



CIC – International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation



AFRICAN INDABA

Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

Trophy Hunting, Hunting Trophies and Trophy Recording

Volume 5 – Number 3 Special Issue

May 2007

A Joint Project of CIC and African Indaba for the 54th CIC General Assembly in Belgrade/Serbia

Trophy Hunting: How I see it!

By Dieter Schramm, President CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation

The trophies from my last Central African Hunt were overdue for many months already – finally, the taxidermist called "your trophies arrived – but forget it – the buffalo skulls were overcooked, the bone is porous, black, rotten, the bosses have shrunk, there's no way I can save them...!"

Why was I so shocked, why indeed? Was it the financial loss – no, not really. Was it the loss of a big "record" trophy? No, the horns were rather insignificant on this scale. Why then did I feel deceived, why did I feel a sense of hurt and loss? It's quite simple – because my personal mementos of an unforgettable chase in wild lands, the tangible memories of a true hunt, had been ruined beyond repair.

For me, the remembrance of a hunting experience through the trophy carries the deeper meaning of collecting trophies. Yet I appreciate that other people can have different motives – so let us have a more detailed look at the controversial phenomenon what is commonly called a hunting "trophy".

Linguistically, the term trophy originates from the Greek "*tropaion*" – in its direct translation "a sign of victory", which originally was nothing but a signpost placed by the victorious army at exactly the point, where the enemy was turned to flight – hence was defeated. Since we as "fair chase" hunters do not consider game our enemy, this interpretation from the ancient Greeks leads us nowhere; it is, therefore, not applicable in a hunting context.

Delving a bit deeper into the matter, we discover, however, a second aspect, which is also somewhat connected with victory – the celebration of a successful endeavor. "Trophy" in this context describes the celebration of something memorable! The trophy may thus be considered a sort of memorabilia to mark an experience crowned by success. As such the symbolic value of a trophy is relatively easy to understand. When the hunter looks at the trophies on the wall, she or he is engaging in one of human-

ity's primary privileges: self-assertion and the experience of joy and happiness.

To this we may add another human trait – striving to be equal, or superior, to others. After all, it is "my trophy" I am looking at, hard-earned and well-deserved. The chicken in the hen house have a pecking order; the wolf pack is lead by an Alpha pair. But social hierarchy is by no means a privilege of the chicken or the wolves. Simply said, we, as members of the human race, also live in our hen house and try to obtain and/or maintain our adequate rank there. Let's take a closer look at the trophy in this context as well.

If we accept the term trophy as a symbol of success – then we have nowadays far more trophies than our ancestors ever dreamt of: there are trophies in all forms of competitive sports; there are other trophies, some taking form of "proof of success", in most of our daily activities. Just look at school reports, university certificates, medals, and a wide array of titles of whatever connotation. I am also certainly not far off the mark when I identify the social significance of certain status symbols such as expensive automobiles, boats, private planes and even – my lady readers hopefully condone what follows – second, third and forth "trophy wives", as originating in our ancestral hunting culture. The hunter who supplied sufficient food for the tribe was duly recognized and honored with a "trophy" in terms of an elevated position in his society. Most of them – to some extent, at least – are considered acceptable human behavioral traits.

But let's look at one obviously negative aspect. I am talking about exaggeration – the going beyond the bounds of reason or as a matter of fact, beyond the bounds of good taste.

We encounter this when we enter the realm of the braggart, the egotistic trophy-maniac. Bragging, obviously, is one distinctly human attribute and by no means part of the trophy. Rather, the braggart misuses the trophy for egotistical reasons. We all know that any type of excess generates reactions. And excessive trophy-centered behavior does just this – it provokes many of the non-hunters in our society.

Of course, we also want to "record" the result of the sustain-

Continued on Page 2

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

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Continued from Page 1

Trophy Hunting: How I See It by Dieter Schramm

able hunting harvest – but the hunters need to redefine the innocent word “*record trophy*” since it is, unfortunately, perceived now with a very negative image in non-hunting circles of society. Abominable excesses, like the artificial manipulation of semi or fully domesticated so-called game animals with homunculus horns or antlers to be released on shooting preserves for the executioner’s rifle in Europe, New Zealand and North America, or the soon to be abandoned practice of canned lion shooting in South Africa, must be exposed as what they are. These activities are neither wildlife management, nor hunting – and the horns and antlers obtained there cannot be hunting trophies!

The reduction of the individual and very personal value of hunting trophies to score sheets with numbers is deplorable. In fact, trophy mania destroys our hunting culture and makes mockery of our traditions. I state this as President of CIC, an organization which gained acknowledgement over many decades through its formulas for trophy scoring. The CIC has never shied from assuming responsibility; therefore we address the issues connected with the misuse of scoring systems by some. We consider the recording of trophies and the respective databases as conservation tool to show the value of sustainable and regulated hunting. Within this trophy philosophy, we place emphasis on bio-indicators and good wildlife management practices; large antlers or horns of a mature trophy are the natural result of a vibrant game population. Within this philosophy we also need to publicly recognize that the often cited “representative” trophy and not the occasional “world’s record” or the few exceptionally high-scoring ones are the normative of the mentioned indicators. The CIC has again taken an initiative by fostering a platform for dialogue during this year’s General Assembly in Belgrade with the symposium “Trophy Hunting, Hunting Trophies and Trophy Recording: Facts, Risks and Opportunities”.

The rare super trophies are luxuries of nature. The hunter who is lucky enough to kill a game animal with exceptional horns or antlers under fair chase conditions has all the right to celebrate this accordingly. We also recognize that global recreational hunting as one important tool in wildlife conservation would not exist without trophy hunting. The traveling hunters, who spend serious money to hunt in far-flung corners of the world, wish to bring home tangible memories from an exciting country, remarkable people and an exhilarating outdoor experience. These tangible memories find expression in the hunting trophies. The excitement of fair chase, the experience of the land and its people, and the harvesting a mature specimen which lived and died in its natural habitat, finds a just expression in the preservation of its trophy attributes. The tactful display of such a trophy immortalizes the animal and the experience.

Some might call this vanity, but I suggest that there is nothing wrong with such vanity. Indeed, let’s not be naive: vanity, particularly recognizable in the species *Homo venator*, is a common human behavioral pattern. And, without a doubt, it contributes to our highly personal and individualistic well being. In this context vanity is very much acceptable. Let me repeat: it is the exaggeration of glorifying the hunter, who most likely has anyhow been extremely lucky to be in the right place at the

right time, which I deeply deplore.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding: I treasure my own hunting trophies! I want to make it unmistakably clear that this joy, this feeling of happiness and gratification, is an integral part of hunting. However those, who claim that ultimate happiness as a hunter lies in the scoring sheet and the ranking of a trophy, that their trophy rankings determine their hunting prowess over other hunters, are truly poor. They do not understand what hunting really means and they are certainly unable to convey the true character and meaning of the hunt to non-hunters.

To summarize: I do consider the term “trophy” as a prototype of the status symbol and as an expression of success in society. Consequently, the hunter’s success manifested in the trophy of game taken can be linked perfectly into the framework of cultural validation. In our social consciousness of today, however, the archaic hunting success has been superseded by economic success and the achievement of ranking positions of the ladder of social hierarchy. Yet, there are areas, where the economic success is not automatically considered the highest social achievement – the achievements of philosophers, painters, poets, composers, and so forth can never be fully measured in economic terms.

Likewise, the utilitarian and cultural changes in hunting – from subsistence to recreational hunting – have engendered changes in its social relevance. The perception of hunting has changed. Consequently, the hunter needs to adapt too, especially with regards to trophy hunting. Well regulated and ethically conducted trophy hunting plays today an important role in nature conservation. Let us not demean this importance. Let us rather honor a hunting trophy for what it represents – the individual and personal memory of an extraordinary experience, the recognition of many unfathomable strokes of luck coming together and, most of all the joy and pride in the results of sustainable wildlife management and a successful end to a fair chase.

African Indaba eNewsletter

Editor & Publisher: Gerhard R Damm
 Postal Address: PO Box 411, Rivonia 2128, South Africa
 Email: gerhard@muskwa.co.za
 Phone +27-11-883-2299, Fax +27-11-784-2074

WEB: <http://www.africanindaba.co.za/>

Opinions expressed in African Indaba are not necessarily those of the publisher and editor. Whilst every care is taken in the preparation of this newsletter, we cannot accept any responsibility for errors. African Indaba eNewsletter is published every two months as a free service to the sustainable use community. Please share it with others who may be interested in the topics covered by African Indaba.

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

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the

conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa’s wild natural resources.

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Big Game Trophies: The CIC Evaluation System

By André-Jacques Hettier de Boislambert (France)
Translated from French by Fiona Capstick (South Africa)

Editor's Note: André-Jacques Hettier de Boislambert, a member of the French CIC Delegation, entered the CIC in 1950. At the same time he became part of the CIC Commission on Exhibitions and Trophies. In 1954, during the International Hunting and Fishing Expo in Düsseldorf, Hettier de Boislambert, was a prominent member of the trophy jury. He held the same position at the international show in Nuremberg in 1986. After participating in numerous meetings, Hettier de Boislambert was responsible for the editing of « Les trophées de chasse du monde: Formules Internationales pour la Mensuration et le Classement des Trophées » – the French version of the CIC Standard for trophy scoring "The Game-Trophies of the World: International Formula for the Measurement and Evaluation of Trophies".

In France, Hettier de Boislambert founded and chaired a specialized trophy committee in 1971, which became a National Commission in 1981. In 2006 he was again instrumental in the formation of the "Association Français de Mensuration des Trophées AFMT" - an organization of more than 200 experts.

André-Jacques Hettier de Boislambert is the Honorary President of the French "Association Nationale des Chasseurs de Grand Gibier" and an honorary member of the Conseil International de la Chasse et de la Conservation du Gibier, known in English as the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation

Brief Background

Since its establishment in 1930, CIC has worked on the standardization and completion of the several formulas for assessing and scoring big game trophies which had been tried during international hunting exhibitions in Vienna in 1910, followed by Leipzig in 1931.

In Warsaw in 1934, and in Prague in 1937, specialists in European big game agreed on a measuring system that was eventually put into practice at the big international exposition in Berlin in 1937.

After the 2nd World War, work was resumed, resulting in the so-called "Madrid 1952" formula. Following several reappraisals and expansions, the complete CIC system formed the basis for the publication in 1978 of a volume in three languages titled "Hunting Trophies of the World". This has been the reference work since for the assessment of all trophies, mainly of European big game.

