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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 5

eNewsletter

September 2011

A Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader

A few weeks ago, during a dinner on occasion of the visit of CIC President Bernard Lozé and CIC Director General Tamás Marghescu to South Africa, Peter Flack presented the guests with the fresh-from-the-press companion book to his DVD *"The South African Conservation Success Story"*. The impressive visual sequences of the DVD were matched, and in some instances even surpassed by the book. I am particularly impressed with David Mabunda's article *"The Future of Wildlife and Conservation"*. David, the CEO of South African National Parks, made some extremely important observations. Right in his first sentence he says that *"despite the benefits hunting and wildlife ranching have brought to South Africa, the future of wildlife and its conservation in this country may well be at crossroads"* and he paints two possible scenarios which could emerge from the *status quo*.

The *status quo* being that South Africa does not have *"a land and wildlife conservation model that [enfranchises] large numbers of previously disenfranchised people"*, that new entrants to South African game ranching have brought with them methods from the domestic livestock industry, and that a significant rise in "canned" and "put & take" killings has tarnished the image of hunting in South Africa. Breeding methods have raised concern and controversy resulting in David's words that *"game ranching has been accused of doing nothing to biodiversity conservation while at the same time demeaning the lives of [wild] animals and recreational hunting itself,"* and he asks the questions *"were the lines are to be drawn between a hunter and a shooter, and a game rancher and a farmer"*.

Pointedly, David then questions *"is South Africa's quiet conservation revolution still on track? Is it a business model with conservation as a by-product or is it a conservation model which also provides economic benefits to the stakeholders?"* He concludes that *"important choices have to be made for the future!"*

Two different scenarios emerge from David's observations: a worst case, where cause and effect will drastically reduce the land under wildlife and reverse all the successes of the past 5 or 6 decades. The more optimistic scenario is likened to a three-legged stool where the public and private sectors, and the dynamism of the markets combine as driving forces for conservation: wildlife and habitat will flourish.

Glancing through the recent issues of a particular South African specialist magazine and looking into some specific South African game breeding websites shows a possible third scenario, apparently economically viable, but possibly with less than desirable conservation outcomes.

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It appears that the proliferation of intensive breeding operations and the total focus on economic gain creates a precarious similarity to the intensive lion breeding and the canned shooting of lion, which led to the conservation and hunting world frowning upon South Africa. There are advertisements with photographs of African buffalo, as well as photos of "pure line cows in calf by denominated sires", which could just as well come out of a cattle breed studbook. That some of these sires are apparently "residing" overseas points towards an international trade in semen straws.

New "antelope subspecies" are "discovered" and named – golden wildebeest are now in good company with golden gemsbok, copper springbok, black impala, king wildebeest and whatever else. Sable antelope are sold on auction and the price depends very much on the blood-line – with western Zambian sable stud bulls and breeding herds and so-called "*masked sable resembling Giant Sable*" sending prices sky-high. In many cases, subspecies are mixed and matched irrespective of origin, to achieve an ever increasing "trophy quality".

If you ask why, some of the websites and articles provide quick answers: "*Because the hunting market demands quality trophies*" or "*we want to restore animals to a trophy quality which has been lost because of indiscriminate hunting*". I beg the readers' pardon, but haven't we heard that already from the lion breeders as an apology for excesses in lion breeding and canned lion shooting?

If you look closely into the matter, we can probably say – especially in the case of buffalo – that the required genetics are still there and about in the wild spaces of Africa. You can read in Ronnie Rowland's and Kai-Uwe Denker's articles (pp. 12 to 15) that hunters selected and still select immature bulls due to inadequate trophy scoring methods. The solution is that professional hunters and clients alike embark on a paradigm shift towards choosing as far as possible post-prime bulls. Selective harvesting will eventually lead to restoring trophy quality. I assume furthermore that the vast majority of hunters who come to Africa are looking for a genuine hunt, which the diligent tracking and selection of old mature bulls will provide. Or would you rather shoot a 50 inch on a paddock? It would be interesting to have our readers express their opinion!

I am certainly not against controlled *ex-situ* and *in-situ* breeding of wild animals to eventually restore them or their off-spring into wild systems where they can again proliferate and be subject to sustainable harvesting. But can you imagine that buffalo, acquired at the cost of several million Rand each, will ever be released into an eco-system with lions present? The same applies for antelope color phases.

Some South African game breeders are now using practically all methods of artificial manipulation, including artificial insemination, and embryo transfer, but also hormone treatments, specially formulated booster diets, etc. Some also source breeding material on the international market to achieve the desired objectives. These domestic livestock production methods do not only exponentially speed up the selection processes, but influence also fertility, growth rate, food conversion efficiency, even behavior. Therefore the danger is great that these hitherto largely uncontrolled activities may eventually lead to polluting or even losing wild local phenotypes or regionally significant wildlife populations. I am very much in favor of free market systems, but we are in dire need of compartmentalization and some sensible regulation. The purely agricultural livestock breeding models of animals which were formerly wild may have a place in providing food security for some African regions. Philippe Chardonnet, director of IGF and co-chair of the IUCN Antelope Specialist Group pointedly says "*we must [adopt] different approaches for the different animal production systems (farming, ranching, enclosed and free ranging hunting) to encourage compartmentalization. Many countries have already such legal schemes in place. The problem for biodiversity integrity comes from [mixing] compartments and from the proactive creation of freaks by some of the stakeholders for business only, [with a negative] impact on conservation....*" The movement of wild animals between countries and natural distribution areas may also contravene IUCN guidelines on re-introductions and on invasive species and may even impact on Convention on Biological Diversity issues via National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

Fact is that one should not try to promote or mix concepts under the guise of conservation or hunting! In this context, Atle Mysterud's paper comes to mind (see page 21 of this issue) – the Norwegian professor pointedly asks the question "*[Are] we still walking on the wild side?*" describing "*Management actions as steps towards the semi-domestication of hunted ungulates*". You can download Mysterud's paper at http://folk.uio.no/atlemy/pdf/2010/Mysterud_2010_JApplEcol_Still%20walking%20on%20the%20wild%20side.pdf and draw your own conclusions.

The game industry has done a lot of good for the South African conservation revolution – early pioneers such as the Meintjies brothers, the Bester brothers, Norman Dean and Peter Herbert, together with the old guard of safari outfitters, amongst them Coenraad Vermaak, Basie Maartens, Chappy Sparks, Mike Cawood, Garry Kelly and Robin Halse – were on the forefront and laid solid foundation stones. Game ranching does have many proven advantages; these advantages are resting on economical, ecological and socio-cultural pillars. Just like the three legs of the South African conservation stool mentioned in Peter Flack's book. The sensible interaction of the three pillars makes out the conservation revolution of South Africa. There is enough space for economic growth without having to resort to artificially manipulating the wild heritage of Southern Africa.

"*The South African Conservation Success Story*" gives you the full story and David Mabunda's essay about "*The Future of Wildlife and Conservation*" makes it very clear that important choices have to be made for the future! Let us choose the right way!

I am looking forward to a lively debate.

Yours sincerely
Gerhard Damm
Editor & Publisher

Official Response Of The Botswana Government On The Mmegi Article "Wildlife Hunting To Cease In Botswana".

Mable Bolele, Coordinator, Communications, Research and Development
Botswana Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism

In a letter to the media, reference EWT 1/6/4 III and dated 20th July 2011, the Botswana Government refers to an article in Mmegi (issue of Friday 15th July, 2011):

It was said that *the Botswana government is in advanced legal process to ban the hunting of wildlife in favor of photographic safari.*

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism would like to clarify that there is no decision made to ban wildlife hunting. Instead, what is being done is to encourage photographic tourism and gradually limit but not ban wildlife hunting. It must be known that species with declining numbers will be considered for limited hunting while those with increasing numbers like elephants, will continue to be hunted within CITES framework.

On the 13th and 14th July 2011, the Ministry and other stakeholders organized two days training workshop for local Media Practitioners on Poverty and Environmental Reporting. It was at this workshop that the Ministry spokesperson highlighted the benefits of photographic tourism to Community Trusts in the country as compared to just issuing hunting quotas during a discussion on Community Based Resource National Management (CBNRM). But there was no reference to hunting ban. Unfortunately, he was quoted out of context.

In conclusion, the Ministry states that the Botswana Government has no plan to ban hunting in this country and we would like to assure all hunting safari companies and affected communities that live near wildlife management areas who continues to benefit from hunting. The Mmegi story does not reflect current government thinking on the subject of wildlife hunting.

The Spiral Horned Antelope Club: The Legend Of Welverdiend

Marinda Groenewald as told by Dewald Joubert and translated from Afrikaans by Peter Flack

Peter Flack's Introductory Note: The biggest southern greater kudu entered in Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game was picked up along the Save River in Mozambique by Dr. Carlo Caldesi in 1963 and measured an incredible 73 7/8 inches. 48 years later, Mr. Johann Rohrer shot a massive bull of 72 5/8 inches in Hochfeld, Namibia, a country renowned for its big kudu. Earlier this year, the 32 year old Dewald Joubert, manager for the last 14 years on the 2 200 hectare game ranch, Welverdiend, near Hoedspruit, Mpumalanga, South Africa (which concentrates primarily on buffalo), became only the second person in the 118 year old history of Rowland Ward to shoot a plus 70 inch southern greater kudu bull. The horns were officially measured by Lifeform Taxidermy, who also mounted this spectacular, once-in-a-life-time trophy, at 72 1/8 inches for the longest horn and 58 1/2 inches for the other.

The amazing old bull was on its last legs and weighed only some 130 kilograms when shot - a far cry from what it must have weighed in its prime as the average live weight of southern greater kudu bulls is some 300 kilograms. Its teeth were worn down to the gums. So much so, that when Dewald came across where the bull had been feeding as he tracked the animal over the five hours of the hunt, he found blood on the leaves the bull had been eating. According to Dewald, the bull was approximately 14 years old and was one of 14 bulls he came across during the course of the hunt. He is an active member of Lowveld Hunters and Game Conservation



Dewald Joubert and his spectacular kudu bull

Association being responsible for shooting range maintenance and shooting days and, although he has previously shot a 58 inch kudu bull, does

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

not consider himself as a kudu hunter. Big wildebeest, buffalo and elephant are the animals that really excite him although he has also previously shot a big warthog (19 1/2 inches) and his biggest springbok would rank in the top ten.

