, SCP has produced tangible results in and around the reserve and these are acknowledged worldwide."

Mr Anger was speaking at the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) headquarters during the official launching of a book dedicated to the 50,000 km² Selous Game Reserve. The reserve established in 1896 and named after Frederick C. Selous, a British explorer, hunter and soldier and is considered the oldest and largest game reserve in Africa. The book launch attracted scores of wildlife experts and representatives of development partners supporting the conservation sector.

The 240-page book, "Wild Heart of Africa", edited by Dr Rolf Baldus who served as SCP manager from 1987 to 1993 and again between 1998 and 2003, is an authoritative work on the Selous Game Reserve. Baldus brought together a number of highly experienced experts on what is considered of the most

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Wild Heart of Africa Launched in Tanzania

important conservation areas of this planet. The book is a “must-read” for anybody interested in hands-on, pragmatic wildlife conservation. Baldus, now active in the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) as president of the CIC Tropical Game Commission, said that proceeds from the book's sale would be channeled to the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania (WCST). GTZ has made available 240 special copies of the book to various Tanzanian institutions and decision makers.

The occasion was also used to pay tribute to the late Dr Allan Rodgers who spent many years doing research in Selous since the 1960s and who is also one of the co-authors. He died two months ago and was buried in Nairobi after working for many years as the United Nations Development Program – Global Environment Facility (UNDP-GEF) technical advisor for Biodiversity programs in East Africa.

“Wild Heart of Africa” has been reviewed in the last edition of African Indaba and is available worldwide through Rowland Ward Publications, Johannesburg (www.rowlandward.com).



Long-Term Conservation of the African Lion

RECOMMENDATION CICGA56.REC03

KNOWING and CARING FOR the magnificent African lion;

CONCERNED, as the principle stakeholders, about the challenges of conserving the African Lion in the developing world;

MINDFUL OF the recommendations of the regional strategies arising from CITES that there will be national Action Plans for the conservation of the African lion;

AWARE OF the increasing difficulties for conserving lions due to human-lion conflicts;

CARING for the lions and all that they add to the nature experience and biodiversity;

RECOGNIZING the role and responsibility of sustainable hunting in maintaining large tracts of natural habitats outside National Parks and conserving biodiversity as a whole in these areas, including large predators and their prey basis:

The 56th CIC General Assembly in Paris from 30 April to 2 May

1. ENCOURAGES every Lion Range State to adopt its own national action plan for the conservation of the lion as suggested in the regional strategies with the cooperative help of international hunting community;
2. URGES the hunting community to support the Lion Range States in their efforts to adopt and implement their national actions plans for the conservation of the lion;
3. REQUESTS the hunting professionals to recognize and apply the best practices in sustainable hunting of the lion;
4. RECOGNIZES sustainable hunting programs for lions, such as the Niassa National Reserve, Mozambique (recipient of the 2008 CIC Markhor Award), for their accomplishments; and
5. CALLS ON others to follow these examples.

Review: Recreational Hunting, Conservation and Rural Livelihoods

Reviewed by Peter Flack

If you are passionate about hunting then there is one book I recommend – *Recreational Hunting, Conservation and Rural Livelihoods* edited by Barney Dickinson, Jon Hutton and William Adams and published by Wiley-Blackwell.

Almost two years ago to the day I was almost inadvertently included in a general invitation to lunch by a predominantly academic group of men attending the CIC General Meeting in Belgrade. I was there as a member of the South African delegation and I saw that there was a method in their madness of inviting a trophy hunter to participate in what became a general academic debate on the pros and cons of hunting. There was only one other non-academic present, the then editor of the Hunting Report, Don Causey. He asked the academics to consider writing a book which examined, from a rigorously scientific and objective perspective, the benefits or otherwise of hunting.

The book referred to above is a product of the work of these and other academics and is divided into 6 sections: Conservation and Hunting; Science; Livelihoods; Policy and Practice; Governance; and Regulation and Certification. Each section is then further divided into a number of chapters written and researched by a variety of eminent scientists which combine to form this 382 page, soft cover book which I bought over the Internet from www.wiley.com. While there are a number of diagrams and tables, there are no pictures.

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Recreational Hunting, Conservation and Rural Livelihoods

Of the chapters, the three that I found most thought provoking were Conservation and Hunting: Friends or Foes by Nigel Leader-Williams; The Ethics of Recreational Hunting by Barney Dickinson and The Application of Certification to Hunting: A Case for Simplicity by Brian Child and Bill Wall.

In the first chapter, Leader-Williams concludes by saying, *"To its many opponents, killing and hunting of quarry species is anachronistic and morally indefensible. To proponents, the traditional forms of recreational hunting can have considerable benefits for conservation and rural economies. However, there are many and varied forms of recreational hunting, and opponents are very well organized and funded. Therefore, practitioners need to guard against complacency, to use self regulation to address those aspects of recreational hunting that are most likely to cause public concern, and to explain the conservation benefits of recreational hunting clearly and unequivocally."* This really sets the stage for what is covered by the book.

