FOR THE
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Conseil International de la Chasse et de la *Conservation* du Gibier
Internationaler Rat zur Erhaltung des Wildes und der Jagd
International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation

AFRICAN INDABA
Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

Volume 9, Issue No 1 **eNewsletter** February 2011

A Plea to the Professional Hunter and Field Scientist Alike

Invited Guest Editorial by Natasha Illum Berg

I am a hunter, one of a long line of hunters and conservationists. I have been in Tanzania for twenty years now, and I have hunted it for as many years as I have been here. Hunting is my first, is my last love.

But I see things which make me want to speak.

I see a world mostly against hunting. I see us becoming increasingly unsuccessful in making ourselves accepted and heard in a majorly urbanized world. I am not talking about the islands of natural hunters around the world, or countries that still largely accept hunting (that we each year migrate to, to look for clients.) I am talking about the place where history is taking us.

The other day I saw a review in the New York Times (the most read newspaper in the world). It was about some films on Nat Geo Wild. The reviewer warned that children must not watch this film about lions hunting, as a lot of blood was shown. Fear for where we are going, and sadness filled me. Surely nobody wants a world that will end with vegetarian lions? When did the sight of a lion killing become anything but majestic? A lion killing is harsh maybe, but surely something of the most beautiful and true, in its natural force and grace that nature can produce.

But the general public should not be ignored, for it is an indication of the direction we are moving in.

Then I spoke to a renowned lion researcher here in Tanzania a few days later, who casually told me that he was not welcome to speak at the TAHOA meetings, and had not been allowed since 2006. "Why?" I as a professional hunter want the information, and I should hope all hunters do. How can new hunters otherwise be at peace, when all they want to do is to be hunters and not destructors? I don't know the man and maybe I would agree with nothing he has to say whatsoever, when I hear the whole story behind, why he has been so excommunicated, I am not raising the flag for certain individuals here. I am asking this, however: Can we afford such an incredibly undiplomatic and arrogant attitude like that anymore? I for one do not think so, and I am happy to say that openly.

So often have I spoken against the anti-hunting opinions of the uninformed masses, who hate hunters, though they happily wear a pair of Gucci shoes, made from leather of animals that have never seen day-light. For 15 years I have written articles, spoken and written books on the subject, and I will continue to do so. But some things they say are right and then I feel ashamed and like a liar when I speak to them and I know I am not the only hunter to feel this way. Many hunters and hunting companies are NOT doing enough to live by the ethical standards that we promised the

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world that we have. Let's be honest. It may not be one person's fault that another is unethical, but lines have to be drawn, or it becomes a fault of all of us. Passiveness is the devil, and if we don't watch out we will all end up being blamed for what some individuals do. Passiveness is dangerously close to not caring. Aggressively keeping information out is simply stupid.

Do you see the anti-hunter fist banging on the door? Do you see how many more they are every day and how much money they have? It's not even only about anti-hunters any more. Ask people on the street anywhere in the world where there is money, and hunting is a "no, no". To ignore it is a little bit like when children hold their hands up in front of their face and say : "you can't see me."

We have no future unless we get off the high horse and let in other conservationists for open discussions. I could write about a sense of conscience, how we should all care, just out of our respect for nature, and I would prefer to do so, but I fear that the promise of a future job is of more importance to many hunters. So be it, I can talk as animatedly to them. In conservation we naturally need to work with what we are, what drives us, what we need to make a living, the rest is vanity. But driven by either of those two motives, it is obvious to me that we have no future if we don't do something radical.

Inside meetings, shoulder patting, gathering tighter together and giving each other lip service and promising each other that we are ethical hunters, is very pleasant, but not enough. We have to open up MORE and stop being aggressive to the outside world, and we do have to clean up where cleaning is needed. We need to write, try to gather information from the field, speak up and DO SOME REASONABLE SACRIFICES, NOW. We have to be stricter on ourselves, admit fault sometimes, or at least admit that times are changing and that we are willing to work with that, we have to rectify according to the situation, and stop those who are not ethical, if we don't want to be bunched with them.

I know I am not the only one to thinks like this, and I know that MANY people are doing what they can. I AM IN NO RIGHT TO GIVE ANYBODY A LECTURE AND THIS IS NOT WHAT I AM AIMING AT, SO PLEASE LOOK AWAY FROM THE PRIDE THAT SO QUICKLY PRICKS. I AM NOT TALKING TO INDIVIDUALS, I AM AIMING AT US ALL, MYSELF INCLUDED.

This is simply my plea to hunters who are ready to do something radical. The suggestion I have in mind is to let in as many field scientist as possible in our midst and talk with them. Listen to them and be reasonable.

Some hunters are doing something from inside, efforts are being made, but what does it help to sow a massive field of seed, when the masses are hungry now? We should have started a long time ago, but now we need help from our neighbors, some of them being the field conservationists. We can't afford to ignore them. We may not like it, but the ignorance of the urbanized world's *Waldisneyfication*, their sentimental and often superficial Hollywood money throwing, will show us that we must, if we want to go on.

The world listens to them; it does not listen to us.

Surely you see that we have no power in the long run to continue being hunters, when you see where urban history is taking us. And all power is in the urbanized world, not here. If we isolate ourselves and pretend not to see what is going on, I, for one, will eat my old hunting hat if hunting is still allowed in this country (and so many others) in 30 years.

Hunting is no longer very fashionable in the big picture, and the fact is that it is getting less and less fashionable every day. Partly because hunters very rarely are speakers and sadly many retreat to aggression or close up when questioned. Also because we are afraid that if we open up too much, the life we love will be taken from us. So in this fear we just try to stay out of the limelight, get on with it in the quiet. I even know that many of my colleagues in this field do not present themselves as hunters when they travel around the world but "conservationists or guides." The pressure is felt.

I believe that some things will be taken from us if we open up and show our face now, I think is pretty sure that we have to compromise. But I believe everything will eventually go if we don't. I am convinced of this.

Let's bring scientists in to our midst and take the bull by its horns. Let's start there. We are usually good at that. Please invite some scientists who know what they are talking about. Please invite them to APHA, TPHA, TAHOA, and other hunting organizations around the world, instead of sticking your heads in the sand every time you don't like what they are saying.

If the game disappears so do we. It doesn't take a genius to figure that one out. And this new generation of hunters will die in a world that despises them.

I am not saying that we should agree with everything they say by a long shot, but we must listen as much as we speak. Certainly I would like to hear more fact and figures (I should hope we all do and, even demand for more fact and figures. We should be on top of things!!) And maybe then the more popular conservationists and nature lovers will listen to us as well, and sing a tiny song for us on the other side of the globe. It's about being smart and not cutting the nose to spite the face.

A finger pointing party is not what I am looking for. Every single human being on this planet acts for selfish reasons. Self-glorification on any side will help no one.

I will not deny that I hunt because I love it, but I will say that I care deeply for the future of any species of animal I have ever hunted and will continue to do so. This should be the only thing that matters. This sentiment from a hunter is of course less obvious to the majority in the modern world, than what they see in the love that field scientists have for nature. But even the scientist who spends his/her days studying animals in the Serengeti does it not only for conservation. To say that would be a lie. If we

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are all honest it is also a love for a particular kind of a life. A way of life that makes one feel alive and part of something as old as the hills, and close to something as natural as we can possibly be. As creatures amongst other creatures on this planet. If we can all be that honest we already have a bridge between us, a starting point.

So the field scientist, the Hollywood animal savior, the zoologist, biologist is becoming more loved every day and the hunter is becoming more chastised every day, and this is the way in which the world is going. Let's accept it, work with it and think clearly.

Any field scientist who hates hunters indiscriminately simply because they kill animals, is falling into the most dangerous, self-glorifying and unproductive waltdisnification of animals. Any hunter who hate field scientists indiscriminately because they fear their knowledge and fear the growing monetary weight behind a world that is ultimately becoming one that refuses to see death as a natural part of life, is refraining from dealing with the cards at hand. I am hoping for a giving dialogue beyond judgment and with respect. The crux is how we can all continue doing what we love in the best way and how to ensure that this will be done in a sustainable way. Truly sustainable!.

I speak only for myself and do not represent the hunting company I work for, with these words. This is my personal suggestion of how to stretch out a hand to the modern world, in the hope that hunting will have a healthy future ahead of it, however dire it may look right now. I was brought up to believe that hunting is a way to be a conservationist and for three generations my family has done what they could in that respect, I am calling for those of you who feel the same.

If it is indeed true that conservationist is what we are, then what do we fear from numbers from the field? And if we don't one day want to be written down in history as abominable destructors, however unfair that may seem to us now, we have to listen to them and bring them in. We have no choice, and we should in fact want it.

