

# AFRICAN INDABA

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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

## Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi Is Committed to the Professional Hunting Industry of South Africa

Extracts from the Address of Her Excellency, SA Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi to PHASA Delegates

The hunting industry makes a valuable contribution to the economy of our country and according to a report compiled by the Department, based on information provided by the provincial conservation authorities, the revenue generated directly through hunting, during 2009, amounts to R650 million. Owing to the forward and backward linkages of the hunting industry, the impact of the industry, both direct and indirect, is far larger than the aforementioned amount. I was informed that the study conducted by the North West University in 2007, indicated that the total contribution of your industry amounted to approximately R7.7 billion and this is quite significant.

I further value your active participation in government initiatives and processes. To mention but a few; your involvement in the Wildlife Forum; participation in the Round Table that my Department convened in May 2010, and the Minister's Rhino Summit in October 2010; the NGO Summit of two weeks ago, and in particular, in the legislative development processes. Your contribution to skills development and job creation within the environmental sector deserves to be mentioned. I am not sure how many other organizations can say that they have donated more than R2 million this year for the training of previously disadvantaged conservationists! I would urge you to continue with these initiatives, but to also focus on other initiatives to transform not only the hunting industry, but also the broader wildlife industry. Continued collaboration and cooperation between the Department and the industry can facilitate the development of such initiatives.

Acknowledging that you have concerns with regards to government processes that may impact on your industry, please allow me a few minutes to reflect on the progress made in terms of a number of issues:

1. The Hunting Norms and Standards is in the process of being finalized and I should mention that due to the amendment to the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, that now provides the Minister with the

mandate to make regulations relating to the hunting industry; the final Norms and Standards will not include regulatory provisions.

2. The Department has just initiated the process to amend the Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) Regulations as well as the Threatened or Protected Species lists. Where until now a permit has been required to carry out any restricted activity involving a listed threatened or protected species, I am positive that the upcoming amendment process will provide for much more effective implementation of the regulations, as we will now be able to exempt a person from many of the impractical provisions.
3. Although a complete proposal has not been developed yet, discussions are taking place to identify and explore possible areas for self-administration. I understand that this is an important aspect for the industry.

New government initiatives that have been given effect to during the past year include:

1. The development of a National Strategy for the Safety and Security of Rhinoceros populations in South Africa, which was necessitated by the increase in rhino poaching and illegal international trade in rhino horn. The purpose of the strategy is to reduce the effect of rhino poaching, ensure the successful prosecution of offenders and to improve the

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Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs Rejoice Mabudafhasi

management of rhino horn stock piles. Here, I want to commend PHASA for their contribution of R 377 000.00 to rhino conservation.

2. Linked to the development of the rhino strategy is the establishment of an interim National Wildlife Crime Reaction Unit to respond to wildlife crimes, and in particular to rhino poaching and the illegal rhino horn trade.
3. The establishment of a Biodiversity Special Investigations Unit within the Biodiversity and Conservation branch of the Department.

Having mentioned progress in existing initiatives and the development of new initiatives, I want to acknowledge that there certainly are areas where the cooperation between government and industry can improve. We furthermore also need to collaborate with other departments and organizations, especially the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in terms of its legislation that effect the wildlife and hunting industry; and the Department of Tourism in terms of marketing.

It is reassuring to know that PHASA does not condone unethical hunting, and that your organization has a Code of Conduct through which you discipline members who participate in unacceptable hunting practices. Lastly, I would like to request PHASA to continue to communicate and collaborate with government, to communicate government initiatives to your members, and to participate in these initiatives. It is only through continued communication and participation that we will be able to together improve and expand our hunting industry.

**Editor's Note: In the following we provide additional information from the joint press release issued by the Ministry of Water and Environmental Affairs and PHASA:**

PHASA, founded in 1978, is a voluntary, non-profit and non-racial association with more than 1100 members who are bound by its constitution and code of conduct. The organization is part of an extensive global network of international hunting and conservation bodies allowing it to remain at the forefront of international development affecting its industry. PHASA members pledged their full support to PHASA's direction to self administer, improve and expand its impact on conservation, social upliftment, empowerment and economic development. PHASA's annual 3-day Convention and Annual General Meeting was attended by 160 delegates, including presidents and dignitaries from international organizations. PHASA is being acknowledged as the national body in South Africa for the professional hunting industry and is currently the largest organization of its kind world-wide. PHASA president Eduard Katzke confirmed PHASA's approach for the industry to be the primary footprint in terms of socio economic development, specifically in South Africa's rural areas, and furthermore creating foreign direct investment and influx of foreign currency. "To ensure the sustainability of the industry, we are committed to responsible utilization of our natural resources for life and livelihoods. This is being achieved by means of effective management and direct investments", Katzke said.

Dr. David Mabunda, CEO of SANPARKS, stressed at the association's gala banquet on Wednesday night, that in the mid 1900's, wildlife was under extreme threat. Statistics indicate that South Africa has 60% more wildlife biomass now than at the

turn of the century. Privately owned land devoted to wildlife is roughly three times more than National and Provincial Parks and the number of game animals on privately owned game farms is approximately twice of that present in the country's Parks. This is a direct impact of responsible, ethical hunting practices and the demand it has created over the past few decades.

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## The War on Rhinos: More Thoughts on Horn Trade and Traditional Oriental Medicine

Gerhard R Damm

The slaughter of rhinos continues virtually unabated – there is hardly a day when we don't read or hear about new gruesome discoveries. What can be done to prevent that South Africa, once the cradle of rebirth of the rhino, eventually becomes its final graveyard?

Is legalized trade the answer? Such an approach certainly has its merits, since it would deal with a considerable stockpile of privately and government owned rhino horn. Without an outlet, such stocks do not only become the target of criminal elements (like at Thaba Manzi Game Lodge near Bela Bela just a couple of weeks ago), but also incur prohibitively high costs. The destruction of horn stocks is a too simplistic solution, and as wasteful as Kenya's ivory burning ceremony years ago.

Yet, legalizing even very restricted trade channels will also have consequences which need to be thoroughly analyzed. Legalization of rhino horn trade in whatever form can only be tabled at and decided by the Conference of the Parties of CITES. The next full CITES meeting takes place in 2013. The South African CITES Delegation must submit a comprehensive proposal to the 16<sup>th</sup> CoP, and the voting members of must accept such a proposal with a two thirds majority. The bitter divisions across the African continent caused by the elephant ivory debate during previous CITES conferences leave but little hope for a trade acceptance. Whatever decision is made in 2013 – for the rhinos, it may be too little and too late. The well meaning proponents of legalized trade in rhino horn argue that the release of existing stocks will drive down prices and will make organized poaching unprofitable. It is, however, conceivable that legalization and the wider accessibility of products containing rhino horn may drive up demand. Rhino horn is used as ingredient of traditional medicines, not only in China, but practically throughout East and Southeast Asia (please read also the articles on pages 14 to 18 Frequently Asked Questions: Rhino Dehorning by Faan Coetzee of the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Rhino Security Project and Richard Ellis' book extract "Rhino Horn: Facts and Myths" for further details).

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 The War on Rhinos: More Thoughts on Horn Trade and TCM

Teams of Chinese and western resource economists really will have to dig deep to evaluate and understand the market dynamics before any informed decision can be made. And this evaluation is not a simple exercise in western marketing science. The thousands of years of practicing Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) add factors of yet unknown complexity.

To put matters into perspective, I made a purely hypothetical calculation. The 2007 population of the People's Republic of China numbered ca 1.321 billion. Let us assume that a mere 0.1% (one tenth of a percent) has the desire and means to consume rhino horn as part of their use of TCM products. This means that ca 1.3 million Chinese could be potential consumers of products containing rhino horn. If the consumed medicine contain only 1 gram of rhino horn and a product containing one gram of processed rhino horn is consumed once a week, the calculation for the yearly requirement of rhino horn would be

$$\frac{1.3 \text{ million people} \times 1 \text{ gram} \times 52 \text{ weeks}}{= 67.6 \text{ million grams or } 67,600 \text{ kg or } 67.6 \text{ tons}}$$

I have made no assumptions regarding the average weight of a rhino horn (primary plus secondary horn), but one can probably say that horn material from more than 15,000 rhino per year is needed to sustainably supply this hypothetical market. Neither the rhino horn stocks in private and official custody, nor the horn of all presently living rhino will be able to meet such a market demand and even resorting to the controversial intensive breeding of rhinos will not bring relief for many years to come. The resource economists should urgently analyze this!

Primarily, we must focus on national law enforcement, quick convictions and severe punishment of rhino poachers. Law enforcement actions and sentences in courts of law in South Africa need to set highly visible examples. It appears that we are now seeing some progress. President Jacob Zuma is calling for INTERPOL involvement and Defense Minister Lindiwe Sisulu, following a call from SANParks considers using SADF units and unmanned drones to target rhino poachers. As reported by News 24, the minister said "initially we might just paint [the poacher] red and arrest him, but as time goes on we will take more drastic measures," although she did not elaborate on what these measures might be.

CITES, ICPO-INTERPOL, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization have signed a Letter of Understanding during the International Tiger Forum in November 2010 in St. Petersburg to bring into effect the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime. China and Viet Nam were amongst the countries who endorsed the St. Petersburg Declaration, which included *inter alia* halting poaching and illegal trade of tigers and tiger products. South African diplomats could use this development for the establishment of an International Rhino Forum and the CIC General Assembly in St. Petersburg in May 2011 could provide the international platform for this event. The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Council and the "Save Our Species" initiative ([www.SOSpecies.org](http://www.SOSpecies.org)) may be an appropriate source for funding a really decisive attack of those who threaten the last remaining rhinos of the world.

In the Far East the focus must be on science to evaluate

the potential or non-existent medical properties of medicines containing rhino horn, and whether there are any ethically acceptable substitutions like the horn of water buffalo, as has been suggested by some. There must also be a strong educational focus. The Chinese population needs to be informed of plight of the remaining rhino populations in a comprehensive media campaign (that the Chinese people are insensitive for conservation issues is a wide spread but nonetheless untrue myth).

The somewhat dated western-lead efforts by Hoffmann-LaRoche and the Zoological Society of London concentrated on proving that there are no curative powers in rhino horn. One is tempted to suggest that most TCM practioners never heard of the studies and results, and if they did, they probably did not put much faith in studies based on western medicine. It is indispensable that the Chinese Government and the Chinese Society of Traditional Chinese Medicine urgently commission their own public studies into the medical properties at Chinese universities under the leadership of Chinese scientists. The involvement of international scientific capacities in such studies will be a bonus, but the initiative and leadership must come from China in order to produce a result credible to the practioners and users of TCM.

## Report From Angola

Pedro vaz Pinto

### Cangandala NP

Years of hard work and recent months of expectations finally paid off when, in July 27th (precisely one year since we caught the first giant sable bull in Luando), we were shown by the proud herd in the sanctuary, a little calf! The first pure calf in years to be born in Cangandala NP, and reason for renewed hope. It is a motivating milestone, and living proof that we are on the right track. A nice young male In truth what we need right now are female calves to maximize future breeding, but he was nevertheless much welcomed.



As the dry season progressed, and in spite being joined by the little one and its mother (the dominant female, Neusa nº10), the group got grew more relaxed, and we managed to get

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them used to our regular presence from close distance. The early burning in the drainage line allowed for crucial fresh grazing throughout the season, bringing the sable daily out of the woodland in the afternoons to graze in the open, and thus giving us plenty of opportunities for nice photos. This of course will not last, as the approaching rainy season will soon send the animals back into the thick bush.



For at least a couple months while we have been following the group, the most striking aspect has been the conspicuous absence of one female. She (n°10) was a healthy animal so we can only guess that she might be calving or rearing a young calf. So we hope she will soon rejoin with company... As for the remaining herd, most animals look healthy enough and two females in particular (n°12 and n°20) clearly seemed to be pregnant when we visited them last, in late August (in the meantime, bureaucratic constraints have interrupted the regular monitoring – but are expected to be resumed very soon).