Dickinson helped me to understand the arguments of animal rightists and, in his introductory remarks, states that, *"One reason for the fierceness of the debate is that arguments about recreational hunting are embroiled in disputes about other types of hunting and in broader arguments about the moral relationship with animals and with nature. Indeed, some disputes about recreational hunting also touch on issues of race, class and gender. Recreational hunting serves as a lightning rod for a host of different concerns."* Now, it is an essential element of any strategy to know as much as possible about your competitors or opponents and I found this section invaluable for this very reason. Dickinson makes the point that, if we hunters are to win the public relations war, then we will need to promote hunting in the light of our respect for wild animals and the areas they inhabit which we will, in all likelihood, have to justify on the basis that it contributes to conserving the selfsame species and other broader ecological processes.

Child and Wall argue that, *"government led conservation approaches are particularly prone to mismanagement in weak states where policy agencies become more political than technical, where the checks and balances provided by civil society are weak, and where political actors and elites maximize their returns by increasing institutional uncertainty and confusion. Because historically the benefits flowing from the management and regulation of wildlife and wild resources have been highly centralized, they are especially prone to problems associated with imperfect state management, or corruption."* They go on that a model based on, *"landholder incentives produces better conservation outcomes in personalized economies with weak bureaucracies, weak property rights and legal systems, and ineffective civil society."* For the maximum conservation gain from hunting they argue that the person on whose land wildlife occurs should be the primary beneficiary, with a right to receive and control the income generated by wildlife. *"In short, the landholder must have a high degree of authority, responsibility and accountability over the hunting and receive the full benefits that flow from it. However, these principles are often undermined by poor or corrupt management. Symptoms include the corrupt allocation of hunting blocks, biologically unrealistic quotas, a failure to reinvest in*

the resource base and, most insidiously, a refusal to return benefits to the communities on whose land the animals are living." By all accounts, it would seem as if Child and Wall are describing the precise situation of Tanzania.

Measuring the proportion of benefits getting to landholders provides a handy measure of proprietary rights and responsibilities. Central to this argument is a system of certification which the authors believe would not only improve conservation practices by creating greater transparency around the principles that lead to what they call "conservation hunting" – a phrase I like – but also improved business practices within the industry which would encourage the acceptance and application of principles for sustainable use by the conservation community by providing greater clarity and checks on cases of misuse. Other advantages of such a system of certification would be the reduction in the pressure for increased or inappropriate regulation – such as currently being seen in South Africa at the moment – and improved public acceptance of hunting in urbanized societies which is where, for the most part, the battle for the acceptance of hunting is being fought.

This point is made more forcefully in the concluding chapter and the editors state, *"recreational hunters and their organizations, where they exist, have become accustomed to working with landowners and regulatory officials, but not to communicate with the general public. This relative invisibility has become impossible to maintain. A variety of factors have contributed to bringing recreational hunting to the fore. These include the growing – and very public – opposition from animal welfare and animal rights movements and, on the other side, the use of elite tourist hunting as a source of revenue in high profile community based natural resource management projects in southern Africa, Pakistan and elsewhere."* They also touch on the relationship between recreational hunting, on the one hand, and conservation, the contribution to the livelihoods of local populations and the ethical concern about its effect on hunted animals, on the other hand. They point out that there is a slippery slope between the management of wild species, the farming of wild species for hunting and fully fledged domestication and state forcefully that practices such as "canned hunting" are not just morally repugnant and perverse in sporting terms but can be taken as the first step towards domestication.

They argue convincingly that recreational hunters need a "social license" if they want to continue to practice their passion, profession or sport (over the long term and this has, as yet, not been attained). In order to achieve this goal, recreational hunters need both to establish a substantive evidence based case that hunting can make a positive contribution to conservation – and to livelihoods – and win the support of domestic and international constituencies that it should be allowed the opportunity to do so. If you read just one chapter in this book start with this conclusion and work your way forwards.

Although a number of the points made are well understood by hunters it was nevertheless interesting to read their scientific justification. In addition, there was much that was new and thought provoking which we as hunters and, more particularly, the associations to which we belong, need to take to heart and apply diligently in practice.

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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News from Africa

Namibia

The Boards of Trustees of the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) and the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN) have recently resolved to create a strategic alliance between these two organizations and, in so doing, to create a "Namibia Institute for Sustainable Development" which will incorporate both the NNF and DRFN. While NNF and DRFN will continue to work in their individual capacities, the "Namibia Institute for Sustainable Development" will provide an umbrella mechanism for coordination and collaboration.

Namibia

Namibia will not be issuing any more CITES export permits for leopard during the remainder of the 2009 season as per information received from the Namibia Professional Hunting Association in June. The 2009 CITES export quota has been exhausted and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism will not issue any more permits for trophy hunt leopards.

South Africa

Three white rhino hunted in Dwesa Nature Reserve on the Wild Coast in early May as part of a phased removal of alien species by the Eastern Cape Parks Board (ECPB).