What are the consequences of a world that no longer has people as part of the food chain? This is a question *I* would like to ask in a dialogue like that. A world without people who stay honest and stay real to a nature where animals get eaten and hunters get killed by buffalos and elephants and lions and hippos? Surely both hunters and field scientists alike can see that we are living in a world that is becoming more and more aborted from true nature, and more and more connected with an artificial idea of nature. One where tons of money is thrown at animals because they are pretty, yet has nothing to do with anything real. Nobody wants that, and we have to say our piece too. We need an open dialogue and if we stay isolated we will not be heard. We have to open this can of worms publicly.

We need the other conservationists and their unbelievable dedication and raising of money to preserve animals and bring information to people who no longer know how to pluck a chicken, or children who think that fish are square, because they have never seen them as anything else than factory packed fish fingers.

For this is where the world is heading and my plea is for both field scientists and hunters to think about the responsibility they have herein. Preferably together.

Tanzania: Reform of the Hunting Industry in the Making

Rolf Baldus

After years of controversial public debates on the reform of block allocation and fee structure in the hunting industry the Tanzanian Government published new regulations at the beginning of February. All hunting blocks will be allocated in a new system for the period of 2013 to 2018. The number of blocks in the country has been increased from 158 to 190, and all of them have been graded into five classes according to their quality.

The hunting areas will be advertised and companies can apply. The Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Ezekiel Maige told a press conference in Dar es Salaam that no decisions on allocation have been taken yet: "Let me clear rumors doing the rounds that the Minister had allocated some hunting blocks already. I am a man of integrity and value transparency and accountability," said Maige.

The Minister however said the Tourist Hunting Regulations of 2010 have categorized hunting blocks in accordance with grade points whereby category I has 24 blocks hunting permit fee $60,000, category II has 95 blocks and its hunting fee is $30,000. Others include category III with 18 blocks of a hunting fee of $18,000, whereas in category IV with 8 hunting blocks attracts a fee of $10,000 and the last category with 8 blocks the hunters will have to pay a fee of $5,000. According to the minister, the grading has been done in accordance with the species and number of animals to be hunted and the diversity of flora and fauna. Its accessibility in terms of terrain and infrastructure from Dar es Salaam, reliable water supply and the scope of human activities are other factors taken into consideration, according to Minister Maige.

Until now the blocks of category I were only $27,000 US$ a year and until a few years ago all blocks were given out for only $7,500 US$ each per year.

Director of Wildlife Erasmus Tarimo revealed that for the hunting season that began in July 2010 to-date, the government has generated $36 million as direct fee. He said applicants who

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Reform of the Hunting Industry in the Making

are Tanzanians are required to produce a bank bond of guarantee to the tune of at least $300,000 and for a foreign owned hunting company a bank bond of $1,000,000 is required as a guarantee.

It can be expected that TAHOA, the Tanzanian Hunting Operators Association, strongly opposes the new fee structure and will use its political influence to modify it. With fixed prices fort he blocks and no tendering process it remains unclear upon which criteria the allocation to companies will be based. Many Tanzanian hunting companies are owned by the families of former or present politicians and influential personalities. In the past the pressures upon the Director of Wildlife to allocate blocks to such companies has been strong.

Small Atoms Can Help Saving Big Elephants

A New Joint Research Project for the Conservation of the African Elephant

K. Hornig
Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany

Editor's Note: This is a call to all hunters who have or are hunting elephant. You can contribute to the conservation of this enigmatic species by participating in this exciting project. Be a naturalist-hunter like F. C. Selous and make your small contribution towards furthering cutting edge scientific research. For more information please contact Rolf Baldus rolfbaldus@t-online.de or Gerhard Damm gerhard@muskwa.co.za

In a cooperation between the World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF), the International Centre of Ivory Studies (INCENTIVS) of the University of Mainz, the University of Regensburg (Germany), the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), scientists are developing a reference database for the geographical origin of African elephant ivory and a precise method on how to designate the age of ivory tusks. The project is part of Germany's contribution for the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan, in particular strategy 1.4, i.e. 'Strengthen the enforcement of laws relevant to conservation and management of African elephants'. Hence the project will make a useful contribution to the fight against the illegal trade in ivory and furthermore will enable the range states to better control the legal ivory trade under CITES.

Since 1995, the spatial distribution of the elephant populations in Africa and their numbers have been monitored regularly by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and published in status reports that also contain the geographical range of the different populations, the geology, vegetation and precipitations of a region. These data offer the fundament for the setup of a geographical database. Distinctly analyzed geo-referenced ivory samples from museum collections or held in private hands of big game hunters will be combined with these data: The isotopic signature of the material will be analyzed, assigned to regions and edited by means of geo-statistical techniques (like the so-called 'kringing'). After its completion the database can be used to identify the geographical provenance.

For a deeper understanding:

The isotope accumulation of certain chemical elements is a sound method to reliably identify the origin and the age of materials like ivory or bones. Isotopes are atoms of the same chemical element but of different masses. Their occurrence or the proportion of different isotopes of a certain element is characteristic for certain habitats. For example a low rate of the heavy carbon isotope delta ^{13}C indicates densely forested habitats, whereas a high ratio is indicative of savannah landscapes. In a similar way a low delta^{15}N (nitrogen) ratio suggests humid conditions, whereas in drier elephant habitats higher ratios prevail. The so-called provenance analysis uses these features: Organisms ingest the biologically available isotopes with the nutrition they consume and built up their own body substance of it, e.g. their tooth material. Therefore a relatively correct determination of origin is possible by defining the isotopic composition of the tusks.

Concerning the new method for the determination of age the classical methods using the radiocarbon ($^{14}C/C$) testing will be combined with the analysis of strontium ($^{90}Sr/Ca$) and thorium (^{228}Th and ^{232}Th). Using these isotopes the results will be even more exact. Due to nuclear testing a significantly increased value of $^{90}Sr/Ca$ is typical for ivory dated between 1960 and 1970, a low value indicates a date before 1960 or after 1980 and a value below detection limit before 1955. If the elephant's death is dated back before 1960 the ratio of the two nuclides ^{228}Th and ^{232}Th is 1:1; if the death was approximately around 1990 the ratio is higher than 1:1. Therefore by combining these analyses the age of the ivory can be determined with a high decree of certainty which makes the new method very precise and extremely reliable.

What do we need?

Any individual such as trophy hunters or big game outfitters within and outside of the European Community are welcome to support this research project by providing us

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Small Atoms Can Help Save Big Elephants

with a (0,25 gram or 15 gram) sample of time and geographically referenced elephant tusks. Any assistance will contribute a lot to the project's success and the long-term protection of the African elephant. Samples from hunters are in principal of particular interest because hunters have first-hand knowledge about the age and the geographical origin of their trophies.

For the verification of the analysis methods altogether 500 ivory samples of elephant tusks with exactly known geographical origin and / or age are required. The samples will be very small (only 0,25 g each) and can be taken from the inside of a tusk by the research partners from the University of Mainz. It is also possible to close the sampling hole invisibly. If bigger pieces of 15 g can be made available such samples could also be used for the second part of the project, the age determination (only for samples with known age). In this case they have to be sawn off the base of the tusk.

If you are interested to provide practical input into the project please contact the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation.

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CIC Calls Hunters for Support: African Elephant Ivory Samples Needed

CIC Press Release

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Council requests the owners of ivory, in particular of hunting trophies with known origin and age to support the research project explained on the previous page. The project will assist law enforcement agencies in the fight against elephant poaching and ivory smuggle. At the same time it can facilitate future ivory trade along the lines of CBD's goal of sustainable use of natural resources.

The major objectives of the project are to create a reference database for the geographical origin of African elephant ivory and to develop a readily available precise method for the designation of the age of ivory. The entire undertaking is part of Germany's contribution for the implementation of the CITES African Elephant Action Plan and in particular its strategy 1.4 'Strengthening the enforcement of laws relevant to conservation and management of African elephants'. Hence the project shall provide at the latest in early 2013 a useful and readily free available enforcement tool to assist in the fight against the illegal trade in ivory which will enable African elephant range states to better control any ivory trade under CITES.

The project is in principle based on the isotopic composition of ivory. For the database about 500 ivory samples from African range states will be analyzed and the results combined with the IUCN-SSC African Elephant Specialist Group's vector data which spatially represent the range of the different populations and thus provide information on the geology, vegetation and precipitation. More detailed information about the project, both in English and in French, can be accessed on the FANC's website (http://www.bfn.de/0305_cites+M52087573ab0.html) under the heading 'Current Issues'.

