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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

1 South Africa – Quo Vadis?

Proposed new norms and standards for hunting and game ranching enter hot discussion phase!

By Gerhard R Damm

On May 2nd the “national norms and standards for hunting” and the “protected species regulations” were published on the website of [DEAT](#); the proposed regulations remained open for public comment until June 19th. A widespread national and international echo made itself heard immediately and DEAT will have to analyze a tremendous amount of public input. Not astonishing, considering the importance of South Africa as destination for the international hunter (around 8,000 will arrive in 2006) and the local demand for hunting (more than 50,000 South Africans are highly dedicated hunters, and another 150,000 hunt at least occasionally).

This reaction surprises even less, when considering that 20 million hectares (200,000 km² = 16.39%) of the country's terrestrial surface (ca 1.220 million km²) are under private conservation and game management programs – versus a total of 7.5 million hectares (75,000 km² = 6.15%) which fall under nationally and provincially protected areas. Hunting contributes to the South African economy at least 4.5 billion Rand a year. The contribution of the private and communal landowners, who dedicate skills and resources towards the conservation of the national natural heritage, certainly surpasses even this high figure.

Unfortunately, the reactions are not limited to concerned stakeholders like game ranchers, wildlife managers, conservationists and hunters, as well as to that section of the public which is knowledgeable. The international conflict-industry, represented by all shades of anti-hunting and animal rights organizations is having a heyday presenting their twisted interpretation of hunting as “socially unacceptable killing of animals” and the game rancher as the willing accomplice of the “killers”. Such simplistic views and false interpretations serve to polarize public opinion without offering solutions. The recent elephant debate is another glaring example how public views can be manipulated.

In a pluralistic society conflicting views should foster debate, not create conflict. Coexistence rather than confrontation, tolerance rather than fanaticism are the key words. The use of natural resources, in particular their “extractive use” is considered by some a problem, by other a right – but the “anti-faction” self-righteously dismisses the obvious common ground which arises from sustainable and adaptive wildlife management methods. The anti-use faction has yet to deliver their “sustainable” model for a coexistence of wildlife and people. As a matter of fact, any substantial deviation from “incentive-driven-conservation” would most likely not only deal a death blow to commendable private and communal conservation efforts (and reconvert a good por-

tion of the 200,000 km² under private conservation management to industrial agriculture) but also seriously impact on the financial basis of national and regional protected area schemes (i.e. Transfrontier Parks).

The concept of regulating wildlife management with comprehensive “national norms and standards” is correct. The preliminary analysis of the drafts shows, however, less than satisfactory results. A balanced approach of science-based natural resource stewardship and user-friendly regulations within functioning administrative systems are of utmost importance for a National Conservation Strategy. I hope, therefore, that DEAT considers the constructive criticism of hunters and game ranchers.

International agreements ([CITES](#), [CBD](#)) and multinational organizations ([UNEP](#), [IUCN](#)) recognize the conservation value of sustainable extractive and non-extractive uses as valid land use options with ecological, social and economic benefits. It has been acknowledged that pure protectionism, originating in the colonial and post colonial preservation fortress mentality, pro-

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duces serious income restraints, social upheaval and disruptive habitat degradation, whereas private conservation and wildlife management models with their multiple use options have created successful participative models based on the user pays/contributes principle. These models function as well on public lands as on private lands or a combination of both (see also [Article No 17](#)).

Preservationist approaches used mainly the simple but polarizing “heavy stick” method in restrictive legislation, enforcement and use-exclusionist protected areas. No consideration was given to the fact that most of the wildlife occurs outside protected areas on private land and that private and community landowners provide valuable conservation contributions.

The modern “carrot” method incorporates the “conserve-by-incentive” principle, where the State and the landowners jointly develop complex national conservation strategies, which are culture-friendly, economically viable and ecologically sound. In other words – this method creates a biodiversity friendly mosaic of land uses driven by the livelihoods that are derived from the sustainable use of wild resources, instead of landscapes with small islands of biodiversity in a sea of agriculture.

This “carrot approach” requires supportive policy planning and enabling legislation. Emphasis must be focused not on “how can we control the users” but on “how can we encourage user knowledge, actions and capabilities (skills, cash, time)” within a national conservation strategy.

Ideally, the final Norms & Standards should be aiming at creating this enabling environment for the stakeholders (State, Provinces, private and communal landowners, users) by:

- Supportive and linked governance at all levels with emphasis on self-regulation
- Empowerment and accountability of stakeholders
- Application of adaptive management principles using science, monitoring, local knowledge and timely feedbacks
- Black economic empowerment and equitable sharing of benefits
- Transparency and public awareness
- International cooperation

Contrary to the executive intent of the Minister, the published drafts fail to address some of these key issues. Most importantly they deviate from the original intention of having one set of rules for the country. The published proposals make me conclude that the outcome will be rather ten sets of rules (one national and nine provincial). I furthermore noted the virtually total neglect towards creating a positive environment for cost-effective and administratively efficient self-regulation.

The interests and aspirations of private and community landowners, who importantly are the owners of the game on the mentioned huge tract of South African land are seriously under-represented in both drafts, with critical definitions missing, and with important issues not being adequately addressed.

Government and stakeholders should seize this opportunity to draw from national and regional expertise, and also from the knowledge and experience of international experts and successful regulative models in other countries. The [International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation](#) (CIC) has officially offered DEAT the assistance of a team of recognized experts.

The success and effectiveness of any regulation will be determined by its practical application. Fast-tracking the hunting and protected species regulations in their present form with their obvious inadequacies will invariably lead to administrative bottlenecks, stakeholder opposition and diminished conservation efficiency. It will negatively impact on an economically important sector of the South African conservation strategy and reduce private investment interest in wildlife conservation. Eventually, time consuming and expensive amendment processes may be necessary. We have seen this with the new Firearms Act and the words of the former lands claim commissioner North West & Gauteng, B. Mphela, might be a warning to DEAT with regards to stakeholder input: *“It’s unfortunate that we haven’t listened to [the farmers] as much as we should.”*

The commendable process, initiated by DEAT, should take careful note of the realities in the wildlife sector and create an environment that empowers the stakeholders for meaningful and effective self-regulation. Transformation and black economic empowerment are necessary ingredients, but meaningful progress in these areas can only be achieved, if the conventional “fortress preservation mentality” is replaced by a pragmatic national conservation strategy. This strategy should aim at triple-bottom-line results and use creative incentives to drive a symbiosis between conservation objectives, economics and social development.

The “stick method” of over-regulation and administrative control carries the intrinsic danger of throwing out the proverbial “baby with the bathwater”. It will seriously obstruct private initiative and investment in incentive-driven-conservation.

South Africa’s biodiversity needs the “carrot-method” of investor and user encouragement to continue the success story of the “Conservation Revolution” which led to wildlife now prospering on almost a quarter of the Republic’s land surface. Private and communal landowners, together with [SANParks](#) and the Provincial Conservation Authorities are the bedrock of South Africa’s worldwide conservation reputation. The new regulations must build on past successes and create the foundation for future expansion for the sake of the country’s natural heritage.

Far-reaching and self-funding self-regulation through a national board, representative of land-owners, land-users, conservation authorities and government will therefore win the first prize. Experience in many countries around the world has shown that this model is absolutely capable of delivering the required outcomes.

CIC Comments on SA Draft Regulations

The South African CIC Delegation submitted comprehensive comments on the DEAT draft regulations on hunting and protected species on behalf of its parent organization, the CIC - International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation. The regulations were addressed in great detail and the submission encompassed a total of 190 pages. PHASA, CHASA and WRSA are members of the CIC.

For information about CIC please view the website www.cic-wildlife.org or contact office@cic-wildlife.org

2 Hunting and Wildlife Industry Expresses Concern over Proposed Threatened and Protected Species Regulations

Issued by the Hunting and Wildlife Associations of South Africa (HAWASA) on May 29th, 2006

The Hunting and Wildlife Associations of South Africa (HAWASA) applauds the efforts of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to establish sound hunting and wildlife ranching norms and standards in South Africa. A ministerial panel of experts drafted a set of norms and standards based on submissions from amongst others the various hunting organisations and wildlife ranching organisations. This document was generally welcomed and accepted by most hunting and wildlife ranching associations as it captured the spirit of ethical and sustainable hunting that contributes to the conservation of South Africa's rich biodiversity.

The recently published regulations for threatened and protected species did, however, cast doubt over DEAT's intentions with the aforementioned norms and standards. It appears as if the regulations were drafted without due consideration of the panel of experts norms and standards document. There are serious omissions in the regulations while the issues around professional hunting and recreational hunting are diffuse in the regulations. HAWASA is of the opinion that due process for the drafting of regulations was not followed while lack of input from the hunting industry is clearly evident in this document.

At this stage the draft regulations are unacceptable to HAWASA while its stakeholders are concerned that should the minister put these regulations into effect it may impact negatively on biodiversity conservation and ethical hunting. HAWASA stakeholders will submit extensive comments on the regulations to DEAT but urges Minister Van Schalkwyk to institute a proper public participation process to draft a set of sensible and workable regulations. The deadline for the submission of first comments will be met by members of HAWASA but a second date should be set for final comments once a public participatory process has been established to draft acceptable regulations.

HAWASA believes that the promulgation of regulations prior to public acceptance of the norms and standards as a white paper may have serious consequences. The current draft regulations reflect very little of the norms and standards that were put together by the ministerial panel. HAWASA believes that the norms and standards will establish a platform for phasing out unethical and unacceptable practices. The draft regulations, however, fail to address such issues. South Africa is at the cross roads with our hunting industry and it is imperative that the correct processes are followed to draft regulations to suit the need of ethical and sustainable wildlife utilisation. HAWASA's members are willing and able to assist the minister with policy and law formulation. It is not only the constitutional right of all South African to participate in such processes but also the moral and constitutional obligation of all to participate.

For more information please contact Gerhard Verdoorn (spokesman HAWASA) at +27(82) 446 8946

HAWASA Member Organizations & Contact Information:

1. Professional Hunters Association of South Africa (PHASA) web: www.phasa.co.za/ email: phasa@pixie.co.za
2. Confederation of South African Hunting Associations (CHASA) web: www.chasa.co.za/ email: chasa@telkomsa.net
3. South African Hunting & Game Conservation Association (SAH&GCA) web: www.sahunt.co.za/ email: admin@sahunt.co.za
4. Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA) web: www.wrsa.co.za/ email: office@sagro.co.za

3 SCI Hunter Legacy Fund Promotes Progress for Kenya

From [SCI Safari Times](#) (edited for space reasons)

The first-ever grant of \$25,000 by the Hunter Legacy 100 Fund Board of Trustees has been made to the Kenya Wildlife Working Group which is evaluating all aspects of game management. Kenya banned legitimate hunting in 1977, a misguided part of an effort to stem industrial-scale poaching of wildlife, especially rhino and elephant. Since then, Kenya has lost an estimated 70 percent of its wildlife. In the same period, countries in southern Africa have seen an enormous increase in wildlife, the direct result of sport hunting on private lands that had previously been cattle ranches.

Conservation groups, landowners, and rural communities that could benefit from hunting income have long campaigned for the ban to be repealed. However, American and British animal protectionist groups have spent vast sums of money to influence government to maintain the status quo. As a result, wildlife has no value and is regarded by rural Kenyans as nothing but a nuisance which eats their crops, kills their livestock and occasionally kills people. Lions and other predators have been poisoned wholesale and edible wildlife has been massively poached, selling for a few cents a pound in butcheries. Vast areas that teemed with wildlife thirty years ago are now empty and the animal protectionists seem content to see millions of animals strangle slowly in snares, so long as none are shot by hunters.

Most conservationists in Kenya believe that the restoration of responsible big game hunting will benefit wildlife populations, rural people, and the Kenyan economy. Last year, the SCI Foundation underwrote the cost of fact-finding visits by delegations of Kenyan officials to southern African countries that have an excellent record of managing their wildlife for the benefit of local communities. They saw for themselves how sustainable-use programs, including hunting, promote conservation and contributes to a developing economy.

In 2005, the Kenyan Parliament passed an Amendment to the Wildlife Act adopting a new wildlife policy that would decentralize authority to manage wildlife to regional wildlife councils, opening the way to sustainable utilization. Under intense pressure, the President rejected the Amendment and sent it back to Parlia-

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3 SCI Hunter Legacy Fund Promotes Progress for Kenya

ment for further review, a process that is still underway. Under the new Amendment, conservation will still be based on a system of protected areas in the form of national parks, national reserves and local sanctuaries where nature can function free of human influence. However, sustainable use of wildlife in non-protected areas would be integrated with other land uses, particularly livestock production. With the proper balance, Kenya's proposed new wildlife policy can yield the greatest sustainable good, offering conservation of wildlife while benefiting people who host wildlife on their land.

