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Conseil International de la Chasse et de la Conservation du Gibier
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International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation
Международный Совет по Охоте и Охране Животного Мира

AFRICAN INDABA
The CIC Newsletter for Africa
Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

Volume 10, Issue No 2

African Indaba eNewsletter

December 2012

Ivory Wars or Ivory Peace? Is there a way forward?

Guest Editorial by Mike Norton-Griffiths

Editor's Note (GRD): Mike Norton-Griffiths has been a resident of east Africa since 1969, first as the senior ecologist in the Serengeti National Park, Tanzania, then in Kenya as founder and CEO of an environmental consulting company. Later he worked with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). He continues his research on economic issues of land use and conservation and he is currently a Senior Research Fellow with the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Nairobi, and a Council member of the East African Wildlife Society. Mike Norton-Griffiths can be contacted via mail at P. O. Box 15227, Langata 00509, Kenya or via email mng5939@gmail.com. The personal website of Mike Norton Griffiths is www.mng5.com. African Indaba has brought several articles authored by Mike Norton Griffiths in past issues – and we believe that this article deserves the lime light as a guest editorial.

Recently the BBC Panorama program *Ivory Wars – Out of Africa* was presented at a very well attended Loeffler Lecture at the Muthaiga Country Club, Nairobi, sponsored by the East African Wildlife Society.

This film presented a very one-sided view of how to conserve elephants and control the illegal international trade in ivory: the wicked Chinese are getting richer and richer, creating a rising demand for ivory thus setting off a new wave of elephant poaching all initiated by the ill-considered decision of CITES to allow a one-off sale of ivory stocks. The solutions set out in the film were also the standard ones: stricter trade controls, burn ivory stocks, more anti-poaching and stiffer penalties – ideally death – for poachers, middle men and consumers alike.

One of the few things we do know about the immensely complicated ivory trade is that this standard version is simply wrong and that the simplistic solutions proffered have never worked, are not working and never will work. Respected economists have pointed out that trade bans are perfectly ineffective, the prohibition of alcohol and hard drugs being classic examples. Banning trade has not stopped demand for rhino horn, nor will it stop demand for ivory. Perversely, restricting the supply of ivory in the face of growing demand increases the value of existing stocks making it even more profitable to poach even more elephant.

Programs like *Ivory Wars: Out of Africa* do no favors for conservation in general or for elephant in particular, and by repeating such over-simplistic solutions to what is an extremely complex and difficult problem creates a real danger that this view of elephant conservation and management, and of the ivory trade, will attain near cult status. There is little meaningful public discussion any more of alternatives and those who try to initiate such discussions are pilloried and dismissed as being in the employ of southern African hunting interests.

Countries that produce ivory and countries that consume ivory all want the same thing, lots of elephant and lots of ivory. So why the producers and the consumers cannot sit down together and work out how to achieve what they all want? If Asian countries want a regular and sustainable supply of ivory then, if invited, they should be more than willing to cooperate in elephant conservation and ivory production.

There are many new and exciting ideas out there about the economics of the ivory trade and how it might be managed and regulated to produce a consistent flow of elephant products on a sustainable basis to meet the perfectly justifiable and legal demands of consumers, but without killing elephants.

A first step might be to formalize, under CITES, all existing government ivory stocks and by amnesty bring in illegal stocks, all of which could then be released onto the market under controlled conditions to meet demand while controlling prices. Next might follow investment in harvesting the supply of ivory from natural causes, from both inside and outside protected areas, a supply that would itself grow as elephant populations recovered.

I present these ideas not as a solution but as a plea for rational debate for there is simply not enough money in the world for anyone to win the Ivory Wars, wars which will end only with the extinction of elephant – a pyrrhic victory at best.

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources. African Indaba is the official CIC Newsletter on African affairs, with editorial independence. For more information about the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC go to www.cic-wildlife.org

The Ivory Wars and their associated mindset are both ineffective and wasteful of scarce resources, they foment conflict and confrontation where there should be cooperation and mutual support, and they impose unacceptable collateral damage. Africans are killing Africans; corruption becomes ever more deeply embedded; and countries which should be cooperating in conservation and resource management are pitched one against the other.

The only solution to the Ivory Wars is an Ivory Peace, and the first step must be to get producers and consumers to sit together at the highest national level and agree on common objectives to achieve peace rather than war.

No peace process is easy, witness South Africa and Northern Ireland, yet it should not be beyond the wit of mankind to do the same for elephant.

The South African Rhino Crisis – A Situational Review

Gareth Morgan

Editor's Note (GRD): Mr. Gareth Morgan, who hails from Durban, matriculated from Westville Boys' High School in 1994 and went on to complete a B. Com. and a Honors degree in political science at the University of Natal. He won the prestigious Rhodes scholarship which took him to Oxford University where he read for a PPE degree and an M. Sc. in Environmental Change and Management. While in his first term in parliament he became a Fellow of the Emerging Leaders' Program run by the Southern Africa Centre for Leadership and Public Values. Mr. Morgan serves as member of the South African Parliament and belongs to the opposition Democratic Alliance as Shadow Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs. He is also a long-serving member of the Portfolio Committee on Environmental Affairs.

As we start the last month of 2012, already approximately 600 rhinos have been killed by poachers in South Africa, significantly up from the 448 killed in 2011. It is not yet clear whether the rate will continue to increase in 2013, but it is certainly difficult to see how the number of rhinos killed in absolute terms in 2013 will come down from 2012 figures.

Curbing poaching in South Africa is tremendously complex. It requires compliance and enforcement actions for rhinos living in three distinctly different types of reserves: national parks controlled by national government; provincial parks controlled by provincial government and private reserves owned by private citizens. About a quarter of rhinos are privately owned. The appropriations from the treasury work differently for national and provincial parks, while private owners are expected to fund their own efforts to protect their herds.

As I serve in national parliament I follow most closely the efforts at a national level, and have been involved in the appropriations to SANParks in particular. By the end of 2012 about 100 additional rangers will be in place in the Kruger Park, and by the end of March next year there should be a further 50

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rangers in place on top of that. More teams of rangers on the ground are vitally important considering the high number of incursions into the park from Mozambique. In February 2012 I visited the border fence between Mozambique and Kruger and saw firsthand how easy it is to enter the Park. Keeping control of the Kruger boundary is exceptionally difficult. There is a small deployment of SANDF personnel along the border, which is welcome, but is not, in my opinion, making any meaningful difference to protecting the park. Parliament did make an additional appropriation to SANParks efforts two weeks ago which will be used to procure aerial surveillance technology, probably drones, in order to keep a more active eye on the Park's landscape.

Of course, improving compliance and enforcement in one area only results in the displacement of poaching to other areas. Provincial parks are beset by funding and capacity problems. The parks run by Ezemvelo in KZN are perhaps the most well capacitated to respond to poaching, and there is a lot of goodwill from local stakeholders to support these efforts, but parks in North West, Limpopo and Mpumalanga are less fortunate. It goes without saying that there needs to be a consistent improvement in compliance and enforcement across all state parks simultaneously.

For now compliance and enforcement is the only available option to curb poaching. As contentious as the possibility of legal trade is as a mechanism intended to theoretically meet demand for horn in a way other than poaching and to bring more money into the conservation system for compliance efforts, the option is not available for a few years as no application was submitted to CITES by the 4 October 2012 deadline. The truth is the application would probably have been dismissed by member countries anyway. But considering we have weak state capacity I personally would have least liked the option of trade to be available if needed.

Some stakeholders place the entire burden of the rhino response on the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs. It is a position I am loathe to take because the government apparatus required to reduce poaching is broad, raising coordination issues and complex constitutional issues (which cannot be avoided) about the respective responsibilities of different spheres of government. Undoubtedly the Environment Minister is the lead Minister on the matter, and her response has lacked the urgency required and has been insufficient in terms of the cooperative governance encouraged by the Constitution. But having witnessed firsthand the slow demise of state capacity over the last several years I understand the harsh realities of state incapacity. The removal or retirement (sometimes forced) of experienced civil servants, the subsequent appointment of often unqualified civil servants, the politicization of key appointments in the justice cluster, the shortage of literally thousands of trained detectives in the police service, staggeringly low conviction rates for a broad variety of crimes, a monstrous court backlog, frequent cases of both under spending and overspending (reflecting project management incapacity and poor forecasting respectively), and pervasive corruption all contribute to the weak state we have. Naturally this analysis applies to differing degrees to different spheres of government and government departments. But the trends are evident.

And this is the context in which the fight against poaching occurs in South Africa. So while any group of stakeholders, including myself as a member of the portfolio committee of water and environmental affairs, can justifiably articulate a swathe of necessary compliance and enforcement measures required to significantly reduce poaching, and must continue doing so, we need to understand the nature of today's state. As I noted in the previous paragraph we have to do everything possible to make it work and we have to rely on the few competent and dedicated civil servants to successfully navigate the State's complexities and inefficiencies. My analysis is not a defense of the state. Those who run it, and have previously run it, should take responsibility for its failings. But my analysis does present the reality check of what those of us who care about rhinos are up against.

Then we get to the issue of finances. There has been a notable overall increase in financing for efforts to fight poaching in South Africa over the last year (with one or two provincial government exceptions), and looking at the medium term expenditure framework the appropriations will continue, and slightly increase. Throwing money at the issue does not in itself guarantee a positive outcome, as the factors above all affect outcomes. But another reality is that the Treasury has indicated that generally across government, appropriations for the immediate period going forward are going to be mostly frozen at existing levels as the State attempts to consolidate and improve its debt position. While calls for increased funding for efforts to curb poaching are justified, and I personally raise the issue often, the reality is that there is not much more money that will be made available. The obvious response is that corruption must end, and fruitless and wasteful expenditure must be curtailed in order to further augment service delivery and funding for various programs. And I agree wholeheartedly. My own party is strong on articulating these issues. But once again, this is not going to be realized overnight. With regards specifically to conservation, I have long advocated for increased appropriations to parks. We certainly undervalue conservation and the associated eco-

Mr G R Morgan (DA) to the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

(a) In view of the current rate of poaching of (i) white and (ii) black rhino, when is it expected that there will be a net decline in the rhino population, (b) what is the (i) estimated number of (aa) white and (bb) black rhino in South Africa and (ii) total number of (aa) white and (bb) black rhinos in (aaa) State-run, protected areas and (bbb) on private ranches?

Answer of the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

(a) (i) & (ii) At the current rate of poaching, the population will not decline. The white rhino populations' birthrate (5%) exceeds the poaching rate (approximately 2%) and therefore the population will not decline in the immediate future. The black rhino populations' birthrate is 4.8% and the poaching rate is 1% and therefore the population will not decline in the immediate future. If poaching continues to escalate in the manner it escalated from 2007 until 2011, the populations will decline. It is not possible to say if or when that will happen. (b) (i) (aa) & (bb) Total population of approximately 20 000. (ii) Due to security reasons the detailed information cannot be made available.