It was his own thirst that led him to the bull as, after five hours on the tracks, he admits he was, "Vrek dors (dying of thirst)" and headed for the river reckoning, correctly as it turned out, that the bull would be thirsty too. Dewald says that he and his predominantly Shangaan staff saw the old bull infrequently over the years. He confirms that, when they approached the bull, they all took their hats off and stood around the wonderful old animal in silence out of a deep and abiding respect for the Legend of Welverdiend." And now, enjoy Dewald's story:

If a person wakes in the middle of the night with drops of perspiration rolling down his forehead, it is not because you live in Hoedspruit, but because you cannot help of dreaming about the bull of all bulls, a genuine trophy kudu bull. I saw him for first time, shy and retiring when he disappeared behind a red bush at the sound of the hunters' shoes on the ground behind me. I quickly told them to be quiet and stand dead still. The bull peered at us as if to say, "Look and look carefully because you are not going to get me today." The clients still wanted to ask questions but I said quickly, "He's already gone." I could just not forget the kudu bull, the grey brown horns, one straight and the other with deep curls, his broad head and proud gaze.

The second time I saw him was from an air force helicopter. The Hoedspruit region is known for its air force base and, if we are lucky, sometimes us civvies can go along for the ride. That afternoon we flew backwards and forwards low over the town. I asked if it was possible if we could maybe look at the farm from the air and, because the base bordered the farm, it was not a problem. Woep, woep, woep, the helicopter blades echoed off the bush low beneath us. I saw giraffe, impala and blue wildebeest, even a shy steinbuck under the trees and then, suddenly, there stood my Kudu Bull! I could not believe it! And, just as suddenly as he appeared, so, in the blink of an eye, he disappeared...

At a quarter to five one morning I was driving down a fence line. Summer mornings are best at Welverdiend, the fresh air and smell of the earth after the night's rain storm, birds in the trees singing their songs for everyone to hear from early. Suddenly around a corner in the bush something caught my eye, no it could not be.....My kudu! But something was wrong. He looked tired and sick. I quickly turned off the engine so he would not get a fright. Hunter and Kudu stared at one another. He had lost weight but his horns looked longer and thicker than ever. The big brown eyes looked attentively at me but there was no fight in them, nothing left of the legendary "Grey Ghost. He turned slowly and disappeared into the bush. I drove home to fetch my firearm. Rofie was still heading towards the bakkie as I left. That kudu was not going to last long and he was going to be hunted today.

I followed his spoor. Slowly and calmly, because he was not going to go far. Or so I thought. Eventually, two hours before midday, I picked up his spoor again and knew it was not going to be long now. I walked with a tired tread, step by step. Where would the Old Man have gone at this time of the day? Water, that is where. He would drink quickly and then shoot off. I picked up speed and headed to the river. There were still pools of water and that is where he would drink and be able to walk softly, more difficult to walk but softer. And that's how I followed him for 15 minutes all down the course of the river. Suddenly his spoor disappeared in the river course. It would be difficult in the river course. It was thick along the sides and the kudu could be anywhere. I walked carefully forward and then, just as the Big Uncle above wanted it, he walked out in front of me. I hear my heart thundering in my ears and know it is now or never. There is no time to seek a rest against a tree, 180 paces, my 93x62 is in the nook of my shoulder and I am beside myself. Everything happens in the blink of an eye. The shot stirs up everything, the monkeys scream, the birds fly off screeching, everything is mixed up. And then the bull drops in his tracks and roars a strange roar, one that I have never heard before and, with the last of his strength, stands up, looks at me as if I owe him money and trots 50 yards away and there bites the dust, roars again that strange sound and then everything is over. A dead silence reigns over the bush and all I can hear is the 9.3 cartridge case as it falls from the chamber onto the sand. The CDP 286 grainer has finally done its job.

That's when it sinks in that this is not just any kudu this is a trophy kudu. "Siegfried Osmers, you won't believe me I got him" Siegfried first says nothing. There is silence on the other side of the line and then "I am on my way." We went to fetch the farm workers and, when they saw the Old Man there was something strange in the air, unbelievable respect for the Grey Ghost that lay at our feet who for so many years had carried his horns on his powerful neck. Down his neck and over his face were marks made over the years from fighting over cows and grazing simply because he could.

I walked to the truck to fetch my measuring tape, 60 inches and the tape was at its end. "You are short 12 inches" said Siegfried. Then the moment became too much for me because, as a young boy, I dreamt of shooting a Kudu that stretched beyond the limits of my tape. Siegfried clapped me on the shoulder in congratulations. My workers loaded the Kudu with such respect and regard, they were all quiet in honour of *Nhoro* the Great Uncle of the Bush. That evening it hit me as to what I had done, just as the bullet had hit the kudu. A good and honourable end to the Legend of Welverdiend.

Editor's Note: It is a pleasure to share the above story with our readers – this was made possible by Peter Flack's skilled translation of the Afrikaans original and his obtaining the author's permission to publish it in African Indaba. If you want to know more about our frequent contributor Peter Flack, I recommend that you access his personal website – here is the direct link to the Spiral Horned Antelope Club (SHAC). Please go to <http://www.peterflack.co.za/shac/shac.html> - The Spiral Horned Antelope Club is principally a forum to co-ordinate and share news, views, thoughts, suggestions and queries, from all spiral horn enthusiasts on anything to do with these quite amazing and challenging animals. If you would like to join SHAC, [register here](#).

Anti-Poaching Campaign In The Niger Desert To Conserve The Last Hot Spot Of Saharan Biodiversity

Thomas Rabeil, Sahara Conservation Fund

As part of a major strategy to conserve Sahelo-Saharan wildlife, a large protected area of desert is being established in the Termit/Tin Toumma region of Niger in cooperation with the local population. Surveys carried out by the Termit project in Niger since 2006, have all confirmed that the Termit Massif and neighboring Tin Toumma desert are the most important remaining refuges for wildlife in the entire Sahara.

The Termit project in Niger was initiated by the Nigerian Government and CMS. The project is managed locally by the Sahara Conservation Fund, which co-funded the project with the European Union and the FFEM (Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial).

This area harbors several key Saharan species, such as Addax, Dama and Dorcas Gazelles, Barbary Sheep, Saharan Cheetah, Fennec, Striped Hyena, Nubian and Arabian Bustards and Spurred tortoises. However, the zone is suffering from a severe loss of biodiversity mainly due to hunting and poaching even in remote parts of the Sahara.

The Termit project is based on four inter-related components: Saharan biodiversity conservation; development of local communities; improvement of biological and socio-economical knowledge; information, communication and awareness. Within the component Saharan biodiversity conservation, anti-poaching campaigns are undertaken by regional patrols, including staff from the Ministry of Environment and the project. According to an agreement between the project and the Ministry drawn up in 2009, the campaign is managed by the project coordinator who is entitled to request agents any time from Zinder, Diffa and Agadez regions.

Meanwhile, the project has recruited and trained six community game wardens from the local population and two field-based coordinators. Traditional tribal and community leaders participated in the recruitment process in order to obtain their support. The wardens currently employed come from two neighboring areas inhabited by two different but related factions of Toubou: the Teda and the Daza. The initial focus of the work in these areas was on ecological monitoring that showed their high importance in terms of wildlife abundance and threats from poaching.

Each team, composed of three game wardens and a field-based coordinator, has been trained to communicate with and inform the local population about the project and its aims. Other duties include creating a network of observers within the local communities and to communicate information on illegal activities by satellite phone to the project and forest service staff.

In 2009 and 2010, six missions were undertaken dedicated to combat poaching based on information collected by the community game wardens and the network of observers. In 2009, the patrol stopped an important network of poachers operating in the western area of the future reserve with motorcycles from exporting bush meat — mainly Dorcas Gazelles and bustards — to markets in the towns of Tanout, Agadez and even Niamey, more than 1,500 km away.

In 2010, the anti-poaching campaigns did not achieve the same rate of success, with only a few local traditional hunters arrested. Although the campaigns have not eradicated poaching in the area, they have certainly decreased illegal activities for a while. The poachers are better and better equipped each time and the current number of campaigns does not meet the needs in the field for such a large area. Another kind of poaching was identified last year during the construction of an oil pipeline in the southern part of the future reserve. Community game wardens and local observers nowadays frequently report to the authorities on activities of workers of the Chinese oil company and soldiers in charge of their security.

With the reserve being established covering some 100,000 km², it is larger than Ireland or Portugal. one of the biggest challenges for the project is to multiply the number of anti-poaching campaigns and raise awareness of the different stakeholders in the area. The army instead of being part of the problem will participate in the anti-poaching campaigns this year to improve the efficiency of the regional patrols and minimize the loss of biodiversity in this last "Noah's Ark" of the Sahara.

Von Kudus und Kängurus ...

Matthias Kruse

Chefredakteur Rheinisch-Westfälischer Jäger (Genehmigter Nachdruck aus Rheinisch-Westfälischer Jäger · 3/2011)

Viele deutsche Jäger waidwerken Jahr für Jahr in faszinierenden Wildbahnen ferner Länder. Nahezu jeder davon hat dabei „jagdlche Muttermilch“ im Gepäck. Das wird nicht gerade so weit gehen, vor dem Flug in die argentinische Pampas nach dem Hornsignal *Puma tot* zu forschen, aber bestimmte Dinge macht man als deutscher Jäger auch fern der Heimat einfach nicht: Muttertiere von den Jungen wegschießen, irgendwie fixierte Kreaturen aufs Korn nehmen oder eigens zum Zwecke der Exekution eingeflogene Löwen für die Kellerbar sicherstellen ...

Genauso suspekt würde es Ihnen auch vorkommen, wenn nach erfolgreicher Pirsch auf den Brunfthirsch in den ungarischen Donau-Auen der örtliche Jagdführer noch ein kapitales Känguru anböte. Wo man doch schon mal da ist ... Wenn das so ist, bleibt allein die Frage, warum auf Europas größter Jagdmesse in Dortmund die Uhren manchmal anders ticken:

In Halle 7, dem Dorado für interessierte Auslandsjäger, tummeln sich allein fast 30 namibische Anbieter. Nicht von ungefähr, lockt doch dieses faszinierende Land mit einer Fülle ungewöhnlicher Landschaften mit hochinteressanten Wildarten. Zudem noch deutschsprachig, bietet sich das alte Südwest (nicht nur) für jagdliche Einsteiger auf dem schwarzen Kontinent geradezu an. Aber nach welchen Kriterien wird dabei gesucht und gebucht? Eine wichtige Rolle spielen natürlich die Kosten – bei Transfers, Unterbringung, Jagdführung und Abschussgebühren gibts wie überall erhebliche Unterschiede. Fast im gleichen Atemzug mit der Frage nach der Preisliste schauen potenzielle Kunden aber schon nach dem Katalog der bejagbaren Arten: Wenn man schon mal da ist (s. o.), will man auch eine möglichst große Palette exotischer Trophäen mit nach Hause bringen. Dieser Wunsch mag menschlich verständlich sein, kollidiert aber in seiner Naivität mit allen waidmännischen Grundsätzen, auf die wir als deutsche Jäger sonst – zu Recht – so stolz sind.