With funding from the HL 100 Fund Endowment, SCI is now sending a second group of delegates to visit successful sustainable use programs. The distribution of \$25,000 to the Kenyan project represents the very first funding from the SCIF Hunter Legacy 100 Fund as an endowment. Earlier this year, artist John Banovich and his lion conservation initiative PRIDE, sponsored Kenya's Speaker of Parliament Francis Kaparo's attendance at the 2006 SCI and Dallas Safari Club conventions.

The current director of KWS, Dr. Julius Kipng'etich, stated at the 2006 Johannesburg Workshop on Lion Conservation that he is open-minded about the possibility of sustainable use of wildlife for the benefit of rural communities and the national economy, saying that 'nothing is off the table' (*Editor's Note: see also African Indaba Vol 4, No 2 "African Lion Workshops by John J Jackson III*). However, the financial clout of American and British animal protectionists is still a formidable obstacle to rational conservation in Kenya.

4 Southern Ground Hornbill

By L P van Essen

Southern Ground Hornbills *Bucorvus leadbeateri* species has experienced a 50% decline in range and more than a 10% decline in numbers over the past three decades predominantly due to habitat destruction. It is estimated that there are only between 1500 and 2000 Ground Hornbills left in South Africa. They are charismatic birds, easily identified on sight and sound. Their stronghold is primarily within formal conservation areas. With estimated territory sizes of over 100km², the birds forage over wide areas, but cannot survive and breed in areas without suitable natural holes in either trees or rock faces for nesting. Disturbance at cliff sites and the removal of large trees, pose a threat to the survival of these birds. Other threats include afforestation which impacts on suitable grassland foraging habitat, poisoning and the use of Ground Hornbills in local cultural practices - in particular due to their association with rainmaking.

Ground Hornbills live in family groups of between two and eleven birds, comprising a dominant alpha breeding pair, a variable number of juveniles and adult male helpers. The species' vulnerability is increased as a result of this social structure, and by the fact that only one chick out of a possible three eggs fledges. Furthermore, the dominant pair breeds on average every 2.5 years and successful fledglings occur on average only every 9 years.

In recent years, activities relating to the conservation of

Ground Hornbills have increased, and a program to collect second chicks from the Kruger National Park for rear and release into areas where they had become regionally extinct, was established at the Mabula Game Reserve. The use of artificial nest boxes, research into breeding habits and general monitoring of the birds has also been conducted, especially in areas such as the APNR (Associated Private Nature Reserves), adjacent to the Kruger National Park. To ensure a co-ordinated and multi-stakeholder approach to Ground Hornbill conservation a Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA), facilitated by the IUCN's (World Conservation Union) Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) Southern Africa, was held in February 2005. The aim of the workshop was to identify the major threats and conservation priorities for the species and its habitat throughout the sub-region. Ground Hornbill conservation in the future will focus on four themes: research into the biology of the species and their ecological needs, quantification, qualification and mitigation of their threats and education and awareness. The primary objective will be the establishment and registration of a management plan for Ground Hornbills and their savannah habitat.

Have you been fortunate enough to hear the booming call of the Ground Hornbill in the bush before sunrise or in the late afternoon? You will then want to help us to prevent the silencing of the haunting call of the Ground Hornbill!

If you have any information on Ground Hornbills, would like to offer assistance/funding, or would like further information on the species, the PHVA or the conservation program now in place, please contact

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5 SCI Releases Standards for Hunting behind High Fences

From: [SCI Website](#)

SCI has released its "[North American Standards for Hunting behind a Fence](#)". The SCI Board of Directors voted to adopt these standards at the Washington, D.C. board meeting in May 2006. The SCI policy consists of three documents which are reproduced below: (*Editor's Note: African Indaba hopes that the SCI Board of Directors will extend these very welcome and essential regulations to cover all hunting operations behind high fences, irrespective to where they are located in the world. These regulations, if adopted by SCI for Africa, Europe and Asia will address what many concerned hunters are fighting for many years: It will be the end of canned and put & take shooting operations, artificially created "trophies", etc. and it should be the end to advertising these operations in hunting magazines. We are looking forward to SCI enforcing these regulations in America and that ads for such operations disappear from the SCI publications. We also remind readers that SCI previously passed a global High Fence Policy at the January 2004 board meeting – see [African Indaba Vol 2/3](#)*)

The North American Hunting Preserves - Fair Chase Standards (AI Editor's emphasis in the text)

Recreational hunting and the concept of "fair chase" has been linked for as long as recreational hunting has existed. However, the terms and conditions of what constitutes "fair chase" when hunting is conducted within a high fenced area has never been fully or clearly defined. SCI believes that the following conditions must be met, or exceeded, in order for the concept of "fair chase" to apply for hunting mammals within high fenced areas in North America: (*Editor's Note: The former SCI African Chapter and the then existing African Advisory Board developed a definition which was ratified and signed on November 22, 1997. Co-Signatories from SCI were Lance Norris, Skip Donau and Rudy Rosen. The document was submitted to the SCI EC by Norris/Donau, then president/deputy president of SCI. The SCI African Fair Chase Definition was also publicized in SCI's Safari Times Africa in 1998 and in various issues of African Indaba starting with [Vol. 1/1](#), page 8).*)

- The animals hunted must have freely resided on the property on which they are being hunted for at least six months, or longer.
- The hunting property shall provide escape cover that allows the animals to elude hunters for extended periods of time and multiple occurrences. Escape cover, in the form of rugged terrain or topography, and/or dense thickets or stands of woods, shall collectively comprise at least 50% of the property.
- The animals hunted must be part of a breeding herd that is a resident on the hunted property.
- The operators of the preserve must provide freely available and ample amounts of cover, food and water at all times. (*Editor's note: this needs some finer definition, like in "times of need" and not as "feeder ringing in the evening meal"*)
- Animals that are to be hunted must exhibit their natural flight/survival instincts.

- No zoo animals, exhibited animals or tame animals are to be hunted.
- No hunting or selling of hunting rights to a specified animal.
- Hunting methods employed cannot include driving, herding or chasing animals to awaiting hunters.
- Every effort must be made to utilize all meat commonly consumed from a taken animal.

The minimum amount of land necessary to meet these requirements varies by region, terrain and habitat type. Setting a standard minimum area is unlikely to be realistic. However, SCI recommends that state/provincial wildlife management agencies work with the operators and the hunting community within their area to establish specific regulations to guide the operation of hunting preserves.

The North American Fenced Hunting Operations - Operating Standards (AI Editor's emphasis in the text)

While this regulatory authority may be shared with the state/provincial department of agriculture, SCI believes that it is imperative that the wildlife management agencies be involved in the oversight and regulation of this industry.

In addition, operators of these facilities must meet or exceed the state and/or federal requirements for disease-testing, record keeping of all animals, and fencing requirements.

Advertisements that indicate a facility guarantees a kill; or specifically sells or references an individual animal are indicative of operations that do not adhere to the "fair chase" guidelines. SCI recommends that organizations and publications develop specific acceptable advertising guidelines for appropriate ads from fenced hunting operations.

Recommendations from the North American High Fenced ADHOC Committee (AI Editor's emphasis in the text)

- A survey will be done outside of SCI on the image of high fenced hunting.
- Fenced operations should be regulated by the State Department of Natural Resources or regulated by both the State Department of Natural Resources and the State Department of Agriculture in joint venture.
- SCI can delegate the authority to a specific individual or group to negotiate the best deal possible when pending legislation is being proposed at the state level.
- Ads in SCI publications need to follow the guidelines that have been set forth on North American high fenced hunting (i.e.- **no ads shall be accepted that say no kill-no pay; guaranteeing a kill or selling of an individual animal**). The seller of the ad should lose their commission for that ad and this shall apply to marketing in any SCI show or publication.
- All edible meat commonly consumed shall be used in a responsible manner.
- SCI recommends operators of these facilities reach out to handicapped, disadvantaged, youth and terminally ill hunters.
- SCI recommends that the operators of exotic animal hunting facilities, to the extent possible, link their operations to the conservation of wildlife in its natural habitat.

6 Rebuilding the Wildlife Sector in Zimbabwe (Part 2)

A pre-feasibility study with action proposals for donors and NGOs

By Dr. Rolf D. Baldus and Dr. Graham Child

See [African Indaba Vol 4 Issue Number 3](#) for part 1

5. An Action Plan

5.1 Replace and Strengthen Parks and Wildlife Board

The Parks and Wildlife Board of some 12 members is a body appointed by the Minister and is responsible for advising him/her on policy issues. It is suggested that, as a matter of the utmost urgency, the present Board should be retired and a new one appointed to oversee the transition period. Future Board members should be representative of the wildlife industry, and committed conservationists who will ensure implementation of the spirit and letter of national wildlife policy and the legislation flowing from it. Board members should bring a variety of useful talents and skills to the administration of wildlife.

With national wildlife management having become a parastatal function, it is desirable that the Board should assume certain executive functions on behalf of the Minister; in particular it should:

- Be accountable for ensuring the proper control of the executive agency's finances, including the investment of its assets;
- Ensure that as much authority as practicable is devolved to field level, to staff on the ground within the Parks and Wildlife Estate and to landholders outside the Estate; and
- Create a system to audit and report to the Minister on all aspects of the agency's management programme to ensure that it is effective and efficient.

Local management advisory committees, representative of local interests in wildlife, should be appointed to assist in both the management of the Estate and wildlife outside, and their geographical areas of interest should be defined. A member of the Board should serve on each of these committees, which should in turn have representation on the Board. Such a restructuring will be the task of the new representative Government and might facilitate effective donor and NGO support.

5.2 Review of Policy and Legislation

The wildlife policy and legislation in Zimbabwe remains largely sound although the original liberalisation envisaged for managing and using the resource has been curbed by policy and legislative changes. Both institutions should be reviewed to encourage good conservation and the rapid expansion of the industry in the spirit of the original policy and legislation. The aim should be an ecologically sound, ethical, diversified, but integrated wildlife industry, that is financially profitable and self supporting and sets and maintains its own standards. It should work with government in the best interests of the resource, people with it on their land, and the country.

Donors should support this process by provision of funds and technical assistance necessary to implement such a reform process that will contribute to good governance, decentralisation and devolvement of power to the people. Concerns have been

raised regarding the implications of possible future Foot-&-Mouth Disease control measures that may be implemented to boost the beef industry and its access to European markets. A policy relating to wildlife need to be strong to ensure that cognisance is taken of regional land use initiatives and Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas.

Activities of 5.1 and 5.2 are however minor in comparison to those which follow.

5.3 Restructuring and Rebuilding the Parks and Wildlife Authority

The National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority should be restructured and reformed as a matter of urgency. This will require three related actions:

- A thorough financial audit
- A post by post evaluation of the organisation leading to new job descriptions, creating new positions and dropping others
- A restructuring of the organisation to better reflect its changing functions, underlining accountability, strengthening transparency and to ensure appropriate devolution of authority within the organisation.

The financial audit and the organizational analysis of the Authority will best be done by a highly competent and independent chartered accountant or similar consultant of international standing. Thereafter political decisions have to be taken on the role and functions of the Authority. Which of them are really semi-governmental and which can be delegated to other actors, in particular the private sector, associations of stakeholders etc.

Fitting the agency's form to its function will first require a review of the policy and objectives it is to achieve, how it is to achieve these aims and its relationship with the Minister and the rest of Government. This will determine the agency's mandate, including what constitutes its core functions and the extent it should focus on these while outsourcing or privatising ancillary responsibilities. It will also determine the functions to be devolved from the centre to the periphery, how this is to be formalised, and the reporting procedures to be followed.

During the re-organization it will be necessary to eliminate some 'deadwood' and make redundant personnel having been implicated by the above audit in misappropriation of funds or abuse of their authority.

Procedures for ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of staff have to be introduced. These should include objective systems for ensuring that:

- The acquisition of the skills and experience needed for initial recruitment and advancement to particular postings;
- Conditions of service for all grades are sufficiently rewarding to attract and hold calibre staff;
- Individual postings are adequately rewarded for the responsibilities they hold; and
- Incentives are offered as a reward for initiative, arduous work, or actions beyond the call of normal duty.

The Director and his senior staff should be assisted in the cultivation of a suitable corporate culture. This should be based on loyalty to the organisation, a sound work ethic and what the organisation stands for, including the aesthetic, biological and economic values of wildlife, its potential for enhancing rural

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6 Rebuilding the Wildlife Sector in Zimbabwe (Part 2)

productivity and long term sustainability, and hence for alleviating poverty. Donors will have to accompany this process with organizational advice, training and other support services.