Source: National Assembly, Ref 02/1/5/2/ Question No 2761

system goods and services provided by these areas. The underfunding of conservation in South Africa is in excess of R3bn. Like above, calls for increased funding of conservation are justifiable, and must continue. But where that money will come from (in meaningful amounts) is difficult to see, especially considering the competing needs in education, and infrastructure development and maintenance.

The above I provide to frame the debate around rhino poaching. It is a perspective that stakeholders in debate, no matter what their views are, seldom bring to the table. And it is the framework I bring when attempting to work out legislative and policy positions.

This brings me to the debate on whether South Africa should advocate at CITES for the legalization of trade in rhino horn. I understand both sides of this debate well. I am also conscious of the uncertainties, assumptions, purported theory, lack of available information, and research gaps in the debate. I am also well aware of the difficult position that private rhino owners find themselves in. They are, and never will be beneficiaries of state funds to protect their herds. Protecting rhinos in private hands is becoming increasingly expensive, and thus range, and by extension population expansion, is under threat. Further, if the state was able to protect rhino populations in state parks (which I contend it will never completely achieve), the incidents of poaching would wholeheartedly be displaced onto private owners who cannot adequately protect themselves. I carry no brief for private owners (nor do I carry a brief for any other group in these debates), but I am not blind to the invidious situation they find themselves in.

The deeply opposing views on the trade no doubt contributed to no resolution on the matter this year. My opinion on the trade issue this year has been that South Africa should have kept its options open. I held the view for much of this year that not submitting an application would close the door until 2016, and considering my deep skepticism of the state's ability to meaningfully reduce poaching and thus the possibility that poaching will increase year-on-year, I have held the view that we should not deny ourselves another tool in the fight against poaching, if required.

I accept and understand some of the logical responses one might give to the view that an application should have been submitted. As previously noted the key stakeholders in this debate had not completed their deliberations and more research needs to be done. Further, my arguments on weak state capacity and regulatory compliance, notably with CITES provisions, certainly suggest that South Africa does not have the capacity to conduct a safe, transparent and rigorous trading regime at the moment. But as a country we cannot control the timing of CITES conferences, and the associated deadlines that lead up to those conferences. In my mind, irrespective of the above, and noting in particular that the rate of poaching is growing, as a country we did not have the time to simply wait and see what happens.

As I noted above, my opinion on trade was not to deny South Africa the option. It is often said that there is no 'silver bullet' to stopping poaching. I am from that school of thought. It is on balance highly unlikely that CITES would have agreed in March 2013 to permit the legalization of trade even if an application had been submitted. Indeed it is my considered opinion that the South African government did not want to expose its problems with lack of enforcement of many regulations, including CITES requirements, to international scrutiny. Perhaps there was merit in that view if it was believed that no application would have been approved anyway. Nevertheless, my opinion is that an application should have been submitted, at the very least to test the waters and elevate the discussion to an international level.

In summary, my support for an application to trade, which in the end was not submitted by government, is not a position that trade must happen at all costs. Even if it was permitted, I would never advocate for its application if it was found that it could place our country's rhino population at even greater risk. And I accept one would have to set a high level of tests with regards to trade regime establishment

Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Police:

- (1) Whether the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (NATJOINTS) is assisting in efforts to curb rhino poaching; if not, why not; if so,
- (2) Whether the NATJOINTS are fully operational in each province; if not, what will be done to operationalize them in each province; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) What has been identified as (a) being the challenges faced by NATJOINTS in the fight against rhino poaching and (b) the major successes of NATJOINTS in curbing rhino poaching thus far?

Answer of the Minister of Police:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes, the NATJOINTS is duplicated at provincial level, where a PROVJOINTS has been established in each Province
- (3) (a)(b) Rhino poaching, as with any particular category of crime, has several challenges, including the identification of syndicates, proper investigation, involvement of experts in both investigation and prosecution of suspects, the level of involvement of all JOINTS role players regarding the combating of poaching activities against Rhino and other animal populations within the country, trafficking routes and methodologies routes utilized by offenders, and the wide dispersal of Rhino across the country, both within SANPARKS and on private game farms.

The NATJOINTS has established Priority Committees at National and Provincial levels to address Rhino poaching in a holistic manner.

The inter-departmental approach in terms of Operation Rhino is successfully addressing this particular crime scourge, with several arrests and confiscations of weapons been made throughout the country, including 16 arrests and 10 firearms recovered during recent operations in the KNP. There were also several successful prosecutions of suspects in various provinces in terms of cases reported, with valuable assistance being rendered by the National Prosecuting Authority.

Source: National Assembly, Ref 36/1/4/1/201200040; Question No 384 (March 2012)

(which in itself requires the compliance of buying countries). But the situation South Africa finds itself in is a desperate one. I could not in good conscience support a position (no application) that cut off an option for several years, in case we needed the option.

The debate over legalization of trade is somewhat moot at this time. And for now efforts have to focus on improving compliance and enforcement. I pray those efforts yield the results we all want. I will continue to keep an open mind about the debates on the various options that can be deployed to protect our rhinos. And I will continue to hold the government to account on what it can and should viably be doing at this time.

Moving to pseudo hunting, there has been a decrease in applications from so-called pseudo hunters in 2012. National government is providing greater oversight over provincial permitting processes following a spike in applications from nationals from Asia in 2009, 2010 and 2011. At the moment there is a moratorium on applications from Vietnamese nationals. The recent sentencing of Thai national, Chumlong Lemthongthai to 40 years in jail for money laundering and illegal possession of rhino horn will send a strong signal to those who might seek to subvert the law. I was disappointed though that Lemthongthai's co-accused were not prosecuted. The emergence of a video of one legal hunt in which the co-accused were present does suggest there is a case to answer. I have submitted parliamentary questions to the Justice Minister to determine whether the NPA will reconsider its decision not to prosecute the co-accused, and I await the reply.

The rise in awarding of permits for pseudo hunts was only possible with the complicity of provincial government officials, notably in North West. For this reason I have requested the Public Protector to investigate the North West Department of Environment and Conservation to determine whether any officials should be criminally charged for offenses related to the awarding of permits for hunts that did not comply with law. I await the Public Protector's decision on this matter.

A video catching rhino butchers on film at a North West Province game farm, filmed in January 2011, has called into question the decision to drop charges against an alleged rhino poaching syndicate.

Download the video at

<http://mg.co.za/multimedia/2012-11-08-inside-a-legal-hunt>

Download the story at

<http://mg.co.za/article/2012-11-08-rhino-butchers-caught-on-film>

Conference on Illegal and Unsustainable Use and Trade of Wild Meat in SADC

Ali Kaka

In October 2012, in recognition to increasing threats to wildlife populations, member states from the Southern Africa Development Community with support from the FAO Subregional office (SADC) met to discuss the extent and drivers of the illegal and unsustainable use and trade of wild game meat and consider possible interventions to prevent such use in the context of wild meat's potential to contribute to overall food security of the region, and to recognize the wider economics of wildlife as a form of land use with multiple benefits. The member states acknowledged that a unified approach was critical to address the increasing threat of this unsustainable use and trade to gain commitment of governments. Illegal, unsustainable use greatly underexploits the wild meat resource, and threatens the viability of key development projects centered around improving livelihoods through the legal use of wildlife (such as trophy hunting tourism, photographic tourism and supplies of natural products). It also threatens natural systems upon which human communities depend.

The overall objective of the meeting was to discuss aspects relating to control and reduction in all forms of illegal and unsustainable use and trade of wild meat in the SADC region, while maximizing the scope for use and trade to improve food security, economic development and natural ecosystem functioning for the benefit of the people of the region.

SADC member states have already committed to protecting natural resources including wildlife under the Wildlife Protection and Law Enforcement Protocol and member states present at the Johannesburg meeting urged all parties involved (government, community, private and individual) to work together to reduce this looming threat. Fifteen (15) guiding principles were drawn up at the Johannesburg meeting as a first step to the development of a comprehensive SADC strategy to address this issue.

- Principle 1: Governments hold the primary responsibility to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife, with the involvement of donors and corporate and community stakeholders at all levels**
- Principle 2: The real and complete values of wildlife to local and national economies and food security– both actual and potential - should be recognized and reflected in political commitment, decision making, policy and increased budget allocations**
- Principle 3: The food and livelihood needs of communities are major determinants of wild meat use, and effective and equitable responses to illegal use and trade of wild meat demand that these needs are effectively met effectively through innovative mechanisms and public and private sector partnerships**

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- Principle 4:** People and communities who bear the costs of living with wildlife should gain benefits from wildlife wherever possible, including through innovative mechanisms and public and private sector partnerships?
- Principle 5:** A sense of community ownership of wildlife should be encouraged, wherever feasible, by devolving rights and benefits right down to community and household level
- Principle 6:** Without cross-sectoral coordination and engagement illegal use and trade of wild meat will continue and efforts to promote legal use will be curtailed. Sectors that need to be engaged with include agricultural, law enforcement, extractive industries, health, development and trade and commerce sectors.
- Principle 7:** Policy and regulation on legal and illegal use and trade of wild meat should be harmonized across SADC to enhance transboundary cooperation and enforcement.
- Principle 8:** Expanding legal options and creating a favorable policy and taxation environment for production of legal wild meat are necessary, in order to meet demand for wild meat and increase benefits from wildlife
- Principle 9:** Effective land use planning for the protection of wildlife and promotion of compatible land uses and infrastructure are necessary to reduce illegal use and trade of wild meat.
- Principle 10:** Awareness raising and sensitization efforts on the impacts of illegal use of wild meat, and the benefits of legal use are urgently required, with messages tailored to specific audiences
- Principle 11:** Legal deterrents to illegal wild meat use and trade must be meaningful in the context they occur if they are to be effective. They require strong, targeted penalties and enforcement.
- Principle 12:** The varying underlying causes of illegal use and trade of wild meat, including the relevant socio-economic drivers and value chains, need to be understood in different national and local contexts to enable effective action
- Principle 13:** Mechanisms to monitor the patterns and drivers of illegal use and trade of wild meat to provide early warning of problems, fill critical information gaps (such as on value chains), and collate and share information and research, are required to inform and guide management action
- Principle 14:** Adaptive management approaches to address the use and trade of wild meat to ensure sustainability should be developed, based on most recent research and including effective monitoring and evaluation
- Principle 15:** Capacity to apply all principles needs to be built within key sectors that have been identified as critical to securing the protection of wildlife populations in the region.

The proponents agreed on the need for further studies in the SADC region to ascertain with quantitative information on how important wild meat was to providing food (and cash to buy food) for communities in wildlife areas.

The studies could also show: a) how illegal hunting is having massive impacts on wildlife currently; b) that there are currently significant food security benefits arising from bushmeat, but they are unsustainable with this added illegal element; c) potentially much greater benefits could arise from legal wildlife use. New approaches could include options such as devolution, but also new ideas such as public-private-community partnerships, game ranching in communal areas through private-community partnerships, extending benefits from parks through community shareholdings in park management companies, etc. There is need for some practicable solutions as to how to make wildlife work as a land use in communal areas in a broader sense. For all of these to work there will also be need for enabling legal framework in all the countries of the region.