Other Systems

There are other trophy scoring systems in the world, the best-known being:

- The Rowland Ward system, developed from 1892 onwards by the British naturalist after whom it is named. This method covers all hunt-able species but it is hardly used any longer except for African game.
- The Boone and Crocket Club system, developed

from 1949 onwards, covers exclusively big game from North America.

- The Safari Club International system, created in the United States of America, covers all large hunt-able species of the world and is very dynamic.

The CIC System Features

All the systems in use in the world are based on linear measurements, taken at certain points of the trophies and involving only length, circumference and spread. The CIC system distinguishes itself from all the others by taking two special factors into consideration:

- awarding so-called points "for beauty", and, subtracting penalties for so-called "imperfections";
- introduction of the factor of "weight" into the formulas for the three European *cervidae*, the roe deer, the red deer and the fallow deer.

These special factors, that distinguish the CIC system, give it a negative reputation because, on one hand, they have no technical basis and, on the other hand, they allow subjectivity to creep into a measuring process that should be strictly objective.

Criticism of the System

a) Points for so-called "Beauty"

- The color of a trophy is independent of age, bulk and the animal's state of health. It is darker or lighter depending to the time of the year when the animal is taken and the nature of the biotope, open plains or forest, the trees and other plants. Color is in no way indicative of the quality of an animal. In addition, it can be "improved" artificially.
- This holds true for the other factors that fall under the heading "beauty", them being totally subjective.
- Beauty points, especially concerning the roe deer species, favor the possibility of a mediocre trophy being placed into an award-winning category. The nineteen points overall, which are envisaged in the CIC formula, can see a buck trophy of 86 points attaining the homologable level of 105 points. This is an aberration.

b) Span or Spread

In what way would a trophy that is wider than another be superior? It is a "virtual" measurement that in no way indicates the value or mass of the trophy or allows for a comparison other than one that is purely aesthetic.

c) Antler weight for the three European *cervidae*

This measurement does not convey the actual quality of a trophy because it is independent of volume, the only meaningful feature of what *cervidae* carry on the head. Weight is subject to considerable variations depending to area, density not indicating quality. A buck of 260 cm³ weighs 545 grams here and 600 grams in an area 300 kilometers away.

Measurement of weight, furthermore, is open to many mistakes because of the various skull cuts. Here the CIC formula is

Continued on Page 4

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

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Continued from Page 3

Big Game Trophies: The CIC Evaluation System by André-Jacques Hettier de Boislambert

inaccurate. Weight is also of little consequence concerning biology and it is leading to arguments and possibly falsification, because it is easy to alter weight by humidifying the trophy again shortly before it is assessed.

Discussion

In the past, the CIC system offered the advantage of allowing assessed comparisons among trophies at international, national or regional level. Hundreds of thousands of trophies have been measured according to the CIC scoring directives and it served as a reference for European species.

This system, however, was devised for another age when hunting was not what it has become. The hunting landscape has changed profoundly because of the development of big game in all countries, access to hunting by all social levels and the emergence of anti-hunting stances.

Nowadays, a section of public opinion calls hunting into question. In order to justify hunting, the main and best argument lie in proving its capacity to manage renewable natural resources in a sustainable fashion on behalf of the community.

In this context, the pursuit for certificates and medals appears obsolete and is negatively viewed. It must be pointed out that official scientific or technical entities responsible for the management and study of wildlife do not take this aspect into account at all, especially because the CIC system embodies subjective factors.

Consequently, it is the concept of the trophy that must evolve in order to adapt itself to the conditions of modern, rational, responsible and managed hunting.

Conclusion

A trophy will always retain its value as the hunter's personal remembrance. This does not depend inevitably on its quality but also on the environment and the circumstances of the harvesting. It is the immaterial aspect in space and time of the concept of the trophy.

In wildlife management, assessment of a trophy assumes significant interest when it occurs at population levels. Control of the quality of an animal population over the years enables managers to ascertain the adaptation of wildlife and of its biotope.

In this sense and in order to find an indisputable place for hunting in the 21st century, a measuring system, of necessity, must be straightforward to implement, exact in its directives and devoid of any subjective elements.

It is in this way and in this way alone, that this system can be useful as a means for sustainable management. The focus must not fall on exceptional specimens that serve only to pander to vanity, provoking an escalation in hunting costs and bestowing on it a deplorable elitist image in the eyes of the public.

A proposal is being made to CIC, consequently, that its system be overhauled by discarding subjective or unimportant factors such as points for beauty, penalties, span/spread and weight.

At the same time, CIC would be well advised to discard the formulas for carnivore skins, as it is known that their dimensions are too easily adjustable.

Contents African Indaba Vol 5/3

	Page
Trophy Hunting: How I see it! <i>Dieter Schramm, President CIC</i>	1
Big Game Trophies: The CIC Scoring System <i>André-Jacques Hettier de Boislambert</i>	3
Trophy Hunting, Hunting Trophies and Trophy Recording: Facts, Risks and Opportunities – the CIC Workshop in Belgrade <i>Gerhard Damm</i>	5
Restoring Kenya's Squandered Heritage <i>Dr. Laurence Frank</i>	6
The Influence of Trophy Measurements in Cape Buffalo <i>Dr Winston Taylor</i>	7
Scoring of Trophies <i>Dr A B Bubeník</i>	10
Cape Buffalo: Is the SCI Trophy Scoring System Wrong? <i>Dr Kevin Robertson</i>	10
Red Deer Stag Classification in Europe <i>Professor Dr Klaus Hackländer</i>	14
Sacrificial Ram <i>Daniel Duane</i>	15
Hunters Shoot Themselves in the Foot <i>Ian Parker</i>	19
Trophy Hunting: The Professional Hunter's Dilemma <i>Stewart Dorrington & Peter Butland (PHASA)</i>	20
Predator Conservation and Hunting in Kenya <i>Dr Stephanie Romañach</i>	22
The Rowland Ward Guild of Field Sportsmen <i>Peter Flack (Rowland Ward)</i>	23
Hunting for Trophies <i>Raymond Lee (FNAWS & ISHA)</i>	26
SCI Record Book of Trophy Animals: Documenting the Hunting Heritage <i>Dr Douglas Yajko (SCI)</i>	28
Boone & Crockett Club: Fair Chase and Conservation since 1887 <i>Jack Reneau (B&C)</i>	28

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

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Trophy Hunting, Hunting Trophies and Trophy Recording: Evaluating Facts, Risks and Opportunities

CIC Workshop 3rd and 4th May in Belgrade/Serbia
By Gerhard R Damm

On May 3rd and 4th (for the meeting schedule consult the CIC program) the CIC members and international guests will meet during the 54th General Assembly of the CIC in Belgrade/Serbia to discuss the facts, risks and opportunities which are connected with trophy hunting, hunting trophies and trophy recording. Dr. Francois Schwarzenbach and John J Jackson III will co-chair the workshop. This session of the CIC General Assembly will lay the groundwork towards the formulation of a CIC statement on *Hunting Trophies and Trophy Hunting* as irreducible elements of hunting in the 21st century, as key components of global sustainable hunting tourism and resident recreational hunting.

The two-day meeting will review the history of and consider developments in trophy hunting, compare the major European, African and American measuring and awards systems for hunting trophies and analyze differences and similarities in the past, and present as well as future trends of trophy hunting cultures of Europe and North America. Ad hoc working groups will discuss specific issues and formulate positions, which the editing team will integrate into a final presentation to the General Assembly.

The CIC Executive Committee, in cooperation with the presidents of the CIC commissions on Tropical Game, Sustainable Use, Holarctic Game and Exhibitions & Trophies will subsequently establish a joint task force to build on the results of the meeting. This task force will elaborate a comprehensive position paper, which will consider a hopefully continuous feedback from members, experts and scientists. The task force will also encourage and expand a cooperative dialogue with other regional and global hunting organizations, especially those who were represented at the meeting. The final position paper will be presented to the CIC Executive Committee and the CIC Council by November 2007.

Gerhard Damm, CIC South Africa Delegation and publisher of African Indaba, will give the key note presentation, followed by presentations of three prominent trophy scoring systems. These reviews will be offered by Dr. Francois Schwarzenbach, president of the CIC Commission of Exhibitions & Trophies, for the CIC, Gray Thornton as representative of the Boone & Crockett Club for this eminent American trophy scoring system and Peter Flack, Chairman of Rowland Ward's for Rowland Ward's Book of Trophy Records. The forth slot was reserved for the Safari Club International Trophy Records Committee, but unfortunately SCI informed the organizers just before the meeting that their participation had to be cancelled for internal reasons.

Finally, Gray Thornton, Executive Director of Dallas Safari Club will talk about the "The Essence of Hunting" and bring the presentation part of the meeting to a close.

The delegates will dedicate the next hours to discussing and workshopping a number of issues like

- Trophy Hunting as indispensable component of sustainable hunting tourism and local recreational hunting
- Review of aspects of socio-biological and morphometrical standards in present measuring systems.
- How to include more scientifically and conservation relevant data in trophy recording
- Positive PR and media campaigns inside and outside hunting circles to explain the *raison d'être* for measuring and recording systems
- International cooperation in scoring systems

During the second day's session the delegates will again meet in working groups to discuss issues and formulate common objectives in fields like:

- Trophy hunting and the CIC Sustainable Hunting Tourism Program
- The economic and conservation significance of trophy hunting
- Species-specific socio-biological and morphometrical trophy features or subjective anthropomorphic "ideals" in trophy measuring systems
- The "Competition" factor
- Trophies from escape proof enclosures
- Problems of Trophy Hunting: Public perception, trophy cult, etc
- Risks of Trophy Hunting: Domestication of formerly wild animals to "produce trophies", etc
- Opportunities for Trophy Hunting: Conservation hunting and Incentive-Driven-Conservation

International guests form the associations already mentioned earlier in this article will be joined by others like Raymond Lee, President of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep and of the International Sheep Hunters' Association, Don Causey, publisher of "The Hunting Report", Dr. Karlheinz Betz Editor-in-Chief of Wild & Hund, Shane Mahoney, CIC Expert and member of the Board of Conservation Force, Stewart Dorrington, President of the Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa, Gary van den Berg and Borrie Erasmus of Wildlife Ranching South Africa, Chris Weaver of WWF-LIFE, Namibia, and many others,

This issue of African Indaba is dedicated entirely towards the preparation of this meeting, providing background information for the participants, but also informing a wide audience of international hunters about the issues and potential solutions. Without the support of the CIC staff in Budapest and the backing of the project by the CIC Executive Committee, this effort would not have materialized. Therefore it is appropriate to express thanks and appreciation towards the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation for providing not only a platform to discuss these important issues, but also the logistical backup to have hundreds of copies of this special issue of African Indaba printed and distributed.