It is important that management of the Parks and Wildlife Estate and wildlife outside is resumed as quickly as possible following a political transition. This will be an especially sensitive period for surviving breeding stock, making it important to position and maintain an interim management team until it can be replaced with suitable trained and experienced local staff. This may take anything from six months to several years and will include the hiring of experienced personnel to fill key postings. Within the Estate there will be a need to refurbishing the infrastructure, including game water supplies, roads and tourist accommodations, and to intensify anti-poaching measures. Emphasis must be placed upon outsourcing where possible, but particularly in the fields of hospitality, infrastructure maintenance and even aspects of wildlife management such as monitoring, capture and if necessary, culling.

5.4 Staff Training and Development

The proposed strategy visualises more efficient ecological and economic management of the Parks and Wildlife Estate and greater liberalisation of wildlife management outside. This requires a motivated, well-trained and confident staff with a common corporate culture. With the likelihood of high staff redundancies following the weeding out of corrupt and incompetent staff from the executive agency and its restructuring there will be an urgent need for training of new recruits. There will also have to be considerable reorientation of existing staff so they can maintain the resources during the transitional period and guide the wildlife sector through the changes to be expected. The training should be tailored to the specific needs of the agency and the wildlife industry. Much of it will be straightforward and will require little more than the teaching of skills common to similar agencies throughout Africa and beyond. Training should include amongst others:

- Law enforcement, paramilitary functions, field crafts.
- The role of different categories of staff in the monitoring of ecological phenomena, tourism management, public relations and outreach
- Financial, legal, staff administration and the maintenance of fixed and movable asset.
- Community Based Natural Resource Management
- Policy and related issues; and
- Gender issues should be considered within the corporate agency culture.

The Mushandike Training Staff College should to be refurbished and re-equipped for short and longer courses. Additionally, training-on-the-job is of importance. Instructors should also travel to field stations to undertake trainings and initiate on-station training programmes to be implemented by local staff for their peers and subordinates. Complementary and for courses which cannot be offered in Zimbabwe the College of African Wildlife Management in Mweka in Tanzania and the Southern Africa Wildlife College in South Africa.

5.5 CBNRM / CAMPFIRE

Zimbabwe's CAMPFIRE was the first programme which introduced CBNRM in Africa at a large scale. Communal wildlife

management became a form of sustainable land use in many marginal areas. CAMPFIRE provided the institutional structure under which communities managed their wildlife resources and earned significant incomes. The programme was generally regarded as a success and a step forward in the long-term conservation of wildlife. It spearheaded the introduction of similar programmes in other African countries. CBNRM, different as it may be in different countries, is nowadays regarded as the major strategy to sustainably use and conserve natural resources outside the protected areas. It will not be possible to combat the illegal bush meat trade without involving the communities into the management of the wildlife resources on their land.

It was impossible for the programme not to be affected by the lawlessness and the political interventions of recent years. Nevertheless CAMPFIRE has shown an astonishing resilience to the chaos. Over the years it was normal to find certain shortcomings of CAMPFIRE. A new beginning will be the right time to assess the program's past performance, to identify weaknesses and to revive and improve CAMPFIRE with the assistance of donors. Four main issues need to be addressed:

CAMPFIRE had the district as smallest administrative unit. This was the level where contracts were made, revenues received and distributed and where decisions were taken. Experience showed that this was too far away from the communities. Decision-making was not always transparent, the influence of the communities was too little and much money never reached them. The former system has to be analysed, and an improved structure should have the communities as the decisive level for decision-making and for receiving benefits.

For political reasons "appropriate authority" to use wildlife has been assigned to many district and even municipal councils. This eroded the central principle of CAMPFIRE that benefits from wildlife require conservation inputs. There should be nothing like a "free lunch". If communities neglected their wildlife and tolerated poaching or encroachment into their wildlife areas, they would be punished by diminishing benefits. There was a strong nexus between conservation and use. This principle has to be established again.

Cooperation between governmental protected areas and CAMPFIRE areas was weak. Both were managed as separate units. From a biodiversity point of view, however, a certain degree of integrated planning and management would be beneficial. At least there should be strong cooperation and integration of the communal and commercial wildlife production sectors. A distinction between these two sectors is artificial and unhelpful. Integrating conservancies with neighbouring communal producers should be a high priority.

5.6 Game Ranching and Private Game Reserves

In the last thirty years a strong private wildlife sector has developed, consisting of game ranches and farms, of hunting areas, private game reserves and conservancies as larger units consisting of a number of private properties. Overused, eroded and marginal agricultural lands were increasingly turned into wildlife production. This did in most cases not only increase returns to the landowners, but also greatly improved biological diversity including wildlife populations. The Wildlife Producer's Association counted nearly 500 members, half of which had game ranches of sizes between 20 and 400 km². It was a great

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6 Rebuilding the Wildlife Sector in Zimbabwe (Part 2)

economic and environmental step forward, when such properties joined together and formed conservancies where game had a great scope to roam freely. The Save Conservancy has a size of ca. 340 km². This all has come to a standstill. There are only a few areas still working, the big ones being the conservancies in the south-east lowveld, like Sabi, Chiredzi and Nuanetsi and a few game ranches like Cawston/Rossllyn, Imire and Bally Vaugn.

The future of commercial game ranching in Zimbabwe depends very much on the future land reform, which land tenures will be chosen, also a new Government's policy towards wildlife as a form of land use. However, if wildlife was the appropriate land use under the previous white owners, then it must surely be the appropriate land use now regardless of who holds the land. The biggest support donors can probably give to this sector is their political weight in finding acceptable and economically rational solutions. One should not forget that many of the game ranches were legally acquired by their owners after the Government had declared the areas as unsuitable for agriculture, earmarked them for wildlife and agreed to the purchase.

Reintroducing the rule of law, security of tenure and clear policies will certainly be the greatest impetus to the investors in this sector to give it another try. They had accumulated vast expertise on all aspects connected to the management of their ranches and the marketing of their products (mainly hunting and tourism). The need for technical advice in the private sector is therefore very limited. Some technical assistance may be necessary as far as a stronger integration of such game ranches with the communities are concerned. A stronger inter-linkage between the two sectors is needed than before. Also there might be a need for mitigation in conflicts which can be expected as soon as law and order will be reintroduced. There might also be a certain potential for the development of Private-Public-Partnerships once the private sector gets back on its feet again.

Under normal circumstances the game ranches were able to develop on the basis of their own capital and with commercial bank credit. As presently much of the infrastructure has been looted and destroyed, fences removed and stolen and game stock poached and depleted, and there is an extraordinary need for fresh capital. Development banks may be required to come in with grants, credits, credit guarantee funds and similar instruments. Such capital is presently needed by the private sector to reconstruct and rehabilitate these farms, renew the road network and fences and translocate wildlife where appropriate. The extent of the capital needs have to be established by specific studies and assessments of technical experts. In general, the private sector itself knows best how to manage the rehabilitation provided it is allowed to do so.

Abbreviations

CAMPFIRE – Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources

CBNRM – Community Based Natural Resources Management

CEO – Chief Executive Officer

DNP – Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management

NPA - National Park and Wildlife Management Authority

IUCN – World Conservation Union

The authors

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tional Parks and Wildlife Management in Zimbabwe from 1971 to 1986. He has been an independent wildlife consultant since retirement and has a wide international experience in all aspects of wildlife and protected area management

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"People and Wildlife" e.V. is a registered NGO and charity in Germany. Its objective is to foster community based wildlife conservation in Africa.

Disclaimer

The paper reflects the personal opinion of the authors only and not necessarily the views of institutions they work for. We thank a number of persons who have received and commented on earlier drafts, without bearing any responsibility for the content.

(end of part 2 – to be continued)

7 CIC Gets Tough on "Artificial" Trophies

From: CIC Website (www.cic-wildlife.org)

At the Closing Session of its 53rd General Assembly on 5 May 2006 in Limassol, Cyprus, the CIC – International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, declared unequivocally to condemn any form of unethical manipulation of game animals in order to produce unnatural trophies. The CIC General Assembly was attended by representatives of the United Nations, governments, hunting organizations as well as scientists from 42 countries. The actual reason for this declaration was a red deer stag that was taken last autumn in Bulgaria, and was reputed as a "world record stag". According to the latest information available to the CIC this stag came from an enclosure in the Alpine region, and was transported to Bulgaria to be "hunted".

In Cyprus the CIC Commission "Exhibitions and Trophies" made a declaration stating that, *"the measurement of the red deer stag, which took place on 3 December 2005 in Traunreut, Germany, by the CIC ad-hoc Commission resulting in 278.03 CIC points is herewith officially annulled"*.

The CIC commission stated that *"in the meantime we have received clear evidence that this stag had been raised in a manipulated form and in contradiction to the established practices of species and animal welfare requirements."* In addition the hunter that participated in good faith at the hunt in Bulgaria was deliberately defrauded!

This clear declaration of the CIC has also received special support from Her Excellency Maria Rauch-Kallat, Minister for Health and Women of the Republic of Austria, who was present at the CIC General Assembly and raised her voice against "artificial" trophies, as these are not what sustainable hunting is about. Minister Rauch-Kallat urged the CIC to take a clear stand against any form of "record-mania" in hunting and to condemn the so-called "put-and-take" practices.

8 Danger for Tanzanian Rhinos

By Dr Rolf D Baldus

Tanzania is internationally respected for its wildlife conservation policies: its extensive network of protected areas covers around 25% of the total land area and consists of 13 national parks, 31 game reserves and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Wildlife management areas are an additional category of conservation range under community management. Protected Areas in Tanzania are set aside and managed under various authorities. Tanzania National Parks ([TANAPA](#)) is the parastatal organization empowered to manage the national parks. The game reserves including the Selous (with close to 50,000km² one of the largest protected areas in the world, the oldest in Africa and a World Heritage Site since 1982) are under the Wildlife Division, which is part of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism. [Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority](#) is a separate parastatal.

There are mineral deposits in many of these areas. The Ministry of Energy and Minerals will issue prospecting and mining licenses regardless whether the area is protected or not, but makes it quite clear that the final responsibility for exploration and mining in national parks and game reserves lies with the respective conservation authority. Recently this Ministry granted thirteen licenses to three companies to prospect for precious stones in various parts of the [Selous Game Reserve](#). All 13 prospecting concession areas granted are within or close to the rhino range.

Based on past experience there is a high probability that mining activities in the Selous would have negative consequences for the area's environment and its biodiversity, including endangering the growing elephant and rhino populations. Some projects in the 1980s like the building of a dam and a hydroelectric scheme brought up to 2,000 workers to Stiegler's Gorge at the Rufiji River and while prospecting for oil, thousands of kilometers of straight cut-lines were bulldozed through the Selous providing access for poaching gangs. Both projects greatly contributed to the near-complete loss of the rhino population which at the time was estimated to be around 3,000. They also facilitated the poaching of more than 50,000 elephants.

Presently the rhino population in the Selous is slowly increasing. The remnant population in the northern tourist sector has been under intensive protection and the 20 animals individually known animals are breeding. The rhinos are expanding their range and are increasingly seen by tourists and scouts. Five additional separate populations south of the Rufiji River receive protection through the anti-poaching units of the reserve. No signs of rhino poaching have been found in the last 15 years. However, there is small-scale elephant poaching within the rhino range.

The Selous management has greatly improved wildlife security in recent years, but it would be difficult to cope with a large influx of people and the activities connected with legal and illegal mining of precious stones and prospecting/exploitation for other minerals. The political responsibility for prospecting and mining in any protected area of Tanzania ultimately lies with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism. An anomalous situation now

exists in which one conservation agency of this ministry has banned mineral prospecting whilst another appears to be about to permit it.

Unfortunately mining is presently not the only imminent danger for the Selous rhino population. The Tanzania Government plans to construct a large dam across the Ruvu River at the north-eastern edge of the Selous Game Reserve to supply Dar es Salaam with water (see also [African Indaba Vol 4 No 1](#)). The dam will not only destroy several hundred square kilometers of dry-season grazing land that is indispensable for the wildlife of the northern Selous but will also flood parts of the rhino range. Like 25 years ago this project will once again introduce a large workforce close to these specially protected rhinos.

