

# AFRICAN INDABA

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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

## John Jackson Recognized with International Statesman Award

Gray Thornton, President, Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF)

John J. Jackson, III redirected and wholly dedicated his life as a lawyer, writer, hunter and conservationist nearly four decades ago and has become one of the foremost champions of hunting and conservation through hunting around the world. This award recognizes his unequalled service and leadership to the hunting community in all corners of the globe. He is the man.

John is the past recipient of our *Excellence in Advocacy of Our Hunting Heritage Award*, 2002, for his "untiring support of our hunting heritage...effective at all political levels...worldwide." John is an international leader without narrow partisanship. He is founder and chairman of Conservation Force which gives counsel to a consortium of over 200 organizations which it serves to further our sporting way of life and wildlife and wild places. Conservation Force proactively advances or solves dozens of issues of importance every year.

John broadcasts that "sportsmen are the force" and he sees to it that we are recognized as the foremost conservationists. He has represented countries such as Mongolia and Namibia, and organizations from IPHA to the Inuvialuit Game Council in petitions, comments and litigation. He has served for over a decade on the Executive Council of the International Council of Game and Wildlife (CIC) in Budapest and as the President of its Commission on Sustainable Use; for two decades on the Board of the International Foundation for the Conservation of Wildlife (IGF) in Paris. He has long served on crucial specialist groups of IUCN in Gland, such as the Deer Specialist Group and the Antelope Specialist Group with Conservation Force initiatives from Thailand to Zambia. In the USA he is a life member of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, the Wildlife Management Institute and founding member of the AWCP. Conservation Force is a CITES International Observer and John has participated in its Conferences of the Parties, working groups and committees for nearly two decades. His species projects are as diverse as polar bear to elephant, African lion to argali and markhor. He is the recognized expert on the bio-political issues that affect them all.

He spearheaded the defeat of the proposal to list all ural on Appendix I of CITES and the defeat of the petition to list all Baja Peninsula sheep as endangered on the ESA. He inter-

vened on behalf of WSF to defeat the suit to list all argali as endangered that would have stopped their importation forever. He established the importation of Kashmir markhor and is in U.S. District Court challenging the denial of trophy imports of the renowned Suleiman markhor in the Torghar Project of Pakistan - on WSF's behalf, I might add. This past year alone he has obtained the release of hundreds of hunting trophies that had been detained or seized for ever increasing reasons. He is fighting for us and makes no apologies.

The reach of this superhero is worldwide. He helped found the concept of sustainable use, championed and helped coin "conservation hunting," personally authored the diplomatic CITES Resolutions facilitating export-import of hunting trophies and initiated the "enhancement strategy" under the ESA. Night and day he is championing our causes around the globe. He and his wife Chrissie are life members of WSF.

Jackson was recognized for his exceptional work with the International Statesman Award Wednesday evening February 3, 2010 during the WSF Opening Ceremonies/Exhibitor Welcome Banquet.

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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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## Tamás Marghescu to Succeed Kai Wollscheid As CIC CEO

CIC Press Release



**The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) is announcing a forthcoming change in the leadership of its Administrative Office in Budapest. Tamás Marghescu, who until recently was running the Pan European Regional Office and the Permanent Representation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to the European Union in Brussels, Belgium, will succeed Kai-Uwe Wollscheid, who declared his intention to step down from his post in the coming year, as Director General.**

Kai-Uwe Wollscheid – in the words of CIC President Dieter Schramm – laid the firm foundation for the development of the CIC towards the truly global umbrella organization for sustainable hunting. His outstanding achievement during the last 7 years positioned the CIC as a major player in the field of conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. His extraordinary track record is not only recognized within the CIC itself, but also within the global network of his many, many friends in the conservation and development field.

At an extraordinary meeting in Vienna on 14th December, the CIC Executive Committee expressed its sincere regret over this announcement and thanked the outgoing Director General for his dedicated and outstanding contributions and achievements for the CIC. The CIC Executive Committee particularly appreciated the firm recommendation of the outgoing Director General for his successor to the post. The CIC Executive Committee, after in depth consideration of this recommendation, unanimously decided to offer the leadership of the CIC Administrative Office in Budapest to Tamás Marghescu. Tamás Marghescu, who at various occasions had represented IUCN at CIC events, is a dual citizen of Germany and Hungary. Born in Paris, he fulfilled his childhood dream by studying forestry sciences in Vienna, Austria and Freiburg, Germany. He joined the Bavarian State Forest Service in Germany and started his international career as Forestry Operations Officer at the Food and Agricul-

ture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy with responsibilities for India, the Kingdom of Thailand and Papua New Guinea.

Following a transfer to the FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific, he was appointed by the request of the Royal Thai Government as the Chief Technical Adviser of a large rural development project.

His next career step brought him back to the European continent, where he served as a high-level, German funded government adviser to the Ministry of Environment in Hungary. In 2001, he was appointed as Regional Director for Pan Europe of IUCN, "putting IUCN on the map of Europe", as the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Achim Steiner and former Director General of IUCN once honored his achievements. And as the present Director General of IUCN, Madame Julia Marton-Lefevre put it: Tamas "...was always able to 'think out of the box' in developing a vision and making it become reality. As a result of this capacity, our regional presence and programme in Europe has grown tremendously over the past few years."

CIC President Dieter Schramm said: "One of my two eyes is crying, for we are losing an extraordinary talented partner in the person of Kai-Uwe Wollscheid, who has earned our deepest respect for his outstanding achievements. My second eye is smiling, because we are fortunate to win Tamás Marghescu along with all his renowned energy and creativity to lead the CIC Administrative Office into the future." The change will take place in 2010 and in the interim period, Tamás Marghescu will support the work of the Administrative Office as Special Adviser.

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## US Hunters: Checklist for Trophy Import

Courtesy: Conservation Force, John J Jackson III

Conservation Force created a draft checklist of reoccurring problems that should be looked for before the shipment of any CITES trophy. This list was circulated to the PH and taxidermist associations and they in turn will circulate it to all concerned, including their hunting clients. It is imperative that all errors are proactively discovered and corrected before shipment of any trophy. The checklist has been evolving and will be revised from time to time. Conservation Force will collaborate with all concerned in keeping the checklist simple, accurate and up-to-date.

**Tags:** Must be 1) *permanently* attached 2) *through a hole*. Ear, eye, mouth, nose, bullet holes are okay, but not around the leg above the foot. Tag number must match that on the permit.

**Permit Expiration:** Get a faxed copy of the import permit before

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### US Hunters: Checklist for Trophy Imports

exporting. Do not ship an Appendix I species without seeing a copy of the import permit to be sure it will not expire before the shipment arrives. Examine the export permit for expiration date and look for date errors.

**Export Permit:** Examine for errors of name of permittee and name and number of species, signature and seal by CITES designated officers.

**Validation:** Make sure section 14 of export permit is fully completed, i.e. all parts itemized, signed and sealed by designated CITES officer before the final step of shipment.

**Purpose Code:** If crafted or worked item of trophy parts (feet, tail swish, bracelet, scrimshawed tusks, boots, gun cases, clothing, etc.), export permit must be coded "P" for person instead of "H" for hunting trophy. If part of an elephant or rhino trophy on Appendix II, it must have an Appendix I import permit (Form 3-200-37) because it's not treated as a trophy. Only trophy trade is on Appendix II, not trophies converted into "personal" items.

**Valuation:** Understatement of value is the cause of excessive seizures, i.e. forfeiture of \$50,000 trophies for a \$500 offense. A true representative value should be used, not understatement. Pro-rated cost of acquisition (cost of the hunt) is best, or insurance value. Note: trophies are not taxed upon entry into the U.S. but they most certainly are seized. The exporter should use the full value from the get-go as import brokers carry it over onto their declarations.

**In Transit:** Transfer through intermediate countries must be immediate, without delay. A hunter traveling with his trophy cannot layover in an intermediate country without appropriate import and re-export permits from that country.

**Post-shipment Corrections:** Exporting authorities must *immediately* contact and confer with U.S. authorities *before* issuing a retrospective permit or replacement permit, not months later or after issuing a new permit. Retrospective and replacement permits must be issued immediately, not weeks or months later. The importing agent must set corrective action in motion immediately and use a true value for the trophy on the 3-177 Declaration entry form rather than carry over as the value the export fee or some other incorrect value from the export documents.

**Re-shipment:** Send trophies back whenever you can, else it is treated as illegal to possess contraband like stolen goods or illegal drugs without any protectable interest.

**Re-shipment Import Permits:** When trophies are returned to the exporting country and re-shipped new, original import permits are required.

## CIC Welcomes the Award of the Nobel Prize in Economics to Professor Elinor Ostrom

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) welcomed the award of the Nobel Prize in Economics to Elinor Ostrom. „Her analysis of commons and common property of natural resources have shown how important the programs for community-based wildlife management are for the conservation of wildlife in Africa“, said the President of the CIC Tropical Game Commission, Dr. Rolf D. Baldus.