On a sad note however, the limping female (n°17) seems to be getting considerably worse, showing a very swollen hock, and as she struggles to keep pace with the rest of the group, her physical condition has been plummeting fast. Some sort of intervention seems inevitable, and options are being discussed now.

A very important task that was concluded successfully (although not quite as planned), was the expanding of the enclosure. We intended to build a second fence perimeter, 16km linking to the sanctuary and in similar fashion, and then, once finished, we would open the dividing fence. This would step up the sanctuary from 400 to 2,900 hectares, improving enormously the habitat conditions for the animals. Everything went more or less smoothly till the last few days of fence-building, when a poaching incident (a few shots were fired) southeast of the fence line induced the whole hybrid group to cross into the perimeter, jumping the fence where it was still laid down (Photo 13). By the time the work was finished, we realized that we had involuntarily

managed to catch the hybrid group! We had been a bit concerned about the possibility of catching an odd roan, but grabbing the hybrid herd looked like a very long shot... Needless to say that if we tried to pull out such a trick on purpose, we would never succeed.



But as result of this stunt, we are, yet again, forced to devise a new plan, and hopefully making the most of the evermore-bizarre circumstances. But opening the devising fence now, is obviously not an option.

Among several options being considered, an interesting plan could be building yet a third enclosure in 2011, and then proceed to translocate all the hybrids (while sterilizing the males) from the current enclosure to the new one; simultaneously we would try to bring a couple more bulls and a few females from Luando, and manage carefully the first two enclosures for separate breeding. The third enclosure could be temporarily used to contain not only the hybrids but also the non-breeding pure bulls, and this could be developed for tourism, while keeping the breeding enclosures protected and quiet.

Still early days, but it seems clear that 2011 will see a lot of action once more.

As for the hybrid herd itself, I can only guess that the group is complete, but at this stage we cannot rule out the possibility that it includes a roan or, unlikely but not impossible, a lost pure sable female. We tried a few times to get close, but the area is relatively large and the animals are very nervous, so the most we could get were short glimpses. In any case we could confirm that the herd comprises of at least 10 animals (maybe more). As we estimate the hybrid numbers to be between 10 and 12, that wasn't totally unexpected. We were very curious to check the trap camera record, especially hoping to have a better look on one of the suspected second-generation hybrid calves. One camera was lost as result of the seasonal fires, taking some impressive shots just a few seconds before being consumed by flames. We had struggled to keep the fires under control this

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Report From Angola

year, and it even slowed down the fence building when a pile of new wooden poles also disappeared up in smoke.

The hybrid herd was photographed a couple times, and yes, we did record a calf! But only one photo, and didn't look anything like what we expected. Again a surprise. We were guessing it would be a very ugly beast, probably an F2 with crazy phenotype combination between both species – maybe a freak having barely managed to survive through gestation and just lucky to be alive. Or maybe it would resemble a roan, if it was a backcross hybrid X roan... But instead, this calf in fact resembles a pure sable calf!!! It's a shame we only got one usable photo. The head does look like perfect giant sable calf, if anything maybe the legs are a bit too long?... In any case this was a shocker and as I see it, we have three ways of explaining this:



1. It's a backcross between one of the hybrid females and the lone young giant sable bull that we know should be around somewhere, although not seen recently or ever near the hybrids. We would be facing a calf that is 75% sable and 25% roan, and this would be the worst case scenario in terms of the species conservation.
2. It's a crazy F2 (hybrid female X hybrid male). After all, who knows how an F2 should look like in the first place? Could result in an ugly freak, but I suppose it could as well resemble in phenotype any of the original species...
3. It would be a pure giant sable. This of course would only be possible if we still had at least one pure cow among the hybrid herd, and somehow she had managed to find the lonely pure bull and produce offspring. We can't rule out this possibility, but as much as we would love to believe it, so far we have found no evidence to support it. It's a one in a million shot, but we won't rest until we have all the individuals singled out and identified.

As for the rest of the camera record, we obtained the usual species such as roan, duiker, bushbuck, porcupine and warthog. Interesting to see on one occasion, were one duiker and bushbuck females eating soil simultaneously.

### Luando Reserve

In the reserve, our focus has been strengthening the still very modest law enforcement system, while trying to monitor the giant sable group already localized and attempting to find more animals.

We travelled to Luando, taking with us a couple shepherds from Cangandala who are more experienced and better trained, to assist the shepherds in Luando reserve. We also took the opportunity to deploy two new bikes (Photo 18) for the senior shepherds (two other bikes had already been placed in Cangandala), and these are expected to make a huge improvement on the law enforcement activities in the reserve. While there and during a routine patrol, we were able to detain a poacher and apprehend his shotgun.

In Quimbango, we have been recuperating Estes' old house by the beautiful Quimbango stream. It is a tribute to the great scientist, but it will also become the central research base, while providing support for law enforcement in the mean time.

The trap camera record in Luando was as frustrating as ever. Cameras placed in new salt lick locations spread out over hundreds of kilometers produced similar results: a lot of roan and no sable! We obtained about twenty independent roan records and not one single sable event! This of course can't be a good sign. A modest consolation was obtaining some really interesting behavioral sequences, including scent marking by a bull in one day, and then being picked up by a young male a few days later. Other wildlife included warthogs, bushpigs, duikers, reedbuck and waterbuck.

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## Book Review: Hunting – In Search of the Wild Life.

### Edited by Nathan Kowalsky

Peter Flack (For information on Peter Flack, his books, DVDs and articles see [www.peterflack.co.za](http://www.peterflack.co.za))

*Editor's Note:* Some people think the age-old pastime of hunting is a great way to get food, while others think it is ethically reprehensible to kill Bambi just for dinner. *Hunting: In Search of the Wild Life* (September 2010) examines the ethical justification of hunting and controversy while moving beyond it ("What You Can't Learn from Cartoons: Or, How to go Hunting After Watching Bambi"), to investigate why we hunt, the stereotypes of hunters, its cultural value, and the environmental issues ("Hunting: A Return to Nature?") associated with the practice. Featuring contributions from a wide range of academic and non-academic sources, including both hunters and non-hunters, this book is for general readers, especially those who hunt ("Hunting for Meaning: A Glimpse of the Game"), as well as self-professed "foodies" and vegetarians ("Hunting Like a Vegetarian: Same Ethics, Different Flavors"). The essays explore the fundamental questions of death, embodiment, nonhuman life, and morality, and the relationship of the hunter and the prey ("Flesh, Death, and Tofu: Hunters, Vegetarians, and Carnal Knowledge"). As David Pe-

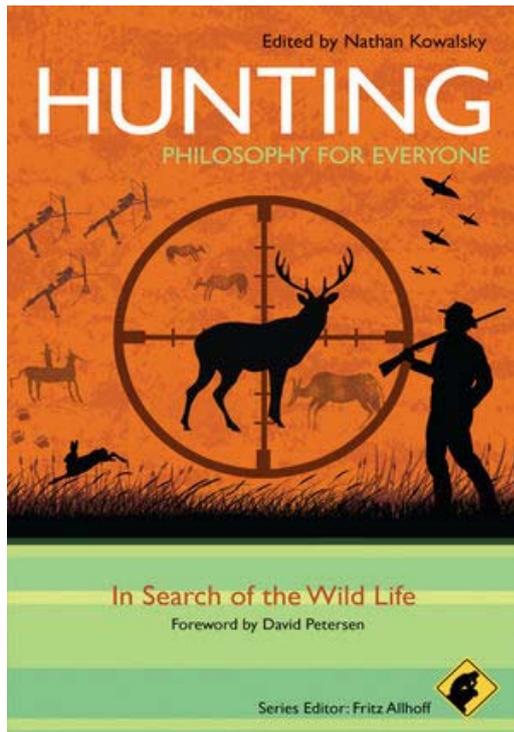
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In Search of the Wild Life. Edited by Nathan Kowalsky

tersen writes in the foreword, "In my long and shaggy life, I've known no better philosophy teacher than hunting." Special chapters on the sub-cultures of hunting such as bow hunting ("Big Game and Little Sticks: Bow Making and Bow Hunting"), women hunters ("The New Artemis? Women Who Hunt"), trophy hunting ("Living with Dead Animals? Trophies as Souvenirs of the Hunt"), and politics ("Off the Grid: Rights, Religion and the Rise of the Eco-Gentry"), form an eclectic and comprehensive window into the world of hunting as a tradition and sport.



Some months ago I received a request to contribute a chapter to a book on hunting philosophy. I was battling to meet a deadline on a project and probably did not pay as much attention to the request as I should have. I dashed off a reply and was not totally dismayed when my offer was politely declined by the editor, Nathan Kowalsky, an assistant professor of philosophy at St. Joseph's College, University of Alberta, and promptly forgot about the book until I received a notice that it was available and immediately bought a copy. Just in the nick of time as things turned out

My god son, Tyghe Carstens returned recently from a successful sable hunt in Western Zambia with his father and, at my request, wrote an article on his experiences there. Although he is only 26 years old, Tyghe has been hunting since the age of seven on a regular basis and, in my opinion, is both an excellent and ethical hunter. Towards the end of the article he wrote, "As I gazed at the magnificent beast lying in front of me, emotion washed over and through me and I experienced a feeling never felt before in my 19 years of hunting. Taking the life of an animal as magnificent as this, forced me to question my motives as a hunter. The glaring question being: why take the life of the "King of Antelopes"?"

Reading between the lines, I guessed he was expecting me to help answer the question. A question I suspect that every serious hunter has, at one stage or another, asked himself in one form or another. I know I have. In the early days, before I had thought through my own answer to this question, I would fob off people questioning my motives by saying that hunting brought me closer to nature, that I valued the camaraderie around the campfire, that hunters paid for conservation and that we were a necessary part of game management. All these reasons were valid, of course, but not the real answer to the question. Over the years, I have come to accept that hunting, quite simply, satisfies something deep within me. I suspect that, for some of us, the hunting our forefathers did to provide for and protect their families over tens of thousands of years has not been sent to our recycle bins but remains etched on our hard drives.

David Petersen quotes Edward Abbey in his foreword to the book, *Hunting Philosophy for Everyone - In Search of the Wild Life*, as follows: "The out-of-doors is our true ancestral state. For a mere few thousand years we have grubbed in the soil and laid brick upon brick to build the cities; but for millions of years before that we lived the leisurely, free, and adventurous life of hunters and gatherers. How can we pluck that deep root of feeling from the racial consciousness? Impossible!"

He goes on to add, "As Edward Abbey suggests, the tenacious human urge to hunt, which feels so much like instinct to those of us who know it, *is* instinct, arising from the deepest primitive call of our species' memory; a genetic predisposition, often sublimated yet very much still with and within our opportunistic omnivorous species.

And the flip side of this same coin, a self evident biological fact that hunting's harshest philosophical critics failed to grasp or at least to acknowledge, is that a complementary instinctive *need to be hunted* is built into all evolved prey species. Without the perpetual continuation of the precise sort of physical and mental exercise provided by predation and evasion, our spectacular prey species, so beautifully sculpted by the artful knife of natural selection, would soon devolve into mere thin shadows of their artful wild selves.

Predation and evasion comprise a sacred game, without which no living thing would be the same – without which no living thing would even *be*. In a world with no predation – where no living organism sucks its sustenance from other living organisms - there would be no food, no adaptive evolution, no quality control via culling of the least fit, and no you or me."

On a much more pragmatic note, Valerius Geist points out in his chapter, *The Carnivorous Herbivore: Hunting and Culture in Human Evolution*, the unique human characteristics that suggest we have been hunting since the earliest stages in human evolution. We possess an enzyme to digest elastin, a fiber of animal origins; we require victim B 12, a molecule made only by animals; and we can change trans-fats produced in the rumen of cows or deer into the health promoting conjugated linoleic acids. We could only involve such biochemistry if, from antiquity onwards, the meat and fat of animals were an essential part of our diet.