In the next issues of African Indaba we will report about the results of this Belgrade meeting and continue to explore the complex topic with the assistance of international opinion leaders, hunters and scientists. We would also welcome feedback from the readers of African Indaba – make your opinion count!

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the

conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Restoring Kenya's Squandered Heritage

By Dr Laurence Frank, Laikipia Predator Project, Kenya

Editor's Note: Dr. Laurence Frank, from the Wildlife Conservation Society and the University of California, Berkeley, has studied predators in Kenya for 37 years. He runs the Living With Lions project, working on lion conservation in Laikipia and Loitokitok Districts. He is not a big game hunter.

An edited version of this article was published in March by The Daily Nation, Nairobi – Here is Dr Frank's original text:

Kenya has squandered its most important resource: seventy percent of our wildlife has disappeared in the last thirty years. They have been strangled in snares by the millions, to be sold as 'nyama' in rural and urban butcheries. Even in our national parks, many species are in serious decline due to poaching and habitat destruction on their boundaries; even the lions and other large predators which attract tourists to our parks are being speared and poisoned into extinction.

In that same thirty years, South Africa, Namibia, and Zimbabwe have seen an immense increase in wildlife numbers, as thousands of cattle ranches have been turned back to wildlife production (sadly, much of Zimbabwe's regained wildlife was snared after 'land reform'). Wildlife continues to do very well in Tanzania and Botswana. What accounts for the collapse of wildlife in Kenya while it has increased enormously in the southern countries? Human populations have grown in most countries, so that does not explain the difference.

One difference is that in those countries wildlife outside of parks has great value for sport hunting, whereas in Kenya wild animals are just a costly and expensive nuisance to the rural people who share the land with them. Kenya shut down trophy hunting in 1977, just as landowners and communities in southern Africa found that their land was worth far more when producing wildlife for high paying foreign hunters than it was for cattle. Landowners carefully manage their land to produce wild game, and carefully regulate hunting to ensure a lasting crop of trophy animals. With 250,000 square kilometers outside of parks maintained for hunting, Tanzania has more wildlife than any country in Africa and income from trophy hunting is a mainstay of the national economy. Kenya's policy, which denies rural people any benefit from wildlife, ensures that people resent animals for destroying their crops, eating their livestock, and occasionally killing people. To a rural Kenyan, it makes absolute sense to eat the game and kill the predators, because they gain nothing from, and lose a lot to wild animals. In other countries, well managed hunting brings money and development to rural areas.

How can a country without legal hunting see its wildlife spiral into extinction? The answer is bad policy – our policy ensures that rural people resent wildlife, instead of profiting from it. This tragic state of affairs has been maintained by foreign animal rights groups which spend millions of pounds and dollars annually influencing Kenyan policy makers and the media to ensure that their destructive policies are maintained. These overseas

groups apparently do not seem to care that millions of our animals strangle miserably in snares, so long as none are shot for profit. They boast to their American and British supporters that there is no hunting in Kenya, not admitting that as a result there is little wildlife left in Kenya, either. They rent mobs to demonstrate against any improvement in policy, and fill the Kenyan press with nonsensical claims that hunters want to indiscriminately slaughter game, even in national parks, and stir racial strife by claiming that hunting would benefit only "rich wazungu" rather than impoverished pastoralist communities.

In North America, Europe, and southern Africa, properly managed hunting has greatly increased wildlife populations, because people value it – no species has ever gone extinct due to sport hunting, because it is in the hunters' interest to ensure large populations. In fact, trophy hunters want only large old males, with impressive horns, tusks or manes, animals that are no longer needed to produce offspring. Unlike bushmeat poachers, they do not take females and young, ensuring an abundance of wildlife.

In Botswana today, a very few male lions are shot every year, at a price of nearly ten million Kenya shillings each. Fully half of that fee goes to the rural community in which the lion was taken, and another quarter goes to the Wildlife Department for conservation. Five million shillings would repay a community for 400 cattle taken by lions. Or support dozens of teachers or trained nurses. In Botswana, that lion, and all the associated wildlife, are a source of immense income, to be valued and encouraged. In Kenya, that lion is only an expensive, cattle-killing nuisance, to be poisoned or speared and left to rot in the sun.

Of course, many people object that serious money brings serious corruption, and claim that Kenya could not possibly regulate hunting properly. However, the old East African Professional Hunters Association took great pride in the ethical behavior of its members, and policed itself far more rigorously than the Game Department ever could. I believe that professional ethic is still strong in Kenya, and that properly managed hunting would benefit rural communities and landowners while increasing wildlife populations. If the rest of the world can manage wildlife for conservation and rural peoples' well-being, so can Kenya. What we do know is that the old policy, bought by foreign pressure groups, has been a disaster for our wildlife heritage.

... to measure and retain the rich biodiversity of Africa ... we need to break with traditional thinking to catalyze a new vision and join hands in new partnerships

Nelson Mandela

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the

conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

The Influence of Trophy Measurement in Cape Buffalo

By Winston Taylor, Environmental Biology, Oxford Brookes University

Editor's Note: Winston Taylor's scientific paper (Full Title: *The Influence of Trophy Measurement on the Age of Sport Hunted Buffalo, Syncerus Caffer (Sparrman), in the Zambezi Valley, Zimbabwe, and its Implications for Sustainable Trophy Hunting, 2005*) has been adapted to the format of African Indaba. Due to time constraints the author could not be consulted prior to publication, hence errors and omissions are the editor's fault. You can download the original paper from www.africanindaba.co.za

Conserving wildlife in Africa is often difficult as it conflicts with humans and their activities. "One way to make conservation gains", particularly in the African context, "is to capitalize on the importance of wild species in human livelihoods". The "sustainable harvesting of plants and hunting of animals has often turned out to be a highly effective conservation measure" (Hutton, 2004). Sport hunting has a long and involved history in Africa. The appeal of the classic "African Safari" was stimulated by the likes of Ruark and Hemingway in their numerous tales of hunting and adventure in the wilds of Africa.

Hunting is an important tool in conservation although it must not be seen as conservation in itself. Commercial hunting is of great value in both the economic and ecological sense. Low off-takes of trophy animals provide good financial returns with minimal investment. Sport hunting is also a major force behind the preservation of wildlife and wild places.

The growing fragmentation of species' habitats over the last century has led to the emergence of community based conservation whereby local communities are encouraged to value wildlife through both non-consumptive and consumptive activities (e.g. hunting) from which they receive multiple benefits. Prior to these new "radical" ways of tackling conservation, much of colonial Africa was subject to state-centric "fortress conservation", in which rural Africans were seen as the enemy of conservation and degraders of the environment. Community conservation on the other hand encourages, through the concept of "sustainable development", that species, habitats and biodiversity, should be seen as exploitable and managed through conservation and developmental goals.

Villagers are given a share in license fees paid by wealthy clients and suddenly see a species, such as buffalo or elephant, not as a menacing crop raider but as a highly valuable asset which should be protected. Clients will also be charged a range of fees by the government, collected either directly or on the government's behalf by the safari operator. Such fees are likely to include a conservation fee, firearms and ammunition permit fees, trophy export fees, airport fees etc. It is through such systems that hunting can be used as a tool in conservation. However, if hunting is to be pursued in areas where wildlife resources are finite, a tight management regime has to be employed in order to ensure its sustainability. Incorrect management of the hunted wildlife would result in unstable population

dynamics, diminished gene pools and ultimately loss of species from an area.

The African Cape buffalo, *Syncerus caffer*, is one of the classic African trophies, and consequently a key species in safari hunting. In Zimbabwe (total hunting earnings 1998: US\$23 million) it is the second most important species, in monetary terms. Sport hunting is where the future of the Cape buffalo lies especially outside of formally protected areas.

Buffalo are classed as one of the "Big 5". The very nature of buffalo make them a desirable trophy, if not the ultimate big game trophy for the hunting sportsperson. They are unpredictable and thus difficult and dangerous to get close to, hence the hunters' skills are tested to the full and the true characteristics of a hunt – fear, fascination and adrenaline - are evoked.

Maintaining a high market value for buffalo hunting relies upon the provision of quality trophies, achieved through the implementation of trophy quota systems. Offtakes need to be carefully regulated and within biological limits. Buffalo populations typically grow at about 7% p a; however, in order to ensure quality trophies offtakes should be limited to 2% p a.

It is of concern that immature buffalo are being over hunted because of the combined effect of high off-take quotas, and the possible influence of inappropriate measurement systems. There are currently two systems of trophy measurement: the SCI method established in 1978 and the Rowland Ward method from 1892. The latter is the system of trophy measurement most traditionally used by hunters worldwide. When scoring buffalo, RW takes only the spread of the horns into account, such that older animals may score equally as well as younger animals. SCI however, in an effort to produce a more all round score, includes the depth of the curl and the width of the bosses. The use of the SCI system, with which the majority of North American clients, who form 60% of visiting clients, are familiar, is believed to be contributing to younger individuals being shot whereas the use of the RW method is believed to be supportive of more sustainable off-takes in the long term.

In safari hunting adult buffalo bulls are selected for their trophy value. Sexual maturity is reached at 4-5 years; however, in most cases the trophy is still considered undesirable at this stage. A quality trophy is most likely a buffalo bull aged between 7 and 12 years. Professional hunters have to rely principally on the characteristics of the bull's horns in order to determine its potential trophy quality and a possible age for the animal.

As a trophy reaches its full potential (its prime) the boss hardens forming ridges and the fully grown horns are curved in a hook shape. The tips of the horns are still sharp at this stage, but as the animals age the horn tips are worn down and the bosses become progressively smoother. Such individuals are often found in "bachelor" groups away from breeding herds; the hunting of such groups of individuals is less likely to result in the offtake of immature individuals.

However, since these groups will join the herds for breeding purposes, being able to judge the relationship between age and trophy size on a more rigorous basis would allow hunters to make better informed decisions. In doing so, the offtake of immature bulls can be prevented, which in turn would be beneficial

Continued on Page 8

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

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Continued from Page 7

The Influence of Trophy Measurement in Cape Buffalo by Winston Taylor

for the sustainability of quality trophy offtake.

The SCI measurement system is thought to favor younger "soft-bossed" bulls whose horns are still yet to lose their sharp tips. It is such animals that tend to make the record books but only because the measuring system favors animals with such attributes. Of the top three scoring buffalo bulls in the SCI record books, only one is "hard-bossed", the other two are still "soft" (i.e. still young). Hunting buffalo at this age is likely to cut short their genetic contribution within the population.