Nearly everywhere in Africa, but also in other development areas like Central Asia, game is – unless it does not live on private property – considered as common property, and no one excluded of its use. An abdication of use benefits others. The result is overexploitation and eventually a destruction of the resources. This is called the "tragedy of the commons". Environmental economist Ostrom has shown that community assets can be used locally in self-administration if users work together. People cooperate if they realise that unity makes them strong and is for their benefit. In this way sustainability in the use of natural resources is achievable. Overexploitation is not a natural law, but can be prevented by reasonable regulations and stipulated positive as well as negative sanctions. A crucial factor is that rural communities can decide and are not dominated by elites or bureaucracy.

Today, the core of the efforts in the conservation of wildlife, but also of public forests, is in developing countries to hand over wildlife and natural resources management to local communities or user groups. If local small-scale farmers receive ownership and user rights on natural resources, this creates economical incentives for their conservation. The use becomes sustainable. Wild animals remain common property, but through the own interest of the users and agreements, the open access becomes restricted. Successful examples of community based natural resources management are in Namibia and Tanzania, the "Campfire Program" in Zimbabwe or the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor (Tanzania/Mozambique). Latter received last year the "Markhor Award" from the CIC for its outstanding performance in biodiversity conservation.

The alternative privatization of game is in most African countries not possible or not reasonable, as it dispossesses concerned local people of the benefits arising from wildlife use. The state as authority, upon which the traditional nature protection is often focusing, has failed in case of wildlife conservation in almost all countries. The title of the most well-known paper of the newly awarded Nobel prize-holder is spot on "Governing the commons. The evolution of institutions for collective action."

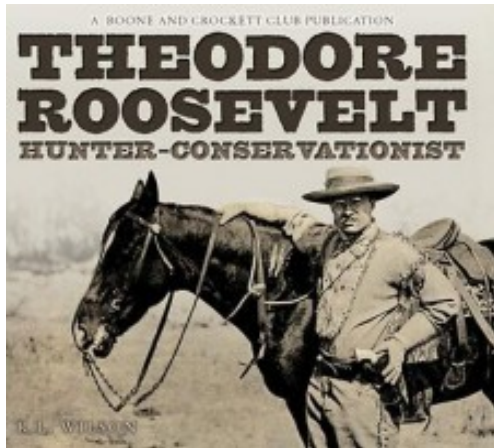
"Sustainable hunting tourism, which brings benefits to local users, has proved itself to be the economically most cost-effective form of communal wildlife use by low impact on nature at the same time" – said Baldus.

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# Theodore Roosevelt Hunter-Conservationist – An Illustrated Biography



Theodore Roosevelt Hunter – Conservationist, new from the Boone and Crockett Club, is a sweeping view of the outdoor life of the rancher, explorer, soldier, statesman, author, 26th President of the United States — and hero to hunters and conservationists worldwide. It is a fantastic book for the modern hunter or contemporary conservationist and a must have work of non-fiction that describes in detail the guns, gear and adventures of our 26th president. Authored by acclaimed, widely published historian R.L. Wilson with insights from director and screenwriter John Milius. This richly detailed book is a fascinating read and will become a treasured addition to any hunter, outdoorsmen's, or gun collector's library "Most big game hunters know that TR founded the Boone and Crockett Club, but many do not fully appreciate his broad, unrivaled influences on hunting and conservation today. His stewardship, sportsmanship and leadership remain the standard of excellence and responsibility," said Julie Houk, director of publications for the Boone & Crockett Club.

Author R. L. Wilson is the author of over 48 books and more than 325 articles, auction catalogues, book introductions and monographs, Wilson's career in the world of history, art, firearms and hunting began with internships while an undergraduate at Carleton College (Northfield, MN), at the Corcoran Gallery of Art (Washington, D.C.), the Royal Armouries, H.M. Tower of London, and the Wadsworth Atheneum (Hartford, CT). He was appointed the Atheneum's Curator of Firearms at the age of 23. Wilson's research and writing have led to innumerable trips worldwide, including nine expeditions to Africa (the first in 1970). Among his published works are four official company histories: Colt, Winchester, Ruger and Beretta. More than a dozen of his titles have been published by Random House, Simon & Schuster, Abbeville Press, Crown, and Ballantine. Several of his works are also in French, German and Italian, and six of his books were done in collaboration with renowned photographer, author

and adventurer, Peter Beard. The Colt Heritage: The Official History of Colt Firearms, is the only firearms-related book ever nominated for the American Book Award, publishing's equivalent of an Oscar. Wilson is a professional member of the Boone and Crockett Club, and was co-executive producer-with the Hon. William E. Simon-of the hunting and conservation documentary film, "In the Blood." In 2004 Wilson received the coveted "Jack Slack Writer of the Year" award, from Leupold & Stevens, as well as the "Sport Shooting Ambassador" award from the World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities.



Douglas Brinkley, professor of history, Rice University and author of *The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America*: "Historian R.L. Wilson has done a fine job presenting Theodore Roosevelt as our nation's great conservationist. Using TR's hunting adventures as his guiding light, Wilson offers the reader a fresh window into what made our 26th President tick."

General (Ret.) H. Norman Schwarzkopf: "Theodore Roosevelt lives and breathes in this unique biography, which richly chronicles his exceptional outdoor life and adventures. As a dedicated sportsman and enthusiast of firearms and the shooting sports, TR set the perfect standard of behavior for his contemporaries, and for future generations. All Americans are fortunate to have such an exemplary, productive and multi-faceted life—as captured in this book—revealing of the many and varied ways that natural wonders—and fine guns—can be experienced, and appreciated."

**Theodore Roosevelt Hunter-Conservationist is 10-3/4" by 10 inches book with 312 painstakingly researched pages. The book includes over 200 color and B&W images from archives at Boone and Crockett, Harvard University, the Library of Congress, Sagamore Hill National Historic Site and the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace Historic Site. A paperback edition, \$39.95, is available in stores or directly from the Boone and Crockett Club. The Boone and Crockett Club is releasing 1,000 copies of a signed, numbered, hard-cover with dust jacket. This lavish, limited edition is not available in stores. The cost is \$99.95 (\$79.95 for B&C Members) and is well worth it as this is a book you will treasure**

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Theodore Roosevelt Hunter-Conservationist – An Illustrated Biography

for a great many years. Order at [www.Boone-Crockett.org](http://www.Boone-Crockett.org) or by calling 888-840-4868.



**About the Boone and Crockett Club:** Founded by Theodore Roosevelt in 1887, the Boone and Crockett Club promotes guardianship and visionary management of big game and associated wildlife in North America. The Club maintains the highest standards of fair-chase sportsmanship and habitat stewardship. Member accomplishments include protecting Yellowstone and establishing Glacier and Denali national parks, founding the National Forest Service, National Park Service and National Wildlife Refuge System, fostering the Pittman-Robertson and Lacey Acts, creating the Federal Duck Stamp program, and developing the cornerstones of modern game laws. The Boone and Crockett Club is headquartered in Missoula, Mont. For details, visit [www.booneandcrockettclub.com](http://www.booneandcrockettclub.com).

## Zimbabwe's Environment Under Serious Threat

Delegation of the European Commission to Zimbabwe (Nov. 2009)

This note focuses on the serious current threat to the environment in Zimbabwe. The country's natural heritage is a world asset. Urgent action is needed if irreversible damage is to be avoided. This is a matter not only of national but of international concern. The current dramatic onslaught on the Zimbabwe rhino is testimony of a very serious situation. Zimbabwe is known worldwide for its natural heritage. The country has been, in the past, at the forefront of developing good practices in the area of wildlife management. It has been demonstrated that wildlife exploitation, in its various forms, is the best economic option for large parts of the country due to their arid or semi-arid nature. The natural heritage of Zimbabwe should be a main driver of the country's strategy to achieve accelerated economic growth. Zimbabwe's natural assets could provide a basis for the country's sustainable development. These resources, until recently, constituted the foundation for economic growth in the country, through agriculture, the transformation industries based on agricultural products, mining exports and tourism as well as professional hunting. They are today in critical danger, with serious and far reaching negative consequences, especially for rural communities which are more sensitive to the depletion of the country's natural resources.



The fast track land reform programme as was implemented has been a main reason for the Zimbabwe's agricultural and economic collapse, and for the related uncontrolled exploitation of the country's natural resources. Small holder farmers, both from communal and resettled areas, have been forced to use all the available resources at their disposal in an unsustainable manner. The negative impact of the resulting degradation is escalating so rapidly that social, economic and environmental resilience is becoming more and more difficult and costly to maintain.

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### Zimbabwe's Environment Under Serious Threat

From an environmental point of view, many specialists argue that a point of no-return is rapidly approaching. Degradation would then become irreversible and the natural capital irretrievably lost. Zimbabwe would lose any opportunity to regain its key advantage as regards to tourism. The magnitude of the crisis calls for immediate action, before a social and environmental catastrophe becomes an irreversible reality.