The news had raised rumblings of surprise and concern in hunting and conservation circles, but the board's scientific services head Dr Dave Balfour said *"the decision to hunt them was only made as a last resort after the feasibility of capturing them had been discounted due to the difficult nature of the terrain and the unusual behavior of the rhino in the area. Dwesa is managed by the board, but the application to hunt and the permits issued were dealt with by the department of environmental affairs."* Balfour also confirmed that proper hunting permits had been issued.

The ECPB 2007/2008 annual report states that giraffe, blue wildebeest, blesbuck and other species need to be culled, hunted or sold in keeping with national legislation, because they do not belong in the area now called the Eastern Cape.

South Africa

The 2009 Ezemvelo auction of more than 1,600 animals fetched 13 million Rand (1.1 million € or 1.4 million US\$) in Pietermaritzburg/South Africa, exceeding the hopes of organizers since prices were generally down during the past six months. Rhinos prices fell about 20%, but Springbok saw a doubling of price. Last year's auction reached 14 million Rand.

South Africa

South Africa has been about 2% hotter and at least 6% drier over the last ten years than during the 1970s. This change may not seem significant, but for South Africa, where already over 90% of the land is arid or semi-arid, there is little scope for comfort, as both the frequency and severity of droughts are likely to increase as a consequence of climate change. (*S. Afr. J. Sci.*, 105 (1/2), 24-68.)

South Africa

New regulations for the marking of rhino horn and the hunting of white rhino have been gazetted in the Government Gazette. All rhino horns will be micro chipped measured and photographed. DNA samples will now also be kept by provincial authorities.

South Africa

Applications of U.S. hunters for enhancement import permits for scimitar horned oryx taken at game ranches in South Africa are denied and will continue to be denied by the USF&WS. It is extremely unlikely that import permits will ever be granted. The scimitar horned oryx has been listed as endangered on the ESA. Since the scimitar horned oryx is not a native species of South Africa, the authorities want it eliminated under the newly introduced TOPs.

South Africa

Delta Airlines has announced that its non-stop flights between its main hub in Atlanta in the USA and Johannesburg commenced with the arrival of its new larger aircraft the Boeing 777LR on June 02

South Africa

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization awarded Vhembe in South Africa biosphere reserve status. Vhembe, inhabited mainly by Venda, Shangaan and Sepedi people, is world renowned for its rich cultural and biological diversity. The area includes the northern part of the Kruger National Park, Makuleke Wetlands Ramsar Site, the Soutpansberg and Blouberg bio-diversity hot spots, as well as the Mapungube Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site and the Makgabeng Plateau with more than 1,000 rock art sites. Human activities in the site are predominately agricultural, including production of subtropical fruits and vegetables, cattle and game farming and hunting.

South Africa

On 24 June, 2009 at approximately 17h00 a gang of 5 or 6 armed males held up several members of the Addo Elephant National Park staff and forced the Conservation Manager to open the walk-in safe so that they could gain access to the rhino horn stock. The Addo rhino horn stock and 3 motor vehicles were stolen during the robbery. Two of the stolen vehicles were later found abandoned. A combined SAP, SANParks and Eastern Cape Conservation investigation is underway.

Tanzania

30 years after being categorized among the 'World Heritage Sites,' Ngorongoro Conservation area, with its legendary wildlife-filled crater is in danger of being 'delisted'. UNESCO's concern is the increased human activities in the conservation area topped with a population boom, driving the world's heritage site into brink of collapse. UNESCO has stipulated that the ecological deterioration within NCAA brought about by increased farming activities, infrastructural development and more than doubled number of residents with tripling herds of livestock has placed Ngorongoro in a very awkward position. The international

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body opposes cultivation activities within the NCA, traffic congestion into the crater at the rate of 300 vehicles per day on average, proposed major hotel constructions around the crater rim and mass tourism policy. Last year Ngorongoro received 425,000 visitors, previously the number averaged at 350,000 per annum. Matengoe Ole Tawo, an elder in the area, said that during earlier days there were plenty of wild animals, but surprisingly when the modern conservation initiative began, animals started decreasing. He advised that modern conservationists should borrow a leaf from the indigenous ones

Tanzania

Residents of Mbugwe division in Babati district, Manyara region are living in fear because of attacks by elephants from the neighboring national parks. One villager was recently trampled to death. The entire Nkaiti ward used to be an animal corridor before hundreds of families settled there. The wildlife corridor links Tarangire with the neighboring Lake Manyara National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA), Serengeti National Park as well as the game reserves around Lake Natron. Tarangire NP, located some 120km south west of Arusha, has one of the largest concentrations of elephants. Up to five people have died of animal attacks in the area in the last two years.

Tanzania

Three black rhino (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*) from the Czech Republic arrived in Tanzania at the Mkomazi Rhino sanctuary in Kilimanjaro region. They were transported from Amsterdam aboard a large customized cargo craft of Martinair in three huge wooden crates. The translocation cost over US \$70,000 funded by the Suzuki Rhino Club of Netherlands.

Zambia

Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) has in the past eight years contributed more than K20 billion towards the rural developmental projects as an incentive for co-managing the wildlife in the country. Funded projects included road infrastructure, schools and clinics for the communities within Game Management Areas. The money came from income through consumptive and non-consumptive tourism activities.