In Namibia gibt es Springböcke, Warzenschweine, Oryx-Antilopen (immerhin das Wappentier dieses schönen Landes), Hartebeester und die majestätischen Großen Kudus. Mancherorts auch noch Bergzebras und riesige Elands. All diese heimischen Wildtiere bieten lohnendes, unendlich spannendes Waidwerk. Vom Allerfeinsten. Nyalas, Rappen-Antilopen (Sable), Wasserböcke, Gnus, Impalas und Blessböcke sind dort allerdings genauso fehl am Platz ... wie bei uns Kängurus! Deren Heimat, ihr angestammter Lebensraum, liegt oft tausende Kilometer entfernt in Zentralafrika, Ostafrika und im südlichen Afrika. Wenn diese Arten aus Südafrika und anderswoher herbeigekarrt und in Namibia eingepfercht werden, um sie (im besten Falle) nichtsahnenden Jägern zum Abschuss zu präsentieren, stimmt dies nicht nur mich traurig. Ein solches Geschäftsgebaren hat mit Jagd in unserem Sinne rein gar nichts zu tun. Man kann das namibischen Farmern und Jagdanbietern noch nicht einmal vorwerfen. Sie tun das, um sich und ihre Familien zu ernähren. Aber sie könnten und würden es nicht tun, wenn es dafür keinen Markt gäbe. Dieser Markt aber – sind wir. Jeder Jäger,

- der in Dortmund bei namibischen Anbietern nach Sable, Nyala und Co. (s. o.) fragt,
- der gar nicht wissen will, ob sein mögliches Jagdrevier nur rindersicher gezäunt ist – und damit dem Wild seine angestammten Wanderungen weiter ermöglicht – oder durch undurchlässige, kilometerlange Drahtverhaue zum Groß-Zoo verkommt,
- dem es egal ist, ob man vor Ort einen erbarmungslosen Vernichtungsfeldzug gegen Leoparden, Hyänen und Geparde führt, damit diese nicht die teuer importierten Exoten wegfressen,
- der zu erkennen gibt, dass seine Entscheidung für oder gegen einen Anbieter maßgeblich von der Palette dort „vorgehaltener“ Exoten abhängig ist,
- jeder, der so handelt, macht sich mitschuldig an all diesen Praktiken.

Um wie viel ehrlicher ist es dagegen, nach spannender, echter, richtiger Jagd (immer bewusst einkalkulierend, gegen freie, instinktgesteuerte Wildtiere den Kürzeren zu ziehen) mit reinem Gewissen daheim vor jeder einzelnen Trophäe zu stehen.

Anstatt bei bestimmten Fragen stauender Jagdfreunde leicht zu erröten ...

Of Kudus And Kangaroos ...

Matthias Kruse

Editor in Chief, Rheinisch-Westfälischer Jäger (Reprinted with Permission from Rheinisch-Westfälischer Jäger · 3/2011)

Year after year many German hunters experience fascinating hunting in the wild regions of distant lands. Almost every one of them has a dose of "hunting mother's milk" in the bag. When traveling into the Argentine pampas this "baggage" will not go just so far as to look for a German hunting horn tune to announce the taking of a Puma, but certain things German hunters don't do even when far from home: kill female game animals with dependent offspring, draw a bead on creatures especially raised for killing in enclosures, or obtain lions brought in for the sole purpose of execution for the cellar pub at home ...

You would be justifiably suspicious, if after a successful stag hunt during the roar in the Hungarian Danube floodplains, the local hunting guide offered you an outstanding trophy kangaroo. I'm here anyhow, so why not If that is so, the question remains, why on Europe's largest hunting show in Dortmund, the clocks sometimes tick differently.

In the El Dorado for interested hunting tourists, Hall 7 at Dortmund, almost 30 Namibian outfitters maintain their booths. It is no coincidence since this fascinating country attracts hunters with an abundance of unusual landscapes with fascinating wildlife. Moreover, most of the country retained German as a principal language and the old Southwest thus attracts (not only) first timers to hunting on the black continent. But by which criteria do prospective hunter research and book hunts? The total cost of the safari naturally play an important role – there are, as everywhere, considerable differences in the costs for transfers, accommodation, hunting guides and trophy fees. Almost simultaneously with the question for the price list, potential clients look into the catalog of huntable species: since you're already there... (see above), one wants to return home with the largest possible range of exotic trophies. This desire may be humanly understandable, but conflicts in its naivety with all hunting principles which we rightfully take pride in as a German hunters.

Namibia boasts of springbok, warthog, oryx (after all, the emblem of this beautiful country), hartebeest and the majestic greater kudu; in some places, mountain zebras and the large-bodied eland occur. All these native wild game animals offer rewarding and endlessly exciting

hunting at its best. Nyala, sable, waterbuck, wildebeest, impala and blesbok, however, are just as out of place in Namibia... as kangaroos in Germany! Their home and their ancestral habitats are often thousands of miles away in Central, East and Southern Africa.

It saddens not only me, if these species are imported by truck from South Africa and elsewhere to be cooped up behind escape proof fences in Namibia and presented to unsuspecting (at best) hunters for a kill. Such a business practice has nothing to do with hunting as we understand it. One cannot even blame the Namibian farmers and hunt organizers. They do it to provide for themselves and their families. But they could not, and would not do it, if there would be no market for such practices. The market, however – are we ... Every hunter,

- who asks Namibian operators in Dortmund to hunt sable, nyala & co. (see above),
- who does not care to know whether the potential hunting area contains only cattle fencing which enables game animals to make their annual and ancestral migrations, or whether miles of escape-proof fencing degenerate the area into a large zoo,
- who does not care, whether the local landowners embark on the pitiless destruction against leopard, hyena and cheetah, since these predators threaten to eat the expensive imported exotics,
- who is inclined to base the decision for or against an outfitter principally on the number of penned exotics within the hunting area,
- who acts like this turns into an accomplice of these practices

It is honest and honorable to look at each individual hunting trophy at your home, especially after an exciting, enthralling and genuine hunting experience which takes into account that one may not always be successful in bagging free-roaming, instinct-driven wild game animals. Instead of blushing at specific questions of admiring hunting friends

The CIC At The CBD/CITES Bushmeat Meeting

From 7 to 10 of June the CBD/CITES Bushmeat Meeting was held in Nairobi. The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC, an IUCN Member Organization, as one of the major partners of the meeting was represented by Ali Kaka, IUCN Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa and Special Adviser of CIC President Lozé. Kaka stressed the need for the documentation of 'Best Practice Examples' in systematically tackling the bushmeat crisis.

The over-exploitation of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians in many tropical and sub-tropical countries is increasingly threatening food security and livelihoods in many countries, and is a major cause of biodiversity loss. Bushmeat (or wild meat) hunting is defined as the harvesting of wild animals in tropical and sub-tropical countries for food and for non-food purposes, including for medicinal use. The group recommended a number of approaches for alternatives to unsustainable harvesting of bushmeat, including:

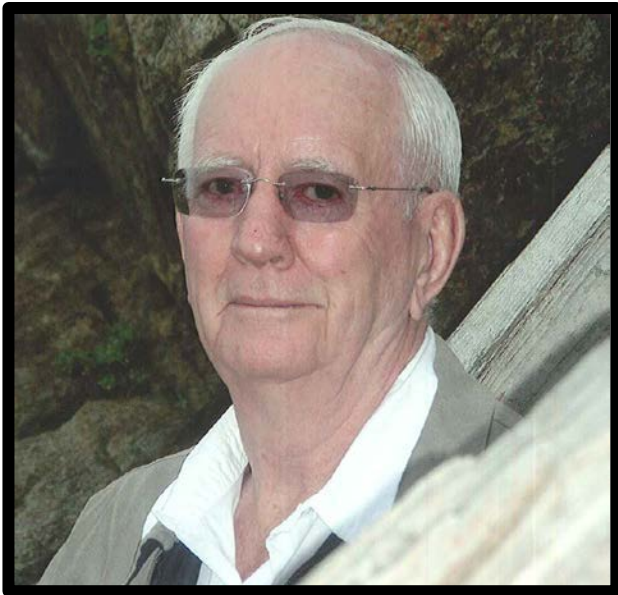
- Sustainable wildlife management, community wildlife management, game ranching, and hunting tourism;
- Domestication and raising of wild animals in small farms (mini-livestock);
- Sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products; and
- Certification and eco-labelling of wildlife products.

Kaka informed the participants that the CIC published the 9th, updated edition of the "Evolution of CITES" book. The Spanish and French versions will be available shortly. By publishing this book, the CIC manifests its commitment to support the implementation of CITES.

The CIC will be inviting the nomination of candidates for its 2012 Markhor Award, which will be presented in a ceremony during the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in India in 2012. This provides an opportunity to reward and highlight a successful project on sustainable wildlife management in connection with sustainable use of local bushmeat. Participants of the Bushmeat Liaison Group were invited to nominate the next Markhor Award winner. The CIC was convinced that the Bushmeat Liaison Group, which CIC has supported in the past, should concentrate on identifying and documenting best practice examples on bushmeat utilization and trade and would be prepared to invest energy in raising necessary funds.

Obituary: Dr Lucas Potgieter

Peter Flack



Like many hundreds of hunters and firearms enthusiasts, I met Dr. Lucas Potgieter, or Doc or Lucas as many of us called him, across a glass counter at the Powder Keg in Melville, Johannesburg. Even back then, some 30 years ago, I knew of and was in awe, even intimidated, by this "Boer en sy roer" man and the huge reputation he had in hunting and firearm circles. He was the first to write a regular monthly column on hunting and firearms in the country, something he started in 1972 and was still busy writing on the day he died.

The reputation was well deserved but there was no need to be intimidated. Clad in his ubiquitous khaki pants and jersey, this soft spoken, thoughtful, courteous and considerate man answered my mundane questions – questions he must have answered a thousand times before – in what I came to realise was his usual thorough, friendly and patient manner.

You could not help but confide in Lucas and turn to him for advice on things other than narrow hunting and firearm issues. Lucas was an encourager, slow to judge and quick to praise. It was to him I took my early photograph albums with captions and commentaries and which he helped turn into my first articles. It was to him I took my first amateur attempts at hunting films and which, with subtle hints and helpful advice, he encouraged me to push beyond what I had first envisaged. And I was but one of many. Quite simply, he was a

fountain of knowledge where many came to drink.