Establishing a relationship between age and trophy size using each respective scoring system would hopefully allow for better selection on an age basis and hence would contribute to the sustainable hunting of high quality trophies. It would also shed light on the importance of scoring system use and the possible need for adjustments. This study looks specifically at the relationship between the age of hunted bulls and their respective trophy sizes using, RW and SCI scoring methods. Furthermore, the age of each hunted buffalo was determined to within one year using Taylor's age determination methods.

The study area was the Middle Zambezi Valley with hunting concessions managed by Parks & Wildlife Authority and settled Communal Land where CAMPFIRE (Communal Areas Management Program for Indigenous Resources) is operational.

Dande South and Dande Communal Land are operated by Ingwe Safaris with about 45 buffalo bulls on quota out of an estimated population of 1,053 (representative of approximately ½ to ¾ of the buffalo population as aerial census results for the area were inconclusive). Dande North (CAMPFIRE) and Dande Safari Area (Parks and Wildlife) are operated by Swainson's Safaris. Between the two areas there are about 100 buffalo bulls currently on quota out of an estimated population of 4,037 buffalo. Buffalo populations are moving freely between the two safari areas. Chewore North (Parks and Wildlife) is operated by Big Five Safaris with 55 buffalo bulls on quota from an estimated buffalo population of 1,964.

The safari areas collectively hold significant numbers of large game, ranging from elephants, hippo, buffalo, and big cats (lion, leopard) to large and small antelope. The safari operators involved are highly reputable and constitute some of the biggest names in safari hunting in southern Africa.

At the start of the hunting season, I requested the operators to retain and tag the lower jaws of each shot buffalo. Both RW and SCI scores were measured and recorded for each trophy. The mandibular molars were extracted from the lower jaws and the age of each shot buffalo determined. I also had the opportunity to discuss views with both clients and professional hunters. The data set obtained represents approximately two thirds of the male buffalo on quota in the concession areas for the year 2004.

A total of 91 samples were collected; 29 from Dande South, 30 from Chewore North and 32 from Dande North. The data sets from Chewore North and Dande South are probably representative of the trophy buffalo populations within those areas; the data set from Dande North represents just under half of the quota for the area.

The average age of the sampled buffalo was 8.01 years. The

majority of the buffalo shot (76%) were between 6 and 8 years old; the remaining 24% comprised mostly of 9 and 10 year-olds, with less than 6% of the hunted population being 11 years or older. 3% of the buffalo were considered to be truly immature (5 years in age).

Dande South exhibited the largest proportion of "young" trophies, with 52% of the sampled quota being 7 years or younger in age (25% are 6 years old). The oldest trophy is only 10 years old. Dande North exemplified a greater proportion of older trophy animals, and contains the highest percentage (40%) of 7 - 8 year-old trophies (animals in their prime). Yet there is still a relatively large percentage (25%) of young individuals (6 year olds) being shot. 16% were 10 years old and 6% reached 12 years. Chewore North has a relatively normal age structure within its hunted sample of trophy bulls, with the greatest number of bulls (35%) being shot at the prime age of 8 years. 16% of the trophies are 6 years old. There is however a sharp decline in trophies of 9 years or older and a "tail" of older animals.

Given the results of earlier studies, a more plausible explanation is that few 9, 10, 11, and 12 year-olds are being shot because bulls are being taken before they reach that age. The sustainability of trophy hunting is brought therefore into question. Data on trophy ages obtained from Big Five Safaris indicate that trophy age has been relatively stable over the previous 4 years; average ages ranging from 8.7 to 9.9. Ageing of buffalo bulls has also been taking place in Dande North, with the average age ranging from 8 in 2001 to 10 in 2002 and back to 9 in 2003. However, it has since been established that teeth had not been extracted resulting in overestimation of the actual ages. This said the data is still relevant since it provides evidence of relative stability in trophy age in Chewore North and Dande North.

According to estimated population figures from an aerial census in 2001, the offtake in all three areas exceeds the recommended 2% pa. The estimated buffalo population of Dande North in 2001 was 4037; more recently the same population, from visual estimates on the ground, is judged to be about 5500 animals. If this is the case then the set quota for 2004 is just under the recommended 2%. Although Chewore North and Dande South both have large buffalo populations, the evidence suggests that the recommended offtake of 2% pa has been exceeded. It is also likely that that quota setting is affected by the different management systems employed between Chewore North and Dande North and South.

It would appear that the average trophy scores (from Chewore North, Dande North and Dande South) are satisfactory for the majority of clients. Whether this is really the case or not is an interesting question. The nature of the desired trophy changes somewhat depending on the client nationality; European clients, especially German and Austrian, tend to prefer "character" trophies, which are usually older animals, the emphasis being on trophy individuality and not size or score. American clients, (60% of the safari client) are inclined towards hunting individuals for their trophy size.

But hunting and trophy selection is not an exact science. Ultimately a client will shoot the trophy which, in his mind, is best, and has the backing opinion of the professional hunter, who after

Continued on Page 9

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

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Continued from Page 8

The Influence of Trophy Measurement in Cape Buffalo by Winston Taylor

all is the client's "visual measurement method.

Hunting buffalo is no easy task, and the absence of any truly mature animals could be attributed to the "pressures" of hunting and ultimately, chance. The "pressures" of hunting involve limited time frames, fussy clients, "co-operative" buffalo and of course an element of luck. Whilst these previous two scenarios are possible, the most obvious factor explaining the lack of old trophy buffalo is simply that there are very few old buffalo within the population. Death by natural means is more likely to occur as buffalo age, and is usually around 14 years or older amongst unexploited (protected) wild buffalo populations.

The average Rowland Ward (RW) score was 36.98 inches with "40 inch" buffalo considered the bench mark for a good quality trophy. The average SCI score was 96.26 inches, just short of the bench mark SCI trophy score of 100 inches.

Correlation between trophy size and animal age using the RW method indicate that scores decrease minimally with age. The SCI scoring method indicates in contrast the possibility of a strong relationship between trophy size and animal age and scores decrease markedly with age. The difference becomes apparent in the different classification of a "record trophy".

The minimum score for the SCI record book is 100 inches. The minimum score for RW is 42 inches. Of the 91 samples taken over the duration of this study, only 4 were eligible for entry into the RW record book, whilst an astounding 34 were eligible for entry into the SCI record book. In terms of RW, only 20 of the buffalo had a trophy score equaling or exceeding the bench mark of 40 inches. The implications of this are that clients are more likely to aim for trophies with an SCI score of 100; not only have they succeeded in achieving the "100 inch" bench mark, but they also have the opportunity to have their names written down in the annals.

We conclude that there is a significant difference between the RW and SCI scoring systems relative to animal age and younger animals' trophy attributes are biased by the SCI scoring system in relation to older trophy animals. Trophy bulls are most likely to be shot in their prime when all attributes of the animals horns are considered to be most appealing to the hunter. This is reflected in the average trophy age of 8 years. The average age for the three sample areas in this study is "pulled up" by the presence of a "long tail" of older individuals. The current high offtake of 6-8 year-olds in this study is possibly a sign of a downward trend in relation to buffalo offtake age, and if so, the notion of sustainable trophy hunting is at risk.

Statistical analysis shows that there is a significant relationship between trophy size and age when using the SCI measurement system and not the RW system. Furthermore, the SCI system is shown to favor younger animals more than previously thought. RW trophy scores on the other hand, decline only minimally with age. The point is that a buffalo bull that scores well on the SCI scale is likely to be a young, if not immature individual. If trophy buffalo are being and continue to be shot at ages, which on average are progressively younger, the sustainable hunting of quality trophy buffalo in the Middle Zambezi Valley is doubtful over the long term.

Possible reasons for this are 2-fold. The quotas set by local councils, whilst allowing sustainable offtake, are too high for sustained trophy quality. Secondly, professional hunters and their clients are ultimately responsible for trophy selection; their attitudes towards selection are important. Adopting the "if I don't take it now, the next hunter will" attitude is an unfortunate reality, particularly in relation to young animals that already possess all the attributes of a good trophy. The manner and method of hunting is also important; hunting individuals out of herds, will most often result in the offtake of younger bulls, whilst the hunting of "bachelor" groups is more likely to result in the offtake of an individual in or beyond its prime

The SCI scoring method uses attributes of the buffalo's horns which are best developed in young animals, and whilst this is the case, young animals will continue to be shot. At the same time, RW scoring methods are also inadequate since different buffalo populations have different genetic tendencies for larger or smaller outside spreads. As a result alternative scoring methods have been proposed by Gandy and Reilly (2004). It is based upon a "multiplication factor that is created by dividing the horn tip space measurements, the mean of the two individual horn lengths and then squaring the result". Thus a good trophy will exhibit typical attributes of an old animal:

- a wide tip space in relation to individual horn lengths
- a wide outside spread
- large boss widths
- small boss space (distance between inner edges).

However this last factor, as acknowledged by the authors, and observed during the data collection in this study, is subject to increase in older animals (12+ years of age). It has also been suggested that the current SCI system be adjusted by weighting the boss scores by doubling them, thereby encouraging hunters to take older animals with better developed bosses.

The sustainable hunting of trophy quality buffalo relies upon setting realistic quotas, which in the cases of Chewore North, Dande North and Dande South, would result in a cutting back of the present quotas. Not only is a sustainable quota important, but so too is the trophy selection by professional hunters and their clients; sustainable hunting necessitates that offtake does not include young animals.

The adaptation of current scoring systems to favor older animals would be an important step in allowing the establishment of an older "trophy" population.

The hunting industry is important not only to the economy of Zimbabwe, but also to the many people whose livelihoods are reliant upon it. Zimbabwe has long been regarded as a premier safari destination; the high standards of professionalism within the safari industry and the high quality hunting offered, have together created this reputation.

Maintaining the quality of hunting also involves maintaining and ensuring trophy quality, for all species alike, such that the country and future generations will still be able to benefit from the industry, as they do today.

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the

conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Scoring of Trophies

By A B Bubenik

Editor's Note: The following lines are an extract from "Socio-Biological Versus Hunter's Viewpoints on Antlers and Horns"; published as supplement to *The Big Game of the World*, Werner Trense 1989, Paul Parey Hamburg, Page 378

In dealing with [the assessment of trophies] I have to question the legitimacy of the present assessment formulas. ... Unfortunately, the designers of all these formulas were more experienced as hunters, rather than as biologically minded sportsmen or naturalists.