Zimbabwe

Dubai World a state-owned company will invest in Zimbabwe's Buzi Game Reserve where poaching has been rising as humans encroached. However, the National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority has refuted the media reports that Dubai World is investing in a game park in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe

Rhino poaching in the country has reached threatening levels with at least 70 rhinos slaughtered for their horns in the past 12 months. Patrols of the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority together with the police have killed four poachers and arrested several during separate contacts. However, the biggest challenge is lack of resources, particularly trained and equipped personnel, to cover the length and breadth of the parks and con-

servancies. The involvement of well coordinated local, regional and international syndicates in the poaching remains a worrisome fact. The resurgence in rhino poaching has attracted the attention of the CITES. Areas targeted by rhino poachers are Lake Chivero, the Midlands, Hwange and the South-Eastern Lowveld, where there were many unlicensed guns smuggled through the country's border with Mozambique..

Zimbabwe

Police in Masvingo at the weekend shot and killed four poachers including one believed to be a soldier, following a shootout at Ruware Conservancy in Chiredzi, bringing to 7 the number of poachers killed in the Lowveld over the past month. It is believed that the four, who were part of a group of 7 suspected poachers, wanted to kill and de-horn rhinos when they were intercepted by a police team working in conjunction with game rangers from the conservancy.

Zimbabwe

Three Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe security officers based at the Harare International Airport allegedly assisted a Chinese man identified as Wu Ming Quan to smuggle 500kg of ivory. The three officers detected the ivory and instead of arresting the owner, allegedly connived with three soldiers to facilitate the smuggling of 500kg of ivory from Zimbabwe to China. The ivory was detected on arrival at Beijing International Airport. The accused who are denying the allegations appeared in court, were denied bail and remanded in custody to June 18. Three National Handling Services employees at the Harare International Airport are also being investigated.

Final reports from the Members' Assembly of the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2008 in Barcelona are now available on the IUCN website. You can find the Proceedings of the Members' Assembly [here](#) and the final version of the Resolutions and Recommendations [here](#). [Version française](#) - [Versión español](#)

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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End of the Road for Canned Lion Shooting

Gerhard R Damm

On June 11th, Judge van der Merwe, Free State High Court, Bloemfontein, concurred with the government that the breeding of lions in captivity with the sole purpose of canned shooting did not aid their protection. The former minister of environmental affairs and tourism was taken to court by lion breeders with respect to the promulgated TOPs regulations according to which, a lion which has been bred in captivity, must be self-sustaining for 24 months (in other words, hunt for prey), before it can be hunted. The judge dismissed the lion breeders' case with costs. The lion breeders had sought the 2 years restriction be changed to "a few days". Van der Merwe said in his verdict that lion farmers are just worried about money and the economic losses they allegedly suffer if the semi-tame lions must first spend 2 years roaming free before they can be hunted.

Albi Modise, spokesperson for the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, said the SA government welcomed the verdict. Modise confirmed that the South African Hunting Industry makes a substantial and positive contribution to conservation management and the country's economy and added that "*we need a clean hunting industry, free from unacceptable behavior which could damage the country's image.*"

The judge writes in paragraph 71 of the 81 page decision (download at <http://sapredators.co.za/docs/Uitspraak.pdf>) that "*it is not disputed that the hunting of lions bred in captivity has damaged the reputation of the Republic of South Africa immensely. It is clear on the evidence and also not disputed that very many people all over the world find the notion of hunting a lion bred and raised in captivity, often by hand, and totally dependent on humans for its survival, abhorrent and repulsive. I find this view to be objectively reasonable and justifiable, to say the least.*" In paragraph 73 the judge refers to Conservation Force Chairman John J Jackson III: "*Today the killing of captive-bred African lion behind high fences as well as 'put & take' hunting of lion are not considered acceptable hunting practices by the greater hunting community. Hunting behind high fences, however, can offer the discerning hunter a true fair chase experience if the hunted game animals are naturally interacting members of wild sustainable game populations within ecologically functional systems that meet the spatial and temporal requirements of the species populations.*" Readers of African Indaba will remember that we and almost the entire South African hunting community always took strong opposition towards canned shooting.

"*It will close down our business,*" Carel van Heerden, chairperson of the South African Predator Breeders Association, said following the ruling. According to him, their legal team will apply for leave to appeal the verdict. He reiterated that the association did not agree with the set period of 24 months because it was "*not scientifically based but rather grabbed from the air.*"

The ruling comes more than a decade after a BBC documentary showed a lioness being shot in a small enclosure in South Africa in front of her cubs, leading to international criticism.