The scientific results of the development and the validation of the research methods will be published in scientific journals. In addition the database will be presented to the national CITES authorities of the African elephant range states and to the international community of states. Furthermore plans are underway to inform all CITES parties about the details of the research project and the practical application methods during a side-event at the 16th Conference of the Parties in Bangkok, Thailand in 2013.

As there are still not enough ivory samples throughout the African elephant's range available for the project, the FANC and the CIC would like hereby to ask all elephant hunters for assistance. Contact Dr. Rolf Baldus, President of the CIC Tropical Game Commission at rolfbaldus@t-online.de or Mrs. K. Hornig at hornigk@bfn.de for further details and instructions.

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FAO and CIC Sign Historical Memorandum of Understanding

CIC Press Release

After a long history of collaboration, FAO and CIC have just signed a "Memorandum of Understanding", which is to enhance the capacity of countries (especially developing countries) in conserving and sustainably managing wildlife resources, thereby contributing to biodiversity conservation, food safety and nutrition (food security), animal and human health, human and economic development.

Tamás Marghescu, CIC Director General is signing the Memorandum of Understanding

"The partnership between FAO and CIC will advance the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the work of several International Multilateral Environmental Agreements", FAO Deputy Director General (Operations) He Changchui said. Tamás Marghescu, CIC Director General added that: "The signature of the Memorandum of Understanding marks the first groundbreaking step in the much needed creation of a global platform on wildlife conservation and use."

The envisaged cooperation will include collaboration in

- Identifying, documenting and disseminating successful experience and best practices on management and conservation of wildlife through sustainable use.
- Proposing experts on FAO's request that could contribute to inter alia FAO's technical assistance programs in sustainable use, management and conservation of wildlife.
- Promoting networks of professional experts in fields related to wildlife conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resources, animal and veterinary health, food safety, etc.
- Developing joint projects within the scope of their collaboration, mainly (but not restricted to) demonstrating best practice, to test innovations and to train human resources. If the CIC identifies financial resources for the implementation of projects jointly developed, FAO with its experience and capacities available is most suited to be entrusted to execute such projects in a trust fund arrangement with or through the CIC.
- Be available to assist FAO in organizing conferences, seminars, training workshops and technical meetings on matters related to sustainable use and conservation

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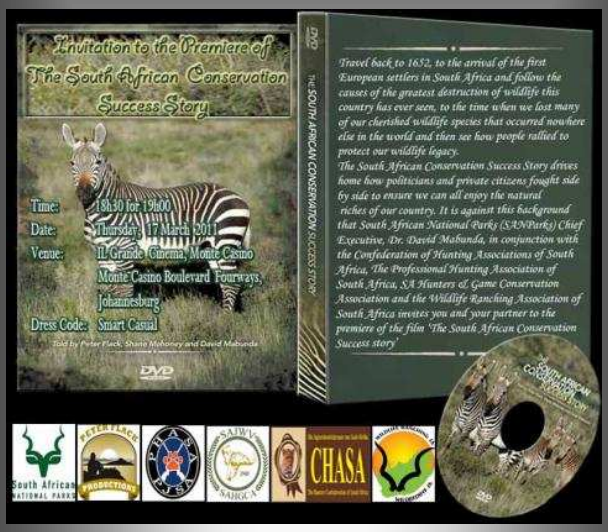
The South African Conservation Success Story



Contact: SANParks, PHASA, CHASA, WRSA or SAJWV for ticket information

Première

Time: 18.30h for 19.00

Date Thursday 17 th March 2011

Venue: Il Grande Cinema, Monte Casino, Fourways, Johannesburg

Dress: Smart Casual

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FAO and CIC Sign Historical Memorandum of Understand-

of wildlife and veterinary public health at global, regional and country level. It is understood that it will be FAO's prerogative to prepare and finalise the meetings' agenda and list of participants and identify the resource persons.

- Demonstrate the collaboration through representatives of the Parties participating in the different fora at various levels of the other organization.
- The Parties will also collaborate in communicating the results of their joint work through joint press releases and joint publications in public, general and professional media.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. FAO is also a source of knowledge and information. We help developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices and ensure good nutrition for all. Since our founding in 1945, we have focused special attention on developing rural areas, home to 70 percent of the world's poor and hungry people. FAO's activities comprise four main areas:

- **Putting information within reach**.
- **Sharing policy expertise**.
- **Providing a meeting place for nations**.
- **Bringing knowledge to the field**

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) is a politically independent advisory body, internationally active on a non-profit basis. The CIC's global community advocates sustainable hunting through its knowledge, networks and valued traditions to benefit people and conserve nature. CIC is present in over 80 countries and is active in various fields such as the conservation and management of migratory birds, big game, tropical game and deals with environmental issues as well as promotes cultural inheritance. Membership consists of individuals, organizations engaged in hunting as well as governments mostly represented by the Ministry responsible for wildlife management. The CIC has gained global recognition as a unique and valuable advisor through its scientific expertise on nature and wildlife conservation issues. The CIC and all of its components endeavor to advocate at all national and international bodies concerned with management of wild-living resources especially the following by demanding:

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

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

Community Management of Natural Resources in Africa: Impacts, Experiences and Future Directions

Edited by Dilys Roe, Fred Nelson and Chris Sandbrook

More than twenty years have passed since community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) rose to prominence in different parts of Africa as a strategy for rural development, local empowerment, and conservation. Led by new ideas about the merits of decentralized, collective resource governance regimes, and creative field experiments such as Zimbabwe's CAMPFIRE, these community-based approaches evolved in a wide range of ecological, political, and social contexts across Africa. This review provides an unprecedented pan-African synthesis of CBNRM, drawing on multiple authors and a wide range of documented experiences from Southern, Eastern, Western and Central Africa. The review discusses the degree to which CBNRM has met poverty alleviation, economic development and nature conservation objectives. In its concluding chapter, the report suggests a way forward for strengthening CBNRM and addressing key challenges in the years ahead.

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Download a free pdf at:
http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/17503IIED.pdf

Palanca Negra Report From Angola

Pedro Vaz Pinto

In late October 2010, one of the two females that looked very pregnant in September started behaving differently than usual, much more wary and nervous and abandoning the herd often. We immediately interpreted this as probable sign of calving. Being one of the females carrying a VHF collar, we were able to track her down occasionally, when she was away from the herd, and not surprisingly her signal led us to the thickest clump of forest inside the sanctuary. By mid-December we had confirmation that the second calf had arrived in Cangandala. We took several photos with it standing next to her proud and protective mother and older half-brother.

As for the bull, he also looks as strong and healthy as ever.

On a less positive note, the female that disappeared in July is still missing, and we're down to eight potentially breeding females. We concluded the first year, we were left with a bitter-sweet taste… there was breeding but below expectations. Or maybe we set the standards too high, as a first year of breeding of wild antelopes held in semi-captivity is always risky and unpredictable. It was disappointing not to have had more calves in the sanctuary in 2010.

We have now established an ambitious plan for 2011, which includes building a third enclosure where all the hybrids could temporarily be relocated to, and then bring more sable, females and males, from Luando, so that we can establish at least two breeding herds in Cangandala. Still early days, as the activities are still being discussed among the various stakeholders. In any case, 2011 will probably witness a lot of action and constitute another landmark for the species' conservation.

The trap cameras in Cangandala are still located in natural salt licks, both inside the larger enclosure (Sanctuary 2 – where we have the hybrid herd) and outside the fences, where we know to have roan but need to keep an eye for any surprise. The record from the last trimester gave us some nice photographic sequences, but these simply confirmed what we already knew. In the referred enclosure we only found hybrids, in a total of ten. At least now we are pretty sure that we have a hybrid herd inside the enclosure that totals probably ten animals (maybe up to eleven or twelve maximum), and we still couldn't find any evidence of something else, like a roan bull.

Outside the enclosures we also only obtained photos of roan, as this roan bull sharing a salt lick with a bushbuck. We still have no evidence of hybrids or sable outside the fences. It really looks like somehow we managed to fully and perfectly separate and fence-off the three "species" in Cangandala! The pure sable in sanctuary 1, the robles in Sanctuary 2 and the roan outside. Truly amazing indeed…

You hunted elephant in Africa? Give something back to elephant conservation and participate in the Ivory Research Project. For details see the article "Small Atoms Can Help Save Big Elephants" in this issue of African Indaba. Contact Gerhard@muskwa.co.za for more details

The Future of Wildlife-Based Land Uses in Botswana

Peter Lindsey

There is currently uncertainty regarding the future of wildlife management policy in Botswana, which has some of the largest populations of wildlife in southern Africa, including Africa's largest national elephant herd. During late 2008, the government of Botswana expressed an intention to prohibit safari hunting in several Controlled Hunting Areas (CHAs) adjacent to national parks in the north of the country, following the expiry of current leases. Specifically, the government plans to establish a 25 km buffer zone around protected areas in northern Botswana, in which safari hunting is not permitted. This article briefly discusses the potential implications of such recommendations in terms of sustaining Botswana's wildlife populations.