From a historical point of view, most of the inadequacies of the formulas are understandable. [Nothing] was known about the socio-biological significance of antlers and horns. [] When scoring formulas were developed the morphometry of organs was only in the beginnings. Therefore, it is no wonder that the basics of trophy evaluation were disregarded. However, it is difficult to understand why the authors of these formulas neglected all the principles of geometry and statistics. Due to this negligence, the differences between trophy scores represent neither the actual difference in the dimensions of the trophy, nor the actual socio-biological value and metabolic achievement. Only for those reasons is it possible that trophies – not falling within the socio-biological range – are sometimes scored amongst the best and some socio-biologically correct trophies are put into the category "non-typical".

The lack of interest in socio-biological formulas is hard to understand, considering the fact that the first studies done on this subject proved the validity of the concept.

[The guidelines for scoring] disregard the morphometrical background and have the subjective anthropomorphic after-taste of the "ideal" appealing to the human eye. That is why it is possible that the "aesthetics" points play such an important role in [CIC] scoring and are often the reason for unpleasant controversies.

Hunters, who are concerned with the fate of the eupecoran on the one hand, and the fate of hunting on the other, should also give thought to the scoring formulas. Hunters cannot compete in harvesting world record trophies for the improvement of personal status without losing face before the public. Socio-biological formulas are designed to undercut such efforts. The trophy should be once more regarded as a status symbol of the game itself (and not that of the hunter) as a species-specific feature. Under such conditions, trophy-shows [*and record books, Ed*] will be unique educational aids, presenting evidence as to how hunters can improve the welfare of the game.

The largest antlers and horns are carried at the transitional age between the prime and the post-prime stages. Males of that age can be harvested as the best trophy bearers, and as a reward for the conservation of the primes.

Addendum: Bubenik also deals with the optimum infrastructure of deer populations in this article. See also Professor Klaus Hackländer's article about red deer management in Europe on page 14

Cape Buffalo: Is the SCI Trophy Scoring System Wrong?

By Dr. Kevin Robertson, South Africa

(Please send comments to doctari@eastcape.net)

There can be no doubt. *Syncerus caffer caffer*, the Southern buffalo is by far Africa's most popular dangerous trophy game species. In fact, the demand for sport-hunting these formidable black bovines seems almost insatiable. So much so that most reputable safari operators offering buffalo are sold out years in advance. Buffalo hunting is not cheap. Even for a two on one hunt (this is two hunters with one PH), a hunter can expect to pay at least \$10,000 for the experience of securing a representative trophy. When spending this amount of money, it is perfectly understandable that hunters 'want a good one', that will 'make it into the record book'.

Two well-known trophy recording systems exist. These are SCI Record of Trophy Animals, and the British originated system of Rowland Ward and their Records of Big Game. But with Americans representing approximately 80 % of the sport-hunters who visit Africa, the SCI system is by far the most popular. In fact it is these sportsmen who practically drive the whole African safari industry and one has only to visit Reno, for SCI's annual convention to realize just how vast this aspect really is.

SCI is a huge, well-run organization and most Americans who desire to hunt in Africa are members. SCI has its own unique scoring system and with regards to *Syncerus caffer caffer*, the current SCI scoring method follows the white line depicted in the photo below.

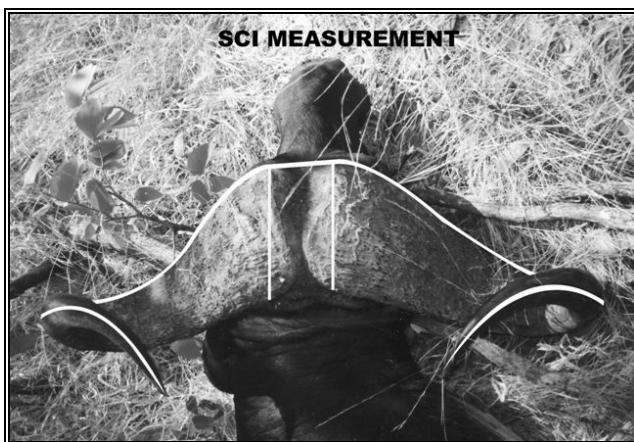


Photo 1: SCI Scoring System Measurements (white lines)

The length along the outside of the horn curl, from tip to tip, plus the straight-line width measurement of both bosses for a combined total score in inches. 100 inches is needed to qualify for record book entry.

The Rowland Ward system is different in that it measures the greatest outside spread only, and 42 inches in the current requirement for record book entry.

Continued on Page 11

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the

conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Continued from Page 10

Cape Buffalo: Is the SCI Scoring System Wrong? By Kevin Robertson

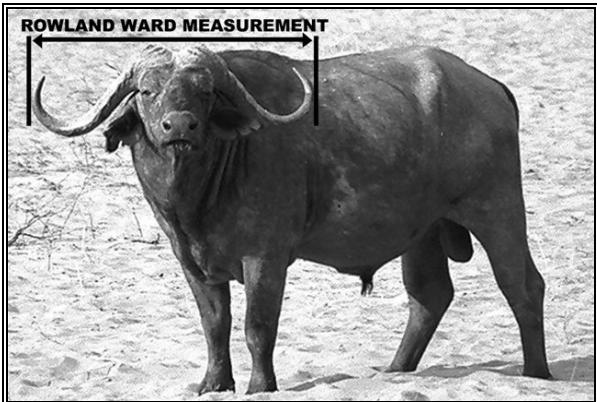


Photo 2: Rowland Ward Scoring System – Approx. 8 Yrs old bull. The boss is just about solid, and horn tips have dropped to boss level

The current SCI scoring system exerts a tremendous influence on the type and consequently the ages of buffalo that are sport-hunted for trophy purposes. This is my opinion and also that of many PH's and safari operators. Here are the facts:



Photo 3: Buffalo Bull 5 to 6 Yrs - Forehead still hairy and the horn tips are still sharp and sticking up above boss level

Bull buffalo are sexually mature at approximately 5 to 6 years old. By this age, the horn tips are sharp and they will usually stick up well above the level of the forehead. The forehead will still be covered with coarse, sparses hair. There will be no boss per se and PH's will refer to this bull as being 'green'.

Bull buffalo fight for the right to breed. Such occasions are 'push and shove', 'test of strength', affairs.

The object of the exercise is simply to determine which bull

is physically the stronger. Bulls do not try to kill each other on such occasions simply because mature buffalo bulls play a very necessary roll in the defense of the herd from lions.

Because such fights involve head clashing, a bull buffalo needs a hard or almost completely solid boss to enable it to compete effectively. The horn tips on such occasions are not used, and those which stick up above boss level are actually a disadvantage.



Photo 4: Buffalo Bull approx. 8 Yrs. The boss is just about solid, and horn tips have dropped to boss level

Buffalo bulls are usually old big and strong enough physically to challenge for the right to breed by their 8th year. By that age, their bosses will be sufficiently hard enough for them to head bash, while their horn tips will usually have dropped to or below boss level.



Photo 5: Approx. 10 Yrs old breeding bull. Boss completely solid, horn tips well below boss level

The peak breeding age for a buffalo bulls is their 9th and 10th years. Sometime in their 11th year, breeding bulls will usually be replaced by younger, stronger and fitter individuals.

Continued on Page 12

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the

conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Continued from Page 11

Cape Buffalo: Is the SCI Scoring System Wrong? By Kevin Robertson



Photo 6: An exceptional, approximately 11Yrs old solid bossed buffalo bull

Horn rubbing is an important part of dominant, breeding bull behavior. This wears the horn tips down. While not so important with regards to the Rowland Ward system of measurement, this practice, together with the fact that the horn tips drop as the bull matures, has a significant influence on a bull's SCI measurement. In a nutshell, a bull, regardless of his initial horn size, will score less and ever less on the SCI system of measurement as he matures and progressed from a pre-breeding through to a breeding and then to a post-breeding bull. As I see it, this is the primary flaw with this measuring system.

The current top ranking SCI bull, and the current no's 5, 10 and 17 were all pre-breeding, 6 to 7 year old bulls at the time they were collected.



Photo 7: Current Number 1 SCI – The bull is soft bossed. A number of independent buffalo authorities have aged this bull to be 7 years old. The chances that he got to breed before being shot are remote



Photo 8: Current SCI Number 5 is of a similar age.



Photo 9: Current SCI Number 10 is also a really young, pre-breeding soft-bossed bull



Photo 10: This exceptional 6 year old bull was the SCI no. 1. It now ranks no. 17. What a pity it never got to breed as it truly was a magnificent specimen.

Continued on Page 13

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

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Continued from Page 12

Cape Buffalo: Is the SCI Scoring System Wrong? By Kevin Robertson

One does not have to be Einstein to realize the long term effect of shooting genetically superior specimens before they have a chance to pass on their genes, and already this is becoming evident. Average trophy size in those countries where Southern buffalo are regularly hunted is dropping, and quickly. It is my belief that this is a direct result of this simple fact. A scoring system which places more emphasis on a bull's boss development and encourages the shooting of old, post breeding-age bulls needs to be implemented, and the sooner the better. (At this point in time, one of the suggestions for a new method is to use the Rowland Ward, straight-line method, and add the 'over the top' measurement of both bosses for a final score.)