Earlier this year I received a call from his wife, Wendie, to say that Lucas was becoming forgetful and, on one of my trips to Johannesburg, I detoured to the Powder Keg for a cup of tea. He seemed exactly the same as usual. How was he? Fine. Wonderful. He picked up our conversation as if I had seen him the day before. As usual, he wanted to know all about me and, as we swapped questions and answers, he suddenly stopped speaking. He could not find the next word he wanted to say.

For an erudite, articulate wordsmith like Lucas, the former head of a major advertising agency (and the first ever to hold a Ph.D.), writer of hundreds of eagerly read articles and numerous entertaining and thought provoking books, to battle to find the correct word, let alone the next one, must have been the height of frustration and, even then, he did not allow any sign of this to flow over into our conversation. In fact, he tried hard to and took pride in hiding his ailment from others.

Lucas was a friend. Not a friend that you had to visit or talk to every day, week, month or year for that matter. And he allowed you to pick up or put down that friendship, from time to time, without query or complaint. He was a confident, well rounded man secure in the knowledge of who and what he was. His "*more en aand praatjies*" were always the same. He was a rock of consistency, something which I and many, many others found comforting and re-assuring. He was a permanent fixture in our lives, always there, ever present. And now, in the blink of an eye, he is gone. If Lucas was your friend, he was your friend through thick and thin and I speak from first-hand experience. When, in my innocence, I was caught in the political crossfire of nasty, ambitious men in a hunting association, it was Lucas who stood by me with sound advice and support. Having been the former president of the biggest amateur hunting body in the country, Lucas understood how these things worked.

And while Lucas was not only a gentle man but a gentleman, it did not mean that he was weak or a toady. Quite the contrary. I remember him standing up at the AGM of the self-same hunting association and speaking his mind in a clear, forthright and polite manner about what he perceived to be the rights and wrongs of a particular matter. Lucas was "*n man wat sy man kon staan*". And right and wrong were as important to him in his everyday life as they were when it came to hunting. He had the clearest views of what constituted ethical and unethical hunting and practised and taught what he preached, including to his family and, as recently as three years ago, he accompanied Wendie on her first, walk and stalk buffalo hunt in Zimbabwe.

Lucas was a man of many, many talents. He was a husband, father, friend, successful businessman and writer. Most importantly, to the thousands of us hunters and firearms enthusiasts who he befriended, he was the most knowledgeable, tried and trusted source of impeccable advice in those spheres that this country has ever produced. I know that I speak for thousands of us when I say that our sincere sympathies are with Wendie and his children. My mother would often say that, "You never miss the water 'til the well runs dry". We are all going to discover in the times ahead how much he has meant to each one of us and how much we are going to miss him. Rest in peace, Lucas, you leave behind a rich legacy in each one of us that no-one alive today will ever be able to replace or duplicate.

As a postscript, Wendie has asked me to mention that Doc's beloved Powder Keg will continue, as it has done for the last five years, with her at the helm.

News From Africa

Cameroon/Chad

Cameroon's Forestry and Wildlife Minister and Chad's Environment Minister have signed an agreement in August to increase elephant protection in a combined protected area of more than 300,000 ha stretching over Cameroon's Bouba Ndjidda Park and Chad's Sena Oura Park. There are approximately 3,000 elephants left on the Chad side and only 300 elephants in Cameroon's portion.

Kenya

Once again Kenya and some animal welfare organisations set up a show for the world-media and burnt 5 tons of impounded ivory. The 300 tusks arriving from Kenya had been confiscated in Singapore 10 years ago. Such show events demonstrate that those range-countries who have failed most in elephant conservation at home are on the forefront of global emotional campaigning against legal ivory trade.

Kenya

The CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat and the CITES Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group met in June 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya. The 'empty forest syndrome' - a loss of forest fauna has reached critical levels in many countries across the tropics and sub-tropics. Population growth, poverty in rural areas and the absence of livelihood alternatives, increased urban consumption, forestry activities, and extractive industries in remote forests are all contributing to unsustainable levels of commercial and subsistence meat hunting. The increasing scale and commercialization of bushmeat use is also posing a severe threat to the food security, customary practices, livelihoods, and cultural and spiritual identity of indigenous peoples and local communities. The [full report of the Joint Meeting of the CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat and the CITES Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group](#) is available on the CBD website.

Namibia

In July the entire Hoaruseb of desert lion pride was poisoned in the Kunene region. It is suspected that strychnine was used, but test results are pending (see www.desertlion.info). The lions formed part of intense studies and monitoring for a number of years, providing valuable data on desert lions.

Namibia

Hunting as a way of life may save wildlife in Namibia, suggested a report of the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC. Trade in bushmeat all over Africa has been seen as a major threat to wildlife, but in Namibia, the report says, a vibrant bushmeat trade could be sustainable. "On privately owned farmlands in Namibia, large quantities (between 16-26 million kilograms) of game meat are produced annually, most of which is used domestically," the report said. "Making supplies of affordable game meat available to residents of communal land ... in farming areas may help reduce wildlife poaching," researcher Peter Lindsey said and added "wildlife-based land uses are potentially less risky than livestock production because ... not so dependent on rainfall ... and because wild animals are better adapted to Namibia's harsh environment."

Namibia USA

Early September two leopard skins from Namibia were seized by USF&WS. According to informed sources, USF&WS maintains that Namibian tags do not comply with CITES regulations as the quota info is being hand etched on the tag, rather than stamped. USF&WS HQ made a decision that tags do not comply with CITES wording of original stamp.

South Africa

The Western Cape Government announced in June on the eve of the first game auction in the recent history of the Western Cape that the Western Cape's ecotourism industry is set to receive a major boost with the imminent introduction of animals such as rhino, buffalo and giraffe. "Game species indigenous to South Africa, which were not allowed into the Western Cape Province in terms of the previous Mammalian Translocation Policy, are now allowed following amendments to CapeNature's policy now known as the Game Translocation and Utilization Policy (GTUP). The result is amongst others, extended ranges for certain game species such as bontebok, blesbok, black wildebeest, gemsbok and kudu and the legal translocation of species including giraffe and rhino. Certain game species can now be brought in, provided the associated ecological and environmental risks in CapeNature's policy are adequately addressed and managed. The criteria to move and manage certain species across the Province remain strict and transport, import and export permits from CapeNature are always needed.

Did you know ...

That at the turn of the 19th to the 20th Century, when concern mounted that world wildlife was being depleted, that Bill HR 23621 which proposed that US forest reserves and national parks be stocked with African wild animals, was introduced in the US Congress.

The bill was defeated by ONE vote!

Tanzania

In February, Tanzania submitted a request for a modification to the boundaries of the Selous Game Reserve. The 50,000 km² reserve, one of the largest remaining wilderness areas with the largest remaining elephant population in Africa, has been inscribed on the World Heritage List since 1982. The request for modification of boundaries concerns the exclusion of an area of 19,793 ha on the southern boundary and has been motivated by plans to mine uranium deposits. The World Heritage Committee

has warned Tanzania not to start mining and not to continue with dam building plans in the Selous Game Reserve, before it has provided hard data on the ecological consequences. Otherwise the Reserve may be declared a "World Heritage Site in Danger". Tanzania was also requested to firm up its commitment to secure and enhance the continued effectiveness of the Selous-Niassa corridor as a key feature to maintaining the long-term integrity of the Selous GR.

Tanzania

In the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCAA) Maasai community elders and the Ngorongoro Pastoralist Council told the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism that the tribe was living in constant fear of attacks from wild beasts. *"We cannot defend ourselves because it is illegal to kill wild animals, the penalty is 20 years in prison,"* said Maasai representatives and recalled that the same issue arose in Tarangire National Park 2 years ago. *"If the situation continues, we won't be surprised if people here start poisoning animals,"* they warned. NCAA which covers 8,300 km² is the only park in the country where ca. 50,000 Maasai with 13,660 cattle and 20,000 goats and sheep are permitted to coexist alongside wildlife. Lions, leopards and hyenas have been described as principal hazard to people and livestock. The Maasai demand hefty compensation for livestock lost. The Minister pointed out that through the revised Wildlife Act 5 of 2009 the government will be paying owners compensation of Shs 50,000/- for every cow, Shs 25,000 for goats, sheep, lambs or donkeys and Shs 10,000/- for poultry. The Minister also mentioned that after banning farming in the area in 2009, the Government is now conducting research on subsistence farming addressing a request by local residents that subsistence farming is allowed in the conservation area.

Tanzania

The Tanzanian Government banned the export of live animals for one year, after it had come under heavy fire in Parliament due to the smuggling of an estimated 120 animals out of Arusha aboard a Qatari military cargo plane last year. The recently appointed Director of Wildlife, Obeid Mbangwa was suspended. Mbangwa had been the Director of the utilization section in the Wildlife Department at that time. Tanzania is one of the major exporters of live animals, in particular birds, in the world with 180 firms holding a license. Many of them are not able to keep the animals under appropriate conditions and the mortality of birds is high. Illegal exports have been frequent. James Lembeli, chairman of Parliament's Lands, Natural Resources and Environment Committee and a former staff member of TANAPA, said when reacting to the ministry's budget proposals that the animals were smuggled out of the country by a syndicate comprising Wildlife Department officials and foreigners. The scandal happened in the midst of hot political discussions about the new allocation of hunting blocks. Presently the Government is in the final stage to decide about the allocation of blocks, with Tanzania nationals receiving favorable consideration. The opposition in Parliament criticized this. The problem in the past has been that many Tanzanians had received blocks due to political connections, but were unable to manage safari hunting and consequently subleased their block to foreign professional hunters. This led to corruption and unsustainable hunting practices.

Tanzania

Two containers with a yet unknown number of elephant tusks en route to Malaysia were impounded at Zanzibar port on August 23rd. It was only said that they were hidden in 132 bags of dried fish from Mwanza and that the cargo was being transferred by people of Chinese origin.

United Kingdom

Britain has secured international agreement to clamp down on the illegal rhino horn trade and will lead a global CITES steering group. The UK will support a workshop in South Africa in September to develop better co-operation between countries where rhinos are poached and those where their horns are sold. Last September UK authorities detected a rise in the number of rhino horn products sold through auction houses and issued a warning that almost all applications to export such items would be refused. Under these rules, backed by the EU, licenses are granted only if the item's artistic value exceeds its potential black market value, if it is part of a genuine exchange of goods between institutions such as museums, if it is being taken as an heirloom by a family moving country, or if it is part of a bona fide research project.

