

# AFRICAN INDABA

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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

## 1 Moving Ahead

Editorial Comment by Gerhard R Damm

We are moving – on a number of issues:

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, the Government released the new regulations for hunting in South Africa – after several years of debate we finally reached a conclusion.

I passionately disagree with those hardliners and doomsday prophets (most of them from North America where the hunting laws and regulations are to some part at least far more stringent than those promulgated in South Africa), who asked the question “which domino will be next?” or stated that this is the “beginning of the end of hunting in South Africa”.

Canned shooting of animals is not a “domino” for hunter-conservationists, just as child pornography is not a domino in sexual liberation. We are hunters – we love to hunt, we love nature and together we contribute a lot to conservation. Canned shooting and/or breeding for canned shooting operations is something entirely different. It has no conservation purpose whatsoever, no matter what the proponents say.

The real problem was that we turned a blind eye for too long towards some unsavory activities which erroneously were called hunting by some and which the public perceived as hunting. For too long a time neither the hunting associations nor the State had structures and procedures in place to provide a basis for self-regulation.

Finally the South African Government has provided these structures! **The difficult process along the way created a new sense of cooperation in the South African hunting community and indeed also with some non-hunting conservation NGOs. Now we are not only better prepared to face future challenges, but we are ready to actively shape policy development.**

Read more about this topic in the Press Release of the Department of Environmental Affairs, the statement of PHASA president Stewart Dorrington and the comment of CHASA president Ludolph Swanevelder.

PHASA is also moving ahead – with the announcement of the **grand Black Tie Gala Dinner & Auction at the Intercontinental Sandton Sun and Towers Johannesburg on May 10<sup>th</sup>**. All funds raised at this exciting evening are earmarked for bursaries of South African students at the Southern African Wildlife College. PHASA and the PHASA Empowerment & Conservation Fund underwrite the total cost of the evening – so every cent from entrance fees and auctions will go to the College. This gutsy idea of PHASA president Stewart Dorrington, enthusiastically supported by famed conservationist Dr. Ian Player, prom-

ises to be a corner stone for hunters’ involvement in BEE and conservation management. Read the official announcement on page 3 of this newsletter and make sure that you and your friends are there! **For details phone the Mariaan at the PHASA office 012-667-2048 or email [info@phasa.co.za](mailto:info@phasa.co.za).**

**The Kenyans are also moving ahead. Oops – I should rather have said side- and backwards.** A “*Draft National Land Use Policy*” which virtually nobody had heard of; which proposes to abolish freehold tenure in favor of 99 year leasehold; which tries to marry African customary law with modern British law; which demands that land can be sold only with the approval of family members, etc. came to light. A Central Land Board made up of politically appointees with judicial powers superior to the country’s legal system is slated to have control over all land issues, and would be able to levy taxes.

There are three significant shortcomings in this policy. First, a profound ignorance of the history of land issues in Kenya, of the policies towards these issues adopted by successive Kenyan governments, and of the workings of current land law. Second, by concentrating almost exclusively on minority issues (important though they are) at the expense of the majority it will create greater injustices than those it seeks to redress. Third, by

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For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa’s wild natural resources.

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1 Moving Ahead

undermining one of the pillars of the Kenyan economy – security of private tenure and the unencumbered transfer of property rights -- it will hinder the creation and accumulation of wealth by Kenyan citizens, thus exacerbating and perpetuating poverty. Finally, implicit in the Draft Land Policy is the prerequisite for deep and radical amendments to the Constitution – a process already soundly rejected by the citizenry of Kenya (Mike Norton-Griffiths, 2007 – see also <http://www.mng5.com/others.htm>)

Kenya's population largely abandoned communal tenure in favor of private tenure and freehold within an enlightened land tenure system. Private title deeds facilitated the access to capital, due to the unencumbered transfer of such rights. Kenyans and similarly South Africans and Namibian are light years ahead of the rest of the continent with this proven system. Mugabe's disastrous experiment in Zimbabwe certainly does not invite any imitators, yet the proposed Kenyan land policy will dispossess millions of land owners and in its wake, will create, accentuate and perpetuate both rural and urban poverty.

It transpires that it is an NGO called ActionAid founded 1972 in the UK and now one of the UK's largest development agencies with its international secretariat based in South Africa, who invented this neo-Marxist document. ActionAid's primary motivation seem to be issues of minority land rights and a wish to redress real or perceived injustices dating from the colonial era, yet the new policy launches an outright assault on private property rights, on the security of such property rights and on the free and unencumbered transfer of such property rights, without offering any sensible alternatives. The European Parliament should have a look at ActionAid's activities and how the UK government is being dragged into these schemes.

I suggest that this issue is also of importance for the preparations of the CITES Conference of Parties (CoP 14) in The Hague later this year. Kenya's published proposals for CoP 14 show an expansion of the unholy alliance between IFAW and ActionAid towards wildlife policies not only in Kenya but across Africa. The alliance obviously held the Kenyan hand which drafted yet another set of ill-conceived proposals. ActionAid's interest in wildlife and the clandestine cooperation with and funding of IFAW has gone a long way: Their combined message: "*don't go near utilization – it is a plot by wicked colonialists*" is accompanied by some staffers' private statements that they have the Minister in their pocket, as well as the Vice President and the President!

What a surprise that an obviously IFAW-leaning writer of the Kenyan paper *The Nation* decries on February 20<sup>th</sup> in several articles that USAID partly financed a draft policy that asks the Kenyan Government to allow sensible and regulated sustainable extractive use of wildlife! John Mbaria of *The Nation* applies two yardsticks at his convenience, when evaluating policy proposals – wherever it serves IFAW's ill-conceived objectives, foreign funding is welcome, but on the matter of USAID involvement it's considered foreign meddling! IFAW's vociferous opposition to the proposed granting of user rights to land owners and communities living in wildlife areas; the refusal to empower them to participate in decision-making processes and to allow them to benefit from the use of wildlife resources is obviously not con-

sidered foreign meddling by Mbaria. There is anyhow a logic flaw here – in the land policy document expansion of minority rights are sought, whereas the wildlife policy objective of IFAW provides just the contrary.

It is rather strange that Mr Mbaria labels the consultative process regarding the formulation of a new Kenyan wildlife policy "*Behind-the-Scenes Foreign Efforts to Change Policies*" yet he conveniently forgets the four decades of constant meddling of American and European IFAW staff in alliance with the likes of the UK-based Born Free Foundation and the US-based Humane Society (HSUS). He also forgets to mention the disastrous losses which Kenya's biodiversity had to suffer during the all-permeating influence of international animal rights organizations during the past thirty years and the dismal record of incompetence of the Kenyan Wildlife Service under IFAW guidance. He further forgets to mention the condescending attitude of the animal rightists, who corrupted untold numbers of Kenyans with easy handouts and money.

It is quite ridiculous, when another editorial of *The Nation* by an unknown author, published on February 26<sup>th</sup>, claims that wildlife numbers in Kenya increased since the ban on sport hunting in the late seventies. Empirical evidence shows that quite the contrary is true! The review of wildlife policy though a process of national workshops and regional seminars, and visits by the National Steering Committee to neighboring and southern African countries, was actually motivated by the loss of some 70% of all wildlife in Kenya over the last three decades – an unprecedented feat achieved nowhere else in Africa except perhaps in countries ravaged by civil strife.

Dr Stephanie S. Romañach wrote in the last issue of African Indaba (Vol. 5, No. 1) that Richard Leakey, former Director of Kenya's wildlife regulatory agency commented on the unsustainable illegal bushmeat trade during one of the hearings, stressing that hunting in some form has never stopped in Kenya despite the ban and is widespread and out of control. Leakey further said "*that decision makers should consider a policy to regulate hunting, make hunting sustainable, and to allow people to derive value from wildlife*".

Some Kenyans fear that trophy hunting will provide an opportunity for a foreign industry to exploit local resources. *The Nation's* journalists constantly pour oil into this fire. Yet they fail to mention that it is Kenya's much-lauded photographic tourism industry which suffers badly from leakage of revenues to overseas accounts and from the absence of devolving adequate benefits to communities. John Mbaria does not seem to have either an economist's nor a conservationist's knowledge, since he upholds that "non-consumptive tourism" is the proverbial golden goose. He omits to address the unsustainability in photo-tourism – even for the casual observer it is obvious that the hordes of tourists in their zebra-striped minibuses operating from ever-expanding lodges are extremely consumptive of Kenya's most picturesque biodiversity hotspots and are negatively impacting on the behaviour of all animals as well as on their habitats. Mr Mbaria, don't you know that most of the Kenyan lands suitable for wildlife (around 95%) are never visited by your much lauded photo tourists? The consequence is obvious – if the current restrictions on income generating opportunities from wildlife

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## The Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa

Grand Gala Dinner & Auction  
Intercontinental Sandton Sun &  
Towers, Johannesburg  
May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – 19.00h  
Tickets @ R1000 per person



Limited Openings – Make your reservations NOW with PHASA (Phone Mariaan at 012-6672048 – email [info@phasa.co.za](mailto:info@phasa.co.za))

The gala evening is part of a long term strategy of PHASA and the Southern African Wildlife College to fund the training and specialized education of people from all South African population groups for careers in wildlife management and conservation. All proceeds of the gala evening and the auction are earmarked for bursaries of promising students.

## 2 Hunting in South Africa: The New Regulations

By Stewart Dorrington, President PHASA

South Africa has the ideal combination of a first world infrastructure and extensive areas under wildlife – two reasons which make it the most popular destination for sport hunting tourism in Africa and indeed worldwide. There is an incredible variety of game species to hunt in a variety of habitats. As South Africa became the preferred destination for trophy hunters, the demand for hunting areas and game increased and the country started a "Conservation Revolution" some decades ago which continues until today. It can be aptly termed the biggest wildlife conservation success in Africa today. Thousands and thousands of privately owned farms began converting to game farming. Wildlife populations grew to levels not seen in the past 150 years and they continue to grow. Rare species became so valuable that they were in many cases intensively managed and have been brought back to safe numbers. Regulated hunting by local recreational hunters and most importantly by more than 6,000 visiting sportsmen and sportswomen from all over the world played a significant role in this development. There is currently seven times the area under wildlife in private hands than the total of all national and provincially protected areas.

Game ranching and Hunting Safari Outfitting grew at such a pace that the old Nature Conservation Ordinances that governed the conservation and sustainable use of South Africa's biodiversity were found lacking in substance and practical administrative procedures. The old laws and regulations were increasingly seen as impediment to the growth of the game ranching and hunting tourism.

The South African government and the Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism decided it was time for an overhaul of the entire package in order to streamline the administration between the nationally responsible departments and the provinces. In addition, both lawmakers and hunting associations recognized an unwelcome growth in certain unsavory practices like the shooting of canned lions and unethical put-&-take practices. Both also saw the need to address the issue of black economic empowerment to include a broader spectrum of the population, especially the rural communities, in the processes.