When assessing how much hunting of wild meat contributes to food, the unsustainable nature of the illegal activity will be highlighted. It was evident that there is lack of serious attention – and part of the reason for that is lack of data. The recent work done in Zambia by Peter Lindsay really demonstrates how wildlife populations are crashing all over due to overharvesting for bushmeat.

The recommendations of this meeting will be tabled for formal adoption at the next meeting of the Technical Committee of SADC in February, 2013. The adoption will then be listed for endorsement at the next COP of SADC member states and thus form part of the Program of Work of the SADC Secretariat.

The problem of illegal game meat in SADC countries is less than what is the situation in Eastern, Central and West Africa, but the trend is still concerning. With this initiative, SADC has taken up the matter with a positive mindset and with much more seriousness at this stage. Expert support was made available to the state members from WCS, IUCN, TRAFFIC, PANTHERA, ZSL and of course FAO.

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and All The Best For 2013

The African Indaba Team

Arab Spring Causes Massive Wildlife Slaughter in Northern Africa

Sahara Conservation Fund SCF ([Sandscript Newsletter 12/2012](#))

Thanks to our colleagues in Tunisia, Algeria and Libya, hundreds of photos showing the goriest scenes of wildlife slaughter are now available. Species hardest hit are the slender-horned and dorcas gazelles and the Barbary sheep, all listed as threatened and restricted to a tiny number of sites. While much of the damage probably took place during the revolutions that toppled the former leaders of Tunisia and Libya, there is good evidence for continued poaching, especially in the deserts of southern Tunisia. Here, as elsewhere in the Sahara, the new weapons of choice are the motorbike and the quad. Capable of chasing down and exhausting wildlife over the difficult terrain, the motorbike is rapidly becoming the number one scourge of gazelles in even quite isolated places.

North African NGOs and conservationists are well aware of these problems and are taking action locally but they desperately need our help and backing in what can often be for them a very perilous undertaking. Support from the international conservation community is urgently required, including from influential inter-governmental organizations like the Convention on Migratory Species and IUCN. Over the coming months, SCF will be working to expose the gravity of the situation facing North Africa's desert wildlife and helping mobilize support for high level contacts with the authorities concerned.

If you would like to know more about Sahara Conservation Fund work and how to contribute to projects, see www.saharaconservation.org or contact scf@saharaconservation.org



The “Inconvenient Truth” About the Ivory Trade

Daniel Stiles, Ph.D.¹

In November, The Ecologist published an impassioned opinion piece by Mary Rice, executive director of the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), asserting that the fault for the alarming rise in elephant poaching lies with two experimental but legal CITES-approved sales of stockpiled ivory. These sales, she argued, had served only to trigger new levels of demand. Here, Daniel Stiles - who has been researching the ivory trade since 1999 - strongly disagrees, warning that conservationists urgently need to find an effective response to the crisis because for these elephants, time is running out.

When the buying stops, the killing stops

Elephant poaching is reaching crisis levels with many elephant sub-populations in Africa and Asia now facing extirpation - primarily as a result of poaching for ivory. The argument of Ms Rice, and other like-minded NGOs such as the International Fund for Animal Welfare, Born Free and Save the Elephants, is that increased elephant poaching is largely a result of renewed demand caused by two 'one-off' ivory auctions from selected southern African countries to Japan in 1999 and to Japan and China in 2008, authorized by the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

They contend these auctions spurred consumers to buy ivory by making them believe it was now legal to do so, triggering more elephant poaching and all the associated corruption. These groups also seem to think that these two experimental sales of relatively small amounts of raw ivory to two countries somehow represent what a regulated, legal raw ivory sales system would constitute over the long term.

¹ Daniel Stiles is a member of the IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group. This article was published on November 22nd, 2012 in http://www.theecologist.org/News/news_analysis/1690689/the_inconvenient_truth_about_the_ivory_trade.html?goback=.gde_2649321_member_189743977

Both these beliefs are seriously flawed and have led to a common perception amongst both the media and the public that instigating a legal, regulated regime of selling raw ivory -from vetted seller countries to vetted buyers - would only worsen the current elephant poaching situation. In my opinion, this simply is not true.

We all agree on one thing: demand for worked ivory, mainly in China, is driving the elephant poaching. But we disagree strongly on how best to stop the poaching.

In her Ecologist article, Ms Rice reiterated what all the opponents to international raw ivory trade regulation propose as the only way to stop poaching. CITES parties should be '... investing in intelligence-led enforcement, multi-agency operations, securing convictions and raising penalties – including the seizure of assets and proceeds of wildlife crime – and communicating and cooperating internationally'.

In other words, law enforcement cutting off supply is the answer.

Unfortunately, law enforcement is not the answer, though certain types of law enforcement can help. I believe that law enforcement under current circumstances is actually exacerbating the poaching. Seizing illegal ivory shipments constricts supply and makes elephant poaching even more profitable by raising raw ivory prices. It also forces ivory smugglers to instigate a 'maximum quota' of elephant poaching to make up for lost shipments and future supply uncertainties.

Unless the laws of supply and demand are recognized as the primary problem, and economic and psychological remedies applied, elephants stand no chance of surviving.

I have been investigating wild resources trade since the 1970s, specializing in ivory since 1999. I have spent considerable time with ivory hunters, traders, craftsmen and vendors in the key ivory supply and consuming nations, including the Central and West Africa regions, China, Thailand, Vietnam and the USA. Informants when asked all replied that the CITES-authorized ivory sales had had no impact on demand for ivory. This has been reported in many publications and the conclusions substantiated by TRAFFIC reports and independent resource economists' studies. So why do the ivory trade opponents persist in ignoring this information?

The 1999 and 2008 ivory auctions are irrelevant to rising demand for worked ivory in China and among Chinese people in other countries. If these raw ivory sales stimulated demand, why is the worked ivory demand rise only seen in the richer parts of China and in other countries where Chinese people work on infrastructure projects or have set up businesses?

Recent research carried out by Dr Esmond Martin, a noted wildlife trade expert, and myself in Japan, South East Asia, Europe and the USA has found no rise in worked ivory demand in these markets in recent years. In fact, demand has fallen in many places. Dr Martin even found that ivory demand was moribund in poorer parts of southern China. Why didn't the sales spur demand in those places?

One of the trade aspects that should be understood is that the CITES ban only concerns ivory that is traded internationally between countries party to CITES. It is permitted by national laws to manufacture ivory items and trade legal ivory within most countries, including the biggest ivory consuming countries in the European Union, the USA, Japan, China, Thailand and others.

With the CITES ban in place, we have the economically irrational situation of permitting ivory working and selling in most high-consumption countries, while prohibiting supplies of legal raw ivory to feed that consumption. This situation promotes illegal elephant killing to obtain supply to satisfy demand.

It is widely recognized by everyone, even the anti-ivory trade NGOs and individuals, that rising demand for worked ivory in China is the result of a combination of a deep-rooted cultural veneration for ivory and economic development. Millions more Chinese now have the money to buy ivory. It is legal for them to buy the ivory that they see in shops. Few Chinese consumers, until very recently, were even aware of CITES, an ivory trade ban, or even of where the ivory came from, as NGO studies have attested. Since the mid-1990s, ivory demand in China has steadily been growing in tandem with greater prosperity.

There really is no reason or basis in fact to invoke the two CITES ivory sales as causing the rise in demand and poaching, unless there is another agenda for doing so, such as an entrenched opposition to a stable, legal, regulated trade system of raw ivory. By linking the experimental sales to increased poaching, ivory trade opponents can then state that a regular legal trade system would also increase elephant killing. (They fail to point out that the ban on international trade in worked ivory – which is what consumers buy – would remain in place).

I am greatly concerned, along with others, by the spike in elephant killing in parts of Africa by organized gangs of poachers that has occurred in recent years. Seizures of illegal ivory shipments and reports of elephant massacres have reached unprecedented heights. Ivory trade opponents have blamed these horrifying developments largely on the two CITES ivory sales. As Ms Rice stated in *The Ecologist*, '...CITES's ivory trading system ... is deeply flawed, prone to manipulation and, we contend, has been a significant factor behind the catastrophic rise in elephant poaching during the past decade'.

I contend that this widely held view not only is incorrect, it is significantly harmful to elephants. I agree that the two experimental ivory sales were a bad idea and they should never have been held, but not because they stimulated ivory demand.

The two sales were approved by CITES parties – including the EU block and USA – in votes at CITES conferences, largely in response to intense and effective lobbying by certain southern African countries that have large and growing elephant populations. The follow-up studies and monitoring that have been implemented to assess the impacts of legal sales have been overshadowed by the confusion and misunderstanding created by the sales themselves and propaganda disseminated by trade opponents.

The two ivory sales inherently did not harm elephants by raising demand, but they seriously impacted the elephant poaching situation by creating first hope, then uncertainty, with ivory traders and manufacturers. The CITES Secretariat and TRAFFIC worked hard to gain the cooperation of those in the ivory industry in China and Japan to cease buying illegal ivory with the possibility that a steady supply of legal ivory would become available if they established ivory control systems to eliminate illegal ivory from trade. Both countries did this and passed CITES inspections.

So what happened? It's a bit complicated, but bear with me, I'll try and simplify it.

Since 1990, it has been illegal to export or import non-antique commercial ivory in CITES parties countries. Prior to 1990, key ivory traders in places such as Hong Kong, China and Japan stockpiled large quantities of raw ivory in anticipation of the CITES ban. Concomitantly, due to negative NGO and media publicity aimed at ivory buying, demand dropped precipitously in the West and Japan, at that time big ivory consumers. Raw ivory prices dropped and elephant poaching in many places decreased. The ban was declared a great success.

When Esmond Martin and I carried out our first ivory market survey in Africa in 1999, aimed at assessing effects of the 1989 ban and 1999 sales, we found that all ivory markets where data were available were smaller than in 1989, except for a slight apparent rise in Nigeria. We also noted, however, that, '... in parts of Central and West Africa there appears to have been a slow revival since the mid-1990s.' In 2001 we surveyed South East Asia and found, in part, 'Unfortunately, it appears that demand for ivory has remained steady or increased in some places in Asia since the mid-1990s, stimulating elephant poaching.'

We attributed this growth in ivory market activity from the mid-1990s to a combination of rising demand in eastern Asia with economic development depleting ivory stockpiles and the organization of illegal raw ivory supply networks in Africa. The large difference in raw ivory prices in eastern Asia, at least five times that in Africa, further stimulated the poaching of African elephants. This trend has continued over the past decade-plus.

Thus, we now have well-established illegal operators of elephant poaching and ivory smuggling in Africa in reaction to the CITES ivory trade ban. When legal trade opponents criticize the corruption and crime involved in ivory trading today, they should realize that this was all created under a ban regime, not a legal trade system. The two 'one-off' sales can hardly be blamed for the illegal activities - they were already in place by 1999 and are even more pronounced now.

