

AFRICAN INDABA

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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

1 Scientists and Hunters Meet in London

By Gerhard R Damm

The [Sustainable Use Specialist Group \(SUSG\)](#) under the IUCN Species Survival Commission and the [Zoological Society of London](#) invited interested stakeholders and the public to a symposium „Recreational Hunting, Conservation and Rural Livelihoods: Science and Practice“ in mid October at the Zoological Society's London headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to examine recreational hunting as a conservation tool and to explore how recreational hunting can be a significant partner in global wildlife conservation.

About 260 persons followed the invitation to the symposium. The event was co-organized by the [International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation \(CIC\)](#) and [Fauna Flora International \(FFI\)](#). Primary funding for the conference came from organizations like [Conservation Force](#), [Dallas Safari Club](#), [Safari Club International](#) and [Sand County Foundation](#). Opening the meeting SUSG Chair Jon Hutton said “this meeting breaks new scientific ground because for the first time we have brought together leading experts and practitioners from around the world to examine in depth the claims that recreational hunting makes a significant contribution to conservation and rural livelihoods”.

For the purposes of the symposium recreational hunting was given a working definition of “hunting where the hunter or hunters pursue their quarry primarily for recreation or pleasure”. From an economic perspective it was recognized that there are two broad but not exclusive types: *local hunting*, where the hunter originates locally to the hunting area, and *hunting tourism*, where the hunter travels a considerable distance, often abroad, and pays a substantial amount of money for the hunting experience.

Some 35 contributors, amongst them well known names like Leader-Williams, Millner-Gulland, Naseer Tareen, Lamprey, Child, Baldus, Reimoser, etc made 26 presentations during two days of marathon sessions which ranged from the origins of modern conservation in the initiatives taken by famous hunters, through global overviews of recreational hunting, angling and falconry, to regional models from North America and Southern Africa, scientific studies of the effect of trophy offtakes on population dynamics for species such as lion, red deer and bighorn sheep and the interactions of game management and agricultural policy. Case studies demonstrated and critically evaluated how controlled hunting played critical roles and provided vital incentives for conservation.

Scientists and Inuit, falconers and philosophers, representatives from governments, non-governmental organizations and

development agencies discussed a wide array of topics for two days with hunters, professional hunters and representatives of international hunting organizations – not only during the discussion sessions following the presentation of the papers, but significantly also in a most welcome networking process outside the formal meetings.

Dr. Rolf Baldus, president of CIC's Tropical Game Commission said to African Indaba that „the discussions and interaction of the participants were characterized by a high level of expertise and the will to find solutions“; Baldus said further „even those amongst the participants, who oppose hunting, were quick in adapting to reasoned dialogue and discussions.“

Astonishingly with the heterogeneous make-up of the participants, the major focus of the symposium did not target the usual polarizing and dividing question of whether one should hunt or not, but rather aimed at how to optimize the hunt and hunting practices. According to Baldus, participants showed a high level of agreement from the very start in the assessment that hunting could contribute significantly to conservation objectives and to poverty alleviation schemes in economically marginal regions. There was agreement that these positive contributions can already be observed in many individual cases. The Canadians have coined the expression „Conservation Hunting“ for this interactive process – and this term gathers more and more impor-

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1 Scientists and Hunters Meet in London

tance and the political acceptance of what is enshrined in „Conservation Hunting“ is growing locally and internationally.

The conference participants discussed conditions as well as political and cultural initiatives which could be used to make hunting an even better instrument to further environmental protection and biodiversity conservation objectives and incorporating socially and culturally important aspects. The existing data indicate that hunting can be a very positive force for conservation. This discussion did not omit that those who hunt and their activity of hunting actually create certain direct and indirect services for society in general. They also acknowledged the right of hunters to enjoy hunting as a recreational activity.

When examining new approaches to improving the governance of hunting, various initiatives defining principles, guidelines, criteria and indicators for sustainable hunting in Europe as well as an outline code of conduct derived from an analysis of sport hunting in Southern Africa were described. Possibilities for certifying hunting at a local level on the lines of forestry schemes were considered, but something much simpler was advocated.

There are of course also pitfalls and serious problems that need to be addressed. Hunters, their international organizations, non-hunting conservation NGOs, government officials and scientists with interdisciplinary skills need to work cooperatively to improve data collection and standards across the globe. Cases were presented of over-exploitation, of corruption by a few key individuals and of bad governance which prevent the revenues from tourist hunting being maximized for conservation and community benefit. These are serious obstacles for sustainable conservation hunting schemes. The dire need for good governance at all levels was a theme echoed by many speakers. In her concluding remarks to the Symposium, SSC Chair Holly Dublin set out the challenges of a rapidly evolving international agenda, while affirming that „a common passion for conserving wildlife unites everyone who has taken part in the meeting“.

After the symposium the SUSG held a „by-invitation-only“ workshop attended by about 70 people to examine a range of possible tools for enhancing the sustainability of recreational hunting. The participants focused on standards, certification, principles, codes and charters. Among the outcomes to be further considered by the SUSG are work on broad principles of global relevance and examples of best practice relating to them, as well as the need for wider understanding of the contribution which hunting makes to pro-biodiversity land management and livelihoods. The critical threats which face hunting globally, the biological, social-economic and ethical problem areas and issues were presented, examined and synthesized by some of the most experienced and knowledgeable thinkers in hunting and conservation.

Many countries are already actively working on optimizing their conservation hunting systems, but there are also many who have not even started. The large international hunting organizations need to support this budding reform process. There are huge challenges and many areas where change needs to happen. The complexity of some of the issues requires the dedication of individuals and organizations for a situational evaluation, the recognition of critical areas where change or adaptation is required and a positive attitude to move forward in order to secure the recognition of the positive conservation contribution of

hunting on a global level.

Dr Rolf Baldus, president of CIC's Tropical Game Commission said after the four days of intense interaction „the CIC supports the creation of regionalized approaches towards sustainable hunting“. Baldus said further that „the CIC does not advocate the introductions of complex international certification systems as with forestry products for example. Our intention focuses firstly on demonstrating the considerable economic and social potential of hunting tourism as a product within the global tourism industry and secondly on assisting all stakeholders as well as governments and local communities to create criteria and principles for sustainable hunting tourism and to achieve a triple bottom line result.“ In the next issue African Indaba will start a series about the CIC Sustainable Hunting Tourism Program. You can also follow the progress soon under www.cic-wildlife.org

Never has there been such a gathering of experts with an exclusive focus on hunting. The four days at the Zoological Society in London will bring hunting to a new level of recognition.

The papers presented at the symposium will be published by Blackwell as a book. African Indaba will bring abstracts and comments on the various topics in the next issues.

2 “Nature & Faune” – A New Online Magazine

Nature & Faune is an international publication dedicated to the exchange of information and practical experience in the field of wildlife and protected areas management and conservation of natural resources on the African continent. Nature & Faune was initiated in 1985 and is now available in digital form. In addition to research articles on African wildlife and protected areas, the journal contains natural resources news from Africa and beyond as well as links to more web-based resources and on FAO activities. Nature & Faune is dependent upon free and voluntary contributions. Kai-Uwe Wollscheid, CEO of the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, has been invited to serve on the reviewing board of Nature & Faune.

Each edition of the journal shall have a theme and the first digital edition focuses on ‘Hunting and Bushmeat’. Hunting for wild animals has been at the heart of African societies for centuries. Populations are dependent upon resources which are found in the local natural environment. Life in the city has altered people's way of living in many ways, but not everything changed, cravings for wild animal meat remains.

Whereas before, hunting was mainly done for subsistence by farmers and harvesting levels of wild fauna were low and local, now hunting for bushmeat has become a profession and people travel long distances to shoot wildlife on a large scale. The large scale threatens many endangered species. Determining sustainable hunting levels is not an easy task and wild animal populations frequently are becoming depleted, local community members have to travel further to hunt and some species are on the brink of extinction. It is a serious threat to both food and nutrition security and biodiversity conservation efforts.

For publication of articles or any further information, please contact the editor of **Nature & Faune**, M. Laverdière of the FAO Regional Office for Africa P.O. Box GP 1628 Accra Ghana at email Nature-Faune@fao.org

3 News About Angola's Giant Sable

Gerhard Damm interviews Pedro vaz Pinto about the *Palanca Negra*

Introductory Note: In May 2005 (Volume 3, # 3) African Indaba brought an article by Brendan O'Keeffe about the history of the search for the once thought extinct Giant or Royal Sable (*Hippotragus niger varians*). In Angola this magnificent species is called *Palanca Negra*. At that time, I informed the readers that Professor Christian Pitra had already established conclusive DNA sequences from dung samples and that a group of Giant Sable had been photographed by infrared triggered still cameras, installed and monitored by Pedro Vaz Pinto. In our section "News from Africa" we sporadically bring further bits and pieces of encouraging news about the precarious existence of this remnant population of the Angolan flagship species. In the recent months, Pedro vaz Pinto's untiring activities produced more results and finally led to a Giant Sable Symposium in Malanje/Angola in mid September.

