AFRICAN INDABA

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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

# 1 African Lion Workshops

By John J Jackson III, Chairman, Conservation Force and CIC Sustainable Use Commission

A monumental effort to conserve the African lion in Eastern and Southern Africa was launched at two back-on-back workshops held in Randburg, RSA in early January 2006. The first one was a "technical" workshop aimed at assessing and mapping the range of lion in Eastern and Southern Africa and analyzing potential lion conservation units. The second was a planning meeting to develop a conservation strategy to secure and restore sustainable lion populations over the next 25 years.

The technical workshop session was organized by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Cat Specialist Group including its affiliates, the African Lion Working Group (ALWG) and the West and Central African Lion Conservation Network (ROCAL). 32 experts and observers attended the session which was funded by WCS and facilitated by WCS's Dr Luke Hunter.

Though primarily conceptualized as a range mapping exercise, the workshop also attempted to separate lion populations into different categories of risk called *Lion Conservation Units (LCU)*. The threats in each LCU were separately assessed as well as the potential viability of the respective lion populations. That process remains open as more information will be added in future by various experts. The results are not expected to be published for several months. One tentative conclusion was that approximately thirty-four (34) percent of the lion populations are believed to be potentially self-sustaining for the next 100 years. The largest and most secure lion population units are found to be in Tanzania, followed by Botswana. Approximately fifty-five (55) percent of the African lion's range is situated in hunting blocks of one form or another. The participants considered that the risks or threats affecting lion are lower in safari hunting areas and are lowered by regulated safari hunting. In other words, safari hunting and in particular safari hunting of wild lion was found not to be a threat. There was general agreement that safari hunting should be viewed as a useful means of alleviating threats and that it generally provides a net benefit to species' conservation in general and lion conservation in particular. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) intends to use the results of its technical workshop to launch its own comprehensive lion conservation program and to use the information gathered for its own lion data base.

The information proved also useful for the second workshop aimed at developing a lion conservation strategy. This symposium was attended by a broader spectrum of 67 participants which included lion experts, range nation authorities and stakeholders. Its purpose was the development of the political and biological aspects of a viable lion conservation strategy.

The session was organized by Kristin Nowell of IUCN's Cat Specialist Group and its affiliates, WCS and African Resources Trust at the request of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). It was primarily funded by Safari Club International Foundation of Safari Club International (SCI), but was also funded by WCS and the UK Department of the Environment, Food Resources and Agriculture.

This workshop was larger and far more comprehensive than the preceding symposium. Dr Holly Dublin, Chair of the IUCN SSC and Dr Russell Taylor facilitated this extremely important second workshop. It's importance was demonstrated by the attendance of the management authorities from nearly every range state, the co-chair and vice-chair of the IUCN Cat Specialist Group, Chair of the African Lion Working Group (ALWG), Chair of ROCAL, the director of the International Foundation for the Conservation of Wildlife, the Chair of Conservation Force

*Continued on Page 2*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

# 2 Hunting in National Parks

By Ludolph Swanefelder, Chair, Confederation of South African Hunting Associations (CHASA)

The SA Hunters Association is the oldest and largest hunting association in South Africa and is indeed a national organisation. There is however a further nineteen hunting associations ranging from regional organisations like Free State Hunters to national disciplines like SA Handgun Hunters. These organisations have a combined membership op 14'900 and are affiliated to the Confederation of Hunting Associations of SA (CHASA). Whilst this means that there are two national role players, the leadership of the two, together with PHASA and Wildlife Ranching SA, are united in HAWASA, an alliance representing all hunters and game farmers in South Africa.

HAWASA have taken the stance that it is not currently opportune for hunters to be seen pushing for hunting in National Parks. The sensitivity of the debate is such that it would be in the interest of the pro-hunting grouping that only researchers and conservationists be seen publicly advocating for this.

We know that the animal rights extremists possess exceptional resources and have the ability to be extremely vocal, they however severely lack the ability to push through on their threats, mainly because they don't have the membership numbers or even ground level support to do so. The culling of the Tahrs on Table Mountain is an excellent example. Widely publicised threats were made, of which came nothing more than a very emotional media statement after the culling commenced. The culling of elephants in National Parks will have the same outcome. Thanks to exceptional work by pro-hunting conservation organisations (with African Indaba solidly amongst them), parks management have accrued the necessary scientific evidence and public support to request the minister to allow culling to commence. I am convinced that it will go ahead and that nothing will come from the threats of the extremists. Thát would signal the opportune time for the debate on hunting to be taken public.

The nineteen member associations of CHASA are unanimous in support of hunting in National Parks and it is therefore also CHASA's official policy. CHASA supports the bigger strategic option of 'incentive driven conservation' with it's positive effects on wildlife management, BEE and ultimately the future of African wildlife.

I am of the opinion that SA Hunter's current stance in opposition to hunting in parks is merely a temporary one, acknowledging the importance of timing in this debate, and will be replaced with one of support to the strategic option as soon as the public debate on hunting in parks commences.

DEAT's National Norms and Standards are expected within the first quarter. It is of course of utmost importance that the end product not excludes the option of hunting in parks. Whilst it is of great value that conservation organisations continue to propagate hunting in parks as part of the bigger strategic option, organised hunting should focus all its attention on influencing the Norms and Standards to include the option of hunting in national parks, opening the way for successfully negotiating such as soon as it becomes opportune.

CHASA is committed to do exactly that.

*Continued from Page 1*

1 African Lion Workshops

and President of the Commission on Sustainable Use of the International Council for Game & Wildlife Conservation (CIC), the coordinator of the Global Carnivore Program of WCS, the Director of Conservation for Safari Club International Foundation, both the Director and Program Officer of TRAFFIC ESA, and the world's leading lion scientists such as Craig Packer, Paul Funston, Laurence Frank, Hans Bauer, Norman Monks, Philippe Chardonnet, Christian Winterbach and others. That is just a sampling of the approximately 80 participants but demonstrates the seriousness of this unprecedented undertaking and the high caliber of the participants.

The workshop to develop a lion conservation strategy began with the presentation of key papers providing the most cutting-edge information and developments in lion conservation. Three background papers were sent to participants before the workshop began and the principal authors delivered these papers on the opening morning. These papers are all available on the internet at the African Indaba Website (please go to the lion conservation link).

The *Lion Status and Distribution in Eastern and Southern Africa* was prepared by Hans Bauer, Philippe Chardonnet and Kristin Nowell. In this document two key lion surveys are compared: *Bauer and van der Merwe* (published in 2004 but actually completed in 2002), and the *Chardonnet Study* by the International Foundation for the Conservation of Wildlife (IGF) and Conservation Force, also completed in 2002. The different methodologies in the two surveys were not really comparable as the Bauer survey was only "partial" and focused more on protected areas, while the Chardonnet study was "more complete" and included more protected and far more unprotected areas than the Bauer survey. For example, the Bauer Survey had no estimate whatsoever for several range countries and included only a fraction of Tanzania that has the largest lion population in Africa thought to be equal to all the rest of Africa.

There is a common sense assumption among many lion researchers that there has been a considerable decline in overall numbers of lion over the past several decades, but the trend cannot be quantified because no precise baseline data exists. Tanzania, with the largest population prey base and suitable habitat has a growing lion population as well as the largest lion population.

The second paper was *Lions, Conflict and Conservation in Eastern and Southern Africa*. It was prepared by Laurence Frank, Graham Henson, Hadas Kushnir and Craig Packer and reviews lion-human conflict in all its ramifications. Laurence Frank emphasized the need for preventative actions to protect livestock and importance of using mechanisms to provide the local people benefits from lion and wildlife, especially outside of protected areas. Interestingly he mentioned that the lion population was increasing in his Kenya study area even though twenty (20) percent of the lion population was being killed each year. He estimated the potential revenue from those lion that were being killed to be more than one-million U.S. dollars per year if Kenya permitted tourist safari hunting.

The third background paper is entitled *Impacts of Trophy Hunting of Lions in Eastern and Southern Africa: Recent*

*Continued on Page 3*

*Continued from Page 2*
1 African Lion Workshops

*Offtake and Future Recommendations* by Craig Packer, Karyl Whitman, Andrew Loveridge, John Jackson (yours truly), and Paul Funston. It reviews lion trophy hunting and the biological "best practices" being developed to raise the conservation value of lion, while also reducing the impact of the regulated hunting. Craig Packer recommended that tourist hunting be restricted to older males and that females normally not be on quota. He emphasized the importance of tourist safari hunting to lion conservation including the fact that most lion range is in hunting areas. Tanzania has the most lion safari hunting and partly in consequence has the most robust lion populations.

Holly Dublin made it clear that the workshop was not about the narrow issue of safari hunting. Nevertheless, the issue could not be avoided because of the positive contributions to lion conservation being derived from that form of hunting. The participants concluded that lion safari hunting was not the threat, but was an important means of alleviating the threats to Africa's lion (see also IUCN Cat Specialist Group "Events & Activities"). It is an important means of maintaining lion, lion habitat and abundant lion prey. Safari hunting adds substantial value to the lion for local people – a necessity if lion are to be tolerated on their lands. Tourist hunting is the principal conservation tool in more than half of African lion habitat.

David Erickson presented the Cullman & Hurt Community Wildlife Conservation Project. This is one program the safari hunting community can be particularly proud of. Through it a single hunting operator provides direct benefits to 100,000 people in 33 villages in Tanzania. In 15 years the project has provided more than US$ 2 million to local communities including the construction of 34 schools, 12 medical dispensaries and mobile medical units, operated 3 full-time anti-poaching patrols, conducted leopard and lion studies, and much more.

Though the background papers and initial presentations were interesting and useful, most of the workshop was devoted to development of an actual strategy. Participants were divided into working groups to address six issues that were identified:

- Mitigation
- Trade,
- Management
- Policy and Land Use
- Politics
- Socio-economics.

Targets and activities were developed under each of those six (6) issues. The final strategy for Eastern and Southern Africa is expected to be published in June or July 2006. A continental lion strategy including the results of the October 2005 Workshop in Douala for Western and Central Africa is expected to be published by January or February 2007.

Sarel van der Merwe, chair of the ALWG, summed it up when he wrote that *"no one doubts that we are at the foot of the Lion Conservation Mountain of Africa."* Indeed, the second workshop is an unprecedented and important effort.

Saving the lion entails saving its habitat and prey base, effective management and reducing human and livestock-lion conflict. It is synonymous with saving wild Africa, or as Craig Packer and others put it, saving "Savannas Forever."

## Key Papers presented at the Johannesburg Lion Workshops in January 2006

Access the pdf-documents for all these papers at the African Indaba Website

Lions, Conflict and Conservation in Eastern and Southern Africa by Laurence Frank, Graham Hemson, Hadas Kushnir, Craig Packer (Download Article)

Impacts of Trophy Hunting on Lions in East and Southern Africa: Recent Offtake and Future Recommendations by Craig Packer. Karyl Whitman, Andrew Loveridge, John Jackson III, Paul Funston (Download Article)

Status And Distribution Of The Lion *(Panthera Leo)* In East And Southern Africa by Hans Bauer, Philippe Chardonnet, & Kristin Nowell (Download Article)

# 3 Canned Lion on E-Bay

By Gerhard R Damm

The text quoted below has recently appeared on the internet in eBay posted by a US based seller by the name of "Animal Interiors". We do not reproduce the photo mentioned in the text. Those who have read our commentaries regarding "canned shooting" know that African Indaba is totally opposed to canned killing. This practise dishonors the hunter and the hunted. We learned about the offer at the internet Accurate Reloading Forum were all comments were clearly negative (check for yourself on this link eBay Lion).