9 Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Auction 2006

By Gerhard R Damm

The 2006 [Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife](#) 17th Game Auction held on Saturday 13 May at the Centenary Game Capture Centre in the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park realized R8.075 million (2005: 8,765 million Rand). Rated by the South African game industry as the best of its kind, the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Game Auction provides top quality animals to private land owners, thus disseminating excellent genetic stock throughout the country. 215 head of game were sold at the live auction and 1721 at the catalogue auction (2005: 286 respectively 905). A total of 760 impala sold in 2006 (2005: 145) and 100 springbok (2005: 0) made the bulk of the increase in heads of game sold in 2006 over 2005. The annual wildlife auction is the by-product of successful conservation management and is a practical manner of disposing of game surplus to the needs of the many protected areas under the management of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. The revenue generated by the auction will supplement the operational budget of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.

For the first time in its 18 year history, the auction offered two young male white rhinos from the Makhasa community conservation area. Under the leadership of Inkosi Simon Gumede, former member of the KZN Nature Conservation Board and current Chairman of the KZN Portfolio Committee on the Environment, the experiment of community conservation areas bears its first fruit. These two white rhinos jointly fetched R215,000 which will be used by the community to fund various projects.

White rhino fetched good average prices of just under R133,500 per animal for the 33 animals sold. This compares well to last year's South African average price for this species, which stood at just R95,200 and is also up on last year's Ezemvelo auction price of R99,323 (+34%). This development highlights again Ezemvelo's role as top supplier of rhino in the country.

The 24 hippo were sold at an average price of R15,700 – a significant drop of 44% when compared with last year's average price of R28,174. Ezemvelo, the main supplier of nyala in the country, reduced its offer of nyala family groups in 2006 to 244 animals (2005: 358 animals), yet the average revenue per animal dropped by almost 8% to R3,763. Compared with the aver-

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9 Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Auction 2006

age countrywide auction price of 2005, the prices are a significant 30% down. Prices for nyala rams dropped also by almost 9%, red hartebeest by 11.5% and zebra by 6%. Prices for kudu and impala family groups remained stable, although when comparing the impala prices achieved countrywide in 2005 the drop of 23% astonishes. Ezemvelo realized excellent prices for the giraffe groups on auction, with prices up by 32%, thus approaching more or less the country average of last year.

The development of live auction prices around the country this year indicates that prices tend to stabilize at last year's country averages (see also African Indaba Vol 4 No 3 – Development of Game prices in South Africa). I have observed, however, that lion prices (for the few on offer) experienced a significant drop, may be due to expectation with regards to the new Norms & Standards. One exception was noted: one lion was sold at the "Pride of Africa" auction in Polokwane for R105,000 (although down from a record price of R300,000 paid in 2005) – possibly the lion will find (or found) its end at a canned shooting operation! I also noted such peculiar items on sale as "yellow blesbok", "golden gnu", "impala with black genes" and "copper springbok" being offered and sold.

I do not share the optimism of some commentators about any marked recovery in the live game auction prices – the market shows clear signs of turning into a buyers' market. Even the catalogue auction of WRSA (March 2006 – turnover in excess of 6 million Rand)) confirmed this trend with prices for important species like blesbok, disease free buffalo, eland, gemsbok, impala, white rhino and kudu generally down on 2005; only roan and sable could post a significant improvement over 2005. The much touted "record price" of eight "golden gnu" at R112,000 each cannot be used as being indicative for an upswing and is probably a similar flash in the pan as the so-called "black impala" which sold in 2005 at R30,000 (down from R100,000 in 2004) and came under the hammer this year as "impala with black genes" for R4,000! I also do not share the sentiment expressed in a comment in a South African hunting and game management magazine, that "too much emphasis is placed on trophy hunting" – quite the contrary, I believe that hunting will be taking an even more important place in the economies of game ranching. A sentiment, which I share fully, however: the game industry has to aggressively target the local and overseas consumer markets for venison – there will certainly be important and lucrative opportunities in this sector.

Air Travel to Zimbabwe

The Netherlands has joined England in implementing a ban on firearm shipment (and transshipment) to Zimbabwe. Hunters cannot fly from The Netherlands, or via The Netherlands, with a firearm on a ticket that shows as final destination Zimbabwe. The Hunting Report (www.huntingreport.com) confirmed this with Dutch Customs in Gronigen after a hunter was refused a transiting permit because he indicated Zimbabwe as final destination on his application. Hunters should either avoid Amsterdam (and London) on their way to Zimbabwe, or fly to Zimbabwe on two separate tickets: For more information contact "The Hunting Report".

10 Making Wildlife Work for Tanzania's Communities

By Charles Nzo Mmbaga

A community wildlife project founded in 1990 is giving the indigenous people a direct benefit from the wildlife among which they live. The [Cullman and Hurt Community Wildlife Project](#), the Conservation Division of Robin Hurt Safaris (Tanzania), Ltd., believes that without the full support and cooperation of local communities, wildlife in Africa is surely doomed.

Within the 2005 End of Year report submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and the Wildlife Division, the Cullman and Hurt Community Wildlife Project (CHCWP) details impressive progress in its resolve to give the local communities a direct benefit from the wildlife. CHCWP has contributed to the implementation of various community development projects through the generation of funds by application of a 20 per cent surcharge levied against all species taken by client hunters of Robin Hurt Safaris. These funds are collected by hunting area and divided equally amongst the participating villages that are within and adjacent to the areas of operation.

"In total, Robin Hurt Safaris and the Cullman & Hurt Community Wildlife project have contributed US\$200,805 towards the alleviation of poverty and the preservation of the environment the for 2005 period under review," says Mr David Erickson, who is the CHCWP Project Director. He gave the 2005 breakdown as Village Benefit Funds of US\$84,242.00, various additional donations of US\$28,742.00 and Anti-poaching Operations and Administration of US\$87,821. Founded in 1990 on the conviction that wildlife and its habitat can only be conserved by involving the local people, CHCWP is an example of how tourism and conservation can directly benefit local people. Mr Erickson says the future of wildlife in Africa rests in the hands of local people who bear the cost of living with wildlife. The idea is to encourage village communities living near wildlife areas to accept responsibility for the well being of wildlife and habitat, by realizing that wildlife is a renewable and lucrative natural resource.

"Wildlife provides better long-term return through its conservation, than by its over-exploitation," says Mr Erickson. CHCWP currently works with 33 villages, eight districts, and seven regions throughout Tanzania. Funds generated during the hunting season are distributed the following year. Villages, districts and regions are all informed as to the amount each village will receive, thus ensuring transparency, and each individual village is then responsible for conducting an assembly meeting to discuss the use of funds. Villages are normally required to formulate complete documentation of the decisions and plans and these documents are then forwarded to the relevant district executive director for his input. Once all plans have been approved, CHCWP then transfers the money to the village bank account such that the village is then responsible for executing their plans. "This encourages total ownership of the activity and builds capacity at the village level," says Mr Erickson.

CHCWP works specifically through the village and district governments thus fulfilling all obligations to tackle the issue of poverty and capacity building as described within the policies and laws of Tanzania and within the objectives of the 'Mkukuta'.

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10 Making Wildlife Work for Tanzania's Communities

The Cullman project is named after Mr Joseph F. Cullman III whose initial contribution was the basis for anti-poaching efforts in certain areas of Tanzania. Mr Cullman became involved with wildlife conservation in co-operation with Mr Robin Hurt. He felt that wildlife needed to be an attractive, lucrative and beneficial form of land use by local communities and wanted to ensure that wildlife protection would provide benefits toward a community in terms of benefits and poverty alleviation. To encourage long-term stewardship, it was felt that the local people needed to be made aware that wildlife was a resource if utilized appropriately could provide long-term benefits.

As a further part of stewardship, it was seen that local communities needed to be involved directly in the protection of the resource of which they derive a substantial benefit. Therefore, in direct co-ordination with the government, CHCWP operates anti-poaching patrols whereby local villagers gain further employment while working as village game scouts. From its inception in 1990 through 2004, in excess of 20,000 snares have been recovered and destroyed and over 500 poachers camps were destroyed. Today, the number of animals saved from excruciatingly painful deaths is estimated to be over 100,000. Over 21,000 square km are covered by these CHCWP supported anti-poaching teams and the excellent co-operation shared between CHCWP, local villages and the government is one of the longest standing public-private-partnerships currently in operation.

To complete the circle, CHCWP is launching a new program to help raise awareness of the importance of good environmental management and to help communities realize the importance of healthy, functional ecosystems of which the majority of Tanzanians directly depend on for their livelihood security. Wesley Kaleshu, Programme Officer for the CHCWP Community Healthy and Wellness Education Programme, says: "Our new program is very exciting as we are combining several traditional approaches in a new and innovative way." The Health and Wellness Programme is currently in start-up phase. But it has the goals of working with local governments to continue to develop capacity of local governments to manage natural resources, to conduct environmental education activities in the classrooms, and to further raise awareness by showing films in the partner villages in co-operation with the Maajabu Project.

Additionally, the program will seek out further partnerships with other government and NGO stakeholders to tackle critical threats to the livelihoods of the local people who have the most impact on the environment. Mr Kaleshu further explains: "If people are unhealthy, they can have a negative impact on the environment so this is where we must focus our efforts on."

Over its 16 year history, the Cullman and Hurt Project and Robin Hurt Safaris have endeavored to link tourism, conservation and development in a truly sustainable way. "Development is not a problem to be solved," comments David Erickson, adding "but something that is continuous process which all human communities struggle with and we are simply doing the best we can to make wildlife something that is important to the people of Tanzania."

This Article was first published in Daily News, Tanzania (May 2006)

11 News from Africa

Angola

Pedro vaz Pinto, the man who monitors the Giant Sable via the infrared cameras purchased with the assistance of Brendan O'Keeffe from South Africa and [Dallas Safari Club](#), was honored with the 2006 [Whitley Award](#) at a ceremony in London at the Royal Geographic Society, presided by Princess Anne. The award was not only an honor for vaz Pinto's contribution to Giant Sable conservation, but was sweetened by £30,000 dedicated to the project.

Vaz Pinto further reported that some more photos of breeding animals were taken and it appears that most females photographed were pregnant. Unfortunately the photographs revealed no sign of the bull! Unfortunately there were also incidents of poaching near the Ombe River discovered by a routine patrol operation. Realizing he had been spotted, the poacher fired three shots and the patrol returned fire. An AK-47 plus a bicycle and a backpack with clothes were found on the scene.

Botswana

The foot and mouth outbreak in Botswana has not been affected hunting operations in the country. The Botswana Wildlife Management Association (BWMA) confirmed this and further informed that the disease outbreak might, however, cause certain delays in the export of trophies.

Botswana

A 76 year old man was trampled to death by an elephant at a cattle post in Botswana. Another man was killed by an elephant last year in the same area. Area MP P. Kedikilwe said the growing number of elephant in the district is of great concern as they compete for land and resources with people.

Namibia

Almut Kronsbein has been appointed as new [Namibian Professional Hunters' Association](#) (NAPHA) CEO as from 1 June 2006. Carlin Sobotta took on the position of Executive Secretary,

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Hunters & Anglers are Big Spenders

According to a 2001 study by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), American hunters and anglers spent nearly 70 billion US-Dollars a year for their passion.

This \$70 billion figure means that if hunters and anglers were a corporation, it would rank #11 on the Fortune 500 list.

Hunters and anglers support more jobs in the USA than the country's largest employer Wal-Mart; hunters support more jobs than all of the nation's top airlines combined; and that anglers support more jobs than Exxon-Mobil, General Motors and Ford combined. The 13 million American hunters spent more than \$20 billion dollars — 50 percent of it for equipment, while 10 percent was for food and 9 percent was for transportation.

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Natasha Sheldon, who is currently responsible for the capturing of Scientific Data will also resume front office duties and Barbara von Marschall will be primarily responsible for sales etc. The NAPHA office can be contacted at napha@mweb.com.na

Namibia

The annual Outjo catalogue game auction had 885 animals on offer and a turnover in excess of N\$3 million with 36 buyers from all over Namibia participating. The top price for a white rhinoceros was N\$180,000. Roan antelope fetched N\$60,000, waterbuck and nyala an average price of N\$8,000 and N\$9,500 respectively; the highest price for sable antelope reached N\$32,000, red lechwe sold for N\$15,000 and eland went for N\$5,000.

Namibia

The current outbreak of rabies in kudu started about two years ago in the Wilhemstal area, but has also shown up east of Windhoek and southeast of Otjiwarango. Cases have also been reported at Omitara. The deadly viral disease is believed to be a consequence of an over-population of kudu, which then facilitates a rapid spread of the virus from one dense population to another through saliva and grooming. In particular, infection appears to occur when an uninfected animal browses a shrub that has just been browsed by an infected animal. Thus, moist saliva from the infected animal that is left on the shrub then is passed into the mouth of the uninfected animal as it browses there. The current outbreak has not been nearly as severe as the outbreaks in the past have been, but it is still possible that the disease could intensify during the next year or two.