Historical Context

During the 1960s and 1970s, a small group of southern African nations (including Botswana) introduced two key changes to wildlife management practice which had a dramatic impact on the prospects for conservation: landowners were granted user rights over wildlife through legislative reforms, and safari hunting of wildlife was promoted. Those changes resulted in a large scale switch from livestock to wildlife-based land uses on private land, and stimulated development of Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) in a variety of communally-owned areas. As a result of financial incentives for conservation resulting from sustainable use, and safari hunting in particular, southern Africa experienced significant increases in the abundance and distribution of wildlife outside of protected areas and the recovery of a number of endangered species. The expansion of wildlife populations was particularly pronounced on private land. For e.g., over 200,000 sq. km of private land has been converted to game ranching in South Africa. In parts of southern Africa, the achievements are increasingly extending to communal land. In Namibia, for example, wildlife populations are booming on communal land due to the development of communal conservancies.

On both private and communal land, safari hunting typically provides the entry point for former livestock farmers to adopt wildlife-based land uses because it enables the derivation of financial returns from small and low diversity populations of wildlife. Botswana has traditionally been a strong proponent of the principles of sustainable use, and the wildlife sector relies heavily on returns from safari hunting. Approximately 74% of the vast (~227,000 sq. km) wildlife estate (and 81% of community land used for wildlife production) is dependent on returns from consumptive wildlife utilization.

Implications of Restricting Utilization

1. Community Benefits

Safari hunting currently generates 72% of income for CBNRM programs in Botswana, and restricting the industry has the potential to severely curtail financial incentives for conservation. The proposal to limit safari hunting represents one component of a broader trend towards centralization of control of management over wildlife resources in Botswana (as has also occurred in several other parts of southern Africa in recent years). For e.g., a clause in the Botswana CBNRM policy (finalized in 2007) suggests that 65% of wildlife revenues will be centralized into a national trust fund. Similarly, a moratorium was placed on lion hunting (despite the absence of evidence of negative impacts associated with the practice in Botswana), significantly reducing the potential returns to communities from safari hunting. The clearest successes in promoting wildlife conservation outside of protected areas in Africa have been achieved where authority to manage and utilize wildlife has been devolved to the landholder level. In Botswana, by reducing the freedom of communities to manage wildlife and imposing restrictions on safari hunting, the government risks reducing community buy-in to natural resource management and reducing incentives for conservation.

2. Hunting and Tourism Trade-offs

Safari hunting generates 15% of tourism revenues from only 1% of tourist arrivals, making it one of the lowest impact forms of tourism in Botswana. Safari hunting typically focuses on male animals and results in the removal of 2-5% of ungulate populations and generally has minimal impact on the viability of wildlife populations. The trophy quality for most species has been fairly constant over time in Botswana, indicating that the quotas for most species are sustainable.

Photo-tourism is an important contributor to GDP and to conservation efforts in Botswana. However, there are a number of drawbacks associated with photo-tourism that prevent it from being a panacea for natural resource management and rural development. Most significantly, photo tourism is generally only viable in areas with very high densities of visible wildlife, and/or spectacular scenery and large areas of Botswana's wildlife estate are not suitable. Photo-tourism relies on visitation by far greater numbers of tourists than safari hunting, resulting in environmental impacts through fossil fuel use and habitat conversion for the creation of tourism infrastructure. Furthermore, inequity in receipt of benefits can undermine the conservation and development benefits of photo tourism. Photo tourism generates relatively little direct employment in Botswana, and most jobs created are in menial support services. Leakage of revenues from the photographic industry is also a serious problem. Approximately 73% of photo-tourism revenues are leaked from Botswana overseas, compared to 25% of safari hunting income. The majority of earnings from photo-tourism in Botswana are generated via 'enclave' tourism (i.e., tourism operations run by foreign companies with a weak benefit stream to local communities), and comparatively few benefits accrue to CBNRM tourism ventures.

3. Regional Conservation Alliances

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The Future of Wildlife-Based Land Uses in Botswana

During recent decades, Botswana has been a strong advocate for the principles of sustainable use. Unity among southern African nations has been crucial in preventing and limiting the impact of proposals tabled at CITES meetings designed to limit the sustainable use of wildlife in southern Africa. If Botswana, a country traditionally so resolute in its support of the principles of sustainable use, was to impose stringent restrictions on hunting, the impression among other countries may be that such a decision was based on negative environmental consequences associated with hunting (despite a lack of evidence to support such assumptions, and regardless of the clear conservation gains resulting from financial benefits from hunting).

Such nations may then be persuaded to vote for proposals designed to curtail sustainable utilization of southern African wildlife resources at CITES meetings. In addition, Botswana is a signatory to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Wildlife and Natural Resources, the primary objective of which is to: "*establish within the region and within the framework of the respective national laws of each state, common approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resources*". Increased centralization of control over wildlife management, and restrictions on the freedom on communities to derive benefits from wildlife via safari hunting is contrary to both the SADC Protocol on Wildlife and Natural Resources, and to harmonized trans-boundary management of wildlife populations.

Conclusion

Botswana's conservation policies during recent decades have been largely progressive and effective, resulting in the conservation of a vast wildlife estate and increasing community involvement in wildlife-based land uses. This success has been achieved through a blend of protection and sustainable use. Restricting consumptive wildlife utilization would represent a retrogressive step and a top down imposition that would reduce the profitability of wildlife-based land uses in many rural areas, and reduce community earnings and buy-in to natural resource management. Restricting hunting would not likely be associated with compensatory increases in earnings from photo-tourism and the net impact would probably be reduced incentives for people to conserve wildlife. Instead, policy-makers in

Botswana should maximize the diversity of options for generating income from wildlife; allow market-forces, community preferences and the characteristics of individual areas to determine the ideal form of wildlife uses outside protected areas; and focus attention on key issues affecting conservation in Botswana such as blockages to migration routes created by veterinary fencing, and livestock subsidies which discourage wildlife-based land uses.

Using Drop Nets to Capture Free Ranging Wildlife

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First published in Wildlife Middle East, Volume 5, Issue 3

Live capture of free ranging wildlife has always been a difficult but necessary component in population management, animal tracking, disease investigation, marking, and many other conservation practices. These capture efforts are costly and labor intensive. Several techniques have been developed to capture numerous animals at one time, minimizing the expense involved in these operations.

Drop nets have been used for over 30 years to capture various species of birds and mammals. They have become a preferred method of live capture for biologists and wildlife managers around the world due to their ease of use, relatively low cost and the ability to capture large groups of animals at the same time.

A drop net is simply a large net (up to 60'x60') that is suspended in the air over an established bait site. When the target animals walk under the net to feed, the net is dropped and the animals are quickly restrained by hand and removed from the net for processing. Ungulates can be hobbled and blindfolded for easier handling or loaded into a stock trailer for transport. After processing, animals are released without the side-effects of chemical immobilization. There are no lasting physiological effects or post capture myopothy.

Creating an established bait/feed site is the key to successful and efficient drop netting. Once the animals are habitually feeding at the site regularly, the drop net is set up and the animals are allowed to feed normally for several days until they are comfortable feeding under the net. The net height should be between one and two meters higher than the animal's head. At this time the net is prepared for capture by attaching a 12 volt power supply, turning on the receiver and removing the locking pins from the corner magnets. An appropriately sized handling crew is readied in a hiding location approximately 100 meters or less from the net.

Drop nets are highly portable and can be set up by one person. Different net and mesh sizes are available to capture different species. Nets of the same size are interchangeable so different sized species can be targeted with the same drop net system. Net height is adjustable. The number of animals that can be captured at any one time varies by species. The most popular size (40'x40') will capture up to 15 white-tailed deer. The 60'x60' size has been used to capture as many as 26 rocky mountain bighorn sheep. Be sure to have the appropriate sized handling crew before dropping the net.

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Using Drop Nets to Capture Free Ranging Wildlife

Wildlife Capture Services (WCS) manufactures commercially available drop nets that operate on a completely silent electromagnetic system that is controlled by wireless remote. These nets have been sold around the world for over 8 years to capture various bird species and ungulates weighing up to 600 pounds. Complete drop net systems can be shipped internationally and arrive in four parcels. These systems include everything needed to live capture animals except a 12 volt power supply. WCS recommends purchasing a high quality deep cycle marine battery. These batteries will power the drop net system for up to 20 hours between charges. An instructional video is included with each system and can be viewed on their website: http://wildlifecapture.com/drop_net.html

The Taxonomy of African Game Animals

Peter Flack

There are no rules, or so it may appear. That's right, when it comes to establishing whether an animal is a new species or subspecies, there are no comprehensive, hard and fast laws, rules or regulations. Cutting through all the "who ha", if enough people, of whatever persuasion, say it is a new species or subspecies, then it is. For example, an American hunting organization has recently decided that bongo in parts of West Africa are a new subspecies, different to those in both Central and East Africa. Just like that and despite the fact that only these latter two subspecies have been recognized as such for scores of years.