Quote

*This is for the Big Black Maned Lion - as pictured. He has a variety of sizes available at the following prices: Large female: $ 6500.00 Males: from $ 17,500.00 to $ 42,000.00 (from 4 year old males to 12 year old. Manes vary from short to very dark long manes) These prices include the following: Trophy fee, day fees for the hunter for 3 hunting days, transport to and from JHB International airport, CITES permits, 3 meals a day, drinks, laundry, caping/skinning, delivery of trophy to taxidermist. Excluding: Additional animals, additional hunting days ($ 250.00/day), companions, tips to skinners/trackers/staff, taxidermy fees, shipping of trophy. He has about 20 females, 60 medium to large males and 15 extra large males available. All the hunts taking place within SA. Hunting ground approximately 3500 hectares. All the trophies are guarantee*

Unquote

Animal Interiors is described on its website as a small business based in Maryland/USA and according to their own words is "*an Ebay PowerSeller that seeks to provide consumers, interior designers, and hunt enthusiasts throughout the world with quality unique animal pieces for their home*". The company is owned by Gerry Scheidhauer who claims that he is an experienced Safari guide and a principal safari tour operator. The

*Continued on Page 4*

*Continued from Page 3*
3 Canned Lion on eBay

website says "*everything we sell is completely legal. Some pieces we sell are from collections in the United States that Animal Interiors has acquired. The majority of our products come direct from our partners in South Africa who are reputable dealers and hunters".* Scheidhauer also states that *"at Animal Interiors are serious about our commitment to wildlife conservation. Along with being proud members of Safari Club International we are also members of World Wildlife Fund*."

The same Garry Scheidhauer owns Hemingway Outfitters. On the respective website he says that *"we have a long standing relationship/ partnership with a handful of hunting concessions throughout southern Africa. We are very selective and believe we have some of the best outfitters in the business. Our professional hunters are very serious about the sport of the hunt as well as respecting the wildlife and conservation for future generations*". On his Animal Interiors website Scheidhauer's names his partners in South Africa as:

- Kobus Scholtz, portrayed as "*Principal Outfitter and professional hunter from a long line of farmers, hunters, and conversationalists in South Africa and continues to carry along in the tradition he has been taught*",
- Jeremy Agustynus, "*professional hunter and culler, including one of three certified in South Africa to thin herds by helicopter. He is a very serious student of the sport and along with sniper shots at moving animals from a moving object he is just as lethal with his bow*" and
- Attie Scholtz, "*professional hunter and culler. Professional night time hunter, [so] Attie is the guy you want to take you out after dark. Another crack-shot and expert marksman*."

African Indaba contacted the Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa (PHASA) and Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA) and received emails that the individuals named above are not known and are not members of these associations. We have contacted a few more members of the local and international hunting fraternity – they were all adamant in voicing their disgust about this "offer" for canned killing. Hopefully the Department of Environmental Affairs and tourism will soon put a LEGAL end to it! We also wonder what SCI and WWF have to say about Scheidhauer's "commitment to wildlife conservation".

# 4 Management of Elephants in Southern Africa

Media Statement: Game Rangers' Association Of Africa (GRAA) With Regard To The Management Of Elephants

The GRAA recognizes that:

1. It is every country's sovereign right to manage its wildlife populations as it deems appropriate. GRAA condemns decision making which is in any way compromised by the external influences of funding agencies, which in turn may threaten the countries' biodiversity Protected Areas (PAs).
2. Elephants pose particular management problems that can usually not be solved by means generally accepted as appropriate to other species.
3. Overpopulations of elephants (particularly in fenced-in PAs) may pose significant threats to biodiversity.
4. The options for managing elephants are limited, and that all have inherent logistical and ethical constraints. Decisions taken on the management of elephants will not be universally applicable – an option relevant to one PA may not be useful or applicable in another. The GRAA assessment of the various current management options and their limitations are as follows:

a) Translocations: Translocations are considered to be the most ethically acceptable method as long as only intact families are moved. Bulls can be moved singly or in groups as they have no particular social allegiances to others. Considerable stresses and traumas will be experienced by translocated animals until they have settled, and possibly also for wider family members left behind. In this respect, translocations are similar to culls as elephants not selected will permanently lose family members. Opportunities for translocations are currently extremely limited as there is a very limited market for live elephants.

b) Contraception: Non-hormonal contraception programs are also considered to be ethically acceptable, but there still are some concerns and limitations. Elephants have powerful social structures particularly with regard to families. Contraception will change these family structures and therefore also the fundamental fabric of elephant society in the long-term. The impacts that such changes will have are unknown. There are also some concerns for the long-term health of treated females as pathologies have been diagnosed in zoo kept females that were prevented from conceiving. Costs may prove prohibitive in large free ranging populations and may compromise funding for other important conservation projects. Contraception can not reduce a population in the short-term, as elephants are long lived animals. To await the decline of a contraceived population resulting from natural mortalities may require time spans which some management authorities can not currently afford. Local communities have shown little sympathy for an expensive contraception program which precludes the use of wild animals as a sustainable resource.

c) Corridors and range expansion: The acquisition of land for range expansion and creation of corridors between elephant ranges has recently been proposed as possible solution. While these are clearly desirable options not only for elephant management but for conservation in general, the potential is considered to be extremely limited. Apart from cost factors, elephants and humans favor similar habitats, and therefore land will not easily become available. These options may also result in an increased potential for human-elephant conflict. Land acquisition will be a protracted process which may require time spans which some management authorities can not currently afford, and can thus not offer solutions for current overpopulation problems. As most conservation agencies in Africa are short of the funds and the capacity to manage their existing PAs, the development of new areas to accommodate expanding elephant populations is likely to be at the expense of the ca-

*Continued on Page 5*

*Continued from Page 4*

4 Management of Elephant in Southern Africa

pacity to manage the present estate. The expansion of elephant range will result in greater populations that will inevitably have to be managed when these areas reach carrying capacity.

d) Culling (includes hunting): Animal rights sensitivities are in conflict with this option, but when weighed up against human-elephant conflicts and biodiversity losses, culling (if conducted in the most humane way possible) is considered by the GRAA to be an ethical and valid option for elephant management, particularly where the implementation of other options is not possible due to economic or logistical constraints. As with translocations, complete families should be culled. Bulls can be culled singly or in groups. Groups to be culled should be selected so as to minimize impacts on nearby groups.

e) Laissez-faire: The option of doing nothing (laissez-faire) is in conflict with the management-for-biodiversity option. While it is every country's sovereign right to manage its wildlife populations as it deems appropriate, the adoption of this option should be a considered, rational management decision which has taken full cognizance of the potential costs to biodiversity, and not result from policies imposed by, or negotiated with funding agencies with alternative agendas.

The GRAA fully supports current South African legislation which mandates Protected Area Management Authorities to conserve indigenous biodiversity. GRAA accepts that each and all of the above options are valid for the management of elephants, but urges that full stakeholder participation and transparency are required in the decision making process. The GRAA will support final decisions taken by the PA management authority, provided that such decisions are in the interests of sound holistic ecosystem conservation.

*Disclaimer: This statement was prepared by members of the Executive Committee of the GRAA and was circulated to its members for comment. While the majority of members support the contents of this statement, there are some who may not be in complete agreement, and the statement may thus not represent the opinions of all its members.*

Enquiries: Tim Snow, Chairman, Game Rangers Association of Africa, mobile +27-(0)82 4634104

## Elephant Numbers in Southern Africa

| Country | 1900 | 2000 |
|---|---|---|
| Botswana | <800 | 120,000 |
| Mozambique | <500 | 3,500 |
| Namibia | <500 | 14,000 |
| South Africa | 150-200 | 15,000 |
| Zimbabwe | <4,000 | >100,000 |
| Total | <6,500 | c 250,000 |

Source: Elephantine Dilemma – Dr David Cummings

# 5 The Precautionary Principle: Mysteries Unraveled

by Grahame J.W. Webb

In the last 50 years the general public has become engaged in wildlife conservation issues and policy. The IUCN has been at the frontline of expanding public interest and education, often using conservation concepts built around single words (eg *extinction, endangered, biodiversity, protection, sustainable, precaution*). Like flagship species, flagship concepts have captured public interest and to some degree have empowered the public to argue their cases more convincingly. Yet those concepts are often more complex than they appear, especially when it comes to incorporating them in legislation, policy and management protocols.

One of the central conservation concepts today is the Precautionary Principle, and it is fitting that Rosie Cooney has published a comprehensive report on it. *The Precautionary Principle in Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management*, published by the IUCN Policy and Global Change Group in 2004 (IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK) with assistance from TRAFFIC, ResourceAfrica and Fauna Flora International, is mandatory reading for those who have to deal with precaution in conservation. The 51 page booklet is well referenced, well written and contains insights gained from a consultative process involving a wide range of experts.

Cooney finds consensus about what the Precautionary Principle is - a view that *actions should be taken to avoid serious or irreversible environmental harm, even if the available scientific evidence cannot provide evidence of such harm*. But she identifies conflict about its value in conservation. Proponents see the Precautionary Principle as a conservative but responsible "safeguard", whereas opponents see it as "anti-scientific, subject to abuse ... anti-innovation, and anti-sustainable use".

What constitutes *serious* harm is clearly problematic, because some conservationists see the killing of any individual animal as a serious problem, whereas others are only concerned if uses are unsustainable at the population level. Some conservationists see "protection" as the only viable conservation strategy because it appears to have minimal risk. Others address the challenge of conservation outside of protected areas, where innovation (new ways of doing things) and risk are essential ingredients. They argue that adaptive management, rather than prescription and precaution, is the only effective strategy for dealing with risk and uncertainty in such situations.

Section 1 (Introduction) deals with the IUCN mandate to examine the *Precautionary Principle*, generated at the First IUCN World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996), and provides the general background and objectives of the initiative undertaken to satisfy that mandate.

Section 2, "The Meaning of the Precautionary Principle", deals with the basic concept of precaution, its formulation into a principle, the difference between a Precautionary Principle and precautionary approach, the factors which distinguish the Precautionary Principle from other well-established principles in environmental law, and the confusion that exists over whether

*Continued on Page 6*

*Continued from Page 5*
5 The Precautionary Principle: Mysteries Unraveled

the principle is consistent or at odds with the philosophy of science.

The degree to which the Precautionary Principle has been incorporated into environmental law is summarized in Section 3, with the major international laws treated separately and case histories used to exemplify the situation at various national levels. Fisheries law and policy are treated separately.

The original IUCN mandate called for advice on best practice for the use of the Precautionary Principle in an environmental context, and specifically within IUCN programs. This problem is dealt with in Section 4, which is a masterly and insightful treatment of the strengths and weakness of the Precautionary Principle in different practical, conservation contexts.

Cooney concludes (Section 5) that acceptance of the Precautionary Principle is inconsistent across different conservation disciplines and is highly controversial within them. She considers that "bare acceptance" of the principle is unlikely to be helpful in policy or management and argues convincingly that precautionary measures need to be tailored to the exact contexts in which they are intended to be beneficial. There is little doubt that this work will become a standard reference on the subject, and all involved in the initiative deserve to be congratulated on the outcome.

This article was first published in the newsletter of the IUCN SSC Sustainable Use Specialist Group: July 2005. More information on the Precautionary Principle Project, as well as the publication itself, are available at: ***www.pprinciple.net***

*Grahame Webb is Chair of the IUCN Crocodile Specialist Group, a member of Australia & New Zealand SUSG, Director of Wildlife Management International and Adjunct Professor of the Northern Territories University.*

# 6 Proceedings of the 6th International Wildlife Ranching Symposium, Paris 2004

The International Foundation for the Conservation of Wildlife announces that the proceedings of the 6th International Wildlife Ranching Symposium which was held fn July 2004 in Paris, have been edited in a special issue of the *Game & Wildlife Science Journal*, vol. 21 (3 & 4) with the support of the French *Office National de la Chasse & de la Faune Sauvage* (ONCFS) and are also available on the IGF website http://www.wildlife-conservation.org/index.php.