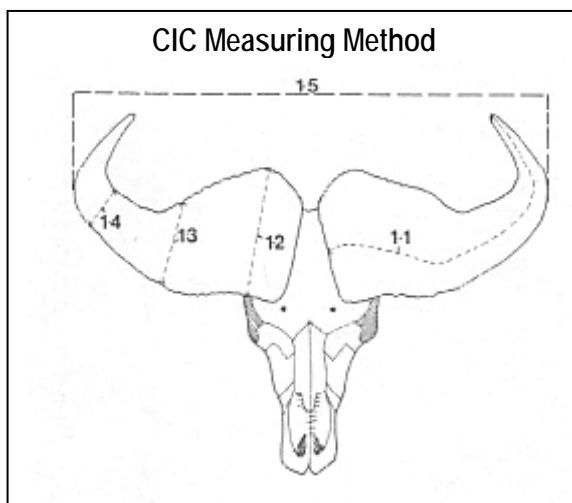
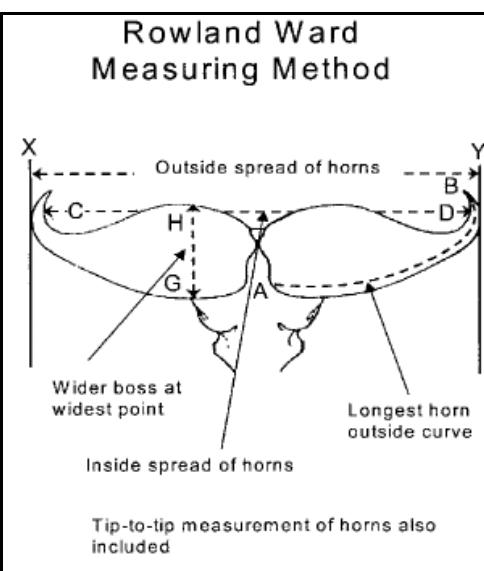
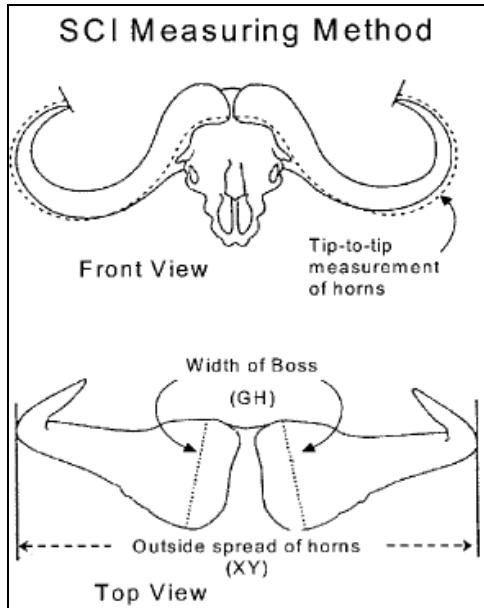


Photo 11: This is a mature huntable Bull

A scoring system which encourages the shooting of bulls like shown on photo 11 and leaves those like the one on photo 12 to breed, needs to be developed and implemented. I voiced my concerns on this matter in my first buffalo book, 'Nyati'. Unfortunately, my requests for a revision of the SCI scoring system went unheard.



Photo 12: This Bull should be left alone



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

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Red Deer Stag Classification in Europe

By Prof. Dr. Klaus Hackländer

In Austria and other European countries red deer stags are classified into categories which find their basis in the formation of the respective stag's antlers. Such classification of middle-aged stags into categories IIa and IIb has led to a lively discussion, which questions such classification. At the 24th Information Day on Game Ecology in Klagenfurt/Carinthia the author gave a keynote presentation on this issue to provide an answer to the question: has the classification of red deer a future in modern game management?

In modern game management the requirements of alternative land use, such as agriculture and forestry as well as socio-political conditions have to be considered. State-of-the-art knowledge in wildlife biology and ecology needs to be integrated too. This leads inevitably to conflicts with the "dreams" of hunters, which often enough direct most attention to the form and size of the antlers.

At present middle-aged red deer stags are classified into:

- Class IIb: all 5-9 year-old stags (five age-groups from the completion of the fifth up to the completion of the tenth year) with antlers, which compared to the stag's age, are below average as well as stags with notably low live weight;
- Class IIa all 5-9 year-old stags (five age-groups from the completion of the fifth up to the completion of the tenth year), which are not included to the stag class IIb. These stags are not to be hunted!

Today's hunters have already assimilated this grading according to quality standards, and to most of them it appears to have always been like this. However, the history of deer quality standards – a history of deer management objectives and "trophy mania" – is quite recent and dates back to the beginning of the 20th century. It was around the turn of the 19th to the 20th century when antlers were given as trophies to the hunter; in earlier times the antlers stayed with the body of the animal on its way to the trade. Eventually, trophies were displayed at international game fairs and comparisons were made. This lead to the development of scoring formulas and the definition of anthropocentric "beauty-ideals". In principle they are still valid today.

Red Deer Classification in the German Hunting Law

The German Hunting Law of 1934 originally established a red deer management plan. A regulation to § 37 defines the red deer quality classes still valid today in many European countries:

"(2) ... when establishing a harvest plan for male ungulates one can separate between trophy specimens and non-trophy specimens. Non-trophy specimens can be subdivided into animals with trophy potential and others which have to be culled for management purposes."

Trophy stags (German "*jagdbare Hirsche*") are identical our present day class I stags, non-trophy stags with potential those of our present class IIa and those "other" stags, which have to be culled belong today to class IIb.

This regulation led in consequence to the definition of guidelines regulating which stags should or could be hunted. The objective of the exercise was a red deer population with good antler quality. Stags which were considered of "bad" antler quality or of "genetic inferiority" were gradually culled and eliminated. Those young stags with "promising antlers" (i. e. with some sort of crown in the terminal antler points) were strictly preserved. Older "trophy stags" (German "*jagdbare Hirsche*") were subject to a very conservative harvesting schedule.

How good are "good" stags?

Stags with multi-point antlers meet the desires of many hunters. Yet, these stags may not be the best stags from the biological viewpoint. Therefore research projects were conducted to clarify this question. A Spanish project, for example, looked for the correlation between fecundity and antler size. The results have shown that stags with multi-pointed antlers have larger testes and also better sperm quality and are therefore more fertile (Malo et al. 2005).

But: antler quality depends only partly on genetic conditioning. Age and habitat, amongst other factors, weigh in heavily – around 75% - on antler development (Kruuk et al. 2002). It follows that the antlers are only of limited value for the classification of stags into quality classes such as "preserve" or "eliminate". Antlers do not always broadcast "honest" signals" – not even during the rut, since female deer do not seem to be influenced in their partner selection by the number of points on a stag's antlers.

Through selection to the management goal

The next question: can selective culling based on antler quality lead to the defined management goal of multi-pointed heavy antlers? Extensive genetic studies were conducted in Europe and the USA. The results gave clear evidence that consistent culling of poor-antlered stags has positive outcomes on the antler formation of the remaining population (Thelen 1991). The formation of multi-pointed antlers exhibiting "crowns" is, therefore genetically prescribed, but where?

In a red deer population, which is not subject to a hunting regimen, all male individuals have a different antler growth potential. Whether these stags will produce multi-pointed or poor-quality antlers depends on their genetic disposition. Two gene loci, depending on age, influence antler growth (Hartl et al. 1995). With young stags, from the 3rd up to the 8th year, this is happening within the genetic structure (genotype) at a certain place of the DNA. With older stags, from the 9th year onwards, the genetic structure at a different place is crucial. Within these two loci, different genotypes, responsible for antler formation, can be found. This is very similar to persons having the disposition for height at the same locus, yet all are different, taller or shorter – subject to the individual life quality. If now only certain stags with desirable antler development are allowed in a population, and all others are culled for poor antler quality, the frequency of the genotype with the characteristic "poor antler" will decrease.

In natural populations there is no or virtually no selection directed towards multi-ended antlered specimens (Thelen 1991). Consequently a relatively large gene pool is maintained, mean-

Continued on Page 15

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

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Continued from Page 14

Red Deer Stag Classification in Austria by Klaus Hackländer

ing a great diversity of different antler forms. The selective harvesting of red deer stags based on antler formation leads to an imbalance of genetic diversity in a population. This genetic diversity is, however, crucial for the long-term survival of a population and important to adapt to changing environmental conditions.

An additional problem arises, since the gene loci define several characteristics in the individual. The locus responsible for antler formation in the age classes III and II also holds the key for fecundity in female deer and to the survival rate of calves (Pemberton et al. 1988/1991). Artificial selection can therefore lead to genetic impoverishment and change parameters which influence population growth rates. Classification according to antler quality and deer management along these lines will eventually achieve the planned objective, but only at the expense of the loss of other desirable or species-typical features.

Principle of sustainability

Some of the advocates of the Ila-stag-regulation argue that such deer management methods are essential to establish red deer populations with an appropriate age and social structure and to sustainably use them through hunting. This is, however, total contradiction to the socio-political criteria and indicators of sustainable hunting. The Austrian Ministry of Agriculture published a brochure, (available online at: www.biodiv.at/chm/jagd) which enables each owner or leaseholder of hunting areas (German expression "revier") to evaluate the own hunting area according to prescribed sustainability criteria. These criteria clearly define that hunting practises must neither limit the natural genetic diversity of game species nor inhibit conservation.

Based on these guidelines of the Ministry of Agriculture we must view aesthetical trophy parameters in hunting regulations as extremely problematic. The question whether hunting enhances or limits the natural genetic diversity of game animals can be answered: do the hunting guidelines for ungulates support or accept the diversity of potential antler- or horn formations, or do the regulations further anthropocentric trophy-aesthetic aspects. Indeed, certain antler- or horn formations, undesirable from the trophy-aesthetic viewpoint, may be of considerable advantage for its bearer from the biological viewpoint.

We can, therefore, state unambiguously: selective harvesting – with or without defined management objective – is contradictory to sustainable hunting.

Management goal of the future

The decade-long selection for wide-spread, multi-pointed and long antler beams can change essential parameters of red deer population dynamics. Furthermore, it may create problems for future hunter generations who may prefer stags with antler formation according to their then valid fashions. Maybe in 50 years heavy antlers with few tines will be „fashionable“. Yet the genetic potential for such formations will be lost due to our selection methods

From the socio-political viewpoint a further question can be raised: Can a minute minority decide how the stag of the future in Europe has to look like? Hunters are already a minority in society, and red deer hunters are only a part of the hunting

community. Do we really want to judge the red deer of the future based on antler formation and thus to reduce the value of this game species dramatically? Examples from deer management associations in Austria show alternatives to the conventional deer management objectives. Their results support that it is possible to achieve substantial hunting success without classifications based on antler formation. Along these lines we will achieve the long term maintenance and strength of the intrinsic values and joys of hunting, because outside criticism will have no foundation at all. In line with this, the deer stag classification has been removed from the Carinthian Hunting Law after this presentation.

Contact details of the author:

Univ. Prof. Dr. Klaus Hackländer, Institute of Game Biology and Management (IWJ), Department for Integrative Biology and Biodiversity Research, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Gregor-Mendel-Str. 33, A-1180 Vienna, Austria

Sacrificial Ram

By Daniel Duane (edited for space)

What do you think you'd feel — you, the lover of wilderness, the Sierra Club member, the admirer of great Western megafauna — while watching a globe-trotting millionaire gringo hunter, level a custom 300 Winchester Magnum on a rare and elusive bighorn ram, steady his breathing, and pull the trigger? Do you think you'd feel revulsion? Do you think the rifle's boom would violate the exquisite mountain silence? Do you imagine yourself lamenting that one fewer of those magnificent animals would animate the Baja desert?