Sierra Leone

The first ever photograph of a wild pygmy hippo has been taken by a camera trap during a ground-breaking wildlife survey of war-torn Sierra Leone. *Hexaprotodon liberiensis* is classified as "vulnerable" on the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) Red List of endangered species. Populations of these elusive hippos have been fragmented and in severe decline for many years, so much so that biologists feared it would soon follow its Madagascan cousin, *Hippopotamus madagascariensis*, into extinction. But the new sighting and the results of an extensive "search for survivors" suggest that the hippos have managed to endure the severe pressures of loss of habitat and subsistence hunting by rebel soldiers during 12 years of brutal civil war, says Sanjayan Muttulingam, lead scientist at The Nature Conservancy in Washington DC, which carried out the study. "The pygmy hippo is probably the rarest large mammal you could find in Africa." It most likely owes its survival to the fact that it lives in very inhospitable marshes and forests.

South Africa

Two members of the Gumbi community from northern KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, were taken on a visit to Damara-land in Namibia with the WWF/Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Black Rhino Range Expansion Project. The Gumbi community recently won a land-claim on 30,000 hectares of previously white-owned land in KwaZulu-Natal. As the land is good black rhino habitat and had been managed as successful game ranches, the Black Rhino Range Expansion Project is working closely with the new landowners to encourage them to become a future Project site

12 Hunting and Conservation: An Effective Tool or a Contradiction in Terms?

By P.A. Lindsey, PhD

*Editor's Note: Dr Laurence Frank send us this email "there will be two papers coming out of the survey on hunters' priorities and conservation that was done by Peter Lindsey and Alayne Mathieson at the [Dallas Safari Club](#) Convention in 2005. The first paper came out in May 2006 and was published in *Animal Conservation*. The second, on implications of this work for an accreditation system, is still under review at another journal. We are very encouraged by the results, which we think will be well received by mainstream conservation groups, as well as hunters' organizations."*

We are grateful to Peter Lindsey for a popular version of his paper; the original document can be downloaded from our "[Conservation Hunting](#)" link at the African Indaba website.

Hunting is a controversial topic, one that invariably leads to heated debate whenever discussed. On one side of the debate, animal rights groups are opposed outright to the killing of animals for sport, and on the other side there are hunters and pragmatic conservationists who view trophy hunting as a means to create financial incentives for wildlife conservation. Most articles written on the topic are either overwhelmingly for or against hunting and are usually written by people with vested interests. Until recently, there has been very little scientific assessment of the conservation role of trophy hunting, making objective debate difficult. Most people who appreciate wildlife are naturally opposed to hunting, but understanding among the general public of the pros and cons of hunting as a conservation tool is generally poor. Opposition to hunting is usually based on one or all of the following factors. Firstly, people often object to the idea of deriving pleasure from killing animals and resent the oft-portrayed image of a Gucci-clad American blasting wildlife for fun from a 4X4 vehicle. Secondly, people often fail to differentiate between modern day trophy hunting and the unsustainable slaughter of wildlife done by early European settlers in Africa. Thirdly, people genuinely struggle with the paradox posed by hunting: how on earth can killing wildlife actually help conserve it?

I am a passionate conservationist with a desire to see as much wildlife as possible being effectively conserved in Africa. Though I have no interest in hunting personally, I am supporter of trophy hunting because I see it as playing a vital role in conservation in Africa. Here's why....

Firstly, if managed properly, trophy hunting is sustainable. Trophy hunters normally remove around 2-5% of populations of ungulate species which is sustainable as most antelope species have the ability to grow at 20-30% per annum. Low off-take rates mean that trophy hunting can even play a role in the conservation of threatened and endangered species. When the hunting of white rhinos was legalized for example, the potential for farmers to make money from sustainable hunting encouraged widespread rhino reintroductions onto South African game ranches,

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rather than convert the land to subsistence cattle farming.

Accompanied by Chris Weaver ([WWF Life Project](#)) the Gumbi representatives visited community-run conservancies to get an understanding of the different business and institutional models that Namibian conservancies have adopted. The Gumbi land may have to be run more as a business with shareholders than a community-based conservancy. This is because the members of the Gumbi clan are widespread across the country and have not actually been on the land concerned for many years, unlike the situation in Namibia where conservancies are run by communities which live on the land.

South Africa

In a freak hunting accident 16-year-old Ryan Dankwerts was instantly killed when a ricocheting rock fragment hit the young man under the ear. Ryan was one of a group of 13 relatives and friends who went hunting to celebrate the start of the new hunting season last Saturday. The accident happened when the group of hunters spotted a bushbuck and all shot at the animal. A police spokesperson confirmed that a rock fragment was found in Ryan's skull and said that "one bullet might have hit a stone or a piece of rock and a fragment must have ricocheted and hit the boy under his right ear."

South Africa

Dr Peet van der Merwe and Prof. Melville Saayman published a national survey of the local South African hunting market. According to the study, which followed a 2004 pilot study in North West Province, the country's approximately 200,000 hunters are estimated to spend close to three billion Rand per year, two thirds of that amount being spent on game alone. This figure comes very close to the 2.935 billion Rand published in G R Damm's 2005 article "[Hunting in South Africa: Facts, Risks, Opportunities](#)".

We noted however that an article in "Farmer's Weekly" of 9th June 2006, about the vd Merwe/Saayman study mentioned that the local hunters "*completely outperform international trophy hunters*" who, according to the article only spend about 263 million Rand. This figure is definitely incorrect, since our detailed studies show that approximately 7,000 visiting hunters spent almost 900 million Rand in 2004. The expression "Complete Outperformance" is therefore somewhat biased, to say the least.

Tanzania

Chief Secretary Philemon Luhanjo said the Director of Wildlife in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Emmanuel Severe, was right in refusing to accept the transfer order given by his permanent secretary. Minister Anthony Diallo had asked his permanent secretary to transfer Severe and other directors from the ministry's headquarters, but they decided to stay put. Severe himself was supposed to go to the Forestry Institute in Arusha. Luhanjo said the PS violated public service regulations when he wrote transfer letters to Severe and the others who are presidential appointees. He said before doing so he should have asked for a clearance from the president who appointed the directors in the first place. "The PS also demoted them, and that was another mistake. I had to cancel out the order not to protect them but to defend the rule of law. If the PS is not satisfied he can complain to the president," Luhanjo emphasized. With this

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which helped the species to recover from a population size of 50-100 individuals to over 11,000 (Leader-Williams. 2005).

Secondly, trophy hunting can create vital financial incentives for local people to conserve wildlife. Africa's human population is growing rapidly and local economy growth is not keeping up. This means that there are more and more people in Africa reliant on natural resources for survival. These people can not tolerate losses of crops and livestock to wildlife, and often rely on bushmeat for protein. As a result, there is increasing pressure on the remaining wildlife populations occurring outside of protected areas and most species are declining in both number and distribution. The only way to halt or reverse this trend is to make wildlife valuable to local people: if a wild animal is worth more alive to a small scale farmer than the crops it eats, or than the meat that could be derived from snaring it, then s/he will probably conserve it.

One way of making wildlife valuable is through ecotourism. Ecotourism is an attractive option because it does not involve killing wildlife, and appeals to most people – taking only photos and leaving only footprints. The problem is there just aren't enough tourists to go around for all of Africa's national parks, never mind to pay for wildlife occurring outside of protected areas. Even in South Africa, which receives far more tourists per year than any other African country, ecotourism does not generate enough to cover the costs of protecting wildlife in most national parks. What hope then for countries such as Zambia, Tanzania, and Central African Republic with larger protected area networks and many fewer visitors?

Successful ecotourism operations are largely dependent on good infrastructure and political stability which means that relatively few African countries can really benefit. This is the crux of the issue: trophy hunting is so important for conservation in Africa because it creates incentives for people to conserve wildlife where alternative options are not viable (Lindsey et al. 2006).

Trophy hunting is currently conducted over an area of ~1,400,000 km² in sub-Saharan Africa, which exceeds that encompassed by national parks in the region (~1,100,000 km²) (see forthcoming article by Lindsey, Roulet & Romañach). In South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe trophy hunting was the primary stimulus for the conversion of vast areas of livestock land to game ranching, and in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Niger, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, trophy hunting creates incentives for wildlife conservation on communally owned land. In Namibia, for example, financial incentives from trophy hunting have contributed significantly to the development of over seven million hectares of conservancies on communal land (Weaver & Skyer 2003). In Tanzania, revenues from trophy hunting have encouraged 50 of 80 villages neighboring the Selous Game Reserve to create Wildlife Management Areas on their land (Baldus & Cauldwell 2004).

Trophy hunting can be done in extremely remote areas and significantly for Africa, is fairly resilient to political instability. In the first year of the land grab in Zimbabwe, for example, trophy hunting revenues dropped by only 12% compared to a 75% fall in ecotourism revenues (Booth 2002). IN CAR during recent years, trophy hunting has been the only source of revenue from

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action Luhanjo in fact, overruled not only the PS but also Minister Diallo.

It is reported that a Committee of Enquiry will start looking into hunting administration and that public pressure is mounting with a number of critical newspaper articles having appeared. Donors are also reported to be highly critical of the present situation

Uganda

Andrew Kasirye, a lawyer previously serving on the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into the mismanagement of the Global Fund against Aids, Malaria and Tuberculosis has been appointed Chairman of Board of Directors of Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to replace John Nagenda. The appointment took effect from May 3rd 2006. Kasirye will serve for three years.

Zambia

Minister Kabinga Pande has dissolved the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) management board that was appointed in January 2005. He announced in a statement yesterday that the dissolution of the board that was constituted on a three-year term was necessitated by the need to re-align the membership so that it could effectively play its role as stipulated in the ZAWA Act of 1998. The composition of the board should have had a diversity of requisite experience to enable it help Government in effectively over-seeing the ZAWA management. He commended the outgoing ZAWA board for its invaluable contribution especially in the recruitment of ZAWA director-general who assumed office in May.

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wildlife during times of economic crisis, with the effect that poaching levels are low in hunting concessions and wildlife occurs at higher densities than in neighboring national parks (see forthcoming article by Lindsey, Roulet & Romanach). In some areas, trophy hunting operators expend considerable effort and resources on anti-poaching. Illegal snaring for bush-meat can have a devastating impact on wildlife populations in a very short space of time. Given the lack of resources of most state-wildlife departments, assistance from hunting operators with anti-poaching can make a huge difference to conservation efforts on the ground. In Savé Valley Conservancy in Zimbabwe, for example, revenues generated from hunting, enable land owners to deploy at least four times the density of anti-poaching game scouts as occur in the adjacent Gonarezhou National Park.

In several African countries, most hunting operators are based in the countries in which they hunt and so leakage of revenues overseas is low. In contrast, many of the ecotourism operators that sell wildlife holidays in Africa are based in Europe or America and a significant proportion of revenues never reach the host countries. In Botswana, for example, 75% of hunting revenues remain within the country, compared to only 27% of tourism revenues (ULG Northumbrian 2001). Trophy hunting also generates higher revenues per person than ecotourism, and so environmental impacts from habitat conversion for infrastructure or fossil fuel use for high-volume travel are lower.

For a variety of reasons, trophy hunting is very important for wildlife conservation in Africa. If trophy hunting were banned, as should happen according to some animal rights groups, then incentives for wildlife conservation across vast tracts of Africa would disappear, wildlife would be whittled away by (and suffer hugely from) cable snares set for bush meat, and wildlife habitat would be degraded by livestock or replaced for crops.

It is thus vital to ensure that hunting continues. However, there is a lot wrong with the trophy hunting industry in Africa right now and there are many factors that prevent trophy hunting from contributing to conservation in the way that it should. These problems arise from unscrupulous behavior by a minority of hunting operators, corruption, and due to flaws in the legislative framework governing the industry.

Problems associated with hunting fall into three categories: ethical, biological, and social. Ethical problems associated with hunting are the most widely publicized, and include the infamous practice of canned lion hunting, shooting from vehicles, hunting predators with dogs, luring predators from protected areas and "put-and-take" hunting. Put and take hunting is the dubious practice of releasing trophy animals into a fenced area immediately prior to a hunt.