Zimbabwe

Gonarezhou National Park, which is part of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area, has seen an alarming upsurge in cross-border elephant poaching. Late last year 10 elephants were killed in Gonarezhou and at least 6 more are said to have been killed in the same area in the last month alone. In May a report emerged that ZANU PF is linked to a complex, international syndicate that is specializing in the trafficking and poaching of Zimbabwe's wildlife. According the Daily News, ZANU PF officials are part of an *"intricate web of international trafficking in wildlife that has raised the hackles of animal lovers and wildlife conservationists."* The party's involvement has been revealed in the ongoing case against a group dubbed the "Musina Mafia," which is believed to be Africa's biggest rhino, elephant and lion poaching syndicate. 11 members of the group were arrested in South African border town Musina last year and are facing charges of poaching, illegal gun possession and other crimes. Their boss, the SA citizen Dawie Groenewald, has connections with top ZANU PF officials who have been implicated in poaching rings since before 2003.

Professional Hunters, Conservationists And Government Cooperate In Namibia

Extracts from various reports in The Namibian Economist

The Lazarus Shinyemba Ipangelwa (LSI) Foundation and the Namibia Professional Hunting Association (NAPHA) hosted a second trophy hunting workshop on August 22nd attended by government representatives, commercial farmers, communal conservancy members, farming entrepreneurs and conservationists.

Dr Chris Brown, an environmental expert, said that *"wildlife management and production, with its associated components of trophy hunting, meat production, live sale and tourism, have shown a steady increase in Namibia. And because some of the components of wildlife management are more service oriented than primary production based, they are far less vulnerable to the impacts of climate change."* Minister of Environment and Tourism, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, mentioned that *"The growth of capacity in the community conservancies to manage wildlife and develop economic activities based on this wildlife is evident. We have seen the creation of jobs and the generation of revenue in areas which previously had few options other than subsistence farming. We appreciate how well local communities have integrated wildlife management in their other activities and increasingly how such wildlife management is complementing other forms of land use"*. Through the community based natural resource management (CBNRM) program, government has restored the link between conservation and rural development. Marina Lamprecht of the Namibian Professional Hunters Association (NAPHA) highlighted the increase in illegal and unethical hunting as becoming a serious threat to Namibia's trophy hunting sector, saying that *"The situation is made worse by the lack of law enforcement to effectively punish those who hunt unethically and/or illegally. [We] are frustrated that we have now waited over 12 years for the Wildlife Bill operating in a legal vacuum which lacks definitions and preventative measures to discourage canned leopard hunting."* Lamprecht urged the Minister to adopt an attitude of zero tolerance towards those who hunt unethically and make a mockery of hunting legislation.

In 2007, the Namibian trophy hunting industry contributed 2.3% to the GDP through generating revenues of N\$316 million. This figure does not include secondary goods and services such as airfares, accommodation and meals and game park fees. However, revenue generated from trophy hunting has decreased significantly since then; decreasing by 7.7% in 2008 and by 40% in 2009, according to statistics provided by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

Historical Incidence Of The Larger Land Mammals In The Broader Western And Northern Cape

C. J. Skead



ABOUT THE BOOK

The book *Historical mammal incidence in the Cape Province: Vol. 1 – The Western and Northern Cape* was published by the former Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation, Provincial Administration of the Cape of Good Hope, Cape Town, in 1980. The author is the late CJ (Jack) Skead, a legendary naturalist, scientist and historian. A Second Edition, titled *Historical incidence of the larger land mammals in the broader Western and Northern Cape*, is currently due for publication.

NEW FEATURES

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THE EDITORS

André Boshoff and Graham Kerley are ecologists at the Centre for African Conservation Ecology, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth. Peter Lloyd is a mammalogist with the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board (Cape Nature), Cape Town.

This A4 size hardcover book contains 536 pages of black and white text, tables, maps and illustrations with a full color dust cover and gold foiled title. Published by the Centre for African Conservation Ecology, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

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Age Development Of The African Buffalo: The Myth Of The Closed Boss

Ronnie Rowland

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in German in "Erongo Verzeichnis für afrikanisches Jagdwild", No. 1/2011, published and edited by Kai-Uwe Denker (for more details see www.erongo-recordbook.com). Peter Flack assisted with translating the article into English. African Indaba has already published two articles on African buffalo with special emphasis on trophy development and the problematic of present trophy scoring systems. One authored by Kevin "Doctari" Robinson ("Cape Buffalo: Is the SCI Trophy Scoring System Wrong") and another one by Winston Taylor ("The Influence of Trophy Measurement in Cape Buffalo"), both in [African Indaba Vol. 5/3](#). A year later – after I had watched in Craig Boddington's buffalo documentary some knowledgeable professional hunters talking about similar reservations as reported by Robertson and Taylor, I felt obliged to analyze the issues again in my own editorial in [African Indaba Vol. 6/4](#). You can download all these articles with many photos from the African Indaba archives at these links and draw compare with Ronnie Rowland's views in this article as well as those of Kai-Uwe Denker in the next article "Measuring the Horns of the African Buffalo"



Young bulls attain sexual maturity at the tender age of three; however, superiority in dominance and rutting battles is rarely achieved before bulls reach seven or eight years old.

Their reproductive "prime time" and the zenith of their reproductive activity is not reached before the ninth year and lasts generally until bulls reach their twelfth year. Once past 12, bulls become solitary or join small groups of similarly aged colleagues; they may occasionally, and, possibly as protective move against predators, join up with a breeding herd.

It is, therefore, reasonable to divide buffalo bulls into three age groups when discussing age related characteristics such as the bull's headgear: those under eight years are clustered in group 1, followed by group 2, the prime bulls between nine and 12 years and, last but not least, those which are 13 years and older are in group 3.

Those of you who hunt buffalo bulls for trophies should take note that bulls under 10 years have probably not yet achieved their full potential and, most importantly, have had little opportunity to pass on their genes. For a trophy hunter, bulls start to become interesting once they reach 10 years and, in particular, once they pass 13 years of age.

The hallmark of the African buffalo bull is its massive boss, on average between 33 and 35 cm (13 to 14 inches) wide although superior bulls may occasionally boast bosses of up to 45 cm (18 inches).

Lions are enemy number one for the African buffalo. Even large, mature bulls are not invulnerable, when facing a pride of lions. This is the principal reason that hardly an African buffalo dies of old age; deaths during epidemics and severe drought excepted. In southern Africa and under natural conditions, buffalo rarely reach their allotted life span of 18 to 20 years.



A bull with good prospects – if he had have achieved maturity. An approximately four year old bull with soft boss



An impressive boss but the silvery-grey corners indicate an immature bull of 6 to 7 years of age

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



This very impressive bull has just entered maturity – the boss is fully closed, however, the bulging horn corners above the eyes indicate an area where the boss will eventually develop the typical prominent and fully hardened corners – about 8 years old.

Middle-aged bulls – those between eight and 12 years old – show an increasing hardening of the boss which eventually also reaches the lower boss corners above the eyes. The entire horn structure now becomes a dark almost black color, apart from residue remaining from the bull horning vegetation or mud. In this age group the boss gradually obtains a massive vaulted shape of rugose and rough horn material, similar in appearance to old tree bark.

Horn tips start to appear worn caused by the frequent horning of vegetation and mud. The coat becomes more greyish; white, hairless spots appear on the faces of these bulls, in particular below the boss and around the eyes and mouth. The face appears shorter and develops a distinct Roman nose.

The bulls now reach the zenith of both body size and mass. Two other indicators that a buffalo bull belongs to this age group are the brownish-grey bulges of hardening horn material which protrudes from below the boss and the hairless space between the horns.

It is in this middle-aged phase that the bulls become so called Dagga Boys. It is also important to realize that these Dagga Boys are the prime breeding bulls in southern Africa. They are mainly found in bachelor groups and join the breeding herds for a short time only either as a protective move or when rutting.

The final phase of horn development in buffalo bulls starts around their 12th to 13th year. The boss is now fully hardened down to the lowest corners, the horn tips are roundish and show abrasions or breaks. The previously rugose and rough boss surfaces increasingly show more and more smooth and polished areas caused by continuous horning.

The whitish, hairless spots on the face become larger and the skin below the boss and in the gap between the horns hardens and appears similar to old, dried-out leather. Body size begins to diminish and the hip bones start to show. The coat appears shaggier with larger hairless areas, making old and healed scars from fighting and predator attacks clearly visible. The leathery area around the anus indicates that the digestive processes are deteriorating.

An important sign of this age group is the continuous broadening of the gap between the horns. Where the myth of the closed boss came from is uncertain. Regardless, the wide spread view that old, mature buffalo bulls must have closed bosses, e. g. without or with only a

The boss is an important factor when field-assessing the age of a potential trophy buffalo and the intrinsic value of its head gear as a trophy for the hunter. In bulls younger than eight years old, the boss has not fully developed yet, meaning that there are still areas of softer tissue, especially at the frontal edges of the boss above the eyes and between the horns. This softer tissue is called "green" in hunters' lingo. Such bulls usually show a band of dark hair between the two horns. Green horn tissue can be distinguished from the fully hardened horn tissue by its color; the softer or green tissue is whitish-grey, whereas the hard horn of older growth is much darker.

When field-assessing a buffalo bull, young bulls show prominent, light silver-greyish front corners on the boss. The horn tips of these bulls are sharp and unworn; the coat is usually blackish. Viewed laterally, the bridge of the nose is long, thin and straight and spots of whitish, hairless areas on the face are absent.



Good bull – ca. 10 to 12 years old



A real patriarch of more than 13 years –



Mature buffalo bull of ca. 8 years of age with clearly recognizable living cell growth between the bosses and not yet fully developed lower edges above the eyes

minimal gap between the two horns is, in my opinion, false. The myth of the closed boss should be laid to rest. It is a fiction and nothing but a made up tale.

Some more food for thought in this connection: In my opinion, closed bosses are, on the one hand, probably the result of genetics and, on the other hand, a distinct sign of a development phase in bulls in the eight to 12 year age bracket. In southern Africa this is rather the exception than the rule. In general, the majority of buffalo bulls show a hairless gap of leathery skin between the horns which become broader with age due to loss of horn material here due to wear and tear. Therefore, a bull with a closed boss is possibly mature but not necessarily old.

My conclusion: The older the buffalo bull, the broader the gap between the horns. Therefore, hunters should not be disappointed if they harvest a bull which does not show a closed boss. Quite the contrary, hunters should be elated when they harvest a bull with a good, leathery gap between fully hardened horns.