Early in 2005, the Minister of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism appointed a "panel of experts" to elaborate a set of recommendations regarding which measures needed to be taken to protect the integrity of the hunting industry, which was continuing to receive widespread negative press, especially with regard to canned lions. Political issues were also arising out of white operators hunting in areas adjacent to national parks where the adjacent communities felt that they too should be benefiting from these animals and the hunting or alternatively nobody should be allowed to hunt them!

By late 2005 the recommendations of the panel were put into draft form and presented to the public and interested stakeholders for comment. For more than a year the drafts have been commented on, debated, criticized, praised and/or condemned.

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk

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## 3 South Africa Gets Tough on Canned Shooting

Extracts from a speech by Marthinus van Schalkwyk, Minister of Environmental Affairs & Tourism, at the launch of the "Threatened or Protected Species Regulations" on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2007 in Cape Town/South Africa.

*Editor's Note: African Indaba applauds the minister and DEAT for the firm stand on "canned shooting". We took the liberty, however, to use the expression "canned shooting" in the headline instead of the minister's use of the word "canned hunting". There is no such thing as "canned hunting"; what the minister and the new regulations refer to are acts of killing which display no element of true hunting.*

*The Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa (PHASA) said that it welcomed the new regulations as a chance to clean up the image of the South African hunting industry. Lion breeders account for only about 3 percent of game farms. "A small sector has given the whole industry a bad name," said Stewart Dorrington, president of the hunting body. Up to 7,000 foreign tourists visit South Africa each year on hunting safaris, each spending roughly \$18,000, Dorrington said (see also "Hunting in South Africa: The New Regulations on page 3)*

*Associated Press reported van Schalkwyk saying that "Hunting is an integral part of South African life because of its cultural traditions and importance to the economy. We gave our firm intention more than two years ago to deal with the issue [of canned lion shooting, but] many of the lion breeders thought they were empty threats and did not take it seriously. This is a practice that cannot be defended in any way."*

For the full text of the **National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act 10 of 2004): Threatened or Protected Species Regulations** click this [link](#)

Today, it gives me great pleasure to publish the regulations that pertain to threatened and protected species. These regulations will come into effect on 1 June 2007. The regulations are a culmination of a three year period of consultation between government, civil society, the wild life industry as well as animal welfare groups. They also take into account several recommendations by a panel of experts which I appointed in January 2005.

For the first time nationally listed species will now have uniform conservation status across the country. Government will have new muscle to ensure that our biodiversity is utilized in an ecologically sustainable way. A broad range of restricted activities will now require permits. The illicit trading of our endangered fish, bird and plant species, like cycads, will be rooted out. The same legal standards will apply throughout the country, closing loopholes and removing discrepancies between provinces. In support of these regulations, our initiatives to improve law enforcement demonstrate Government's resolve to protect our biological heritage. The Green Scorpions will continue to play a key role in ensuring compliance.

Let me turn to some of the specifics:

The Regulations introduce a uniform national system for the registration of captive breeding operations, commercial exhibi-

tion facilities, game farms, nurseries, scientific institutions, sanctuaries and rehabilitation facilities. These institutions will be required to meet strict criteria. For the first time, provision will be made for the recognition of hunting organizations and the application of codes of ethical conduct and good practice.

The introduction of game farm hunting and nursery possession permits will streamline the permit issuing process. It will also compel permit holders to provide critical information to the authorities, which will assist in assessing the status of biodiversity in the country.

In order to meet our CITES commitments, we are establishing a national scientific authority, which will replace the current fragmented system. The new authority will enable uniform implementation and provide access to scientific information beyond just CITES species.

As a signatory to the international Convention on Biodiversity, South Africa has a commitment to the sustainable use of our natural resources. We understand the huge responsibility that rests on our shoulders to nurture the ecological and economic value of our biodiversity. Therefore, we must protect the integrity of our ecosystems to ensure their long term contribution to tourism and job creation. These regulations empower us to do this.

**We are putting an end, once and for all, to the reprehensible practice of canned hunting. The regulations specifically prohibit hunting large predators and rhinoceros that are "put and take" animals - in other words, a captive bred animal that is released on a property for the purpose of hunting within twenty four months.** South Africa has a long-standing reputation as a global leader on conservation issues. We can not allow our achievements to be undermined by rogue practices such as canned lion hunting.

More broadly, the regulations signal the start of a clean-up of the hunting industry. They lay the basis for a well regulated and ethical hunting and game farming industry in South Africa.

Whilst we applaud their substantial and positive contribution to conservation management and economic growth, we also have a responsibility to preserve the resource base and ensure that the industry has a sustainable future. In order to do this, we must balance economic objectives with conservation management objectives. Hunting is an important industry, but we must manage it in accordance with ethical and defensible standards.

The regulations include prohibitions and restrictions on certain activities and methods of hunting. For example, hunting thick skinned animals and large predators with a bow and arrow will be prohibited and hunting from vehicles will no longer be allowed.

The implementation of these regulations will be the first step of a two-step process to clean up the hunting and game farming industry. The next step will be to promote even greater uniformity with regard to elements of the hunting industry that we are not dealing with today. We will introduce national norms and standards that provide a framework for provincial regulation and further streamline permitting. This will also be developed in close consultation with the industry, provincial authorities and other stakeholders.

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## 4 What is the Difference between a Quelea and an Elephant?

Ask IFAW – or PETA, or Born Free, or Save the....!

*Quelea quelea* are found throughout sub-Saharan Africa in areas receiving less than 760mm of annual rainfall. They nest in thick thornbush and trees; a colony may cover up to 10 sq km. The males build the simple grass nests, and a single thatched nest may house hundreds of females and their young, with only a few highly polygamous males. They are persistent and prolific breeders, beginning as early as nine months of age. With the spread of grain farming and irrigation, they have extended their natural habitats, generally picking new breeding grounds every year. The quelea is also the greatest avian agricultural pest of the region. Highly mobile, they often descend in a locust-like manner upon fields and in flight may indeed be mistaken for locusts. Queleas are often found in concentrations of more than a million birds; such a flock can destroy up to 60 tons of grain in a single day, consuming half and knocking the rest to the ground. Hence, they are destroyed aggressively with aerial or terrestrial spraying of toxins such as *Queletox* or *Cyanox* poisons and fire, but, as with locusts, to little effect. The toxins are often deadly for non-target species like birds, reptiles, fish and insects. In addition to grain, Queleas also feed on insects and, in the dry season, strip the leaves from trees.

Have you ever heard of any animal rights organization defending the right-to-life of the quelea? One must assume that the logic of these self-proclaimed “do-gooders” is somewhat lopsided, since they so vigorously oppose elephant culling, yet they don’t bat an eyelid when it comes to the Quelea. Some animals seem to be more equal than others!

### POSTSCRIPT:

South Africa needs to consider restarting elephant culls because growing numbers of the mammal now threaten local habitats, the WWF conservation group has said on February 25th. “What has happened in the last 10 years is that protected areas ... had elephant numbers grow to where they are actually suppressing the habitat, the vegetation,” Rob Little, acting CEO of WWF South Africa, told Reuters.

“We believe that the culling may be a last resort, [...] but it should be available as one option.” Little was speaking in advance of the unveiling on Wednesday of a new elephant management plan by South Africa’s environmental affairs and tourism ministry. The WWF has made recommendations toward the plan, which is expected to include a resumption of culling to cut growing elephant numbers in the country’s flagship Kruger National Park and other reserves. “What we have said was that the nations that have elephants that are signatories to CITES must be allowed to take wise, sound scientific-based decisions on the management of the species,” said Little.

**(Editor’s note:** I suggest that IFAW rethinks Kenya’s CoP 14 proposals – especially those directed against other African nations like South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe – IFAW obviously drafted them in the first place!

## 5 Draft Norms & Standards for Elephant Management

Press Release DEAT – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007 (Edited Extracts)

The Draft Norms and Standards for the Management of Elephants (DN&S) in South Africa will be published in the Government Gazette on Friday 2 March 2007 for 60 days. Stakeholders should submit written comments by 4 May 2007.

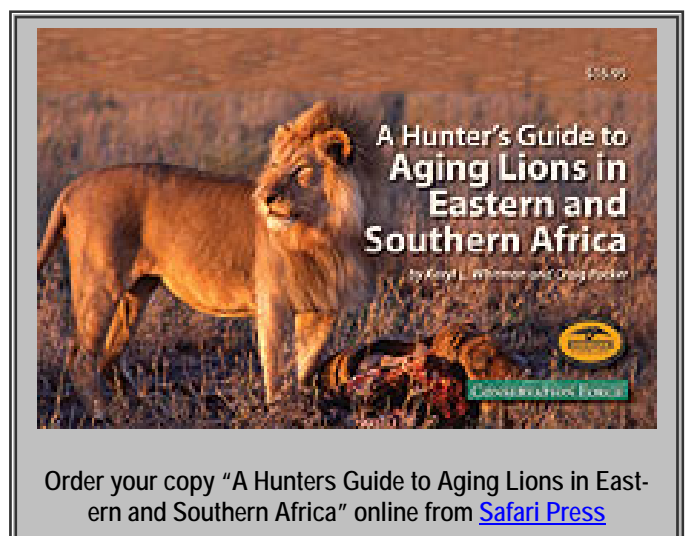
Decisions on elephant management are [based] on societal value systems, since they involve trade-offs between different things that are legitimately valued by society. The divergence of views on elephant management arises primarily from different values held by different stakeholders. Scientific information, alone, cannot resolve [this]. We have taken care in the DN&S for Elephant Management to set out Guiding Principles that will inform decision making. These principles are based on respect for elephants, reverence for humans and recognition that we are faced with a degree of scientific uncertainty.

[The] Department will contribute an initial R5 million this year to the research project proposed by the Science Round Table, which consists of 21 scientists. They have proposed a comprehensive research plan that will hopefully reduce the scientific uncertainty concerning elephants.

[The minister is] satisfied that within the African context, sustainable use of natural resources is necessary and appropriate [but] that the management of our natural resources should be conducted ethically, humanely and rationally. The DN&S therefore provide for population control of elephants using one or more of the following options:

- range manipulation (water supply, enclosure or enclosure, movement corridors; range expansion by acquisition of additional land)
- removal by translocation;
- introduction of elephants;
- contraception; and
- culling.