Like many other hunters I read Ortega y Gasset's *Meditations on Hunting* when searching for my own answers and

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found the book helpful but also confusing at times. This new book I suggest may be no different but it does provide fresh perspectives by both academic and non academic authors on a variety of hunting topics such as hunting in culture, politics and tradition; the relationship of hunting to nature and human nature and the hoary old topic of hunting ethics. But don't let the latter put you off. In my opinion, I found it the most refreshing book of its kind that I have read in years.

It is beyond the scope of this book review to try and explain the various answers to the question Tyghe has asked. To find them, you must read the various articles which will gradually lead you to a conclusive answer. Suffice it to say, that by hunting animals we learn "to love life on its own terms". The book contains 19 chapters each by a different author and is a soft cover book of 258 easy to read pages. It costs \$11.99 plus postage and can be ordered online from the publishers at [www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com). In fact, I have ordered a copy for my god son. Maybe it will help him answer his questions for himself. That would be the best possible way don't you think?

#### About the Editors

Nathan Kowalsky is the Editor of [Hunting: In Search of the Wild Life](#). He is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at St. Joseph's College, University of Alberta. He has published essays in the journals *Environmental Ethics* and *Ethical Perspectives* and in the book *The Ranges of Evil: Multidisciplinary Studies in Human Wickedness*. He has also served as a consultant to Environment Canada (a ministry of the Canadian government). His research interests concern the intersection of environmental philosophy and ethics with the philosophy of religion and the philosophy of culture.

Fritz Allhoff is the Series Editor of the Philosophy for Everyone series. He is an Assistant Professor in the Philosophy Department at Western Michigan University, as well as a Senior Research Fellow at The Australian National University's Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics. In addition to editing the *Philosophy for Everyone* series, Allhoff is also the volume editor or co-editor for several titles, including *Wine & Philosophy* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2007), *Whiskey & Philosophy* (with Marcus P. Adams, Wiley, 2009), and *Food & Philosophy* (with Dave Monroe, Wiley-Blackwell, 2007).

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## We Hunt, Therefore, We Are!

Michael A. Sawyers Cumberland Times-News

It was the day before Thanksgiving. I don't remember the exact year, but that's OK. I know it was the early 1990s. I looked around and thought, "I am never going to forget this scene" and I haven't. My father, Frank, and I had hunted hard for the first three days of the West Virginia firearms season. As we started off the ridge, down the old dirt road through an open meadow in Lewis County, the top of the sun was disappearing somewhere over Ohio or Indiana. To the east, in the direction we would soon be headed in Dad's old pickup, the full moon had risen, sitting overtop, probably, his home in Cumberland or mine in Rawlings.

To our left, on the crest, was an old shooting shack from which the day before I had killed an 8-point buck with dark, thick, high antlers. A few years later I would catch hell from hunting friend Jerry Staggs of Hampshire County because I sawed off the antlers and used them to rattle. "Don't ever do that to antlers that nice again," Staggs ordered. I haven't, but that is only because I have not gotten any antlers of that size since then.

As Dad and I descended, one of those warm evening winds shot up the hollow, a refreshing caress to our cold cheeks. Dad's orange hunting coat with the nylon shell, the kind that makes too much noise, stood out. His noggin was topped with the orange baseball-style cap that never seemed to fit just right.

John Kirby, of Frostburg, who used to enjoy the Smoke Hole with my father, has often quoted him. "Frank Sawyers always said if you are going fishing to catch fish you are going for the wrong reason," Kirby has said. Dad approached hunting the same way. Antlers, to him, were merely a part of the deer you didn't eat, just like an ear or a hoof or the tail, though they made

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We Hunt, Therefore, We Are!

good handles for pulling the animal out of the woods. Much, but not all, of my father's hunting philosophy has molded my own approach.

I like big antlers if that is what happens to be on the head of the deer I tag. But I like little antlers, too. Sometimes I like no antlers. So... that's why we hunt, to remember orange coats and warm winds and a walk down a moonlit-sunlit dirt road with a father who has since moved on ahead of the rest of us to scout some new woods and mountains.

As we hunker down to enjoy the many seasons — some of which have begun and others that approach — I want to share with you what others have said about why we hunt.

**David Petersen, author and conservationist:** *We take from hunting what we put into it, just as with the rest of life. Hunting can open doors only if we think about what we are doing and why; only if we work at it honestly, with no loutish shortcuts; and only if we intend it to be physically, spiritually and even aesthetically rewarding.*

**Ted Kerasote, outdoor writer:** *De-emphasize the record book and the pursuit of trophies for the trophy's sake. This is not to say that animals will no longer be admired and that taxidermists need be put out of business. Rather, we would stop valuing animals by so many inches of horn or antler.*

**Richard Nelson, author:** *During a year I spent in the arctic coastal village of Wainwright, I was struck by the fact that Inupiaq men lived to hunt as much as they hunted to live.*

**José Ortega y Gasset, Spanish philosopher:** *One does not hunt in order to kill; on the contrary, one kills in order to have hunted.*

**Shane Mahoney, Canadian biologist:** *We should engage in a continent wide explosion of congratulation to North America and peoples who live here, for we have achieved what most of the world can only dream about ... wildlife abundance in the midst of human population increases and enough fire power to destroy every living creature. Instead we have geese on our lawns, turkeys in our driveways, deer in our fields and bears in our apple trees!*

**Jim Posewitz, Orion The hunter's institute:** *Hunting is one of the last ways we have to exercise our passion to belong to the earth, to be part of the natural world, to participate in the ecological drama, and to nurture the ember of wilderness within ourselves.*

**Meshach Browning, Garrett County hunter, 1781 to 1859:** *... but the deer was so fat, and the venison was so tender, that I thought it was fully equal to, if not better, than any I had ever eaten.*

Outdoor Editor Mike Sawyers can be contacted at [msawyers@times-news.com](mailto:msawyers@times-news.com)

## CapeNature Extends Species Range

CapeNature Press Release

CapeNature has announced that it has authorized the extension of the range for certain species of wildlife in the Western Cape. "From as early as the end of September 2010, extended ranges for wildlife species such as bontebok and blesbok are envisaged, whilst gemsbok, kudu, black wildebeest and giraffe can be translocated legally throughout the Western Cape, as an interim agreement and depending on CapeNature Board approval," CapeNature said.

The body had previously prohibited the species from parts of the province and the current arrangement is the result of negotiations between CapeNature, the provincial government and representatives of the game and hunting industry.

"CapeNature's draft translocation policy is an internal policy, regulating the translocation of mammals in the Western Cape. It would now be amended in such a way that most species indigenous to South Africa as recommended by the Forum could be allowed into the Western Cape, provided that the associated ecological and environmental risks are adequately addressed in the policy and managed on the ground." CapeNature conducted a public participation process in Citrusdal on August 3 and, despite not having everyone present, felt that there was broad support for the policy.

"The requirements of the relevant industry must be taken into account during the formulation of government policies" said MEC for local government, environmental affairs and development planning Anton Bredell, whose department initiated the negotiations.

Bredell said that CapeNature would continue to manage conservation effectively in the province, but that it would allow input from the game and hunting industry which contributes R300m to the national economy, according to industry figures. "CapeNature's translocation policy will continue to uphold conservation and ecological principles in line with international agreements, and national and provincial legislation." Bredell also urged all parties to work together and hinted that his department would ensure co-operation. "In a spirit of co-operative governance and transparency the forum members must continue to work together to address concerns raised by the industry, and to ensure the wise utilization of natural resources.

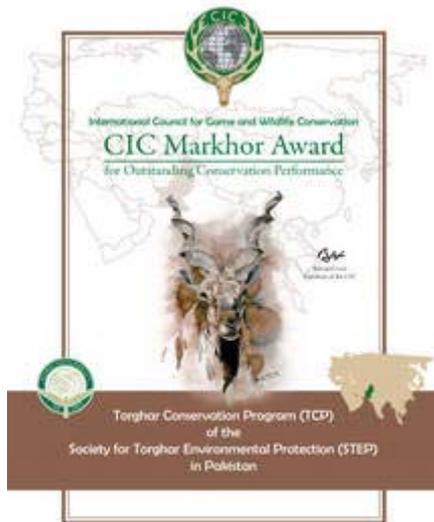
"The Western Cape Administration realizes the economic contribution that the industry makes to the province. We want to put systems in place that support the industry, whilst ensuring we maintain our biodiversity treasures for future generations." Once this CapeNature's Board Conservation Committee is satisfied with the draft policy, it would then make a recommendation for the final approval of the policy at the Board meeting, scheduled for January 24 2011.



# CIC Markhor Award 2010 Goes To Pakistan

CIC Press Release

*Editor's Note: The first CIC Markhor Award was presented in 2008 to 29 communities in the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor and the Niassa Game Reserve during the 9<sup>th</sup> CoP of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Bonn/Germany. As 2010 recipient the international panel selected the the Torghar Conservation Program (TCP) of the Society for Torghar Environmental Protection (STEP) in Pakistan. The Niassa Game Reserve and the Torghar Initiative use hunting and sustainable use of wildlife and for the alleviation of poverty and thus create strong incentives to conserve nature. The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) represents a truly international network of experts in sustainable hunting and wildlife conservation. This necessarily very pluralistic network represents varying yet converging national interests and wildlife conservation models. This unique CIC structure amongst international hunting associations, with government members, scientific advisors and experts, universities and passionate individual members of international reputation on one hand and the accreditation of the CIC as IUCN member and partner of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) makes the CIC a powerful player on the international fields where the future of hunting is debated and decided. The CIC creates goodwill for hunting on the international stage of the global village. If you are interested in the work of the CIC please refer to the box on page 10 in this issue.*



On October 20th the world community took stock in Nagoya, Japan of its commitment made in 2002, when heads of governments decided at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa that they wanted to reduce the rate of loss of nature and biodiversity by the year 2010. The objective to reduce the loss of nature has been met in some parts of the world through extraordinary and creative approaches. The prestigious Markhor Award of the International

Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) is recognizing and celebrating outstanding conservation performance that links 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 CIC, supported by FACE invited the world community at the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan to attend a festive show for the Markhor Award 2010 Ceremony. First, the IAF gave an account on their impressive success in saving the peregrine falcon. The entire ceremony was accompanied by the European champions in bird whistling from Italy and France and then the winner of the Markhor Award 2010 for Outstanding Conservation Performance was announced: Torghar Conservation Program (TCP) of the Society for Torghar Environmental Protection (STEP) in Pakistan

A roar of cheers went through the rows of more than one thousand attending guests (most of them non-hunters) and a group of smiling people in the national costumes of Baluchistan/Pakistan climbed the stage. What a moment of recognition of decades of work. Local communities and international trophy hunting, a true symbiosis of success. Congratulations to all, who contributed to the success. "There seems to be mounting evidence that sustainable use is a viable path for conservation of nature, as also "The Economist" recently published a major article on the subject", Tamás Marghescu, Director General of CIC said. (*Editor's Note: Readers who are interested in more details about the exemplary successes in straight-horned markhor and Baluchi urial conservation and sustainable use should go to: <http://undp.org.pk/trophy-hunting-programme-from-balochistan-gets-international-award.html> or google Torghar for a vast selection of articles).*



Representatives of TCP and STEP Receive the Markhor Award

The Ceremony was concluded by Felix with his campaign: "[Stop Talking, Start Planting. Talking alone will not keep glaciers from melting and rainforests from disappearing](#)", he said. Felix Finkbeiner (13) from Bavaria is mobilizing children in more than 72 countries to fight for their own future by planting

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CIC Markhor Award 2010 Goes To Pakistan

trees since he finished his grade 4 class-presentation in January 2007 with the words: „Let’s plant a million trees in each country of the world.” Felix, member of the UNEP Junior Board demanded that tree planting required also the sustainable harvest of wood, the long term storage of wood in construction and the regrowth of harvested timber in order to maximize CO<sub>2</sub> storage for battling climate change.