The document contains a number of very interesting papers and presentations from globally recognized experts on wildlife management and game ranching. It is divided into eight section and African Indaba provides the respective links to download and/or read online the papers from each section.

Community-Based Wildlife Management and Sustainable Development
Open | Download

Wildlife Breeding
Open | Download

Biodiversity Management
Open | Download

Human/Wildlife Interactions
Open | Download

Hunting and Wildlife Conservation
Open | Download

In Situ and Ex Situ Conservation
Open | Download

Management Technology
Open | Download

Wildlife Economics
Open | Download

These papers are of interest to game ranchers, hunters and conservationists.

# 7 News from Africa

Botswana

The importance of wildlife economics for local communities in Botswana is highlighted by the following figures: The last time that a community concession came up for tender, the reserve price for their hunting quota was $235,000 pa. Additional income was another $100,000 for land rental for one 16-bed photographic camp and two 8-bed hunting camps. The camps employ only community members - 26 jobs in the photographic and 30 in the hunting camps. This community (450 people) can pay each community member the equivalent of 4 months wages in the tourism industry from their annual wildlife income. Of the $335,000 they earn, $285 000 is directly from trophy hunting.

Botswana

According to the Elephant Management Plan approved by the Botswana Cabinet, the Central District should be an elephant-free zone. Removing the elephants from this area will require a lot of consultation with the international community because of sensitivities surrounding the killing of elephants. The government had already taken measures to address the problem including a hunting quota of a total of 33 elephants in the Tonota Mmadinare area during the past two seasons, inviting the European Union to solicit international opinion and support for solutions and agreeing to host an elephant management workshop sponsored by Conservation International which would specifically explore strategies to reduce elephant populations in the Southern African region. The Botswana government's long-term objective is to maintain an elephant population of less than 70,000 animals.

Eritrea

Yonas Yosief, head of the Agriculture office in Gash-Barka region, said that the elephant population is on the increase. Several herds of 40 to 50 elephant caused damage on farm plots. Yosief stressed the need to establish an elephant park.

Kenya

Outbreaks of equine anthrax killed scores of Grevy's zebras around Kenya's central Samburu National Reserve. Fewer than

*Continued on Page 17*

# 8 Conservation Hunting: People & Wildlife in Canada's North

Reviewed by Gerhard R Damm

This booklet contains a number of interesting articles, many of them not only applicable to Canada's North, but also in Africa. For those who participate in the discussions around hunting in South Africa, the contributions of authors like William A Wall (*A Framework Proposal for Conservation Hunting Best Practices*), Jon Hutton (*Exploitation and Conservation: Lessons from Southern Africa*), Kai Wollscheid (*Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the Future of Hunting*), Lee Foote (*Principles, Perspectives and Ethics of Conservation Hunting*), Marco Festa-Bianchet (*Trophy Hunting of Mountain Ungulates: Opportunities and Pitfalls*) are of great value.

The booklet is actually a must-read for all who have the future of hunting in Africa at heart.

Conservation hunting holds promise for improving the conditions of rural communities, wildlife and habitat.

This is the report of an international conference titled People, Wildlife and Hunting: Emerging Conservation Paradigms held in Edmonton, Alberta, in October 2004. The conference brought together people sharing a common involvement or interest in conservation hunting (an outgrowth of recreational hunting) that recognizes the significant contribution that hunting can make to social and ecological well being. This report focuses attention more particularly (but not exclusively) upon community-based conservation-hunting programs operating in the Canadian North. Conference participants included hunters, outfitters, community representatives, wildlife managers, researchers and conservationists from across Canada and from overseas.

The goal of the conference was to explore the relationship linking trophy hunting, wildlife conservation, and community sustainability in rural areas. Recognizing the importance of hunting to large-mammal management and to community economies in many rural areas of Canada, and especially in the Canadian North, the Canadian Circumpolar Institute (CCI) and the Alberta Cooperative Conservation Research Unit (ACCRU) at the University of Alberta organized the People, Wildlife and Hunting: Emerging Conservation Paradigms conference to foster greater awareness and understanding of this useful conservation tool.

To obtain a copy of:
Conservation Hunting – People and Wildlife in Canada's North by Milton M.R. Freeman, Robert J. Hudson and Lee Foote (editors),
2005. Occasional Publication No. 56, Canadian Circumpolar Institute, Edmonton, Alberta. 112 pp, map, tables, illus. ISBN 1-896445-35-7. Can$15.00 (plus S & H),
contact Cindy Mason at:cindy.mason@ualberta.ca
For more information in this particular topic, see also the articles 17 symposium on Recreational Hunting on page 16 and 21 What do you know about Conservation Hunting on page 19

# 9 Limpopo National Park

The Pafuri-Banyini pan, located in the triangle between the Limpopo and Luvuvhu rivers where South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique meet, will be the heart of the 35 000 km$^2$ Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. This conservation area will allow animals to follow ancient migration routes between KNP in South Africa, the Limpopo NP in Mozambique and Gonarezhou NP in Zimbabwe. 30km east of Pafuri-Banyini, in the Limpopo NP, lies Shikumba village: one of a string of settlements along the Limpopo home to 20,000 people. Inhabitants of these villages have refused to move elsewhere. Some villagers have already threatened to take up arms if the number of elephant in their area increases as a result of park fences being taken down.

Steve Collins, a development worker with extensive experience of communities living next to parks, said that *"Community development issues have become secondary to conservation; this is colonialism by conservationists."*

The Makuleke community in South Africa is less optimistic about the eventual benefits of the transfrontier conservation area. They are the first community to have won back land in one of the country's national parks and they lease this land to lodge operators, including Wilderness Safaris, with substantial revenues flowing back into the community. The Makuleke are concerned their animals will be poached when they wander into Mozambique and Zimbabwe. "We need to come up with programs of direct benefit to communities in Zimbabwe and Mozambique," said community spokesperson Lamson Maluleke, and "that the Makuleke have not been adequately involved in decisions about the regional park". The Peace Parks Foundation insists that community benefits lie at its heart. The Limpopo villagers, says Ari van Wyk - transfrontier park coordinator in Mozambique - will probably stay in the park, but be allocated hunting quotas. "There will always be subsistence hunting when people are hungry," he said.

As the amount of game circulating between Kruger and the Limpopo parks increases with the dropping of fences, Limpopo villagers may find that their settlements fall within migration routes. With this in mind, a grant of about $8.7 million has been provided by France to relocate villagers to the edges of game corridors -- and to provide them with irrigation systems. Another group of people inhabiting the Limpopo National Park -- 6 000 people living in 8 villages along the Shingwedzi -- will benefit from a grant of $7.5 million made available by the Germans.. Part of these funds will be used to establish an irrigation scheme outside the park where soils are better, said Van Wyk, to get villagers to leave the conservation area within 3 to 5 years.

In addition, certain camps for tourists in the Mozambican section of the TFCA are to be run by villagers. "We have calculated Limpopo has a carrying capacity of about 1,000 beds for 300,000 potential visitors a year," Peace Parks Foundation CEO Willem van Riet said. "That translates to about 3 000 jobs."

Maluleke's concerns about Zimbabwe are echoed by van Riet, who said " certain Zimbabweans have turned to poaching in a bid to make ends meet" and he continued to state that "until Zimbabwe comes back into the fold, nothing will happen there because donors are not going to put up money."

# 10 Tackling the Ethical Component in the Hunting Debate: A "Snapper's" Perspective

By Rael Loon

Although it can be elucidating to analyze the hunting industry purely rationally on economical and ecological grounds, a fundamental question one is invariably faced with at some stage in the hunting debate is that of ethics. Is it right or wrong to kill an animal for sport and who is to decide? This is a dilemma that haunts many conservation agencies in southern Africa. As conservationists, if we are comfortable in supporting and advocating the notion of sustainable utilization of wildlife, then logic suggests that we should accept (if not fully condone) controlled hunting that does not put species at risk of extinction. In principle this approach is a logical one especially if the hunting in question is conducted responsibly and professionally and is in accordance with sound ecological principles. However, in practice the hunting debate often leads to a domain of fuzzy logic and an emotionally charged minefield of differing perspectives and differing values held by a number of opposing camps. This tends to cause conflict between respective parties in this debate. It also hinders many parties from even entering such a debate in the first place. However it may be useful to discuss this point transparently if we accept that all parties have as their ultimate objective the conservation and wise use of our natural resources. In this regard It should be noted, and it is widely accepted that hunting, if controlled and professionally conducted (for example if conducted in accordance with the notion and principles of 'fair chase') is not necessarily unethical. Also one does not need to be a hunter to recognize that hunting can have conservation benefits (for example protecting natural areas from human development). Similarly many hunters are staunch advocates of sustainable utilization and conservation. On the other hand, it is agreed that any hint of canned hunts and unscrupulous practices should be strongly condemned. One should also bear in mind that one cannot generalize across the board and that factors may differ when considering the status of different species. For example, some species such as cheetahs are much rarer than say elephants, which would justify efforts to conserve cheetahs and to prevent indiscriminate hunting at all costs. There is no shortage of elephants on the other hand which has led a number of parties to advocate for the sustainable hunting of elephants. Elephant Management is a good example of the ethical dilemma inherent in such conservation debates. It also serve as a good example when it comes to analyzing ecological and economic issues and trying to integrate these criteria with the ethical component as will be explained later Suffice to say in this context that whereas in the case of elephants, ecological and economic considerations may point to the need for controlling their numbers, in the case of cheetahs, similar considerations suggest that they should not be hunted and therefore the ethical component carries more weight.

In this regard it is interesting to note an ironic recent victory for conservation where in their latest meeting, CITES have permitted five Black Rhinos to be hunted for their trophy due to the fact that Black Rhino numbers have been making such an encouraging recovery. This is ironic since allowing such hunting sounds on the face to be anti-conservation, Black Rhino having assumed an almost 'sacred' status in conservation in recent years. However to quell our doubts, WWF-SA has officially supported this move stressing that as long as such hunting is strictly controlled and in keeping with the principles of sustainable utilization it is acceptable. In this case, only old bulls that are past their breeding age and are preventing younger bulls from breeding are supposed to be identified as animals to be hunted. It is still of the utmost importance that the funds raised through these hunts flow directly back into conservation efforts and such information should be made available both to conservation organizations and the general public. The rhino therefore is a good example of a species saved from being threatened and now contributing towards their future conservation through sustainable hunting.. The big question then in trying to weigh up these different criteria is how to measure the ethical component. Measuring the economics is easy enough – one just has to ask a hunter how much he would be willing to pay to shoot a lion, cheetah or rhino. When considering the ethical component, the question rather COULD BECOME how much would a person pay to *prevent* that lion, cheetah or rhino being shot? This begs a bigger question regarding conservation funding – if we accept that conservation, especially in South Africa, needs to pay for itself by generating revenues that can go back into the respective conservation projects, then we shouldn't object to sustainable hunting which generates such revenue and furthers conservation objectives. The trick therefore for opponents to hunting and a possible win-win scenario, is to demonstrate that their objections also make economic sense, Many hunters argue that Animal rights organizations need to 'put their money where their mouth is', as it were, and provide economic and conservation alternatives to the benefits made by the hunting industry for example through donations or fundraising which also have positive spin-offs for conservation.