At the other end of the spectrum, I recently read an article in The Journal of Mammalogy by four scientists arguing for the recognition of a new species of elephant shrew. Their arguments were based on an analysis of both mitochondrial and nuclear DNA sequences, comparative cytogenic (chromosome) data and morphological (physical, visible or measurable) differences as well. This allowed them to produce an identification scheme which showed how to distinguish the new species from the existing ones and also established the geographic limits of the new species.

According to Professor Terry Robinson of Stellenbosch University, who has patiently tried to initiate me into some of the intricacies and niceties of genetics, "There are two broad schools of thought when it comes to making these determinations – the school which bases its findings on empirical data that includes physical, dental, chromosomal and DNA analysis and THOSE THAT DO NOT!" In other words, there is only one way he and other serious scientists approach the matter and they are not particularly interested in anyone who doesn't follow this basis for establishing new species and subspecies.

Then there is Gerhard Damm who has spent the last four years working on the Caprinae Atlas which will shortly be published. This monumental piece of work seeks to define and describe all sheep and goat species worldwide. He has this to say, "Taxonomy is not mathematics, and different scientists have come to different interpretations without conclusively being able to prove that those of differing opinion are wrong. The *Caprinae* taxonomy is a case in point. Many of our learned friends and colleagues in the Caprinae Specialist Group have strong and opinionated viewpoints – we certainly do not want to claim that we have suddenly found the expertise to elevate one over the rest."

Damm therefore argues for a more collaborative approach involving both scientists and others. He writes, "cooperative efforts between biologists and scientists of the range states, hunting outfitters, guides, hunters, local rural populations and international organizations are, however, essential to maintain high quality information and a database, complimentary to, but essential for, furthering our taxonomic understanding."

The reasons for this go to the very heart of the conservation of those selfsame species and subspecies. He adds, "The sustainable use option, the economic value and, consequently, the conservation initiatives for the different Caprinae phenotypes (*a phenotype is geographically and/or measurably distinct*), will most likely improve if well regulated and internationally accepted hunting tourism programs are built around unique phenotypes. Otherwise, why should an international hunter be interested to hunt the probably smaller rams in Kyrgyzstan, if one could have a chance at a large ram in Tajikistan? Why should anybody be interested in hunting and conserving the Balkan chamois – especially in view of the hundreds of thousands chamois throughout their range – if one could easily obtain an Alpine chamois in Austria. Last not least – why should a hunter pay significantly more for a Khangai argali hunt than for a Gobi argali hunt – if it were not for the recognition of the particular phenotype."

When it comes to the approach described by Professor Robinson, there are two ways of determining DNA – using mitochondrial DNA analysis, which basically tells you who the mother of the animal was, and nuclear DNA analysis, which basically tells you who the father was. The latter is a much more expensive and time consuming analysis and, therefore, is used less often. However, to be sure of the parentage of the animal, both tests need to be done. What is more, there needs to be an adequate data base comprising information on animals from different locations throughout the species' range in order to make a valid and persuasive case as to whether the animal is an existing or new species or subspecies.

For example, when he and Professor Van Vuuren, also of Stellenbosch University, were attempting to establish the degree of similarity between royal or giant sable from Angola and sable from neighboring

Western Zambia which manifested similar facial markings

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The Taxonomy of African Game Animals

–they are distinct by the way - they tested over 170 DNA samples of these animals. On the other hand, when I asked them to test DNA samples from situtunga from Western Zambia which, from a visual perspective, looked like forest situtunga, they could come to no definitive conclusion as there is not a sufficiently comprehensive data base available against which to compare the samples Chris Kinsey, Craig Boddington and I provided.

Of course, as I wrote at the outset, you can disregard this scientific way of classifying animals or the approach called for by Gerhard Damm and, like the American hunting organization I mentioned, simply make a claim that there is a new species or sub-species in the popular press and, unfortunately, if a lot of people, particularly those who have access to publications, agree, then as has happened in the past, animals may become popularly viewed as a new species or subspecies regardless whether this is actually the case or not. Sounds hard to believe I know but there it is.

Over the last four years, Rowland Wards Records of Big Game has embarked on one of the most extensive re-evaluations of species and sub-species of game animals recorded in the 119 year history of The Book. For my sins, and as one of the minority shareholders and an ex director of the company, I have been involved in Volume One, the African section of The Book and, along with my colleagues, have looked at each aspect of its contents de novo – from measuring systems to minimums, from descriptions of species and sub-species to their distribution.

We have examined research and literature published over the last few years, consulted experienced people and debated and argued at length until we have eventually reached consensus. One of the more vigorous debates was over a paper published in 2007 about bushbuck which, based on 485 mitochondrial DNA samples, sought to reclassify bushbuck throughout the whole of Africa into two species – *Tragelaphus scriptus* and *Tragelaphus sylvaticus* and these into a further 23 subspecies. The fact that many of these supposed subspecies cannot be visually distinguished from one another and the boundaries between supposed subspecies are often uncertain unfortunately creates difficulties for us hunters and raises the very issues mentioned by Damm.

My concern is that this bushbuck paper, and others like it, may lead to all kinds of, let us call them "misunderstandings" among the hunting fraternity. And it is not as if we do not have enough of them as it is. We know that many species of African game animals change along a geographic cline that starts in the south west of Africa and moves north westward into East Africa and Ethiopia before bending around the rain forests into West Africa. Often where one subspecies ends and another begins is unclear. For example, although on the western bank of the Ruvuma River (which forms the border between Mozambique and Tanzania), the eland are classified taxonomically as Livingstone's and on the eastern bank as Patterson's or East African eland, it is well known that they both look exactly alike and are visually different to the Patterson's eland found further to the north west, for example, in Masailand.

So too, where exactly do Central African Savannah buffalo end and West African Savannah buffalo begin? And where do both varieties end and dwarf forest buffalo begin? Anyone who has hunted the bakos of C.A.R on a regular basis will recall seeing buffalo in glades or openings in the rain forest which are neither one nor the other but no-one has as yet tried to distinguish these "cross-over" buffaloes. At least not taxonomically, although many of us know of such animals that have been entered into record books as if they were dwarf forest buffalo because they are, in general, much bigger than the genuine article.

Although this is a worry to Rowland Ward (as it strives to keep its recordings as accurate as possible, helped in no small way by its small army of well trained and dedicated international measurers and the fact that there are no temptations in the form of prizes or awards to be won for entering an animal in The Book), it is not of major concern to me. Speaking personally, but for the possible "tainting" of the accuracy of The Book's data base, I could not care less if someone, for example, entered a Nile bushbuck as a big harnessed bushbuck. As selfish as it must sound, I hunt for myself and for no-one else. For me and, fortunately, for many, many others, to do such a thing is inconceivable as it amounts to cheating yourself, which makes no sense at all.

Having said this, if the classification scheme set out in the 2007 publication on bushbuck were to be adopted by hunting record books, it would be difficult for hunters – the people who record 99,99% of all African game species – to know exactly what animal had been shot or picked up. It would also allow the unscrupulous to enter an animal from one area as if it had come from another area where there are little or no physical differences between the subspecies. I fear, however, that I am fighting an uphill battle in this regard as another record book has, on a number of occasions, created new subspecies based entirely on size. I suspect that this owes more to commercial exploitation than anything else. After all, the greater the number of species and subspecies, the more the number of entries, the larger the revenue for the hunting organization. But then again I suppose I could be wrong.

Just as South African lions have been removed from Rowland Wards Records of Big Game because measurers could no longer be sure whether they were "canned" or not, if measurers also become unable to tell, without expensive and time consuming DNA analysis, where an animal comes from, or what it is from photographic evidence, such "doubtful" or "tainted" animals also risk being removed from The Book or not being entered at all. For hunters like me who believe that Rowland Ward stands for all that is good, decent and authentic in this threatened hunting world of ours, then to all intents and purposes, such specimens cease to have any attraction as a huntable game species. For example, I am no more interested in hunting a lion in South

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The Taxonomy of African Game Animals

Africa than in trying to fly to the moon. Of course, by this I do not mean to be prescriptive. If you want to measure your own trophies, kill them in cages, decide for yourself what they are, enter them into a book and pay for the privilege, be my guest. But is it really hunting? And what purpose does such a record book serve?