Gerhard Damm: Pedro, can you give the readers of African Indaba some first hand information of what happened during the past half year in Luanda and Cangandala?

Pedro vaz Pinto: In May 2006 I visited Cangandala National Park together with Luis Veríssimo. Luis is preparing the GIS cartography and mapping for the giant sable region, including Cangandala NP and Luando Reserve. The "*Pastores da Palancas*" (Sable shepherds), a small dedicated group of men from a local Songo village, who consider the Giant Sable their totem animal, had watched over them for generations, and we had revived that custom during the 2002 expedition. This proved to be very beneficial, because with renewed pride and dedication, these men are very active in anti-poaching. Visible proof was an AK47, recently confiscated from a poacher, which they proudly showed us.

The park was quite dry and river-crossing not too difficult, and we made camp next to the Cazela. On the second day we walked to the salt licks, where the three cameras had been placed. They were in good working order and two had registered five respectively 10 events. We installed a multi-trigger device which links six cameras. We also installed a video camera, operated by a movement/heat detector, which is triggered also by an infrared system

In July the expedition to Luando Reserve with three 4x4s took us two full days of driving to reach the Kwanza River at Dando, at the southwest of the reserve, only to find the ferry to be broken. There seems to be a problem with illegal diamond mining in the area and little law and order.

We decided to head north to explore the left bank areas of the Kwanza, with more affinities with some of the northern Miombo woodlands of the reserve, and where alleged records of giant sable appear from time to time but were never proven. Luis Veríssimo had already identified this region as being potentially the most interesting from satellite imagery interpretation, considering the relatively lack of human presence and the excellent state of the woodlands. Unfortunately our visit coincided with the first fires, so half of the area was unburnt and with very tall

grass, and the remaining area was either burning or very recently burnt. We did a few walking incursions into the magnificent woodlands and we could confirm the presence of game, based on prints, dung and lots of trails. These woodlands seem to be richer in wildlife than the woodlands in the giant sable reserves. Most of the tracks found belonged to *Hippotraginae*, assumed by us to be of roan. Every one we interviewed agreed that roan was pretty common but they all denied that there were sables this side of the Kwanza. We even found a couple of ex Unita soldiers, who shamelessly admitted having killed quite a few giant sables (only time they saw them) when they were based in the Luando Reserve near Quimbango – they were just meat they said smiling... it was the first time I found someone willing to admit what we already knew...

Apart from the almost continuous pristine Miombo, a very striking feature of this region is the total absence of "anharas" (open areas). The presence/absence of anharas may be a relevant factor influencing the sable distribution in the region. We are now inclined to consider the possible existence of giant sable left of the Kwanza River as mistaken or historically accidental. The main problem right now is that the Luanda Strict Reserve is the core area for the giant sable distribution, and the whole reserve seems to be simply out of reach by land at this stage!

In August I returned to Cangandala with a small party including South African ornithologist Michael Mills. Once in the park, we were informed of a huge bush fire that had erupted a couple of days back with the area of the salt lick right in the eye of the fire storm. The shepherds had chased away two poachers and an AK47 with ammunition, two bicycles, backpacks and one spotlight were confiscated for use by the shepherds.

The next day we walked to the salt lick, and saw that the simple fire breaks we had made in June proved fairly efficient and even if a couple of camera units showed some very slight damage they were all working. We discovered sable spoor in the hard soil. I spent a couple of hours resetting all the units saving the video camera for last...and immediately we could see that we had 1h04m of footage. I found a comfortable place to sit next to a tree, and started playing back the film. The first minute of footage showed the test, the following minute a couple of bush duikers. The date marked July 23 17h35m, which meant that the camera had been there for 29 days until registered the first event! Then a couple of warthogs getting close for a few seconds before running away for some unknown reason and the date read July 29th 14h23m.

And then we hit the jackpot! On August 3rd the sable herd came to the salt lick and was filmed! Just 48 hours before the big fire and 3 days before we left Luanda! We got about one full hour of footage showing the sable herd, the same herd we now begin to know so well, moving around the site. We can see mostly females, juveniles, young and old ones, including some we knew from previous encounters like the alpha female - a strikingly beautiful old female very well proportioned and with perfectly symmetrical horns, the one with a shorter right horn, and the one with the white stripe. I'm still in the process of analysing in very detail the whole footage but it seems to be about 3 to 4 juveniles, of which at least one is male, 1 to 3 young females and 3 to 4 mature/old females. There were no very young calves, possibly because they were left behind before the herd would ap-

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4 Guidelines on Sustainable Hunting in Europe

By Gerhard R Damm

In view of the rather protracted discussions around the proposed new hunting legislation in South Africa it is significant to note that the representations submitted by various South African hunters' associations are well in line with the "European approach" as stated in these ["Guidelines on Sustainable Hunting in Europe"](#).

Maybe the civil servants in DEAT would have saved an enormous amount of time and considerable effort, not to speak of funds which could have been earmarked for conservation, if they would have listened from the start to proposals by the [CIC International Council for Game & Wildlife Conservation](#). The CIC suggested using the expertise of recognized experts like Dr. Fritz Reimoser, who has drafted the [Principles and Guidelines for Hunting](#) for his native Austria (click the provided link for an executive summary of the advanced edition featuring an outline of the updated contents).

Dr Reimoser is one of the five editors of the [Guidelines on Sustainable Hunting in Europe](#). Using Dr. Reimoser's expertise in combination with the knowledge of other CIC experts and the practical experience of South Africa's hunting and wildlife ranching associations has been specifically proposed to DEAT in the CIC submission. This has nothing to do with a Eurocentric approach; it is rather common sense to combine existing knowledge across the continents in order to produce sensible outcomes.

The Guidelines on Sustainable Hunting in Europe have been prepared by the [Wild Species Resources Working Group \(WISPER\)](#) of the IUCN-SSC [European Sustainable Use Specialist Group \(ESUSG\)](#). They aim to apply wider international principles and guidelines for the sustainable use of wild living resources at the European regional level. The focus is on recreational hunting involving the shooting of birds and mammals. However, much of what is put forward should be applicable in other contexts, such as subsistence or commercial hunting or hunting with hounds or falcons.

The European document provides a non-binding set of guidelines for the sustainable hunting of wild bird and mammal species, generally classified as "game" and as such subject to regulated hunting. The aspect "sustainability" is addressed mainly from an *ecological* point of view. In addition, the document makes a first analysis of certain (combined) *socio-economic* considerations.

The authors of the document state that it would be useful to develop further tools to assess the *economic* and *socio-cultural* sustainability of hunting. In case of conflicting interests between the three principals' aspects, resolution of that conflict should be based on the best available science, or otherwise on professional management experience. It should however be clear that *ecological* guidelines should prevail – in other words, **if hunting is ecologically unsustainable, this cannot be "compensated" by economic and/or socio-cultural sustainability.**

You can download the entire document at http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/susg/docs/WISPERguidelin.es210906_1.pdf

5 "Mews News" – The Magazine of the South African Falconry Association

Reviewed by Gerhard R Damm

According to Adrian Lombard, the editor of "Mews News" the present magazine contains a spread of serious and light hearted articles with a wide range from technical information to "tongue-in-cheek" hunting tales, with other articles concentrating on conservation and ethical issues. I can only concur!

Two very interesting articles in the magazine are "Falconry at Penryn College, Nelspruit. Mpumalanga Province, which deals with the introduction of falconry at this high school in 2001 and their successes in breeding their own goshawks and their aspirations for breeding lanners and peregrines. The second article, which I heartily recommend to the readers of African Indaba is titled "Ethical and scientific aspects concerning animal welfare and falconry" – Professor Thomas Richter and Dr Peter Kunzmann of Germany are exploring the moral and biological aspects of falconry in human society in a captivating way. I have to add a bit of salt however – just as the rifle and bow hunters cannot claim moral superiority for themselves, I suggest that neither can the falconers take that high ground. But read and decide for yourself.

A most important information is that SAFA has been selected to host the International Association for Falconry Annual Meeting in 2008. You will hear more about this event as time comes in African Indaba..

Falconry is indeed an age-old tradition and has been practiced over the past millennia. It is not unlikely that birds of prey have been very amongst the first animal companions of the hunter in times lost in history. Such a rich tradition forms part and parcel of the hunting culture and African Indaba considers therefore SAFA an integral part of the hunter-conservationist alliance in Southern Africa. We hope that the ties between the conventional hunters and those who use birds of prey and well-trained dogs in the pursuit of feathered and furred game in Africa will gain strength in the years to come.