And the standard itself is that: *Culling may be used to reduce the size of an elephant population subject to .....due consideration of all other population management options.*



Order your copy “A Hunters Guide to Aging Lions in Eastern and Southern Africa” online from [Safari Press](#)

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## A Hunter's Heart

"Why do I hunt? It's a lot to think about, and I think about it a lot. I hunt to acknowledge my evolutionary roots, millennia deep, as a predatory omnivore. To participate actively in the bedrock workings of nature. For the atavistic challenge of doing it well with an absolute minimum of technological assistance. To learn the lessons, about nature and myself, that only hunting can teach. To accept personal responsibility for at least some of the deaths that nourish my life. For the glimpse it offers into a wildness we can hardly imagine. Because it provides the closest thing I've known to a spiritual experience. I hunt because it enriches my life and because I can't help myself... because I was born with a hunter's heart."  
[p.161]

From David Petersen (ed.) 1996. "A Hunter's Heart: Honest Essays on Blood Sport". Henry Holt & Co., New York. ISBN 0-8050-4423-X

## 6 PHASA Facilitates Firearms Import for Visiting Hunters

The Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa (PHASA) has very successfully offered the service of obtaining in advance the Temporary Importation Permits for firearms for international hunters coming to South Africa during 2006. Experience has shown that this service considerably speeds up the process of passing through the South African Police Service office at Oliver R Tambo Airport in Johannesburg.

PHASA is offering the same service for 2007. The cost is US\$110 per application (includes VAT). Arrangements can be made by contacting the PHASA office via email at [admin@phasa.co.za](mailto:admin@phasa.co.za) and payment can be done by credit card.

PHASA recommends that the temporary import permits are ALWAYS obtained prior to the client's arrival. When the visiting hunter uses the PHASA service and provided the application is successful, the client will have the Temporary Import Permits available for collection at the SAPS office at O R Tambo Airport.

Should a client wish that PHASA obtain the permit prior to arrival the following certified/notarized documentation must be sent to the PHASA office by registered mail or courier to reach the PHASA Office at least 25 days prior to arrival in South Africa. Please note that these documents have to be couriered or posted to us, as no fax or email copies will be accepted.

Detailed information is available at the PHASA website [www.phasa.co.za](http://www.phasa.co.za) under **General Hunting Information**. There you can also download the necessary official forms and learn about restriction and procedures.

Please contact the PHASA office on [admin@phasa.co.za](mailto:admin@phasa.co.za) if you have any questions

## 7 Voices of American Hunters

Downloaded from [www.outdoorsdirectory.com](http://www.outdoorsdirectory.com)

### Hunter A:

I've thought about {record books} a lot, and for me it isn't about the book at all; it's about the attitude of the hunter. "The Book" is two things: a tool to research regional genetic pockets for trophy hunting, and a celebration of the glory of animals of unusual size. I'm offended by hunters who think that the whole point is to see their name in lights. I think SCI made a mistake in even issuing their own version of records books, and [They should have] left that turf to the established books already issued by Rowland Ward, Boone & Crockett, and Pope & Young. These three represent the gold standard.

Unfortunately these tools have turned the egos of some hunters into a cash cow for the organization that produces them. You pay to be a member, you pay to get your name in their book, and you buy a copy to show to your friends. I dunno.

The concept is good. But it has been twisted by over-commercialization, and by the egos of many of the hunters. I'm probably not the most objective guy for this one, because of some of the behavior I've witnessed in the field. We had one sheep hunter who, upon jumping out of the Super Cub on the airstrip, announced that he had "\$500 for the first 40-incher we got". He shot a 34-inch ram, against the advice of his guide. The first thing he did was pull out a tape. When he saw how small it was (it was a full curl, just a smaller ram), he literally threw its head down on the rocks. You have to grit your teeth and discharge your legal obligations to the guy. I've seen that same hunter in a few magazines since then, so perhaps he has realized his dreams of fame, but he won't be unrolling his sleeping bag by my fire any time soon.

### Hunter B:

A few shooters that I have hunted with, eagerly ran up to the animals, pulling out a tape measure, actually trying to measure them up before they were dead and still thrashing around. Quite a few others taped them before the butchering process began. I was always sickened by this. I will never go in the field with another person that has a tape in their pocket again. The time for measuring is back at home. These people ruin the rest of the hunt for others in the party, because the animal they took early on, did not meet or exceed their expectations.

### Hunter C:

I don't see [Record Books] as a bad thing myself, but when it consumes a person to the extent that he/she will do anything to get their name in the Book then it's lost its purpose. I like reading about the record breaking animals, where they were taken and the story behind it. If it's taken free ranging and fair chase then that's real hunting and how it should be done. Not all record books require that though.

### Hunters D:

Record books that highlight and score the type of wild, free-roaming species and where the animal was harvested (general area) are still important. But I think it's time to take the "competition" aspect out of it, as it is causing many to do things that aren't in keeping with the tradition of hunting ethics.

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## 8 Zambia Lobbies US Over Elephant Trophy Hunting

Zambian Minister of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources, Kabinga Pande and a delegation of Government, Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA), and Zambia National Tourist Board (ZNTB) officials met with United States Fish & Wildlife Services chief Ken Stensil during the January 2007 SCI Annual Convention in Reno to discuss the the USF&W policy regarding imports of sport hunted elephant trophies into the United States. Pande lobbied strongly for the United States administration recognizing that regulated elephant trophy hunting in Zambia will not only assist in further conservation efforts but also open a considerable stream of revenue for these disadvantaged rural communities who are living with the elephants.

Although American hunters can hunt elephant in Zambia, they are not allowed to import the trophies after the hunt, thus severely restricting Zambian access to the American safari market, globally the most important. The Zambian delegates argue for increased quotas for trophy hunting in selected areas of the country, like in the Zambezi valley, where Zambia and Zimbabwe share a huge and increasing trans-boundary elephant population. Whereas Zimbabwe's country wide trophy hunting quota for elephant stands at 500 annually, Zambia is still restricted to 20, and even those 20 cannot be imported into the USA due to unilateral and arbitrary decisions by the USF&W, although Zambia has been allocated an annual export trophy export quota of 40 elephant tusks from 20 animals by CITES ([www.cites.org/common/quotas/2006/ExportQuotas2006.pdf](http://www.cites.org/common/quotas/2006/ExportQuotas2006.pdf)).

Mr Pande observed that sport-hunting had the potential to bring financial benefits to the country and empower local communities economically and motivate them to participate in conservation projects. He said sport hunting would also go a long way in easing animal-human conflicts in game management areas. The minister reaffirmed the importance of sport hunting as important conservation tool that would assist Zambia in earning critical funds. During the period 2001 to 2005, 115 elephants have been killed on control programs in Zambia - many of these could have been included in the trophy hunting program and would then have benefitted the local communities not only with meat but with desperately needed funds. The minister stated that the rural Zambian communities who live within the elephant range are strong supporters of the trophy hunting programs.

Recently there has been a flurry of emails and blogs circulating the globe with allegations of corruption, mismanagement and nepotism concerning the minister's efforts of putting elephant hunting in Zambia on a well regulated basis. This campaign seems to have its origin in Zambia and in particular within a section of Zambian safari operators, and may be connected with personal issues of those who started it. Minister Kabinga Pande cautioned the Chief Stensil and the American administration as well as the hunting public to be wary of those who were maligning the Zambian government. Mr Panda said that "the United States was an important market for Zambian trophies and appealed to authorities to rescind the decision not to allow their citizens to bring trophies from elephant-hunting safaris."

## 9 News from Africa

### Africa/USA

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) announced its top 10 wildlife success stories at the year end 2006 – first place went to: *"Elephant Vasectomies: While poaching and habitat loss are causing elephant populations to decline worldwide, wildlife officials are culling elephants in confined areas, such as South Africa's Kruger National Park, where elephants are dangerously overpopulated. Culling can distress the communities of these highly social animals. Offering a safe and effective solution, a team of experts from Disney's Animal Kingdom and San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park developed a procedure for population control - elephant vasectomies. The technical team trained several African veterinarians on how to do the procedure, and researchers hope it will help advance techniques for surgery on other large animals, including hippos and rhinoceros"*

**Fact is:** An elephant's testicles are internal and situated close to the kidneys, an elephant vasectomy is a major operation that is very expensive, has to be done under a general anaesthetic and at considerable pain and some risk to the animal. The cost of the procedure will be very high. As it only prevents reproduction in one animal, and an elephant cow in estrus will generally be covered by more than one bull, it will be interesting to see what percentage of bulls have to be vasectomized to reduce the birth rate in the population. There is also no need to vasectomize hippo or rhino and there is no elephant culling in Kruger National Park at this moment.

### Botswana

Botswana mining giant Debswana has committed 250,000 Pula to the Botswana Cheetah Conservation program at the Mokolodi Nature Reserve. The project incorporates long term monitoring, practical conservation, scientific research and community participation with a focus on reducing cheetah-human

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### African Indaba eNewsletter

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

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

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conflict and improving methods of predator control

### Guinea

The Republic of Guinea has designated a specially protected area for vultures, the first of its kind in Africa. The 'vulture sanctuary' consists of approximately 450,000 ha in the Fouta Djallon Highlands, a region that holds a significant proportion of West Africa's vultures. Fauna & Flora International and the Endangered Wildlife Trust have been working with Guinée Écologie aimed at stabilising vulture populations in rural refuges and helping numbers recover in the sub-region.

### Kenya

On February 1, the Ol Pejeta Conservancy, the Kenya Wildlife Service and Lewa Wildlife Conservancy will commence the single biggest rhino translocation ever undertaken in East Africa. In total 34 black rhino will be translocated: Solio Rhino Sanctuary is one of the most successful rhino sanctuaries in Kenya; with a population of over 80 black rhinos it carries the largest single black rhino population in East Africa. Most of the successful rhino sanctuaries in Kenya were initially established with a founder population from Solio. When the translocation is complete the Ol Pejeta Conservancy will hold a breeding population of 79 black rhino. The overall carrying capacity on Ol Pejeta is estimated at 120-130 individuals, achievable within the next 8-10 years. The Ol Pejeta Conservancy occupies 360km<sup>2</sup> of African savannah within the Laikipia District.

### Kenya

Kenya Association of Tour Operators (KATO) chairman Duncan Muriuki and his Kenya Association of Hotelkeepers association (KAHC) Coast branch counterpart said they were shocked to learn that there was a proposal to re-introduce game hunting, yet industry players had objected to it when the committee went round the country collecting views. Speaking at the Mombasa Show Ground, Mr Muriuki said the move would be resisted at all costs. "Wildlife is our heritage, and killing for fun, in the first place, is not African. We're not going to allow foreigners to introduce foreign concepts in the management of our heritage," he said (*Editor's note: How African is IFAW's "non-utilitarian, anthropomorphic and platonic wildlife ethics"? – Please read Moving Ahead by Gerhard Damm to get the full picture*)

### Mozambique/USA

John Jackson of Conservation Force has filed an appeal to the Director of the US Fish & Wildlife Service regarding the original denials and the subsequent denials of the request for reconsideration for the imports of elephant ivory hunted or to be hunted in Mozambique citing that the denials are contrary to law and regulation, irrational, and are arbitrary and capricious as well as contrary to CITES, ESA, AECA and the Administrative Procedures Act.