Since the proper use of natural resources is crucial in relation to sustainable development and poverty reduction, all Zimbabweans must seek to reverse current trends in the depletion of their national assets, and support economic recovery through improved natural resource and environmental management. The new political dispensation in place in Zimbabwe, since February 2009, as a result of the signing of the Global Political Agreement, offers an opportunity to do just that. There is a danger, however, that appropriate resource management policies will be neglected and not recognized as essential in the current economic and political context. But once lost, there will be no going back and many recovery opportunities will disappear forever.

This is particularly true for the wildlife population as can be seen from the eradication of wildlife in many other African countries. Their disappearance, as presently happening to the rhino population in Zimbabwe, will limit the recovery opportunities in general; and, more specifically, will undermine the tourism sector, which was recently of major economic importance accounting for about 10% of the GDP, as well as providing a major source of forex revenue. It is even sadder, considering that Zimbabwe was at the forefront of wildlife management and integration of local communities in the benefits of that industry.



One particularity, and strength, of Zimbabwe is the existence of private wildlife conservancies. They account for 2% of the national territory, but have significant economic potential. Today, conservancies are being badly damaged, as has been the case with the commercial farms. But the consequences of their destruction could be even more significant, due to the irreversibility of environmental degradation.

This need not be the case. Zimbabwe could still regain

its place in the forefront of the countries seriously committed to protecting their natural assets and making the best economic use of them. But time is running out as environmental degradation becomes impossible to reverse.

It is of crucial importance that all Zimbabweans unite to address these concerns. It is also essential that the international community mobilizes itself to establish a substantive dialogue with the Zimbabwean Government on such matters. The international community should encourage the adoption of policies designed to protect Zimbabwe's environment and begin a meaningful and concrete dialogue with the international community on these issues.

### Background information on trends in the state of the environment in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe benefits from significant natural resources, such as large potential agricultural areas, important mining opportunities, exceptional wildlife, fisheries and forest resources. These natural resources, which were at the heart of the country's development, are being overused, and severely misused. In particular:

- The population of Zimbabwe has doubled in the last 30 years (from 6 to 12 million) and almost 70% of the population live in rural areas and depend on land and its resources (soil, water, wood, forests, wildlife) for their food security and livelihood;
- A large portion of the land (approx 60%) is subject to recurrent droughts and under constant risk of desertification. The climate change problems are not improving that situation;
- Deforestation is increasing dramatically because of the opening of new agricultural land following the land reform and because of the crumbling economy as a result of which firewood has become the number one source of energy (cooking, heating and lighting and more recently to dry tobacco). FAO estimates that, from 1990 to 2005, 30% of wooden land (10 million Ha) has been lost;
- There are between 300,000 and 500,000 seasonal and uncontrolled gold panners (unemployed men, women and children), with subsequent land, river and forests degradation. More recently, this has also taken place in the diamond fields;
- Poaching of wildlife is now uncontrolled and the animals are fast disappearing. Rhino conservation is an example of a key species representing the trend in wildlife population management. Following an efficient management plan, the extremely endangered rhino population of the 80s saw a strong increase in numbers in the late 90s. Thereafter, rhino numbers have been declining again, due to an intensification of country-wide poaching, particularly over the past three years 2006-2008 and now into 2009. It is estimated that at least 100 rhinos are killed every year. If this trend continues, the rhino population will disappear in a few years and with it its specific attraction for tourism.

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### Zimbabwe's Environment Under Serious Threat

- Private wildlife conservancies are under serious threat through the indigenization process in a final push to acquire all land in the country. Compulsory partnership will not lead to any improvement in their management and will further limit the tourism recovery of the country, as it is especially dependant on wildlife. In addition, forced indigenization will not promote foreign investment, which is a priority of the GNU.
- Soil depletion is a major problem all over the country both in intensive commercial farming where "conventional tillage practices lead to soil structure deterioration, loss of nutrients and erosion" and "in the smallholder sector where continuous nutrient mining with little or no mineral or organic fertilizer application has exacerbated soil fertility decline". FAO surveys show that erosion hazard is medium to high in 40% of the soils.
- While the country as a whole cannot be considered as an arid one, arid and semi-arid regions are largely present in the southern and western portions of the country. As a consequence, water shortages both for domestic consumption and for agriculture are widespread in rural and urban areas. The unavailability of reliable sources for domestic water has particularly increased the vulnerability of rural communities. The majority of rural communities rank "water" as their main problem. The scarcity of water has dramatic consequences in term of environmental hygiene and public health (dysentery, diarrhea, cholera, intestinal infections diseases). Water and Sanitation problems have seriously increased in urban areas due to the rapid urban population growth, the sharp decline in public water supply and in the sewage systems for lack of resources and maintenance.

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## Conservationists Label Zimbabwe Poaching Epicenter

Global environmental and wildlife watchdogs have named Zimbabwe and South Africa as the epicenter of poaching of the endangered rhino in Southern Africa. In their latest joint report released last week, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization – and wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC said since 2006 95 percent of the poaching in Africa has occurred in Zimbabwe and South Africa.

"These two nations collectively form the epicenter of an unrelenting poaching crisis in southern Africa," said Tom Milliken

of TRAFFIC, an organization that works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature. The report, which has been submitted to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) ahead of its 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15) in March, documents a decline in law enforcement effectiveness and an increase in poaching intensity in Africa.

"The situation is most serious in Zimbabwe where rhino numbers are now declining and the conviction rate for rhino crimes in Zimbabwe is only three percent," the report said. "Despite the introduction of a number of new measures, poaching and illicit horn trade in South Africa has also increased," it said, adding that the trade is being driven by Asian demand for horns and is made worse by increasingly sophisticated poachers, who now are using veterinary drugs, poison, cross bows and high caliber weapons to kill rhinos.

Most rhino horns leaving southern Africa are destined for medicinal markets in southeast and east Asia, especially Vietnam, and also China. The report highlights Vietnam as a country of particular concern – noting that Vietnamese nationals operating in South Africa have recently been identified in rhino crime investigations. Zimbabwe and South Africa are two of four countries in the world that still have significant rhino populations. The other two, all in Africa, are Kenya and Namibia. The report comes at a time when Zimbabwe has suspended wildlife hunting licenses as the country has lost 250 rhinos to poachers over the past three years. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife last week issued a statement warning permit holders currently on hunting sessions to stop hunting with immediate effect so that their permits can be verified.

Wildlife authorities in the country have found it hard to contain poaching in national parks especially after landless villagers began invading – with the government's tacit approval – white-owned farms in 2000. There have also been widespread reports of illegal and uncontrolled trophy hunting on former white-owned conservancies now controlled by powerful politicians from President Robert Mugabe's ZANU PF party.

The government however denies that politicians are illegally hunting game and insists it still has poaching under control. Among other things IUCN works on biodiversity and greening the world economy by supporting scientific research and bringing governments and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice.

The Zimbabwean Wildlife Authorities office declared regarding the status of hunting for the 2009 and 2010 seasons: *"We advise that the suspension was solely for the purpose of verifying the authenticity of the permits. There have been several allegation of illegal hunts taking place in the country using forged permits. This may result in clients not being able to export their trophies from Zimbabwe which in turn may discredit hunting in the country. As a result it was felt prudent that all permits used for hunting this season should have their authenticity verified, hence this exercise. In addition this exercise would put the Authority in a position where it can confidently comment on the legality or illegality of the hunts. All illegal hunts will then*

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#### Conservationists Label Zimbabwe Poaching Epicenter

be published and perpetrators brought to book. Furthermore the current permit system will be reviewed to add more security features to reduce or avoid the use of forged permits. We advise clients that hunting in Zimbabwe has not been stopped but that potential clients should assist in the verification process. This can be done through our offices by contacting the Business Development Manager responsible for hunting who is Mr. Tawanda Chipere, available on [tchipere@zimparks.co.zw](mailto:tchipere@zimparks.co.zw) or telephone +263 912 420 496 or + 263 4 792731 direct line." - Dr. Mtsambiwa, Director General, Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority

Barbara Crown, Editor of the Hunting Report said that hunters who have booked a safari in Zimbabwe should also verify the legality of their safari operator and the particular safari arrangements hunt. The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority is adamant to eradicate illegal hunting by operators who are not registered to guide or outfit safaris in Zimbabwe. Some commercial poaching rings apparently also used forged hunting permits. Hunters have been advised to consult a Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority office have to have their hunting permits verified before going on safari. Although a newly designed permit that is more difficult to forge will be issued in 2010. US hunters should be particularly diligent in ensuring their operators are legal in Zimbabwe, as the importation of a trophy taken illegally in the country of origin is a Lacey Act violation in the US. Penalties are up to \$250,000 for each violation and five years in prison! Verifying an operator's legal status in Zimbabwe should be a matter of course even after the suspension of permits there is lifted at the end of December.