If you want to know more about Falconry in Southern Africa I suggest that you access the SAFA Website www.safalconry.org.za or contact Dr Adrian Lombard at Lombarda@mweb.co.za

Open Position: Management Couple, Private Game Reserve, Tuli Block, Botswana

Dynamic, self-motivated couple to supervise rangers and other staff, devise and carry out conservation plans, market and operate 20 bed private lodge and campsite, provide catering and hospitality for guests and maintain records and administration. Both must have relevant tertiary qualifications in one of the life sciences, specifically conservation. Preference will be given for additional diplomas in professional hunting, hospitality sector and/or catering management, with butchery experience.

Contact: Stevenford Game Reserve lindaarmstrng@info.bw

6 A Letter From Harvard

First Published in Dallas Safari Club Camptalk Volume 17, Issue 8

Editor's Note: African Indaba thanks [Dallas Safari Club](#) for the permission to reproduce this letter by Mr. C Wallace de Witt.

Dallas Safari Club "Camptalk" Editor's Note: C. Wallace de Witt was born in Chicago December 5, 1980 and lives in Flossmoor, Illinois. Mr. de Witt received his Bachelor's degree in International Studies and Humanities from Yale University; his Masters degree in Philosophy, Oriental Studies From King's College, University of Cambridge and he is in his second of three years at Harvard Law School working toward his Juris doctorate. He expects to work for an American firm's branch office in China and Japan, practicing securities law. He heard about Joe Da Silva's operation as a "result of hours and hours of painstaking study on the Internet, not via any commonly published guidebooks or Cape Town hotels, as these all pretentiously refuse to discuss hunting whatsoever."

Dear Sir,

I believe I cannot think of anything I have ever done on vacation that has provoked the ire of my Harvard Law School colleagues as much as my hunting trip with Joe Da Silva in South Africa this past spring (autumn, I suppose, for South Africans). Needless to say, aside from the pleasures of a day spent in the great outdoors, the exhilaration of the chase, the bagging of my first animal of any kind (a springbok) and the pleasures of discussing one of the most peculiar nations on earth in fine company, I cherish the fact that from now on, anytime I wish to stick my thumb in the eye of a sanctimonious fellow law student, I can.

I will point to a picture of Joe and myself crouched over a beautiful wild beast and preach right back to my smarmy classmate about the necessity of preserving precious wildlife resources and explaining how we hunters—and I now include myself in *your* company, hence the plural pronoun, lead the way.

My experience with Joe began early in the morning, around 6 o'clock, when Joe arrived at my friend's apartment in Cape Town to drive me off for a day of hunting under the South African sun. From the start, I felt as though I were heading off with an old pal, perhaps an uncle, for a day in the wilds.

But reflecting on the day, I realize that an enormity of planning, of experience in client service, of first-hand knowledge of the veld lay behind everything that took place that day. Joe is a master of that great tenet of service-professions, including my own legal profession: Know what the client wants before he knows he wants it.

Once we arrived at the hunting grounds, Joe introduced me to his friend and business partner Steve, who drove while Joe chatted with me on the viewing platform of our vehicle. All morning we observed wildlife—both flora and fauna—and chatted about South African life.

When the time came, Joe and our local guide— with whom I could only communicate in Dutch, struggling to understand his Afrikaans—led me to the proper position and helped me line up

my shot.

He whispered in my ear to steady my nerves:

"Wait...wait...wait... NOW!" They were there to shake my hand and give me the beaming smiles and congratulations that everyone should have when they take their first animal.

It was a truly marvelous safari. (By the by, I think it is incumbent upon us hunters to retake this last word for our own use. Safari should be synonymous with hunting and all things Teddy Roosevelt and "Dr. Livingston, I presume." Let the photography set modify the noun with photo-. I am firmly resolved to avoid the absurd phrase, "hunting safari.")

Sadly, the attitude of the typical American is to feel sorry for South Africans and to feel even sorer for the animals they shoot from time to time. I cannot say that I myself have not been susceptible to such thoughts. If only Joe were there to pick up every American from the Cape Town Airport and drive them off for a day of safari, I believe that Americans would come away from South Africa with an image of a country without fear of past or present, reflective about its history but bullish about its future.

I can wholeheartedly recommend Joe as the professional hunter of the year. In fact, I am surprised that he is not the perennial victor. Win or lose, he can count on my business for years to come — and that of anyone I can convince to go with me.

Yours,

C. Wallace de Witt

For more information about Dallas Safari Club please go to www.biggame.org or contact the Executive Director, Gray Thornton at gray@biggame.org

7 News From TRAFFIC

From the TRAFFIC Bulletin Vol 21/1

African Lion Workshops

African Indaba reported already in the March issue about the second African Lion Workshop in Johannesburg with an article by John J Jackson III, the Chairman of Conservation Force and the President of the CIC Sustainable Use Commission. In TRAFFIC's column about this event it was mentioned again that "Trade in African Lion hunting trophies is not considered to be a threat but rather a significant component of lion conservation and management".

Ivory

In December last year French customs' officials seized 60 kg of worked elephant ivory in Roissy Airport originating from Ivory Coast en route to New York.

In three separate raids in April 2006 KWS (Kenya) recovered more than 160 kg of elephant tusk, processed ivory and two rhino horns. A total of 14 people amongst them 6 Italians were arrested.

In May 2006, Chinese customs officers discovered and seized 3.5 tons of elephant tusks hidden in a concealed compartment of a container. The consignment originated from Cameroon.

Taiwanese officials discovered 744 pieces of elephant ivory in July 2006 with a total weight of over 3,000 kg. The ivory originated in Tanzania.

8 Obituary: (Clem) Andries Marthinus Coetzee

13th May 1939 – 4th September 2006

By Vernon Booth

The news of Clem Coetzee's death from a heart attack was received with great sadness by those who knew him. At a gathering to remember Clem in Triangle over 300 people listened to tributes paid to this exceptional wildlife manager and conservationist who was a role model to all his young and old colleagues.

Clem's career in wildlife began in the 1960's when he joined Tsetse Control in (then) Southern Rhodesia that provided the foundation for him to become an exceptional hunter. But his calling was in practical wildlife management and he soon moved to the fledgling Wild Life Department as a Ranger, first at Mana Pools and later at Matusadona NP. Even at this early stage in his career it was clear to those that worked with him that he was a born leader, and someone who had a unique "feel" for wildlife conservation with limitless passion and enthusiasm for his profession. Clem's greatest impact came while he was based at the Umtchibi Management Unit in Hwange NP. Here he established a unique wildlife management unit that quickly gained a reputation for its innovative solutions to practical wildlife management problems. This reputation was directly the result of Clem's practical management skills, whether this was repairing a diesel engine (he was a qualified diesel mechanic), improvising a tool to solve a problem or caring for an orphaned animal.

He was never daunted by any assigned task and always led by example. When he was called upon to head the elephant culling program in Hwange in the 1980's, he went about it in the most professional and efficient manner, and set the very high standards for all who followed. Clem did not enjoy this particular task and often fiercely questioned the decision makers to satisfy his conscience, although it was clear that he never fully accepted the explanations preferring to seek alternative solutions.

And it was in game capture that Clem reveled. Over the years Clem developed techniques and modified equipment to deal with the capture and translocation of a wide variety of wild animals such as impala, waterbuck, zebra, wildebeest, giraffes, lion and even hippo. But his skill and abilities came to the fore when he was called upon to deal with species such as buffalo, Black and White Rhino, culminating in the pioneering techniques to capture and translocate entire herds of adult elephant. These skills he later used to establish a highly respected commercial game capture unit, Wildlife Management Services, based at his home in Triangle.

Over his career Clem's contribution to wildlife life conservation was recognized by his peers, and for this he received several prestigious wildlife awards. He did not seek the lime light – he was a quite and un-assuming person who simply got on with the job at hand. Clem was passionate about his work and his mission in life. At his memorial his colleagues used words such as "integrity", "inspirational", "innovative" "respected" and "professional" to describe this true gentleman. There is no doubt that he will be long remembered as one of the legends in wildlife conservation and an inspiration to all those who knew him. Our deepest sympathies go to his wife Em and children Beth and Vic together with Paul and Vic his two brothers.

9 New Wildlife Management Magazine

In the spring of 2007, [The Wildlife Society](#) will launch a new magazine, *The Wildlife Professional*. A magazine of news and analyses along the lines of Time or Newsweek, *The Wildlife Professional* is designed to meet the information needs of professional wildlife managers, from biologists studying wildlife populations to law enforcement officers who monitor wildlife trade and everyone in between.