The first action that broke down the budding agreement between CITES and Chinese and Japanese ivory traders was a decision made at the CITES 14th Conference of the Parties (CoP) in 2007. In exchange for withdrawing opposition to authorization for four southern African countries to sell raw ivory to Japan and China in 2008, trade opponents obtained an agreement that no future sales could be made by those countries before 2016. The final nail in the coffin of cooperation was pounded at CoP 15 in 2010 when Tanzania and Zambia submitted proposals to sell their ivory stocks. The proposals were defeated (rightfully so, in my opinion).

Ivory traders now believed that no legal raw ivory would come onto the market until 2017 at the earliest. Trader agreement with CITES to buy only legal ivory was now null and void and they returned to the poachers and smugglers. Orders no doubt went out that any and all ivory would be bought, causing the spike in elephant poaching. I worked for IUCN in Central Africa in 2010-2011 on causes of elephant poaching, and local ivory carvers complained that almost no ivory could be found. It was all being exported to eastern Asia.

The inconvenient truth is that the CITES ivory trade ban and the 2007 and 2010 CITES CoP votes to cut off legal raw ivory supplies are the real causes of the recent elephant holocaust, not the red herring 1999 and 2008 ivory sales authorized by CITES.

The crux of the problem is demand for ivory. Fighting supply through law enforcement is basically futile, though it could slow elephant killing down marginally by arresting a few of those who order the kills and buy the tusks from poachers. Seizing illegal shipments only makes things worse. The only viable *solution* is to try to regain the trust of eastern Asian traders for them to stop buying the poached tusks and buy only legal ivory, authorized by a regular CITES trade system. Please, no more 'one-off' sales!

Even more important, public awareness campaigns should be started in Asia to drive ivory demand down by creating a huge stigma associated with owning ivory, as was done in the West at the time of the 1989 CITES ivory trade ban. WildAid and others have been doing this, but much more needs to be done to break down a centuries old tradition of venerating carved elephant teeth. It worked in Japan, why not China?

Remember, when the buying stops, the killing stops.

Last 500 Ethiopian Wolves Endangered by Lack of Genetic Diversity

John Platt (Scientific American)²

The last wolves in Africa face a difficult road if they are going to survive. Just 500 Ethiopian wolves (*Canis simensis*) remain in the mountains of the country for which they are named. The animals now live in six fragmented populations located hundreds of kilometers apart from one another; three of these populations have fewer than 25 wolves each. According to a study published last month in [Animal Conservation](#), the Ethiopian wolf now suffers from low genetic diversity and a weak flow of genes between packs. As we have seen with other rare species such as [Florida panthers](#), [Tasmanian devils](#) and [great Indian bustards](#), low genetic diversity can result in inbreeding, impaired birth rates and the inability to adapt to diseases or other ecological threats. The danger for Ethiopian wolves is not theoretical—rabies outbreaks in 1991–92 and 2003 each killed several hundred wolves.

² Source: <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/extinction-countdown/2012/11/08/last-ethiopian-wolves-endangered-genetic-diversity/>

The 12-year study, conducted by researchers from the Zoological Society of London and other organizations, examined the genetics of 72 wild Ethiopian wolves from seven different populations. One of those populations, at Mount Choke, died out over the course of the study. The researchers found very little gene flow between the populations and conclude that restoring this flow—possibly by relocating some males or restoring migration corridors—could help increase the number of wolves while reducing the likelihood of inbreeding.

The animals aren't likely to travel between populations on their own. Ethiopian wolves, which arrived in the region 100,000 years ago during glacial times, have adapted to grassy, mountainous ecosystems 3,000 meters above sea level, where they prey almost exclusively on high-altitude rodents such as the big-headed mole rat (*Tachyoryctes macrocephalus*). Meanwhile, Ethiopia's human population continues to expand, from 48 million in 1990 to 84.7 million in 2011, making travel between wolf packs even more dangerous and unlikely.

Travel barriers and fragmentation aren't the only threats the wolves face. The animals are legally protected in Ethiopia but according to the [Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Program](#) they still face persecution by farmers afraid of potential livestock predation. Overgrazing by cattle has also damaged existing habitats and reduced the rodent populations that the wolves depend on for food. Even domestic dogs pose a danger—they have been blamed for the rabies outbreaks and have even, on occasion, bred with the wolves. Although widespread hybridization has not yet been observed, this poses yet another threat to the gene pool for the already endangered animals.



Ethiopian wolf Photo by Delphin Ruche

What Makes Ethiopia's Bale Mountains Unique?

Thadaigh Baggallay (extracts from an interview conducted by mongabay.com)

Part of what makes the Bale Mountains unique is that much of the land in Africa above 3,000 meters has been altered or degraded to the point where it isn't able to perform most of the ecosystem functions that it is designed to do. Bale, although under threat and already impacted to a degree by anthropogenic activities, is still able to perform its most important ecosystem functions, and as such ranks among only a handful of representative alpine ecosystems in Africa. It is the largest unaltered landscape above 3000 meters in Africa (Bale represents just over 60% of all the afro-alpine areas in Africa), and therefore is unique in that almost all other similar areas in Africa have disappeared. It alone represents the only area of afroalpine left in Africa large enough to support natural ecosystem functioning.

Like many montane habitats, Bale also has many unique and endemic species. Mountains act like islands and are isolated from other ecosystems, and flora and fauna occurring in these systems adapt to the mountains unique climatic and zonal conditions, often specializing in niche exploitation and over time changing enough to become different species. This is evident in the Ethiopian highlands in general, and particularly in Bale, where at least 12 mammal species alone are endemic to the Bale massif (mountain nyala, Bale monkey, giant mole-rat, Stack's hare, 8 other rodents): Ethiopian wolves—rarest canid in Africa, endemic to Ethiopia, ~70% of global population found in Bale Mountains National Park (see www.ethiopianwolf.org for more info on wolves). Sightings of Ethiopian wolves are very common, and a significant draw card for the Park. Mountain nyala—large, very impressive antelope endemic to the Bale mountains. Entire global population found in Bale. Numbers increasing and sightings guaranteed. Giant mole-rat—large (2 kilograms) mole-rat, easy to see, entire global population within the National Park. Forest-dwelling lions (one of only 2 or 3 confirmed populations in Africa) and forest-dwelling African wild dog (rare but confirmed sightings in Park). Golden eagle, Verraux's eagle, Abyssinian long-eared owl, wattled crane all regularly seen in the Park, as well as 16 other birds endemic to Ethiopia, and regularly seen. A number of other rare and endemic species occur, but above are probably the most notable for generalists.



Mountain nyala Photo by: Delphin Ruche

To read the full interview go to <http://news.mongabay.com/2012/1120-hance-bale-interview.html>

An Epic Mountain Nyala Hunt

Sherwin Scott

Editor's Note (Peter Flack): As far back as 1980, the IUCN formally recognized that ethical and sustainable use of wildlife could form an integral and legitimate component of conservation. They confirmed this in 1990 and, at the World Conservation Congress in 2004, recognized specifically that recreational hunting could contribute to biodiversity conservation. While the Convention on Biological Diversity has developed several statements of principle relevant for the management of trophy hunting, until recently, the IUCN has not specifically done so. This has now changed and, in August this year, the Specialist Survival Commission of the IUCN published their Guiding Principles on Trophy Hunting as a Tool for Creating Conservation Incentives. In layman's terms, "Trophy Hunting" was defined as hunting which is: (1) managed as part of a program administered by government or some other legitimate body; (2) involving essentially foreign hunters who paid a high fee to hunt a specific trophy animal; and (3) which resulted in low numbers of animals being killed.

The following article on a mountain nyala hunt in Ethiopia, not only falls four squares within the IUCN's definition of trophy hunting, but also contains many positive lessons and examples for the keen trophy hunter.



Fly Camp in the Mountains

We were glassing from a pinnacle of solid granite, which extended from a very steep ridge at nearly 10 000 feet in the Bale Mountains of South Central Ethiopia. The monolith reminded me of the turret attached to the Tower of London where political prisoners were once kept. Sitting high and isolated, with panoramic views, it seemed like an aerie an eagle would call home. On three sides the jagged escarpment extended almost straight down for a couple of hundred feet where only an occasional bush held tenuous refuge in the rock cracks created by ice expansion in winter. We overlooked a valley to our right, perhaps three quarters of a mile wide, which was enveloped in a near impenetrable canopy of trees, with only a few tiny openings of grass and low lying bushes here and there. It was in this mountainous morass that we hoped to find the furtive, always shy, mountain nyala and a special one at that.

This was our sixth day of hunting mountain nyala and we had already seen 25 different bulls. The basin seemed to be a Mecca for this retiring, shy member of the spiral horn family of antelopes. It was in an area that, to the best of our knowledge, had never been hunted before.

By prior agreement, when the hunt was booked a few years ago, Jason and I had decided that we would hunt lightly. That meant we would fly camp exclusively, for maximum mobility. We would move when and where we wanted and often to areas not previously hunted. It wasn't quite like Stanley and Livingstone but it was a far cry from the usual African safaris with their fancy base camps and attendant cooks, servants, fresh linen and fine wines.

At our Odo Bulu base camp, we loaded two horses with tents, tarps, freeze dried food, some flour, a few utensils and our sleeping bags. That was it! Our water came from the mountain streams we found. A shower, when taken, was provided by heating water in a bucket and pouring it into a five gallon bag with a spout, which was then hung from an overhead branch.

We had our hopes set on finding and taking a truly outstanding bull. Well before the hunt began, I agreed with Jason and his dad, Nassos, that we would hunt mountain nyala only. We would not be distracted by hunting bushbuck, giant forest hog or other game. We would savor each and every mountain nyala hunting day! To his credit, Jason was completely on board.

Our hunt was set for twenty-one days and, if we came home empty, then so be it, we would have tried our best. I did not want Jason or his hunting crew to fear failure. There was so much more to hunting than pulling the trigger and only being happy or fulfilled if you came home with something.

I have never enjoyed taking easy animals. I wanted the challenge and enjoyment of hunting difficult animals under trying or natural circumstances where they had every chance to escape and were not readily found. Mountain nyala met those requirements and then some. Hemingway in his book, *The Green Hills of Africa*, was asked why he was hunting and putting all his emphasis on one animal, a greater kudu. He responded by saying, "I like to do it". He also said, "It is pleasant to hunt something that you want very much over a period of time, being outwitted, out-manuevered, and failing at the end of each day, but having the hunt and knowing every time you are out that, sooner or later, your luck will change....."

I had hunted mountain nyalas on four prior safaris and had never taken one as good as the one we were hoping to find this time. Certainly we had tried our best in the past and, the last time I hunted in Ethiopia for twenty-five days, I did not shoot a bull because we could

not find a better one than those I already had. If on this trip the hunting gods cast an empty eye our way, so be it, even though this was probably my last mountain nyala hunt.