July CITES Briefing on Rhino

Edited Version of the IUCN, TRAFFIC and WWF Briefing for the 58th Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee

At the 14th Meeting of CITES in June 2007, IUCN and TRAFFIC provided Parties with a report on the status, conservation and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses. In addition, TRAFFIC provided a separate report on rhinoceros-related crimes in Africa, with an overview of poaching, seizure and stockpile data for the period 2000-2005. The CITES Parties responded amongst other things by requiring range States to declare their stocks of rhinoceros. IUCN/SSC's African Rhino (AfRSG) and TRAFFIC were mandated to produce another report on the status, conservation and trade of African and Asian Rhinoceroses prior to the 15th CITES Meeting 2010.

While overall numbers of white and black rhino have increased, it is of major concern that rhinoceros poaching in southern Africa increased substantially in 2008, with additional concerns relating to sport hunting of white rhinoceroses in South Africa. 2008 will probably represent the highest level of illegal rhinoceros killing in at least 15 years. For example, in South Africa and Zimbabwe alone, a minimum total of 162 rhinoceroses were illegally killed in 2008 and another 62 have been poached during the first six months of 2009. Both of these figures may increase as further information becomes available. Comparing the 224 confirmed illegal rhinoceros deaths for these two rhinoceros range States alone, with the total of 252 illegal rhinoceros deaths for all African range States for the period 2000-2005, it is clear that there has been a serious escalation in illegal off-take. In summary, between 2000-2005, 3.5 rhinoceroses were illegally killed each month in all of Africa, but currently in South Africa and Zimbabwe alone, 12.4 rhinoceroses are being poached each month or between two and three rhinoceroses every week.

Illegal rhinoceros horn trade to destinations in Asia is driving this killing, with growing evidence of the ongoing involvement of Vietnamese, Chinese and Thai nationals. Viet Nam was not a major destination for illegal commerce in rhinoceros horn until about five years ago. It is believed that rhinoceros horns illegally leaving southern Africa are moving into or through Thailand, Viet Nam and China, a situation which requires a heightened degree of law enforcement attention and effort.

South Africa

South Africa is the source of most horns leaving Africa, and the current trade involves rhinoceros horns from neighboring countries, including Zimbabwe and Mozambique. An increasing proportion of horns entering illegal trade have come from poached rhinoceroses, as well as through abuse of trophy-hunted white rhinoceroses and domestic acquisition of horns from the private sector. In June 2009, an armed robbery occurred at a government store within Addo National Park, indicating a further escalation in tactics and modus operandi of illegal horn traders. A number of positive actions have been taken by the South African government, including the introduction of Threatened or Protected Species Regulations, a moratorium on internal rhino horn sales, the imposition of a strengthened con-

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July CITES Briefing on Rhino

trol framework for the country's sport hunting policy for white rhinoceros in February 2009 (including limiting each hunter to only one rhino a year); and a series of arrests of individuals engaged in illicit rhinoceros killing and trade. In fact South Africa's law enforcement should be commended for their focused and innovative attention to this serious conservation challenge.

Additional measures, however, are needed, such as the implementation of a precautionary annual national white rhinoceros hunting quota (whether it involves foreign nationals or local citizens), so that all hunts can be tracked within an accountable and transparent system irrespective of whether or not application is being made to export the trophies. South Africa should also be encouraged to implement tighter controls on the issuance of rhinoceros horn trophy export permits and establish a policy whereby sport-hunted trophies are only allowed to be exported to countries which have policies in place to register and track the ownership of such trophies and otherwise ensure that they will not be used for commercial purposes. Nationals from any country failing to demonstrate such policies should be precluded from engaging in sport hunting of rhinoceros in South Africa.

Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, the proportion of mortalities due to illegal killing has been alarmingly high with 79% of recorded black and white rhinoceros mortalities from January 2003 to June 2006 being attributed to poaching and snaring. Rhinoceros numbers in Zimbabwe are declining, with official statistics indicating that black rhinoceros numbers declined slightly from the end of 2005 to the end of 2007. AfRSG is working together with the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority to review numbers and trends. Indications are that both white and black rhinoceros numbers have continued to decline through 2008, and the implication of this is that poaching losses are likely to have been higher than originally thought, assuming a conservative net underlying annual population growth rate including natural mortalities since 2002. Recorded losses in the Lowveld Conservancies alone over this period number 70 rhinoceroses and reported losses have also been high in the Midlands. TRAFFIC showed that the rate for illegal rhinoceros horn recovery in Zimbabwe from 2000-2005 was <=13 %. This was very low compared with other range States. TRAFFIC also noted that Zimbabwe was (along with South Africa) the African range State with the greatest estimated net minimum flow of illegal horns out of the country over the period 2000-2005 and the situation has not improved since then.

This picture of increasing poaching, declining numbers and low levels of effective law enforcement by the Zimbabwean authorities increasingly threatens the success of more than a decade's work of bringing rhinoceros populations in Zimbabwe back up to healthy levels. The relevant Zimbabwean authorities urgently need to review the status and security of rhinoceroses in Zimbabwe and establish the current situation with regard to poaching levels; law enforcement effectiveness; prosecution success; illegal trade levels; the status and trends in Zimbabwe rhinoceros numbers; and the probable impact of poaching on individual rhinoceros populations and the country's overall population through demographic analysis.