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## Al Ain's Oryx May Hold Key to Breeding Program

Emmanuelle Landais, Gulf News (edited)

A four-day summit at the Al Ain Wildlife Park and Resort Headquarters in Al Ain, aims to develop a conservation strategy to revive the population. Tim Wacher, a wildlife biologist with the London Zoological Society's Conservation Programs, believes the scimitar-horned oryx of the Gulf hold massive potential and experts are confident that the population at the Al Ain Wildlife Park and Resort will be able to repopulate areas where this now near-extinct antelope used to roam. However, genetics will play a big part to determine whether the large herd of 200 oryx in Al Ain will be able to provide fresh lineage to mix with a smaller herd in Tunisia which will eventually be released into the wild in southern Sahara. Scimitar horned oryx are not naturally found in the wild anymore. The demise of the scimitar horned oryx has been mainly caused by the spread of human activity, the introduction of four-wheel drives and automatic weapons. In just 50

years, the population of oryx went from herds of 100,000 to zero. Wacher is currently working on a series of wildlife surveys across the Sahelo-Saharan region to be conducted in the coming year with the Sahara Conservation Fund. He is also a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Reintroduction Specialist Group and Antelope Specialist Groups.



"Ideally we hope the oryx here have independent lineages to the managed populations," Wacher said. Wacher has spent more than 20 years directly involved in arid land conservation including 8 years involved in gazelle and oryx reintroduction in Saudi Arabia, and extensive field experience working in wildlife conservation in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Niger and Chad. In North Africa, countries have much fewer resources and space to develop any kind of animal release and management scheme but the southern Sahara has more potential for receiving oryx that could be released in the wild. "The land is there to do it. The ideal would be to assemble the best range of animals which could include the oryx that are here in the UAE," Wacher said. "Everything outside the Gulf came from one capture in Chad from 44 animals. In the Gulf they came from a different source and will have different genes to enrich the existing population in good health."

Research on the herd in Al Ain could take up to 18 months during which DNA and health tests will be carried out on the oryx. "We are looking to scan a large number of animals to compare with the herd in Tunisia. There are more here than anywhere else. A realistic approach means we would start releasing 30 to 50 in a particular site [and] another 20 the next year and another 20 the year after," said Wacher. Projects such as these are very much over the long term, as much as 20 years. The animal translocation process involves monitoring them post release but also has benefits for the community at large by restoring habitat biodiversity in the area. "We have to see what the results are; we don't just open the gate and let them go. There is fairly regular monitoring within a fenced area. It is long term because the desert is a long term place," said Wacher. "There are four fenced areas varying in size from 2,000 to 6,000 hectares so it is an artificial situation but a lot of that habitat has been recovered," said Wacher, highlighting the recovery of Acacia trees in some areas.

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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.

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



## Illegal Ivory: Operation Costa

Source: Various Press Reports

More than two tons of illegal ivory have been seized and more than 100 people have been arrested in the largest international operation targeting wildlife crime across Eastern Africa.

The simultaneous operation was initiated as a result of a request made to INTERPOL by African elephant range states to help the continent deal with illegal elephant killings. Planning started in July 2009 for Operation Costa, the second in an ongoing series of multi-lateral cooperative operations against the illegal ivory trade.

It was coordinated by INTERPOL across six African countries led to the arrest of dozens of suspected illegal wildlife dealers, including 65 in Kenya. Authorities seized 567.8 kilograms of carved and raw items of ivory. This is in addition to the 532 kg earlier seized at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport during the initial phases of this operation, bringing the total to 1099.8 kg. Code-named Operation Costa, in honor of the late Costa Mlay, a former Tanzanian wildlife director who set high standards of professionalism and integrity in wildlife conservation, it involved officers from police, national wildlife, customs and national intelligence agencies across six countries - Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Operation Costa clearly shows the ability and will of law enforcement to effectively tackle wildlife crime. Operation Costa will also enable law enforcement both in Africa and further afield to identify the routes being used by smugglers, their connections and ultimately lead to the arrest of other individuals involved in these crimes.

Operation Costa was coordinated by the INTERPOL General Secretariat, based in Lyon, France, and involved the participation of agencies that are members of the INTERPOL Working Group on Wildlife Crime. Support was also provided by the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, created in 1994 by governments in the region as a mechanism for regional co-operation to fight illegal trade in wild animals and plants. Bonventure Ebuyi, the head of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, a regional body that coordinates the enforcement work of African wildlife authorities, said other countries involved in the investigation are also still compiling the list of illegal animal products seized.

Hundreds of staff from the police, customs, wildlife agencies, national intelligence agencies and the Lusaka Agreement Task Force were involved in the operation across the six countries. The German federal government, as part of the INTERPOL General Secretariat Project OASIS initiative, provided funding to support the operations.

## News from Africa

### Angola

At a ceremony at the US Embassy in Luanda the US Ambassador Mozena presented uniforms for Angolan rangers who are patrolling the two areas in Malanje province of Angola which still harbor remnant populations of the Giant Sable. The uniforms were donated by the USF&W Service in support of the conservation project. The US ambassador pledged, "we will support the necessary veterinarian assistance and management to the sanctuaries and will contribute to education initiatives on the importance of conservation in the *Palanca negra* areas."

### Botswana

**Controlled hunting will continue in areas that are less conducive to photographic use. The value of hunting economies still applies in these areas, where only hunters continue to pay for and support conservation efforts/practices to prevent these wildlife areas from converting to less conservation-friendly land use, such as agriculture, accompanied by the resultant loss of biodiversity. In line with Botswana's Vision 2016, controlled and sustainable hunting will continue to be a major contributor to alleviate poverty and improve livelihoods in rural areas. Elephant is the single most important game species and the quota for 2010 was fixed at 340 bulls. In line with the Botswana Government's 5-D policies (Democracy, Development, Dignity, Discipline and Delivery), Botswana outfitters are determined to maintain high standards and ethics/hunting practices. Contact the Botswana Wildlife Management Association (BWMA) at [botswanawildlife@yahoo.com](mailto:botswanawildlife@yahoo.com), or Debbie Peake at [debbie@mochaba.net](mailto:debbie@mochaba.net), for information on registered members companies.**

### Botswana

The effects of climate change resulting from global warming are beginning to be felt as the country experiences extreme climatic conditions such as severe floods and frequent droughts. Places that were traditionally malaria-free such as Gantsi District have reported Malaria cases. Experts believe that the country will experience worsening semi arid conditions. The changes are predicted to affect arable as well as livestock and wildlife industry.

### Botswana

The unique Okavango Delta in northern Botswana is threatened by a Latin American invasive weed *Salvinia molesta* aka Kariba weed. The free floating dark green plant covers the water surface and cuts off oxygen for fish and blocks the delta's channels.

### Dubai

The 225 square kilometer Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve (DDCR) showcased the successful re-introduction of the Arabian Oryx, Arabian Gazelle, Sand Gazelle and large-

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#### News from Africa

scale indigenous flora re-seeding programs during a recent conference at Al Maha. The DDCR is the only location within the UAE where visitors are able to experience completely free-roaming wildlife within their natural desert and dune surroundings. The reserve is registered with the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), audited by UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre, The DDCR is segregated into four zones.

#### Ethiopia

The curio hawkers at the Merkato market in Addis Ababa keep their ivory souvenirs under the counter. But when a potential customer, mainly the many Chinese working in Ethiopia, showed up ivory chopsticks, bundled in pairs, as well as solid ivory bangles, necklaces made of ivory beads and other illicit trinkets are openly for sale. The chopsticks sold at the Merkato for 280 birr a pair, or US\$22.

#### Kenya

Four northern white rhinos were relocated from Dvur Králové Zoo in the Czech Republic back to the wild in Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Laikipia. A Boeing 747 transported two males, Sudan, 37, and Suni, 30, and two females Najim, 20, and her offspring Fatu, 9. The four rhinos are half the known population (two others remained behind while another pair is in San Diego/USA) of this rare subspecies thought to be extinct in the wild. Rhino experts believe that releasing the rhinos into natural habitat in the wild might help them reproduce, survive as a subspecies and allow their natural range to be re-stocked in the coming years.

#### Kenya

The head of Kenya's wildlife conservation agency says poachers have killed a rare southern white rhino. Julius Kipng'etich said poachers killed the white rhino in central Kenya on December 28. Rangers tracked down the suspected poachers and suspected buyers on Sunday and arrested them. Kipng'etich says all 12 suspects are Kenyans.

#### Kenya

Kenya will oppose any trade in endangered species especially elephant and rhino tasks," said Julius Kipng'etich, the Director of Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) thus opening a confrontation with fellow SADAC member states Zambia and Tanzania who have asked for an exemption to the 1989 ban on ivory trade.

#### Namibia

Kunene Conservancy Safaris is a very different kind of company, offering a very different kind of experience. To start with, the ownership of the company lies 100 per cent with the Himba and Herero communities living within five conservancies (Puros, Orupembe, Sanitatas, Okonjombo and Marienfluss) in the Kunene regions. That is an area of 13,500sq km and a population of only 1800, in North West Namibia. Conservancy Safaris presents an array of routes and options for travelers to choose

from. The varieties include a mix of high quality bush camping with some lodge nights. A main goal of all Conservancy Safaris tours is to help offset the cost of living with wildlife for these isolated communities. These are the people who have lions and elephants in their backyard. For them wildlife is not a recreational focus but harsh reality that affects their survival. With backing and support from IRNDC and WWF, the local people have done much to protect the region with the long term goal of conservation.