### Namibia

The future of all seven Namibian vulture species is threatened and immediate efforts to preserve their dwindling populations are crucial. Only 22 chicks of the lappet-faced vultures were ringed in 2006. The Tsauchab River, ending at Sossusvlei, has shown the biggest decline over the past years, with no breeding birds found for 3 years after 10 chicks were ringed in 1996. The demise of the breeding colony was ascribed to in-

creasing tourist vehicles and pleasure flights in the vicinity. Numbers in the Sukses/Tsamvlei and Saagberg/Kamberg areas are down as well and in the Ganab area 14 breeding birds were counted this year compared to the 40 found in 2004.

### Namibia

Mass mortalities and abortions of the Cape fur seals along Namibia's coastline are a result of starvation due to food scarcity, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources has confirmed. Similar numbers of deaths and abortions were experienced in 1988, 1989, 1994, 1995, 2000 and 2002. Research has shown an increase in Namibia's seal population of about 73% compared to the 1993 estimates and the deaths imply that population numbers of these mammals have reached a stage where their current food source has become insufficient. About one million Cape fur seals inhabit the coast of Namibia. During the 2006 seal cull, from July to November, the Ministry set a quota of 60 000 nursing pups and about 7 000 bulls to be culled. The cull caused an international outcry among animal rights groups.

### South Africa

Quills turned into tourist souvenirs, jewelry and ornaments are endangering the porcupines. Quills are traded for prices ranging between R2 and R5 per quill and the trade obviously supports poaching and unsustainable off-take.

### South Africa

The South African Predator Breeders' Association says lion breeders face bankruptcy and may be forced to slaughter thousands of lions when government implements laws banning most breeding of the animals for canned shooting purposes. SA has up to 300 breeders keeping about 5,000 lions. Prime male specimens fetched up to R200,000 each on the canned shooting market. The SA Government took action after increased pressure from organized national and international hunting groups to close the canned shooting industry. Carel van Heerden, SABPA chairman, said for \$15,000-\$25,000 [a client] can be guaranteed a lion and we can even send him a photograph of the animal before he travels". Will Travers, director of the Born Free Foundation in England, said the closing of the industry would not affect lion numbers elsewhere as the number of wild lions that could be hunted every year was set "through scientific quotas".

### South Africa

In a surprise move WWF-SA has announced that its chief executive officer, Tony Frost, has been replaced. Conservation director Rob Little will act as chief executive in an interim capacity. WWF-SA, one of the "big five" non-government conservation organizations in South Africa, did not give any reasons. The press reported it relates to the need to take the organization in a new direction with a new leadership style, and that WWF-SA will be looking for a person of color and/or a woman to drive that change. Frost declined to elaborate, saying only that he was leaving "sooner than planned" and that "WWF is a great organization, and I stand ready to give it all the support I can."

### Tanzania

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) announced that a camera-trap study in the mountains of the Matundu Forest in Southern Tanzania has recorded Africa's least-known and probably rarest carnivore: Jackson's mongoose, known only from a few observations and museum specimens. The findings mark a range extension for the bushy-tailed carnivore, previously

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known to exist only in Kenya. In 2004, WCS researchers discovered a new species of primate—the kipunji monkey—which in 2006 was described as an entirely new genus of monkey (see also African Indaba, Vol. 5/1).

#### Tanzania

The Parliamentary Committee for public accounts has ordered the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to submit an exhaustive report on revenue accrued from hunting fees. The committee wants to assess general revenue trends not clearly discernable in the summary reports. According to these the hunting sector has grown continuously over the past decades, but committee chairman John Cheyo highlighted the absence of transparency in the hunting block allocation system.

Blocks are usually allocated on an arbitrary basis at prices far below true market value and the system is tightly controlled by a few key government officials. The rampant subleasing to non-Tanzanians increases the seriously high leakage of funds from the national treasury and from those who need them most – the local communities in the Wildlife Management Areas. African Indaba reported about this situation already in 2005 and 2006 (see previous issues for more information on this topic under [www.africanindaba.co.za](http://www.africanindaba.co.za))

#### Zimbabwe

Safari operators are questioning the quotas they have been allocated for the 2007 season, since the government has not conducted a wildlife audit since 2001. "There has never been a national audit by the government although IUCN and WWF have been conducting their own national audits," said an operator who claimed that he has not received his hunting quota since applying last year. Operators claimed their quotas were ridiculously low and that the country had a surplus population of elephant. A National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority spokesperson confirmed that hunting operators had not received quotas but dismissed claims that there had been no national audit. He said the authority was conducting periodic audits, was looking at TR2 forms that reflect on the previous season's hunting and that the additional information they were seeking was to help determine the animals to be allocated to each operator..

#### Zimbabwe

The Chewore North Concession was auctioned at a record setting price of US\$5.6 Million (actually 14.6 billion Z\$ or 56 million Z\$ at the official rate). The bidder also has to pay US\$110,000 concession fee per year and trophy fees. Based on past years quotas the new owner will pay about US\$22,000 for a buffalo and US\$50,000 for an elephant! The successful bidder is said to be an unknown motor mechanic turned black market fuel and diamond dealer without connections to professional hunting. Experts put a realistic price for Chewore North at approx. US\$1.2 million; the one serious contender opted out at US\$1.2 million. Controversial Zimbabwean business tycoon Billy Rautenbach was the second highest bidder with US\$5 million. Rautenbach, who is banned from traveling to most countries in the world, seems to have used Chewore North in the past for exclusive family holidays and for entertaining important clients. There is speculation that the original deal may flounder, but Rautenbach is reported to have indicated that his maximum price would now be 1.4 million dollars.

## 10 Dallas Safari Club Announces New Convention Policy

Dallas Safari Club Press Release

*Dallas Safari Club announced a new convention policy in December 2006 to Promote Ethical Practices and in support of Professional Hunting Associations*

Recognizing that active participation in a regional, state, provincial, national and/or international professional hunting association is critical to the success of a professional hunter, guide or outfitter, and that those who are members of recognized professional associations must abide by a code of conduct for their respective associations to maintain their membership, the Dallas Safari Club (DSC) Board of Directors adopted a new policy to take effect at the Club's 2008 annual convention. The new policy will enable DSC to exclude those who are not members in good standing of recognized professional hunting associations from exhibiting at the annual Dallas Safari Club convention.

"Dallas Safari Club has been blessed with exceptional support from exhibitors and donors who are members of professional hunting associations. Those professional associations promote the hunting in their regions or countries, establish codes of conduct that members must adhere to in order to maintain membership. The associations are in the best position to be proper stewards of their industry" stated Gray N. Thornton, Dallas Safari Club Executive Director when proposing the new DSC policy. "Dallas Safari Club strives to present the finest guides, professional hunters and outfitters at our annual conventions – those are most always the operators who are also members of professional hunting associations and are actively engaged in the industry. This new policy will help ensure that those outfitters, guides and professional hunters exhibiting at our conventions are the best in their field, abide by, and are accountable to, a code of conduct, and are those who support their profession by active membership in a professional hunting association" Thornton added.

The following (noted in bold type) has been added to Terms and Conditions #3 of the Dallas Safari Club 2008 Exhibitor Application & Contract

DSC reserves the right to prohibit any exhibit, exhibitor or proposed exhibit, which in DSC's opinion is not suitable for this exhibition. The reservation concerns: persons, items, video or printed matter, conduct and all other things that affect the character of the exhibition. ***DSC reserves the right to prohibit any outfitter, guide or professional hunter who is not a member in good standing of a recognized regional, state, provincial or national professional hunting association from exhibiting at the show.***

While this new policy is designed to promote membership and participation in recognized professional hunting associations, Dallas Safari Club recognizes that some regions and countries do not have associations and will make accommoda-

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tions for this.

"Dallas Safari Club will aggressively promulgate this new policy to our 2007 exhibitors at the January 11-14, 2007 convention in Dallas and will work with our friends and industry partners including the Professional Hunters Association of South Africa (PHASA), Namibia Professional Hunters Association (NAPHA), Botswana Wildlife Management Association (BWMA), Tanzania Hunting Operators Association (THOA), Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA), Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia (GOABC), International Professional Hunters Association (IPHA), Wyoming Outfitters Association (WOA) and other state, provincial and national associations to help promote participation and membership in their respective associations" Thornton stated.

Dallas Safari Club is an autonomous, international non-profit education, conservation and sporting advocacy organization based in Dallas, Texas. With an international membership, the club raises and expends funds annually to educate the public and to serve the interests of wildlife, habitat and sportsmen and sportswomen worldwide. Dallas Safari Club hosts entertaining and informative membership meetings and activities monthly, funds and conducts youth education programs and hosts an annual convention and exposition attended by tens of thousands of sporting enthusiasts from around the globe. The Club publishes and distributes *Game Trails* magazine quarterly and the Dallas Safari Club *Camp Talk* newsletter monthly. Dallas Safari Club and its charitable arm, the Dallas Ecological Foundation, have expended millions of dollars on youth programs, public education and conservation initiatives directly benefiting both game and non game species and their critical habitat.

For more information on Dallas Safari Club and our programs, or this new convention policy, visit the Club's website at [www.biggame.org](http://www.biggame.org) or contact Gray N. Thornton, Executive Director at (972) 980-9800 or by email at [info@biggame.org](mailto:info@biggame.org)

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## 11 Hunting in National Parks in the USA

(Gerhard R Damm's synopsis of the article "A National Conundrum" by Frank Minitzer, published in American Hunter, June 2006)

**Editor's Note:** African Indaba received the following information from an article published by Associated Press on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007. It is important in relation with the synopsis of Frank Minitzer's article:

*"An overabundant and rapidly increasing population of 3000 elk at Rocky Mountain National Park near the town of Estes Park in Colorado is destroying their own habitat and food resources and prompted the state wildlife commissioner to urge permitting controlled hunting of the animals as alternative to culling them by professional sharp shoot-*

*ers. The later is a waste of a valuable resource said the commissioner at the State Wildlife Commission Meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup> 2007.*

*It costs millions of dollars for the taxpayer, versus strictly regulated hunting which would leave a considerable surplus.*

*The readers of African Indaba will remember the discussions and contributions to the topic "Hunting in National Parks" in Volume 3, issues number 4 and 5, as well as Volume 4, issues number 2 and 3. You are urged to revisit these contributions by going to these two links on the African Indaba Webpage:*

<http://www.africanindaba.co.za/archive05.htm>

<http://www.africanindaba.co.za/archive06.htm>

Common opinion has it that hunting is forbidden in national parks, yet the truth is that 59 out of 390 properties administered by the National Parks Service (NPS) allow sportsmen to manage wildlife. In total 35% of the NPS acreage is open to sportsmen (29,943,312 acres of which 19,677,033 are in Alaska).