AfRSG and TRAFFIC are involved in a process working with the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority to review rhinoceros monitoring, numbers and trends and rhinoceros law enforcement issues as part of the CITES mandated CoP15 reporting process, and as part of the process of revising the Zimbabwe National Rhino Strategy. AfRSG and TRAFFIC have received exemplary cooperation from the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority in this regard.

CITES Decision 14.88 calls upon all African and Asian rhinoceros range States and Parties that have stocks of rhinoceros horns or rhinoceros horn derivatives to declare the status of their stocks before CoP15 and the reporting format was circulated to all Parties in March 2009. Decision 14.89 further invites TRAFFIC to review information on rhinoceros horn stocks in range States; to assess the trade routes by which horns enter and flow to illegal markets; to identify priority countries in which there has been a recent significant increase in poaching levels, where discrepancies exist in reported horn stockpiles, where volumes of horn stockpiles are unknown or where insufficient cross border collaboration to combat illegal rhinoceros horn trade has been reported. It should be noted that at the time of this writing, only five Parties (China, Germany, Japan, New Zealand and the United Kingdom) have submitted rhinoceros horn stock declarations to the CITES Secretariat for transmission to TRAFFIC. It is worth noting that no rhinoceros range States in either Africa or Asia have yet complied with this decision.

IUCN and TRAFFIC have begun initial work gathering data and information from a variety of sources on the trade in South Africa, including permits issued for legal export of trophies and information on trade to Asia. A workshop has been conducted in Zimbabwe in preparation for the analysis to be conducted by IUCN and TRAFFIC as mandated under CITES Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP 14). It is critical that Parties at CoP15 are provided with an accurate and up-to-date picture of the status, conservation and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses, so that firm international action can be taken to arrest this immediate threat to rhinoceros populations worldwide.

Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa: Outcome of Rhino Workshop

- A workshop organized by SANParks and EWT and attended by experts and interested parties, including PHASA, was held in June on the problem of Rhino Poaching in South and Southern Africa.
- Concern was expressed about the alleged role of professional hunters in recent Vietnamese rhino hunting activities. There was a need to set the record straight as far as PHA-

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PHASA: Outcome of Rhino Workshop

SA and its members are concerned. This was done with a detailed presentation of the PHASA track record over the past 18 months.

As a result of the above workshop the PHASA Committee has decided as follows:

- Expert evidence from enforcement and trade monitoring agencies indicated a direct link between the export of rhino horn from recent legal rhino hunting by Vietnamese, from rhino poaching on private and state land, from cross border smuggling and from the theft of rhino horn from stockpiles, museums etc. and Far Eastern syndicates.
- In the light of this evidence and the questionable legality of the end use of certain rhino horn hunted in South Africa, PHASA strongly advises its members not to book and conduct hunts with nationals from Vietnam or other Far Eastern countries until Government "has removed this abuse of the SA legal system" which it has undertaken to do in the near future.
- PHASA members with a long term interest in South African hunting and conservation are strongly urged to heed this advisory.

The Committee
Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa

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Editor's Notes

"canned lion shoots" - allowed more than 740 cage-bred lion to be shot by tourists (not hunters) while waiting to be fed during 2008. Several thousand more cage-bred lion are at the 123 breeders' facilities – some real MGM-Monster-Mane ones, no doubt too – and it looks like more are waiting in Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

These lion shooters are not hunters, and one who is in the know stated that *"I had one of them who thought he would be allowed to shoot the beast in his feeding cage between the bars. Some don't like to get out of the vehicle to shoot. They just want the skin, the head and the boast - I shot a lion in Africa"*.

Unfortunately, South Africa has too many new and well-intentioned laws that have proved too difficult to enforce. The lack of competent civil servants – throw in a bit of corruption as spice, an overstrained police force and those amongst the land owners and outfitters who abet corruption for their own economic gain, are standing in the way. South Africa's North-West Province accounts 637 lion out of the estimated total 740 killed in 2009. This concentration in one province is most likely not coincidental.

South Africa does not stand alone in this nefarious practice. It raises its ugly head in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Namibia, and authorities there should act quickly and decisively to stamp it out before it takes root.

The problem of proper licensing, permitting and supervision of lion and rhino hunting in South Africa could be solved easily, as every clear thinking person may readily admit. Just

hand the process over to a semi-private institution in which four major stakeholders, i. e. the Professional Hunters' Association, Wildlife Ranching SA, WWF-SA (who have published a very sensible hunting policy paper years ago) and the national and provincial authorities are equal partners. Ideas along this line were proposed by the writer in the consultative process leading up to the now somewhat infamous TOPs. The scheme would be entirely self-funding – in fact there would be money left over to be ploughed back into conservation – and there will be enough watchdogs to eliminate corruption and abuse. As many things in life – an easy solution, but probably there are too many who stand to lose from doing things the right way.