#### Namibia

The Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) has extended its moratorium on hunting permits for leopard and cheetah into the 2010 season. According to the Namibia Professional Hunting Association (NAPHA), all hunters with hunts booked for leopard or cheetah next season should consider their hunts to be on standby until further notice. MET has drafted new regulations and is working with the Ministry of Justice to finalize and implement them. The Namibian hunting season will reopen February 1, 2010, but insiders do not expect the new leopard and cheetah hunting regulations to be gazetted until the spring, perhaps later than that. One of the issues under scrutiny for the new regulations was the hunting of leopards and cheetahs with dogs. Other changes being considered included a possible quota system for licenses. (Source Hunting Report, *Barbara Crown, Editor*)

#### Sierra Leone

After the discovery of six elephant and four buffalo carcasses in Outamba Kilimni national park, near the border with Guinea Poachers police arrested a gang of 10 poachers from Sierra Leone and Guinea. They had "wiped out" the entire elephant herd in Sierra Leone's only wildlife park Police said an official. Tourism Ministry officials said a crack military unit has been stationed near the park after frequent incursions by poachers from Guinea and Mali hunting wild animals.

#### South Africa

Researchers from Panthera and the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal have designed a leopard conservation and management plan which included a ban on hunting female and underage leopard and action to reduce human-leopard conflict. The new regulations were enacted in 2006 and by 2008 the collected data showed that the plan worked. Compared to the pre 2005 era, leopard lived longer, people killed fewer and the population grew, moreover female leopard raised more cubs.

#### South Africa

A rhino poacher was killed and two others injured in a fierce exchange of gunfire between a group of poachers and game rangers on Christmas day at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park. Field rangers in the iMfolozi section of the park heard shots in the western part of the Makhamsa section of iMfolozi at about 19:40 and responded immediately. The carcass of an adult male white rhino was found on the banks of the White Umfolozi River during a helicopter search on Saturday, December 26.

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News from Africa

### South Africa

Professor Pieter Van Niekerk, chairman of CHASA, was appointed as chairman of HAWASA (Hunting and Wildlife Associations of South Africa) for 2010. SA Hunters and Game Conservation Association handle the secretariat of HAWASA. Gary Bauer was appointed as chairman of the Hunters Forum and Hunters/SAPS Consultative Forum for a period of two years. Adri Kitshoff's position as vice chairperson has been re-affirmed and PHASA will take the responsibility for the secretariat.

### Southern Sudan

For many years, conservationists feared the distinctive wildlife documented by researchers in Southern Sudan before the conflict had been hunted to extinction. Now scientists counted 150 elephants, amongst them a big bull elephant, all survivors of 25 years of civil war. And it's not just elephants – the region boasts the largest savannah in Africa, immense fresh water wetlands, soaring plateaus and a million-strong antelope migration. Not all animals survived as well as the elephants and antelope. Thirty years ago the area was thickly populated with wildlife including 30,000 zebra. Now, they have counted just seven. The Wildlife Conservation Society is working with the Government of Southern Sudan to try and secure key wild spaces with funding through USAID. To protect the wildlife zones, fighters from the civil war are being turned into rangers tasked with protecting the land and stopping poachers. They are being set up in remote outposts with radio communication. Often, they are the only law-enforcement in the area for miles. But they are usually outmanned and outgunned, and for the people here – among the poorest in the world -- protecting wildlife comes a distant second to survival. A Murle herdsman puts the conflict in stark terms, "I have a question for you: You say we must not kill the wildlife because otherwise they will be finished. Now I have to slaughter one of my cows. So in a few years I will have no cows. So you want me to kill all my cows and have nothing?" "When I was young I was used to eating meat from wildlife but now people give me conditions," he said, "if you kill animals we find you, we take your gun, with which I'm also defending my life. It looks like you want to finish me." Southern Sudan has a brief window of opportunity to come up with a strategy for conserving the land and, ultimately, helping the people

### Tanzania/Zambia

Both countries will request CITES member countries for a one-off sale of its ivory stock pile, excluding seized ivory and that of unknown origin, with the proceeds from the trade being used exclusively for elephant and community conservation as well as for development programs. Tanzania wants to sell 89,848 Kilograms of its stockpile while Zambia is looking at 21,692 kilograms as well as raw hides.

### USA

International conservationist, naturalist and hunting rights advocate Hubert Thummler of Mexico City has been selected by Dallas Safari Club (DSC) to receive the 2010 Peter

Hathaway Capstick Hunting Heritage Award at the DSC Convention and Sporting Expo in Dallas. DSC and the Dallas Ecological Foundation, offer the Capstick Award in recognition of exemplary leadership in conservation, education, hunting, humanitarian causes, research, permanent endowments and charitable giving. Thummler, 80, has already received the prestigious Weatherby Hunting and Conservation Award in 1992.

### USA

Ducks Unlimited and Dallas Safari Club Form Partnership. [Ducks Unlimited Inc.](#) has received a Corporate Sponsor Recognition Award for supporting the Dallas Safari Club's 2010 sporting convention, First Light. The Dallas Safari Club will, in turn, sponsor the 73rd Annual Ducks Unlimited Convention and Sporting Expo, May 28-30 at the Gaylord Texan Resort in Dallas.

### Zimbabwe/South Africa

A TRAFFIC report found that 95 percent of all rhino poaching in Africa since 2006 originated in two countries: South Africa and Zimbabwe. "These two nations collectively form the epicenter of an unrelenting poaching crisis in southern Africa," stated Tom Milliken, a Traffic researcher. In 2001, 68 percent of African rhino horns entering illegal trade were recovered; in 2009, nine out of ten were heading to Asian markets without interference. In South Africa 210 illegal rhino deaths were recorded, and in Zimbabwe — following a steady growth in rhino populations since the mid 1990s — 235 rhinos were found to have been illegally killed, suggesting numbers in the country are in decline. The situation "most serious" was in Zimbabwe, where the conviction rate for rhino crimes is only 3%. Black rhinos made up nearly half of the losses in Africa. However, Dr. Richard Emslie, scientific officer of the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group said "where there is political will, dedicated conservation programs and good law enforcement, rhino numbers have increased in both Africa and Asia,"

### Zimbabwe

The Zimbabwean Parks and Wildlife Management Authority and Harare businessman Tobias are add odds over the disposal of the Hwange Safaris hunting concession one of the seven sport hunting safaris in the Matetsi area. Musariri operated the hunting concession since 1985 as part of the Government efforts to help indigenous people break into the formerly white dominated sector. The Parks and Wildlife Management Authority recently auctioned Hwange Safaris, trading as Decatell Investments for US\$90 000 after the initial winning bid by a former professional hunter of Musariri had failed to pay up. Musariri insists that the concession had been given to him on a permanent basis as part of an empowerment process. Director general Dr Morris Mutsambiwa said however that the parks authority had auctioned the concession after the Government stipulated empowerment period relating to Mr Musariri had lapsed.

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## Rhino Poaching: Legalizing Horn Trade May Be the Answer

Michael Eustace

South Africa has done a superb job in growing rhino numbers from about 100 in 1900, to 18,000 today. In the rest of Africa, rhino populations have declined from 100,000 in 1965, to 5,000 today. Poachers are now focusing on the main reservoir, South Africa.

South Africa has had 100 animals poached so far this year and a further 150 shot in disguised trophy hunts. Together with Zimbabwe losses, the total for the year is likely to exceed 300 animals.

This killing is absurd. South Africa can supply an equivalent amount of the horn being poached with horn collected annually from natural deaths alone. But we are not allowed to sell horn internationally as a result of a Cites (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) resolution passed in 1977.

The answer to the plight of the rhino may well not be in banning trade but rather in regulated horn sales. South Africa could do this by establishing a Central Selling Organization, as De Beers used to have, and by selling certified horn to approved buyers. If demand increases as a result of the establishment of a legal trade we have sufficient stockpiles together with horn generated from natural deaths to satisfy double the current volumes being poached for the next 10 years. In addition and in order to keep the rhinos in parks in their natural horned state, the private sector could harvest horn from rhino on game farms, which horn re-grows and this would extend supplies to 3 times the current illegal market volumes. Furthermore, the CSO will control the market and can raise the price if the market is strong and by so doing bring supply and demand into balance.

Hopefully the Chinese will welcome a legal trade that supplies the market in a sustainable way without the need to kill hundreds of rhino. The proceeds from the sales of, say, R400 million p.a., will go to conservation (rather than criminals) and also fund increased anti-poaching efforts and policing

of the illegal trade routes. This will increase the business risk of illegal traders as will the prospect of the CSO dropping prices from time to time as a strategy to damage any illegal supply routes.