I'm asking because I wasn't certain of my own answer, even as I hid in the red rimrock of the Tres Virgenes volcano, looking into a canyon. Nine Mexican guides, all in ragtag outfits of cast-off camo were likewise huddled low, and Ramon Arce, their 62-year-old leader, was whispering to the hunter, Brian Drettmann, about which ram Drettmann should kill.

I'd never watched an animal shot in the wild, much less a rare and threatened one, and I found myself transfixed. Given the austere mountains they inhabit, the eyesight that lets them see humans a mile away, and the specialized hooves that allow them to rockclimb at breathtaking speeds, not many people get the privilege of seeing a bighorn, much less killing one.

I was transfixed, too, by Drettmann, the polite 36-year-old Midwesterner about to do the shooting, and by the fact that he wasn't second-guessing Arce. He had to feel a temptation, I figured, to get one of the Mexicans who spoke good English to ask Arce just what he thought that ram would score in the Boone and Crockett system. One-sixty, maybe? One-seventy? Or even higher? And what about those other rams in the frigid winter fog: Any chance they were bigger still? After all, in an auction pitting him against other big-game hunters, Drettmann had paid dearly for this once-in-a-lifetime shot at a desert bighorn, the most prized of the four wild sheep species that comprise a North American "grand slam."

Continued on Page 16

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

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Continued from Page 15
Sacrificial Ram by Daniel Duane

Drettmann had already bagged an Alaskan Dall sheep and a Stone's sheep in British Columbia, and he'd wandered halfway across Alberta looking for a Rocky Mountain bighorn, and now he'd flown clear down here, driven hundreds of desert miles, ridden a mule into the high country, weathered a savage overnight storm in a substandard nylon tent and pushed himself to exhaustion to get to this vantage point.

Chambering a shell, Drettmann was understandably nervous, his big frame shaking and his cheeks flushed red. Two days earlier, on an empty desert road, I'd watched as he calibrated his rifle to shoot a few inches high at 150 yards. Now the range finder wasn't working and he had to take a guess. Worse still, with these clouds coming and going, it wouldn't be hard to kill the wrong ram, and that would be a small disaster.

After all, Drettmann wasn't stalking this animal just for fun. In an unusual approach to environmental fundraising -- call it free-market wildlife conservation -- the Wyoming-based Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS) has struck deals with 21 U.S., Canadian, and Mexican states in which FNAWS gets to auction a precious few bighorn hunting permits in return for giving 90 percent of the proceeds back to those states' sheep conservation programs. Drettmann had paid tens of thousands of dollars to come down here, further encouraged by the fact that the hunt would occur on a southern Baja *ejido*, a form of government-mandated collective property. Because this land also falls within the Vizcaino Biosphere—the Mexican equivalent of a wilderness area, and therefore closed to most forms of development—the 142 indigenous rural families of ejido Licensiado Alfredo V. Bonfil don't have many ways to make a living. Since 1996, however, the FNAWS auction system has brought them an average of \$200,000 a year, funding a drinking water project, a school, a health clinic, conservation programs centered on the nearly extinct Baja pronghorn antelope and the Baja mule deer, and, of course, the bighorn project that employs the dozen *ejidatarios* who'd spent the past few weeks gauging the age and size of every ram in the range to make sure Drettmann got the biggest rack possible.

By helping locals exploit the economic potential of the wildlife on their land, FNAWS has given the collective an incentive to preserve both that wildlife and its habitat. Since FNAWS got involved, ejidatarios have been clearing brush around watering holes to reduce cover for stalking mountain lions, they've taught their neighbors to keep domestic goats and sheep (and the lethal diseases they carry) away from the bighorn, and they've successfully cracked down on poaching. As a result, there may well be less sheep hunting within the Vizcaino Biosphere, where four permits are granted annually, than in areas of northern Baja, where an outright ban is in place but not enforced. "In the old days, sheep hunters would come in and hire ejidatarios to take them on the hunt, and the money did not go to the ejido," says Ramón Castellanos, the ejido's chief sheep biologist. "But now everybody in the ejido wants the bighorn because it means business and money for them."

In just 7 years, the biosphere's bighorn herd has nearly doubled, to 400. And the more sheep there are, the more rams

can be sustainably harvested, a fact that was evident in the eyes of the *ejidatarios* who'd guided Drettmann up the volcano and pinpointed the [ram] for him. Drettmann peered through the mist and exchanged soft whispers with his longtime hunting companion, Tim Gauthier, a wildlife filmmaker who was quietly shooting the entire scene. Any minute now, Arce -- whose own father guided sheep hunts here in the 1930s -- would give Drettmann the all clear to take a shot, and if Drettmann's aim was true, and a rare 200-pound wild sheep dropped dead in the volcanic rocks, every one of these men would know he had done his job, that the project of bringing these animals back to healthy numbers would be a step closer to completion.

According to Valerius Geist, a wildlife biologist and author of several books on wild sheep, the wake-up call on their dwindling numbers came back in 1974, when the National Audubon Society, the Wildlife Management Institute, and the Boone and Crockett Club held a workshop at the University of Montana,. It emerged that habitat reduction, overhunting by meat suppliers to the early railroad builders and gold rush miners, and, most of all, the diseases borne by domestic cattle and sheep had all but wiped out North America's wild sheep, which now occupied less than 4 percent of their original range. To the hunters present, the implied tragedy wasn't just aesthetic or even ecological -- it was also practical: Future generations wouldn't have the same hunting opportunities they'd had. Sheep hunting was already banned in most states, and the few that allowed it only did so through a lottery for a handful of permits.

At first, those hunters just shared what they knew about sheep hunts that were still available and tried to make state officials prioritize sheep conservation. But by the late '70s, it was clear there would never be enough political traction to save the bighorn from extinction. So they incorporated FNAWS as a nonprofit and in 1979 started approaching the various states with wild sheep populations and saying, in essence, Give us one or two sheep hunting permits, we'll auction them to the highest bidder, and we'll give the proceeds right back to you, earmarked for conservation.

For those perplexed by people who want to save wild animals in order to kill them, the confusion will deepen during a flip through magazines like *Big Game Adventure*. Right alongside an article celebrating how FNAWS auctions help ejidatarios "learn about the economic value of wildlife and continued conservation practices" lie advertisements that make a liberal worry he's in NRA-wacko territory after all. "For 30 years," reads one full-page spread, "the Safari Club International has been a tireless champion against extremist groups attacking your right to hunt.... Join the hunter patriots helping freedom ring." Although this language has a rhetorical toxicity outside of hunting culture, groups like FNAWS, which now has 19,000 members and has auctioned the right to kill a single Rocky Mountain bighorn for as much as \$405,000, are part of an old tradition in American hunting, one that has seen a dramatic resurgence in the last few years. It was President Theodore Roosevelt -- arguably the godfather of American hunting conservation -- who wrote, "In a civilized country, wild animals only continue to exist at all when preserved by sportsmen. The

Continued on Page 17

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

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Continued from Page 16
Sacrificial Ram by Daniel Duane

excellent people who protest against all hunting and consider sportsmen as enemies [do not understand] that in reality the genuine sportsman is, by all odds, the most important factor in keeping the larger and more valuable wild creatures from total extermination." And while groups like the American Humane Society make reasonable arguments against any form of killing for sport, many in the environmental community applaud what FNAWS has done. Tom Stephenson, a bighorn sheep biologist with the California Dept of Fish and Game, says, "When hunters get interested in an animal, it's often the best thing that can happen to that species."

David Lavigne, of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, is often critical of "sustainable use" proponents who advocate the economic exploitation of wildlife as a conservation tool—such as the recent decision by the Venezuelan government to back off a ban on the trapping of macaws in favor of granting indigenous locals the right to sell a small number, thereby giving them incentive to preserve the birds and their habitat. FNAWS is different, says Lavigne, in that the hunts provide conservation funds without promoting a larger marketplace for endangered wildlife. "I would rather have a skillful hunter take one or two bighorn and provide conservation revenues," says Lavigne, "than have a commercial hunt, which attracts all sorts of folks into this business, killing many more animals."

FNAWS itself currently auctions 25 to 30 permits per year, generating more than \$2 million annually, for a to-date total of more than \$24 million. Since FNAWS got rolling, wild sheep populations have rebounded fourfold, and if any reader of this [article] gets a chance to glimpse one someday, they will arguably owe some measure of thanks to people whose favorite way to view a ram is through the crosshairs of a rifle scope. The same goes for many other wild animals, as hunting-based conservation groups like the Mule Deer Foundation and even the Safari Club International have followed the FNAWS example. "If you want to see cowboys cry," says Geist, "just go to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. These men care so much they get all choked up." Then there are the waterfowl groups like Ducks Unlimited: Founded in 1937, it has raised \$1.8 billion for conservation and saved ca 10 million wetlandacres.

In the view of Ray Lee, the president of FNAWS, "A lot of antihunting types make the mistake of looking at the individual animal as most important." Lee is a former Arizona state fish and game official and university lecturer on wildlife biology. "By doing that," he says, "you forgo the population. When a person thinks of what the hunter is doing as merely killing an individual animal, then they're saying, 'This can't be right.' I look at it and say, 'If I can take an individual hunter and use this person's resources to do [good for conservation, it is right].

The individual hunter with resources in this case, of course, was Brian Drettmann. He got his first taste of hunting on the farm of a family friend. When he took him to a FNAWS convention, it made such an impression that Drettmann put hunting and wildlife conservation at the center of his life.

Drettmann doesn't fit the classic image of the hunter. He does have a somewhat rural Midwestern accent, from all his

time in the woods. His style of dress is still inflected by the preppy private schools of his youth, and there's a certain effortless, shabby-chic refinement to the way he holds a cigarette and enjoys an evening cocktail, even in a rough hunting camp. But Drettmann has immersed himself in hunting culture. While he has speculative real estate holdings from Florida to Costa Rica, Drettmann's primary business and part-time home is a thousand-acre Michigan ranch where clients pay top dollar to bow-hunt whitetail deer in perfect seclusion. And Merkel's influence has also been a lasting one. A few years ago, Drettmann donated \$12,000 for the FNAWS-sponsored construction of a watering hole in Arizona in order to lure sheep back to the area.

In January 2004, Drettmann flew out to the annual FNAWS convention in Reno, Nevada, to bid on the hunt that brought him to Baja. The auction was held in a casino ballroom with stuffed sheep mounted in various poses and a backlit screen of a starry night sky. "It's sort of a glitz and glimmer, the whole layout," recalls Gauthier, who videotaped the event. "The majority of the people buying these auctions are not your average Joe. It's usually people with jack." A scantily clad model displayed prints and sculptures also on auction, and when the bidding finally began, at a floor of \$25,000, Drettmann's competitors included Kevin Rinke. Rinke needed one more desert bighorn to complete his second grand slam, and the bidding jumped to \$40,000 in less than a minute.