The sustainable use evening in Nagoya was ending with a ceremony and party organized by the Countdown 2010 movement (coordinated by IUCN) in cooperation with CIC, celebrating the successes of the 2010 biodiversity target. Nagoya will in the next few days be the scene, where nature conservation sets its new target for the future and for sure, sustainable use will have a stake in it. The CIC thanks for support received from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular its Executive Secretary, Dr. Achmed Djouglaf, the CIC National Delegations of Italy and Switzerland and from the Global Sustainability Trust.

### 58<sup>th</sup> CIC General Assembly, Saint Petersburg, Russia 11 – 15 May 2011



*On behalf of the Russian CIC delegation and 2 millions Russian hunters, united to the All-Russian Alliance of Public Associations of Hunting and Fishing, I am glad to invite you to attend 58th CIC General Assembly, to be held in Saint Petersburg, Russia on May 11-15, 2011. The 58th CIC Assembly will go under the motto: "Hunting - a part of cultural heritage". Assembly logo based on the deer figure dated to the 5th century B.C., which was found during the excavation works of Scythian barrows in Altai. This figure is a remarkable testimony to the fact, that from the very beginning human development was in strong connection with nature. Hunting always was a very important part of man's life and played a big role in its culture formation.*

Eduard Benderskiy  
President, Rosohotribolovsoyuz (All-Russian Alliance of Public Associations of Hunting and Fishing)

## John J Jackson III on CIC

As published in the December 2010 World Conservation Force Bulletin Distributed By [The Hunting Report](#)

The CIC's 58th General Assembly in St. Petersburg is being hosted by the 2 million-member Russian Association of Hunters and Fishermen.

If there is ever a CIC assembly that can't be missed, this is the one. I've just returned from the Executive Board Meeting of CIC in Vienna. The CIC has a new President, a renowned hunter, Bernard Lozé of France. It also has a new Executive Director, Tamás Marghescu, formerly of IUCN. The CIC is positioned to assume worldwide leadership of hunting interests like none before it, and the St. Petersburg gathering will act as the doorway to a new vigor for the hunting world.

If hunters residing in the United States of America wish to attend this spectacular and epic event, contact Chrissie Jackson, who is the Head of the US Delegation for information on CIC membership and St. Petersburg event information. Her e-mail is [cjackson@conservationforce.org](mailto:cjackson@conservationforce.org).

Chrissie has been the Head of the US Delegation for more than a decade and will pass the baton to Bob Model of the Boone & Crockett Club in St. Petersburg. Bob is the Chairman and Past President of the Boone & Crockett Club, the initiator behind President Bush's Executive Order to Facilitate Hunting and his 10-year plan. He is also one of the leading founders of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners forum.

Boone & Crockett is rightfully one of the most respected hunting conservation organizations in America. Conservation Force will continue its own role and leadership as I am the President of the Sustainable Use Commission and serve on the Executive Council (Board) of CIC. We can think of no American organization with greater entitlement to head the US Delegation than Boone & Crockett, nor can there be a more spectacular occasion than at St. Petersburg.

In hunting speak, we have acquired a trophy.

The US Delegation of the CIC has its annual General Meeting on the Sunday morning of the Dallas Safari Club Convention. For information on its time and location, contact Dallas Safari Club Executive Director Ben Carter at [Ben@biggame.org](mailto:Ben@biggame.org). For membership information, contact Chrissie Jackson.

***"Hunting provides the principal incentive and revenue for conservation. Hence it is a force for conservation."***

***John J Jackson***



## United Nations Declare Ancient Hunting As Global Cultural Heritage: "Falconry is a Living Human Heritage"

In Nairobi, Kenya, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage added Falconry, a traditional hunting method, to its List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Since before the time of the pyramids, over 4000 years, falconry as a hunting method has retained an unbroken thread of tradition. Fathers have been passing down skills to their children for nearly 200 generations in a chain of intangible heritage, bringing this art to us, the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Today's modern lifestyle and rapid urbanization have restricted opportunities to practice falconry. This has been leading to a dangerous decline in many countries. Migration from countryside to towns is a major threat to rural-based traditions and UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage lists ensure signatory governments protect traditions such as: traditional skills, knowledge and rituals, handicrafts, song, dance, art and poetry or practices related to nature. "Traditional Falconry is exceptional in that it fulfils all of these," said Frank Bond, President of the International Association for Falconry.

This is the largest ever nomination in the history of the UNESCO convention and was presented by eleven nations: Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Korea, Mongolia, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Syria and the United Arab Emirates. The Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage took the lead in co-coordinating this massive submission and UNESCO officials wrote during the inscription process that "...this is an outstanding example of cooperation between nations".

From its ancient beginnings in the Middle East falconry is now practiced on all continents and has given the entire world so much. Bond pointed out, "There are a thousand falconry words in common language, some common to many languages. For example: even the universal term 'gentleman' is derived from falconry vernacular implying a man who could fly a female peregrine, the 'falcon gentle'; falconers gave the world the first scientific book on nature '*De arte venandi cum avibus*'; wars have even been avoided and stopped by diplomatic gifts of falcons." Mme. Veronique Blontrock from Belgium noted that: "In Belgium today children use a book on falconry to learn to read Flemish." Dr. Bohumil Straka of the Czech Republic said: "Flights out of major airports are protected by falconers who prevent bird strikes and save human lives.

The UNESCO submission stated "Falconry is one of the oldest relationships between man and bird, dating back more than 4000 years. Falconry is a traditional activity using trained birds of prey to take quarry in its natural state and habitat. It is a natural activity because the falcon and her prey have evolved together over millions of years; their interaction is an age-old drama. The falcon is adapted to hunt the prey, and the prey has

evolved many ways to escape from the falcon. This leads to a fascinating insight into the way nature works and poses an intellectual challenge to the falconer in his understanding of behaviour. His task is to bring the actors together on nature's stage. To do this the falconer must develop a strong relationship and synergy with his bird."

Falconry is considered a low-impact activity; falconers understand that their hawks and quarry species must be preserved and have been practicing 'sustainable use' for centuries. His late Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan said, "It is not what you catch that is important; it is what you leave behind". Professor Tom Cade of the Peregrine Fund pointed out: "Falconers have been instrumental in the worldwide recovery of the endangered peregrine falcon and are involved in many conservation projects."

Falconers share universal principles. The methods of training and caring for birds, the equipment used and the bonding between man and the bird are found throughout the world. It is these common shared traditions and knowledge that make falconry universal and keep it alive, even though these traditions may differ from country to country. "This is wonderful recognition of the value Art of Falconry as part of the human Cultural Heritage. This recognition is no less important to us here in South Africa where we share our heritages in the spirit of our Rainbow Nation." – Adrian Lombard, Chairman of the South African Falconry Association.

In the 13<sup>th</sup> century Marco Polo described an assembly of 10,000 falconers at the court of Kublai Khan (a grandson of Genghis). To celebrate this exceptional achievement 10,000 falconers from around the world are expected to assemble again, this time in Abu Dhabi in December 2011. See [www.falconryfestival.com](http://www.falconryfestival.com).

International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey: President - Frank Bond (US): [iaf.president@mac.com](mailto:iaf.president@mac.com); Vice-president for Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania - Dr. Bohumil Straka (Czech Republic): [bohumi@straka.eu](mailto:bohumi@straka.eu); Public Relations - Gary Timbrell (Ireland): [gary.timbrell@gmail.com](mailto:gary.timbrell@gmail.com). Telephone +353 87 133 0922  
South African Falconry Association, Adrian Lombard [lombarda@mweb.co.za](mailto:lombarda@mweb.co.za); [www.safalconry.org.za](http://www.safalconry.org.za)

Editor's Note: the symbiosis between falcons and falconers is not one-sided; every day falconers around the world are contributing to raptor conservation. In one of the great conservation stories of our times, falconers have succeeded in an unprecedented, global effort to save the Peregrine Falcon from extinction. The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) jointly with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in cooperation with the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) and the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the European Union (FACE) told the story of this success in Nagoya/Japan at the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity during the CIC Markhor Award Ceremony.



## Measuring Parks' Performance

Michael Eustace

*From a paper presented by M. Eustace at the August Annual Meeting of Leadership For Conservation In Africa*

A great deal of what happens in conservation in Africa is centred on our parks and game reserves. We have about 230 national parks and hundreds of game reserves. Most of these parks are probably in decline but we can't be sure because they are not measured. In business we have a saying that "if you can't measure it you can't manage it". In my view there needs to be a survey of park performance where one park can be compared against others on an annual ranking table. The point of this is to encourage better and more energetic management and greater value being attached to the parks and to the people managing those parks and to turn the parks around from decline to advance.

I have a background in managing investments for pension funds. About 30 years ago the industry was revolutionised when the consulting actuaries started to rank the investment performance of pension funds and their managers. The industry quickly changed from one of complacent management to a management that was looking to do its best for the pension fund members from their investments. That performance measurement initiative added billions to the annual investment returns of pension funds. It also changed the way investment managers were paid. Their daily decisions either made or lost millions and they became much more focused and energetic, and more highly rewarded. Park managers need to do the right things and to be rewarded for doing the right things.

There may be reluctance on the part of parks' authorities to accept measurement and comparisons but it will be to their advantage to do so. In most countries in Africa parks are not a priority when it comes to budget allocations and they tend to get token amounts to manage their affairs. The politicians don't see that spending money on parks is going to buy votes. But if they realised that parks were being measured and international comparisons were being made and that it was both rewarding and prestigious to have well run parks, that attitude might change. Tourism employs a lot of people and if tourism grows so does employment. Employment is important in every country and to every politician. An interesting statistic is that Spain receives more tourists per annum than the whole of Africa. So does Italy. Africa should be getting far more of the world's tourists. There is a realistic medium term prospect of an additional \$1 billion of profit p.a. from well managed parks in Africa. That would seem worth pursuing.

How is the survey going to work? It needs to be simple and low cost but credible and effective. The survey can become more sophisticated over time but all we need to know initially is which parks are in decline and which are improving. One question will give the answer. Is the level of poaching down, or up? Simplistically, if poaching is controlled in a park, the park will manage itself and thrive. I don't want to become too complex in discussing the nature of the questions to be asked in order to ascertain the level of poaching but the survey needs to

establish whether the natural increment in the animal populations, over a number of years, is more than the numbers that are being poached. The size of the park and the amount of anti-poaching effort is important. One of the checks on animal populations would be to ascertain whether visits from tourists have increased or decreased. If there are more animals to see, then more tourists will visit.

The survey needs to be owned by the parks. I envisage it being internet based with 6 simple questions and where the technology will allow comparisons to be made within minutes. There will be an audit process but that will take time. Initially the survey could be confidential in that each park could have a secret code and it would not be possible for other participants or outsiders to identify the parks in the ranking table. Participants can decide whether they wish to be anonymous or not. In time I would hope that participants will see the value that is attached to measurement and will be happy to have their names disclosed. If that happens it will engender a spirit of competition among the parks and parks can learn from each other. Improvement from year to year will be important and could be more meaningful than actual rank.

One of the few areas in which Africa has a sustainable competitive advantage is in our parks and wildlife and we need to nurture that advantage and not let it waste away.

If at this meeting of the LCA we can lay the foundation for upward trending parks in the future by simply instituting a process of self measurement, it will be one of the most important African conservation initiatives imaginable.

I hope you will support the introduction of a survey.