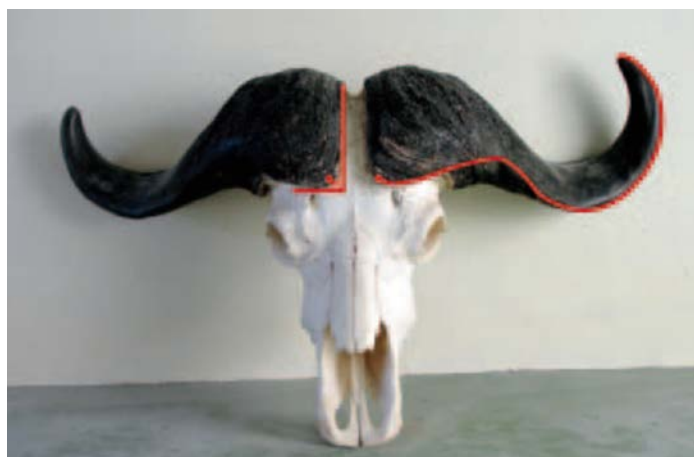
Scoring The Horns Of The African Buffalo

Kai-Uwe Denker

Editor's Note: It appears that the present scoring methods induce hunters to taking bulls which are yet to achieve their prime. The shooting of these buffalo bulls is far from desirable as the goal should be those which are at the threshold of crossing into, or are already in, post-prime status. Consequently, many buffalo bulls are harvested before they have achieved dominant breeding status or, worse still, even before they have participated in the breeding process. Yet nothing definitive came from earlier proposals and criticism (see Kevin Robertson, Winston Taylor, Craig Boddington) and the scoring methods remain by-and-large the same – and thus the harvesting of sub-prime bulls has continued. It is therefore encouraging to see a group of highly experienced professional hunters led by Kai-Uwe Denker suggesting an alternative measuring method which takes into account what the previous authors mentioned. African Indaba is proud to have permission to be the first to publish their proposals in English. The original German article appeared in "Erongo Verzeichnis für afrikanisches Jagdwild", No. 1/2011, published and edited by Kai-Uwe Denker (for more details see www.erongo-recordbook.com). Peter Flack assisted with the translation.

In April 2010, the trophy working group, consisting of Kai-Uwe Denker, Gerhard Liedtke, Ronnie Rowland and Ernst-Ludwig Cramer, engaged in a number of lengthy discussions. They finally developed what they consider to be the most objective way of measuring bovine horns, stating that this method focuses on tangible horn growth and not on measuring air as is the case where the length of both horns is measured from tip to tip with the gap between the bosses being included. As such, the most appropriate way was considered to be the sum of the length of the longest horn plus the width of the bosses. The conclusions led to the following proposal:

1. The length of both horns and the width of both bosses are measured and recorded on the score sheet.
2. The width of each boss is measured at the widest point, at right angles to the skull axis, following the natural curvature of the horn material, from the lower edge of horn material at the front to the lower edge of horn material at



Determination of the start of the measuring point and measuring lines on African Buffalo trophies

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

the back.

3. To measure the length of each horn, a carpenter's square is placed in the gap between the horns so that the inner horizontal edge touches the lower edge of horn material. The starting point for the length measurement is the intersection of the 45° angle with horn material. The measuring line starts at this point, follows the lower edge of horn material to the outer edge of the horn curve and, from there follows the line of the curvature to the tip.
4. Boss width and length of the longer horn are added
5. The next step is the determination of the approximate age in order to determine the multiplication factor.
 - 5.1. Multiplication factor 0.0 – i. e. buffalo bulls of less than 8 years of age which show an incompletely hardened boss will not be ranked
 - 5.2. Multiplication factor 1.0 – for mature bulls in the age group 8 to 10 years, which have a completely hardened boss, but where the boss still shows vigorous live cell growth,
 - 5.3. Multiplication factor 1.1 – for prime bulls in the age group of 10 to 13 years old, which show distinct signs of cell aging, like deep corrugations and a rugose surface on the boss as well as the start of horn surface deterioration such as the flaking of smaller horn sections, apart from a completely hardened boss;
 - 5.4. Multiplication factor 1.12 – for post-prime bulls estimated to have exceeded 13 years of age where there is an observable shrinkage process of horn material between the bosses with a corresponding wider gap covered by thick, horny and hairless leather skin, as well as conspicuous flaking of horn material over the surface of the bosses



A prime buffalo bull (age group 10 to 13 years) with obvious signs of horn cell aging and fully developed and hardened lower



The skull of a post prime buffalo bull with broomed horn tips, flaking of horn material on the boss surface and fully hardened boss (note in comparison to the other photos that brooming is only one indication of age and not the sole determining factor).

Call For A Debate – Scoring The Horns Of The African Buffalo

Gerhard R Damm

Ronnie Rowland's and Kai-Uwe Denker's articles should serve to re-open the debate about hunting as management tool for buffalo again. We have already lost far too much time since Kevin Robertson and Winston Taylor wrote their articles in 2007. I have discussed the presentations of Ronnie Rowland and Kai-Uwe Denker with African Indaba contributor Peter Flack at length over the telephone and he has penned down his comments below. Both of us consider it important that the readers of African Indaba, especially the large crowd of passionate buffalo hunters, share their views on this critical issue. We also need to hear comments and views from professional hunters, taxidermists and trophy measurers. You can all contribute towards finding a practical and most importantly ecologically sustainable solution.

Buffalo hunting in African bush and savannah is one of the last great hunting adventures. The tense and adrenalin pushing hours of tracking without knowing what will happen when tracker and tracked meet, the search for an old buffalo warrior who has survived many seasons, lion attacks, hunters' and poachers' and who has spread his genes as nature demands, and the final meeting make up adventures for many campfire nights. It's the search, the hunt and the pure excitement which make buffalo hunting so addictive. I firmly believe that most of those who have been bitten by the bug will accord highest honors to an old blunted horn thirty-eight inch after an honest hunt. I am not talking about the



Post-prime buffalo bull with very conspicuous signs of dead horn cell shrinkage at around the bosses between the two horns.

future stories of 50 inchers from South Africa's intensive breeding operations, although I am unfortunately certain that we will be regaled with wild buffalo chases from South Africa. Let's just hope that they don't forget to remove the ear tags from the poor beast before posing for the photo!

Peter Flack's Comments:

I hold Messrs Denker, Liedtke and Rowland in high regard and have read their proposals carefully. While I think they make a most useful contribution to the debate, with the greatest of respect, it might not take us all the way to the goal many of us share with these gentlemen, namely, the design of a measuring system which will both be adopted by the major trophy record books (a requisite, I believe, if the system is to become accepted by amateur hunters) and, at the same time, have the effect of persuading hunters to stop shooting buffaloes before they have past their breeding age and concentrate on those that have. My concerns are the following, namely:

1. The proposed system is open to abuse when it comes to judging the age of buffaloes as there is a subjective element to this.
2. A number of inexperienced hunters and official measurers, no matter how hard they try to be accurate and objective, will simply lack the knowledge to be able to judge age correctly.
3. Even official measurers with the requisite experience will find it difficult to verify age, firstly, because there is the necessary 30 day drying out period and, secondly, they will not usually have the opportunity to see the animal in the field and photographs are often inadequate.
4. In which case, what does an official measurer do – refuse to register the trophy or register one that has been inaccurately scored (as opposed to inaccurately measured) because the age and, therefore, the multiplier, has been incorrectly determined?
5. A way around this, however, may be to say that no multiplier will be applied to the measurements unless it can be demonstrated by means of photographs submitted to a measuring panel of at least three official measurers (of which the majority view will prevail) that the buffalo falls into one of the three multiplier categories.

The proposed system adds to the burden of judging trophies accurately and, while many amateur hunters may have a good idea of what a buffalo with a 38 inch spread may look like, there are not many, myself included, who would know what a, say 110 inch, buffalo would look like after its horn and boss lengths have been multiplied by 1.12 which may, in turn, lead to resistance to change.

Having said this, if North American hunting guides and their clients can apply almost equally complicated measuring systems to wild sheep and goats, which are smaller and usually shot at far greater distances than buffaloes, then there is no reason why African PHs and amateur hunters alike cannot learn to do the same over time to bovines here if the spirit is willing. And it should be. The goal is such an important and worthy one.

Another Inconvenient Truth: The Failure Of Enforcement Systems To Save Charismatic Species

Elizabeth L. Bennett

Abstract

In spite of significant recent advances in understanding how to conserve species we are failing to conserve some of the most beloved and charismatic, with severe population losses, shrinking ranges and extinctions of subspecies. The primary reason is hunting for illegal trade of highly valuable body parts, increasingly operated by sophisticated organized criminal syndicates supplying wealthy East Asian markets. Current enforcement systems were not established to tackle such crime, and weak governance, low capacity and inadequate resources facilitate the trade. To save these species this trade must be treated as serious crime, with allocation of sufficient resources, highly trained personnel, and appropriate technologies to allow it to be tackled effectively. Success in tackling this trade will necessitate commitment from governments and non-governmental organizations and the support of civil society.

2011 Fauna & Flora International, Oryx, 0(0), 1–4

Wildes Herz von Afrika: Der Selous – Traumhaftes Wildschutzgebiet

Book Review by Gerhard Damm

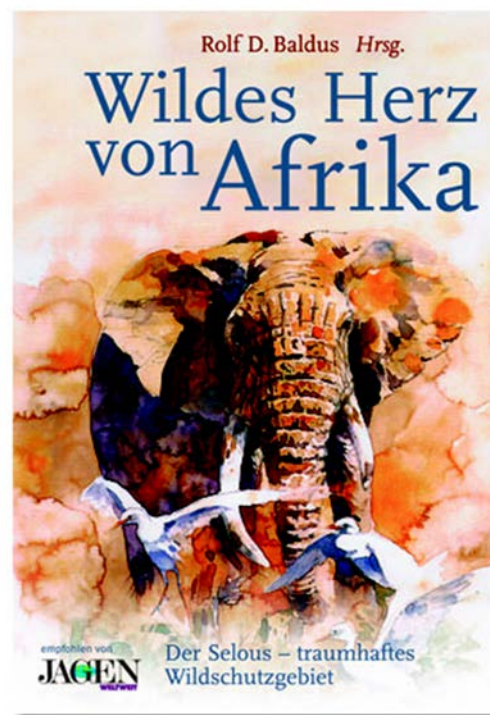
Wildes Herz von Afrika this is the German title of Rolf Baldus' Selous book, introduced to readers of African Indaba in Volume 7 Number 3 (May 2009) as *Wild Heart of Africa*. It took a tad more than 2 years for Rolf to complete the German version. Those who want to read my first review just have to click <http://www.africanindaba.co.za/Archive09/AfricanIndabaVol7-3.pdf>. And if you have not yet Rolf's *Wild Heart of Africa* in your library – the standard edition (ISBN 978-0-9802626-7-4) is still available at Rowland Ward's for US\$ 75.00 and the collector's edition (ISBN 978-0-9802626-8-1) at US\$ 150.00 (contact Rowland Ward at sales@rowlandward.com or order online at www.rowlandward.com).