Proper and sustainable "real hunting" is an essential part of the future of wildlife conservation in Africa. Especially of lion conservation, since the King of Beasts often lives outside formally protected areas. Hunting and hunting dollars can and will save the wild lion of Africa – most lion scientists of renown have stated this repeatedly. It is, therefore, quite unbelievable that Prof. Craig Packer seems now hell-bent on pushing the global community towards putting lion on CITES Appendix 1. It will kill the goose which laid the golden eggs. Where would funding come from for lion research and its conservation in those areas, which are not formally protected, if the USF&WS list the African lion on ESA? Will Professor Packer rather see his precious lion speared, poisoned or snared by self-defending locals, who risk life, limb and cattle living with lions and are disenfranchised from any economic benefits, if the protectionists have their way? Wild animals, especially those who occasionally eat people and often eat cattle, will not survive without benefit given to and value believed in by the people who live around them (*see also News from Africa – Mozambique on page 15 and Niassa Carnivore Project on Page 8*).

Of course the legal and moral obligations of the safari outfitters and hunting tourist who search for Africa's wild lion need to come into play here. Many of them have heeded the proposed restrictions on minimum age and avoidance of hunting prime males in pride situations. Others – usually fly-by-nights – have not. The latter ones are those in Professor Packer's sights, but the professor would achieve his objectives easier, if he would cooperate with the professional hunting associations in Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, with people like John Jackson III of Conservation Force, with the CIC (*see Long Term Conservation of the African Lion – page 14*), instead of pushing them into a corner.

Hunters raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in a few months this year for the lion range states to conduct their CITES recommended national lion studies and develop national lion management plans. Not one of these projects would have been possible without the hunter-dollar and John Jackson's ingenious capability to make international hunters accept their conservation responsibility. Human population growth is accelerating the pressures on Africa's wildlife including the lion. It is time that protectionists re-evaluate their standpoint and accept controlled trophy hunting as essential to wildlife conservation in general and the continued well-being of wild African lion populations in particular. If not for the sake of the hunters, then for the sake of wildlife and habitat conservation. We can live with that!

Sincerely
Gerhard R Damm

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

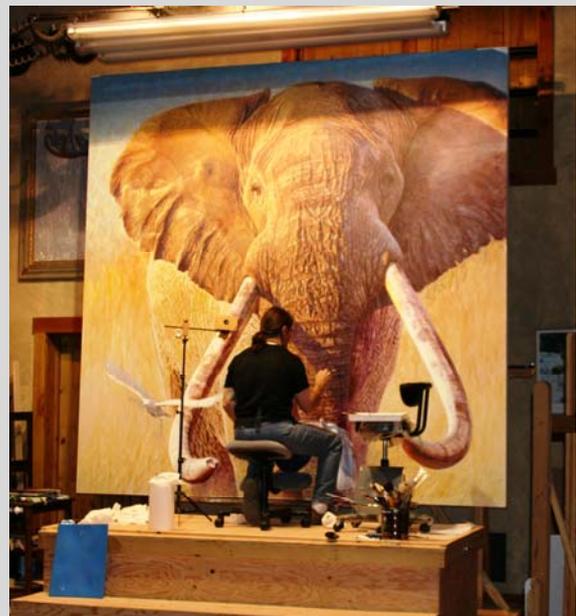
For Your Calendar: Hunting Convention Dates 2009/2010

30 Sep - 03 Oct 2009	Abu Dhabi International Hunting & Equestrian Exhibition Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates www.adihex.com/english
01 - 04 Oct 2009	Safari Expo The Hunting World of Russia Moscow, Russian Federation www.safariexpo.ru
03 - 06 Dec 2009	Pferd & Jagd Hannover, Germany www.heckmannmbh.de
07 - 10 Jan 2010	Dallas Safaris Club Convention Dallas, Texas/USA www.biggame.org
15 - 16 Jan 2010	ASG's African Hunting Showcase 2009 Toronto, Canada www.africansportinggazette.com
14 - 16 Jan 2010	Houston Safari Club Worldwide Hunting Expo Houston, Texas/USA www.houstonsafariclub.org/
19 - 22 Jan 2010	SHOT Show Las Vegas, Nevada/USA www.shotshow.org
20 - 23 Jan 2010	Safari Club International Reno, Nevada/USA www.safariclub.org
02 - 07 Feb 2010	Jagd & Hund Dortmund, Germany www.jagdundhund.de
03 - 06 Feb 2010	Western Hunting & Conservation Wild Sheep Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife Reno, Nevada/USA www.wildsheepfoundation.org
06 - 14 Feb 2010	Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show Harrisburg, Pennsylvania/USA www.sport.reedexpo.com
17 - 20 Feb 2010	Grand Slam Club / Ovis Las Vegas, Nevada/USA www.wildsheep.org
25 - 28 Feb 2010	Hohe Jagd & Fischerei Salzburg, Austria www.hohejagd.at/en
06 - 08 Mar 2010	FICAAR Madrid, Spain www.ficaar.com
04 - 08 Mar 2010	Venatoria-FITAC Madrid, Spain www.venatoria.com.es