The author can be contacted at: [eustacem@global.co.za](mailto:eustacem@global.co.za)

## Spiral-Horned Antelope Club: Christopher Kinsey

Peter Flack

For many years it seemed that wherever I went in Africa, a man called Kinsey had been there before me. And then in the 1990s I met him, if only vicariously, when the highly experienced and well respected PH, Mike Murray, gave me a copy of Kinsey's DVD on his hunt in the Congo for dwarf forest buffalo – an animal which was high on my wish list at the time. I was most impressed with the quality and thoughtfulness that had gone into the production of the film. The well-researched commentary on the animals, the absence of blood on the dead ones, the respect shown to them and the humble behavior of the hunter himself. In fact, this film inspired me to make my own and to follow the recipe used by Kinsey.

Last week I received another DVD from Christopher Kinsey, this time covering his trip to Uganda for Nile bushbuck, Island sitatunga and East African or Patterson's eland – a very tall order – with the vastly experienced and well liked Tony Tompkinson (the professional hunter of choice of the late Prince Abdorreza Pahlavi), along as his guide. Chris wanted the first two animals to complete his quest for all the species and sub-

*Continued on Page 13*



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 Spiral-Horned Antelope Club: Christopher Kinsey

species currently available on license of the nine member spiral horn antelope group – kudu, lesser kudu, nyala, mountain nyala, eland, giant eland, bushbuck, sitatunga and bongo. Well, he not only found them but they were all top quality old males that measured extremely well – Nile bushbuck 16 ½ inches versus an entry level of 13 ¾ inches, Island sitatunga 24 ¼ inches versus an entry level of 22 inches, and East African eland, sometimes called Patterson’s eland, 34 ½ inches versus 33 inches. Not that measurements are everything but it is the cherry on top of the cream on top of the cake if, after planning carefully, training hard, traveling far, hunting well and shooting accurately – not to mention the drain on the bank balance - the animal of your dreams is a big old beast out of the top drawer.

The sitatunga and bushbuck were particularly fine animals and, if the Island sitatunga were entered in The Book now, it would rank as number three although it will drop down the list when the new Book is published later this year as I know of two pick-ups, both of which will comfortably beat it.



The larger of the two, found by Peter Kennedy outside a poacher’s hut and measured by Graham Morrison, an official measurer, came in at 31 ⅞ inches, which is one of the biggest sitatunga ever, regardless of which species is concerned.



The Nile bushbuck will be the new number seven. The world record measured a whopping 18 ¾ inches and it and the number two (18 ⅞ inches) were both shot by Trevor Walker in 1981 and 1980, respectively, at U. Talanga in Sudan. Were they brothers? It is not a ridiculous thought is it?

Rowland Ward recognizes 25 species and subspecies altogether, of which western giant eland (possibly only still found in south eastern Senegal, north western Mali and northern Guinea – the last entered was a pick up in 1998 in Mali); eastern bongo (*Tragelaphus euryceros isaaci* - found only in Kenya and named for the forester who first submitted a specimen to science); and Shoan bushbuck (found only in Ethiopia) are no longer available on license. Given that the chances of any of these three species being put back on license are between Slim and none and Slim has just emigrated – a fact which effectively dooms them to the cooking pots of extinction – no-one will ever again be able to claim the distinction of legally hunting ALL the spiral horns by fair chase in their natural environment and I sincerely doubt that anyone ever has, although I would like to be proven wrong on this.

Given the fact, however, that Island sitatunga have been closed to hunting for over 30 years until they were re-opened in July last year, due almost entirely to the efforts of one man, Bruce Martin (a Ugandan businessman of South African origin) and less than a dozen have been shot since then, it is fair to assume that no-one, other than those few hunters, could have completed a collection of all the spiral horn species and subspecies, currently available on license, for the last 30 years.

Has anyone ever completed such a search successfully before then? I honestly do not know. I do not think any of my hunting heroes such as Maydon, Mellon and Selous, shot all the spiral horns available on license at the time when they were hunting and would also dearly like to know from any reader whether I am correct or not. Maybe no-one ever has, nor ever will, hunt ALL the spiral horns successfully. Maybe this is akin to the hunter’s Holy Grail. And for those of us who pursue these beautiful, shy, elusive, magical, mystical beasts; maybe that is not such a bad thing. But I take my hat off to Chris Kinsey, SHAC member, scholar, gentleman and superb hunter! Well done, not only for successfully hunting all the spiral horns available on license currently but, more importantly, for the way in which he did it.

Although I have it on good authority that the list may change when the next edition of its Records of Big Game is published later this year, set out below is the list of spiral horn species and sub-species currently recognized by Rowland Ward: Eastern Bongo (currently not available on license), Western Bongo, Bushbuck (Abyssinian, Arusi/Menelik’s, Chobe, Harnessed, Masai, Nile, Shoan - currently not available on license, South African), Eland (Cape, East African, Central African Giant, Western Giant - currently not available on license, Livingstone’s), Kudu (East African, Southern, Northern), Lesser Kudu, Common Nyala, Mountain Nyala, Sitatunga (Ssesse Island, Northern, Western, Zambezi)

For more information on Peter Flack, his books, DVDs and articles see [www.peterflack.co.za](http://www.peterflack.co.za)"



## Affordable Private Jet Flying For CIC Members

Thanks to the initiative of our long time CIC member Bruce Lamarche (CIC Belgian Delegation), the CIC recently signed a long-term exclusive partnership agreement with Swiss-based LunaJets S.A., a broker company specialized in flights on private jets. They offer the best fare on private jets of all sizes (from 4 to 100 passengers) at anytime, anywhere in the world.

LunaJets uses empty leg flights (jets returning home "empty" so at the same time contributing to a more positive CO2 balance of transportation) and negotiated preferential rates with operators, to offer the best prices to their clients. Clients save between 10% and 80% compared to 25-hour membership cards and fractional ownership programs. With LunaJets there is no upfront payment. No long term contract. No monthly bill. No fuel surcharges and LunaJets has access to more than 3,000 safe and recent aircraft to find the most appropriate jet for any trip, and can find a plane within a 2-hour notice.

Transporting sport guns on a private jet is a much faster and simpler procedure than on commercial aviation. In addition LunaJets will always look for the closest airport to your final destination or hunting ground, saving a lot of time versus regular scheduled airlines flying to large commercial airports.

All CIC Members will be granted a special Privilege Preferential Code when they register for free on the LunaJets website. LunaJets will also present opportunities of private plane transportation to and from the next CIC General Assembly in May 2011 in St. Petersburg which will be described in detail in the next CIC print Newsletter. And what is absolutely unique and extraordinary is that LunaJets will automatically donate to CIC 10% of the net income of each flight booked with LunaJets by CIC Members or through CIC Members.

How to join? Contact CIC - International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation Administrative Office P.O. Box 82, H-2092 Budakeszi, Hungary, Tel.: +36 23 453 830, Fax: +36 23 453 832, E-Mail: [office@cic-wildlife.org](mailto:office@cic-wildlife.org), Web: [www.cic-wildlife.org](http://www.cic-wildlife.org)

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## Frequently Asked Questions: Rhino Dehorning

Endangered Wildlife Trust's Rhino Security Project

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), in recognizing a dire need to urgently address the rapidly escalating problem of rhino poaching in South Africa, has developed a project to strengthen the security of rhino in South Africa. The Rhino Security Project will address rhino security concerns on privately owned game farms as well as in formally protected areas; improve communication between rhino owners and the relevant government officials; support improved investigations into rhino poaching incidences; work with relevant bodies to identify causes and drivers of the trade in rhino horn; and enhance current knowledge on the demographics of rhinos *in situ* in collaboration with other

existing initiatives. Pursuant to the launch of the EWT's Rhino Security Project and in response to the recent spate of rhino poaching in South Africa, many individuals have suggested that a simple solution to this complex problem is to dehorn all rhinos. The following question and answers aims to give you some facts about rhino dehorning as a conservation tool.

### Q What is the composition of rhino horn?

The conventional belief is that rhino horn is simply a clump of compressed or modified hair. Researchers at the University of Ohio in the USA have used computerized tomography, better known as a CT scan, to show that horns are comprised of calcium, melanin and keratin, and are actually similar in structure to horse hooves, turtle beaks, and cockatoo bills.

### Q What is rhino horn used for in the eastern market place?

Rhino horn has several uses including: an alleged remedy against fever, gout, rheumatism, and many other non life threatening ailments, an alleged cure against aggressive cancer, ornamental use, an aphrodisiac (this is denied by the Chinese themselves), and Yambiya handles in Yemen.

### Q Does rhino horn actually have any medicinal value?

In China, rhino horn has been used for Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) since 2000 BC and therefore belief in its medicinal properties is firmly entrenched. Modern science has been unable to prove definitively that rhino horn has real medicinal properties. Furthermore, claims that rhino horn has any medicinal value must be weighed up against the use of other more effective, sustainable and ethical products.

### Q Can rhino horn be legally sold on the international market?

The international trade in rhino horn was banned in 1976 by signatories to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). In 1993 the Chinese government also banned the use of rhino horn, or any other parts from endangered species, in Traditional Chinese Medicine.

### Q Can rhino horn be sold in South Africa?

On 13th February 2009, the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, published a national moratorium on the trade of individual rhinoceros horns and any derivatives or products of the horns within South Africa, in terms of Section 57(2) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 10 of 2004 (NEMBA). However, rhino horn may be traded as part of a trophy obtained during a legal trophy hunt.

### Q What are the legal implications of dehorning rhino?

In terms of the Threatened or Protected Species Regulations of 2007 (TOPS) drafted in terms of NEMBA no person may, without being in possession of a valid permit: hunt, capture, kill, convey, import, export, keep live rhino in captivity, or possess a rhino horn.

### Q Is dehorning an effective counter-poaching measure?

Poachers are prepared to remove any vestige of horns, including the small growth nubs on rhino calves, and therefore dehorning is unlikely to be an adequate deterrent. Dehorning will only reduce the temptation to potential poachers if the re-growth is cut regularly to ensure that the horn mass remains very low. Zimbabwe reported that their dehorning effort was successful, but only if used in conjunction with traditional counter- and an-

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Frequently Asked Questions: Rhino Dehorning

ti-poaching measures such as regular patrols and population monitoring. The principle should always be to “maximize risk for the poacher and minimize his reward”.

**Q What are the arguments IN FAVOR of a legal, regulated trade in rhino horn?**

It has been argued that flooding the market with horns harvested from dehorned rhinos would reduce incentives for poachers. Several arguments have been put forward supporting the legal trade in rhino horn:

- Rhino horn can be obtained without killing the animal and it therefore represents a renewable resource.
- Lifting the ban on trade in rhino horn would allow range states to manage their rhino populations and generate funds that could be ploughed back into conservation, surveillance and anti-poaching activities.
- Considerable quantities of confiscated horn are now building up in warehouses, and these could be used to generate conservation funds (but see below).
- A reduction in the global price of rhino horn would reduce the incentive for poachers.
- Selling rhino horn legally would produce a much greater return per unit area than current activities in many conservation areas.

**Q What are the arguments AGAINST a legal, regulated trade in rhino horn?**

Legalizing the trade in rhino horn is a highly controversial and risky approach and some strong arguments have been made against lifting the ban:

- Even under a sustainable dehorning programme there may simply not be enough rhinos to meet the demand for rhino horn. In this case poachers would continue to kill rhinos from areas not practicing “rhino farming”.
- The relationship between the volumes of horn traded and the demands of world markets is not well understood and there is a risk that it is not possible to influence global prices.
- CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) demands proof of legal acquisition of rhino horn.
- Current stockpiles include horns of unknown origin, including those seized by the government agencies during enforcement activities, which can never be sold.
- Even with careful regulation, the establishment of legal trade routes could provide a front for trade from illegally obtained sources, as it may be difficult to establish the origins of the horn.
- Many governments do not have adequate resources to protect animals from illegal poaching, let alone to police a legal trade.
- The process of dehorning itself is a threat to individuals as tranquilization has inherent risks.