Whether this fixes the problem is still debatable however – Firstly one could argue that most of the revenue from hunting operations does not necessarily go back into conservation, but is shared by a limited economy that does not necessarily provide conservation benefits. Secondly, it could be argued that the above reasoning 'mixes methaphors' as it were. Whereas economic arguments can be measured in terms of monetary costs

*Continued on Page 9*

Man is part of the ecosystem. Excluding human activities out of nature is like fighting against man. Efficient nature conservation cannot act against people, it rather acts with people. "Sanctuarizing" nature and biodiversity is a dangerous itinerary for conservation, as it is not sustainable. Since the human factor is becoming major, it must be taken into account. Harmonizing nature and mankind is a safe way for targeting human development together with nature conservation. Resolving all sorts of conflict, making natural resources utilization sustainable, optimizing productions, reducing negative environmental impacts, etc., are all long-term goals for the planet's sake.

Source: http://www.wildlife-conservation.org

*Continued from Page 8*
10 Tackling the Ethical Component in the Hunting Debate

and benefits, some argue that ethical considerations are completely independent of any economic justifications for hunting. Similarly, if one looks at ecological reasoning in debates about hunting, it is difficult to translate such reasoning into ethical criteria, as by definition ecology as a natural science attempts to be as impartial as possible, devoid of subjective criteria and without the need to call for judgment or the need to invoke value statements. So, how does one then equate ethics with ecology on the one hand and economics, on the other? I see this as the crux of the matter in such issues involving ethical debates about hunting and is the primary reason why this debate causes so much antagonism between the different parties involved.

In this light, I would submit that the whole elephant management debate for example, calls for a motivation for a "*Multiple-Criteria Decision Analysis*" approach that is able to coherently and clearly compare Economic, Ecological and Ethical criteria - a tall order perhaps given that there is no common currency between the three - but worth the effort, because at least, if nothing else, this approach can represent the interests of the numerous stake-holders and *WEIGH* their views according to specific priorities on the ground and depending on the particular circumstance in question. In this way, perhaps, elephant managers can obtain through a feed-back mechanism, an analytical tool which would enable them to assess their particular situation, justify their decisions and meet criticism from opposing parties. It would also help to bridge the existing gap between academia and management in this debate.

With respect to ethical criteria specifically, it is not to say that there is no place for those advocating that hunting translates to cruelty to animals and is ethically unsound. Indeed the majority of people are “Snappers” rather than “Snipers” and would rather not 'pull the trigger' nor engage in the sport of hunting. However, just as it would be hypocritical to espouse the sole merits of vegeterianism if one still eats meat, we should accept that many of us can eat meat with a clear conscience, especially if one knows exactly where their meal has come from (and most importantly is an acceptable species for our palate!). It also appeases our conscience if we know that that animal was 'slaughtered' in a humane and 'correct' way. In this context some people claim moral high ground in order to justify their viewpoint. However for those who see hunting as ethically wrong, it should appease them somewhat to know that in many cases animals are hunted in a manner which is not in fact cruel, but rather is natural and in fact is often less cruel and inhumane than animals lined up for slaughter at the abattoir that we never see.

The above argument may be simplistic where in fact ethical matters are far more complex than this and indeed have occupied the minds of philosophers and religious commentators for centuries. I am hardly an expert, but a cursory examination if one goes back in history traces comprehensive moral codes of conduct from early Judeo-Christian ethics based on the Old Testament and subsequent oral traditions, to early Greek philosophers such as Socrates, Aristotle and Plato and to more modern philosophers such as Immanuel Kant, Spinoza and Thoreau. Then there are modern day commentators on ethics such as the contemporary South African novelist and Nobel Prize winner, John Coetzee, who authored the book "The Lives of Animals"

In addition, there is the fairly recent but rapidly growing field specifically focused on environmental ethics. One need only do a quick 'Google' search on the Internet to find 32 million sites making reference to this subject!! The majority of ecotourists who prefer 'shooting' with a camera rather than a rifle, would fall into this category. Needless to say Ecotourism is a substantial industry in South Africa. While many people falling into this category are extreme sentimentalists (bunny hugger types) whose value-laden arguments tend to be counter-productive to the hunting debate, there are a number of others with opinions which are legitimate. IUCN-SA for example at one stage convened a working group on environmental ethics that collaborated with top academics on the subject.

Ian McCallum, in his recent book: "Ecological Intelligence", also looks at this subject in depth and is rather scathing of the hunting industry He makes a solid case for environmental consciousness and individual environmental responsibility without resorting to a ‘preservationist’ stance. Citing another example, SANP has recently been taken to task for supposedly incorrectly invoking the ‘precautionary principle’ as a justification for a culling option. Whatever one's views are with respect to the scientific management of wildlife resources, it is clear that certain of these factions should not be underestimated. It does motivate though for efforts regarding the distribution and communication of sound objective and non-emotive scientific research into the ecological, economic and other issues relevant to these discussions.

It is unlikely that the impasse between hunters and non-hunters will ever be completely lifted. The point to drive home though is that one should rather focus on the methods employed in their practice (for example insisting on principles such as "fair chase") rather than debating the ethics of the practice as a whole. We have seen that in many cases there are sound economic and ecological justifications for hunting. Perhaps if the extreme 'animal welfare' groups who advocate cruelty to animals were to enter this debate accepting that many of both the ecologists and the economists who advocate sustainable hunting as a management option, in fact also have strong ethical standpoints, then a more constructive dialogue could ensue rather than initiating the debate from moral high ground from the start. Similarly the economists, ecologists and especially the hunters need to be very honest with themselves to justify on solid and rational grounds the standpoints they defend.

In conclusion, it seems that the central overarching problem with hunting in South Africa is that there is presently no coherent and comprehensive oversight of the hunting industry in South Africa, and a lack of clear national norms and standards for sustainable hunting. The big question is whether it is possible to equate sustainable utilization (based on ecological and economical criteria) with the ethics of hunting. Given the large number of stakeholders and interested and affected parties in this debate, it is important to continue actively ‘hunting’ for solutions to this problem as it were! If the differing camps involved in this debate can recognize their differences but still work together then with some tolerance and co-operation from all involved, a positive outcome for conservation could still result.

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# 11 Wildlife Management

by Gerhard R Damm

Africa's wildlife within and outside formally protected areas is restricted to finite spaces by fences or human infrastructure. These restrictions threaten habitats or make them susceptible to change with the causal factors being human-made. Consequently the management of habitats and the species within these habitats becomes a necessity. International agreements, national legislation, as well as public interest and pressure empower or restrict wildlife management.

Traditional rigorous *ecology* and *ethology* do not guarantee effective conservation. The discipline of *conservation biology* bridges the gap between the two fields and practical wildlife management; it marries conservation concerns with socio-political, economic, administrative and managerial aspects. It creates the scientific base to respond under field conditions to data produced by scientists of varying branches. This is *Adaptive Wildlife Management*. The wildlife manager evaluates wildlife and its interactions within and with habitats to determine management actions. He reviews and assesses its consequences on species, biodiversity and people. This reviewing process will lead either to a continuation or revision of actions.

As an important step in getting wildlife management on an internationally recognized basis, the *Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (AAPG)* outline that benefits derived from the use of a species can provide the incentive to invest in conserving and reverse the loss of environmental resources. In 2004, the Convention on Biological Diversity decided in Kuala Lumpur to adopt the *AAPG.* This practical set of 14 principles and guidelines underline how ecosystems serve and maintain cultures, societies and communities and apply to any consumptive or non-consumptive use. *AAPG* form a practical tool for the implementation of the *African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources* and strengthen the role of *Incentive-Driven-Conservation*. The *AAPG* assist wildlife managers on international, national and local, as well as institutional levels to ensure that the use of biodiversity will not lead to its long-term decline. AAPG were adopted by IUCN and CITES in the same year. Nevertheless, a part of the conservation community, especially from developed countries, oppose the concept arguing that not enough is known about the impact of use on wild populations. They question whether local people have the knowledge needed to manage wild populations and express concerns whether governments would have the capacity to control wildlife use systems.

This attitude often subjects wildlife management decisions to the *Precautionary Principle*. The process usually starts with the statement that conclusive scientific data are unavailable or insufficient. Decision making is postponed, deadlines are extended, additional assessments, research and reviews are requested and public comment from a under- or misinformed public is invited. As final step legal processes and the *Precautionary Principle* are invoked. The concentration on minimizing the probability *"that a false statement is accepted as true"* leads to ignoring the probability of *"rejecting a true hypothesis as false"* at great monetary and practical expense for wildlife conservation.

Wildlife management in Africa has many examples where this process combined with emotional public pressure impairs wildlife management. Conventional public opinion has created an automatic link between precaution and calls for bans on consumptive use options. Perceived mandatory hypothesis testing has been used by well-funded animal rights organizations to put unacceptable evidentiary burden on African wildlife managers. This arrangement cannot produce outcomes which best reflect available evidence, the range of stakeholder viewpoints and African needs and aspirations, or the best interests of the animal and plant species. It also poses a serious threat to conservation by reducing economic incentives to conserve species and it restrains the actions of wildlife specialists. The *Precautionary Principle* in wildlife management is in need of examination for the simple reason that due to prolonged interaction with humans there are no truly natural ecosystems left, that most ecosystems are inextricably affected by and linked to human activity and that human intervention can produce positive outcomes.

Some of its elements can be substituted with adaptive management processes as method of responding to uncertainty. Adaptive wildlife management has already become the practical means of conservation risk management. It is described as self-conscious experimental approach involving incremental hypothesis formulation and testing. These processes have the advantage of greater dynamism, the ability to rapidly respond to new information and greater relevance in coordinating socio-political aspects with conservation objectives. It is a trial and error management process based rather on experience and observation than on models and theories. Nevertheless, adaptive processes carry risks, however infinitesimal, of serious or irreversible harm. Therefore they must function within a closed system with appropriate checks and balances.

The precautionary approach requires detailed assessment of scientific knowledge and risk assessment before action is taken. Adaptive management, in contrast, responds to uncertainty by utilizing a combination of scientific, practical and traditional knowledge translated into small management steps subject to continuous monitoring and recording of consequences and effects. Safeguards against abuse by pressure groups must be present to prevent that the processes are influenced by wasteful, disruptive or counterproductive interference.

Another critical element for the effectiveness and legitimacy of wildlife management is the *Participatory Principle*. The value of scientific tools and indicators in providing answers for wildlife managers is increased by local stakeholder participation and the acknowledgement of non-scientific indigenous and traditional forms of knowledge. Aid donors and international NGOs can support processes by not imposing external models and by refocusing existing investments to bring them in line with incentive-driven-conservation and sustainable development objectives.

Solutions need to be reached within a predetermined time frame. Extensions rarely make much difference in knowledge gained or conclusions reached! A pragmatic "*strategy of the attainable*" will do infinitely more for people and wildlife, than endless bitter debates which usually centre on emotions instead of science and practical experience. Consensus-building and conflict-resolution techniques are therefore be an important element of wildlife management.

In theory and practice, adaptive wildlife management aims to manage eco-systems to a point where species are in an un-

*Continued on Page 11*

*Continued from Page 10*
11 Wildlife Management

threatened or abundant position. *Preservation* and *Conservation* are its interlinked core functions:

- *Incentive-Driven-Conservation* which incorporates sustainable consumptive and non-consumptive use options of unthreatened or abundant animal and plant populations for human benefit. Any non-consumptive and consumptive use must not pose a threat to the viability of species' diversity and biodiversity.
- *Incentive-Driven-Preservation* which protects those animal or plant populations which are threatened or in decline from harm, with the objective of returning them to unthreatened status under the incentive-driven-conservation function.

Emphasis is placed on animal or plant *populations* and *communities* in contrast to individual animals and plants and also in contrast to the total number of individuals within species. Wildlife management must be removed from the emotional individual level. We also must avoid grouping entire species, like the African elephant into a continent-wide management category, without considering the vast differences in the status of individual populations and their habitat.

Within these two interlinked core functions wildlife management has to pay close attention to a significant hierarchical conservation order:

- fulfillment of legitimate needs of the African people
- incentive-driven protection/conservation of the soil
- incentive-driven protection/conservation of the plants that grow in the soil
- incentive-driven protection/conservation of the animals that use the plants for food or cover and which live in the specialized habitats provided by the different plant communities and their physical environments.