A regular feature of the magazine, the State of Wildlife report, will contain summaries of wildlife events that are indicative of significant issues in wildlife management and conservation from around the world. The State of Wildlife section will draw stories from expert sources of The Wildlife Society's North American sections, and from Central America, South America, the Pacific Rim, Australia, China, Europe, Africa and Central Asia. About 15 stories will be chosen for each issue of the magazine.

The magazine will be published quarterly in both print and electronic forms and will provide readers with a broad range of information related to the challenges of managing wildlife in an increasingly human-dominated world. The Wildlife Professional will regularly publish an in-depth feature article, as well as brief summaries of relevant scientific articles and a profile of a modern professional wildlife manager. Additional columns will cover topics such as health and disease, human-wildlife connections and ethics in practice.

For more information on The Wildlife Professional, please e-mail Divya Abhat at divya@wildlife.org or divya.abhat@gmail.com

For more information about The Wildlife Society please go to the website <http://www.wildlife.org/index.cfm>

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African Indaba eNewsletter is published every two months as a free service to the sustainable use community. Please share it with others who may be interested in the topics covered by African Indaba.

We would like to remind you that archived copies of African Indaba eNewsletter are available from our website.

Subscription requests, comments or article submissions should be sent to: gerhard@muskwa.co.za please include your name, full address, e-mail address and organization

10 Results and Conclusions of the Selous Conservation Program/Tanzania 1987–2003

By Dr Rolf D Baldus

Dr Baldus examines the crucial role of good governance in ecosystem management in an analysis presented at the Serengeti Conference 2006 (edited for African Indaba)

Summary

Between 1987 and 2003 the Tanzanian and German Governments jointly implemented the Selous Conservation Programme (SCP), for the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the natural resources, in particular wildlife, in the Selous Game Reserve and environs. Its direct objectives were to rehabilitate the Selous Game Reserve, to involve the communities in the buffer zones and allow them to manage wildlife and benefit from the sustainable use of natural resources on village land. It was planned, executed and financed in partnership between the Wildlife Division (WD), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), district administrations and villages around the Selous and other donors.

At the end of the Programme in 2003 the results were excellent: Overall level of management was satisfactory, trophy poaching was insignificant and an adequate, secure and long term financial basis was in place (2.8 million US\$ retention per year). Community involvement was well developed and practiced around the Selous, however, only on a pilot basis. The paradigm shift had been accepted and further developed by the central Government as a national program, called Community Based Conservation (CBC), for conservation outside protected areas and for poverty alleviation within the Poverty Reduction Strategy. Its implementation beyond pilot status was delayed by the Wildlife Division, as it would have meant a sharing power and revenue with the communities.

The major problem for the Selous during the time of the SCP was not to raise the reserve's management to satisfactory levels, but rather that many relevant decisions, e.g. on hunting quotas, allocation of hunting blocks and tourist lodge sites and on the reserve's budget remained with the Ministry. These important decisions were taken without consent or even involvement of the Selous administration and other stakeholders like the districts and communities concerned. Upon the request of the Government of Tanzania and financed by Germany a major reform of the technical administration (database, computerization) of tourist hunting was prepared yet was never used. Equally an officially accepted Hunting Policy of 1995 was never implemented. Only two and a half years after the end of the SCP the picture for the Selous is already turning increasingly bleak and the long term sustainability of the SGR is in jeopardy due to decisions at the top Wildlife Division level. In violation of the Cooperation Agreement between the Tanzanian and German Governments the retention budget (50 % of all reserve revenue) of the Selous has been cut by nearly two thirds in the first year. The budget was increased again in the financial year 2005/2006 after the Ministry had been reminded of the existing agreements, but it still suffers from a cut of 30 %. The funds at this stage are simply

not sufficient for a proper operation of the reserve. Trophy poaching has consequently shown a strong upward trend and the effectiveness of management is in jeopardy. The situation is further aggravated by a number of planned environmentally doubtful projects.

CBC continues to be delayed despite a strong central Government commitment. Whether the involvement of communities and their receiving benefits from wildlife use on their land will in the long run maintain the survival of wildlife outside the protected areas is unknown. However, without an approach which takes the needs and rights of the communities in the wildlife areas into account, wildlife does not have much of a future. There are strong indications that the top wildlife bureaucracy would prefer to return to their traditional "fences-and-fines-approach", which serves their own individual economic interests well.

At the core of the problem lies the administration of the wildlife revenue which comes primarily from hunting (90 %) in the Selous. All central decisions (quotas, allocation of blocks, revenues) are taken by the Director of Wildlife. There is a severe case of Bad Governance and no tender or similar procedures are followed for the allocation of hunting blocks. All efforts to induce transparency and initiate some debate towards introducing reform within the industry have been blocked in recent years. This action is supported by the major actors in the hunting industry, as they thrive within the present system. The chairman of the Tanzania Hunting Operators Association has leased approx. half of the Selous area for more than thirty years now without ever having been required to compete for these blocks in a public tender. Instead, hunting blocks with an estimated market value of 80,000 to 150,000 US\$ continue to be allocated at the discretion of the Director of Wildlife for an official annual fee of 7,500 US\$. The hunting industry as voiced out by its association and chairman is unanimously in opposition to grant the communities any decision making powers or rights to the wildlife on their village lands. This opposition has been one of the main stumbling factors which have lead to the slow progress and limited success in community involvement.

The analysis of the SCP and its long term results proves that a proper and successful ecological, social and economic management of a large ecosystem can be installed, but that long term sustainability is finally dependent upon the existing governance. The deep crisis of the Selous in the eighties was mainly the result of what is called "Bad Governance". If "Good Governance" cannot be installed into the management of the particular the hunting industry in Tanzania the Selous could fall back to where it was in the eighties.

The Tanzanian wildlife system has received significant support from foreign Governments and non-governmental organizations in recent years. The donors have engaged themselves in a constructive policy dialogue with the Ministry and the Wildlife Department over years. This resulted in many agreements, policies and promises, but in very little practical action on the side of the Government and no tangible improvement in Governance. During the last decade and after encouraging beginnings, the top Wildlife Division has succeeded in using various donors' financial support mainly for endless participatory meetings, conferences, evaluations and studies which were helpful to spend the money and prove "ownership" and a "participatory approach",

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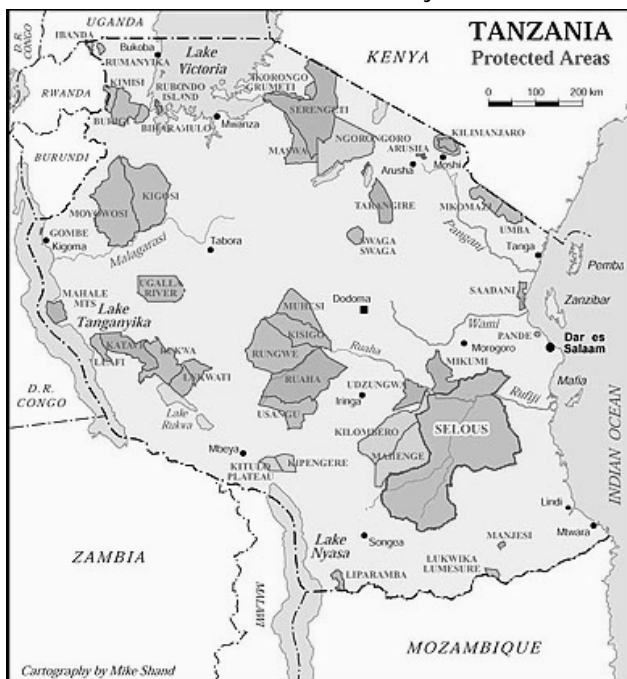
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but which were probably never intended to bring about any change. The donors – and the communities - were always promised, even by the Minister, that the agreed reforms would be implemented, but to no avail. The donors have meanwhile summed up their disappointment in a critical public statement and propose reform.

Tanzania increasingly receives aid in the form of budget support. It is hoped that the regulatory framework around new forms of aid delivery will increase the pressure for Governance improvement. There is broad agreement that the most important single aspect of Governance in Africa is corruption. There is also a general agreement that the financial transfers to Africa during the last four decades have achieved very little towards self-sustaining economic growth and development and that Governance is one of the roots of the malaise. The pressure to spend public development budgets coupled with the obvious lack of Governance improvement and at the same time persisting hopes and illusions on the side of the donors reward those in Africa who benefit from bad Governance and punishes those who want to reform. Bad Governance – or should I better say corruption - pays after all!