The hunting regulations are buried in thousands of pages of US Code. In Title 36, Volume 1 of the Code of Federal Regulations, we find this phrase: "Hunting shall be allowed in park areas where such activity is specifically mandated by Federal statutory law".

A NPS spokesperson said that there are three regulatory reasons why sportsmen may or may not be welcome in a national park:

1. A park's original legislation can forbid or mandate hunting (regulated by the US Congress)
2. A park's superintendent's compendium can regulate some practices, such as hunting (superintendents make some rules)
3. Local regulations may further restrict activities (state seasons can affect park rules)

The real astonishing fact behind the "reason", why some parks don't allow hunting, is that Congress never told them to allow it! Consequently the NPS decided that such parks are closed to hunting.

Chris W Cox, a NRA-ILA Executive Director says that "the regulations are backwards – hunting should be allowed unless Congress or the administration must close it for safety or security reasons, not the other way round."

The present debate whether to hunt or not to hunt in national parks has however a simple reason – many parks don't know what to do about burgeoning wildlife populations!

In North Dakota's 70,448 acre Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP) the 750 head strong elk herd is about twice the optimal number for the habitat. In the past elk were live-caught and transported to other parks, but with prevalent Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) this solution had to be scrapped. The park's superintendent stated that elk hunting outside the [unfenced] park's borders is ineffective, since 75% of the herd stays permanently inside the park. NPS was considering hiring sharpshooters, rounding up the animals in pens and killing them.

Why not hunt the elk? The superintendent said that "hunting in a park would set a precedent"! The legislation that set up TRNP does not specifically say that hunting must be allowed or prohibited.

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### 11 Hunting in National Parks in the USA

Another example – Yellowstone National Park and its elk herd. The herd size there has shrunk to 9,500 animals (about half the size from the mid 1990s. The average age of elk increases – in 2005 cows reached 8.2 years and bulls 9.1 years versus ten years ago, when the average age was 6.2 and 5.9 years. The average ages of elk in [hunted] areas are generally in the range of 4 to 5 years. The Yellowstone herd is becoming geriatric because of low calf survival rate inside the park (70 to 75% succumb in the first year), and this is caused by high predation pressure from bear and wolf. If hunting predators in Yellowstone were allowed, the calf survival rate would rise.

One more example: The Hanford Reach National Monument in Washington State was gazetted in 2000 and hunting ceased – since then the elk population exploded to more than double the carrying capacity. Since 2000, the State has paid more than US\$ 500,000 in crop damages caused by elk. Now a management plan which includes hunting is being considered.

The logical way out would be regulated hunting in national parks – this wildlife management approach is also economically viable [and would reward sportsmen] who anyhow sent US\$ 294.691,282 to state conservation programs in 2005 through the surtaxes paid on guns, ammunition and other items.

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## 12 Why We Need To Know More About Ageing And Sexing Gamebirds

By Dr. Aldo Berruti, AGRED

Knowledge of the age and sex structure of an animal population is a vital tool in management, increasing in value over time and in comparison with other populations.

The ageing of gamebirds is a closed book to the vast majority of wingshooters. Time and again, the shooter looks at the birds in the bags without any interpretation of the age and sex structure. It is understandable, because ageing and sexing of gamebirds in a bag seems to be no more than a boring technicality. The shooter's main preoccupation with ageing gamebirds is usually culinary and confined to ensuring that one chooses a tender young guineafowl rather than a gnarled old roadrunner for the pot. Selecting a young guineafowl bred in the season is easy, but what about the wide range of guineas that are either young males or adult females? Ageing and sexing an old male Swainson's Francolin with a prominent spur is simple. But what about the other Swainson's in the bag? Are these bags mainly made up of females, as I have been told on occasion, or are there young males lurking amongst the females in these bags?

Understanding ageing and sexing is a fundamental aid for the management of gamebirds populations. The sustainability of harvests of gamebirds is largely based on monitoring the year-to-year breeding success of gamebirds. Thus one can use relative proportions of young birds measured against total bags from year to year to measure breeding success. If one is to hold sev-

eral shoots in the same area within a year, then the ability to determine the age composition of the first bag combined with census techniques will give accurate estimates of the recruitment of young birds. At the least, year-to-year comparisons will provide a handle on the potential bags. Imbalances in age and sex ratios are basic to understanding, without which effective management is not possible.

But surely you ask, why not use the information published e.g. in the new Roberts Birds of South Africa, or Crowe and Little's Gamebirds of South Africa? These books describe the plumages of young birds. Can this information be used to identify young birds in the bag?

Three problems arise. Firstly, the information may not exist at all. An example is the use of the development of the spur to sex Swainson's Francolin as we describe elsewhere in this newsletter. As far as we know, this has not been previously published, despite the abundance of this bird. Secondly, the information may be given in a dry technical terminology, often unexplained, presenting a barrier to understanding by the non-specialist. For example, most readers assume that a juvenile bird is one that has yet to breed. The expectation is that this would be the plumage of the young birds in bags of shot birds. However, the juvenile plumage as described in these books is invariably the first feathered plumage after the downy chick stage, and is usually followed by second and third plumages before the birds breed. To add to the confusion, the use of the technical terms for these stages of "immature" or "sub-adult" plumages is not standardized from book to book. The third problem follows on using the example given above. The reader often assumes that the plumage described as juvenile is retained by the young bird until it moulds for its first breeding attempt. However the problem is that the first plumage after the downy stage, called the juvenile, is usually only retained by gamebirds for a remarkably short period. Thus when you read about a juvenile plumage, it may be held by the bird for as short as six-to eight weeks, when the young bird is usually still in the company of adults. We really want to be able to the birds bred in the season some months after breeding. Thus most people using the books to identifying immature birds in the first year before breeding as adult birds will be unable to do so.

### Where is AGRED going with ageing and sexing?

AGRED will seek to define ageing and sexing in gamebirds as a fundamental aid for gamebird managers. We plan to publish a book showing clearly visual determinations and techniques to demystify the ageing and sexing of gamebirds. This is part of AGRED's role in developing understanding in gamebirds.

### Can you help?

At present, we are looking at Swainson's Francolin, Burchell's and Namaqua Sandgrouse. However, if anyone has information on other common gamebird species, we would be delighted to receive it and publish it in this newsletter. Equally, if you are aware of references on ageing and sexing gamebirds, please contact

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## 13 CIC Trophy Meeting

By Gerhard R Damm

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) takes a major initiative during the forthcoming CIC General Assembly in Belgrade/Serbia from May 1<sup>st</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup>.

International experts will discuss “**Trophy Hunting, Hunting Trophies and Trophy Recording: Evaluating Facts, Risks and Opportunities**” in relation to the social, economic and conservation significance of regulated *Conservation Trophy Hunting* within the concept of *Incentive-Driven-Conservation*.

Trophy hunting, hunting trophies and record books are irreducible elements of hunting as key components of global sustainable hunting tourism and of resident recreational hunting. The two-day discussions will review the history of and consider developments in trophy hunting, compare the major European, African and American measuring systems and analyze differences and similarities in the past and present as well as future trends of hunting cultures. Three ad hoc working groups will discuss specific issues and formulate positions

John Jackson III – Chairman of Conservation Force and President of CIC’s Sustainable Use Commission – and Dr Francois Schwarzenbach, acting president of the CIC Commission on Exhibitions and Trophies will co-chair the meeting. The participants will discuss these issues in connection with other CIC initiatives like Sustainable Hunting Tourism and Certification.

**For more information please contact:**

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## 14 Zambia’s Lions in the Spotlight

By Dr. Paula A. White

Zambia’s centralized geographic location, vast tracts of high-quality habitat, and low human population density render it a potential stronghold for the African lion (*Panthera leo*) in southern Africa. Yet as in many other countries, the status of lions in Zambia is poorly known. The most current estimates range from 1,000 to 3,575 lions and were derived by combining areas of very different habitat types, or based on lion densities recorded nearly 40 years ago. Current and reliable data on lion distribution and abundance in Zambia are urgently needed.

Adding to the sense of urgency is the fact that trophy hunting of lions represents a very important source of revenue for Zambia, which is one of the top four lion-trophy producing countries in the world. Studies in Tanzania have found that selective harvesting of older (>5-6 year old) male lions produced maximum off-take of trophy animals while minimizing the negative effects on the overall population. At present however, Zambia has no program in place to promote selective harvesting of lions. Moreover, off-take quotas are set in the absence of adequate data on lion population size. Thus, the sustainability of Zambia’s current lion hunting practices is unknown.

Questions and concerns regarding the status of Zambia’s lion population came to the forefront in 2004, when Zambia opposed uplisting of the African lion to CITES Appendix I. In response, the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) was charged with providing evidence that Zambia’s lions are being managed in sound fashion. This necessarily includes empirical data that can support ZAWA’s claim that quotas are based on long-term sustainable use practices rather than short-term monetary gains.

In 2003, the Zambia Lion Project (ZLP) was formed by Dr. Paula White as part of an investigation of carnivores in the North Luangwa Valley area. The ZLP has now partnered with ZAWA for the purpose of gathering empirical data on lion populations throughout Zambia. The ZLP operates towards a series of specific goals that are outlined below.

### Focal Study – North Luangwa:

Field efforts were initially focused in the North Luangwa Valley and included North Luangwa National Park (NLNP) and the adjacent game management areas (GMAs) in which trophy hunting occurs. This area was selected because Luangwa Valley is one of two premier lion hunting regions in Zambia (the other being the Kafue area), with most GMAs in the Luangwa Valley having lions on quota. The goals of the Luangwa Lion Project (as it was previously known) are to estimate the population size of lions in the North Luangwa Valley area, examine movements of lions between the park and GMAs, and determine the source (birth) pride from which male lions taken as trophies originated. To accomplish this, the project has conducted intensive fieldwork and interviews with local tour operators within NLNP, and in conjunction with the professional hunters (PHs) collected information and genetic material from lions in the GMAs. This portion of the study is nearing completion with final results available later this year.

### Genetics:

An investigation into the genetics of Zambia’s lions is ongoing. Genetic profiles of lions from three areas (Luangwa Valley, Lower Zambezi, Kafue) are being compared to determine gene flow, or conversely, the genetic isolation of lion sub-populations. Preliminary analyses indicated genetic differentiation between Luangwa Valley and Kafue lion stocks. The larger number of samples now being analyzed will provide greater resolution in assessing these differences. Knowledge regarding the genetic characteristics of Zambia’s lions is especially timely in light of the proposed program to “augment” wild populations in the Kafue area through release of captive-bred animals (aka ‘Walking with Lions’). The potential genetic uniqueness of Zambia’s lions is one of many reasons that the ZLP is strongly opposed to this ill-conceived plan. (For more information, go to <http://www.lionscam.blogspot.com/>).