The long-term future of Africa's wildlife will only be secured if incentive-driven wildlife management models produce tangible benefits for the rural African. One could argue that plants in terrestrial ecosystems play the primary role in driving life, since they alone convert solar energy to carbohydrates. Yet plants depend on soil. Therefore biodiversity conservation and wildlife management commences with soil protection. Without soil plants cannot grow and without plants, animals cannot exist.

More than six percent of sub-Saharan Africa is allocated to national parks and reserves and the area is increasing steadily. Africans have proved that they are prepared to pay a high price for the conservation of their natural heritage: damaged crops, lost opportunities, direct expenditure, etc. Therefore wildlife managers must address the Africans' fundamental need of food, shelter, health care, education and economic participation for wildlife conservation to stand a realistic chance in the future.

The wide-spread, yet antiquated philosophy of *fortress conservation* or rather *fortress preservation* excludes market-based policies and sustainable use (incentive-driven) options of natural resources in protected areas and hampers it outside. Fortress preservation wants to *preserve an untouched wilderness*. Yet none of the parks or other wilderness areas in Africa is untouched by human hand. All are fenced in by either wire or people. It is also true that only a minute percentage of Africans can afford to enjoy them but all Africans have to foot the bill. The *hands-off preservationist strategies* make protected areas untenable, ensure conflict around and exclude wildlife from economic processes.

Private conservation efforts fared somewhat better in Southern Africa. Private ownership of land and game were the reasons for an astonishing come-back of wild game, although there are cases where the ecological principles have been sacrificed for economic gain.

The future of private and public wildlife management (or any combination of the two) and their contribution towards an *African Conservation Strategy* will rest on mixing *ecology, economy* and *social responsibility* to achieve an equitable *Triple Bottom Line* result. Wildlife managers must be empowered to unlock the ecosystems' capability to yield a return on investment by increasing the economic value of wildlife on public and private land. The frequent mutual exclusion of non-consumptive and consumptive use options needs to be replaced by holistic triple-bottom-line combinations to reduce the dependence on unsustainable donor funding as well as on subsidies from public budgets

# 12 Tourist Hunting in Tanzania: Issues Behind the Issues

By Alan Rodgers

The process of developing a hugely detailed wildlife policy in the mid nineties commissioned in-depth reviews of the hunting industry, including financial and economic analyses. Questions were asked about the differences between foreign exchange inflows recorded at the Bank of Tanzania and projected revenues extrapolated from numbers of clients and safaris per year.

These reports did, however, document the great financial contribution of the tourist hunting industry to Tanzania. For example the total direct earnings in 1992 were almost 14 million USD, of which 5.3 million USD were direct fees to "government", including the Tanzanian Wildlife Protection Fund, Wildlife Division and Districts. By 2001 these figures had virtually doubled. When you add all of the indirect payments around this hunting effort (travel, hotels, payments to outfitters, souvenirs etc.) and using a scaling up factor of "x 2" then we have an industry of over 80 million dollars a year. Totals have gone up since 2001.

This large increase has come about as a result of a larger quota, increased quota utilization and more hunting blocks. Blocks have been subdivided and quotas doubled (with little apparent ecological justification, but that is another story!) and new areas have been set aside for tourist hunting.

Hunting takes place on three categories of land: Firstly in Game Reserves, fully owned by government with no people residing within. Secondly hunting is taking place in Game Controlled Areas, mainly gazetted in colonial times to prevent hunting by local people, so as to maintain trophy quality. But these areas allowed, and still allow settlement, cultivation, livestock, mining etc. Habitat and wildlife numbers are not protected, only hunting rights. Areas include Longido, Loliondo (site of the still controversial concession to UAE hunting interests), Lolkisade-Simanjiro (site of the past land allocation to Steyn and colleagues, ostensibly for cattle ranching), and vast areas in Western Tanzania.

*Continued on Page 12*

*Continued from Page 11*
12 Tourist Hunting in Tanzania: Issues Behind the Issues

Thirdly, more recently tourist hunting blocks have been "allocated" on non gazetted lands or "open areas". These include areas around Ruaha National Park in Iringa, the Ngarambe-Tapika area south of the Rufiji etc. These allocations, most of which were never discussed with the community "stakeholders", have usurped village based wildlife enterprises, such as the Ngarambe-Tapika interim Wildlife Management Area, seemingly against the principles of the Wildlife Policy of 1998.

This is the basis of the whole ethical dilemma of hunting today: land ownership and benefits. Everyone agrees that tourist hunting in Game Reserves is necessary and the Wildlife Division is the final decision maker of who, where, when and for how much. But most Game Controlled Areas and Open Areas are on village land. The national Village Land Act is quite clear that village governments have jurisdiction of land use in these areas. Villagers can decide to cultivate or not cultivate, to lease land to outsiders or not lease such land. In a number of cases villagers in areas close to National Parks have leased land to private entrepreneurs for game-viewing tourism ventures. This is in line with the Tourism Policy, with the Tanzania Investment code and with recent Presidential Statements (2002) on the key role of village enterprise in tourism growth. This in many ways is a "win-win" situation; except there now appears to be a potential loser - the Wildlife Division-Hunting Lobby nexus. When game viewing tourism areas are hunted by tourist hunting safaris the animals become wary of vehicles and difficult to observe or photograph. Game viewing operators and often village governments thus want no hunting in those areas. Safari hunting operators with Wildlife Division backing want hunting to continue and for tourism interests to close down.

To some extent, the situation arises from ownership rights. Whereas the present law gives land rights to village governments; access to wildlife (basically to hunt, capture or use) remains with the government. The Wildlife Division in late 2003 wrote to all private enterprise tourism ventures in these disputed areas saying that it is illegal to photograph (or even perhaps to look at) wildlife in these village lands without the permission of the Director of Wildlife. The irony being that you can photograph trees, the scenery and even people; but not a zebra, without a government permit. By copying these letters to the heavy-handed zonal anti-poaching units, there was the veiled threat of serious reprisals. These threats have not been put into practice, probably because the Wildlife Division itself was in doubt whether their own "Hunting regulations" would stand the scrutiny of a legitimate court of law. Quiet advocacy by conservation groups have emphasized the strength of the village land laws, and the importance local leaders (MPs, Council Members etc) attach to village based tourist enterprises.

Many village communities, especially in northern Tanzania, are openly antagonistic to central government hunting interests (see LEAT 2001 for example). "And if they are not careful we will cultivate the whole area and then there will be no wildlife left at all" (villager in Minjingu talking to past PS Maliasili in 2001). Money, as in many aspects of present day lifestyles, lies behind these arguments. Village-based tourism feeds money into village governments (over 70,000 USD p.a in the outstanding and well publicized Olosokwan Village in Loliondo).Tourism hunting, on the other hand feeds money into central government, but little filters back into Districts and almost nothing to villages. Yet the Wildlife Policy is quite clear on this issue: "wildlife benefits must flow back into the village communities who bear the costs of living with wildlife; only when communities gain benefit from wildlife; will people practice conservation".

# 13 Bertrand des Clers Receives Dallas Safari Club Capstick Award

By Stephen Stainkamp

*Editor's Note: I acknowledge the friendly permission of Dallas Safari Club to reprint Stephen Stainkamp's article – originally published in Game Trails, Dallas Safari Club Convention 2006 and I am proud to mention that I count Bertrand des Clers amongst my mentors and friends. For space reasons the original article had to be shortened*

On January 26th, Dallas Safari Club and Dallas Ecological Foundation, honored Baron Bertrand des Clers of Paris, France as second recipient with the 2006 Peter Hathaway Capstick Hunting Heritage Award. Award criterions include active involvement in education, hunting, conservation organizations, humanitarian causes, research, permanent endowments and charitable giving. Internationally renowned hunter-conservationist Harry Tennison was celebrated as the inaugural 2005 Peter Hathaway Capstick Hunting Heritage Award winner (see article in African Indaba Vol 3/2)

.Bertrand des Clers lives in Paris and began hunting at age seven; he has hunted small and big game in many countries spanning 4 continents. As a young man, Bertrand served as a research engineer for the U.S. Army Ordnance Department's Ballistic Research Laboratory in Maryland until 1952 and was recruited by the U.S. Military Joint Chiefs of Staff and NATO/AGARD as aeronautical advisor. His life's passion and devotion, however, centered on game conservation, hunting and hunting advocacy and at 76 years young, he remains very active on the international conservation scene

In his formative years, des Clers became an impassioned waterfowler. Concerned with the destruction of wetlands he got involved with the International Waterfowl Research Bureau (Wetlands International) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) to ensure the long-term preservation of Europe's wetlands. He has worked with the International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Ducks Unlimited and has served as an expert in drafting the Bonn Convention.

Bertrand worked as Professional Hunter in Africa and established the first hunting and fishing travel and outfitting agency in France. In 1968 he organized the first International Conference on Game Conservation and Wildlife Management in Monaco together with Jim Rikhoff of Olin-Winchester, Harry Tennison, President of GameCoin and Francois Edmond-Blanc of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Management (CIC). The conference led to the formation of the International Professional Hunters' Association (IPHA). Bertrand later initiated the

*Continued on Page 13*

*Continued from Page 12*
13 Bertrand des Clers Receives DSC Capstick Award

French-speaking PH association, ACP, to work in concert with IPHA. In 1976, His Imperial Highness Prince Abdorezza of Iran asked Bertrand to take over the responsibility for developing the International Foundation for the Conservation of Game (IGF) which he led as director until his retirement in 2002.

Bertrand worked with CITES since its inception in 1976, co-drafting Resolution 2.11 which exempts hunting trophies from commercial trade restrictions. He also worked with the European Union to defend trapping against the attacks of animal rights organizations, "*in view of its socioeconomic importance and its justification in regulating predators*". His practice in drafting international agreements led to his selection as a member of the International Council for Environmental Law (ICEL).

Bertrand is a founding Board Member of Conservation Force and he maintains a Conservation Force office in his Paris home. Bertrand conceptualized Dr. Philippe Chardonnet's lion study which culminated in the publication of the book "Conservation of the African Lion" published as a joint project of Conservation Force and IGF. Currently Bertrand serves as member of the African Lion Working Group (ALWG).

During his decades of service to the hunting and conservation community, he initiated and organized many international meeting and symposia. Of note was the "Wildlife Management in Sub-Saharan Africa and Inter Ministerial Conference: Sustainable Economic Benefits and Contribution to Rural Development," held in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1987. That symposium was attended by 27 of Africa's Ministers responsible for wildlife and hunting, as well as senior representatives from the World Bank, the Southern African Development Bank, FAO, UNESCO and US Aid. Among Bertrand's many other achievements are:

- Past Chairman of the Tropical Game Commission of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), member on the CIC Executive Committee and Honorary Member of the French CIC Delegation
- Member of various IUCN's commissions (National Parks and Protected Areas, Environmental Law, etc.), but particularly of the Species Survival Commission (of which he is now *member emeritus*) and of its various Specialist Groups (Ethnozoology SG, Sustainable Use SG, etc.)
- Former VP of the International Union of Game Biologists
- Founder of the European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)
- Life Member of Fauna and Flora International
- Member of the Hunting Hall of Fame Foundation
- Initiator to the EU study "Wild Fauna: The Forgotten Resource" that highlighted the indispensable use of 1.5 million tons of bush meat hunted annually by locals in Africa.

Bertrand's contributions to the hunting and conservation community are huge. He has done more for the hunting and conservation community than most men can ever imagine accomplishing.