That evening we walked slowly back up the ridge as night fell and starlight sifted through the tree tops. As we approached our fly camp, tendrils of smoke from the waiting camp fire teased my nose and fire flies danced in the dark seeming to light our way home. As soon as we reached camp, Jason and I promptly sat down adjacent to the warm welcoming fire. Adunia, our do everything camp overseer, was soon making Kita bread - made of wheat flour - that nearly all Ethiopians eat. While the bread was baking, Adunia also made a sauce called Shuro, by boiling chick peas in water to which ground red hot peppers are added as spice. We tore off pieces of Kita, dipped it in the Shuro and ate it much like eating a cheese fondue. While we varied our diet with MREs - meals ready to eat-and freeze dried food - we mostly ate the same as our camp staff. This meant Kita, morning, noon and night with the occasional power bar for lunch.

While sipping our tea after dinner, I asked Jason about our plans for the next morning. He turned towards me with the fire lighting part of his face and said, "Sherwin, there is a chance the big bull we saw today will still be in the basin or nearby. They don't always move too far, especially if they are old and accustomed to a certain area. On the other hand, that bull may be new to the area and move on. Besides, it is so thick that, even if he is there, we might not be able to find him. In any event, we will leave camp well before daybreak and go and see."

I knew he was right and thanked him for a good day. I went to bed that night, as I did every night, by crawling into a small tent with just enough room for my clothes and sleeping bag. A small tarp now covered the tent to give some protection from the rain. I found sleep hard to come by and I thought about the bull for a good part of the night.

We were awake before the bees began their ritual humming and Jason and I ate warmed over Kita with a little strawberry jelly by the fire. The Ethiopians drank copious amounts of tea laced with several spoons of sugar. They were a friendly bunch but Jason had said we could never run out of sugar or flour as it would instigate a mutiny.

It was dark when we left camp and I used a pen light to keep from stumbling over rocks and tree roots. The trackers and game scouts seemed to have no trouble seeing in the dark and rarely lost their footing. When we arrived at the low lying ridge overlooking the basin where we last saw him, we all sat in various locations and tried our best to find the great bull. We did find one very good bull of about 35 inches that we had seen the previous day but not "our" boy.

We were both disappointed and a little dejected as we climbed back to camp that evening and then we found fresh lion tracks on the trail. Jason was immediately concerned that they might kill our horses - he had lost four horses previously to just such encounters - and it was decided we had to move camp.

I asked Jason what the new area was like. He smiled and replied, "It's about a three hour walk from here and, as usual, very steep and very thick. Simon Evans told me he saw a bull on the side of a ridge there which he thought would measure over 40 inches. He and his hunter could not get a shot and that was two or three years ago. On the other hand, no one has ever taken an nyala where we are going."

We eventually reached the area and Jason hadn't been kidding when he said it was steep. The area comprised a long ridge that dropped off into a drainage to form a very precipitous valley. From the top of the ridge to the bottom was probably half a mile and steep enough that we sometimes found the easiest way down was to slide on our bottoms. As we were moving downhill, Jason stopped for a moment and explained his plan to me. "We are going to travel about half way to the bottom and then try to find a place where we can glass the opposing ridge. Once there, we will split the team in two - one half with us and the other about fifty yards away to glass country we cannot see.

Around 09h00, I heard Seifu side hilling towards us. He told Jason we needed to come quickly, they had seen a bull. Experience over several hunts had taught me that these fellows have extraordinary eyes but they are usually not very adept at judging horns. A moment after we arrived, Jason set up his spotting scope and found the bull. Then he looked up at me as a broad smile creased his young face. "Here, take a look. I think this is the bull you have been waiting for all these years. What do you think?"

The nyala was by himself and nearly at the bottom of the ridge at an angle of about sixty degrees. He was feeding in amongst small openings in the usual dense trees but then entered a small clearing which gave me a chance to take a closer look. He was all that Jason had said and then some even though I knew from hunting many sheep and other nyalas that it was nearly impossible to judge an animal's horns when they are at steep angles above or below you, especially at long distances. "Jason, let me get set up before he moves out of sight. I'll look at him through my rifle scope and you try to estimate the range."

"Sherwin, my range finder says 368 yards." I looked through the rifle scope and saw the nyala's remarkable horns. I extended the bipod on the .300 Jarrett across a large rock to provide complete stability, then half stood up and set the scope on 16 power. The bull was facing broadside to the right, head up, nibbling on some leaves. I took a deep breath, let it out about half way and squeezed the trigger. The recoil caused the rifle to buck and I lost sight of the bull but knew the flight of the bullet was true. I nonchalantly put the rifle down since the nyala was down as well. Jason slapped me on the back and I felt a sense of quiet tranquility rather than elation. A remarkable nyala had been taken.

A moment or two later Jason whispered, "Tamu says your nyala is running up the ridge away to the left! He is about 200 hundred yards above where you shot him, can you see him?" At first I did not or could not believe him! There was no way that I could have missed. It must have been another bull Tamu had seen. Jason was adamant, "For God's sake hurry, and take another shot if you can." I put the rifle back on the boulder and searched for the bull. I saw only parts of him as he slipped continuously behind trees as he angled his way higher and higher. Then, for a brief moment, he was partially exposed. I fired. He was gone. I did not feel good about the shot. He had been moving and a long way off. There was no time to set up properly and, the only part I could see of him was the posterior half.



Sherwin Scott and Professional Hunter Jason Roussos

Somewhat morosely, Jason said, "Sherwin, we will go down to where he was standing when you first fired and see what we can find. Maybe you wounded him." I countered, "Well, if I did and the bull I just shot at was him, he must not have been hit very hard." It took us a tough 20 minutes to reach the bottom of the ridge because of the exposed tree roots, vines and thick jungle. Once there, it took us another ten minutes to find where the bull had been standing when I shot. What we found scared me and left me with an empty, hollow feeling of near hopelessness. There were small pieces of flesh, shards of bone, and some hair along with very small amounts of blood but no nyala. It was apparent he had a very superficial wound (most probably near his lower brisket) and certainly not a lethal one.

We picked up his tracks and followed. It was slow going as we climbed. There were only a few sporadic drops of blood on leaves or tips of grass to help guide us. I had the unenviable feeling we were wasting our time. The bull was far too healthy. Animals that are really injured do not run uphill and this animal was running for all he was worth. The tracks were widely spaced and left deep impressions in the soft dirt.

We found where he had been moving when I fired that second fleeting shot. No nyala and no evidence that he had been hit again. I felt a deep sense of dejection and remorse. Not only was the bull gone, he was superficially wounded, which meant he might die several days later of septicemia. What a terrible waste, I thought! I deplore losing any animal, especially if they are to suffer.

We continued tracking as best we could, the two trackers in front, then Jason and me. Often we had to retrace our steps because we could not find where he had gone. It was steep and tough going and the three of them preceded me as they climbed onto a hidden bench above me. Jason let out a loud bellow and I thought we were being attacked by something. Startled, I froze, not moving and grasped my rifle ready to shoot. Instead, they had come on a male nyala half-submerged in the underbrush. A feeling of relief coursed through me and yet I had a feeling of emptiness. Jason jumped in the air and, in one motion, grabbed me in a bear hug. "Sherwin, we did it. You have your nyala. My God, look at what we have. He is tremendous!" The Ethiopians were just as happy. They knew that everyone's hard work had earned us all a wonderful nyala.

African Indaba eNewsletter

The official CIC Newsletter on African wildlife and conservation. The publication, free electronic dissemination and global distribution is funded by the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation - CIC Headquarters, H-2092 Budakeszi, P.O. Box 82, Hungary.

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Opinions expressed in African Indaba are not necessarily those of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC, the publisher and editors. Whilst every care is taken in the preparation of this newsletter, publisher and editors cannot accept any responsibility for errors.

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Markus Borner Farewell Celebration

Gerhard R Damm

Cultural differences, adverse conditions and challenges that others considered impossible – none of these have discouraged Dr. Markus Borner, head of the Africa Program of the Frankfurt Zoological Society in Tanzania, from fighting to conserve biological diversity and ecosystems in Africa. He is particularly well known for his impact on the one place on earth that would indisputably not be sustainable without his long-term efforts: the tremendous wilderness of the Serengeti ecosystem. His work on re-introducing rhinos to the Serengeti has helped restore all the species to East Africa's canonical savanna wilderness. He has also played a pivotal role in preventing a proposed road from splitting the Serengeti in two," said Andrew Dobson, professor at Princeton University. "His influence extends well beyond Serengeti, to the mountains of Ethiopia, the great central forests of the Congo, and the woodlands and bushlands of Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe. It is hard to think of 10 people who have done as much for African conservation as this one very modest, yet totally dedicated, individual."



Markus Borner handing the baton over to his successor Rob Muir

After more than 30 years in Africa, Dr. Markus Borner is retiring. But not without a party! Many, many friends and colleagues from FZS, the Zoo, the media, other NGOs, partners etc. came to the "little" goodbye celebration at Frankfurt Zoo. Kwaheri and goodbye, Markus! African Indaba joins into the chorus of well-wishers!

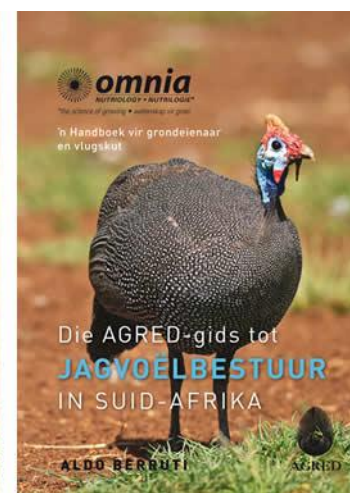
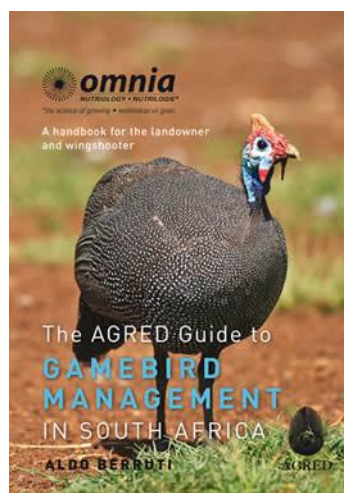
Book Review: The AGRED Guide to Gamebird Management in South Africa

Brendan O'Keeffe

Firstly, I must declare a connection with the author in that I was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of AGRED from 1991 to 2006 during which time he became our Director. Hence you might think this review would tend towards a certain bias. However, if you have an interest in nature, enjoy observing birds in wild natural systems and have an interest in conservation, you will find this book immensely interesting.

Furthermore, it lends itself to dipping into here and there for quick, short reads at bed time! To readers not familiar with African gamebirds, the contrast of wild versus reared populations is fascinating. The variety of species and therefore the variety of shooting is irresistible!