Social issues include corruption and unfair distribution of hunting revenues. Corruption affects multiple stages of the hunting industry, from government scouts who overlook the overshooting of quotas, to politicians favoring certain operators when granting concessions. Distributing hunting revenues fairly is difficult, and local people who bear the costs of living with wildlife are often excluded. Communities do not benefit adequately from hunting for several reasons including the failure of governments to devolve ownership of wildlife to local communities, the lack of

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legislation forcing community involvement in hunting, pocketing of revenues by local politicians, and a lack of the skills among local people required for them to become more actively involved in the hunting industry.

Biological problems associated with trophy hunting are perhaps most damaging for conservation. Most African wildlife departments lack the resources to conduct accurate game counts, and so quotas are often based on guesswork. Enforcing quotas is difficult across vast, remote hunting concessions and inevitably some unscrupulous operators overshoot. High profit margins create pressure for increased quota sizes and the division of hunting blocks, which can jeopardize the sustainability of off-take rates. For some species even where quotas seem conservative, the removal of a few individuals can be very damaging. Lions are a well publicized example of this is: male lions often kill cubs when they take over prides whose male has been killed by hunters. On game ranches, the value of wildlife as trophies means has encouraged (and maintained) the break up of land into small fenced parcels where predators such as wild dogs and cheetahs are considered to compete for potential trophies and are often persecuted. Some ranchers introduce exotic species to increase the diversity of trophies available, and others manipulate the genetics of animals to offer aberrant trophies such as white springbok or 'golden' blesbok: practices which contribute nothing to conservation objectives (Hamman et al 2003).

So, there is a lot wrong with the trophy hunting industry in Africa at the moment. These problems are increasingly publicized at a time when there is increasing resistance to the idea of hunting animals for sport, particularly among urban residents of the developed world. Visible action is urgently required from the hunting industry to maximize the conservation role of hunting, and to deal effectively with unscrupulous operators and unethical hunting practices. In the absence of such efforts, negative publicity surrounding hunting will continue and ultimately foster support for hunting bans.

For all the problems associated with the industry, the net impact of trophy hunting for conservation is without doubt positive and I believe that removal of revenues from trophy hunting would have catastrophic consequences for wildlife conservation in Africa. Kenya is a case in point. Animal rights activists have played a big role in promoting continuation of the ban on trophy hunting in Kenya. The hunting ban there makes it extremely difficult to generate incentives for wildlife conservation outside of protected areas and is one reason for the negative trends in wildlife populations that have been experienced there in recent years (Child 2005). Likewise, when hunting was banned in Zambia during 2001-2003, there was an upsurge in poaching due to the removal of incentives for local people to conserve wildlife (Lewis & Jackson 2005).

Reducing problems associated with the hunting industry and avoiding future bans is vital. One suggestion to help achieve this is through the introduction of a certification system involving hunting operators (Packer 2005). This would involve the rating of hunting operators in terms of their commitment to conservation and community development by an independent audit team. Research that I did with colleagues during 2005 suggested that such a system has the potential to make a difference. We found that hunting clients are more committed to hunting in a 'conser-

vation-friendly' manner than operators realize. However, at present, inexperienced hunting clients have no way of selecting between reputable and unscrupulous hunting operators and have a poor understanding of what activities constitute "good" and "bad" practice for conservation in Africa. If "conservation-friendly" operators were awarded a green label, our data suggest that clients would likely prefer to hunt with such outfits and that they would have a competitive advantage over other operators lacking such certification. In this way, a certification system could create an incentive for hunting operators to hunt in a manner more in line with conservation objectives.

Of course, some clients do not care about conservation issues and provide a ready market for unethical hunts; for this reason, strict regulation of the hunting industry will always be required. The most effective form of regulation would be self-regulation by the hunting industry. For example, unscrupulous operators could have trophy entries barred from record books, or be barred from hunting conventions. Effective self-regulation would go a long way towards making a skeptical audience believe that trophy hunters are serious about conservation.

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13 Lord Derby Eland in Guinea and Mali

African Indaba received a note from Dr. Serge Darroze, of the EU-funded "Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas Management for the Bafing-Faleme Transboundary Protected Areas" in Guinea and Mali about Western Giant Eland in the project areas. One of the project's local partners from Eaux et Forêts in Siguiri at the border with Mali sent information that he had found proof of a nucleus of Western Giant Eland. Three of the rare animals had been killed by a poacher, and one month later another three were killed by the same man. The poacher of these six animals seems to have fled to Mali. The skins of the initial three Giant Eland are now kept in the Department des Eaux et Forêts office in Conakry, Guinea. Two skulls of the eland killed in the second incident were recovered and are now with the Bafing-Faleme Protected Area office in Tougué.

This information encouraged the governments of both countries to expand the project areas in Mali and in Guinea westward towards the Bakoye River. The researchers have made several short surveys in the area, and tracks and droppings indicated an apparently fairly large number of animals present between extreme southern Mali and Northern Guinea. They are cooperating with the local communities in the community reserve Manden Oula with 136,000 hectares of communal lands under full or partial protection. Although the Western Giant Eland is already completely protected in both countries, the species is under serious risk since the implementation of the law is very lax. Dr Darroze writes further that another planned study project had to be cancelled due to financial and administrative difficulties.

At the moment the population at high risk all over the area from traditional hunters and there are indications that some unscrupulous hunting safari operators hunted Giant Eland in the Limacolé area, south of Kita in Mali, where the species can be found seasonally. There are reports of several animals killed near Keniéba in the south of the Kayes region. There are also indications that this population might be exchanging individuals with the Niokolo Koba population as we have reports of single animals or small herds moving between both areas.

The researchers initiated an awareness campaign with the local people regarding the high conservation value of the species, but success was limited. The cultural importance of traditional hunters' initiation rites in the Malinké area is very significant and one of the seven levels of achievement includes killing an eland.

On an incidental note, there seems to be some confusion in the minds of the locals between Giant Eland and Giraffe. The researchers believe that this comes from a similarity in the *Maninka* language between Western Giant Eland "*Minan djian*" (*minan* meaning *spotted/stripped buck* and is being used for bushbuck, and *djian* means "*giant*") and Giraffe "*Minan kan djian*" is translated as "*giant spotted/stripped buck with a long neck*". In the 1930s, Roure indicated Giraffe being very rare in the eastern Niokolo area, leaving the conclusion that Giraffe may have existed also in the Bafing area. But when locals now talk about giraffe, they show the picture of the Western Giant Eland.

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14 Grey-Wing Partridge in the Eastern Cape: Are They Declining and Why?

By Dr. Aldo Berruti, [AGRED](#)

Introduction

The Grey-wing Partridge (*Scleroptila africanus*, *alt. Francolinus africanus*) is often regarded as the champagne gamebird of South Africa, as it demands skilled shooting in a physically-demanding hunt. Many a gamebird hunter fondly recalls the sudden noisy flushing of a large covey of Grey-wing Partridge, flying fast and low away from pointing dogs in glorious mountainous surroundings. The Eastern Cape is the core home of the Grey-wing Partridge industry, usually located in conjunction with stock farming. As with all South African gamebirds, the industry depends on the sustainable utilization of wild-bred birds. In a comparison of target species available in South Africa, the Grey-wing Partridge is usually the most expensive gamebird shooting available.

In the 1980s, the Grey-wing Partridge in the Eastern Cape was the subject of an intensive research program initiated by African Gamebird Research Education and Development Trust (AGRED) and carried out by the FitzPatrick Institute, with Rob Little as the primary researcher. A number of papers were published e.g. Little and Crowe (1993a&b) and Little *et al.* (1993). This work established guidelines for a sustainable hunting industry which continues today.

The Problem

Recently there have been reports of declining Grey-wing Partridge numbers in this area. In addition, there was an unsubstantiated suggestion in a magazine article stating that hunting has decimated Grey-wing and Redwing (*S. levaillantii*) Partridges in parts of the Eastern Cape. Given that the regulations for the hunting industry in South Africa are currently under review, and with the increase in anti-hunting sentiments and pressures, such assertions could be regarded as "evidence" of the negative impact of hunting. A pro-active response to unsubstantiated conjecture is desirable under such circumstances.

Thus AGRED decided to hold a workshop with professional local outfitters in the Stormberg area of the Eastern Cape, in the heart of Grey-wing Partridge hunting industry. John McCormick, a Trustee of AGRED, set up the workshop in April 2006 and it was hosted by Luke and Vicky Bell. Six people attended the meeting, but it included feedback from another three operators.

Ultimately, the common ground for those present was that Grey-wing Partridges should remain abundant in the long-term. The meeting aimed to achieve a better understanding of the problem. A high degree of consensus emerged as to the problem and its causes.

Conclusions

It is clear that Grey-wing Partridge stocks have declined in some areas in the Stormberg, as indicated by the fact that at least two operators were not offering Grey-wing shooting during the current hunting season. In one case, this is the first break in some 16 years of shooting Grey-wing Partridge.

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14 The Grey-wing Partridge in the Eastern Cape

What was the cause of the decline in Grey-wing Partridge numbers? Changes in farming practise appear to be the underlying cause, with the farmers now carrying more grass on their farms than previously. This in turn seems to have two underlying causes. The first is a change from cattle to sheep (because of the low wool price). Sheep prefer short grass, resulting in management for short grass. Sheep produce a more closely-cropped cover. Additionally, farmers now carry more grass as insurance for stock feed in poor years. Grey-wing Partridge prefer short grass with bare area, with lots of haasgras (*Merxmuellera*) and uintjies (monocotyledonous) bulbs. The denser longer grass associated with newer farming practise does not favor Grey-wing Partridge. Because stock farming is far more economically important than the income from Grey-wing Partridge shooting, management will always favor stock farming.

Small predators, notably caracal (lynx) have become more abundant, including the arrival of Black-backed Jackal, with several possible causes, including a greater prey base because of longer grass providing more shelter and food for prey such as rodents. Black Sparrowhawks have become more common, using alien trees around farmsteads, and have been seen to take Grey-wing Partridge.

And the role of hunting? Firstly, most operators take fewer Grey-wing Partridge than the guidelines suggested by Rob Little. Thus harvesting is 25-40% of each covey and not 50%, and few areas are shot every year, whilst most are shot every second year or greater intervals. Areas which are rested from hunting do not regain previous high densities in the 1980s. New areas not previously shot carry similar densities of Grey-wing Partridge to surrounding areas which are hunted. These observations suggest that it is factors other than hunting which are affecting Grey-wing Partridge numbers.

Future path

AGRED believes it is vital that the findings of this workshop are given a wider public airing before the unsubstantiated view that hunting is the primary cause of a decline in Grey-wing Partridge takes root in an uncritical audience. Although further work is required to provide a better understanding of the situation, this workshop is far more likely to provide a better insight than the conjecture about the role of hunting.

What is next step? The local participants have offered data sets from hunts for analysis which we will examine to see if we can confirm these conclusions. Such data sets are often notoriously difficult to unravel, particularly because the annual rainfall can create a much larger change in population numbers in the short-term than any slow change from another source. AGRED plans to subject these data sets to detailed statistical analysis.

And the future? AGRED plans to hold a second workshop in the area and draw in professional Grey-wing Partridge outfitters from a broader area, including Graaf Reinet and Lady Grey. We hope that with some insight into the data and a broader participation, we can develop an action plan to gain greater understanding. Ultimately, it is likely that we will need to carry out some experimental management or find ideal natural situations which can demonstrate the underlying causes.

15 CIC Edmond Blanc Award 2006 for Sango Game Ranch

By Gerhard R Damm

Sango Game Ranch in Zimbabwe's Save Conservancy, represented by David Goosen, was honored with the prestigious CIC Edmond Blanc Award at the 53rd General Assembly of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation. In his laudation, Dr. Nicolas Franco, CIC Honorary President and Chair of the Selection Committee, praised the singular efforts of Willy Pabst, the owner of Sango, and of his dedicated team, in maintaining an exemplary piece of unspoiled Africa.

Sango, the largest individual property in the Save Valley Conservancy (SVC), stretches over 60,000 hectares from the Bikita hills in the west to the Save River in the East. Sango actively involves local communities, making them aware of the values of wildlife and its conservation and directly sharing economic benefits derived from hunting and ecotourism. The Save Conservancy Trust encourages and assists five rural district councils in asset-sharing partnership schemes involving the abundant wildlife. Cooperative arrangements exist also with the Zimbabwean National Parks Authority to repopulate Gonarezhou National Park with Black Rhino, Eland, Wildebeest and Zebra.