### Aging Program:

A program to selectively target older male lions in trophy hunting has recently been developed in Tanzania (i.e., “Savanna’s Forever”). The goal of selective hunting is to maintain viable lion populations that can support both hunting and photo-tourism as well as function as an integral part of a healthy ecosystem. The concept is based on data derived from long-term research of lion populations in two ecosystems within Tanzania. Rapid turnover of male coalitions can result in high rates of infanticide because the incoming males kill young cubs that are

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For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa’s wild natural resources.

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14 Zambia's Lion in the Spotlight

not their own. However, the loss of males (through trophy hunting) older than 5-6 years has only minimal impact on the remaining lion population. Visual characteristics (e.g., nose coloration, mane size, body color, etc.) of known-age study animals in Tanzania were calibrated with x-ray analyses of a premolar tooth. The selection process involves PHs judging a lion's age in the field using visual characteristics prior to lethal take.

In April 2006, ZLP met with ZAWA, the Professional Hunters Association of Zambia (PHAZ), and the Safari Hunters Outfitters Association of Zambia (SHOAZ) to introduce the concept of developing age-based selective hunting in Zambia. While all parties recognize the conservation value of a selective hunting program, there was general concern that the specific physical characteristics used to determine age of lions in Tanzania do not accurately correspond with lion age in Zambia. Mane size and development are known to vary by region. Therefore, local studies are required to quantify visual characteristics of Zambian lions for calibration with definitive age.

PHs across Zambia were requested to contribute a premolar along with photographs from each trophy lion. Compliance was excellent, and tooth samples from the 2006 season are now undergoing x-ray and cementum annuli analyses with results expected by April 2007. This effort is being closely integrated with Dr. Craig Packer's 'Savanna's Forever' program in Tanzania to maintain consistency of data collection protocols and allow for robust comparison of results. Projected to run for the next two years, this pilot study will be used to develop an age-based selection program of lion hunting in Zambia.

#### **Surveys:**

Countrywide surveys will determine lion distribution and relative abundance in areas for which the current status of lion is not known. Field efforts will consist of rigorous and systematic coverage involving track counts, walking surveys, and "call in" experiments. Information relevant to lion habitat suitability (prey base, human density and land use) will be collected concurrently. Surveys are designed to identify those areas within Zambia where lions persist, or could potentially recover through natural dispersal processes. Countrywide surveys are scheduled to begin in August 2007, with intensive coverage of different areas over the next 2-3 years.

By providing empirical data, the ZLP seeks to provide ZAWA scientists and managers with the strong scientific basis necessary to develop sound lion management policies. In working directly with PHs, the ZLP provides the link through which management strategies (i.e. selective hunting) can be implemented. In addition to filling a data gap on the status of lions within Zambia, countrywide surveys will help identify potential corridors between lion populations in Zambia and those in neighboring countries. Both geographic and genetic data will assist in identifying viable Lion Conservation Units, thereby contributing to a range wide African lion conservation plan.

The ZLP is grateful for the support it has received from: the Frankfurt Zoological Society's North Luangwa Conservation Project, Conservation Foundation Zambia Ltd, Wildlife Conservation Society, Safari Club International, Total Zambia Ltd, Associated Printers Ltd.

## 15 A Profile of the Mountain Nyala (*Tragelaphus buxtoni*)

By Paul Evangelista, Paul Swartzinski, Robert Waltermire - edited by Amy Randell

**Editor's Note:** African Indaba brings you what we believe is the most authoritative and up-to-date report about the Mountain Nyala (*Tragelaphus buxtoni*), a species of antelope found only in Ethiopia. And it's red-hot from the press having been finalized in February 2007! Evangelista, Swartzinski and Waltermire cover a wide range of topics in their comprehensive 50 page paper with excellent color photographs, maps and graphs. **Those who are interested in the biology, distribution, population dynamics and management of this enigmatic Ethiopian antelope must download the entire document from this LINK on the African Indaba website. The prospective mountain nyala hunter will find invaluable information about behavior, field age determination and the individual Controlled Hunting Areas.**

The authors are lead research scientists with The Murulle Foundation with over 35 years of combined experience in Ethiopia. African Indaba will bring a detailed report about the work of the Murulle Foundation in the May issue. In addition to their current work in Ethiopia, Paul Evangelista is a research ecologist at the Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory at Colorado State University; Paul Swartzinski is a botanist with a national environmental consulting firm; and Robert Waltermire is Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing specialist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

The mountain nyala has the distinction of being the last large ungulate discovered in Africa. After its initial discovery in 1908 by Ivor Buxton, Richard Lydekker of the South Kensington Museum first identified the species as a type of greater kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*) in an article called "The Spotted Kudu" (Lydekker, 1910a). The skins and horns were sent to Rowland Ward in London, who informed Lydekker that the specimen was indeed a new species of antelope not yet documented by western science. Lydekker wrote several descriptive papers on the new species (Lydekker, 1910a, b, 1912); however, the mountain nyala received little attention from the scientific community until Leslie Brown's expedition to Ethiopia in the early 1960s (Brown, 1963).

African Indaba will send you upon request a full-color bound hard copy of the paper. For costs and postage please contact [gerhard@muskwa.co.za](mailto:gerhard@muskwa.co.za). You can, however, download and print the document yourself free of charge by going to:

[http://www.africanindaba.co.za/Conservation/evangelista\\_et\\_al\\_2007\\_mountain\\_nyala.pdf](http://www.africanindaba.co.za/Conservation/evangelista_et_al_2007_mountain_nyala.pdf) .....

#### **ABSTRACT**

The mountain nyala (*Tragelaphus buxtoni*) is an endemic species protected by Ethiopian law. It is only known to occur east of the Great Rift Valley, but the bounds of its distribution are not well-known and there are areas of potentially suitable habitat where its presence or absence has not been verified. There are many other unknowns and misconceptions regarding mountain

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For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

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15 A Profile of the Mountain Nyala (*Tragelaphus buxtoni*)

nyala biology, behavior and population, which inhibit effective policy formulation, management and conservation.

We synthesize literature and original observations concerning genealogy, physical description, reproductive strategy, social behavior, diet, habitats, distribution and population dynamics. We also address less-documented subjects including habitat loss, illegal and communal hunting, infectious diseases, parasites and predation.

The population and its status are especially contentious issues. Results of government surveys and research suggest a population of at least 4,000 animals in less than 50% of the reported range, but little is known about the status in the remainder of the known range. In contrast, the IUCN Red List of Threatened and Endangered Species lists the mountain nyala as endangered due to reduced populations and a population size of fewer than 2,500 mature individuals. Historical observations indicate the population is highly resilient, at least with regard to intense hunting during periods of political turmoil. We summarize and confirm many aspects of previous reports. Much of the information made available has been based on brief localized studies and inadequate investigation and methodologies. There is a void of valid scientific studies that is proving harmful to mountain nyala conservation in conjunction with rapidly decreasing habitat, which we believe poses the greatest threat. We provide a new and more complete understanding of the range of the mountain nyala, its biology, real and potential threats and issues essential for management and conservation.

## CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation

### 54th CIC General Assembly

"Passion for Wildlife Means Caring for People"

2 - 5 May 2007, Hyatt Regency Hotel  
Belgrade, Serbia

The Opening and Closing Sessions of the 54th CIC General Assembly will be held in the National Parliament of Serbia. The working sessions of the CIC Commissions and CIC Working Groups take place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

On May 1 a pre-congress symposium will be held with the title: "Coexistence of Large Carnivores and Humans: Threat or Benefit?" and on May 3 and 4, members and international guests and experts will debate facts, risks and opportunities in connection with "Hunting Trophies, Trophy Hunting and Trophy Recording"

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## 16 CHASA Statement – New South African Hunting Regu- lations

CHASA Press Release February 2007

*Editor's Note: We had to edit the CHASA statement for space reasons and left out the explanatory section the contents of the Regulations. CHASA president Swanevelder's comment, reproduced basically verbatim, summarizes the general feeling of hunters in South Africa and should be of interest to our overseas readers.*

The Confederation of Hunting Associations of South Africa (CHASA) is extremely relieved with the final product that has been released after nearly a year of extensive consultation. [The] first draft of April 2006 was a disaster which, if implemented, would have had catastrophic consequences to wildlife and hunting. CHASA deliberately downplayed this threat and took a conscious decision not to be alarmist and raise unnecessary emotions. That allowed for a process of influencing and negotiation in an unemotional and professional way. Caucusing between recreational hunters, professional hunters and game ranchers took place in the HAWASA forum and was followed by a united approach [with] DEAT.

[The] Minister, in his accompanying media release, made a remarkable statement: "We applaud the industry's substantial and positive contribution to conservation management and economic growth" and then [said]: "we also have a responsibility to ... ensure that the industry has a sustainable future. In order to do this we must balance economic objectives with conservation management objectives."

The regulations now released indeed strike a well balanced compromise between commercial and conservation objectives. Most importantly, from a hunter's perspective, it succeeds in regulating hunting in such a way that rogue practices are outlawed, contributing to help present an immaculate public face of hunting – an image that will ultimately secure the future of hunting. The [regulations] stand as a monument to the perseverance and the negotiating capacity of CHASA and its HAWASA allies. But it was certainly also made possible by a Department that deserves credit for the way in which it followed an inclusive and transparent [process].

Some game farmers may well ask questions as to why their commercial needs cannot be paramount, and hunters are not insensitive to this need, as we are the ones that ultimately pick up the tab. The fact of the matter is however, that the concept of the triple bottom line in business is gaining momentum world wide. Businesses cannot focus on profit alone, but ha[ve] to balance profitability with a responsibility to society as well as the environment – hence the triple bottom line being profit, people and environment. Businesses in all spheres are increasingly subjected to legislative measures that aim to enforce the triple bottom line. The balance struck by these regulations now gives our game farmers (and from a 'who ultimately pays' perspective, also our hunters) the moral high ground. **The hunting industry can with right claim to be leading in the making of investments in the interest of conservation and biodiversity.**

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

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## 2 Hunting in South Africa: The New Regulations

finally released the new legislation at a press conference in Cape Town has just been released.

Canned lion shooting will now be stopped. A lion will have to be free ranging for two years before it may be hunted. This time restriction will most likely relegate lion breeding for lion shooting operations to the history books and has been widely welcomed, including by all the recognized hunting associations in South Africa.