Selous as Part of the Protected Areas' System



Some Facts on the Selous Game Reserve

110 years ago, in the year 1896, the German Governor von Wissmann created a game reserve between the Mgeta and Rufiji Rivers in the South of what was German East Africa at that time. The area became the nucleus of what is now the SGR. This makes it Africa's oldest protected area. The present size is approx. 48,000 km².

It is basically a "Miombo" dry-forest ecosystem, but it contains many other landscapes like savannahs, riverine forests and wetlands. Wildlife populations are of major international significance, e.g. elephant, lion, leopard, wild dog, crocodile, hippo,

Roosevelt sable, Nyassa wildebeest and many others.

The ecosystem extends beyond the borders of the reserve. Presently communities south of the reserve have started to create their own wildlife protected areas. Thus a kind of ecological corridor will be created between the Selous and the Niassa Game Reserve in Mozambique. An ecosystem of approx. 110,000 km² could thus come eventually under coordinated conservation management.

The main problems in the Selous remain poaching, an insecure financial basis and insufficient community involvement in the management of the buffer-zones.

Start of SCP in 1987: Selous in Crisis

In the aftermath of "African Socialism" the wildlife sector in Tanzania deteriorated. The Selous elephant declined from approx. 110,000 in the early seventies to around 55,000 in 1986 and to less than 30,000 in 1989. The rhino was poached during the same period from over 3,000 to less than a hundred. The management system of the reserve had more or less broken down. There were two Landrovers operational and the 1987 I budget amounted to approx. 3 US\$ per km². Governance was the core problem. More than half of the poaching originated from the official staff, often on orders of superiors, higher authorities and politicians. With very few exceptions those responsible were never taken to court.

Why SCP?

The Tanzanian Government finally decided to take action to stop complete destruction of a World Heritage Site. A request was made to Germany under development cooperation. The reasons for Germany to get involved were:

- Biodiversity became a new development objective in a process which later led to the Rio-Conference.
- Wildlife was recognized as a natural resource which allows sustainable use for poverty alleviation.
- The role of communities in nature conservation was increasingly stressed.

Some Characteristics of SCP

The SCP from the very beginning followed a "hands-on" approach. It was based on conservation partnerships between the Wildlife Division, the communities in the buffer-zones and the district administrations. The initial donors were GTZ (management, infrastructure and communities), Frankfurt Zoological Society (aircraft), WWF (rhino and elephant expert) and African Wildlife Foundation (mechanic). At a later stage KfW-German Development Bank, European Union, African Development Bank and USAID also contributed.

Activity 1: Rehabilitation of the Reserve

The main activities were:

- Anti-poaching
- Training and equipment of scouts
- Payment increases and new structures, incentives, discipline
- Infrastructure: roads (from 1,700 km to 15,000 km), air-strips, communication, transport, housing, 2,000 km boundary demarcation

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- Management planning, organization, development of professionalism

Activity 2: Creating Financial Sustainability

Two options are open for the managers of protected areas:

1. Attain financial self sufficiency in order to maintain minimum core functions (doing the necessary with available public funding and own money) or
2. Secure permanent external finance in order to afford comprehensive management (doing more than what is necessary for survival and donor funds closing the finance gap)

SCP opted for self sufficiency since it was assumed that tourism (hunting and photographic) could generate sufficient revenue for management, allowing at the same time payments to central Government and districts.

A retention scheme of 50 % was agreed with the Treasury by which the reserve was allowed to retain at least half of its income for management starting in 1994. In addition the Government paid basic salaries. The management of the hunting industry (90 % of reserve income) incl. quota setting and block allocation remained with the Ministry (Wildlife Division) and did not allow the Selous administration much influence.

Activity 3: Involving the Communities

The Tanzanian Government had always followed the "fines and fences" approach, as this was the "state of the art". Wildlife was to be protected by the state and local people had no right to utilize it unless they bought a hunting license. However, the Government had never the capacity to protect the resource and often it also did not have the political will to do so. Often the official law enforcement agencies were the main violators.

At the beginning of the SCP in 1987 the only community involvement in wildlife management was poaching. Community

management of forests and wildlife has a long and successful tradition in many parts of the world including Germany, and SCP included from the very beginning "Community Based Natural Resources Management" into its concept. The objective was to share power and benefits with the communities, let them have a word in the management of natural resources on their own land and use the material benefits as an incentive for the long term conservation of the resource. Sustainable use of wildlife was regarded as one of the few options left to maintain wildlife outside the protected areas. It is widely accepted today that this paradigm shift represents the new conservation thinking.

In the case of the Selous the concept was not in the form of "community outreach" programs, where communities are given benefits like social services. Instead they were to become the managers of the resource on their own land. Management and wildlife use inside the Selous was to remain with the Wildlife Division and not to be shared.

The SCP-concept was summed up as follows: From **Conservation against the People** via **Conservation for the People** to **Conservation by the People**.

The then President Mwinyi propagated this concept as the new Tanzanian policy. It was applied and implemented in a pragmatic process of trial and error and with involvement of the communities. Around the Selous a good number of villages received user rights on a pilot basis and their chosen representatives (village game scouts) were at the same time recognized as Authorized Officers to protect the wildlife against illegal uses in their provisional "Wildlife Management Areas" (WMA). The following map shows the five areas in the Selous buffer-zone where such WMA were created by village initiatives with limited outside support. South of these areas a wildlife corridor on the basis of WMA is being established by the villages and with some outside assistance under GEF/UNDP. It will create biodiversity connectivity between the Selous and the Niassa Game Reserve.

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Year	Number of Tourists	Number of Hunters	Tourist Revenue '000 US\$	Hunting Revenue '000 US\$	Hunting Retention '000 US\$	Total Income remaining in SGR '000 US\$
1991	1,150	115	22	1,245		22
1992	1,784	163	40	1,655		40
1993	2,135	198	53	1,831		53
1994	2,415	174	100	1,656	828	928
1995	3,473	168	160	1,706	853	1,013
1996	4,661	325	209	2,674	1,337	1,546
1997	5,455	346	249	2,909	1,454	1,703
1998	4,596	436	285	3,541	1,770	2,055
1999	5,501	343	303	2,718	1,359	1,662
2000	5,267	431	320	3,245	1,623	1,943
2001	4,802	482	299	3,621	1,811	2,110
2003	6,000	600	380	5,200	2,600	2,800

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hered to and monitoring should be rigorous;

Hunting must not be allowed to deplete wildlife resources and so an improved data-set on resource status and hunting activity needs to be available. There is a need for an improved monitoring system to be implemented with adequate data management facilities; and, the Ministry of Finance (and TRA) should be supported in undertaking a review of the hunting sector including taxation-rates and procedures, and a review of the financial status and management of the Wildlife Division. Transparent accounting systems and computerization must be introduced. "

Benchmarking CBC

The following criteria are crucial for successful Community Based Natural Resource Management. The table tries to give a rough summary of how the major stakeholders, namely the communities and the top Wildlife Division, have internalized them during the last 15 or so years.

Criteria	Communities	Wildlife Division
Ownership	yes	no
Commitment for Reform	yes	mixed
Capacity to Change	yes	no
Accountability	yes but deficits	no
Empowerment	yes	no

Handing over more ownership of wildlife from the Government to the communities would result in the sharing of power and money. As very little has been achieved after nearly 20 years the conclusion that the Wildlife Division does not intend to share is obvious. Nevertheless, the empowerment of communities is well advanced. It will be difficult in the long run to withhold the reforms of the wildlife sector, as they have been promised by high Government authorities too often and as they are part of the official Poverty Reduction Strategy despite the blockade efforts by the wildlife administration.

Outlook 2006

- WMA and CBNRM - unknown future
- Lodge sites approved in violation of Selous management plan
- Financial base weakening
- Retention scheme in danger (all figures Selous statistics):

2003/4:	2.8 m. US\$
2004/5:	1.0 m US\$
2005/6	1.8 m US\$
- Poaching: strong upward trend
- Hunting: reform rejected again by Director of Wildlife after elections
- Government has granted mineral prospecting licenses for Selous despite international agreement that there must be no mining in World Heritage Sites
- Kidunda Dam project at north-eastern corner of reserve goes ahead despite negative technical and environmental studies and expert agreement that project is not feasible: will lead to major ecological damage in northern (tourist) sector of Selous and to destruction of neighboring WMA.

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All quoted publications plus additional articles and sources on the Selous, SCP, CBC, tourist hunting etc. can be found in: <http://www.wildlife-baldus.com> and on www.africanindaba.co.za

Disclaimer: The author worked as coordinator of the SCP from 1987 to 1993 and as Government Advisor in the Wildlife Division between 1998 and 2005. All views and opinions expressed are, however, solely his own and not necessarily those of his former or present employers. They are also not necessarily those of the conference organizers.