But we need CITES approval. It is too late to get rhino horn trade on to the formal agenda for their next meeting in March 2010 but the issue needs to be discussed at this meeting and for member states to understand the problem and to consider supporting the probable solution. Kenya has an astonishing proposal on the agenda that promotes the destruction of horn stockpiles and we need to make clear during this debate, our position and the inappropriate nature of that proposal. Rhino protection is one of the most important conservation issues in Africa and South Africa, as the main player, needs to champion it. To wait for the next meeting in 2013 before promoting change

and putting in place the mechanisms for change, will just accommodate increased poaching. Current trends suggest that at least 1000 animals will be poached over the next 3 years and it could be much more as the rewards are enormous and the risks low. Poaching over vast areas is extremely difficult to control.

The mere prospect of a legal trade and a powerful CSO and increased policing should reduce the risk of participation by new and more sophisticated crime syndicates. Also, the enthusiasm for Far Eastern stockpiling of horn for speculative purposes, which is a current concern and a real threat for the future, should be reduced.

Banning horn trade over the past 30 years has clearly not been a winning strategy. A regulated trade that can satisfy the demand in a sustainable way without killing animals and which has an in-built growth rate related to increasing populations, would seem a better plan.

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## Africa: The Next Ivory Battle in the Making

Rolf D. Baldus

From 13<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010 representatives from 175 member countries of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as well as numerous non-governmental organizations will be debating in Doha, the capital of Qatar the up- or downlisting of endangered species. Although any decisions are relating to trade only, they will also have significant impact on nature conservation. For some countries, the decisions will be of major economic significance.



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### **Africa: The Next Ivory Battle in the Making**

Ivory will be – as always – one of the most controversial topics. Two countries have made this time a request for sale of ivory stocks. Tanzania and Zambia are planning to sell 90 respectively 22 tons to Japan and China. The proceeds will be used exclusively for conservation and wildlife management. At the same time, both countries want to downlist their elephant populations from Appendix I to II. This would reduce the red tape involved in elephant hunting, and considerably facilitate the import of hunting trophies for hunters, in particular to the United States. In addition, the valuable hides of elephant, which for example need to be shot as problem animals, could be sold instead of rotting in the bush.

As usual in such cases, the animal rights activists have lodged their protests in advance, arguing that such sales would fuel poaching. In the run-up to the last CITES conferences they regularly published in the past horror figures on elephant poaching with the media all too readily accepting them. Often the figures and cases were purely fictitious.

Today, however, one reads and hears hardly anything about it, although for the first time there is cause for concern. "We've seen this year a disastrous increase in poaching, smuggling and the seizure of illegal ivory," says Dr. Dietrich Jelden from the German Federal Office for Nature Conservation and head of the German CITES Authority. Others already speak of a return to the conditions of the eighties, when a wave of poaching swept the African continent. In the course of 2009 a lot of ivory was confiscated. The cause of this surge and the people behind it remain unknown. Currently nobody knows the reasons of the increase in smuggling. There is also no evidence that the poaching surge was fuelled by the CITES approved sale of 100 tons of ivory to China and Japan a year ago from ivory stocks held by Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Most of the confiscated ivory has been poached before that sale.

No doubt there is a huge market for both legal and illegal ivory in China, where the demand for the luxury items soars. Today traders and entrepreneurs from China appear in many places in Africa buy to buy raw material. "It is certainly no accident that in these places suddenly valuable timber is harvested illegally and poaching increases," says a professional hunter who knows the ropes in Mozambique and Tanzania.

Not many African countries provide assistance in combating illegal trade. For the last 20 years TRAFFIC, the organization which observes the illegal trade in ivory and other protected species on behalf of CITES, computes an index for the effectiveness of anti-poaching in elephant range countries. It is computed as a function between seizures in the country itself and abroad. For example in Angola the index value is simply zero. 160 times ivory from Angola was confiscated abroad; there were no seizures in Angola. Senegal, Equatorial Guinea and Togo have also zero success track record. Scarcely better is the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with an index of 0.01. Here the ratio is 6 to 396. Mali, Guinea, Ghana and Benin are at a similar level. The list goes on and on.

Tanzania is the home of the second largest elephant

population on the continent. This East African country wants to sell part of its ivory stockpile, but the situation there is not good either. The country, once praised for the effectiveness of its anti-poaching, expressed by an index of nearly 100 has suffered a dramatic downturn in the past few years. Simultaneously, ivory seizures from Tanzania increased abroad. The biggest cases in 2009 were: 11 tons in Hong Kong, 8 tons in Vietnam, 3.5 tons in the Philippines and 608 tusks in Japan. TRAFFIC puts this down to corruption in Tanzania; because of the large quantities organized crime is suspected to draw the strings. Tanzania also plays a special role as a transit country for ivory from other states.

The most dramatic poaching development in 2009 occurred in the five million acres Selous Game Reserve. The situation is worst in the northern part, where the tourist lodges are located. Guests can hear the rifle shots of the poachers.



Although the lodges summon scouts from the nearby park headquarters over the radio; but they arrive, if at all, the next day and pull out without accomplishing anything. There are increasingly indications that the rangers themselves are involved, as it had happened in the eighties. How else would you explain four elephants were shot down at the runway next to the main ranger station? Even within sight of tourists game rangers are hunting zebra and other game; the meat is then smoked and sold. One can hardly blame them, because for months their salaries are paid only infrequently, if ever. Towards the end of the 20th Century elephant poaching in the Selous had been reduced with German assistance from about 5,000 animals per year to almost zero. One of the key tools was the better financing of the park at that time. The finance minister had approved a scheme under which half of the hunting revenue of about five million US dollars was allowed to remain in the reserve. Of these funds rangers were well paid, vehicles and infrastructure were maintained and poaching was effectively curbed. This system has been overturned the Tanzanian government, and the allocation of little more than 600,000 US \$ in 2009 is not enough for to live or die. Astonishingly, even donor organizations who wanted to assist the wildlife management authority have been rejected.

The tourist lodges in the north have already registered

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### Africa: The Next Ivory Battle in the Making

more than 80 poaching cases in 2009; and their area covers only 2% of the total reserve area. "The entrance fees for tourists have been raised two and a half fold in the last two years, while the fund allocation to the reserve decreased and poaching increased by four fold," complained the managers of the hotel to the minister in charge. And they continued: "We categorically state that the elephants are on the run". Finally, after the leading newspapers of the country carried similar reports a helicopter supported police action was conducted in November 2009. In the first two weeks 70 people had been arrested already, weapons of all kinds were found and 100 kg of ivory as well as meat of giraffe, hippo and other wildlife was seized. However, practical experience has proven that such short-lived emergency operations are not suited to reverse a poaching trend. They are actually mostly window-dressing. One week after Operation Kipepeo, as it was called, was finished, everything went back to normal and tourist operators found a poaching camp which housed about 60 people near one tourist camp. 28 canoes and a big calibre rifle were found.

As detrimental as elephant poaching may be to some individual local elephant populations, the African elephant as a species will not be brought to the brink of extinction by poaching. In unmanaged populations, it is often the poachers who assume the job of the game ranger, namely, to reduce excessive populations. South Africa's elephant expert Ron Thomson, certainly the most radical pro-culling voice said "we must reduce the elephant population in Botswana from 150,000 to 5,000, in the Kruger National Park from 16,000 to 4,000 and in Zimbabwe's Hwange National park from 60,000 to 2,500, if we want to avoid irreparable harm to biodiversity.

Tanzania will soon publish the results of this year's elephant census. But it is likely that in the upper elephant carrying capacity of 110,000 elephant set in Tanzania's "Elephant Management Plan" has been exceeded in the meantime. Only 100 elephants are shot by visiting hunting tourists. This computes as just 0.1% of the population. The present poaching is probably also a reaction to the lack of a meaningful elephant management, which is prevented by a public opinion influenced heavily by the animal rights view. Proper organized elephant management, which would include more elephant hunting and possibly some culling could greatly contribute to the livelihoods of rural populations and to the income of the Wildlife Division. The poaching instead is destructive, destroys elephants' social structures, is cruel to the animals and spoils a valuable national resource.

Actually, Tanzania might have to resort to organized elephant culling now, if there were no poaching. But where to go with the ivory? The main Dar es Salaam store already contains 112 tons, in Arusha and Ngorongoro a further 13 tons are stored. The storage costs amount to approx. US\$ 120,000 a year, without Tanzania drawing any benefit from the ivory. "We have to build another ivory store, if we cannot sell," says the proposed Tanzanian CITES resolution. A construction company could easily be found for this project. The new six-storey office building housing the Tanzanian wildlife management authority next to the existing ivory storeroom was built by the Chinese!

## CIC Markhor Award: Request for Proposals

Dr. Rolf Baldus

### The CIC invites nominations for the next Markhor Award



The CIC Administrative Office and the CIC Tropical Game Commission invite nominations for the next CIC Markhor Award.

The Markhor Award recognizes and celebrates outstanding conservation performance by personalities, private and government institutions, enterprises or conservation projects that link the conservation of biodiversity and human livelihoods through the application of the principles of sustainable use, in particular hunting, as part of wildlife and ecosystem management. The award consists of a Markhor bronze statue and a financial reward.

The Award will be officially handed over to the prize winner during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties that will take place in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010.