Tommy Caruthers had this to say. "*It is our honor to recognize Baron Bertrand des Clers and I can think of no one more deserving than he to receive this year's Peter Hathaway Capstick Hunting Heritage Award.*"

# 14 What is Conservation Biology?

Conservation biology involves identifying threatened species, ecosystems and ecological processes, and developing appropriate measures to mitigate or reduce the effects of particular threats. It also involves studies that contribute to the sustainable utilization of renewable natural resources, as well as the preservation of biological diversity. The goal of conservation biology is to preserve biodiversity, and to achieve this goal the discipline draws on aspects of demography, ecology, economics, evolution, genetics, biogeography and systematics.

Conservation biology is an emergent and rapidly growing discipline to tackle the many problems associated with the preservation and conservation of biodiversity

Courses in conservation biology include topics like:

- Biodiversity, systematics and species concepts
- Modeling in nature conservation
- Demography and minimum viable population size
- Conservation genetics
- Community-level interactions
- Invasive alien organisms
- Environmental economics
- Disturbance ecology and internal and external forcing
- Landscape ecology & geographic information systems (GIS)
- Decision analysis in conservation & applied management models

# More Awards & Recognitions 2006

During the SCI Convention the prestigious African Professional Hunters Association presented the *Ox of Okavango Award* to John J Jackson III in recognition of John "achieving the most for the conservation of Big Game and its habitat over the preceding year."

Jimmy Rosenbruch received the *2006 Weatherby Award* at the Weatherby Awards Banquet. He directed one-half of the award grant to Conservation Force.

Pete Papac received the *Conklin Award* at the Conklin Award Dinner. He directed his grant to Conservation Force in full.

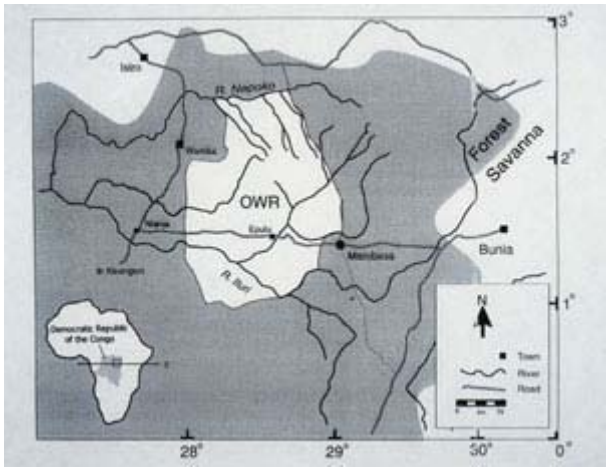
Conservation Force supporter Bob Speegle got the *OVIS Award* during the Grand Slam Club/ OVIS 50th Anniversary Convention.

Dieter Ochsenbein, owner of Highveld Taxidermists in South Africa, past president of PHASA, and dedicated hunter and conservationist received the C J McElroy Award of Safari Club International during the 2006 SCI Convention in Reno.

# 15 Okapi Wildlife Reserve

Gilman International Conservation's (GIC) Okapi Conservation Project is located in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the most biologically diverse country in Africa. The Ituri Forest with its outstanding biological and cultural significance covers 175,000 square kilometers of lowland tropical forest and contains some of the most important closed canopy rainforest and species diversity in the world.

The Okapi Wildlife Reserve, created in 1992 to protect the most intact natural habitat of the okapi, encompasses a 13,700 square kilometer section of the Ituri Forest in the northeastern portion of the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the very heart of Africa. Listed as a World Heritage Site in 1996, the Reserve represents a global effort to preserve rare plant and animal life and a significant human culture. Over 1,500 species of plants and animals, including the elusive okapi, are only found in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Reserve harbors a healthy population of about 5,000 okapi, 4,000 elephants, 2,000 leopards, 13 primate species including chimpanzees, 3 species of crocodile, and may other rainforest species such as forest buffalo, water chevrotain, and a wide variety of birds and insects.




It is the most important site for bird conservation in mainland Africa. The Ituri Forest is also the cultural center of the Mbuti and Efe pygmies, some of the very last truly "forest people" left on earth. Despite years of illegal occupation and exploitation, the Okapi Wildlife Reserve retains its basic wilderness character.

The okapi, or forest giraffe, is the national symbol of the protected areas of the Congo and the flagship species of the Ituri Forest. Protecting okapi habitat provides a secure environment for millions of rainforest species of plants and animals.

In 1987, Gilman International Conservation (GIC), entered into a partnership with the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) to help insure the survival of the okapi the Ituri Forest. In 1995, GIC negotiated an agreement with the new government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to carry on supporting the operation of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve. GIC's role as the primary coordinator and supporter of the Reserve, through the Okapi Conservation Project has helped to provide stability for the region and its people, even during the chaos of a 6-year-long civil war. During the civil war wildlife and people of the region suffered tremendous losses. Elephants, primates and other wildlife were killed by occupying troops. Casualties among the local inhabitants were high; homes, schools and clinics were looted; the forest, itself, was under attack. Yet, throughout, the Okapi Project Staff continued to provide daily care for the okapi and not one okapi was lost during the war. Now relative peace has returned to DRC and the Okapi Wildlife Reserve. All military personnel are out of the Reserve. Rosie Ruf, the Okapi Project Coordinator, and the Reserve's staff are now working with steadfast devotion to bring the Reserve back into full operation.

The long term objective is to develop an economic and educational base. GIC is responsible for supporting most of the mandates of the management plan and is actively doing so with additional financial assistance from global partners. The Okapi Conservation Project is a model example of what can be achieved when local people and local government, in collaboration with a non-governmental organization, come together in a common cause. Concerned and involved individuals, communities and government officials are participating at every level, creating a strong, sustainable base for the future of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve, its forest, its wildlife, and its peoples.

*Gilman International Conservation. a division of White Oak Conservation Center, supports international efforts to conserve flagship species in the wild. White Oak Conservation Center is one of the world's premiere wildlife breeding, research, and training facilities located in Florida. Established in 1982 by Howard Gilman, White Oak Conservation Center provides conservation options for the future by maintaining genetically diverse populations of threatened species. With a complex of research, husbandry, education and conference facilities, the Center leads professional efforts to improve veterinary care, develop holistic animal management techniques, and better understand the biology of critically endangered species.*
For more information visit http://www.giconline.org/ and http://www.wocenter.org/

# 16 Okapi (*Okapia johnstoni*)

*Body Length*: 200-210 cm
*Shoulder Height*: 150-170 cm
*Tail Length*: 30-42 cm
*Weight*: 210-250 kg
*Gestation Period*: 14-15 months.
*Young per Birth*: 1
*Weaning*: After 6 months.
*Sexual Maturity*: Females at 2 years, males later.
*Life span*: Over 30 years.
*Family group*: Solitary, or in temporary small groups.
*Diet*: Leaves, grasses, fruit.
*Main Predators*: Leopard.
*Distribution:* Dense, moist jungle near water throughout the Ituri Forest
*Conservation Status:* not endangered

Henry Stanley penetrated the dense Ituri Forest of the Congo in 1890, exposing the existence of the okapi in his book

*Continued on Page 15*

*Continued from Page 14*
16 Okapi *Okapia johnstoni*

"In Darkest Africa". Sir Harry Johnston traveled to the Congo in 1899 and was sure that the *o'api* was a species of forest zebra. Johnston was able to obtain two headbands, made from the striped pieces of okapi skins, which he sent to the Zoological Society of London in 1900. From these pieces of skin, an announcement of a new species - *Equus? johnstoni* - was made. A year later Johnston was able to secure a complete skin and two skulls which he sent to the Zoological Society of London. The skulls allowed scientists to determine that this new species was not a horse, but a forest giraffe. Okapi is a corruption of the native name *o'api*.

The velvet-like coat is generally dark chestnut-brown or purplish red in color, with distinctive pattern of horizontal stripes, much like those of a zebra, on the upper legs. The lower legs are white, with dark garters at the joints. The vaguely horse-like head is generally lighter, with a black muzzle, and is supported by a thick neck. The ears are large, and the black tongue is long and prehensile. The body is sloped, with the forequarters much higher than the rear. Males have two skin covered 'horns' or knobs on the forehead which develop between one and five years of age. Young are born from August to October. Expectant mothers retreat into dense forest to give birth, after which the newborn lies hidden for several days. The young do not seem to imprint on their mothers, and have been observed nursing from two different females.

The okapi is active during the day, using fixed, well-trodden paths through the jungle. To locate breeding partners, okapis use their well-developed sense of smell. While usually silent, okapis may make a soft cough during the rut. Young animals, on the other hand, have a wide repertoire of coughs, bleats, and whistles. Estimated population densities range from 0.8-2.3 animals per square kilometer. Okapis have individual home ranges of about 2.5-5 square kilometer. The okapi finds the minerals its body needs by eating sulfurous clay found along river banks.

Source: Ultimate Ungulate Page

## Congo Biodiversity

450 species of mammals (thereof 37 species and 18 genera of primates)
1,086 species of birds
669 fish species
Flora: over 11,000 species

The DR Congo is recognized internationally as one of the two most important countries in Africa in terms of biodiversity. The nation harbors a wide range of biomes, ecosystems, and habitats. These include tropical forests, woodland savannas, grassland savannas, and, to a lesser extent, Afromontane forests, mangroves, papyrus, peat bogs, pools, and seasonally inundated savannas. Congo ranks first among all African nations in its numbers of mammal, bird, amphibian, reptile, butterfly, and angiosperm species.

# 17 Symposium on Recreational Hunting

Sustainable Use Specialist Group and Zoological Society of London

On 12th and 13th October 2006, the IUCN SSC Sustainable Use Specialist Group (SUSG) and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) will be holding a two-day symposium at the ZSL meeting rooms in London with the title:

Recreational Hunting, Conservation and Rural Livelihoods: Science and Practice

The proceedings of the conference will likely be published as a book by Blackwell Publishing. The goal of this initiative is to summarize information and provide analysis on biological and socio-economic impacts of recreational hunting activities. The issues addressed will include:

- the importance of recreational hunting in threatening or benefiting target populations and their ecosystem,
- the impact of recreational hunting on the rural economy and local communities,
- the ethical issues associated with hunting for recreation,
- recreational hunting within the context of tourism,
- the role of governance in the management of recreational hunting as an incentive for conservation,
- practical implications of the findings for conservation.

The 22 presentations planned will be grouped under the headings 'Setting the Scene', Hunting and Science', 'Hunting & Endangered Species', 'Hunting & Society' and 'Hunting & Governance'. Many topics will have more than one presenter which accounts for the 36 presenters who have so far confirmed. They represent an enormously wide spread of expertise which should mean a rich feast of knowledge at the symposium and an authoritative publication in due course.

Kai Wollscheid of the International Council for Game & Wildlife Management (CIC) and Jon Hutton of UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre are on the conference organizing committee. Amongst the dozens of speakers at this conference from countries including Canada, USA, Australia, Pakistan, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, UK, Germany and Belgium, are Rolf Baldus, Brian Child, Derek de la Harpe, Nigel Leader-Williams, Shane Mahoney, Stuart Marks, Craig Packer and Bill Wall.

This promises to be a sterling event which will address many of the issues that are fundamental to an understanding of the real role of recreational hunting in conservation and rural development. It will examine the key issues, ask the difficult questions and seek to present the answers to guide policy.