11 Old, Bold and Big

By Gordon Ferguson

One of the most dramatic statements on the horizon of Southern Africa is made by a tree - the baobab. Looking more like a cartoon drawing than a real-life object, the baobab is an exceptional member of the plant kingdom in more ways than one. Its trunk size is overwhelming. This tree is not just big or enormous, it's beyond gigantic - it's colossal. This is a tree with more than a XXX LARGE tag. In Zimbabwe one hollow specimen can provide shelter for up to 40 people. For compassionate treelovers this giant needs a team of many people linking arms around the trunk to give it a good, old-fashioned hug. In Southern Africa you'll find baobabs with stems of up to 8 meters in diameter and 28 meters in circumference.

The botanical name, *Adansonia digitata* comes from a man called Michel Adanson who saw one of these trees for the first time in Senegal in the 18th century. The digital, finger-like leaves account for the species name, *digitata*. Most people use the common name, baobab, which probably has its origin in the words '*bu hobab*', an adaptation of the Arabic term '*bu hibab*' meaning 'fruit with many seeds'. The San people have called this 'the upside-down tree' because the branches look more like the tree's roots. It is often called the monkey bread tree in reference to the fruit which is enjoyed by monkeys, while the 19th century explorer and missionary, David Livingstone, described it as 'that giant, upturned carrot'.

Our more contemporary cartoon description of this tree is equally valid. It is almost like a caricature of a posing body-builder with more than just one pair of muscular arms. The trunk is stocky and the branches reaching to the sky seem to ripple with flexed power. The texture and color of the bark is also unusual for a tree. It has a smooth surface and it is pinkish, pinkish-grey and sometimes coppery in color.

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The prehistoric appearance of the average baobab tells you that this is a tree that 'goes back a few years' - anything up to 1 000 years, sometimes more. According to scientific dating methods many particularly massive baobabs have had their date of germination estimated to be before the birth of Christ. The fruit of the baobab was apparently available in herb and spice markets as long ago as 2 500 BC while some ancient specimens are believed to be up to 3 000 years old.

In Southern Africa baobabs grow in poor, shallow soils in very hot, dry conditions at low altitudes. Well prepared for frequent droughts, the baobab effectively stores large volumes of water in its thick, corky and fire-resistant trunk. In extremely dry seasons the trunk may shrink as less water is available for storage. What water there is in the stem during droughts is often extracted by elephants which poke holes in the tree with their tusks and suck out the water with their trunks.

This is a leafless tree for about nine months of the year. When the baobab finally has a flush of green foliage some of the leaves are plucked by local communities to make soup, condiments and medicines. With so many years of life ahead of it the baobab really takes its time to blossom. This tree only comes into flower at about the age of 20. But the large white flowers of the baobab are pollinated within hours of opening. Appearing just before nightfall the flowers, which are luminous in the dark, attract fruit bats, bush babies and nocturnal insects. As they suck the nectar and move from one flower to the next these creatures effectively and very quickly carry out the process of pollination.

The fruit of the baobab looks like a small, light-green or yellowish-grey version of a rugby ball. Inside this hairy, velvety, ovoid pod a white powder, commonly called cream of tartar, surrounds several seeds. The fruit of the baobab is very popular amongst local inhabitants, both human and animal. It is a valuable food for baboons, monkeys, antelope and elephants. The seeds are often crushed by rural people and drunk as a substitute for coffee, while the cream of tartar is used for baking. The fibrous bark of the baobab is sometimes used by local folk to make baskets, nets, ropes, floor mats and even paper.

Holes in the trunk of a baobab provide ideal nesting sites for all sorts of birds - rollers, hornbills, kestrels and barn owls. Even the large ground hornbill can find a place to rent in a baobab. Eagles, vultures and storks find the branches of a baobab useful platforms to build nests of stacked sticks. And, if there is a colony of nests in a baobab it probably belongs to a crowd of buffalo weavers.

Looking more like a mammoth cartoon figure than a tree, the baobab doesn't seem to belong to this millennium or this world. But it does - and it offers more than its fair share to provide shade, shelter, water and food for all sorts of mammals, birds, insects and people.

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12 Book Review: Conservation: Linking Ecology, Economics, and Culture

Princeton University Press (2005), ISBN: 0691049793 by Monique Borgerhoff Mulder and Peter Coppelillo and reviewed by David Himmelfarb, (University of Georgia)

Guided by their extensive field experience in conservation research and practice, Monique Borgerhoff Mulder and Peter Coppelillo offer an encompassing introduction to some of the most pervasive and incendiary social and biological science debates concerning biodiversity conservation. As environmental conservation initiatives have expanded throughout the globe in recent decades, scholars, primarily from the social sciences, have begun to critically examine the social dynamics of such conservation. This body of work has ignited a series of fierce debates among those with a concern for local peoples who have found themselves marginalized by conservation, those with a concern for rapidly diminishing biodiversity, and those with a concern for both. Until recently, much of the expansive literature on the subject has been deeply mired in one position or another, thus complicates the task of establishing the broader context and underlying assumptions of the debate. Borgerhoff Mulder and Coppelillo contribute significantly to such a gap by synthesizing a wide array of theoretical and practical resources, and spanning social and biological science disciplines, as well as policy-oriented and academic publications.

Conservation: Linking Ecology, Economics, and Culture is divided into three sections. The first section examines the development of conservation thought and practice. Treating conservation as a cultural as well as scientific phenomenon, the authors probe the philosophical and epistemological underpinnings of contemporary conservation. They begin by examining important yet often unasked questions such as "What is biodiversity? Why does it need conserving? What are the goals of biodiversity conservation? Who is involved in the practice of conservation, and what are their objectives?" To address these questions the authors provide a historical discussion of how different philosophers, academics, activists, and others have come to conceptualize the modern face of conservation.

The second section of the book focuses on several major intellectual frameworks, which have emerged to examine and critique the social aspects of biodiversity conservation. The authors start by considering contributions from behavioral ecology and anthropology in the analysis of individual actors. They then look at how scholars from disciplines such as economics, political science, sociologists, and anthropologists have approached the study of human institutions and communities. Using insights from political ecology and political science, the authors conclude the section by situating individual actors and communities within larger political and economic spheres.

The third and final section of the book brings together a spectrum of conservation methodologies, from strict protectionism to panoply of community-based approaches. Without advocating any specific methodology, the authors outline the strengths and

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weaknesses of the varying approaches with a variety of case studies. They emphasize that no single strategy can provide a "silver-bullet" solution and argue the importance of local context in determining the nature of a specific conservation intervention. The concluding chapter highlights integrative strategies that utilize insights from numerous disciplines. The authors advocate research that combines multidisciplinary training and a holistic perspective, can provide the potential for a bright future in conservation.

In sum, Borgerhoff Mulder and Coppolillo's text is an invaluable compendium of historical, scientific, and methodological perspectives on biodiversity conservation. The authors write with a strong grasp of a vast body of literature, effectively integrating countless academic and practitioner conversations, and arguments into a seamless volume. Moreover, with their final treatment of on the ground strategies, they do not fall into the common academic pitfall of all-theory-and-no-action analyses. For several decades now, Borgerhoff Mulder and Coppolillo contend, "social and biological scientists have been talking past each other". This book represents an important effort in facilitating that crucial inter- and multi-disciplinary communication.

Editor's Note: *I have just received my copy of this book in the mail and I was fascinated by the authors' pragmatic approach to a complex set of problems with an even more complex set of players and stakeholders.*

My first exploratory hours of reading showed that the authors worked very hard to dispassionately review and analyze the goals and methods of conservation aiming towards strategies addressing conservation challenges and highlighting innovative solutions across conventional barriers.

Although I have already discovered some uncomfortable passages, I also saw the authors' recognition of a number of successful initiatives originating from hunters or hunting associations. I am quite sure that this book will keep up or surpass my initial positive impression and therefore I decided to reprint the review of Dr Himmelfarb here in African Indaba without having yet completely read the book myself

I obtained my copy through www.Amazon.com

13 News From Africa

Chad

Mike Fay, a Wildlife Conservation Society biologist on a National Geographic Society-funded expedition, reported about a hundred dead elephants during a recent aerial survey just outside Zakouma National Park in southeastern Chad. The elephants were apparently slaughtered by poachers in early August. Fay warns that his discovery is evidence of a major poaching problem on the borders of one of the elephants' last central African strongholds. The animals were massacred, his team reports, as they crossed the protected park's borders during the wet season in search of forage.