Quite honestly, where you combine this with the creation of new categories of animal species or subspecies based on little or no comprehensive or empirically established scientific evidence – such as the new bongo species recognized by the American hunting organization - I believe you may be creating a very unfortunate and slippery slope. And when this is compounded by giving people awards for the various entries they make, it simply makes a mockery of a sport that we feel so passionately about.

The Conservation Status of the Lion in Tanzania

Pascal Mésochina, Obed Mbangwa, Philippe Chardonnet, Rose Mosha, Beatrice Mtui, Nowlenn Drouet, William Crosmary and Bernard Kissui

This report was published in June 2010 by the International Foundation for the Management of Wildlife, Paris (IGF) and gives ample information and background about the status *of Panthera leo* in Tanzania.

From the Abstract:

The IUCN SSC organized two regional workshops, one for West and Central Africa (2005) and one for Eastern and Southern Africa (2006), to produce regional conservation strategies for the lion. Tanzanian authorities, together with local stakeholders took part in the regional exercise for establishing the Regional Conservation Strategy for the Lion in Eastern and Southern Africa and soon after organized the first national workshop to prepare a National Action Plan for lion and leopard. In 2009 the Tanzanian authorities expressed the will to update the lion profile in the country and to hold the second national workshop for finalizing a Lion National Action Plan.

The present survey has attempted to update the conservation status of the lion in Tanzania. The final report of this survey is expected to bring comprehensive material for the submission to the forthcoming National Action Plan Workshop. The methods used are explained and results are provided and discussed. A geo-referenced database has been set up to collect and analyze the information available (250 bibliographic references) as well as the information generated by specific inquiries (among 321 informants). Nine thematic maps have been drawn.

The lion range in Tanzania is still extensive with a surface of 750,000 km^2, i. e. 92% of the terrestrial surface of the country, of which 335,000 km^2 (i. e. 42%) are located inside Protected Areas (National Parks and Hunting Areas). An assessment of the lion population size has been attempted with a tentative figure of 16,800 individuals in Tanzania at this stage, a large majority of them living in Protected Areas (i. e. 80%).

Tanzania hosts the largest lion population in Africa and is the first country in terms of lion trophy hunting with around 200 free ranging lions legally harvested per year. This figure remains far smaller than the number of lions illegally killed for various reasons such as ritual killing, snaring for bushmeat, retaliation in reaction to human casualties and livestock losses, etc.

Because lions largely range outside protected areas, human lion conflicts are of great concern in this country, especially in central and southern Tanzania. Indeed, illegal killing of lions and habitat loss appear to most informants as the main threats to lion conservation.

FAO-CIC Publications

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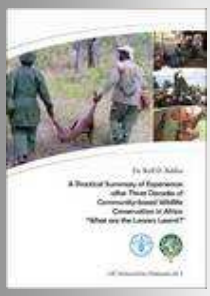

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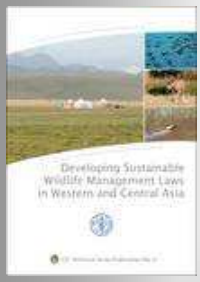

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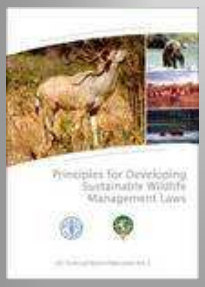

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CIC Technical Series Publication No. 3

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Southern Sudan

The Undersecretary in the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism in Southern Sudan, Dr. Daniel Wani, threw the doors wide open for potential investors in the sector last week, following the successful independence referendum. In details availed from Juba, he was quoted to have said that his ministry was seeking an immediate investment volume of US$150 million from private sector investors in the aviation, hospitality, and safari sectors, while also encouraging private-public partnerships in the wildlife sector. The wildlife sector also presently has only one partially-functioning lodge on offer in Nimule National Park, while the other 5 national parks require investments to open them up to tourists. Initially this is thought to be rolled out through mobile or semi-permanent tented camps, the classic traditional "safari style." while undoubtedly the construction of more permanent lodges in key positions across those parks will also get underway. Already connected very well by air from Nairobi with daily flights for Juba – other neighboring countries like Uganda and Ethiopia now also operate daily scheduled flights from their own main international gateways to Juba. Southern is arguably Africa's last frontier being opened up for exploration, and the migration of the white-eared kobs, second only to the Serengeti migration in terms of numbers, will be a huge magnet for visitors

58th CIC General Assembly, Saint Petersburg, Russia 11 – 15 May 2011

On behalf of the Russian CIC delegation and 2 million Russian hunters, 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".

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

The Cryptic African Wolf

Gerhard R Damm

They still occur in the Ethiopian highlands and were referred to as Egyptian jackal (*Canis aureus lupaster*), a rare subspecies to the golden jackal.

After a team of scientists in Ethiopia noticed that these golden jackals looked more slender and showed a lighter pelage, and after genetic test were performed it appears that these animals are more closely related to gray wolves than to jackals. As long ago as 1880 the great evolutionary biologist Thomas Huxley commented that Egyptian golden jackals – then as now regarded as a subspecies of the golden jackal – looked suspiciously like grey wolves. The same observation was made by several 20th Century biologists studying skulls. Nonetheless, the conventional taxonomy has not been changed.

With the genetic evidence in hand, the team suggested the animal be called the African wolf reflecting its unique status as the only member of the gray wolf complex in Africa suggested researcher Claudio Sillero who has worked in Ethiopia for more than two decades. It is not a jackal, but a wolf, taxonomically grouped with the Holarctic grey wolf, the Indian wolf and the Himalayan wolf.

Dr Eli Rueness, the first author of the paper, stated that "we could hardly believe our own eyes when we found wolf DNA that did not match anything in GenBank."

The researchers which included scientists from Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, analyzed the DNA from the feces of five individuals of the mysterious animal, one of which they had filmed defecating so they could link for certain this creature with its DNA sample. They got another tissue sample, for DNA analysis, from a road kill in Arsi in southeast Ethiopia. DNA samples from golden jackals were obtained in Serbia. The results showed *C. a. lupaster* is more similar to gray wolves than to golden jackals.

The African wolf is a rare member of the Afroalpine fauna, an assemblage of species with African and Eurasian ancestry that evolved in the relative isolation of the highlands of the Horn of Africa. The present study suggests that the colonization of Africa by an ancestral stock of gray wolves took place about 3 million years ago and is today embodied what was hitherto called Egyptian jackal. The rare Ethiopian wolf split off from the gray wolves even earlier. The discovery raises fascinating biological questions about how the African wolf evolved and lived alongside not only the real golden jackals but also the vanishingly rare Ethiopian wolf, which is a very different species with which the new discovery should not be confused.

Golden jackals currently listed as a species of least concern by IUCN obviously still include the cryptic African wolves. In Ethiopia these animals systematically persecuted as threat to livestock. To get an idea of the true population numbers and distribution, the team said a thorough survey is needed in both Ethiopia and adjacent countries

Source: Rueness EK, Asmyhr MG, Sillero-Zubiri C, Macdonald DW, Bekele A, et al. (2011) The Cryptic African Wolf: *Canis aureus lupaster* Is Not a Golden Jackal and Is Not Endemic to Egypt. PLoS ONE 6(1): e16385. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0016385

Distribution Update of the Arabian Wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*) from Saudi Arabia

Peter L. Cunningham and Torsten Wronski

First published in Wildlife Middle East, Volume 5, Issue 3

Canis lupus pallipes

Since the first Arabian wolf records in late 1880's from northern and central Saudi Arabia their actual distribution has been sketchy with wolves never viewed as being very common throughout their range.

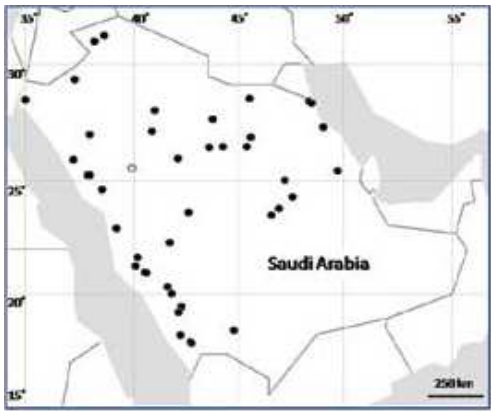

Fig. 1: Wolf distribution in Saudi Arabia

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Distribution Update of the Arabian Wolf

Although widespread throughout Saudi Arabia earlier publications indicate wolves either from the mountainous south western Asir, northern rocky areas bordering Jordan or the central areas around Riyadh. Being an understudied species, Arabian wolves are probably more widespread than currently documented and accordingly the species is listed as Least Concern (LC) with a stable population trend with a CITES protection status of CITES Appendix II. The status of wolves in Saudi Arabia is difficult to determine due to a lack of research and systematic census although estimated numbers vary between 500 and 700 animals. The only official census in Saudi Arabia to date was conducted during late 1999 and early 2000 by Sinibaldi et al. (2000) who concluded that the overall numbers might be higher albeit still in a decreasing trend. The aim of this paper is to update the distribution of Arabian wolf in Saudi Arabia by providing recent locations and data from unpublished field reports difficult to access from outside Saudi Arabia.