**Q What needs to be in place to lift the ban on trade in rhino horn?**

Ultimately, the decision to lift the ban on trade in rhino horn is not one that can be made by individual range states. Any decision to lift the ban on rhino horn trading would have to come

from the influential members of CITES. A non-detriment finding would also be needed for South Africa, to demonstrate to CITES that the trade in rhino horn would not constitute a risk to our populations.

**Q Can dehorning be achieved without injuring the rhino?**

A rhino's horn is not fixed to the skull of the animal but is almost an extension of the skin and is similar to a person's fingernails. Horns should not be cut too close to the skull as this can cause injury to the animal, infection can set in and the animal can die. Horns must be removed by skilled veterinarians.

**Q How does dehorning effect rhino social behavior?**

The Zimbabwean authorities embarked on a fairly extensive dehorning exercise in the past and they emphatically state that they could not detect any negative effect on the social behavior of the dehorned rhinos. However more research is needed into this issue.

**Q Does a rhino's horn grow again after dehorning?**

Studies in Zimbabwe have shown that rhino horns grow at a rate of up to 12 cm each year, and that horns of females grow slightly faster than those of males. Horns can therefore grow back to their original length and shape in time, but only if the growth plate of the horn is not damaged.

**Q What are the additional risks involved in dehorning?**

The biggest risk to the rhino is associated with the immobilization process, which is inherently dangerous and can be fatal. The biggest risk to the rhino owner is being in possession of the very commodity that poachers are after. Keeping of horns, especially in large numbers, exposes the owner to being the victim of potential criminal activity. A number of armed robberies involving the theft of entire stockpiles have already occurred in South Africa. The targets included museums, national parks, taxidermist studios as well as private individuals.

**Q What should happen with the horns after dehorning?**

A valid permit is required to possess rhino horn. Horns must be measured, weighed, micro-chipped and registered by a conservation official. The onus is on the owner to keep the horn safe.

**Q What are the costs involved in dehorning a rhino?**

Costs associated with dehorning include veterinary expenses (time, drugs), labor and possible air support – particularly in dense habitats. Depending on the circumstances, a dehorning exercise can cost in excess of R8, 000 per animal, but will be proportionally reduced if more animals are dehorned during the same operation. Currently these costs are not recoverable as the horns, once removed, may not be legally sold.

**Q Can a rhino owner make use of “green hunting” to recover the costs of dehorning?**

Green hunting is a practice where a third party pays for the opportunity to dart (immobilize) a rhino and to have pictures taken with the animal. The drugs used for immobilization may by law only be prescribed to a qualified veterinarian registered with the South African Veterinary Council. The South African Veterinary Council has declared green hunting an unethical procedure, which means that veterinarians may no longer take part in or facilitate green hunts. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism will no longer issue permits for green hunts and any person who takes part in such activity will be committing an offense. Veterinarians who are involved will be summoned before

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the South African Veterinary Council and may lose their license.

**Q Will a dehorned rhino still appeal to eco-tourists?**

It has been proposed that tourists would not be happy to see horn-less rhinos, however there have been no studies to date that have investigated the effect of dehorning on tourist preferences. If the reasons for dehorning are properly communicated it is possible that concerns about dehorned rhinos could be overcome.

**Q What effect will dehorning have on the trophy hunting of rhino?**

Trophy hunters are usually after the most prestigious trophy – the biggest or longest horn. Wide-spread and large-scale dehorning might therefore have negative impacts on the hunting industry which has been one of the incentives for the private sector to become involved in rhino conservation.

For more information on rhino dehorning and other rhino conservation matters please contact:

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## Rhino Horn: Facts and Myths

Extracted from: *Tiger Bone & Rhino Horn: The Destruction of Wildlife for Traditional Chinese Medicine*, Richard Ellis 2005 Island Press, Hardcover: 312 pages, ISBN-10: 1559635320

Try this: Ask the person next to you what he or she thinks rhino horn might be used for in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). Chances are, they'll tell you it is used as an aphrodisiac. It is not. In certain Asian countries, ground rhino horn is used to cure almost everything *but* impotence and sexual inadequacy. In Bernard Read's translation of the 1597 Chinese material medica "Pen Ts'ao Kang Mu", the complete section on rhinoceros horn ("the best is from a freshly killed male animal") reads as follows, with no mention of any aphrodisiac qualities:

"It should not be taken by pregnant women; it will kill the foetus. As an antidote to poisons (in Europe it was said to fall to pieces if poison were poured into it). To cure devil possession and keep away all evil spirits and miasmas. For gelsemium [jasmine] and snake poisoning. To remove hallucinations and bewitching nightmares. Continuous administration lightens the body and makes one very robust. For typhoid, headache, and feverish colds. For carbuncles and boils full of pus. For intermittent fevers with delirium. To expel fear and anxiety, to calm the liver and clear the vision. It is a sedative to the viscera, a tonic, antipyretic. It dissolves phlegm. It is an antidote to the evil miasma of hill streams. For infantile convulsions and dysentery. Ashed and taken with water to treat violent vomiting, food poisoning, and overdosage of poisonous drugs. For arthritis, me-

lancholia, loss of the voice. Ground up into a paste with water it is given for hematemesis [throat hemorrhage], epistaxis [nose-bleeds], rectal bleeding, heavy smallpox, etc."

Because it was believed to provide such a pharmacological bounty, it is perhaps superfluous for rhino horn also to serve as a love potion. How then did rhino horn acquire its aphrodisiacal reputation? Probably from Western writers who had only a passing acquaintance with Chinese traditional medicine. One such was J.A. Hunter, (who was reputed to have shot more than a thousand rhinos) who, in 1952, wrote: "The horns are worth thirty shillings a pound or more – ten shillings more than the finest grade of ivory. These horns are used for a curious purpose. Orientals consider them a powerful aphrodisiac and there is an unlimited demand for them in India and Arabia. No doubt any man who has a harem of thirty or more beautiful women occasionally feels the need for a little artificial stimulant."

Hunter tried it himself, but perhaps because he was alone, it did not work. "I closely followed the recipe given me by an Indian trader," he wrote. "Take about one square inch of rhino horn, file it into a powder form, put it in a muslin bag like a tea bag, and boil it in a cup of water until the water turns dark brown. I took several doses of the concoction but regret to report that I felt no effects. Possibly I lacked faith. It is also possible that a man in the bush, surrounded by nothing but rhinos and native scouts, does not receive the proper inspiration to make the dose effective."

In his 1962 study of the animals of East Africa, C.A. Spingarn seemed to share the belief that Asians were interested in the horn as an aphrodisiac and were willing to pay handsomely for it: "On account of mysterious aphrodisiac properties attributed to the horn by certain Asiatic peoples, the Rhino has been sorely persecuted... With its horn fetching the present high price the prospects of its continued survival in the face of the poachers' onslaught are not very bright." The anthropologist Louis Leakey also shared this misunderstanding. In his 1969 book on African wildlife, he commented that rhinos were "in grave danger from poachers because rhino horn commands a high price in the Far East, where it is rated as an aphrodisiac." And in *S.O.S. Rhino*, C.A.W. Guggisberg asserted that: "The superstition that has done more harm to the rhinoceros family than all others is undoubtedly the Chinese belief in the powerful aphrodisiac properties of the horns. Through the centuries untold generations of aged gentlemen have been imbibing powdered rhino horn in some appropriate drink, hoping to feel like a twenty-year-old when next entering the harem!"

Even without aphrodisiacal properties, however, rhino horn is one of the mainstays of TCM, and its collection has been responsible for the death of tens of thousands of rhinos around the world. Make no mistake: those people who use rhino horn to cure medical ailments really believe it works. That's what drives up the demand on which the poachers thrive. As Ann and Steve Toon commented in 2002, "For practitioners of traditional Asian medicine, rhino horn is not perceived as a frivolous love potion, but as an irreplaceable pharmaceutical necessity." And Eric Dinerstein (2003), concurs: "In fact, traditional Chinese medicine never has used rhinoceros horn as an aphrodisiac: this is a myth of the Western media and in some parts of Asia is viewed as a kind of anti-Chinese hysteria."

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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 publication and distribution of African Indaba is supported by the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC [www.cic-wildlife.org](http://www.cic-wildlife.org)



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Rhino horn has been an integral component of TCM for thousands of years. It matters little where the rhinos come from; the horn of a rhinoceros from any continent may be used for medical purposes. In East Africa – primarily Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania – statistics on rhino horn harvesting have been kept since 1926. Over this period, most of the rhinos killed were black rhinos, although the “harvesters” would not pass up a white rhino if it appeared in their gun sights. During the 1930s, according to Nigel Leader-Williams (1992), declared exports from East Africa (then under British rule) averaged about 1,600 kilograms (3,520 pounds) per year, which meant the death of some 555 black rhinos annually. During World War II, the numbers soared to 2,500 kilograms (5,500 pounds), for which approximately 860 rhinos died each year. During the 1950s and 1960s, the auction houses reported about 1,800 kilograms (3,960 pounds) per year; which would have entailed the death of about 600 rhinos every year in that period. In the 1970s, the numbers skyrocketed again, to 3,400 kilograms (7,480 pounds), and every year in that decade, 1,180 rhinos died. Leader-Williams (now Professor of Biodiversity Management of the Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology at the University of Kent) identifies the Far East’s primary consuming nations as Hong Kong (which was separate from the People’s Republic of China until 1997), mainland China, Taiwan, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah Malaysia, Brunei, Macau, and Thailand, while the major Asian importers of African rhino horn were, not surprisingly, the first three on this list – mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Hong Kong was the world’s largest importer of rhino horn. Although the government officially banned all imports in 1979, rhino horn was smuggled in from Macao, Burma, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Taiwan, and South Africa. At the 1987 CITES meeting in Ottawa, participating parties agreed to abate the rhino crisis by closing down the trade in rhino products completely. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher promised the ban would take effect later that year. This never happened in an effective way, of course, but there were suggestions that substitutes for actual rhino parts might suffice for TCM. Scientists at the China Pharmacological Institute proposed using buffalo horn (made of keratin, as are rhino horns), and the manager of China’s National Health Medicines Products said that all their new medicines now used buffalo horn instead of rhino horn. In the section on “Heat-clearing, blood-cooling medicinals” in Wiseman and Ellis’s 1996 “Fundamentals of Traditional Chinese

Medicine”, we find the admission that all those rhinos didn’t have to be killed at all. After a list of all the symptoms that rhinoceros horn can alleviate, there is this note: “The rhinoceros is an endangered species. Please use water buffalo horn as a substitute.”

Taiwanese self-made millionaires are notorious for their conspicuous consumption of rare and exotic wildlife, and the Chinese traditional adage that animals exist primarily for exploitation is nowhere more pronounced than on Taiwan. Most of the rhino horn for sale there comes from South Africa. The demand for Asian horn in particular is increasing and wealthy Taiwanese, aware that prices will rise even higher as rhinoceros numbers decline, are buying it as an investment. In those regions where

rhino horn products are dispensed – legally or illegally – the most popular medicines are used for tranquilizers, for relieving dizziness, building energy, nourishing the blood, curing laryngitis, or simply, as the old snake-oil salesmen would have it, “Curing whatever ails you.” Keratin – the major protein components of hair, wool, nails, horn, hoofs and the quills of feathers – in rhinoceros horn is chemically complex and contains large quantities of sulphur containing amino acids, particularly cysteine, but also tyrosine, histidine, lysine, and arginine, and the salts calcium carbonate and calcium phosphate. Rhino horns are composed primarily of keratin, but so too are rhino nails. Three to a foot, for a grand total of twelve per rhino, the nails can also be shaved or powdered for pharmaceuticals. You cannot carve a *jambiya* handle from a toenail, but shaved or powdered rhinoceros keratin, with all its believed powers, might be beneficial regardless of which part of the rhino it comes from.