Congo DR

F P D Cotterill of the University in Stellenbosch published a scientific article in the Journal of Zoology (London) about the

Upemba Lechwe (*Kobus anselli*). This lechwe is restricted to the Upemba wetland in South Eastern Congo (Katanga Province). The numbers have declined from about 20,000 in the 1970 to under 1000 today. The Upemba Lechwe is critically endangered and its survival hinges on the reduction of adverse human impact and maintaining the integrity of its wetland habitat. It is most similar to the black lechwe (*Kobus smithemani*) and quite distinct from all other known red lechwe (*Kobus leche*).

Congo DR

Representatives of the Frankfurt Zoological Society are attempting to persuade the Mai Mai and Interhamwe to agree to stop the wholesale slaughter of hundreds of hippo in the eastern national parks of the Democratic Republic of Congo. It seems that the animals are being slaughtered to supply the rampant illegal meat trade. Robert Muir, the Frankfurt Zoological Society Project Leader and Country Representative in Goma/DRC can be contacted at robertmuir@fzs.org. Please also see www.zgf.de

Ethiopia

Ethiopian President Girma Wolde-Giorgis said at a three day workshop on biodiversity conservation that the Ethiopian government strongly supports ventures that contribute to poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation to utilize natural resources the country is endowed with. He further said that the government has established a number of protected area systems for effective biodiversity conservation that include national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, reserve areas, controlled hunting areas, etc. The workshop provided a platform to exchange ideas.

The President of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Prof. Dr. Hartmut Vogtman said that the focal point will be the combination of the conservation and use of natural resources. The workshop was attended by ministers, experts, and representatives of the administration.

Ethiopia

African Parks wants to reorganize Omo National Park at a cost of over one million USD. Administration and Finance Head of Omo National Park under African Parks, Samuel Taye, said that the project will incorporate upgrading of infrastructure and communication elements. An educational program is also being offered to local people to curb illegal hunting practices. The Ethiopian government handed over the Omo National Park, which covers more than 64,000 hectares, to African Parks in January 2006.

Kenya

Professor Laurence Frank informed African Indaba of the first community showing of the Masai language film on predator conservation and livestock management, called *Eramatere Naata Dupoto* (Wealth through Management). The event took place on Tiemamut Group Ranch in Laikipia, where about 70 elders, young men, women of all ages, and a few school kids participated. The film covers a wide range of subjects goes well beyond predator conservation and more effective livestock husbandry methods. There is a lot of material on the traditional cultural values of predators and other wildlife, sections on the economic potential of wildlife-based tourism, a section on overgrazing and habitat destruction, and another on the cash value of reducing the number of livestock in order to produce more

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valuable and marketable meat. This section led to a long discussion, initiated by the audience, on alternatives to the traditional emphasis on sheer numbers of stock, and ways to gradually shift toward a more diverse economy that would free them from total dependence on livestock. The elders were clearly won over by our suggestions for improved, 'predator friendly' livestock husbandry, and most said that they plan to incorporate our suggestions for protecting their stock from predators.

Mali

Some remnant groups of Dama gazelle (*Gazella dama dama*) are surviving in northeastern Mali. Two aerial surveys in 2005 showed small groups and some spoor.

Mozambique

Conservation Force filed a letter with USF&W Service for reconsideration of the elephant import permits for bull elephant taken by US hunters in 2000 and 2002. CF Chairman and CIC Sustainable Use Commission President John Jackson III said in this letter "The permit processing [of USF&W] has not followed the good practices set out in 'Leaving a Lasting Legacy-Permits as a Conservation Tool', particularly recognize permittees as partners in conservation, process applications within specific time frames, or provide assistance on how to apply for a permit. It also does not comport with the Permits Action Plan [that] conservationists [are treated] as partners and [that] the permitting process [be made] efficient and customer friendly". Jackson took the USF&W Service to task for the six years of delay in processing the permits Jackson's letter covers eight pages with detailed information and a package of annexes.

Namibia

A German hunter took a superb elephant bull with tusks weighing 93 and 66 pounds in the Nyae-Nyae Conservancy. The hunt was guided and outfitted by Kai-Uwe Denker. The smaller tusk was broken off and the major tusk had the imposing length of 193 centimeters with a circumference of 54 centimeters.

Namibia

The Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism announced that the agreement about the establishment of the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KaZa), which involves five southern African countries, will be signed on November 2nd. "The cross-boundary initiative involves Namibia, Angola, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe and will establish a world-class transfrontier conservation area within the context of sustainable development, encompassing 278,000km² of savannah, woodlands, rivers and wetlands and holding fourteen existing parks and game reserves, as well as a large number of conservancies, game management areas and tourism or hunting concessions. The area is the home range of Africa's largest elephant population.

South Africa

Gideon Gerhardus van Deventer, 38, and his brother, Nicolaas Brand van Deventer, 35 were arrested for slaughtering rhinos in the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park and are being kept in police custody after investigators linked them to nearly 10 other rhino horn poaching cases elsewhere in South Africa. Some of the horns are alleged to have been poached around the Kruger National Park and provincial or private reserves in Mpumalanga and Limpopo. The brothers were caught by a joint team from

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and the police's Organized Crime Unit - with hunting rifles and four horns, severed from the carcasses of two freshly killed adult white rhino bulls. Several other people have been arrested in various parts of the country in the wake of the Van Deventer arrests. The brothers could face penalties of R200 000 or 10 years in jail for each count of hunting without a permit under KZN's Nature Conservation Ordinance.

South Africa

According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) the country's tourism industry has experienced growth of over 100% since 1994 and the number of international visitors increased from 3.6 million to 7.3 million by 2005. Tourism GDP contribution was 8% in 2005, generating income of more than 19 million dollars in foreign earnings, and providing employment for 1.2 million people. There is still a lack of black South African ownership in the sector. Although a number of institutions are offering development finance to the tourism sector, they require prospective operators to contribute 40 to 50% of the investment - a prohibitive amount of money for black industry entrants. A survey of tourism companies listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in 2003, conducted by the SA Tourism Business Council found that listed companies were, on average, only 6% in compliance with BEE requirements.

South Africa

Six major South African conservation bodies - amongst them WWF-SA, WESSA and EWT concur with SANParks that fallow deer needs to be removed from Table Mountain National Park to halt the threat fallow deer pose to the park's ecosystems.

Tanzania

Well-known professional hunter Rolf Rhower got into trouble with a buffalo wounded by one of his hunting clients. Rolf had tracked the bull for three hours when it came for him, hit him in the chest and then hooked him leaving a fist-size hole in his left hamstring. Luckily Rolf's tracker kept his nerve and shot the buffalo off the unconscious man. Later Rolf treated himself with a state-of-art US military combat first aid kit, before he got via Dar-Es-Salaam to a hospital in Nairobi and then to the trauma unit of Milpark Hospital in Johannesburg. Rhower is presently (mid September) still undergoing a variety of surgery but is in good spirits. He can't wait to go hunting again!

Zambia

The Mosi-Oa-Tunya Hotel and Country Club Estate project along the banks of the Zambezi and Maramba Rivers on 220 hectares of the 66 km² Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park will change this World Heritage site forever. According to their own Environmental Impact Assessment, even the project's promoters (Legacy Group of South Africa and their Zambian partners Tourism Investments Zambia Ltd) admit that the area will be altered forever from a natural state to a totally man made environment. The clearance of the existing natural vegetation will be accompanied by irreversible destruction from construction activities and pollution from labor camps. The proposed infrastructure of roads, paths and about 450 houses will cut most game corridors to the vital river interface.

Interestingly, Legacy Holdings got permission from ZAWA to expand from the Tourism Investments concession of 2 ha to an area more than a hundredfold larger in yet another case of seemingly "bad governance". This assessment is supported by

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14 CITES Puts Southern African Ivory Sales on Hold

CITES has decided not to allow exports of elephant ivory from Botswana, Namibia and South Africa to proceed at this time. The sales were agreed in principle in 2002. However, they were made conditional on the ability of the Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) system to establish up-to-date baseline data on elephant poaching and population levels. The October meeting of the CITES Standing Committee determined that this condition has not yet been satisfied and the sales may not go forward.

After initially indicating that China had adequate domestic controls, the receipt of a negative report by a TRAFFIC officer, the Secretariat altered its recommendation. Apparently, the TRAFFIC officer reported seeing numerous ivory objects for sale in Beijing markets. Amazingly, the Management Authority of China only received a copy of the TRAFFIC report shortly before the meeting of Standing Committee and was not able to respond. Nevertheless, China sought the approval as an "approved trading partner", and attempted unsuccessfully to convince the Committee that the regulatory controls and administrative procedures in place were more than adequate. China suggested that failure to approve legal import of ivory would only raise the threat of illegal trade and associated problems.