Data were collected through a search on the literature published from Saudi Arabia including unpublished reports (grey literature) by various authors, samples collected from the wild and stored for genetic analysis at the King Khalid Wildlife Research Centre (KKWRC) and recent (2008/2009) sightings by the authors.

This paper confirms an additional 64 confirmed wolf sightings (i.e. live, dead, tracks, prey) since 1999 with the most recent sighting being of a female captured in a box trap on 15 November 2009 approximately 30 km north of Riyadh in central Saudi Arabia

Fig. 2: Wolf carcasses in hanging tree in the An Namas area, western Saudi Arabia (©Cunningham).

The Arabian wolf, against the odds, tenaciously survives throughout much of its original distribution range in Saudi Arabia. A lack of herding of domestic livestock and abundant and ubiquitous refuse in Saudi Arabia ma also have contributed to the wolf's successful persistence as they may achieve densities in relation to the available food source. They suffer greatly from persecution with "hanging trees" – sites (often trees) traditionally used to display wolves (as well as other predators such as hyena, caracal and leopard) – testament to their encounters with humans (Figure 2). Notwithstanding this persecution they are still viewed as numerous in certain inhospitable mountainous areas by Bedouin who often loose domestic stock to wolf predation. In a recent survey in the western Asir (An Namas/Bisha area) the wolf carcass encounter rate was 0.12 wolves per km^2. Elsewhere, they are expected at lower densities and anecdotal evidence suggests that they are highly mobile seasonally in Saudi Arabia. The importance of establishing and maintaining protected areas (including active enforcement thereof) in the mountainous areas of Saudi Arabia would not only benefit wolves, but also other species (e.g. ibex, mountain gazelle) facing a tentative existence. Wolves may be able to re-establish in areas where active persecution is limited such as in certain protected areas as recently confirmed from the Ibex Reserve (approximately 180 km south of Riyadh) in central Saudi Arabia. The greatest threat to wolves is increased human population and inevitable conflict leading to active persecution, transferable canid related diseases (e.g. rabies) and better veterinary care of free ranging domestic stock thus limiting carcasses for scavenging and predation. On the other hand wolves have become habituated to humans and being opportunistic omnivorous foragers with a high reproductive rate may ensure their survival in an otherwise marginal environment.

We thank H.H. Prince Bandar bin Saud bin Mohammed Al Saud, Secretary General, NCWCD for his continued support towards conservation efforts in Saudi Arabia. Our appreciation also goes to Ernest Robinson (Director KKWRC, Thumamah) for commenting on a draft of this note.

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The South African Conservation Success Story

Peter Flack

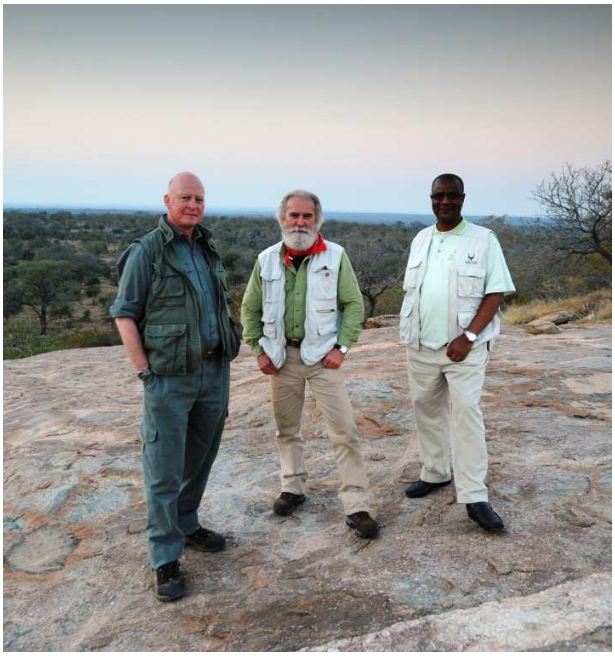
Editor's note: *Several years ago, on occasion of the CIC General Assembly in Belgrade, Peter Flack, and I, together with a small band of South Africans, watched Shane Mahoney's documentary "Opportunity for All", relating the story of the North American Wildlife Conservation Model. A minute or so of stunned silence elapsed after the lights went on again – we were all thoroughly impressed, then Peter said, more to himself than to us "… In South Africa we have experienced a similar conservation success story, yet nobody knows about it! I am going to produce a documentary to tell this story to World!" Peter, ever hands on when it comes to hunting and conservation doesn't make such promises lightly. And now he presents this stunning documentary which I had the privilege to see during a preview in November 2010. I sat spellbound during the presentation, and when David Mabunda spoke about the intimate connection conservationist and hunters share in South Africa, I could not help but spontaneously applaud! This documentary is a factual and unemotional presentation of the tremendous biodiversity South Africa harbours, and the efforts of a broad spectrum of people who work and continue working in its preservation for all mankind. I sincerely hope that the documentary finds its way into all class rooms of South African Schools, onto the desks of our parliamentarians and decision makers in business and into the homes of all who have South Africa's wildlife at heart.*

After nearly five years of work, 18 months of intensive research and using two award winning film crews, the documentary on the South African Conservation Success Story is complete and South African National Parks, in conjunction with the Confederation of Hunting Associations of South Africa, the Professional Hunting Association of South Africa, the South African Hunting and Conservation Association and the Wildlife Ranching Association of South Africa, will host a premiere of the film on 23 February 2011 in Johannesburg.

The brief introduction to the documentary encapsulates what the film is all about. The narrator says: "I am sitting here among the fynbos at the foot of Africa, the Cape of Storms. The first Europeans to settle in Southern Africa landed a few kilometers away in Table Bay, in 1652, in three small ships under the leadership of a man called Jan van Riebeek.

Their arrival ultimately led to the greatest destruction of game that this continent has ever known. Over the next 300 years, game animals in what was to become the Republic of South Africa, were reduced to barely half a million animals. And then, over the following 50 years or so, their numbers recovered to the nearly 19 million. Why did this happen? How did this happen? And what does the future hold? This is our story…." time when we lost two and almost many other cherished wildlife species that occurred nowhere else. And then see how people rallied to protect our wildlife legacy."

It goes on to state: "Using stunning wildlife and habitat footage filmed by the award winning production team, as well as archival photos, The South African Conservation Success Story drives home how politicians and private citizens fought side by side to ensure we all can enjoy the natural riches of our country." And then asks the viewer to, "Discover the facts to help you make sound decisions about our wildlife and their future conservation, how thousands of outdoors people like you are keeping wild animals plentiful in our country – and how you can do even more to ensure this great heritage."



Peter Flack, the producer of the Documentary, a lawyer, businessman, conservationist and retired game rancher, Shane Mahoney, a Canadian wildlife biologist, writer and researcher and David Mabunda, CEO of the 22 South African National Parks

The three narrators of the documentary are Peter Flack, the producer of the film, who reads the brief introduction quoted above. The main narrator is Shane Mahoney, a renowned Canadian wildlife biologist, writer and researcher who makes the key point in the second part of the documentary as follows: "Somehow, extraordinarily, approximately 150 years ago, a great conceptual leap was made by mankind. A conceptual leap that, in my opinion, is probably the greatest intellectual invention that we've had in centuries. And that is to change our attitude towards the natural world and to believe that progress and civiliza-

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tion really was associated with how well we could manage to keep wild nature with us.

This launched the movement that we have come to know as conservation. A movement that has swept the world, a movement that has played itself out in virtually every continent and in virtually every country. We now believe that the measure of our progress is how well we do for wildlife, not how much we take."

The important concluding section is narrated by Dr. David Mabunda, CEO of the 22 South African National Parks. Amongst the many important points he makes is the following: "Parks and preserves cannot and have not in Africa in themselves maintained the biomass and variety of wildlife that is possible in combination with a strong game ranching industry. Furthermore, most game ranching and hunting takes place in the arid or semi-arid regions of South Africa, land that is unsuitable for crop growing and will revert, at best, to sheep and goats and the inevitable erosion and desertification that will follow."