The consequences of this regulation do also demonstrate, however what will happen to a species, if the economic "raison d'être" is pulled out from under its feet. The lion breeders are already threatening to euthanize their several thousand captive lions, a very real probability as they now have no value and are just costing money to keep. This is a sad consequence, especially for the animals but the State and the Provincial Governments should never have allowed the lion breeding industry to grow to this extent in the first place.

The dire consequences for the lions should also serve as a warning to the anti-hunting lobby as to what could happen to species and/or land if the basics for the earlier mentioned "Conservation Revolution" – giving value to wildlife and wild land – would disappear. Land, which is now "under wildlife" would revert back to commercial agriculture and that loss will be felt by all, even beyond our borders. Now the time has come for the all those who have our natural heritage close to their hearts, to work and stand together – and to exclude and ostracize those on both sides of the spectrum who are card carrying members of the Flat Earth Society.

Bow hunting, which many thought was going to be banned, will continue to operate at the discretion of the provincial authorities but the bow hunting of elephants, rhino, crocodiles and large predators will not be possible anymore.

Shooting from the back of an open vehicle has also been outlawed. Most countries, notably the United States of America, have legislation to this respect. Yet the question remains, as to how to enforce it. The new South African regulation does allow for shooting from a vehicle if a hunter is handicapped or when following wounded game although what constitutes a handicap is not specified.

There are also now requirements on outfitters and professional hunters to belong to hunting associations, which in turn will have channels of communication to the relevant authorities. The reason for this is that a good number of outfitters and professional hunters preferred not to belong to any association, contribute nothing to the industry and most likely also to avoid being bound to codes of conduct. For example, although canned shooting of lions has not been illegal, organizations like PHASA (Professional Hunters Association of South Africa) have had a standing policy against such an activity. The new regulations will also assist in streamlining dataflow and data processing as well as service delivery so that all interested parties can collect more relevant information on the scope and nature of hunting and game ranching in South Africa.

Landowners will be able to continue to issue hunting permits if their respective farms are exempted in terms of the provincial legislation. For threatened and protected species, farmers can apply to the national department for a standing permit so that

they can manage their game on their properties. Game dealers can now register with the department and issue permits for the movement of most game species.

With the new legislation coming into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2007 the government and all stakeholders from the hunting and game ranching industry will be in an excellent position to increase the conservation relevance of hunting and sustainable use of wildlife resources in South Africa.

Economic value alone is not enough to defend a minority activity. The new legislation goes a long way to providing a triple bottom line approach for hunting and game ranching with social and ecological values taking an equal share with economic considerations. The long wait of uncertainty is finally over, the lines have been drawn and we can get on again with game ranching and hunting.

If you are planning a safari in South Africa it is advisable that you book with a PHASA member – go to [www.phasa.co.za](http://www.phasa.co.za) to research and plan a successful safari in our country. PHASA is the largest professional hunting association in the world and is the mouthpiece for the professional hunting industry in South Africa. Besides having a constitution that emphasizes professionalism and fair chase, it also has a strict disciplinary process in place to address complaints quickly and fairly. PHASA has also established its "Conservation and Empowerment Fund" to invest in worthwhile conservation projects and to address Black Economic Empowerment within the industry ... a crucial issue if we want to keep hunting alive in South Africa. Every visiting hunter is encouraged to donate the small amount of US\$10 per trophy taken to this fund – it will be for the benefit of this and future generations of hunters and conservationist in South Africa.

Once you have hunted in South Africa you will want return. The enigmatic African soul has a magnetic pull on those who visit our continent. South Africa alone is a hunting destination that hunters can return to time and again, and each time have a different hunting experience. The revenues earned from the what hunters spend is what keeps wildlife on the ground, thus you know that if you hunt South Africa you are contributing to wildlife conservation in the country ... and forget about record books, collector's shopping list and horn lengths, come and visit us for the real thing: The hunt!

## Safari Press and Rowland Ward Announce Partnership

Safari Press, America's leading publisher of fine-quality books on hunting and fine firearms, will partner with Rowland Ward, the South African publishing company known for its Records of Big Game and other books and video titles on hunting. In the reciprocal agreement, effective March 1, 2007, Safari Press will become the exclusive distributor of Rowland Ward publications in North America, and Rowland Ward will become the exclusive distributor of Safari Press books in Africa. Please click the following links for more information about Safari Press [www.safaripress.com/](http://www.safaripress.com/) and Rowland Ward [www.rowlandward.com/](http://www.rowlandward.com/)

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## 17 The Arabian Oryx – *Oryx leucoryx*

By Gerhard Damm edited from various Web Sources

The scientific name of *Oryx leucoryx* was given by Pallas in 1777. After Lichtenstein had transferred the term *leucoryx* to the scimitar-horned oryx (now *Oryx dammah*) in 1826, the Arabian Oryx was named *Oryx beatrix* in 1857. In 1903, Oldfield Thomas renamed the scimitar-horned oryx '*Algazal*' and the Arabian oryx received its original name *Oryx leucoryx* back. The name *beatrix* persisted for many years, but it is also known as *asiatica*, *latipes*, *pallasii*. The confusion between the scimitar-horned oryx and the Arabian oryx is reinforced by the fact that they both carried the name "white oryx". In Arabic *Oryx leucoryx* is called Maha, Wud-haihi, Baqar al Wash or Boosolah.

The smallest of the genus *Oryx* (female oryx weigh about 80kg and males about 90kg; occasionally males reach 100kg), the Arabian oryx is a muscular and compact antelope with a barrel-like body and spaced legs giving it a fast stable horse-like gait. Its reflective pelage is basically white with dark markings on face and there is often a dark stripe that runs under the neck to the forelegs. The lower limbs are a chocolate brown to black. The face and nose have dark patches which are lighter and often absent in summer. Dark markings also occur at the horn bases, median chest, front of legs and tail tip. The flank stripe is absent or only an indistinct smudge.

The large hooves are splayed and shovel-like, an adaptation for walking on loose sandy soils. The level of sexual dimorphism is very slight. Males and females present almost identical silhouettes although the males have a larger neck. Both sexes carry long horns about 0.530-0.810 m from anterior base to tip in adults, straight or slightly curved backwards, almost circular in section, and annulated proximally. Females' horns are usually thinner at the base than those of the males.

Arabian Oryx probably can reach a maximum age of about 20 years with good grazing, however under drought conditions this is greatly reduced. Male oryx are unlikely to start breeding until at least 3 years. Under good conditions, females older than 2 years give birth to a uniformly brown calf once a year after a gestation period of nine months. They usually move away from the herd for calving. During the calf's month-long lying-out phase its activities are minimal. At this time the female is usually consorted by the dominant herd male. This consort behavior seems to be unique in the Arabian oryx. As soon as a lying calf rises to approach its mother, the male immediately takes up a position a few meters behind the calf and, with his head low to the ground he growls and directs it straight to its mother. When suckling is complete, the trio moves off, invariably with the female leading and the male again herding the calf after her. Often, the male apparently 'decides' when the calf should lie again, for he gently knocks it flat with the base of his horns. When the female turns and attempts to return to the sprawled calf, the male drives her away. Both may then stand 30 m away, watching while the calf rises and wanders off to a suitable lying place. Thus, both adults know the calf's lying-out site, and stare at intervals in its direction as they move away 1 km or more over the hours that the calf lies. The behavior of the male might not be as altruistic as it

appears, since female oryx have a post-partum oestrus and thus can become pregnant within 10 days of giving birth.

The Arabian Oryx is perfectly adapted to withstand an inhospitable climate and barren landscape; its skin, coat texture and color and behavior are all finely tuned. Most of the adaptations are concerned with the conservation of body water.

Oryx eats mainly desert grasses; herbs, seedpods, fruit, fresh growth of trees, tubers and roots also form part of its diet. The feeding strategy of the oryx is flexible and depends on climatic conditions, plant availability and habitat. It has evolved the ability to survive for years without drinking and has the lowest mass-specific water turn-over rate (about four times lower than the camel). It can cover its daily water requirements with the pre-formed water of the ingested forage and early morning dew licking (86%) and the metabolic water produced (14%).

Since rainfall is largely unpredictable, both in terms of time (when it will fall) and space (where it may fall) the oryx must be able to move to those areas where rain has fallen in order to take advantage of the best possible grazing. Herds are usually led to new grazing by the dominant female. The territorial male may not move, but prefer to hold his own territory and await females that pass through his area. Typically about 70% of all oryx will find fresh grazing within 28 days of rainfall. The species is adapted for walking great distances and incidents where animals covered around 100km in 24 hours have been reported. This endurance when walking enables oryx to move between widely spaced pastures. The Arabian oryx ruminates when on the move across barren areas, rather than delaying this activity to rest periods. Periods of rumination and walking alternate rapidly with taking a few mouthfuls of isolated grass clumps

The small nomadic herds contain all age groups and both sexes probably stay together for a considerable time. Ranges in excess of 2,000 km<sup>2</sup> have been recorded in Oman and of 1,700 km<sup>2</sup> in Saudi Arabia. This may decrease to less than 300 km<sup>2</sup> after rainfall or in the heat of summer. Oryx migrating towards rainfall might congregate to herds of 30 or more, but in drought it is rare to see a herd of more than five oryx. Oryx are very compatible with one another - the low frequency of aggressive interactions allows animals to share scattered shade trees under which they may spend 8 of the daylight hours in the summer heat.

In the 4 hottest months of the year daytime temperatures usually exceed the body temperature of the oryx, which is usually about 39° C, leading to potential heat stress. However, the oryx have evolved a range of strategies to maintain heat balance and conserve water. The summer coat of the oryx is short, sparse and very white – reflecting solar radiation. They spend the day mostly completely inactive in the shade of desert trees thereby avoiding direct sunlight and conducting body heat into the ground to reduce water loss from evaporation. To rest it digs shallow depressions in soft ground under trees and shrubs. If a cloud shadow passes over a shading herd, all may start grazing in the open almost immediately. Normally, they forage at night and select water-rich food species. Conversely in the cold winter months the oryx shelter from the cold night winds and feed by day. Then the hair of the oryx may pilo-erect allowing the warm solar radiation to reach the black skin under the white fur.

Against the sun, the oryx can be invisible at 100m because

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### 17 The Arabian Oryx – *Oryx leucoryx*

of glare and lack of reflection. When an oryx moves into shade, particularly if dappled, it is also very hard to see. The 'white' light due to prevailing atmospheric dust and heat shimmer reduces visibility and definition. Yet with the sun behind an observer and with the animal in the open, the white coat makes it clearly visible to the unaided human eye up to 3 km. Oryx take advantage of this conspicuousness when searching for a herd by standing motionless on prominent ridges to advertise themselves.