Proposals, in particular by CIC members and national delegations, must reach the Administrative Office **before 15 March 2010**. The nomination must be accompanied by a documentation of the achievements. Details of eligibility criteria and the necessary documentation can be obtained from the CIC Administrative Office. The Prize winner is selected on the basis of biodiversity achievement by an international selection committee of personalities from inside and outside the CIC.

For information on the 2008 Markhor Award see: [www.cic-wildlife.org/index.php](http://www.cic-wildlife.org/index.php)

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# Hunters can make a difference!

CIC Press Release



What's biodiversity to you?

CIC calls on hunters around the world to participate in International Year of Biodiversity

The upcoming Year of Biodiversity 2010 is the unique chance to bring the hunters' efforts for conservation into the public focus! Don't miss out on this opportunity. The CIC calls hunters and hunting organisations around the world to actively participate in the global efforts to save the biodiversity we all so deeply depend on. Every hunter can act and serve as an ambassador for biodiversity conservation. During the Year of Biodiversity, the CIC will launch initiatives to showcase the key role of hunters in biodiversity conservation, culminating in the prize ceremony for the CIC Markhor Award for Outstanding Conservation Performance Through Sustainable Use at the Conference of the 193 countries that have joined the Biodiversity Convention CBD in Nagayo, Japan in October 2010.

Unwise use of natural resources has caused more damage in the last fifty years than in the whole of human history. We cannot afford to continue on this destructive path. Sustainable use, which includes hunting, is one of best ways to ensure the continued conservation of biological diversity. Nature provides and sustains the very existence of all of us, and unless we value the benefits we derive from using biological resources, we risk losing them in total – along with their intrinsic and cultural value.

A key to achieving long-lasting change is raising awareness of the significance and feasibility of sustainable use on a global scale. With its Markhor Award, the CIC has created one such instrument. The award celebrates the efforts of personalities, institutions and conservation projects linking the conservation of biodiversity and human livelihoods through the application of the principles of sustainable use – including hunting. The CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif particularly welcomed that "the CIC Markhor Award helps achieving recognition of projects and communities who have brought into the centre of their activities the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Use of Biodiversity". Mr Djoghlaif said "this is a unique award, in that it recognizes [...] the efforts of personalities, institutions and conservation projects who and which link the conservation of biodiversity and human livelihoods.

The International Year of Biodiversity is an opportunity for hunters and other conservationists to encourage people to discover the biodiversity that surrounds us, to realize its value, our connection to it and the consequences of its loss. Hunters spent more time in nature than most other people – we therefore must act to save it.

Yet, we need to inform ourselves. The Internet is a great place to start, find out more at [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int). Do your part! Develop your knowledge about biodiversity issues. Interest your family and friends and other hunters; Initiate a biodiversity project at your local hunting community. **Yes, YOU can do it... if we each do our part without waiting for others to do something first. YOU start, others will follow.**

## New Scientific Papers

- Bouché, P., P.-C. Renaud, P. Lejeune, C. Vermeulen, J.-M. Froment, A. Bangara, O. Fiongai, A. Abdoulaye, R. Abakar and M. Fay (2009) **Has the final countdown to wildlife extinction in Northern Central African Republic begun?** African Journal of Ecology, Online.
- Braude, S. and A.R. Templeton (2009) **Understanding the multiple meanings of 'inbreeding' and 'effective size' for genetic management of African rhinoceros populations.** African Journal of Ecology 47(4): 546-555.
- Brugiere, D. and B. Magassouba (2009) **Pattern and sustainability of the bushmeat trade in the Haut Niger National Park, Republic of Guinea.** African Journal of Ecology 47(4): 630-639.
- Chansa, W. and G. Kampamba (2009) **The population status of the Kafue Lechwe in the Kafue Flats, Zambia.** African Journal of Ecology, Online.
- Fredrick Wanyama, Richard Muhabwe, Andrew J. Plumptre, Colin A. Chapman, Jessica M. Rothman **Censusing large mammals in Kibale National Park: evaluation of the intensity of sampling required to determine change.** African Journal of Ecology, Online.
- Kahindi, O., G. Wittemyer, J. King, F. Ihwagi, P. Omondi and I. Douglas-Hamilton (2009) **Employing participatory surveys to monitor the illegal killing of elephants across diverse land uses in Laikipia-Samburu, Kenya.** African Journal of Ecology, Online.
- Mackey, R.L., B.R. Page, D. Grobler and R. Slotow (2009) **Modelling the effectiveness of contraception for controlling introduced populations of elephant in South Africa.** African Journal of Ecology 47(4): 747-755.
- Melletti, M. M. Mirabile, V. Penteriani and L. Boitani (2009) **Habitat use by forest mammals in Dzanga-Ndoki National Park, Central Africa Republic.** African Journal of Ecology 47(4): 797-800.
- Waltert, M., B. Meyer and C. Kiffner (2009) **Habitat availability, hunting or poaching: what affects distribution and density of large mammals in western Tanzanian woodlands?** African Journal of Ecology 47(4): 737-746.
- Waltert, M., M. Chuwa and C. Kiffner (2009) **An assessment of the puku (*Kobus vardonii* Livingstone 1857) population at Lake Rukwa, Tanzania.** African Journal of Ecology 47(4): 688-692.

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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## CBNRM Papers on the Web

Natural resource management by rural citizens in developing countries: innovations still required

Emmanuel Torquebiau and Russell D. Taylor

[PDF \(179.3 KB\)](#) [HTML](#)

The strategic pillars of communal natural resource management: benefit, empowerment and conservation

Marshall W. Murphree

[PDF \(171.6 KB\)](#) [HTML](#)

Community based natural resource management in Zimbabwe: the experience of CAMPFIRE

Russell Taylor

[PDF \(415.5 KB\)](#) [HTML](#)

Mobilizing for nature in southern African community-based conservation policies, or the death of the local

Estienne Rodary

[PDF \(187.2 KB\)](#) [HTML](#)

Parks-people conflicts: the case of Gonarezhou National Park and the Chitsa community in south-east Zimbabwe

Solomon Mombeshora and Sebastien Le Bel

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The challenge of participatory natural resource management with mobile herders at the scale of a Sub-Saharan African protected area

Aurélie Binot, Laurence Hanon, Daou Joiris & Dominique Dulieu

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Community hunting in logging concessions: towards a management model for Cameroon's dense forests

Cédric Vermeulen, Cecilia Julve, JL Doucet and David Monticelli

[PDF \(547.7 KB\)](#) [HTML](#)

## Ivory and China

Chinese who have come to Africa in skyrocketing numbers — as workers, entrepreneurs and tourists — are said to be fuelling the illegal ivory trade. Wildlife advocacy groups are launching a new campaign to educate Chinese in Africa about ivory and the penalties they could face for illegally bringing it back to China, but they want the Chinese government to step up its efforts to fight a problem that has grown dramatically in the last decade. In early 2010, TRAFFIC, the global wildlife monitoring network, will start distributing leaflets about ivory to Chinese tourists heading to Africa. About 100,000 leaflets will be given to travel agencies in major Chinese cities. Tourist groups will receive a pre-departure briefing informing them that it is illegal to carry or send back to China any ivory products from Africa. Tom Milliken, TRAFFIC's east and southern Africa program director, says he is pleased by the campaign, which is in partnership with the China National Tourism Administration and the U.N.-backed Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of

Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) management authority in China. But he says that leaflets are only a small step and the Chinese government must do more. "It's just so clear that the Chinese are so involved in this kind of illicit trade and there's nothing out there in languages that they're speaking and readily understand here in Africa to make them sit back and reassess what they're doing," Milliken said. "I think many people see it as an avenue to get rich quick and are not at all aware of the serious legal ramifications they face if they are caught back home," said Milliken.

## CITES Secretary General Expected in Zimbabwe

CITES Secretary General Willem Wijnstekers is expected in Zimbabwe in January for talks with President Robert Mugabe over rampant poaching decimating wildlife in the southern African country and said to involve top politicians and army officials. A senior official at the government's Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management said that the CITES official was also expected to meet Defense Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa, police chief Augustine Chihuri and Attorney General Johannes Tomana. Wijnstekers will discuss with Mnangagwa the alleged involvement of senior military officers in poaching while he seeks to establish with Chihuri and Tomana security measures put in place to curb illegal killing of protected wildlife and measures taken against those caught poaching including the levels of sentencing.

Poaching has been rife in Zimbabwe since landless black villagers began invading — with tacit approval from the government — white-owned farms and game conservancies over the past nine years. Some of the country's biggest state-owned nature and game conservancies including Gonarezhou national park that forms part of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier straddling across Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa have large parts occupied by villagers. In many cases farm invaders poach animals for meat and cut down trees for sale as firewood mostly to people living in urban areas.

But there has also been an upsurge in the poaching of endangered species such as the rhino targeted for its horn that is exported mainly to China and Vietnam where it is in huge demand. International syndicates working with local gangs are said to be behind rhino poaching. A joint-report released by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and wildlife trade monitoring network, TRAFFIC, about two weeks ago estimated that Zimbabwe's rhino population had declined by an alarming 14.7 percent since 2007 due to poaching.