But for now let's continue in German so that our German speaking friends can also enjoy the now updated and extended version:

Rolf Baldus ist den Lesern von Africa Indaba als Autor kritischer und tiefergehender Artikel zu Jagd und Naturschutz in Afrika bekannt; viele gerade deutschsprachige Leser wissen auch dass Baldus in seiner dreijährigen Amtszeit als Präsident der Tropenwildkommission des CIC nicht nur sachlich hervorragende Arbeit geleistet, sondern mit innovativen Ideen (zum Beispiel der Verleihung des CIC Markhor Preises anlässlich der CBD Konferenz) zum positiven Image der Jagd in aller Welt beigetragen hat. Der ausgewiesene Selouskenner Baldus hat die Fachwelt 2009 als Herausgeber mit der englischen Originalfassung *Wild Heart of Africa* begeistert – mit Kapitelbeiträgen einer stolzen Reihe namhafter Fachleute und Kenner der *Shamba la Bibi* (Suaheli fuer den Selous) eines der letzten ursprünglichen Jagd- und Naturparadiese in Afrika. Brian Nicholson letzter europäischer Warden und zusammen mit Ionides einer der "Väter des Reservats", führt die Liste an und erklärt ohne jedes Wenn und Aber, dass Jagdsafaris nicht nur Brot, sondern auch die Butter fuer die Finanzierung dieses riesigen Naturreservats darstellen – viel bedeutender als die oft faeschlicherweise als Oekotourismus beschriebenen Fotosafaris wohlmeinender Touristen. In einem Kapitel beschreibt Baldus den Kampf von Gerald Bigurube – bis vor kurzem Generaldirektor der tansanischen Nationalparks – gegen hochorganisierte Elefantenwildererbanden. Baldus' lässt keinen Zweifel – ohne Jagd und ohne die Unterstützung der ländlichen Bevölkerung wird das Wildschutzgebiet keine Zukunft haben.

Der inzwischen verstorbene Berufsjaeger Rolf Rohwer gibt einen hervorragenden Überblick ueber die Konzessionsgebiete, die Jagd und Camps sowie die taeglichen Abläufe im Safarileben. In einem persönlichen Brief an Baldus schildert Rolf Rohwer eindringlich seine haarsträubenden Erlebnisse bei der Verfolgung eines vom Jagdgast verwundeten Löwen. Und Baldus selbst beschreibt – ganz im Stile des Patterson'schen Epos ueber die *Menschenfresser von Tsavo* die gefährliche Arbeit bei der Verfolgung eines ganz besonderen *simba watu* (menschenfressender Löwe), genannt Osama und erlegt an den Ufern des Rufiji Flusses.

Die Geschichte dieses ehemaligen deutschen Kolonialgebietes, als Kaiser Wilhelm II am Rufiji noch das Sagen hatte, kommt nicht zu kurz: wir koennen Auszüge aus dem Jagdtagebuch des bekannten Tiermalers Wilhelm Kuhnert von seiner Seloussafari im Jahre 1905 lesen; und Baldus hat auch einige bislang unbekannte Abenteuer von General von Lettow-Vorbeck, dem Kommandeur der tapferen deutschen Schutztruppe, ausgegraben. Ein Kapitel enthaelt eine ganze Anzahl historischer Landkarten – nach jahrelanger Suche aus den verschiedensten Archiven von Baldus zusammengetragen. Neben vielen Fotos vom Herausgeber und seinen Mitautoren sind die Illustrationen mit Nachdrucken von sieben Meisterwerken von Kuhnert ein besonderer Leckerbissen. In ganz anderen Stil hat Baldus' Freund, der zeitgenoessische Maler Bodo Meier, mit einigen von Form und Farbe her eindringlichen Aquarellen den Geist des Selous nicht nur im Titel gekonnt wiedergegeben. Baldus versteht es, dem Leser die Grossartigkeit und Einmaligkeit von *Shamba-la-Bibi* nahezubringen. *Shamba-la-Bibi*, spaeter bekannt als Selous Game Reserve nach dem britischen Jaeger, Abenteurer und Entdecker Frederick Courteney Selous, der im Kampf gegen die deutsche Schutztruppe im Jahre 1917 fiel, in gerade diesem Gebiet, welches nun seinen Namen traegt, ist wahrhaftig das *Wilde Herz Afrikas*.



Rolf D. Baldus
Wildes Herz von Afrika
 39,90 EUR [Germany]
 ISBN: 978-3-440-12789-6
 KOSMOS
<http://www.kosmos.de>

Die deutsche Ausgabe ist aktualisiert, mit einem Zusatzkapitel von Baldus ueber die moegliche zukuenftige Entwicklung des Selous. Da gibt es auch beunruhigende Nachrichten, wie Uranabbau und Staudammbau, aber letztendlich bleibt Baldus doch Optimist. Der Praesident des CIC, Bernard Lozé und sein Vorgaenger, CIC Ehrenpraesident Dieter Schramm wuerdigen Baldus' Arbeit in einem gemeinsamen Nachwort, gerade weil beide begeisterte Afrikajaeger sind und den Selous selbst kennen. Lozé und Schramm sagen zum Ausklang „Die Sorge um die Zukunft des Reservats wächst. Das Selous Wildschutzgebiet ist eine UNESCO Stätte des Welterbes. Lassen Sie es uns mit vereinten Kräften erhalten - für unsere Kinder und Enkel.“

Read more about Rolf Baldus and his work on his private website <http://www.wildlife-baldus.com/>

Angola – Palanca Negra (Royal Sable)

Pedro vaz Pinto

Pedro vaz Pinto sent another report. Here are some extracts: The trap camera record since mid-December 2010 (Photos 51 – 86; <https://picasaweb.google.com/113384424565470443034/PalancaReportFirstSemester2011?authkey=Gv1sRgCJq8-8ydnleYkAE#>) showed lots of interesting stuff, and confirmed that the hybrid group was in good condition and stood together. But the real surprise came from outside the fences, where one isolated pure sable female showed up. Subsequently it became obvious that she was the lost female, Joana. She had managed to escape from Sanctuary 1 a year ago without a trace! At least she wasn't dead. Interesting to note that she had been the first female caught in 2009 and she is also a confirmed mother of hybrid (DNA proved that she fostered "Judas" in 2004). A romantic soul might be tempted to believe that she went back in search of her true and only love... the roan bull! Surely not... but let's hope we don't find her soon raising a new hybrid! In later trips we managed to track down and see the pure herd, and thus confirm that the sable bull (Photos 22, 23) was as tame as ever and looking strong and healthy, and the radio collar was indeed dead. But the best news came from the trap camera placed inside the sanctuary: we had a third calf. The previous two were growing healthy, and it was now possible to determine the sex of the calves. They were male – female – male, on this order. Three calves (and only one female born) in one and a half years of breeding is no doubt a poor result, but 2011 is still going and once we enlarge the sanctuary we expect the breeding success to improve significantly. We also found the skeleton of the injured female Palanca Negra, which probably succumbed to its injuries.

Editor's Note: On August 30th African Indaba received another direct report from vaz Pinto with photos (two are reproduced here). The news from Angola is getting better, despite some worrying information about poaching – Pedro told me about a new giant sable capture/survey operation between July 26th and August 20th and the following details:

1. We found four giant sable herds numbering about 50 animals in total. These herds included calves, yearlings, two-year olds and mature cows, plus one territorial bull with each group;
2. We found many evidence of poaching, from bush meat racks in bush camps, to active snare lines, to animals showing signs of having just survived leg injuries caused by snare traps;
3. 8 sable (one mature bull, one 2-year old male, three 2-year old females and three yearling females) were captured and translocated to Cangandala NP, as new breeding group;
4. Presumably all the hybrids in Cangandala were captured and handled. The males were castrated;
5. Because few animals have survived and poaching is still recognized as a huge threat, the herds are now being closely and permanently monitored both remotely and with a small team on the ground. The Angolan military are also joining the efforts and conducting anti-poaching initiatives in Luando.



Aerial Photo of the Giant Sable herd



The new breeding bull in boma with yearling females

African Indaba has followed the Palanca Negra story from the beginning. You can read all on-line in the African Indaba archives (www.africanindaba.co.za)

Trophy Lion Guidelines & Age Minimums – Zambia Project

Dr. Paula White, Director, Zambia Lion Project, Center for Tropical Research, University of California

e-mail: paw@carnivoreconservation.com

As many of you know, Tanzania has recently announced a new regulation that all trophy lions hunted in that country must be a minimum of 6 years old. The details of how age will be determined and consequences of shooting underage lions are still being worked out by the Tanzanian authorities, scientists, and safari operators, but there is general agreement that the industry must be pro-active and become more self-policing in the future in order to defend the claim that lion hunting is being conducted on both an ethical and sustainable basis.

Operators in the Niassa area of Northern Mozambique have been participating in an age-based trophy selection program for the past few years. While scientists and hunters alike agree that determining the exact age of a wild lion is not possible, assigning individuals to broader age categories is more straightforward and in Niassa consist of the following:

1. 4 years old or less
2. between 4 and 6 years old
3. 6 years or older

The Niassa system assigns "points" to each trophy based upon the age category into which it falls. Age is determined by combined examination of tooth wear, tooth x-ray, and trophy photographs. The total number of points determines whether or not the quota in a given block will increase, decrease, or stay the same in the next year. Trophy lions deemed to be 4 years of age or less may be confiscated and/or fines imposed. Within the 4-6 years age category, the first lion taken receives a 'warning', but if a second lion falls into this category, it results in loss of quota. If all trophies fall into the 6 years or older category, the quota is increased for the next year. While the specifics may vary slightly, it is likely that Tanzania will adopt a program similar to Niassa's.

Support for age minimums of trophy lions is widespread; Zambia Lion Project has been proposing for several years that a mandatory sampling program be established with minimum target age of 5 years or older. However, given the ever-increasing international pressure to close lion hunting entirely, it would be in Zambia's best interest to standardize its performance and to strive for a 6 years or older minimum in the near future.

A Regional Guide to Aging Lions in Zambia

Zambia Lion Project appreciates the constructive comments that were received following distribution last year of the first draft of this guide. The goal was to produce an expanded guide (more trophies, with greater detail of the methods used to age trophies) for 2011. Unfortunately, not enough quality photographs were received from the 2010 season to accomplish a revision. With your help, I would like to revise the guide for next year. **Therefore, I am kindly requesting your help in obtaining standardized photographs of each trophy lion taken in 2011. Please see the samples of the eight-photo series I require.**

Photo 1: Trophy – whole body from the side



Photo 3: Head down – mane on head and shoulders



Photo 2: Head up – mane on throat and chest



Photo 4: Face/Head from above to show shape & scars



Photo 5: Nose – keep in focus!!