The scarcity of rhinos today, and the corresponding intermittent availability of rhino horn only drives the price higher, and intensifies the pressure on the declining rhino populations. For people whose annual income is often far below the subsistence level, the opportunity to change one’s life by killing a large, ungainly, and otherwise seemingly “useless” animal must be overwhelming. How much is rhino horn worth? In Nowak’s revision of “Walker’s Mammals of the World”, we read:

“*R. unicornis* is jeopardized by loss of habitat to the expanding human population and illegal killing, especially in response to the astonishing rise in the value of the horn. The wholesale value of Asian rhino horn increased from US \$35 per kg [2.2 pounds] in 1972 to \$9,000 per kilogram in the mid-1980s. The retail price, after the horn has been shaved or powdered for sale, has at times in certain East Asian markets reached \$20,000-\$30,000 per kilo. In contrast, in May 1990, pure gold was worth about \$13,000 per kilo.”

Throughout those markets, the trade in rhino horn for medicinal purposes is a very big business, but because much of it is conducted through various black markets, its true magnitude may never be known. The Taiwanese make up much of the market for horn imported to Asia from South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe – wherever black rhinos can still be found.

Like the Taiwanese, many Koreans are devoted practitioners of traditional medical arts, and are prepared to import substantial amounts of substances not naturally found in their country. Korean traditional medicine is based on the Chinese version, which is said to have come to Korea during the sixth century. “Rhinoceros horn,” wrote Judy Mills in 1993, “is an ingredient in five... medicines still popular among doctors of Oriental medicine in Korea today. These rhinoceros horn derivatives are used to treat maladies including stroke, nosebleeds, dermatitis, headache, facial paralysis, high blood pressure, and coma. The most popular of these medicines is Woo Hwang Chang Shim Won, a medicine ball made from rhinoceros horn, musk, cow gallstones, and a number of herbs.” In 1992, after the US government threatened to impose sanctions via the Pelly Amendment on South Korea for failure to police the trade in rhino horn, the price of rhino horn in South Korea doubled. Among the some 7,000 doctors licensed to practice Korean medicine in South Korea (no figures are available for North Ko-

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rea), there was little diminution of prescriptions written for Woo Hwang Chang Shim Won after 1992. In fact, it is not clear that the use of rhino horn for medicinal purposes has decreased at all.

Indeed, it is not clear that rhino horn serves any medicinal purpose whatsoever, but it is a testimony to the power of tradition that millions of people believe that it does. Of course, if people want to believe in prayer, acupuncture or voodoo as a cure for what ails them, there is no reason why they shouldn't, but if animals are being killed to provide nostrums that have been shown to be useless, then there is a very good reason to curtail the use of rhino horn.

There are five species of rhinoceros, and with the exception of one subspecies of the African white rhino, all are in danger of being hunted to extinction for their horns. Rhinos as we know them have been around for millions of years, but Dr H. Sapiens has created a predicament from which they might never recover. It is heartbreaking to realize that the world's rhinos are being eliminated from the face of the earth in the name of medications that probably don't work.



Let's find out more and separate myths from reality! I invite you to get to know my "second home" Cameroon. We start our journey in the vast savannahs of the north, where Mayo Oldiri Safaris, the company I manage, has five hunting concessions (ZIC 10, 11, 20, 23 & 25), of which two are bordering Boubandjida National Park. Working there, with and for people and wildlife, we can draw from almost fifteen years of experience. Very clearly, the menaces to wildlife can be described as:

- Forest loggers and crop farmers destroy the vegetation and fauna. In addition, they often use fire to get hold of the animals although knowing the consequences.
- Cattle and other livestock compromise the vegetative cover and often destroy it; they furthermore compete with wildlife for forage resources. Roaming cattle herds and the herders often cause disturbance to wildlife. Encroachment of cattle herders in formerly pristine areas is one of the main reasons for increasing human-lion conflicts. It's the lion that kills the cows – but it's also the lion that loses in the end! Thus lions get killed as retaliation and precaution in order to prevent future losses.
- Gold prospectors erect small settlements inside the hunting areas and national parks and kill use wildlife for subsistence – in other words, they poach.
- Fishermen often, poison the water to catch fish; local clerics and medical doctors are raising awareness among villagers about the dangerous consequences for the fish fauna as well as a variety of other animals drinking from the poisoned rivers, predators and scavengers feeding on poisoned animals, and last not least humans eating the poisoned fish and meat that is sold on local markets.
- Loggers, illegal settlers, gold prospectors need meat to survive in the bush. Towns and villages crave for bush meat. We are not talking about the single poacher that is seeking to supply his family with meat. We talk about organized poachers that supply local and regional markets. One example, even though from the rainforest area, may illustrate the impact of organized poachers on the population of the prime target species: a few years ago, we got a hunting area in the rainforest of Southern Cameroon, which was known for its abundance of sitatunga. In that area, we were given a quota of five male sitatunga per year. One year after we took over the area, we couldn't find any evidence of sitatunga any longer. After investigating the reasons, local

## United Against Poaching – A Success Story From Northern Cameroon

Raquel Reguera

2010 is the Global Year of Biodiversity. The world's achievements in halting the loss of biodiversity are under scrutiny. Those of you that travelled and hunted the savannahs or rainforests of Cameroon had a chance to witness the richness of wildlife, vegetation and natural resources...– a global heritage and foundation for the survival of Cameroon's people! Yet, this heritage is under threat. According to WWF<sup>1</sup>, some of the driving forces behind the loss of biodiversity are *inter alia* "unsustainable trophy hunting and poaching". Are hunters really part of the problem?



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people told us that about 50 sitatunga were poached during the closed season! In a few months, the quota for ten (!) years was “finished” by poachers!

In my personal estimate, only about 15% to 20% of the off take in the Savannah hunting areas of Cameroon is done legally through trophy hunting – the rest is falling prey to poachers. The percentage of poached animals needs to be certainly increased if we are talking about the forest areas.

Looking at the variety of threats to wildlife, one obviously wonders how best to address these – and what ways and means we as safari operators have to prevent poaching. In any case, conservation and fighting poaching is a matter of close teamwork. Neither one single hunting operator, nor the local wildlife authorities can achieve anything unless there is trust and strong collaboration between all stakeholders! In our case, we are proud to enjoy such close cooperation with His Majesty Abdoulaye Aboubakary, Lamido of Rey Bouba, Fauna Conservator André Ndjida, the Director of Boubandjida National Park Paul Bour, as well as the anti-poaching savannah manager of Mayo Oldiri Pavel Martínez Redondo. Four different players united for the preservation of wildlife!

Over the years, we have developed two main methods, involving incentives and awareness rising as well as law enforcement. By providing multiple incentives for the local population to benefit from sustainable use of wildlife, we show them that we care about their problems, understand their needs and assist them. Their problems also affect us, our employees and their families. Together with the local population, we form a team and it is indeed essential that all concerned share this feeling. Together, we have identified the two priority areas, in which the local villagers require our assistance most: health and education.

In 2007, the Foundation Mayo Rey (*Fundación Mayo Rey*, [www.fundacionmayorey.org](http://www.fundacionmayorey.org)) was created with the assistance of our Spanish friend Dr. Emilio Sastre. Mayo Oldiri's mother company *Maritime & Hunting* was one of the founding partners. The Foundation built a hospital to allow the population of the Mayo Rey region, of which the capital is Rey Bouba, basic access to health care. The hospital is specialized in general surgery, pediatric, gynecology, ophthalmology, deontology and traumatology and started operation in February 2010. The medical doctors work for free and all the material and equipment is donated from Spanish hospitals or bought with funds from individual donations. The hospital just started to operate in February 2010 and will be open every year for several months during the dry season, as during the rainy season access is extremely difficult.

Education is the second sector of importance we are engaged in. Paul Boar and Pavel Martínez visit all the villages around the National Park and hunting areas and meet the village chiefs, tribal leaders and police forces. They inform the villagers about the damages caused by poachers and ask for their collaboration in anti-poaching efforts. In most of the villages, such information campaign is also accompanied by a presentation in the schools, given by one of the local anti-poaching team members. In the local language, they teach the children about the different animals and their behaviors in order to increase their

understanding of wild animals. They also tell the children about the damage caused by wire snares and traps. Now the directors of several schools are asking to organize excursions with the children to the hunting camps during the non-hunting season, little by little, they start to understand that wild animals are not only of value as a source of food - and that they have a responsibility to take care of the nature surrounding them.

We are especially grateful to recognize that some of the hunters that enjoyed a safari with us and learned about these educational programs really appreciate the efforts and get personally involved. Sustainable hunting is all about combining biological, economical and also socio-cultural benefits for both, people and wildlife. A significant part of our safari revenue is directly re-invested into practical and result-oriented conservation and livelihood-support programs, such as education and anti-poaching. Visiting hunters, realizing this, contributed over and above the contracted safari price. Another small mosaic in the education program will be the publication of a calendar for 2011, which will show each month a photo of a wild animal – including protected species like leopard or even vanished ones like rhino. Next to the photo, each calendar page contains some information about the species shown, its behavior and basic conservation requirements. On a monthly basis, the villagers can learn a bit more about the animals they live with. Without knowledge about nature, there will be no sense of responsibility for its conservation!

Each of our anti-poaching teams comprises of four employees of Mayo Oldiri and six of the Boubandjida National Park under the experienced leadership of Pavel Martínez. Assisting in better law enforcement means for us collecting snares and traps, destroying poacher camps and, last not least, apprehending poachers and handing them to law enforcement agencies. From October to August, the core team spends each month about 20 days out in our hunting areas as well as in the National Park for active anti-poaching. Another three to five anti-poaching staff of each safari camp joins the team for the period of operation in the respective hunting concession and adds local experience and knowledge to the core group.



Their work is reflected in monthly statistics per area that show the amount of snares, traps, etc confiscated. To give you just one example: 146 snares were found and destroyed in one concession only in February 2010. The list of poachers (with full names and personal details, information about their activities and locations of poaching etc.) caught and arrested already

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comprises of more than 150 names.

Mayo Oldiri is spending more than 50.000 € (Euro) per year on anti-poaching programs (including our concessions in Southern Cameroon rain forest). Earlier this year, the US Ambassador to Cameroon, Mrs. Janet E. Garvey, donated 40.000 US\$ for Boubandjida National Park for anti-poaching equipment, including cars, fuel, boots, salaries, etc. The permanent anti-poaching team has undergone professional military training. They are perfectly trained to fight the local poachers that look for meat in the first instance. It looks totally different, however, if it comes to foreign poaching gangs infiltrating Cameroon from neighboring countries like Chad. They are the main course of the problem: these groups are professional, well trained, possess good firearms and are acting extremely aggressive. They only have one goal in sight: ivory!

Evidence shows that 18 elephants have been killed by professional poachers coming from Chad during January – March 2010 in Boubandjida National Park alone. This is, however, just the tip of the iceberg as the figure only shows the number of carcasses that have been discovered. Boubandjida's Director Paul Bour established contact with a Chad National Park and Stephanie Vergnault, President of *SOS Elephants du Tchad* was informed that a group of professional poachers on horseback were poaching ivory from Chad, Cameroon, CAR, Sudan and Nigeria for the Chinese market. This is indeed an ideal collaboration across country borders between a national park, a conservation NGO and a hunting operator in order to fight the same problem: poachers

Therefore, my dear friends from WWF: don't bark up the wrong tree and let us work together for conservation! Don't issue misleading publicity about hunting operators or compare hunters with poachers. True conservation hunting is not part of the problem – it is part of the solution! Without the permanent presence safari hunting operations there would be no meaningful control of illegal use of wildlife.