On important point last - the organizers still need US$25,000 in funding. This is an excellent possibility for a hunting organization to pro-actively promote conservation-hunting. Interested parties can communicate directly Dr. Jon Hutton, Director, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Tel: + 44 1223 277314 extension 200, Fax: + 44 1223 277136, email Jon.Hutton@unep-wcmc.org

# 18 Kenya's Wildlife Policy Review

By Ali Kaka Executive Director East African Wildlife Society

After a long protracted debate which sometimes became even clandestine, the Kenya Government has accepted there is a need to review its Wildlife Policy and consider different and contemporary approaches to managing its wildlife, especially in non-protected areas, including private land. The formal process is due to begin in February 2006. For the last 4 years, the debate became very political due to conflicts between wildlife and farmers escalating to an unprecedented level resulting in a growing demand for compensation. Livestock ranchers have stepped up their demands for either total removal of wildlife from their properties or being allowed to utilize the wildlife. Kenyan law on wildlife prohibits utilization or trade. A recent 5-year "experiment" on game cropping and utilization for meat and, hides and skins, was halted by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) after a report commissioned by the KWS raised questions regarding adherence to quotas by some concessionaries and the efficiency of KWS in monitoring the off-takes and sales.

Various non-governmental organizations have been involved in preparing differing position papers arguing for or against any or all forms of utilization. A number of grass-root community groups have also been formed to advocate for sustainable use. Needless to say, the animal welfare organizations have dug in and are working overtime to influence government and the tourism sector to oppose any form of utilization in Kenya.

A comprehensive Policy document was prepared by the East African Wild Life Society in conjunction with a number of like-minded individuals and organizations and will be used to guide the government's team. The document outlines a policy for conserving Kenya's wildlife. The policy is flexible and acknowledges that there are situations where wildlife must give way to other forms of land use, and that it is neither possible nor desirable to preserve wildlife wherever it occurred in the past or occurs at present. However, it should be policy to conserve wildlife to the greatest extent possible. The policy rests on two pillars: preservation and use. Preservation should be based on a system of protected areas in the form of national parks, national reserves and local sanctuaries wherein, in as far as it is possible, nature should be free of human influence.

Use should have two forms – consumptive and non-consumptive – both of which regard wildlife as a renewable and sustainable resource. Use of wildlife in non-protected areas should be integrated with other legitimate land uses and parallel development policies. It is accepted that in some situations wildlife utilization may be extensive and intensive, involving virtually unaltered natural ecosystems, while in others it may involve a few species. The guiding principle in all cases should be that it yields the greatest sustainable good both directly and indirectly, and should be mindful of conservation as well as poverty eradication. It is further recognized that if people will not benefit, particularly people who host wildlife on their land, wildlife will disappear and an outstanding opportunity for wealth creation lost.

*This article was first published in "Sustainable", IUCN Sustainable Use Specialist Group (SUSG)*

# 19 Southern & Eastern Africa Savanna Elephant Populations: Substantial Increases

The number of savanna elephants in Eastern and Southern Africa has increased substantially in recent years, according to a study published by the IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG). In the first objective statistical analysis of changes in elephant populations ever conducted at this scale, researchers selected and analyzed elephant population estimates from sites where surveys were repeated using comparable methods between the late 1990s and 2002. The data were drawn from the African Elephant Database of the AfESG.

The estimated number of elephants in Southern and Eastern Africa sites increased from around 283,000 to nearly 355,000, which translates to an estimated overall rate of increase of around 4.5% per year.

Although the 51 sites selected in the study – 38 from 6 countries in Southern Africa and 11 from 2 Eastern African countries – include approx. three quarters of the known elephant population in Africa, and an even higher proportion of the continent's savannah elephants, the findings do not apply to the continent's forest elephants in West and Central Africa which have only been formally surveyed once or not at all.

The estimated increases were greatest in Southern Africa, with an average rate of growth of around 5.5% pa. Elephant populations in much of Southern Africa are believed to have been increasing throughout the 1900s from a population minimum in the early part of the century. This is not necessarily good news for Southern Africa, where high densities of elephants are having a considerable impact on habitats in many parks and reserves which has led to increasingly widespread calls for population control measures to be reinstated.

Although the results for Eastern Africa are less clear-cut the evidence also suggests an increase, with the estimated rate of population growth hovering around 2.5% per year. This signals the ongoing recovery of major elephant populations in Eastern Africa, many of which were negatively affected by poaching and drought in the 1970s and 80s.


## African Indaba eNewsletter

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Continued from Page 6
7 News from Africa

5,000 Grevy's zebras are believed to live in the wild, nearly all of them in the vicinity of Samburu, about 230km north of Nairobi.

Kenya

The public inside and outside Kenya is unaware of IFAW's multimillion-dollar effort to keep Kenya non-hunting. In 2005, IFAW produced several long TV programs with the objective of interfering with Kenya's wildlife policy. IFAW invests huge amounts of money to oppose all suggestions of hunting and to silence opposition. Organizations like IFAW spending most of these millions anonymously. Why? Because they are too well aware of the global and local ramifications of spending millions on animals (like elephant translocations) and refusing any cash at all for people. This is the result of more than 30 years influence over Kenya's conservation policies and KWS by a group of foreign animal rights NGOs and a cartel of tourism operators.

Mozambique

The annual meeting of the Niassa Reserve Safari Operators will be held in the last week of April in Maputo. The event is organized by the Sociedade de Gestão e Desenvolvimento da Reserva do Niassa (SGDRN). John J Jackson III of Conservation Force and Dr Craig Packer of Savannas Forever will be attending this important meeting. For more information about activities in the buffer zones of the Niassa Game Reserve click this link. Hunters who are interested in first hand information about safaris in the area can email sgdrn.map@tvcabo.co.mz .

Namibia

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) is developing a policy to deal with Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC). In May last year MET held a national workshop on HWC management. 4 critical areas that will be covered are the HWC conflict management authorities, insurance schemes, alternative mitigation measures and a standardized monitoring and reporting system. MET Permanent Secretary Dr Lindeque said local communities need to be empowered to deal with this problem themselves. HWC refers to a range of conflicts between wild animals and people - from the destruction of homes, crops and water installations by large animals such as elephants, to predators killing people and livestock. In November last year, the chairperson of the Doro !Nawas conservancy called on the Government to consider compensating people for losses caused by elephants after a 60-year-old man was killed by a elephant while he was looking for his cattle and a 31-year-old man was attacked and killed by an elephant at in the Kunene Region.

SADC

A spokesman for the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management, stated that Zimbabwe now has over 100,000 elephants - even though they can only sustain 45,000. The population has more than doubled since 1999. Environment and Wildlife Minister Francis Nhema believes the current situation is not sustainable, and that culling is necessary. The Namibian Department of National Parks and Wildlife is facing similar problems to Zimbabwe. Namibia has 16,000 elephants. Botswana is also encountering elephant over population and South Africa calls for culling to control the 12,500 strong elephant population in the north-eastern Kruger National Park.

Somalia

Osman Amir a biologist from Somalia and participant at the IUCN-sponsored lion symposium in Johannesburg endeavors an assessment of what wildlife remains in Somalia. Somalia – although commonly considered a desolate desert – boasts a unique biodiversity with more than 5,000 species of plants and 200 bird and animal species found nowhere else. Not even a quarter century ago, Somalia had around 40,000 elephant – but most likely all of them have been killed by heavily armed poaching gangs. In the south a small herd of about 200 elephant may have survived. In the late 1980s the country was home to 1,135 species of mammals, birds, reptiles and freshwater fish and Amir is now constructing a database based on information from the days of ousted Somali president Barre to assess what remains. The fledgling Somali administration wants proper wildlife management to take root and they hope one day to promote the country as a safari hunting destination. According to Amir there are about 500 to 750 lion left in Somalia and they could be a source of revenue.

South Africa

Field Guide and Professional Hunter Sean Smith from White Elephant Lodge in South Africa and 4 guests were returning to camp after a morning bush walk. Suddenly an elephant bull loomed in front of the group and mock-charged, coming to a standstill only a few meters away. After a brief stand-off, the bull retreated and the group slowly backed off. Over the following 15 minutes, the bull followed and launched another 7 charges, each time stopping within a meter of Sean and the guests.

Sean tried everything to get his guests out of danger: He dropped his hat to distract the bull after the second charge. After the third charge, he fired a shot from his .375 into the ground between the elephant's front legs and again after each of the next 4 charges. He shouted at the bull after facing the 8th charge and flung a rock at his head. Then a vehicle happened to drive past. Sean flagged the vehicle down and the group leapt in. They stopped further away and could observe the bull still searching for the group at the point where they got into the vehicle.

White Elephant Lodge is located in the Pongola Game Reserve – a co-operative conservation project between private landowners, tribal communities and government conservation services which aims to form the heart of a large ecological and socio-economically viable "Big Five" reserve.

Tanzania

President Kikwete gets serious in reorganizing the entire structure of wildlife related governance in this premier African hunting safari destination.

Anthony Diallo has been appointed new minister for Natural Resources and Tourism and Saleh Pamba the new Permanent Secretary in the ministry. Emmanuel Severre who has been at the receiving end of severe criticism regarding the management of safari hunting was removed from his post as Director of Wildlife and transferred to the Tanzanian Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) in a yet undisclosed capacity. It is said that some of his recent allocations of hunting blocks will be reviewed, after the villages had sent delegations to the Parliament and the Anti Corruption Commission. In one case villagers had even launched a mock night attack against a hunting camp at the Mgeta River and had fired a couple of volleys into the air. It is said that they wanted to show their displeasure that the Wildlife Department violated the stated Tanzanian Wildlife Policy by not

Continued on Page 20

# 20 The Extinct Blue Antelope

By Richard G Klein, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago USA (*slightly shortened & edited for space*)

This graceful relative of the roan and sable antelopes was the first large African mammal to disappear in historic times. Wildlife enthusiasts have long admired the roan and sable antelopes for their graceful, horse-like bodies and sweeping, scimitar-like horns. The roan *(Hippotragus equinus)* once enjoyed an enormous distribution in the savannas and woodlands surrounding the West African rainforest, from Gambia east to western Ethiopia then south to southwestern Tanzania, and from there west to the Angolan coast, southwest to northern Namibia, and southeast to Swaziland. The sable *(Hippotragus niger)* occupied similar country in central and southeast Africa from southeastern Kenya south through eastern Tanzania and Mozambique to Swaziland and the Transvaal and west through Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, and southern Zaire to northeastern Namibia and eastern Angola. An isolated population in central Angola that contained very large individuals with massive horns was distinguished as the "giant sable".

Today, the roan and sable have disappeared from much of their original range, and they are endangered in the restricted areas where they survive. Unless great care is taken in the next few decades, either or both species will become extinct. The roan seems particularly vulnerable to humanly induced changes in its habitat, and there is an unfortunate precedent for its threatened demise. This is the history of its little known South African cousin, the blue antelope or bloubok *(Hippotragus leucophaeus).* The blue antelope vanished around 1800, at least 70 years before the much more widely publicized disappearance of the southern African plains zebra or quagga. It is our limited knowledge of the blue antelope that I want to summarize here.

The blue antelope is all but forgotten in South Africa today, partly because it became extinct so early and partly because, unlike the quagga, it never seems to have been very numerous. The first European to record it was probably Peter Kolb, a German who traveled the Cape Province between 1705 and 1712. He mistook it for a kind of wild goat, and he even portrayed it with a goat-like beard, which it certainly did not have. It was subsequently noted by other 18th century travelers who encountered it just east of the Hottentots Holland Mountains, mainly in the triangle formed by Swellendam, Caledon, and Bredasdorp. They were struck by the dark blue-grey tint of its skin, which explains its name. In 1774, the Swedish naturalist, Carl Thunberg, reported that it had become extremely rare. The last individual was apparently seen around 1800.

The 18th century travelers provided contradictory descriptions of the blue antelope, perhaps because some were embellishing, while others had not actually seen it and were simply repeating hearsay. They did send some skulls and skins back to Europe and museums in Vienna, Stockholm, Paris, and Leiden retain one mounted specimen each. These reveal a creature that resembled both the roan and sable in basic horn shape and body form, though it lacked their conspicuous manes. It was also much smaller than they are. Adult blue antelope probably rarely exceeded 160kg compared to a minimum of 180kg for adult sable and 225kg for adult roan.