Since 1999, Sango invested massively in wildlife re-stocking: it started with 15 Eland in 1994 and 30 Buffalo in 1995; 32 Sable antelopes and 23 Waterbuck were purchased in 1999; in 2002, 26 Nyala were reintroduced with 10 Lion and 10 White rhino being added in 2005. Today, 15 Black and 7 White rhino are roaming on Sango, together with approximately 250 Buffalo and around 350 Elephant. Over 5000 Impala, 2500 Blue Wildebeest, 2300 Zebra and well over 1000 Eland and Kudu mix with abundant Bushbuck, Bushpig, Warthog, Giraffe and Waterbuck. The Sable herd increased to 60 individuals. The careful management produces excellent trophy quality for the discerning hunter and Sango's uncompromising adherence to sporting ethics provides a unique hunting experience for the visitor.

Adaptive management processes, supported by research and careful monitoring, balance wildlife population dynamics with habitat requirements to fulfill the Sango vision of "establishing a conservation area where natural assets are not only maintained in their pristine, natural state, but also utilized on a sustainable basis for the socio-economic benefit of the region".

The Edmond Blanc Award is named after Edmond Blanc, the first administrator of the [International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation](#). Blanc, a passionate hunter and recipient of the Weatherby Award, was also a well-known conservationist who discovered the rare Kouprey (*Bos sauve*) in Cambodia.

The award was created more than 50 years ago, and originally bestowed for a unique hunting trophy. Later, the criteria changed towards the exemplary management of a hunting area. Dr. Nicolas Franco, the Honorary President of CIC, was instrumental of introducing the present award criteria: "Protected areas, conservation organizations or other bodies, with a focal interest, proven track record and unusually excellent achievements in sustainable incentive-driven-management of wild fauna within natural habitats."

African Indaba congratulates Willy Pabst and his team as the first African recipients of the Edmond Blanc Award.

16 Our Shared Kingdom at Risk: Human-Lion Relationships in the 21st Century

By Dr. Laly L. Lichtenfeld

In 2005, I completed a six year doctoral study of human-lion relationships in the Tarangire ecosystem of Northern Tanzania and received my Ph.D. from Yale University. The goal of my research was to determine the primary social and ecological factors influencing interactions between people and lions. In terms of human communities, I considered three major stakeholders encountering lions in the Tarangire ecosystem: the professional sport hunting industry, the photographic safari industry and local African communities. In an effort to introduce an applied component to my research, I also co-founded the People & Predators Fund, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization originally based at Yale and now located in New Jersey. In recognition that the future of many wild animals lies primarily in the hands of the people living among them, the People & Predators Fund is promoting a new approach to conservation that links the long-term survival of species like lions with the healthy and responsible development of human communities. Our mission is supported by the six years of research summarized below.

The rationale behind my research and the People & Predators Fund is deeply grounded in the belief that environmental and social health is inherently intertwined. Today, a thorough integration of ecological and social knowledge is required to meet the increasing challenges of wildlife management and conservation outside of protected areas. Indeed, interdisciplinary studies are becoming increasingly popular and commonly involve the collaboration of scientists from a variety of disciplines.

The Tarangire ecosystem (12,000 km²) is an ideal area to investigate human-lion relationships. Including two national parks as well as hunting and Maasai village lands, it represents a complex arena of multiple land uses, diverse human interests and lions. At the time of my study, conflicts between people and lions outside the boundary of Tarangire National Park were prevalent and widely acknowledged, but little scientific data about either the social or ecological factors creating the problems were available.

I developed my social research to compare people's attitudes toward lions, the nature of their encounters with them and the types of human-lion conflict that occur. Despite vastly different backgrounds, livelihoods and types of interactions with lions, all of the stakeholders expressed a deep and passionate value for lions. Among the sport hunting and photographic respondents, this value is related to the beauty, power and potential danger lions pose as well as to the economic benefits associated with lions. However, it was interesting to find that the financial benefits derived from lions were not necessarily enough to motivate local conservation action. Many individuals from both the photographic and sport hunting industries indicated that due to an abundance of lions in Tanzania, the possible loss of the lion from the Tarangire ecosystem would be disappointing but not particularly significant from a business point of view. In fact, most respondents remarked that the market-based economy of sport hunting often made it difficult for companies, particularly small to

medium sized ones, to forego the profits of hunting a lion if it was of an inappropriate age, or in extreme cases, sex. Additionally, many operators felt that personal investments in conservation were somewhat insecure given ongoing debates over conflicting rights to land and wildlife use.

From a Maasai point of view, an important value and respect for lions as a significant and worthy foe has grown from a history of traditional lion hunts. This value influenced Maasai tolerance for lions, motivating a desire to see that some lions are always present. In this regard, it is important to recognize that positive values for lions do exist among local community members and that these may be integral to developing local lion conservation programs. Of course, on the other hand, a noteworthy contempt for livestock killers was also evident. I estimate that nearly 40 lions are killed annually by the Maasai on the eastern boundary of Tarangire National Park in retaliation for livestock predation. However, my research showed that Maasai motivations for killing lions went well beyond conflicts with livestock to include the sheer risk of living alongside a large and dangerous predator (particularly for women and despite their low likelihood of encountering lions). Cultural traditions and perceptions of the lack of rights over wildlife and the inequitable distribution of wildlife tourism revenue were also motivations for killing lions.

With an in-depth understanding of the unique assemblies of psychological, political, socio-cultural and economic factors in-

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Symposium

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16 Our Shared Kingdom at Risk: Human-Lion Relationships

fluencing human attitudes toward lions in hand (much of which is oversimplified or omitted here for lack of space), the next stage of my research was to relate the effects of these attitudes toward the 'big cats' distribution and abundance throughout the Tarangire ecosystem. Collecting ecological data on lions outside of protected areas is a difficult job. I found Tarangire lions changed their behaviors, becoming more wary and secretive once they moved across the national park boundary. As conventional methods of photographic identification appeared less useful, I instead turned to traditional hunting knowledge and the ancient art of wildlife tracking. Enlisting the help of Hadzabe Bushmen – renowned to be some of the best trackers in all of Africa – I conducted spoor counts from road transects, a non-invasive technique used successfully in southern Africa to provide estimates of lion and leopard density.

The results of my ecological research demonstrated that lions moved throughout the Tarangire ecosystem in response to the seasonal movements of wild prey populations. While lion prides were found to be resident both inside and outside of the national park, lion abundance was highest in the national park during the dry season when prey populations congregate in the park around the Tarangire River. Despite concern over the effects of sport hunting on lion populations, I found the hunting concession I surveyed to have a relatively healthy lion population with a comparable distribution of juveniles, subadults and adults to that of the park. This suggests that the sport hunting of lions can be an important conservation tool in situations where hunting ethics are strongly upheld, quotas are scientifically determined and monitored and where important regulations disallowing the hunting of immature and/or female cats are respected. On the other hand, in the village area, where livestock herders, farmers and sport hunters were present, the lion population was comparatively lower in abundance and comprised of a large proportion of subadult animals – an age group particularly notorious for its risky behavior as livestock raiders.

Overall, I estimate that approximately 600 lions reside within the 12,000 km² of the Tarangire ecosystem. Of the human communities most capable of impacting the lion's long-term future, the Maasai most certainly stand out. An increasing resentment of lions fueled by local perceptions of the inequitable distribution of wildlife benefits suggests that these communities may become less tolerant of lions as time passes. As such, the future of the "Tarangire lion" seems questionable. More and more land is being cultivated, or at the very least, plowed to demonstrate ownership of land. While the Maasai have proven themselves capable of living with lions, intensive agriculture and large carnivores do not mix well.

However, a more positive future can be envisioned if all of the stakeholders work collaboratively toward improved lion conservation and management. Fortunately, while a variety of different attitudes toward lions were prevalent in the Tarangire ecosystem, all of the stakeholders indicated an interest in future collaboration and the potential development of a forum to communicate and coordinate their diverse interests. Having established a positive working relationship with all of the various stakeholders, the People & Predators Fund is well poised to act as a facilitator if such a forum were to develop. In addition, as part of its mission, the People & Predators Fund is emphasizing the

essential need to work with local communities to develop participatory programs for the improved livelihoods of humans and lions alike. Our long-term vision is of a landscape where lions continue to live among people and can be appreciated for not only their intrinsic value but also for their various cultural and societal uses including traditional hunting, sport hunting and photographic tours.

Dr Laly Lichtenfeld is a Research Affiliate of Yale University and Executive Director, People & Predators Fund. Download here complete dissertation [HERE](#). For more information about the People & Predator Fund, please contact Laly Lichtenfeld at Lichtenfeld@people-predators.org or visit the website at www.people-predators.org.

17 Bwabwata Concessions in Namibia Welcome Hunters

By Gerhard R Damm

In a historic decision on June 21st, the representatives of the Kyaramacan Residents' Trust awarded the two hunting concessions within the Bwabwata National Park to John Wambach of Pro-Guiding (Buffalo Concession in the west) and to Allan Cilliers of Allan Cilliers Hunting Safaris (Kwando Concession in the east) for the 2006 hunting season. This is the story behind the long expected new concessions:

Introduction

From the North Eastern corner of Namibia protrudes, appendix-like, the [Caprivi Strip](#); a thin panhandle some 450km long and with a surface area of 20,000km². It is surrounded by Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana. The Kwando River forms the border between east and west Caprivi, 110 km west of Katima Mulilo. About 78,000 people of more than six ethnic groups live in East and West Caprivi, the majority of whom practise subsistence agriculture, with some cash cropping, and de-

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Ivory & People

"Few wildlife resources could provide African communities with a better financial incentive to steward elephant populations than reopening the ivory trade. Where property rights protections are in place, countries should be rewarded with special dispositions under CITES to sell ivory. This will inspire those countries failing to manage their herds in a sustainable manner to take notice. The key to the elephant's future success is imparting its economic value to the people who have the greatest control over the species' chances at survival. Only un-owned resources are exploited to extinction."

J. Bishop Grewell

Research Associate, Property and Environment Research Center, Bozeman, Montana and a J.D. candidate at Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois

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pend on trees, wild fruits, fish, water lilies, reeds and grasses for food, grazing, shelter, fuel and farming implements. Only 15% of the population live in the main town of Katima Mulilo.

Four main languages are spoken, with Lozi the most dominant; 4% speak Bushman (San) languages, principally Khwe. The 4,000 Khwe people live in ten villages of West Caprivi within Bwabwata National Park between Divundu and Kongola. The Khwe form the large majority of the population. Other population groups are the !Kung and Hambukushu. Not long ago, Ben Ngobara was elected as the new Khwe Chief in a democratic election recognized by the Namibian Government, as successor to the late Kippi George. Subsequently, the members of the community established the Kyaramacan Residents' Trust with ten community representatives serving on the board.

Parks, People and Wildlife

Antiquated protected area management is linked to colonialism and imposed foreign cultural norms. Strategies have relied heavily on measures to keep out people. Local people were considered a threat to wildlife. The establishment of protected areas all over Africa severely affected the livelihoods and integrity of resident peoples and still continues to do so. These negative effects severely eroded local support for protected areas.

With a unique innovative approach the Namibian [Ministry of Environment & Tourism](#) changed the status of the Bwabwata National Park. This allows the communities living there to draw benefits from wildlife and tourism in the park in line with the conceptual framework of the Namibian conservancy program. The result shows the "Parks and Neighbors" concept in action where protected areas stimulate regional and local development through a combination of sustainable extractive and non-extractive use options. The enlightened policy of the Namibian Government thus created a positive community attitude towards Bwabwata National Park.

The program is a partnership between MET, the [Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations](#) (NACSO), [IRDNC](#), [NNF](#), [WWF](#), and a variety of conservation and development NGOs as well as established and emerging conservancy committees. Funding has been obtained from [USAID](#), WWF and the Namibian Government. The program is active throughout the conservancy areas of Namibia. The communities' response to the acquisition of rights over wildlife has been reflected by wildlife husbanding efforts that have reversed downward population trends and precipitated unprecedented wildlife recoveries across northern communal areas.

The award of the Buffalo and Kwando concessions to hunting safari operators by the Kyaramacan Association is, however, THE ground-breaking event the Khwe have been waiting for since 1990. Now they receive their first benefits from the Park's wildlife resources.

Bwabwata National Park

The Bwabwata National Park was formerly known as Caprivi Game Park after it was proclaimed in 1968. Until Namibia's independence in 1990, the 5,715 Km² Park was controlled and patrolled by the SADF. It has since been managed by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) as a conservation area. In 1999, the Namibian Government renamed this park Bwab-

wata National Park and is in the process of adjusting the borders to include the Mahango Game Park and Kwando Triangle. Bwabwata National Park is 32 km wide (the entire width of the Caprivi strip) and 190 km long and its unspoiled wilderness stretch from the Okavango river in the west to the Kwando river in the east, bordering with Angola in the north and Botswana in the south. Traffic in this area is restricted to the main road between Kavango and Eastern Caprivi.