Shading oryx are most reluctant to leave shade. This reluctance is probably a response to potentially fatal problems of thermo-regulation if an oryx has to run in the sun. Its flight when chased is slow and cumbersome and in open country the oryx can be chased by vehicle and caught surprisingly quickly. Running plays no part in normal social life and interactions, and the oryx cannot change quickly from walking to running, neither does it display much stamina.

In centuries past, images of the oryx probably gave rise to its more famous mythical counterpart -- the unicorn. A side view of the oryx, seen from a distance, would seem to strengthen this legend, as the two finely curved horns then seem to merge into one. For the hunters of old, the oryx proved difficult to track in the vast, empty desert landscape. Oryx meat was particularly prized, as it was believed to possess medicinal properties, but every part of the animal, including horns, fat, skin and blood, served a useful purpose.

Around 1800 the Arabian oryx was thought to have occurred over most of the Arabian Peninsula. It inhabited sandy areas and the gravel plains surrounding them, but did not occur in the mountains. The cores of its distribution seem to have been the Great Nafud desert in the North and the southern Rub' al-Khali. In the north, oryx may have ranged as far as the Euphrates River and the Syrian Desert. It is unlikely that the oryx ever occurred east of the Euphrates. In the south, the oryx inhabited the vast Rub' al-Khali (aka Empty Quarter) sand sea and gravel plains in Saudi Arabia and extended into the UAE, Yemen, Oman. Both ranges were connected by the ad-Dahna, the narrow sand desert stretching from the Nafud to the Rub' al-Khali.

By the 1900's, the distribution of oryx had already severely contracted and was largely restricted to the remote and inaccessible places like Nafud, ad-Dahna and Rub' al-Khali. In the 1930s, the northern and southern populations were no longer linked. Oryx were also probably eliminated from the northwestern and northeastern edges of the Empty Quarter by then. Around 1950, the northern population became extinct, as did the population of the western end of the Rub' al-Khali. Thereafter oryx remained only around the southern and south-eastern margins of the Rub' al-Khali from Yemen to Oman, but reduction in their range continued from both ends. By the early 1960s, no oryx survived west of 51°E, remaining only on the Eastern Aden Protectorate-Oman border; in Dhofar, especially in the foothills of Jabal Qara; and in the Jiddat al-Harrasis, where the last wild oryx are believed to have been killed in 1972. With the flow of oil revenue to Saudi Arabia in the second half of the 20th century, pressures on oryx populations had increased dramatically and hunters with automatic weapons and using motorized fleets heavily persecuted them for trophies and meat. The Arabian oryx probably disappeared from Saudi Arabia in the 1960-70s

Lee Talbot reported in 1960 in his book 'A Look at Threatened Species' that Arabian Oryx appeared to be extinct in all parts of its former range along the southern edge of the Rub' al-Khali. He believed that the few hundred animals that might still exist would be exterminated within the next few years and recommended that a captive breeding program be initiated. In the Eastern Aden Protectorate the 'Operation Oryx' caught three males and one female in 1962 (a male died after capture) and the animals were quarantined in Kenya. In 1963 these three animals together with two females (from the Zoological Society of London and the ruler of Kuwait respectively) were brought to Phoenix Zoo in Arizona, followed in 1964 by two pairs given by HRH King Saud to form a 'World Herd'. The herd grew steadily to reach around 100 by 1977. From then onwards some Arabian oryx were returned to the Middle East; 10 went to Jordan between 1978 and 1990, 12 to Israel between 1978 and 1992, 35 to Oman between 1980 and 1995, 55 to Saudi Arabia between 1982 and 1992 and 18 to the UAE between 1983 and 1987 (16 to Abu Dhabi and 2 to Dubai).

In June 1982 the first 10 oryx were released to the wild in the Jiddat al-Harasis in Oman. A second release followed in 1984. The population grew steadily and by October 1995 there were about 280 oryx in the wild. However in 1996 oryx were poached or captured and smuggled out of Oman for sale to middle east private collectors. Despite that, the population continued to increase and by October 1996 was estimated to be just over 400. As poaching intensified in 1997 and 1998, the wild population collapsed to 138 animals and a captive herd was formed. In 2003 the wild population in Oman stood at 106, albeit seriously biased with 100 males and 6 females. In 1995 Saudi Arabia established a second free-ranging population in the 5,500 km<sup>2</sup> Uruq Bani Ma'arid protected area. Together with the 500 oryx in 2,900 km<sup>2</sup> Mahazat as-Sayd PA, the Saudi oryx population is probably the only viable wild population. In that year Bahrain counted 15 and Israel 65 wild Arabian Oryx. The market for wild-caught oryx, particularly females, is nowhere near saturated and the problems of illegal capture, smuggling and sale have not been solved, so a 20% decline over the next five years is a conservative estimate justifying the EN C1 listing.

### IUCN Red List Status: EN C1 - CITES Appendix 1

#### Hunting

The present wild populations of Arabian Oryx are strictly protected – it may not be hunted in the wild, although hunting opportunities exist on introduced Arabian Oryx on game ranches in North America and South Africa.

Rowland Ward Records of Big Game list nine specimens; the longest horn on record measures 27 ¼ inch with a 4 ¼ inch base diameter. This specimen dates from 1913 from Tebuk in Saudi Arabia. The latest specimens registered in RW date from 1934 – all entries originate from Arabia, although the exact locations are mostly unspecified. RW does not have a category for introduced Arabian Oryx.

The Record Book of Safari Club International (SCI) lists only animals from introduced captive populations outside the original range and has two categories – one for "North American Introduced" and one for "African Introduced".

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1 Moving Ahead

are not lifted – whatever is left of wildlife there will disappear. Will IFAW still be around to take the blame? Or will they have shifted their attention and funds elsewhere?

It will be a conservation disaster if the IFAW people and their Mbaria-minded helpers are successful in subverting the entire Wildlife Policy Review Process with their rent-a-mob crowds and misleading briefings to the President. Dr. Mike Norton-Griffiths wrote on his website <http://www.mng5.com/>: “I return here to the essentially economic basis for the catastrophic loss of wildlife in Kenya, and to IFAW’s role in trying to prevent one of the few remedial actions that has a chance to redress the situation, namely to reintroduce consumptive utilization. IFAW has every right to its opinions, but they should not use their financial muscle to subvert the representative democratic process in Kenya and usurp the powers of the elected Parliamentarians. Furthermore, IFAW’s only objective is to stop consumptive use: they offer no alternatives and clearly do not mind if all wildlife outside the protected areas is consequently lost from Kenya.”

Mr James Isiche, the regional director of International Fund for Animal Welfare in East Africa focuses on his dislike of sport-hunting in an article published in The East African Standard on December 12<sup>th</sup> last year as a reply to an editorial opinion by former EAWLS leader Dr. Imre Loeffler (see Vol. 5, No 1, Page 12 for Dr. Loeffler’s article). Isiche follows a well used IFAW-pattern: Focus on consumptive use, rail against hunting with half-truths and distortions and use statistics like Sir Winston Churchill in order to incite emotions where rational analysis should prevail.

Dr Loeffler replied Isiche in January saying “*Sport hunting is a side issue. Isiche tries to portray me as an arch advocate of hunting. I am not. I am not a hunter I am [even] apprehensive about sport hunting for a number of reasons among them my dislike for killing for pleasure and the knowledge that sport hunting is open to multifarious abuses. Notwithstanding my reservations, in line of my responsibilities in the conservation arena, I have undertaken to learn about sport hunting as much as I could. I have accompanied hunters, I studied the hunting arrangements in several countries and I familiarized myself with the thinking of hunter and anti-hunter. Anti-hunters believe that individualized, platonic ethics apply to animals as well as to humans and hence the killing of animals is unethical. The anti-hunting front is not monolithic, however, and not all anti-hunters are vegetarians, yet their thinking, at least with regard to wildlife is strongly anthropomorphic. In contradistinction to platonic ethics, utilitarian ethics seeks the maximum benefit for the maximum number, be it people, or, indeed as in this case, species.*”

And Dr Loeffler concluded his reply with these remarks: “*Sport hunting, properly organized and regulated and free of corruption can create wealth in rural areas but in order to do so, a number of conditions need to be met and they are not easy to meet. In utilitarian terms sport hunting can benefit people and wildlife but not just everywhere. The debate on sport hunting should not be allowed to derail the wildlife policy review. Discrediting the rational discussion about the wise use of wildlife and discrediting the proponents of wildlife husbandry is a tactic animal welfarist and animal rightists often apply, one fine exam-*

*ple being Isiche’s essay.*

*Yes, there is a paradox in the notion that the saving of species may depend on the killing of individuals. A paradox, by definition, is an apparent contradiction, not a true one. Those who may have difficulty in comprehending the paradox may consider the status of the humble goat. Goats are everywhere. They are bred, attended to, traded and cherished because they have a value. If goats were declared wildlife, under the present policy they could not be owned, killed, eaten and their skin would be worthless too. The bush meat trade would quickly decimate goats and within a few years we would have to establish goat sanctuaries to save the species.”*

Mbaria deplores that many African countries, Kenya included, do not have the capacity to adequately monitor the activities of extractive use. Shortcomings in this respect need and are being addressed. But, Mr Mbaria, do the Kenyans have the capacity exercise control over IFAW? I suggest that IFAW’s destructive actions at the time of the GG Kariuki Bill find continuation now: IFAW funds legions of so-called stakeholders – mostly urban, many non-Kenyan – and skillfully manipulates Kenyan and global media to block any rational new Kenya wildlife policy

**Move aside IFAW – move ahead Kenya. Today’s rational conservationists look at a triple-bottom-line of social, economic and ecologic results. Kenya and its wildlife deserve a fresh start!**

Sincerely  
Gerhard R Damm, Editor

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## 18 Hippos in Virunga NP

By Rebecca Lewison. Hippo Subgroup (edited for space)

One of the world’s biggest populations of common hippos has crashed in Virunga National Park from more than 29,000 less than 30 years ago to about 400 after a decade of civil war. Poaching for meat and teeth is decimating the population. The poaching has been particularly intense after the Congolese Mai Mai militia established a base camp near Lake Edward. The fighters sell hippo meat and ivory of the hippo’s canine teeth. Rangers have been working to stop the slaughter, but they are outmanned and outgunned by the militia. With funding from the EU, and strong support from the Frankfurt Zoological Society and Africa Conservation Fund, the ranger force in Virunga is gaining teeth, however.

The collapse in hippo populations has also been accompanied by a collapse of the fisheries in Lake Edward. Hippo dung helps to sustain the lake’s fish and, as the hippo numbers have declined, so the tilapia catches have plummeted.

In other African countries, both civil unrest and agricultural and other development have threatened hippo habitat and increased the incidence of poaching and hippo-human conflicts.

Source: Suiform Sounding (Newsletter – 2006/2) – More information and full article available at:

<http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sgs/pphsq/home.htm>

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For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa’s wild natural resources.

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