There have also been reports of illegal and uncontrolled trophy hunting on former white-owned conservancies now controlled by powerful government officials and members of Mugabe's ZANU PF party politicians. The government however denies politicians are illegally hunting game and insists it still has poaching under control.

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## Strategic Economic Significance of Current High Levels of Poaching In Zimbabwe

**Source: Information presented at stakeholder conference on rhino conservation convened in Harare on 19 October 2009 by IUCN Species Survival Commission and Lowveld Rhino Trust.**

Zimbabwe is currently showing a severe lack of control over poaching of rhinos and elephants, along with many less prominent wildlife species that are being harvested for meat. Populations of black and white rhinos have been pushed into serious decline within Zimbabwe over the past three years. The national total now stands at approximately 430 black rhinos (compared to 550 at the end of 2007) and 300 white rhinos (compared to 340 at the end of 2006). Taking into account that there were births during this period to add to the initial populations, the actual loss of rhinos (both species) since the end of 2006 stands at well over 200 animals. This loss makes up half the total loss of rhinos to poaching over the entire African continent, within the period 2006-2009. Other range states such as South Africa still have sufficiently large rhino populations that their poaching losses over the past three years equate to well under 5% of their total populations and are sustainable (at present). In contrast to all other current rhino range states, Zimbabwe's poaching losses over the past three years equate to more than 25% of its population and are therefore unsustainable and severely threaten the survival of the species.

For elephants, the widespread poaching in northern Zimbabwe (Sebungwe and Zambezi regions) is less well monitored. The last major elephant survey in Zimbabwe was done several years ago. Analysis of data from this survey showed that poaching had brought the growth of elephant populations in Sebungwe to a halt by 2006. Compared to surveys conducted prior to 1990, the survey in 2006 showed that the number of elephant carcasses in the Sebungwe region had increased more than sixteen-fold. Since 2006, escalating reports of elephant poaching show that the situation is still worsening. At a national level Zimbabwe has an elephant population that is orders of magnitude greater than its tiny rhino population, and habitat destruction by elephants has become a controversial issue amongst conservationists, some of whom recommend culling while others oppose it. Nonetheless, the fact that the elephants in parts of the Sebungwe and Zambezi regions have now come under the management of poachers, for illegal gain, shows a loss of state control of this key wildlife resource.

The implications for the loss of control of poaching start with the fact that Zimbabwe cannot be said to be effectively implementing a policy of sustainable use of wildlife, as it has so proudly done for decades in the face of criticism from animal rightists, and from preservationist countries such as Kenya, that oppose safari hunting, trade in wildlife products and other consumptive uses of wildlife. If Zimbabwe is seen to be failing in this regard, it will come under criticism from both its foes (who oppose its wildlife management philosophy) and from its friends

who share this philosophy but have to protect it by making it clear that it is not the sustainable use approach that is failing - it is just that Zimbabwe is no longer implementing this philosophy effectively. Negative publicity on the wildlife crisis will fuel negative media reports, in turn impacting upon the willingness of tourists to visit Zimbabwe's wildlife attractions.

As a forthcoming focus on Zimbabwe's conservation track-record, the next CITES Conference of Parties (CoP15) will be held in March 2010 in Qatar. During this conference, Zimbabwe's record in rhino conservation since the last CITES conference will come under specific review as a consequence of CITES Decision 14.90 which requires the CITES Secretariat to examine implementation of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP14) where illegal poaching of rhinos appears to have increased and to pose a significant threat to populations, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nepal and Zimbabwe; and to report to CITES Standing Committee SC57, SC58 and CITES Conference CoP15.

Zimbabwe was subject to an adverse report at the last CITES Standing Committee meeting, mainly because of the very limited number of prosecutions that have been achieved for rhino poachers, which indicates weak law enforcement. This is not a situation that can be solved by simple military means. It requires basic law-enforcement through determined investigations and well prepared prosecutions, with particular attention paid to neutralizing the middlemen and traders and not simply the poachers. Therefore, it is the lack of attention to the higher levels of the poaching syndicates that is causing international concern and which is resulting in speculative media reports that senior politicians are linked to Chinese and other Asian outlets for rhino horn.

This speculation is enhanced by lax controls on the trading of worked ivory in Zimbabwe. Tusks from Zimbabwe have been confiscated in China with no more than marker pen scrawls on them, but have been described as "worked ivory".

Other Southern African countries are not trading in worked ivory except for a limited trade in traditional ivory artifacts that is permitted in Namibia. Registered Zimbabwean ivory dealers who have been found guilty of abusing their privileges in one way or another have not been heavily penalized (several such cases are likely to be referred to by the CITES Secretariat). Ongoing international criticism before and during the next CITES conference may initiate action by the CITES Secretariat to remove CITES approval for Zimbabwe's internal trade in worked ivory, on the basis that this trade is insufficiently regulated and controlled.

All rhino horn trade is totally illegal, in both domestic and international markets, so the next CITES conference is unlikely to identify specific new measures by which the CITES process can reduce illegal horn trading in Zimbabwe. However, if an adverse report is tabled at the CITES conference in terms on the rhino-related Decision 14.90, coupled with an adverse report on elephant poaching and weak internal regulation of ivory trade, this will have very adverse impacts on Zimbabwe's international conservation image.

If they feel that Zimbabwe is no longer demonstrating

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### Strategic Economic Significance of Current High Levels of Poaching In Zimbabwe

sustainable management of its key wildlife resources, some influential CITES members may then modify their own policies relating to importation of wildlife products (including safari trophies) from Zimbabwe. This foreseeable economic impact, along with the tarnished image that Zimbabwe will gain in the ecotourism business, has definite potential of significantly undermining wildlife-based land-uses in Zimbabwe to the detriment of the Parks Estate, the community-based wildlife projects, and commercial wildlife operations.

Thus the lack of control over poaching of elephants and rhinos is of direct and major economic significance to Zimbabwe's economic recovery.

## New Website of the CIC Tropical Game Commission

The CIC Tropical Game Commission has created its own website at [www.cic-sustainable-hunting-worldwide.org/publications.shtml](http://www.cic-sustainable-hunting-worldwide.org/publications.shtml). The Commission's President, Dr. Rolf D. Baldus, explained the motive: "We want to facilitate the access of interested individuals and organizations outside the CIC to our publications and information." The website is financed by advertisement and no cost to the CIC.

### Neue Webseite der Kommission Tropisches Wild

Die CIC Kommission Tropisches Wild hat unter [www.cic-sustainable-hunting-worldwide.org/publications.shtml](http://www.cic-sustainable-hunting-worldwide.org/publications.shtml) eine eigene Website eingerichtet. Der Präsident der Kommission, Dr. Rolf D. Baldus, begründete dies: "Wir wollen den Zugang der interessierten Öffentlichkeit zu unseren Publikationen und Informationen erleichtern." Die Website wird durch Werbung finanziert und belastet den CIC deshalb nicht mit Kosten.

### Nouveau site Web du Commission du gibier tropical

La Commission du Gibier Tropical du CIC a créé son propre site web, voir [www.cic-sustainable-hunting-worldwide.org/publications.shtml](http://www.cic-sustainable-hunting-worldwide.org/publications.shtml). Le président de la Commission, Dr Rolf D. Baldus, a expliqué le motif: «Nous voulons faciliter l'accès des individus et des organisations intéressés en dehors du CIC à nos publications et informations». Le site Web est financé par la publicité et est sans frais pour le CIC.

## 57th CIC General Assembly 6-9 May 2010 Dubrovnik, Croatia

For the second time - after the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 1983 - the CIC has the privilege to celebrate its General Assembly in Dubrovnik. Dalmatia is a region full of natural and cultural heritage. The most beautiful jewel of the region, also mentioned as "the Pearl of the Adriatic", is the old city of Dubrovnik, located in the southernmost and sunniest part of Croatia on a rocky shoreline above the sea, surrounded by picturesque islands. What more ideal scenery can you imagine for the next CIC General Assembly?

The assembly will be held from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> May 2010 in the Croatia Hotel, located in the charming little town of Cavtat, 18 km from the city Dubrovnik and very close to the International Airport. The program of the General Assembly as well as the registration and hotel booking forms can be downloaded in the members section in the CIC website ([www.cic-wildlife.org](http://www.cic-wildlife.org)) or by contacting the CIC Administrative Office in Budapest

The CIC objectives include:

- recognition of the global environment as a common concern to all of us,
- respect for all forms of life in their ecosystems,
- conservation of nature, mainly the fauna, in the interest of the present and future generations by preventive and precautionary measures,
- avoidance of the loss of biological diversity, especially through the protection of endangered species,
- sustainable use of natural resources as an important tool for social and economic benefits and therefore as an incentive for their conservation,
- harvesting of game through selective taking while respecting the natural ecosystems,
- improvement of wildlife management and land-use,
- promotion of scientific research, education as well as information to the public supporting our cause,
- provide advice to the public authorities, national and international organizations and answer their demands.

The CIC pledges to undertake everything in its capacity in order to ensure that these objectives are met in an ethical manner and that these principles become the basis for all its orbital interventions and activities.

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