Dr. Aldo Berruti is a well-known and respected ornithologist and a former director of BirdLife South Africa who served on the international council. He joined AGRED with no former experience in gamebird management or shooting but with a strong sense of the link between shooting and conservation. More importantly, his background in scientific research and involvement with BirdLife South Africa gave him an acute sense of the greatest threat to conservation i.e., the ignorance of mainly urban societies about the necessity for habitat management and its financial incentives and implications. Hence, he well understood the link between hunting and conservation and the perceived anathema of that concept to the vast majority of sophisticated people. On joining AGRED he and his wife Sharron assiduously set out to understand the conflict between agriculture, rural communities in Africa and wildlife and how to resolve these matters to the financial and



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The AGRED Guide to Gamebird Management in South Africa by Dr. Aldo Berruti (ISBN 978-0-620-50883-9) is available for the price of R195.00. For overseas, postage to southern Africa or Speed Services please contact agred@netdial.co.za for rates

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources. African Indaba is the official CIC Newsletter on African affairs, with editorial independence. For more information about the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC go to www.cic-wildlife.org

social benefit of farmers and rural communities. They also immersed themselves in the exciting world of game bird hunting with its panoply of social activities around cooking, art exhibitions, falconry, dog handling, travel and hospitality. In short, a personal metamorphosis that has benefited farmers and conservation in South Africa. Dr. Berruti's contribution to national and provincial legislation is widely acknowledged.

The book is a synthesis of his observations and research during this period resulting in well thought out practical advice. It is very readable and will appeal to anybody who loves country life, experienced as well as novice farmers and shooting people.

Some of it might appear obvious to the very experienced shot or farmer but will serve as a useful comparison. There are interesting facts which will be new to even the most salted enthusiast.

Gamebirds in South Africa comprise wild natural populations that can vary enormously in population from season to season. There is no captive breeding of indigenous gamebirds worth mentioning. At every turn attempts have failed, which is widely regarded as a blessing in disguise. There can be few places in the world where natural systems still produce well over 20 species of gamebirds that produce excellent sport in one country. This means that gamebird habitat management in Africa, and in this case South Africa, is radically different from the other gamebird destinations around the world.

The main thrust of the book is logically structured beginning with gamebird biology, shooting as a sustainable industry with its roots in conservation and gentlemanly behavior concluding with management of the different species' habitats.

In less than 120 pages, it discusses agricultural land management for gamebirds without compromising the primary agricultural enterprise. It demonstrates how relatively insignificant changes to farming practices and labor management can increase bird populations and supplement farm incomes with commercial shooting. Details on how to go about it all, gathering biological data, habitat management and running commercial or purely social shoots are very practical. Bag limits per species per region are listed as well as seasons and types of shooting which vary from region to region and of course between species.

It even touches on falconry and gundog field trials and ends with a brief history of AGRED and its research projects over the last 20 odd years.

Wildlife Matters

Peter Flack

About a dozen years ago, Colin Bell, the then CEO of Wilderness Safaris, an exclusive, luxury photographic safari business catering to the very wealthy, told me and the other guests at a dinner in Johannesburg that, when General Ian Khama became president of Botswana, he would ban all hunting in the country and hand over the previous hunting concessions to companies such as his offering photographic safaris to overseas tourists. His advice has proven to be prophetic.

In a recent article, The Daily News in Botswana stated that President Khama had banned all hunting in Botswana as from 2014. The reason given by him was that, unless he did so, given the huge reduction in game numbers as a result of hunting, the photographic safari industry would be negatively impacted to the detriment of the tourism industry in the country. And, of course, if what I have been told is true, namely, that he holds a significant interest in a photographic safari company himself, he would not want that to happen now would he?

Whatever the real reason behind the closure of hunting in Botswana – the only thing certain is, that it has nothing to do with hunting. President Khama seems incapable of learning from the lessons of the countries which surround him.

To the east, Namibia has formally enshrined the sustainable use of living natural resources in its constitution, the only country in Africa to do so and, particularly since the introduction of legislation leading to the establishment of conservancies in the country, the Namibian minister for the environment and tourism has proudly been able to point out how hunting has led to the resuscitation of game numbers in her country. Over the last ten years, to quote but one example, the endangered desert elephants have improved in number from some 150 to over 750 animals. In addition, the people in the conservancies have benefited not only from hunting revenues but also from the protein provided plus training, employment and game capture, culling and eco-tourism revenues. As Lamprecht pointed out in her article, Development of Trophy Hunting in Namibia - 1960 to the Present Day in African Outfitter November/December 2012, all told, hunting revenue accounts for 2,3% of Namibia's GDP which, if other related income is added, almost doubles this percentage and it is growing at 12% per annum, way above Namibia's growth target of 7%.

To the south of Botswana, South Africa has for over 50 years been a shining example of what can be achieved by private sector conservation initiatives based on consumptive use, particularly when government does what government should do by providing the enabling legislation and without unnecessary interference. It is well known that today the country has over 9 600 game ranches covering some 21 million hectares (or three times the land covered by all the national parks and provincial reserves) and which holds a vast variety of game estimated in 2005 to amount to some 18,6 million game animals in total.

It must be said, however, that recently the South African government has started to interfere in the hunting and game industries as it seeks to raise taxes wherever it can to fund over R100 billion worth of social grants as well as the more recently exposed R500 million worth of wasteful and/or unauthorized expenditure as per the report of the government's auditor general, in addition to some R230 million which, according to press reports, was spent on the president's private homestead.

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources. African Indaba is the official CIC Newsletter on African affairs, with editorial independence. For more information about the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC go to www.cic-wildlife.org

Productive game ranches have been acquired by government and handed over to blacks who have, almost without fail, looted the assets and converted the land into subsistence farming. Numerous statements have been made by current cabinet ministers who have demonstrated not only crass stupidity but a dangerous and woeful lack of knowledge about these industries. These include comments that game ranches are strictly the preserve of rich white men; that game ranches are like golf courses and contribute nothing to the economy; and that land used for game ranches should be better used for growing "mielies and potatoes".

After canceling previous attempts in September and October last year to host a hunting indaba, the minister for environmental affairs summoned members of the hunting and game industries to such an indaba on 12 days' notice two months ago. In her press release after the first day of the indaba, the minister was quoted as saying, "Although government and industry will sometimes not agree on other matters, I am of the firm belief that the hunting industry and the game farming industry are important partners, who played a key role in terms of conservation, tourism, and economic development." For these long neglected industries, the minister's statement has been greeted, in some quarters, by near euphoria.

But is this response justified? Analyzing the rest of her statement, however, indicates the woeful lack of knowledge on the part of the minister and her department. Quoting out of date statistics from 2010, she referred to the R1.1 billion "generated by the local and trophy hunting industries collectively." Firstly, this seems to imply that the local hunting industry is separate from and different to the trophy hunting industry. While it is true the local hunters are predominantly meat hunters, there are literally thousands that hunt for trophies as well. Secondly, although overseas recreational hunters primarily specialize in trophy hunting, many, especially from Europe, participate in local culling operations. Finally, seeing as she has no way of ascertaining what the some 300,000 local hunters spend on daily rates and trophy fees, this statement of hers is more than a little surprising.

In a further surprising statement, again based on out of date statistics, she said, "Statistics compiled in 2010 indicate there are approximately 18,800 white rhino in South Africa and the number of white rhino has increased tenfold since hunting and live-sales started." In the 1970s when the first game auctions were held, Dr. Ian Player told me that there were less than 50 white rhino in the country which, if the minister were correct, would indicate that there are either only 500 in the country now or Dr. Player's count was hopelessly incorrect.

She concluded her press statement by reporting that, "over 280 rhino had to been poached this year alone" which, at the time, was substantially less than the 470 reported by the industries concerned.

Given that this industry falls under her department and is such a massive generator of revenue for the country, her apparent lack of knowledge and statement that she will, "sometimes not agree on other matters" with these industries without mentioning what these matters were, is a source for concern. Although seemingly aware that there is more to these industries than daily rates and trophy fees, she seems not to understand that the other sources of revenue generated by them include taxidermy, veterinary services, game capture, game auctions, rancher to rancher live sales, game transport, culling, venison exports, local venison sales and the additional money spent by local and overseas recreational hunters on accommodation, airfares, car hire, gratuities, gifts and travel and entertainment both before and after the hunt come to an estimated amount of some R8 billion per annum, which has been growing at a compound rate of some 15% per annum. In other words, if this continues, revenue from the game industry is set to double over the next five years.

To the best of my knowledge, no one in her department has any practical hunting or game ranching experience and the abysmal lack of knowledge and organizational ability shown by her department recently does not fill the majority of people in the relevant industries with confidence. As most South Africans have learnt through bitter past experience, it is not what the government says that matters but what it does or, more importantly, does not do.

If I was still a game rancher or running a safari outfitting business, which thankfully I am not, I would certainly wait and see what the government did before investing further. As a senior scientist in one of the provincial nature conservation departments said to me recently, "We are currently conserving animals to death." He was referring, amongst other things, to the comparatively recent TOPS (Threatened or Protected Species) legislation and, more particularly, that relating to black wildebeests, which has led to many game ranchers culling herds of these previously highly endangered animals. As he pointed out, in the rare instances where there was indeed crossbreeding between a black and blue wildebeests, it was an easy matter for provincial departments to deal with and the "sledgehammer-to-crack-a-nut" approach of the TOPS legislation was both unnecessary and precisely the wrong way to go about dealing with this matter.

Given previous abovementioned statements by cabinet ministers in the current South African government, Minister Molewa's vague and inaccurate statements have only exacerbated the uncertainty surrounding the hunting and game ranching industries. Government policy is unknown beyond the doubtful benefit of ill-informed platitudes and the certainty of government's desperate need to find new revenue sources to tax and to placate the masses with further "land grants" which, thus far, have merely converted the vast majority of such productive land into subsistence plots resulting in the country becoming a net importer of food for the first time in its history.

In a nutshell, current South African policy regarding wildlife conservation appears to be like a rudderless ship sailed by grossly inept people who have never set foot on a boat before.

If President Khama, however, wants a crystal clear example of what his current policy will lead to, he need only look further east to see what a ban on hunting has produced in Kenya where, according to authorities there, they have lost approximately 80% of their wildlife in a mere 35 years since the introduction of the ban. In the face of such concrete examples to the west, south and east of his own country, the president's decision defies logic and common sense and, as he has previously said, both in private and in public, that he hates hunting, it would appear he has allowed emotion and self-interest to cloud his judgment and the very effects he purportedly wishes to avoid are about to be exacerbated. Certainly insofar as wildlife in Botswana is concerned, no more disastrous a policy has ever been introduced since this country acquired independence.

Interestingly enough, the IUCN is currently attempting to organize a conference in Nairobi early in the new year to which representatives of the wildlife communities of this country as well as Uganda and Tanzania will be invited to examine the role that

sustainable use of wildlife has played in the economies of both SA and Namibia and could play in these countries. Kenya has previously attempted to reintroduce hunting but, due to a well-orchestrated campaign of “carrot and stick” interference in the sovereign affairs of an independent country by well-funded western animal rights groups, they have thwarted the attempts of a largely uneducated, ill-informed and deliberately miss-informed government and public when President Moi, himself the recipient of persuasive attention from animal rightists, refused to sign the Wildlife (Conservation & Management)(Amendment) Bill 2004.