The documentary sets out the facts relating to the conservation of wildlife, or lack thereof, that has characterized South Africa over the last 360 years. It has no agenda, no bias. The object is to provide the viewer with the factual foundation he or she may needed to make wise and informed decisions regarding our wildlife and their conservation in the belief that, if they do, wildlife will be with us, our children and grandchildren and so on, and provide marvelous opportunities for all of us in perpetuity.

To this end, copies of the documentary will be made available to politicians and school principals, free of charge. Various organizations participating in the Johannesburg premiere will host local premieres around the country from March 2011 and CIC has kindly offered to host the European premiere at their General Assembly in St. Petersburg in May 2011. The DVD will be on sale at the various local premieres, in National Parks, at selected outlets, as well as via Rowland Ward (www.rowlandward.com), after 23 February 2010. A book on the documentary, including the DVD, will be on sale in the above outlets from April next year. Proceeds from the sales will help fund future distribution of the DVD.

For more information on Peter Flack, his books, DVDs and articles go to www.peterflack.co.za

Première Thursday 17th March 2011
Time: 18.30h for 19.00
Il Grande Cinema, Monte Casino, Fourways, Johannesburg

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

In the last African Indaba (Vol. 8, No. 6) I wrote an article under this headline. Michael Eustace, a valued reader and subscriber for many years corresponded with me after he had received the issue and sent me the email printed below. Readers may recall that Michael Eustace is also an author of some articles previously printed in African Indaba. His last article appeared in Vol. 8, No. 1 and was titled "**Rhino Poaching: Legalizing Horn Trade May Be the Answer".**

Michael and I had an animated and friendly discussion on the stoep of my Johannesburg home about the topic. Whilst we did not find a solution which would eliminate rhino poaching, we certainly agreed that the "*the invisible hand of the market*" indeed could play a major role and all aspects of Michael's proposals merit thorough evaluation and discussion.

Here is Michael Eustace's email dated 15th December 2010:

I am one of "the well-meaning proponents of legalized trade in rhino horn" but am not keen on the theory of flooding the market with horn from stocks in order to bring down the price and thus make poaching unprofitable. Increasing the supply of horn will probably mean that speculators will enter the market and buy up the horn for later sale at higher prices. If that happens then the expected outcome of reducing poaching will not happen.

Reducing prices will increase demand. At the moment about 400 horns are sold into the market p.a. at a wholesale price of about $20.000 per Kg. Supply and demand are brought into balance at that price.

Put another way the "Chinese" have better things to do with their money at a price above $20.000. Reduce the price and demand will increase. Increase the price and demand will fall. South Africa can supply 400 horns p.a. from natural deaths alone without the need to kill one rhino. We can increase this to 800 horns p.a. by drawing down on stocks, without the need to kill one rhino.

Our stocks are sufficient to supply 400 horns p.a. for 10 years by which time our rhino population will have doubled, if we can stop poaching. We can then continue to supply 800 horns from natural deaths alone from a population of 40.000 rhino. 800 horns would generate$64 million p.a. for parks and conservation of rhino. At the moment 400 horns are generating $32 million p.a. for criminals and nothing for conservation.

Parks in SA own 80% of the rhino. Parks are undervalued by society and are in need of generating more profit in order to

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make them sustainable. Selling rhino horn is potentially a major source of profit for parks. We need to maximize that source and not minimize it by, inter alia, scorning the logic for Chinese demand. The potential rhino horn trade needs high prices in order to fund parks as well as to limit demand to manageable levels.

But, you will argue that high prices will mean a continuation of poaching. Quite correct, unless you have a legal trade that enters into partnership with "Chinese" state pharmaceutical companies in order to control the market. If the Chinese state is invested in the legal trade they will be more robust at closing down the illegal trade. Illegal goods typically trade at a discount of 30% and SA will have a lot more money to police poaching which will increase the risks to the illegal trade. Lower prices and increased risk will mean a decline in poaching. We may not be able to eliminate poaching entirely but we might reduce it to, say, 100 rhino p.a.

For 50 years De Beers used to control the diamond market through their Central Selling Organization. It was very successful until the Russians and Australians decided to go their own way. The CSO is a perfected model that would be ideal to regulate and control the rhino horn trade and maximize the profitability. SA has 95% of the continents rhino and large stocks and is perfectly positioned to control the market.

The current ban on trade has been devastating for the rhino. A carefully structured legal trade would seem to me to be a much better plan.

Saving the Rhino Through Sacrifice

A very interesting article by Brendan Borrell which appeared on December 9th on Bloomberg Businessweek. Download the full article at
http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/10_51/b4208068688480.htm

African Wildlife Heritage Gala Dinner

Endorsed by Dr. Ian Player

INTERCONTINENTAL SANDTON SUN AND TOWERS, JOHANNESBURG
15TH April 2011
Maroela Room
Contact PHASA for

PHASA, with the financial backing from the PHASA Conservation and Empowerment Fund and with the support of the Peace Parks Foundation and the SA Wildlife College is holding the 3rd gala fundraising evening to raise internationally recognized bursaries for select students from all ethnic groups, to study Wildlife Management at the Southern African Wildlife College at Hoedspruit. This college is administered and funded jointly by WWF-SA and the Peace Parks Foundation and trains wildlife managers from all Southern African countries.

For a list of exciting auction items and tickets contact Marianna at Tel: 012 667 2048
E-mail: info@phasa.co.za

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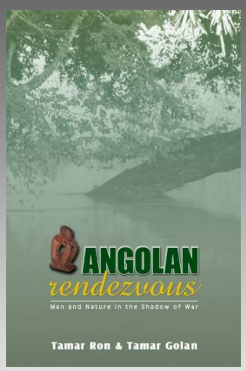
SOUTHERN AFRICAN WILDLIFE COLLEGE

Angolan Rendezvous

Man and Nature in the Shadow of War
By Tamar Ron & Tamar Golan



Ostensibly, this book is in two voices: Tamar Golan, Israel's first Ambassador to Angola, deals with the political/diplomatic aspects, while the stories on gorillas, the Black giant sable and Nature are by zoologist/ecologist, Tamar Ron. But in reality, the book has one voice, one of love for Angola, its long-suffering people, vast landscapes and wild animals, and their ongoing struggle for survival.

Africa is associated with war, disease, oil, diamonds, hunger, corruption, destruction, death—a lost and forlorn world. In Angola all these are manifest, yet the authors fell in love with the country, with the wonderful people, the children and the women, whose daily struggle for survival arouses both sympathy and admiration, with Angola's enchanting natural beauty, mysterious cultures, rare biodiversity and fiery sunsets over an endless ocean.

For many years a bloody war of independence raged and, as soon at it ended, the country was thrown into a terrible civil war, during the height of the Cold War. Millions were killed, maimed, or lost their homes. The war is now over but the minefields still claim their gruesome harvest. Everything is interwoven: life and death, war and peace; children who know no childhood and adults who dream of a long-lost innocence; men and women, tough warriors who suddenly find softness and warmth in their souls; betrayal of and return to tradition; man and Nature, their fates irrevocably intertwined.

"Calma, calma!" is the answer for every problem—your visa has expired, you are wracked with malaria, there's a power cut and you're stuck in the elevator between the 15th and 16th floors ... yet things have a way of working themselves out in Angola. But there is something pleasant in the air, something calming, warm, comforting. Something that can only be described as calma, calma!

Paperback, 304 pages. 40 color & b/w photos, maps, sketches. R250.00

Game Conservation in Africa: Horns, Claws and the Bottom Line

A very interesting and thought provoking article published in October 2010 by THE ECONOMIST. Worthwhile downloading and keeping in your file.

Governments have mostly failed to protect Africa's wildlife. But other models— involving hunters, rich conservationists and local farmers—are showing promise .

www.economist.com/node/16941705?story_id=16941705

Fencing Impacts: A review of the environmental, social and economic impacts of game and veterinary fencing in Africa with particular reference to the Great Limpopo and Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Areas

The editors K. Ferguson and John Hanks have attempted to showcase with the help of fifty-two authors some of the best and most novel research that relates to the environmental, social and economic impacts of game and veterinary fencing in Africa. However, our selection is by no means comprehensive as other researchers are dedicating much of their time and effort to this important topic. Whilst this review is intended to have a focal point concentrating on fencing issues in southern Africa with particular reference to two TFCAs, some of the contributions are from East Africa and two are from outside of the continent. The editors hope that the volume will help to stimulate interest and constructive debate around the issue of fencing and its impacts.

Ferguson, K. & Hanks, J. eds., 2010. ***Fencing Impacts: A review of the environmental, social and economic impacts of game and veterinary fencing in Africa with particular reference to the Great Limpopo and Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Areas.*** **Pretoria: Mammal Research Institute. Available free at:** http://www.wcs-ahead.org/gltfca_grants/grants.html