Photo 6: Teeth front – at time of hunt to show natural COLOR



Photo 7: Teeth row – skull at eye level



Photo 8: Inside of top & bottom canines



The goal of the regional aging guide is to compare a lion's physical characteristics with the best available age estimates as obtained from tooth x-rays and tooth wear. Standardized photographs are an integral part of improving and updating Zambia's regional aging guide which in turn allows us to better monitor the progress of the age-based trophy selection program. The continued cooperation of the Zambian hunting fraternity helps to demonstrate the industry's commitment to ethical and sustainable hunting practices, and on a broader scale, helps to ensure the future of lion hunting in Zambia and beyond.

Zambia Lion Project extends its deepest thanks to the Professional Hunters Association of Zambia for their generous donation from last year's end of season dinner dance. This level of support means more than words can say. Thanks to all contributors for your kind assistance, cooperation, and support.

Professional Hunters Association Of Zambia (PHAZ)

ZAMBIA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY (ZAWA) sees the Zambian Professional Hunters operating in Zambia in the same category as medical doctors registered with a Medical Council, lawyers that belong to the Bar and civil engineers to the Institute for Engineers. Consequently also the Professional Hunters that are members of the Professional Hunters Association of Zambia (PHAZ). No professional hunter license will be issued by ZAWA unless the applicant is a member of PHAZ.

The Executive Committee of the Professional Hunters Association of Zambia (PHAZ) has now decided that only professional hunters with a relevant reference letter from a Professional Hunters Association of a neighboring country that is recognized by the Professional Hunters Association of Zambia (PHAZ) will be granted membership to PHAZ. Any Professional Hunter acquiring a Zambia PH license will also be screened and interviewed by PHAZ and his references will subsequently be checked. Persons without a verifiable record and/or references will not be granted membership to PHAZ and consequently will not be licensed by the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) to act as PH in Zambia. After the PH has been screened and found fit to join PHAZ, a PHAZ recommendation letter from will be issued that will grant the applicant permission to be licensed by the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) to act as a Professional Hunter within Zambia.

This will be with immediate effect. For any further information do not hesitate to contact: Phil C. Minnaar, Chairman - Professional Hunters Association Of Zambia prohunterszambia@gmail.com or phone + 26-09-7771-2303. PHAZ-Website: www.phazambia.com.

Still Walking On The Wild Side? Management Actions As Steps Towards 'Semi-Domestication' Of Hunted Ungulates

Atle Mysterud*

Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Synthesis (CEES), Department of Biology, University of Oslo, P.O. Box 1066, Blindern, NO-0316 Oslo, Norway

Editor's Note: A recent publication by well-known scientist Atle Mysterud with some very interesting conclusions. Worthwhile reading; you can download the full article from

http://folk.uio.no/atlemy/pdf/2010/Mysterud_2010_JApplEcol_Still%20walking%20on%20the%20wild%20side.pdf

Summary

1. Domestication is a process involving adaptations to man and the man-made environment. Semi-domestic animals are those for which humans have only partial control over breeding, mortality, space use and food supply, and that have not been greatly modified by artificial selection. They therefore appear more similar to their wild counterparts.
2. The degree of domestication depends on the level of
 - (i) human control over breeding, mortality, food supply, space use and thereby selection pressures;
 - (ii) how much these differ from original states; and
 - (iii) how strongly the phenotypic traits have been affected.
3. *Synthesis and applications.* Both natural and sexual selection in man-made environments may differ, and some management actions move traits of hunted ungulates closer to those associated with a semi-domestic stage; depending on the harvest pressure and selectivity, fencing, artificial feeding and predator control. There is a trade-off between high productivity of hunted ungulate populations and retaining wild traits.

Key-words: artificial feeding, behavior, bovids, cervids, conservation, demography, fencing, predator control, selective harvesting, sexual selection

* Copyright 2010: The Author. 2010 British Ecological Society; Correspondence author. E-mail: atle.mysterud@bio.uio.no

Rhino Announcement Of Minister Molewa

Extracts from a [statement](#) by Minister Edna Molewa on the ongoing scourge of rhino poaching

The South Africa Government is investigating further actions to fight a poaching crisis that has killed 279 rhinoceroses this year (169 of them in the Kruger National Park), Mrs. Edna Molewa, the South African Minister for Water and Environmental Affairs said on August 29th.

The Minister announced her intention to engage with the various provincial Environment MECs to look at the possibility of placing a moratorium on the hunting of rhinoceros. Currently, the provincial conservation authorities issues permits for the sport hunting of rhino and the abuse of the system by unscrupulous individuals is an unfortunate challenge we are facing, said Mrs. Molewa. She stated however that a clear consultation process as prescribed in the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act will be followed. The Minister further announced that she recently approved amendments of the regulations covering the legal hunting of white rhinoceros which now prescribe amongst other regulations that (a) provincial conservation officials must supervise rhino hunts and while attending these hunts the identity of the hunter must be verified, (b) the official must provide the Department of Environmental Affairs with the permit number, the information on the back of the permit and the microchip numbers and (c) the official must take DNA samples after the hunt.

The Minister further announced that a dehorning possibility impact study has been initiated and will be concluded within the next three months. The Terms of Reference for the two other studies, i.e. the feasibility study to determine the viability of legalizing trade in rhino horn in South Africa; and the global competitive market research assessment study, have been advertised and at time of press the closing date for proposals had lapsed. Mrs. Molewa reiterated that her department will continue to work with all our communities, provinces, game parks authorities, counterparts at sub-regional and regional levels and internationally including through CITES structures.

South African Rhino Poaching Statistics (as per 29 th August 2011)						
Area	Verified Poaching Incidents				Arrests	
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2010	2011
Eastern Cape	1	3	4	9	2	7
Free State	0	2	3	2	0	0
Gauteng	0	7	15	7	14	10
Kruger NP	36	50	146	169	65	67
KwaZulu-Natal	14	28	38	21	2	25
Limpopo	23	16	52	45	12	36
Mpumalanga	2	6	17	10	45	16
Northern Cape	0	0	1	0	0	0
North West	7	10	57	12	15	2
Western Cape	0	0	0	4	0	2
Total	83	122	333	279	155	165

PHASA Requests Minister To Improve The Current Mechanisms To Combat Rhino Poaching

PHASA Press Release August 2011)

The Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa (PHASA) has taken note of the Minister's proposal to consider a moratorium on the hunting of rhinoceros. PHASA is a voluntary, non-profit organisation, acknowledged by Government as the mouthpiece for the legitimate professional hunting industry in South Africa. PHASA reiterates its willingness to assist Government in addressing any issue in relation to the protection of South Africa's wildlife.

PHASA is extremely concerned about the rhino poaching situation in South Africa. However, there is no evidence to support a conclusion that a moratorium on hunting will stop the illegal supply of rhino horn. PHASA cautions that a moratorium could, in fact, have the effect of increasing rhino poaching as it would make the illicit trade in rhino horns even more profitable for poachers. A moratorium could further adversely impact those working hardest to protect rhino, being private rhino owners.

Minister Molewa mentioned in her statement earlier this week that "Illegal hunting and the abuse of the permit system may be the main threats that could impact on the survival of rhinos in the wild in the near future".

PHASA points out that rhinos which are kept in national parks, are most threatened by poaching. A moratorium on rhino hunting would not serve to protect these rhinos as it is, in any event, illegal to hunt rhinos in national parks.

PHASA has repeatedly requested Government to improve the administration of the mechanisms in place to protect rhinos as such an improvement would significantly enhance the protection of rhinos. These administrative improvements should include improvements to law enforcement, policing and prosecuting of wildlife related contraventions. South Africa has only a handful of prosecutors who are trained to prosecute wildlife transgressions. Training of more prosecutors, police and magistrates to enforce wildlife protection laws is accordingly essential.

As PHASA has previously stated, it strongly condemns any illegal activities, any breach of local or international laws and/or any conduct designed to circumvent such laws. A moratorium on rhino hunting would possibly not assist in ensuring that laws are not circumvented and that rhinos are protected.

Stop Press - Latest News

Tanzania

According to the Daily News, of 7th September 2011 (*article has been shortened here*) the Tanzanian Government has allocated 60 hunting blocks to professional hunting firms for the period between 2013 and 2018. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism said in a statement that 51 blocks or 85 per cent will be owned by local firms and nine or 15 per cent by foreign companies. There are 159 hunting blocks in the country. However, it said that there are 13 companies owning more than one hunting block. Some are reportedly holding up to five blocks depending on the applications, while 14 other hunting blocks were not allocated after the applicants failed to meet conditions. It explained that through the Wildlife Act, the Wildlife Department has continued to co-ordinate consumptive utilization and control of non-consumptive utilization. Initially the hunting business was managed by hunting firms, many of them were foreign companies but complaints led to enactment of the Wildlife Act, to address controversial issues. Between 2008 and January 2011, re-assessment of the hunting blocks including biodiversity, size of grazing land and availability of water and accessibility of the area was carried out by the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI). The bid committee interviewed all 108 applicants countrywide, verified possession of recommended equipment. Priority was given to companies with impressive tax paying record, support to anti-poaching, improvement of the infrastructure, honoring of corporate social responsibility and promotion of the country in US and European tourism markets.

South Africa

The prestigious weekly Financial Mail published two very informative articles by Richard Slater-Jones about the South African rhino situation analyzing in detail the various problem areas and looking at proposals for solutions. One article is titled "**The Economics of Rhino Poaching**" (<http://www.fm.co.za/Article.aspx?id=152888>) and the second article by the same author together with Sharda Naidoo carries the headline "**Dilemma about Horns**" (<http://www.fm.co.za/Article.aspx?id=152898>). If you want to participate in the rhino debate and stay informed these articles are a must read!

South Africa

In related news about rhino a number of websites and printed media carried information about some game have resorted to injecting rhino horns with a parasiticide which target tick infestation on rhinos. A bright pink dye is injected at the same time. The drug is highly toxic to human beings and causes vomiting, disruption of the nervous system, severe nausea and convulsions, if ingested even in a small quantity, but according to various statements it is not lethal. The presence of the pink dye does not change the horns' appearance as it does not seep through to its surface, but this pink dye can be detected by X-ray scanners at airports.

For more on this story see <http://news.google.com/news/story?ncl=http://www.fm.co.za/Article.aspx%3Fid%3D152898&hl=en&geo=us>

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Requests for free subscription, comments or article submissions should be sent to: gerhard@muskwa.co.za.

Please include your name, full address, e-mail address and organization