04 - 07 Mar 2010	Anniversary Elk Camp & Hunting, Fishing & Outdoor Expo Reno, Nevada/USA www.rmef.org
18 - 21 Mar 2010	International Sportsmen's Expo Salt Lake City, Utah/USA www.sportsexpos.com
12 - 15 Mar 2010	IWA International Trade Fair for Hunting & Sporting Arms Nuremberg, Germany www.nuernbergmesse.de
6 - 9 May 2010	Annual General Assembly International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC Dubrovnik/Croatia www.cic-wildlife.org
14 - 16 May 2010	NRA Charlotte North Carolina/USA www.nra.org

Wildlife Artist John Banovich Releases Excellent Book

The first time John Banovich picked up a paintbrush as a young boy in Butte, Montana, he knew he was meant to be an artist. Something in his DNA compelled him to study, marvel and translate to canvas the animals that roamed before his pure artist's eye. Years of worldwide travel to explore wild animals at close range have allowed him to capture the essence of their spirits on canvas.



John Banovich at work

Continued on Page 22

Continued from Page 21
Wildlife Artist John Banovich Releases Excellent Book

close range have allowed Banovich to capture the essence of their spirits on canvas. Each intimate painting reveals something about the subject, the artist and ultimately the viewer.

Introducing the superb and extraordinary book BEAST, written with David Cabela with a foreword by Guy Coheleach, Jack Hanna's Prologue and an introduction by James L. Bellis – not a book but your own personal journey through the 112 reproductions of Banovich's stunning paintings, 43 expertly drawn sketches and 73 telling photographs. Page after page, Banovich's body of work will give you the rare chance to look into the very heart of the BEAST.

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John Banovich

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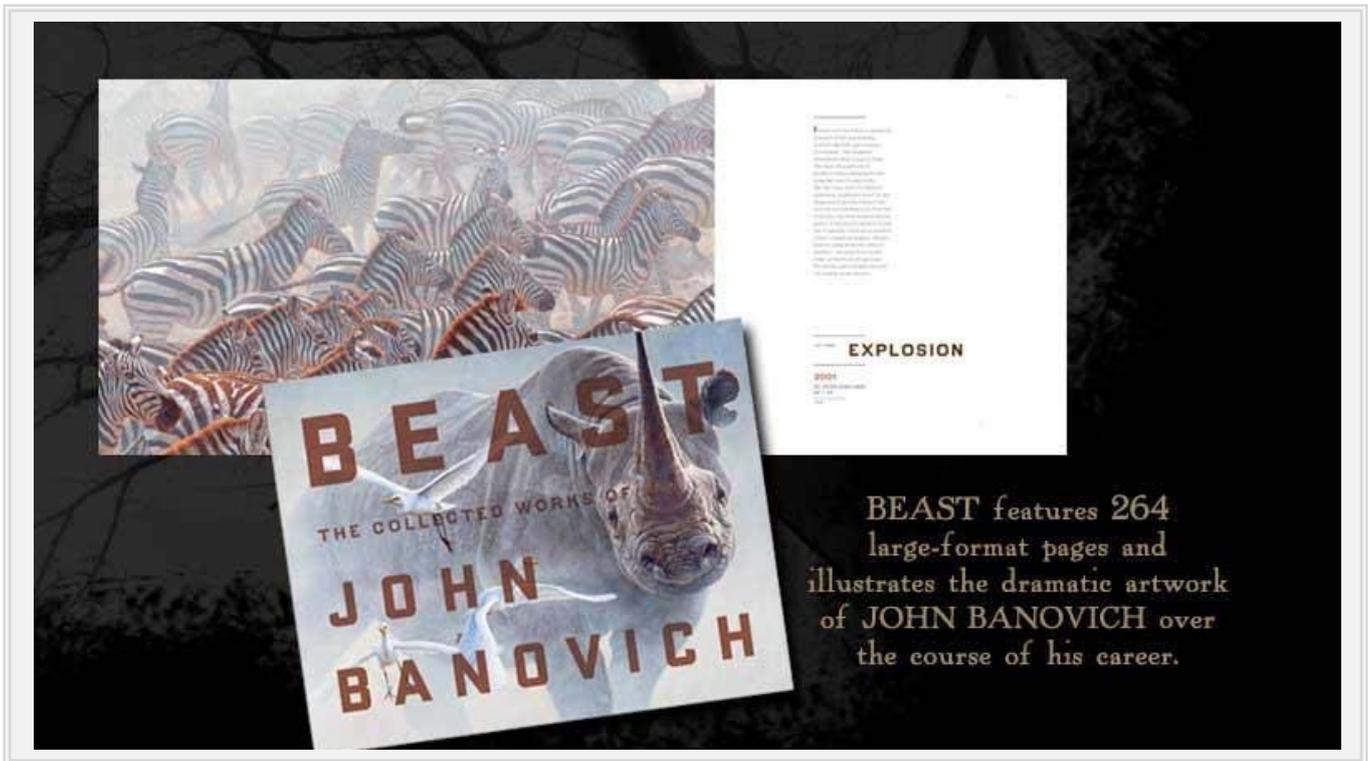
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BEAST features 264 large-format pages and illustrates the dramatic artwork of JOHN BANOVICH over the course of his career.