The mounted specimens are precious for documenting basic body form and size, but they do little else to supplement the inconsistent early travelers' accounts. Fortunately, there is another source of information - blue antelope bones preserved at numerous archaeological and palaeontological sites in the Cape. These represent many more individuals than the mounted specimens, and they permit comparisons with roan and sable that are statistically reliable. Perhaps even more important, they reveal aspects of the blue antelope's natural history.

The most numerous, indisputable blue antelope fossils are jaws and horn cores. Most were broken up by prehistoric people or carnivores, but some are relatively complete. The blue antelope, like the roan, had a premolar row that was both relatively and absolutely much longer than in the sable. Blue antelope horn cores exhibit the opposite pattern. They were like roan horn cores in length, but they were much more compressed from side to side resembling sable horn cores, but they were much smaller. The end result is a creature that resembled a small roan in its teeth and a small sable in its horns.

The roan was first described only in 1804 and the sable in 1836, after the blue antelope had disappeared. Since the 18th century accounts of the blue antelope are often confusing and inconsistent, some later authorities have suggested it was not a separate species at all, but simply a variant or subspecies of the roan. However, the fossils not only demonstrate that it differed from the roan in much the same way that other closely related antelope species often differ from one another, they also show that it co-existed with the roan on the south- central Cape coast from approximately 12,000 until at least 5,000 years ago and perhaps to historic times. During this long period of overlap, the two forms maintained separate breeding populations, just as the roan and sable do in areas where they overlap today.

The early travelers found the blue antelope only in relatively well-watered country, which suggests that, like the roan and sable, it had to drink regularly. Also like the roan and sable, the blue antelope apparently lived in small herds of up to 20 individuals, and it was primarily a grazer.

The animals that accompany the blue antelope in fossil sites provide further insight into its ecology. Wherever the blue antelope is especially common, the associated species usually include black wildebeest, springbok, southern reedbuck, quagga, white rhinoceros, and other grazing ungulates that were rare or unknown in the southwestern and southern Cape in historic times. They could have thrived only if the regional vegetation was richer in grass and poorer in bush and fynbos than it was historically. Radiocarbon dates and geologic evidence show that the grassier vegetation existed mainly under much cooler conditions that correspond to glaciations in the northern hemisphere. The last glaciation was between roughly 115,000 and 12-10,000 years ago, and most of the known sites that are especially rich in blue antelope probably date from this interval. Some, however, are certainly older, and the oldest is probably the famous Elandsfontein site near Hopefield. The associated animal species here suggest an age of between 700,000 and 400,000 years ago,.

Undoubtedly, its numbers dwindled and its range contracted when the last glaciation ended, and fynbos, bush, and forest begin to replace grassland in the southwestern and southern Cape. However, it remained prominent in areas like Plettenberg

*Continued on Page 19*

*Continued from Page 18*
20 The Extinct Blue Antelope

Bay where it was either rare or unknown historically. During the last major warm interval or interglaciation, between 130,000 and 115,000 years ago, it also persisted near the Klasies River mouth. This implies that the postglacial reduction in grassland could not be the sole reason for its extreme rarity and very limited distribution at time of historic contact.

What then is the explanation? Archaeological sites on the southern Cape coast may provide a clue. At least tentatively they suggest that blue antelope numbers dropped about 2,000 years ago, at roughly the same time that domestic sheep and perhaps cattle were first introduced to the southern and southwestern Cape. Prior to this time, the indigenous people lived entirely by hunting and gathering. Afterwards, they probably combined hunting and gathering with herding.

The blue antelope may have suffered from veld degradation initiated by stock or from persecution by the herders because it competed with stock. Perhaps, like the roan, it was also unusually susceptible to some of the epizootic diseases that stock carry. In any case, if the 2,000 year date of blue antelope decline is confirmed at more archaeological sites, it would suggest that local Stone Age people, not climate, brought the species to the verge of extinction. European firearms then applied the final blow.

Together, the mounted specimens and the fossil record may allow us to reconstruct the appearance and behavior of the blue antelope, but they do not permit us to recreate the grace and beauty of the living animal in its natural habitat.

First published in Sagittarius Volume 2, Number 3 1987

# 21 What Do You Know About Conservation Hunting?

Conservation hunting is a form of regulated hunting contributing to conservation of local wildlife populations and providing social and economic benefits to involved local communities.

The Conservation Hunting (CH) website aims to provide information on current research and discussion regarding the concepts, background, scope and outcome of CH, particularly in the Canadian North, but also elsewhere. Input and comments from all Conservation Hunting stakeholders, including researchers in various disciplines, wildlife managers, co-managers, policy advisers, hunters, outfitters, and conservationists is invited.

About Conservation Hunting:

The term 'conservation hunting' is now applied to sport or recreational hunting when those hunts result in definite conservation and social benefits. Conservation hunting (CH) is considered a form of regulated hunting that provides diverse conservation benefits to both local wildlife populations and to rural communities. Conservation Hunting is appropriately applied to all animals subjected to hunting for recreation, management, food and other culturally-significant purposes. A number of international environmental conventions and organizations recognize that the regulated sustainable use of wildlife provides economic incentives that contribute to biodiversity conservation and cultural sustainability.

Wildlife-derived economic incentives and the resulting economic diversification may serve to protect wildlife habitat and cultural practices from the damaging impacts of alternative land use practices, especially at a time when such activities may place an additional burden on human and biological communities subject to climatic and other environmental stressors. Conservation hunting given its socio-economic and cultural contributions to local communities has the potential to contribute to human adaptation in the changing world.

Key Components of conservation-hunting programs and their relationship to wildlife populations, ecosystems and people (Abstract)

By W.A. Wall and B.J. Kernohan

There has been growing recognition from the international conservation community that conservation-hunting programs can provide the basis for successful sustainable use conservation. These programs, based in an ecosystem context, can be of considerable support for community-based wildlife management programs.

A conservation-hunting program is one that contributes to the short and long-term viability of the species populations within an ecosystem context by generating incentives, management regime, and/or sources of funds for purposes of conservation. However, there is a general lack of understanding of the necessary components for these programs and how interactions of these components provide for success or impediments to conservation. Components of conservation-hunting programs include: a transparent legal basis within the range state including linkage with international regulatory bodies such as CITES; an adequate biological management system based in adaptive management; an adequate economic base which links incentives for local conservation to a local or international market through good business practices; and an appropriate local cultural context.

Conservation-hunting programs worldwide have reached varying levels of success. Since different governments, cultures, ecosystems and species populations respond differently, it is critical to fit the program to the local and regional circumstances.

This paper presents a framework for organizing and describing key components of conservation-hunting programs and discusses their relationship to wildlife populations, ecosystems and people. Presented are axioms of biodiversity conservation and conservation-hunting programs to establish common ground from which a series of principles and criteria are derived. This lead paper establishes the underlying context for exploring each of the case studies presented in the papers of the symposium.

For more details view the Conservation Hunting website http://www.ualberta.ca/~ccinst/CH/index.htm

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# 22 Savannas Forever: Certification for Hunting in Africa

By Dr Craig Packer

Editor's Comment: Just in time before closing this issue we received this article from Craig Packer about the launch of Savannas Forever. I had the opportunity to discuss the issues together with Craig Packer, Kai Wollscheid Director General of CIC, and John Jackson III Chairman of Conservation Force in a personal meeting just after the Lion Symposium in Johannesburg. The underlying concept is one of self regulation. With the formidable team of experts assembled, the support of Conservation Force and the International Council of Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) and the adaptive development of methods the future looks promising. There are a number of developments in the pipeline which African Indaba will report about in the next issues – so look out for more information. In the meantime you can get information from the Savannas Forever Webpage at www.SavannasForever.org

In the last week of February we will officially launch Savannas Forever with generous gifts from Dan and Tom Friedkin. Savannas Forever's mission is to provide practical solutions for conserving African wildlife while protecting local people and promoting their livelihoods. Our strategy is to use sustainable hunting certification to motivate and educate stakeholders to manage wildlife as a valuable economic, socio-cultural and environmental asset, thereby developing a vested interest in its protection.

On-going international pressure to protect wildlife populations has created an urgent need to verify sustainable hunting practices and to measure outcomes for key species such as lions, leopard and Cape buffalo. Without verifiable outcomes, the trophy hunting industry risks hunting bans imposed by national governments or by international wildlife treaties. But without economic incentives for local people to sustain wildlife, animal populations could decline rapidly as has occurred in countries that have banned hunting altogether.

Savannas Forever's goal is to develop the most trusted conservation hunting certification system for African trophy hunting. Savannas Forever will work with the hunting industry, conservation organizations and rural communities to create a voluntary, third-party certification system that includes principles, criteria and indicators to measure how well a hunting company follows sustainable harvest practices, protects its wildlife populations from illegal offtake, and develops meaningful engagement with local communities.

The certification process will be managed adaptively and will not be a pass/fail system. The first step for participating companies will be a self-evaluation to identify areas of improvement and will subsequently progress to a full third-party certification. Our discussions with hunting companies, conservation organizations and wildlife authorities have generated a groundswell of support and excitement. In the past two months, 16 leading hunting companies in Tanzania, Mozambique and Botswana have joined the Savannas Forever research consortium. Our research activities will start in Tanzania in June 2006, expand to Niassa Reserve in northern Mozambique in October 2006 and then to Botswana in April 2007.

Many of the concepts adopted by Savannas Forever were first articulated in African Indaba, and we are grateful for the opportunity to announce our launch in these pages.

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*Continued from Page 17*

7 News from Africa

implementing benefit sharing schemes for hunting revenues with the villages.

Charles Mdoe, one of the 4 deputy directors, has been named acting Director of Wildlife. African Indaba has been informed that Mdoe has worked with wildlife all his life and has an excellent reputation as wildlife officer.

In another development, one of the most powerful safari hunting and tourist operators has been dismissed as board member of the Tanzanian National Parks Authority (TANAPA). He had been appointed by the former Minister despite well known incriminations against his person in the official Government anti-corruption report ("Warioba Report").

The new Government under President Kikwete seems determined to do a sector wide clean up. The new president also announced that all ministries will be required to submit 5-Year plans during 2006 so that the administration has goals & targets to be measured against at the end of the presidential term.

Zimbabwe

Extract from an article by Joshua Hammer, published in Newsweek, January 13th: Debate also swirls around what many industry sources call the most controversial operator in Zimbabwe: Out of Africa Safaris.

Founded by 4 former South African policemen and based in South Africa and [USA], the company has done a brisk business taking a heavily American clientele to hunt on several ranches [that] were seized by Zanu PF activists and war veterans.

Critics, including [ZATSO], say that the group uses poorly trained hunting guides who, among other violations, sometimes endanger the lives of their clients and overhunt species in violation of the Zimbabwean government's hunting rules. Zimbabwe's Parks and Wildlife Authority banned Out of Africa last year from operating in the country. "This is an unscrupulous organization that doesn't respect the environment and pursues unsustainable quotas," says David Coltart, the opposition leader. Conservationist J. Rodrigues calls the company the most "flagrant violator" of hunting regulations in Zimbabwe.

Dawie Groenewald, one of the founding partners of Out of Africa, denies that his company has done anything ethically wrong and says that he has been slandered by white Zimbabwean hunters. "The white Zimbabweans hunting in Zim don't want anyone else coming in there to hunt - they hate South Africans coming to hunt in their kingdom," he told Newsweek. Out of Africa's attorney, Kevin Anderson, says that "these allegations about poaching and other illegal activities have been floating around for several years and they've never been substantiated." Anderson also says that Out of Africa recently decided to stop organizing hunts in Zimbabwe because "it's just become too difficult." (*Editor's note: see also previous issue of African Indaba in connection with OoAAS*).

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