As Norton-Griffiths wrote in his article in the Oxford Institute of Economic Affairs, 2010, entitled, “The Growing Involvement of Foreign NGOs in Setting Policy Agendas and Policy Decision-Making in Africa” ... *“The true legacy of the Kenyatta and Moi era has been the gradual degradation of the body politic into a tight network of complicity, supported and shielded by lazy and compliant donors; the gradual erosion of the legal system to create a culture of impunity; and the degradation of the body civic, primarily through the erosion of educational standards.”*

The legacy of corruption has had two major impacts on Kenya. Firstly, a massive Diaspora of more than a million of the best educated and most entrepreneurial of Kenyans. Secondly, a policy and moral vacuum within Kenya into which foreign NGOs with their single-issue agendas find it easy to insinuate themselves.”

(As an aside, as a South African reading this, if you substituted the word “Zuma” for “Kenyatta and Moi” and “South Africa” for “Kenya” wherever they appeared above, the paragraphs would remain completely accurate.)

It would seem that militant animal rightists would rather see animals starve to death and/or become extinct than see them thrive, grow in number and expand into new geographic regions as a result of their sustainable use which, time and again, has proven to be the key building block in their conservation. They also have no compunction in interfering, by fair means or foul, in the internal affairs of African countries by using methods that would not be tolerated in North America or Western Europe, which provide most of their support base. In Botswana, they seem to have won their second major victory - a devastating loss for wildlife and conservation in the country, the true effects of which will only be felt by its people when diamond revenues run dry and the plus 60% of the population currently employed by government have to learn to work for a living.

DNA Confirms Genetically Distinct Lion Population for Ethiopia

<http://www.york.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/2012/research/addis-ababa-lion/>



Bale Mountains Conservation Project (ET) These lions were recently spotted in the Haremma Forest. Photo Credit: John Mason

While it has long been noted that some lions in Ethiopia have a large, dark mane, extending from the head, neck and chest to the belly, as well as being smaller and more compact than other lions, it was not known until now if these lions represent a genetically distinct population. The team of researchers, led by the University of York, UK, and the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany, has shown that captive lions at the Addis Ababa Zoo in Ethiopia are, in fact, genetically distinct from all lion populations for which comparative data exists, both in Africa and Asia.

The researchers compared DNA samples from 15 Addis Ababa Zoo lions (eight males and seven females) to lion breeds in the wild. The results of the study, which also involved researchers from Leipzig Zoo and the Universities of Durham and Oxford, UK, are published in the *European Journal of Wildlife Research*³. Principal Investigator Professor Michi Hofreiter, of the Department of Biology at the University of York, said: “To our knowledge, the males at Addis Ababa Zoo are the last existing lions to possess this distinctive mane. Both microsatellite

and mitochondrial DNA data suggest the zoo lions are genetically distinct from all existing lion populations for which comparative data exist. We therefore believe the Addis Ababa lions should be treated as a distinct conservation management unit and are urging immediate conservation actions, including a captive breeding program, to preserve this unique lion population.”

³ “A genetically distinct lion (*Panthera leo*) population from Ethiopia” *European Journal of Wildlife Research*.
www.springerlink.com/content/1612-4642

The lion (*Panthera leo*) is the principal terrestrial predator in Africa and therefore a key species of the savannah ecosystem. Lion numbers are in serious decline and two significant populations of lion – the North African Barbary lions and the South African Cape lions have already become extinct in the wild.

One of the regions with a declining lion population is Ethiopia. In addition to a few hundred wild lions scattered throughout the country, 20 lions are kept in the Addis Ababa Zoo. These lions belonged to the collection of the late emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie. He established the zoo in 1948 and the seven founder lions (five males and two females) are claimed to have been captured in south-western Ethiopia, although their geographical origin is controversial.

In their study, the team of researchers recommend establishing a captive breeding program as a first step towards conserving this unique lion population. Lead author Susann Bruche, now with Imperial College London, but who conducted the research with the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, said: "A great amount of genetic diversity in lions has most likely already been lost, largely due to human influences. Every effort should be made to preserve as much of the lion's genetic heritage as possible. We hope field surveys will identify wild relatives of the unique Addis Ababa Zoo lions in the future, but conserving the captive population is a crucial first step. Our results show that these zoo lions harbor sufficient genetic diversity to warrant a captive breeding program."

It has previously been suggested that no lions comparable to those at Addis Ababa Zoo still exist in the wild, mainly due to hunting for their mane⁴. However, the researchers say that according to the Ethiopian authorities, lions with a similar appearance to those at Addis Ababa Zoo still exist in the east and north-east of the country, notably in the Babilie Elephant Sanctuary near Harar and southwards to Hararghe. These regions, the researchers say, should be prioritized for field surveys.

Professor Hofreiter said: "A key question is which wild population did the zoo lions originate from and whether this wild population still exists; this would obviously make it a priority for conservation. What is clear is that these lions did not originate in the zoo, but come from somewhere in the wild - but not from any of the populations for which comparative data is available."

Botswana's Ban on Hunting Harmful

Namibia Economist, 30 November 2012

Botswana's controversial decision not to issue hunting licenses, either commercial or private as from 2014 can lead to several unintended consequences. An expert from South Africa's North West University believes Botswana's ban on hunting may improve revenue from hunting for neighboring countries, while at the same time, draw attention by poachers to Botswana's wildlife.

Botswana President, Lt Gen Ian Khama said the decision not to issue hunting licenses was taken to protect Botswana's fauna, because hunting licenses encourage poaching. However, according to Prof Melville Saayman of the NorthWest University's Potchefstroom Campus, the opposite is true.

"Botswana wants to ban hunting in view of combating game poaching, but the problem is that it is going to have a reversed effect. Kenya went exactly the same way. They also banned hunting and are currently sitting with a huge game poaching problem, so much so that some of their species face total extinction."

"The strategy proposed by Botswana is short-sighted and is not going to work. Game numbers will decline and it is going to have a serious impact on the hunting and game farm industry in the country," Saayman said. "Case studies from South Africa have shown that as soon as the hunting of a species is allowed, it leads to the breeding as well as conservation of the particular species. Botswana's policy is definitely going to lead to job losses, since it concerns professional hunters and many other professions."

According to Saayman it can, in the short term, be to the advantage of South Africa and Namibia, since professional hunters will have to find their means of livelihood elsewhere. However, the long-term picture does not look rosy. "As wildlife in Botswana declines, poachers will also look for another means of livelihood, and they can find it in South Africa. This can place immense pressure on our game industry." "Game poachers from Zimbabwe and Mozambique are a big headache. Add poachers from Botswana and it can become a nightmare."

The South African Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Edna Molewa, recently said at a hunting indaba held at Sun City, that the government commits itself to the growth and expansion of South Africa's hunting industry. Saayman reckons it can only have good consequences. "This is a very positive step seen in the light that the value of this industry is approximately R6 milliard [sic] per annum and that it still has a lot of growth potential."

⁴ Editor's note: It is a known fact that habitat loss and shrinking prey base due to expanding human settlement and agriculture as well as retaliatory killings by livestock herders, and poaching, have a far greater impact on lion populations than hunting. Lion hunting by visiting trophy hunters actually generates incentives and funds for lion conservation.

Scimitar-Horned Oryx in Chad

Sahara Conservation Fund SCF ([Sandscript Newsletter 12/2012](#))

Once abundant on the vast, dry, sub-Saharan grasslands, the scimitar-horned oryx fell prey to a lethal combination of overhunting, drought and habitat loss. Thankfully, significant numbers of oryx exist in collections across the world and efforts to restore the species to the wild are underway in several countries.

Up until the late 1970s, the oryx prospered in Chad's Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim Game Reserve, one of the world's largest protected areas. Regrettably, the oryx became extinct during the 1980s largely as a result of civil war in that country. Recent surveys, however, carried out by SCF and Chad's National Parks and Wildlife Service have underlined the reserve's enormous potential to host a successful oryx reintroduction project. There is abundant habitat and space to cater for the oryx's needs and initial contacts with the local authorities and the reserve's inhabitants have been very encouraging.

In May this year, SCF organized a major stakeholder workshop in the Chadian capital of N'Djaména. Facilitated by IUCN's Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, the workshop and fieldtrip that preceded it brought together around 50 people from diverse interest groups, including local politicians and representatives from the reserve's herders associations. The results were extremely positive, paving the way for detailed project development to take place. The project not only has the strong backing of Chad's environment ministry but also the Head of State himself, Mr Idriss Deby Itno. A keen conservationist, Mr Deby has warmly welcomed the initiative, promising his personal support and that of his government. Over the coming months, SCF and its partners will work closely with the Chadian authorities to develop a full proposal combining oryx reintroduction with protected area management. Starting from a core protection zone of several thousand square kilometers, oryx will hopefully be brought in, acclimatized, released and monitored. Over time, further animals will be released and secondary sites developed to create a network of recovery points within the reserve. Partnerships will be developed with the local communities and agencies active in the area's development to ensure that win-win solutions can be found in developing the reserve's space and resources for the mutual benefit of both people and wildlife.

This project is one of the most ambitious ever undertaken by SCF and we thank the following organizations for their precious support and counsel: Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi, Addax & Oryx Foundation, Al Ain Zoo, Convention on Migratory Species, Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, IUCN CBSG, Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, St. Louis Zoo, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, and the Zoological Society of London.

If you would like to know more about Sahara Conservation Fund work and how to contribute to projects, see www.saharaconservation.org or contact scf@saharaconservation.org

Hyenas in Addis Ababa

Ludwig Siege

Following incidents of Hyena attacks on humans in Addis Ababa in recent weeks, during which a baby was taken and killed, the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) organized a hyena cull in the city. On December 10th EWCA-appointed hunters destroyed 10 spotted hyenas in an area right in the city center, close to the main river crossing the town. The carcasses were disposed of by the Addis Ababa police.

Why hyenas started man-eating is not known. Hyenas are known as scavengers, but they also hunt. There are large populations of hyenas, and possibly also leopards, living in and around Addis Ababa. Estimates range from 300 to 1000. The wildlife Authority has reports from seven sites with dens in or close to the city center.

Hyenas remove animal carcasses from the streets of Addis and keep the burgeoning stray dog population at bay, so they also play a positive role in the city. There is a joke going around in Addis that the city council should pay the hyenas for keeping the city clean!

They are also a potential tourist attraction, like the famous Harar hyenas, the nightly feeding of which is advertised in every travel guide for Ethiopia. It is also easy to see hyenas in their dens during daytime from an observation point on the Entoto Hills north of Addis, a favorite weekend destination for the expatriate community.



The Addis Ababa Hyena Culling Team

Ethiopians are very tolerant of large predators. Ethiopia is therefore probably the country with the highest hyena numbers in Africa. The tolerance is also borne out by the fact that, despite domestic livestock numbers in Ethiopia being the highest in Africa, there are still quite a few lions living outside the protected areas of the country.

For instance, it is inconceivable that hyenas could survive in Dar es Salaam for long. They would be poisoned immediately. But, having hundreds of hyenas in a modern, growing city like Addis Ababa, is bound to create increasing problems in future. Killing, however, is the last resort for EWCA; non-lethal methods would be preferable.

EWCA has inspected the site two days after the culling operation. There are obviously many more hyenas around, but their behavior seems to have changed. They are much shyer now and avoid humans; yet two more were shot and killed.