Mudumu National Park lies east of the Kwando where it borders on Botswana, and further south and west is Mamilili National Park. The terrain is generally flat with sporadic 30 to 60 meters high vegetation-covered dunes. The deciduous woodlands are dominated by trees such as wild seringa, copalwood, Zambezi teak, wild teak, wild raisin species, and bushwillow. Roan and kudu roam throughout the area, while buffalo occur towards the west in the Buffalo Core Conservation Area and in the east along the Kwando River. Huge herds of elephant can be observed during the dry season (June-November). Because there is no surface water, most species congregate along the Okavango and Kwando rivers and at the Malombe and Ndvasa pans in the north east. As many as 339 bird species have been recorded in West Caprivi.

The area is covered in thick deposits of Kalahari sands with very little of the underlying geology exposed, except along river courses. The extensive Kalahari sands and the rivers with their associated flood plains are the two major features which shape the landscape: river floodplains, serrated by old river channels and dominated by reed and papyrus beds as well as grasslands; along the watercourses, riverine woodlands support a diversity of tall trees; old river drainage lines under windblown sand deposits support Mopane woodlands and in the extensive sand dunes are covered by Kalahari woodlands.

Tender Process

IRDNC, NNF, WWF, and the MET assisted the Kyaramacan Association to establish and apply for quotas for two hunting concessions in Bwabwata National Park. This assistance included preparation of tender documents, advertising the concession through NAPHA, announcement and review of tenders,

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Conservation Hunting Africa

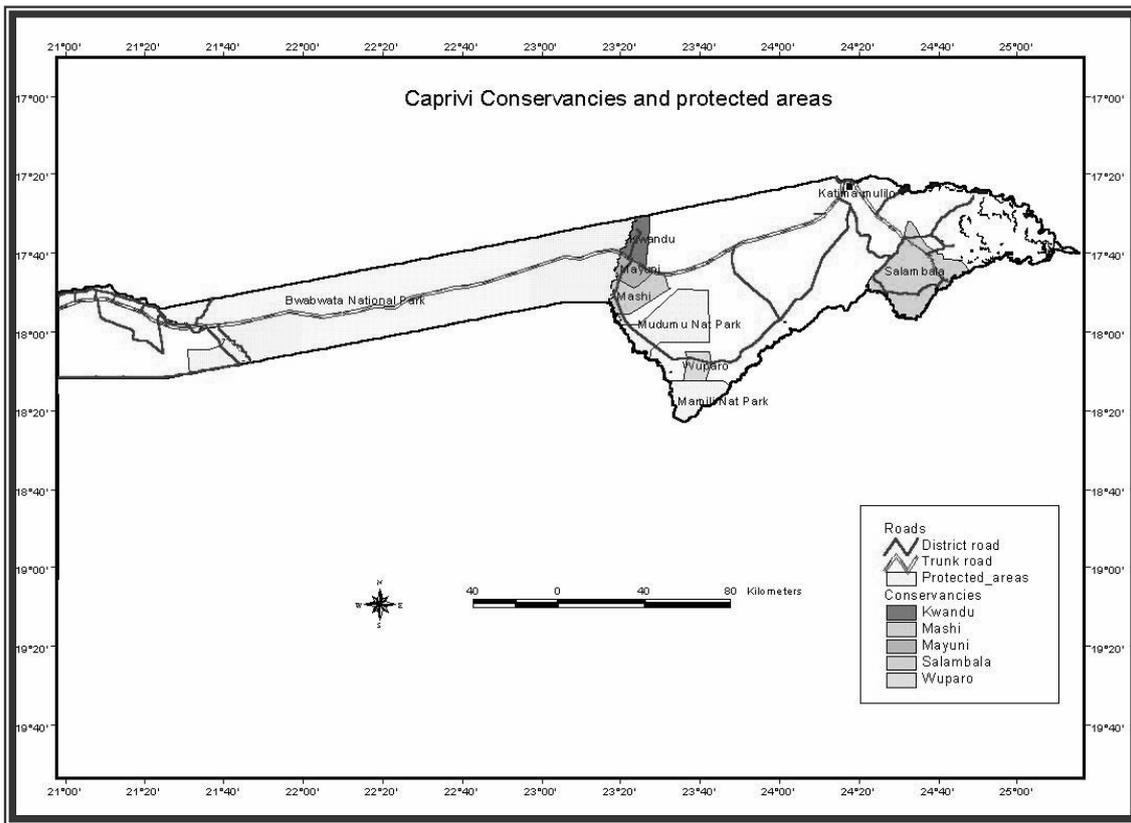
We recommend that readers access the new page "Conservation Hunting Africa" within the African Indaba webpage frequently. Please click this link

www.africanindaba.co.za/conservationafrica.htm

and enjoy a rapidly growing selection of articles, papers and documents relating to "incentive-driven-conservation" and hunting on the African Continent. Some of the material contains very interesting maps for hunting concessions and wildlife areas.

We will constantly enlarge this page.

The Caprivi Strip



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interviewing a select number of outfitters, drawing up contracts and hunting guidelines, and awarding the concessions to two safari outfitters. The mentioned NGOs, along with the MET, will support the Kyaramacan Association in the management of the trophy hunting concessions later this year.

The tender process distinguished between trophy animals with a set quota and problem animals for which no quota is provided. The category "trophy animals" is again subdivided in a "guaranteed" and an "optional" payment section.

The successful bidder is obliged to pay in full for the complete "guaranteed" part of the authorized quota (the quota for which payment is "guaranteed" in the Buffalo and the Kwando Concessions consists per concession of 4 elephant bulls, 4 buffalo bulls, 1 sable (optional for the Kwando concession), 3 kudu, 1 duiker, 1 steenbuck, 1 lion and 1 leopard. The full payment is due even if the quota is not completely utilized. Animals on "optional payment quota" have to be paid for only after the animal has been successfully hunted or wounded by the hunter. The prices for such animals are also based on the offer made by the outfitter in the successful tender document. The Buffalo Concession has the following species as optional quota: 4 elephant bull, 4 buffalo bulls, 1 buffalo cow, 1 leopard, 1 hyaena, 1 sable, 1 crocodile. In the Kwando Concession the quotas are identical, but two spotted hyaena are offered additionally.

In both concessions problem animals, if so designated by the appropriate authorities, can also be hunted and the outfitters had to offer individual trophy fees for a range of species (elephant,

lion, buffalo, hippo, hyaena, crocodile, and leopard) with a prescribed reserve price as a minimum bid. The Kyaramacan Association and Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) must formally declare and designate an individual animal as a "Problem Animal" prior to the hunt. The hunt will be undertaken under the guidance of a MET and Kyaramacan Association official who will identify the problem animal. A full report must be submitted to MET and the Association. Interestingly the contract also states "should the concessionaire be found to be influencing declaration of a problem animal, then such animal(s) shall be deducted from the concession trophy quota", thus factually eliminating "problems with problem animals" as experienced in other African countries.

Every bidder had also to specify the type and number of local staff, the duration of the employment and the estimated monthly salaries in addition to a discretionary offer concerning the successful bidder's willingness and ability to contribute, assist and work closely with the communities within the concession area in developing and managing hunting in Bwabwata. The meat from the hunted animals will be distributed to the villages according to specific guidelines.

The Kyaramacan Association reserved the right to award the hunting concession to the safari operators that the association deemed the most advantageous to the long-term operation of both hunting concession and the welfare of its local communities. The highest tender price, while being very important, was not necessarily the final determining factor. Equally important in the selection of a safari operator are common views of conserva-

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tion ethics and the willingness to engage pro-actively and work cooperatively with the communities in establishing Bwabwata as a renowned hunting destination in Africa.

Tenders had to be submitted to the WWF office in Windhoek on June 9th. The tender review process was done during the following week and the participating parties were informed of the tender status on June 14th. This was followed by an interview process of applicants who qualified for closer consideration. **The decision of the Kyaramacan Association was announced on June 21st after contract details had been approved by MET.**

It is interesting to note that payments made by the concessionaires have to be made in Namibian Dollars with the exchange rate applicable at the day of payment. Due to the recent drop in the Namibian Dollar against the US-Dollar (which formed the basis for the tender), the Khwe Community (and not just the concessionaire) will receive a welcome windfall profit.

Trophy Hunting in Bwabwata NP

The tenders were awarded to two well-known and respected members of the [Namibian Professional Hunters' Association](#) (NAPHA). The "**Buffalo Concession**", named after the Conservation Core Area, went to **John Wambach** and **Allan Cilliers'** bid for the "**Kwando Concession**", named after the Kwando River, was the other successful offer. The two Namibian safari operators were selected from a pool of more than a dozen applicants.

The **hunting season runs from 1st February to 30th November**, but hunting will effectively start only towards end of July in 2006 due to the drawn out tender adjudication process with the respective clearance of many administrative hurdles. Tourist hunters must be accompanied by a Namibian registered Big Game Professional Hunter and a designated Association Ranger and/or MET staff member.

Hunting in the Bwabwata Concessions is subject to a set of norms and regulations which are specified in detail in the "Operational Conditions & Guidelines" and certain Park Rules and Regulations as prescribed by Ordinance 4 of 1975. All hunting will be conducted "on foot". No hunting will be permitted within sight of a public road, in any case not nearer than 500 meters to a public road. Crocodiles and hippos may be hunted at or in the rivers, but hunting for any other species must be conducted at least one kilometer away from such rivers. Driving vehicles on floodplains is not permitted, and any animal killed there must be removed by boat or porters. In any case there will be no driving on places other than existing roads, although harvested animals may be recovered by vehicle. There will be designated non-hunting zones and no hunting or baiting will be allowed within a kilometer of an international boundary unless prior permission is obtained from MET. Whilst driving on roads used by tourists, fire arms and game carcasses must not be visible to tourists.

Wounded animals must be followed up and destroyed by a Professional Hunter, with or without the client, within 7 days. The assigned staff members must accompany the hunt, and identify the wounded animal. If the wounded animal is destroyed by a Professional Hunter in the absence of the client, the trophy will become the property of the State.

MET, through the Association, reserves the right to suspend, cancel or terminate the operations of a Concessionaire if he/she

has made himself/herself guilty of unethical ways of hunting, non-compliance with the regulations, the concession agreement, the Nature Conservation Ordinance (Ordinance 4 of 1975) or subsequent legislation.

The visiting hunters will be accommodated in temporary tented safari camps that comply with the minimum requirements for grading as determined by the Namibia Tourism Board (NTB).

Hunters, who are looking for a true adventure in Wild Africa should make plans quickly. The hunting season ends in November and we are already in July! To some the rules might seem a bit stiff with regards to a "Wild Africa" safari. It is my considered opinion, however, that these well-thought out norms and standards will enhance the hunting experience for all those who are lucky enough to accompany John or Allan on a memorable safari. Last, but not least, I hope that this fine example of "incentive-driven-conservation" through the cooperative effort of the Namibian Government, NAPHA, an alliance of non-hunting conservation NGOs, and outside donor agencies will find the attention of other African governments. Transparent hunting block allocations and "Good Governance" are alive and kicking in Africa – let's spread the word!

Contact Details

John Wambach and Allan Cilliers have a well-established reputation as first class safari operators and skilled hunters. They are well known in local and overseas hunting circles. Their positive attitude towards traditional fair chase hunts has been the talk at many camp fires in Africa and a number of international hunting magazines carried fascinating stories of their hunting adventures. Go and experience "Wild Africa" with them!

Bwabwata Buffalo Concession

Contact Details: John Wambach, Pro-Guiding Safaris, PO Box 2288, Ngweze, Namibia, Telephone +264 (81) 12888373, Fax +264 (61) 128 8373, email: proguide@iway.na, web: <http://www.proguide.iway.na/>

Bwabwata Kwando Concession

Contact Details: Allan Cilliers; Allan Cilliers Hunting Safaris, PO Box 5703, Ausspanplatz (Windhoek), Namibia, Telephone: +264 (67) 232 676 or Mobile +264 (81) 129 0708, email allanc@iafrica.com.na

"[The] love of hunting is almost a physiological characteristic. A man who does not like to see, hunt, photograph or otherwise outwit birds or animals is hardly normal. We are dealing therefore with something that lies pretty deep. Some can live without the exercise and control the hunting instinct, just as I suppose some can live without work, play, love business or other vital adventure. But in these days we regard such deprivations as unsocial. Opportunity for exercise all the normal instincts has become more and more an unalienable right."

Aldo Leopold (1887-1948)