The three range States that received approval in 2002 to export their ivory stocks spoke in positive terms how enforcement efforts was having a beneficial affect on conservation of elephants. Kenya portrayed a different scenario. Interestingly, the representatives from Tanzania and the DR Congo noted the need to do something with increasing stockpiles of ivory. The observer from TRAFFIC highlighted the important negative impact of unregulated local markets that operate completely outside of CITES framework and a significant upsurge in illicit ivory trade.

The decision whether or not to approve export of ivory to Japan hinged on MIKE. The progress report submitted by MIKE indicated that baseline data was all but complete. Information was still outstanding for Indonesia and several Central-West African countries. Parties (Australia, United States, Israel) and NGOs (WWF, IFFAW SSN) that are ideologically opposed to recommencing international ivory trade seized upon these as well as other perceived shortcomings in domestic controls.

A decision on whether to approve Japan to receive ivory for domestic consumption was deferred to permit the SC Chair to draft some additional language that reflected the discussions. The CITES Standing Committee agreed to approve Japan as a designated trading partner and requested the Secretariat to provide an update on the situation at the next Standing Committee meeting.

The representative from Namibia, as well as the other affected Parties, was obviously upset by yet another delay in approving what should be regarded as a routine matter. In side discussions the representative from Namibia expressed the intent to seek to re-open discussion on the issue, observing that if the next meeting of Standing Committee did not address the matter, it would not be before 2008 until the Committee next deals with substantive matters.

15 Obituary: Baron Bertrand des Clers

By John J Jackson III

Baron Bertrand des Clers is dead. He died suddenly and without warning of an apparent heart attack at his Paris home on Monday night, October 9, 2006.

Bertrand des Clers was an honorary member of the International Council of Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) and a founding Board Member of Conservation Force.

It is with pride that I can state – as the president of the CIC Sustainable Use Commission and as Chairman of Conservation Force that no individual in the world did more to establish, defend and advance global tourist hunting. Bertrand des Clers was the principal author of CITES Resolution 2.11 – and every international hunter owes Bertrand a debt of gratitude because this resolution forms the basis of the export and import of all hunting trophies in Appendix I of CITES from the Markhor to the Leopard to the Elephant.

Bertrand des Clers was the chief executive officer of the International Foundation for the Conservation of Wildlife (IGF) for more than two decades and as such worked closely with the Foundation's late founder, HH Prince Abdorreza.

The Baron was also the co-founder of the International Professional Hunters' Association (IPHA), the French Professional Hunters Association (ACP) and much more. He was a *member emeritus* of IUCN's Species Survival Commission and he served on the African Lion Working Group as well as the Antelope Specialist Court.

Bertrand was my single dearest friend and a close confidant in this world. His death will be an immeasurable loss to me personally and to the hunting world. Just this past January, he was awarded the *Peter Capstick Award* at Dallas Safari Club for his unsurpassed contributions to the hunting and conservation world (see also African Indaba Vol 4/2). I cannot express the measure of this loss. It will never be the same without him,

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the fact that the team submitting the environmental impact assessment was headed by a director and shareholder of Legacy Holdings and he also happens to be the brother of the ZAWA official who issued the tourism lease.

Zimbabwe

Klaudius Hove, the proprietor of Kanetuta Safaris, failed to pay the ZIM\$710 million for his winning bid within the stipulated seven days. He also lost \$20 million non-refundable deposit he had paid to the National Parks and Wildlife Authority. The concession, run by Jacob Mudenda chairman of the Safari Operators Association of Zimbabwe, for a decade, went under the hammer in August after the expiry of Mudenda's lease. A spokesperson for NP&WA said that the concession will now be offered to an undisclosed second highest bidder. Mudenda however is still confident that they would be winning their case in the ongoing appeals process.

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3 News About Angola's Giant Sable

proach the salt lick... and there was just one sub-adult male, not yet black, but already dark brown and showing curving horns.

The behaviour seems to be very interesting with the females acting quite aggressively towards each other, probably a sign of the rutting season approaching. The first female arrived at the site at 09h35 but she was very suspicious at first and only about 20 minutes later they made the final approach. They stood there until 10h09.

The film should be of excellent quality and is certainly more than enough for our present needs, but I am not entirely happy with the sharpness.

GRD: Did you ever come across a mature adult bull?

PvP: Obtaining the sable film in August was a very happy moment. In the footage, I was able to identify, amongst others, seven beautiful old giant sable females, one three year old female and one 2005 male calf. I still believe that there is a master bull somewhere, just waiting for us! I have now instructed the shepherds to spend more time searching some particular areas where we believe he might be, and to see if we can find alternative salt licks. As the DNA results so far haven't proved to be entirely convincing, we need to get other ways to be sure, if we have a second herd in Cangandala or if we are down to just this one. And in the process, getting the bull would be more than a bonus! Even if we assume that territorial bulls may be more vulnerable to poaching, we still should have a couple of breeding bulls left.

In the meantime, I expect to have the herd at the original observation point very well monitored, and all the individuals identified. We will use only remote operated video and still cameras to leave this herd as undisturbed as possible. I must also invest time exploring more areas.

GRD: You told me that you went back to Cangandala in September. Any news from this last expedition?

PvP: I had asked the shepherds to find a new salt lick in order to get able to observe other sable groups. If the shepherds couldn't find one, I planned to put some cameras on a promising salt lick site I had found last year 10km further south. When I arrived at Cangandala no new poaching incidents were reported for the past weeks, and the shepherds had indeed found a new salt lick which apparently was being heavily used by sable!

I started by going to our old salt lick. This time the video system had recorded 14 minutes of footage, of which about half resulted of two independent events which were recorded early in the morning, between 6h30 and 9h30. But no sable though. Later that evening I used my laptop to show the August sable movie and some slides to a very interested audience.

Early next morning we drove through woodland towards the new salt lick. We stopped the car less than 300 meters from the site and walked for 100 meters. Suddenly the shepherds ducked to the ground and started pointing excitedly to the lick: The sable herd was right there! I eventually crawled to within 60 meters from them! The bush is so dense that I never got a clear view although I observed them for at least half an hour. I didn't want to risk frightening the animals trying to get a good picture when they were taking in salt. It was a group of six animals with a dominant female leading the party; four young animals – three males and one female – and a calf around four months old whose little horns were just beginning to show. Finding five

young animals here may help explaining why there were so few young in the other salt lick.

The salt lick area was covered with sable spoor, suggesting that they use this place a lot. Moreover there was a second salt lick 100 meters away showing similar signs of constant use. This area, densely covered with bush, seems to be favored by the sables. I placed our second video camera almost on top of the salt lick, and hope for some excellent close-up footage soon! We also placed a stills camera at the site. I also admit to speculating that this site must be in the core area of the sable herd, and then also likely right inside the bull territory! So, I really feel we're getting closer!

GRD: Did the Malanje Conference further the Giant Sable Project?

PvP: The September Conference with an ambitious program and over 200 participants, including ministers and senior government, officials in Malanje was a huge success for the Giant Sable Project. The Governor of Malanje, Cristóvão da Cunha welcomed the participants and Minister of Environment Sita José followed with the opening speech. Bill Cummings, public affairs manager for ESSO Angola presented a check for US\$111,000 for the rehabilitation of the park infrastructures in Cangandala to the secretary-general of the Catholic University, Father Imbamba. Professor Brian Huntley from South Africa presented a broad overview of Angolan biodiversity with a series of slides of Angolan wildlife, and a special focus on the giant sable. Vladimir Russo, of the Angolan National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and advisor to the Minister of Environment presented the Government's strategy for the conservation of Angolan biodiversity and explained why the giant sable is a national priority.

In a final ceremony the Memorandum of Understanding between the Catholic University, the Ministry of Environment and the Provincial Government of Malanje was officially signed. The Minister also announced the appointment of Cardoso Bebeca as Park Administrator for Cangandala.

The project is now stronger than ever before; with the Government's participation and the institutional framework in place we have reason to be optimistic. In the next few months we need to define very urgently our course of action, and it is becoming very clear that in 2007, drastic measures will have to be taken in order to save the sable population in Cangandala.

GRD: We heard from Dr. Jeremy Anderson that he missed seeing Giant Sable by mere minutes in Cangandala?

PvP: Nine of the conference participants and I went to the park for some field work. During the night and early morning we had the first rain of the season.

After breakfast we headed towards salt lick n°2 to check the video camera. The film showed that two giant sable cows had been in the salt lick just a couple of hours earlier! We then drove through the woodland towards salt lick n°3, but the cameras there showed no activity! A couple of hundred meters away is another salt lick that last month had been less utilized, but this time it was a different story! There was very fresh spoor all over this site, and the sables must have been there while our cars approached.

GRD: Pedro, thank you for this exciting news about the Palanca Negra. Please keep our readers up-to-date with the developments!