The main reason for hyenas to reside in the town center is, apart from food availability is ideal hyena habitat in several locations there. Bulbula nursery site for instance, where the hyenas were shot, is an about four hectare large, neglected wilderness area, overgrown with bush and grass. The site is located by the Kebena River and the riverbed forms an ideal "hyena highway", since hyenas travel along the river to their feeding places. It can be assumed that, even if the hyenas in the nursery site are shot out, other hyenas will move in and repopulate the site.

EWCA therefore recommends the cleaning up of the hyena sites in the city as the only long-term solution. The bush should be cleared, the grass regularly cut and rubbish littering the sites removed. EWCA is confident that, when these measures are taken seriously, the incidents with hyenas in Addis will drop quickly and further culling of hyenas can be avoided.

News from Africa

African Indaba Editorial Team

Africa

A new report published by Panthera confirms that widespread illegal hunting and the bushmeat trade occur more frequently and with greater impact on wildlife populations in the Southern and Eastern savannas of Africa than previously thought, and if unaddressed could potentially cause a 'conservation crisis.' The report challenges previously held beliefs of the impact of illegal bushmeat hunting and trade in Africa with new data from experts. Download the report at <http://www.panthera.org/sites/default/files/bushmeat%20report%20v2%20lo.pdf>

Congo Republic

The Ramsar Convention reported that the Government of the Republic of Congo has designated three new Ramsar sites, bringing to 10 its total number of sites. Preparations for these new designations were supported financially by the WWF International Freshwater Program. Activities carried out in the three sites (Ntokou-Pikounda, Odzala Kokoua and Vallée du Niari) include ecotourism, agriculture, aquaculture, hunting, and harvesting of non-timber forest products.

Kenya

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) has reported that the Government of Kenya has designated the Tana River Delta as a Wetland of International Importance. The Tana River Delta Ramsar Site is the second most important estuarine and deltaic ecosystem in Eastern Africa and provides feeding and wintering ground for several migratory waterbirds.

Kenya

Kenya Wildlife Service recently conducted a census of the Samburu/Laikipia population, the country's second largest. It found that the population lost over 1000 elephants in just four years, and now stands at 6361. Previous censuses in 1992, 1998, 2002 and 2008 had revealed a growing population, which appears to have peaked at 7415 in 2008.

Namibia

Jan Oelofse, conservationist and hunter, passed away in October. He became famous for handling elephants, lions, and cheetahs during the filming of the 1962 movie 'Hatari' starring John Wayne, Jan was also a pioneer in developing new of game capture methods finally After Jan returned to Namibia in 1975 he started to put the founding stones for what is today the 30,000 hectare Okonjati Game Reserve.

Rhino Poaching South Africa Statistics

626 Dead Rhinos as per 10th December 2012

Thereof:

North West Province	77
Kruger National Park	381
KwaZulu-Natal	61

Source: tim.condon@shaw.ca ZWF ENVIRO-FOCUS
2050 & RHINO WAR NEWS

South Africa

Three KwaZulu-Natal conservation agencies have joined forces to develop ideas to fight rhino poaching, KZN Ezemvelo Wildlife said on October 26. "The poaching of our province's rhinos can only be stopped through a collaborative effort," said Bandle Mkhize, Ezemvelo's chief executive officer. "Our initial emphasis will be on addressing the issues identified through Ezemvelo's internal investigation of the recent poaching incidents at Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park." The three agencies are Ezemvelo, the Wildlands Conservation Trust and the African Conservation Trust.

South Africa

Thai national Chumlong Lemtongthai was sentenced to 40 years in prison after pleading guilty to smuggling rhino horn and admitting to using Thai prostitutes to pose as hunters in order to secure hunting permits. His group is believed to have facilitated the illegal export of 26 rhino horns from the country. His fellow accused did not share his fate though. Professional hunter Harry Claassens turned state's witness and charges were withdrawn against five other men involved in the poaching operation, including a farmer, two farm workers, and two other Thai men. Phindi Louw, South Gauteng regional spokesperson for the NPA, said the NPA felt the sentence was appropriate and would send a strong message that South Africa "will do everything in its power to preserve our heritage". The WWF applauded the work of law enforcement officials in securing the arrest and conviction but said it was concerned that the charges against Lemtongthai's co-accused had been withdrawn without explanation. "Sadly, this does not send a similarly strong message regarding South

Africa's attitude to the on-going involvement of its own citizens in rhino crimes," it said in a statement. Dr Jo Shaw, rhino coordinator for WWF-SA, said the organization hoped that the charges against the other men would be reinstated.

South Africa

Marnus Steyl, the Free State game farmer who allegedly supplied rhino to the Thai syndicate of Chumlong Lemtongthai, appeared in the Vryburg Regional Court in December facing 23 charges of fraud, five of illegal rhino hunting, one of money-laundering, and one of contravening the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act. Steyl was granted bail of R100 000 and was ordered to hand over his passport. The case was postponed to 25 March 2013.

South Africa

End of November two more suspects were arrested in Rustenburg in connection with the poaching of eight rhinos at the Klipkopspruit farm. This brings to eight the number of people arrested in this case.

South Africa

In November a black rhino was poached at &Beyond Phinda Private Game Reserve. Poaching activity in northern KwaZulu-Natal is at an all-time high. &Beyond Phinda's contracted security company, Nyathi Anti-Poaching, recently made two significant breakthroughs. Upon receiving important tip-offs from members of the Mqobokazi community, Nyathi Anti-Poaching, in collaboration Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, intercepted two armed suspects in the Ozabeni section of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park bordering &Beyond Phinda. One of the poachers was wounded and his heavy caliber hunting rifle recovered. As a result of this arrest, investigators obtained important information that will further assist in locating another poaching syndicate operating in the region. A second incident took place on the 5th of December following an anonymous lead about a planned poaching incursion into Phinda.

A combined operation between Nyathi Anti-Poaching, the Durban Organized Crime Unit and the Durban South Dog Unit resulted in an armed poaching gang being intercepted inside the reserve. When confronted by the police, one of the poachers attempted to fire at the officers and was fatally wounded. Two suspects fled the scene and disappeared into thick bush, however a heavy caliber hunting rifle with silencer was recovered. Nyathi Anti-Poaching staff apprehended a further three members of the gang in two vehicles a short distance away; one of them was identified as a prominent member of the neighboring Makhasa community. According to the chief investigating officer, there

Watch an inspiring video on the Purple Rhino project by South African radio station, Jacaranda FM and listen to the background music of Johnny Clegg's "Scatterlings of Africa"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jglw3w5-3Fo>

Rhino Economics – Getting Real about Rhino Conservation

Michael t'Sas-Rolfes

Rhino horn is used as an aphrodisiac this is a Western media myth! Rhino horn is used for various medicinal and ornamental purposes in Asia, and this use is deeply entrenched...

Visit Michael's website for more information about rhino conservation, legalizing rhino horn trade, use of rhino horn in traditional oriental medicine, etc.

<http://www.rhino-economics.com/>

is reason to believe that the suspects and recovered firearm may be linked to a number of rhino poaching incidents in KZN this past year and investigations are ongoing (www.andBeyond.com)

Tanzania

President Kikwete appointed Professor Alexander Songorwa to the position of Director of Wildlife. Prior to his appointment, Professor Songorwa taught wildlife management at Sokoine University. The new director faces the challenges of elephant poaching on the increase. Official reports say that ca. 30,000 elephants have been poached between 2006 and 2009 and just recently two containers with 3.6 tons of ivory from Kenya and Tanzania have been confiscated in Hong Kong. Tanzania submitted a proposal to CITES to sell 100 tons of their 137 tons of ivory to fund anti-poaching measures with the proceeds.

Tanzania

Rosatom, the Russian State Energy Corporation, has to fight elephant poachers in order to progress with their Mkuju River uranium mining project in the Selous Game Reserve according to the Moscow Times and Interfax. Kiriyyenko, the Corporation's CEO, said during a lecture at the National Nuclear Research University in Moscow "that the company has set up a special task force, which is buying helicopters and unmanned aircraft to locate the poachers' campfires." Poachers apparently took advantage of the access road built by Canada's Uranium One, which is controlled by Rosatom. The UNESCO World Heritage Committee received approval in July to exclude the Mkuju River uranium deposit from the World Heritage Site Tanzanian authorities to issue a license to develop the uranium deposit. Mining is expected to start next year.

Tanzania

Tanzanian policemen have seized 78 elephant tusks after a hot car chase. Almost all of them were ripped off baby and cow elephants. Only two belonged to a young bull. The tusks were impounded after a high speed chase on December 10th. Three suspects are in custody. The tusks weighed 211kg. Preliminary investigations have revealed that the three suspects were ferrying the tusks from Masasi in Mtwara region to Dar es Salaam. Police at Igumbilo police checkpoint in Iringa district flagged down the vehicle, but the suspects sped away before inspection could start. Police gave chase but their vehicle did not have enough power to catch up with the speeding pick-up. By coincidence the director of Kilombero North Safaris Ltd, a tourist hunting firm based in Dar es Salaam, passed the road at this stage and offered his vehicle to the police for the chase, which was finally successful. Elephant poachers in Tanzania may face up to 30 years imprisonment.

Tunisia

It is now 27 years since the first group of scimitar-horned oryx was brought back to Tunisia from UK zoos. Several other imports have occurred since then and there are now about 180 individuals in four protected areas (Bou Hedma, Sidi Toui, Oued Dekouk and Dghoumes). Forthcoming fieldwork will include DNA analyses to evaluate the impact of current management on genetic diversity, and help design a national meta-population plan, including translocations of animals between protected areas and augmentation with new animals from breeding programs in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East.

Tunisia

A herd of addax that was reintroduced to Djebel National Park in 2007 with support from SCF is doing well. During the coming months, births will be monitored so that calves can be identified and selected for future translocation to Senghar National Park to help achieve long term goals for the restoration of this species in the Grand Erg Oriental.

Uganda

The population of Uganda's mountain gorillas has grown to 400, up from 302 in 2006, according to a census conducted last year, bringing the total number of mountain gorillas in Africa to 880 and giving hope to conservationists trying to save the critically endangered species.

United States – Asia – Africa

President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton upped the ante in the global struggle against poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking during their visit to Southeast Asia meeting with heads of state. Wildlife was high on their agenda and they discussed ways these nations can thwart poachers and reduce the insatiable demand for ivory, rhino horn, and other wildlife body parts such as tiger bones and pelts.

Stop Press

On December 10th the governments of South Africa and Viet Nam signed a Memorandum of Understanding to improve co-operation between the two states on biodiversity conservation and protection including tackling illegal wildlife trafficking. The main elements of co-operation outlined in the MoU include the field of biodiversity management, conservation, protection, law enforcement, compliance with CITES and other relevant legislation and Conventions. Based on equality and mutual benefit it comes into force on the date of signature and notes specifically that illegal wildlife trafficking remains a global challenge. More in African Indaba Volume 11 #1 (February 2013)