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## Elephant Poaching Pandemic in Central Africa

Eric Turquin

Large scale organized elephant poaching in Central and West Africa is not new. It started in earnest in the 1970' with armed groups from Chad and Sudan crossing the border into the north of the Central African Republic and destroying large herds of elephants. The Laboureur family in La Koumbala had been fighting these groups at the end of the 1970's with some success. At the end of the 1990s commercial poaching reappeared on an even larger scale with Sudanese guerrilla groups armed with AK47 rifles crossed the border between Birao and the Oubangui River with camels and donkey caravans, entering the remote areas of the eastern CAR and then in the north near

Bamingui where the best hunting zones are located. Elephant enjoy a fully protected status in CAR since 1983. Legal elephant safari hunting was closed in this year on a temporary basis, but never reopened.

As a sad consequence to the elephant hunting closure, the first reaction on the renewed poaching of the Central African professional hunting community as well as its very small tourist industry was to keep quiet in order to avoid frightening prospective clients. Elephant had lost his economic value as a game species and certainly wasn't protected decently anymore. Nevertheless, in the year 2000 safari hunting operators in the CAR joined forces and founded the APFC (Association pour la Protection de la Faune Centrafricaine). The operators started to put down some money to organize anti-poaching efforts. In 2001, the Central African safari operators cooperated with the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC to organize the first *Diner des Elephants* in Paris in order to raise funds for coordinated anti-poaching efforts. From this year onwards the annual *Diner des Elephants* raised between hundred and hundred twenty thousand Euro each year until 2007. The funds were destined to help CAR Armed Forces in buying equipment and providing training. But the efforts ultimately failed because funds and equipment proved to be insufficient. It is a known fact that CAR amongst the poorest countries in the world and sadly it has a long tradition of surrender to its northern and eastern Muslim neighbours. Ivory poaching gangs from these neighboring countries arrived in ever larger numbers, and as a consequence of the lucrative but illicit proceeds from their poaching their operations became more and more sophisticated and organized, using all kind of newer technical gadgets to get more efficient.



Today the remnant elephant populations in northern CAR tether on the verge of a catastrophic collapse. Sudanese poaching gangs, who used to stay in the CAR elephant areas every year for two to three months during the dry season, now operate in the areas for most of the year. They not only slaughter elephants and other wildlife, but they terrorize the local villagers. Now they target not only large bulls, but they kill every elephant, even tuskless bulls and cows, in order not to have to track them again another day. Elephants are on the verge of being completely eradicated and for now the remaining populations are only saved by the exceptional environment of CAR where immense areas of savannah are separated by "Bakos",

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Elephant Poaching Pandemic in Central Africa

forest galleries which can be very thick and several miles in extension. The poaching gangs have even moved to the rain forest area in the west and south of the CAR, where heavy elephant poaching has been reported since 2008.



The poaching gangs use two tactics. In the savannah areas very mobile and heavily armed groups operate on horseback and with riding camels; they do not hesitate to shoot first, when they encounter real or perceived opposition. In thicker forest which is rather hostile to these savannah people, they send one or two traders with firearms, ammunitions and money into villages. The traders recruit local villagers as poachers, equip them with the necessary tools. The meat from the poached elephants remains with the villagers and the traders buy up the poached ivory. In the rain forest, elephant poaching has not reached yet such a large scale as in the northern savannah areas simply because the rain forest is a much more difficult area for poaching. The Central African Government reacted strongly in Bayanga, in the southwestern part of the country at the Congo border, sending in army units. This action assisted in considerably reducing poaching. In Bayanga, tourists can still observe herds of hundreds of elephants in the magnificent salt pan in the middle of the forest every day. But probably this success is only a respite before the next onslaught of the poaching gangs. Already last year we got very worrying reports from further west, from the hunting areas in western and southern Cameroon. In the Boubandjida Reserve and the Benoué Reserve, there has been heavy poaching with hundreds of elephant carcasses found. Unknown poachers, probably Sudanese, armed with AK47 rifles and locally recruited villagers, supplied with firearms by the poachers, do the killing, often under the closed eye and ears of the local administration.

Poaching with heavy caliber hunting rifles and Pygmy trackers always existed in the Cameroun forest, but today the scales have changed: Large groups of cash-rich ivory traffickers are out to buy and obtain ivory wherever they can find it. Even from as far as Gabon, where there was almost no elephant poaching until very recently; we receive worrying reports of strongly armed groups unknown to the forest people having moved in to poach elephants. Apparently most of the ivory is going to Sudan and from there to the Far East. We have also

reports of large amounts of ivory being moved to Douala and being smuggled out of the country by diplomats from Far Eastern nations. The scale of elephant poaching is seriously worrying and there is a real risk that without immediate, concerted and decisive actions elephants in the wild will almost disappear over the huge area from Port Sudan on the Indian Ocean to Douala on the Atlantic in the next two or three years. The elephant is in gravest danger on following the rhino on a slippery slope into local extinction.

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## A Tool For Lion Hunters: The Conservation Force Pocket Guide To Aging Lions

John J Jackson III

In November, Conservation Force began widely distributing a condensed version of its *Guide to Aging Lion in East and Southern Africa*. It has been circulated to professional hunters associations, is available on [Conservation Force's](http://www.conservationforce.org) website, and freely handed out at meetings and conventions around the world. The free guide is also attached to this African Indaba and can be downloaded free of charge from the African Indaba website at [www.africanindaba.co.za](http://www.africanindaba.co.za). Of course, it is not a substitute for the more complete guide of 46 pages published by Safari Press and also sold by [The Hunting Report](http://www.thehuntingreport.com) at a nominal price. The guide was the work of 12 of the leading lion specialists in the world, while this free guide has been wholly prepared by the leading author of the original, Karyl Whitman, Ph.D., and has been reviewed by Craig Packer, Ph.D.

Hunters are the primary stakeholders in the survival of the African lion, which is seen as intolerable by pastoralists. We are also its stewards. It is necessary and important that we search for and apply suitable practices for this dwindling species. The limiting of harvest to lion five years of age or older is the new ethic, new definition of a trophy lion, and has the very least biological impact on the respective population. If we are to be good stewards, we must adopt reasonable practices ourselves. The age ethic is fortified by contemporary lion science.

Conservation Force is deeply engaged with the scientific community in the advancement of that science in addition to our leadership in evolving national lion action plans across Africa. I am getting a little leery of "best practices" as being unnecessarily limiting. Nevertheless, this is a better practice, particularly while we endeavor to secure robust lion populations, of which there are too few, and rebuild and restore others. It is probably a necessary, good faith practice if we are to keep lion from being uplisted and continue to play our important role in its conservation. It is still a difficult judgment call in the field, but that is what makes it a true trophy. Keep this guide or print a free color version from [Conservation Force's website](http://www.conservationforce.org). Conservation Force Directors serve on the African Lion Working Group (ALWG) and the Cat Specialist Group of IUCN. Conservation Force has lion research, management and recovery projects from Danakil, Ethiopia, west to Burkina Faso and throughout all of Africa. Unfortunately, it is not yet enough, but we are in for the long haul to ensure that lions forever roar.

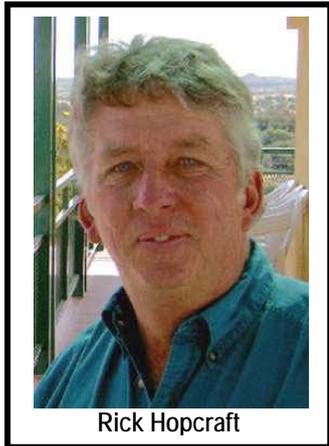
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## In Memoriam: Rick Hopcraft & Parmois Ole Kereto (Tinea)

Robin Hurt

With great sadness, I have some very bad news to report. Our dear friend Rick and his tracker Tinea were both tragically killed by a buffalo this last Tuesday evening, the 23rd November, at Rick's farm at Naivasha in Kenya.



Rick Hopcraft

The details are not clear, but what roughly happened is as follows: Rick and his son Garry had seen an injured buffalo with a badly swollen leg on the farm and called Kenya Wildlife Services. Rick had asked for permission to shoot the buffalo, but this permission was declined because of the hunting ban in Kenya. The Hopcrafts then asked the Wildlife department to come and shoot the bull. KWS turned up too late on Monday evening and returned again on Tuesday afternoon. What happened next is not clear, but Rick accompanied the game scouts to show them where the bull was. Rick did not carry a rifle, presumably because he was not allowed to shoot the buffalo. Tinea, as a guard on the farm had a firearm permit and did carry a rifle.

The buffalo charged and the government game scout shot and missed. Before Tinea could shoot, the buffalo hit him and knocked the gun out of his hands. An instant later the bull attacked Rick puncturing his chest and killing him on the spot. Tinea managed to grab hold of the rifle and fired a shot at the buffalo going away, but missed. Tinea died 15 minutes later from internal bleeding. I must be clear that some reports relayed to me said that Rick was hit by the buffalo first, and others say that Tinea was hit first. Either way, both were tragically killed.

Tony Seth-Smith, an honorary Kenyan game warden, who is now in his mid 70's, was called in subsequently. The buffalo was found on Wednesday morning after a two hour search and Tony killed it. Under the circumstances, a superb effort by Tony.

Bette, Rick's wife, is surrounded by friends and family, and I have talked to her and her son Garry several times. She is still in shock, and has not really come to terms with what has happened. She said to me, it is like a bad dream. Rick and Bette's daughter, Cara had to be flown out from Switzerland and arrived back in Nairobi on Thursday, and is now back on the

farm with her family.

Rick will be sadly missed by all of us. Everyone in the African Professional Hunters' Association had the greatest respect for him, not only as a man of integrity and a gentleman, but also as an extremely fine and ethical hunter. Rick has been a lifelong friend to me, having gone to the same school and growing up in the same region of Naivasha, and hunting together on more safaris than I can remember.

Tinea was my first gun bearer, and he and I grew up on our ranch in Naivasha, and did all our early hunting together. He was the bravest of trackers, and will be much missed. Tinea knew my family for something like 20 years and for the last 40 years, worked for Rick. Tinea was 67 years old, and Rick was 63.

The Hopcraft family was amongst the first pioneering English settler families who arrived in Kenya at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Rick's grandparents settled on the shores of Lake Naivasha in Kenya's Great Rift Valley where they carved out a 6,000 acre cattle ranch. Rick was born as third generation Kenyan in 1947. As a young man, like so many of today's professional hunters, Rick learnt the trade hunting hippo and buffalo on the shores of Lake Naivasha, together with his friend Tinea. After school in Kenya, Rick attended Agricultural College in England, before returning to help his father manage the family ranch. Rick started hunting professionally in 1971 and joined Ker & Downey as professional hunter until Kenya closed hunting in 1977. Rick then hunted the Sudan and Zambia. In 1985 he joined Robin Hurt hunting in Tanzania. Rick enjoyed duck shooting and fishing and collected old Africana and hunting books. He was a superb shot, excellent company and a dedicated professional. Rick leaves his wife Bette, together with their two children, living at Naivasha where they continue the family tradition of ranching on the shores of the lake.

Parmois Ole Kereto (Tinea) was born in 1943 at Enosupukia Village (Olkutoto Ronkai, Kenya) as one of six children of Nkaratoi and Kutel Kereto. Tinea married Naisenyu Omerae in 1965 and the couple had 5 sons, 5 daughters and 12 grand children. He worked on the Robin Hurt Farm from 1961 to 1965 and on the Hopcraft's Loldia farm from 1967 until his untimely death. As experienced tracker, assistant and close friend of Robin Hurt and Rick Hopcraft, Tinea hunted in several African countries (*Editor's note: We presently do not have a photo of Tinea available, but will include one in the next African Indaba*).

Rick's funeral took place on Thursday with close friends and family attending. Tinea's family held a traditional Masai burial at his shamba on Tuesday. A celebration of the life of Rick's and Tinea and a send-off took place at the Hopcraft farm, Loldia, Naivasha, on Friday, 3rd December.