As the numbers start climbing, Drettmann "was getting pretty geeked," according to Gauthier. "But he was staying calm, too. When you're spending that kind of money you don't go just yahooing." Drettmann and Rinke are going mano-a-mano, bidding back and forth, until Drettmann bids \$48,000, and Rinke drops out. But it's not over. Another bidder from the back of the room joins in—\$49,000. When the bidding climbs to \$56,000, Drettmann grins and shakes his head, as if ready to quit. "Now you been with us all this way," the auctioneer calls out to him, "I sure don't want to sell you out now." So Drettmann gives the nod -- \$57,000 -- and his competitor counters, \$58,000. "Go have a swig out of that Bloody Mary," the auctioneer bellows to Drettmann. "Have a swig. There you go. Now give me \$59,000. It's only money!" Half laughing at himself, Drettmann nods one more time and the delighted auctioneer calls out to the man in the back, "Okay! Give me 60! You never saw a U-Haul Trailer behind a hearse! You'll have a great hunt, and we only live once. You don't want to tell your friends I gave \$59,000 for this hunt! You want to go in there and say this wasn't no blue-light special at Wal-Mart!"

But the mystery gunman is done. And while that lovely, leggy model stands on the stage with the next item to auction -- a 270 Winchester Short Mag rifle -- Ray Lee congratulates Drettmann on a winning bid of \$59,000.

Eleven months later, Drettmann's hunt began at the dusty Bonfil base camp, where he immediately offered Arce a carton of his own cigarettes, so they'd share the same smokes on this adventure. Drettmann tested his gun and enjoyed a scoping mission below the grand conical volcano. Arce and another guide, José Luis Chavarria, used an enormous pair of antique

Continued on Page 18

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

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Continued from Page 17
Sacrificial Ram by Daniel Duane

binoculars—and Drettmann's top-drawer Leica spotting scope—to pick out sheep more than a mile away, and there was a lot of careful calculation about the various rams visible. Were they Class Three? Or Class Four? (Meaning, between six and eight years old, or more than eight and therefore old enough to harvest.) And how high would their racks score?

Early the next morning, Drettmann and Gauthier followed on mules while the guides and I walked, and by mid-afternoon we'd reached spike camp. The *ejidatarios* built a fire, set up tents and jury-rigged rock-and-tarp shanties for themselves. An utterly wild storm hit around midnight, with 50-mile-an-hour gusts driving firehose downpours, and at 4 a.m., when the sky cleared, the soaking-wet guides built another fire and huddled around it.

Drettmann was the first of the gringos awake, and by 7 a.m. he'd remounted. When the going got too steep for the mules, Drettmann joined the guides on foot, carrying his rifle and spotting scope while Gauthier lugged a big Betamax video camera. After several hours, Arce indicated that it was time for whispering and stealth, led us quietly to the edge of Canyon 33, and gestured down at those 28 ewes, lambs, and rams. Arce and Chavarria whispered back and forth, agreeing on which ram was the biggest and the oldest, and then came the moment of truth — time to pull the trigger. Turning to Arce, Drettmann double-checked which ram they had in mind, "it's the ram that's eating, right? His head's in the bush right now?"

The answer mattered partly because a Mexican game warden would be checking to make sure they took a ram old enough to be legal — at least nine years of age, nearing the end of its expected life span -- and partly because Drettmann wasn't the only one who wanted the ram to be a big one. Getting a substantial score in the Boone and Crockett record books -- 170 or higher -- would be a feather in Drettmann's cap, but for the locals it could dramatically raise the price fetched at next year's auction.

Arce peered through the absurdly large binoculars and nodded as he whispered to Chavarria, who translated: "He's eating at the tree by the big rock."

"I mean, is his ass facing uphill?" Drettmann asked. "Is he the one I can see his ass?"

It took another series of barely whispered and poorly translated exchanges to establish that Drettmann was to shoot the ram quartered to us, facing downhill and to the left. While he found that ram in his crosshairs, Chavarria spoke up again. "Wait, wait," he said. "There's a ewe behind the ram. Let the ewe move." A rifle bullet could easily go right through the ram and take the ewe too, and then there would be papers to file with the government, explanations to be made, a sense of things gone awry.

Then Arce hissed, "Okay, *listo*."

The gun's detonation echoed around the mountain, and the sheep startled to attention. A furtive panic swept through the crowd while Arce allowed himself a soft groan. A golden light filtered across the blue Sea of Cortez, far below, and the fog cleared a little, and it became evident that Drettmann had missed. But now the range finder was working. "One-seventy-

six," whispered another of the guides, eager to get Drettmann a second chance. "It's reading 176." So Drettmann laid the scope back on the ram. "Then I took a breath," Drettmann recalled later, referring to the slow exhale that steadies a trigger finger. "And I just squeezed, and said, 'Hail Mary and Lord bring this one in,' and then they said, 'You hit it!' I was just, you know, it was like living a dream. I don't know if you've ever...I one time flipped a car, and I totaled it, and I walked out of the car and everything was in slow motion. By the time I walked up to that ram, I was in awe."



Brian Drettmann's Desert Ram

Despite their converging interests, a striking divide still separates the rhetoric of hunters, whose culture comes out of farming and ranching, and environmentalists, who often live in an urban world and see untrammeled wilderness as a priceless sanctuary. It's another of our tedious "two Americas," and hunting culture is especially ripe with a defensive loathing toward "antis," meaning antihunting types. FNAWS's Lee, for example, expresses frustration about people who don't like copper mines, but enjoy turning on the lights; people who want clean energy, but don't want wind farms in their back yards. He sees a similar double standard toward killing animals, "people saying, 'I like to eat steak, but I don't want anything to do with the killing. So long as I can go to Safeway and buy a piece of meat wrapped in plastic, then my hands are clean.' If I'm raised in an urban situation, then I don't have to make the life-and-death decisions that people living close to the ground have to. If you talk to a farmer or a rancher, that's what they do. They raise food."

Lee explains that hunting transforms the way you look at the land. "You're out there thinking, 'Did an animal pass this way? Are there tracks, or tears on the bushes, or rubs?' While a skier might just be thinking, 'Can I ski here?' a hunter's looking at the

Continued on Page 19

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

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Continued from Page 218
Sacrificial Ram by Daniel Duane

whole food chain, the interconnectivity. When you ask hunters, they'll say, 'I'm reconnecting with nature. I'm putting myself back in. Because for the other 363 days a year, I'm getting Styrofoam food. For two days, I'm reconnecting with what the last 3 million years of human existence have been."

After that big ram dropped dead in the rocks, and 27 other sheep sprinted single file through a sheer precipice, running for their lives—a magnificent spectacle—the ejidatarios lit up with relief and passed around a bottle of tequila. Drettmann was visibly elated and shaking with adrenaline, a cigarette trembling in his fingers. A red-tailed hawk looped into the returning stillness of the now-vacant canyon and two crows—*los cuervos*—chased away the hawk. Then we picked our way down a cliff to the scene of the kill. The big, dun-colored animal appeared to have simply fallen over on its side, a clean entry wound visible in front of its rear leg. The bullet had exited at the opposite foreleg, meaning it had been a perfect shot—right through the lungs, and perhaps the heart. The ram had died so quickly it hadn't even had time to bleed; its eyes remained wide open, as if still watching us, impassive.

Arce gestured at the ram's brow and told me to smell, so I pressed my nose into the forehead of that still-warm corpse and smelled precisely the earthy scent of the blossoming desert plant he'd pointed out in the soft dawn glow. The next hour was devoted to photographs — the ejidatarios with the ram, Drettmann with the ram, everyone individually with the ram, myself included. And then Chavarria sank a hook-billed knife into the skin behind the ram's head and began the long dorsal cut that would let Arce cape the whole hide for the taxidermist Drettmann would hire back home.

A taxidermist uses nothing but the skin, the hooves, and the part of the skull that anchors the horns on a foam form, around which the skin would be stretched. Arce left the entire head intact and the bottom leg bone attached to each foot, so the painstaking jobs of separating hooves from bone and facial skin and lips from skull could be done back at camp. Arce then butchered the remaining carcass, stuffing big slabs of meat into plastic garbage bags so the men could carry them down the mountain for a big fiesta a few days later. Leaving behind only the spinal cord and the viscera, we hiked downward, a long and ankle-twisting stumble back to spike camp. For the last hour, we walked in the desert darkness toward a campfire that was like an orange beacon twinkling below. Over a bed of mesquite embers, Arce and Chavarria grilled *tacos de borregos cimarrones* and ate them standing up in the cold desert night, and I found out for myself what big-game hunters the world over will tell you: that literally nothing tastes better than the tenderized backstrap of a freshly killed bighorn ram, cooked over an open flame.

Daniel Duane's "Sacrificial Ram" was originally published in Mother Jones Magazine, March/April 2005 (Mother Jones is an independent nonprofit whose roots lie in a commitment to social justice implemented through first rate investigative reporting) http://www.motherjones.com/news/feature/2005/03/03_2005_Duane.html

Hunters Shoot Themselves in the Foot

By Ian Parker

I know all about shooting myself in the foot. As a young soldier, I did it. Coming off sentry duty I unloaded my .303, counting nine rounds out of the ten-shot magazine. The tenth seemed to be missing, so I worked the bolt several times to no avail.

"Why do you do that so many times?" asked a comrade sitting by the fire.

"For safety," I had replied and, thinking that the tenth round must have fallen to the ground during the initial unloading, I pulled the trigger. The tenth round had been hiding in the magazine all along and entered the chamber on the bolt's last movement. There was a loud bang and as the muzzle was resting on my foot – well, the rest is history. As I said, I know all about shooting myself in the foot.

I know about hunting too. As a warden assigned to game control and then a contractor undertaking large-scale culling across East Africa, I have probably hunted more than most. I appreciate that little of this was for my personal enjoyment and, while on occasion the activity was unquestionably exciting, my over-riding emotional state was little different to that when, as a beef producer, I slaughter a steer. Done of necessity, there is no pleasure in the act.

Don't get me wrong ... I do enjoy light bird shooting, though again, satisfaction in pulling off a difficult shot notwithstanding, there is no pleasure in actual killing. Similarly, I fish and, in my mind fishing is a form of hunting. In both bird shooting and fishing I only take quarry that I enjoy eating. Pleasure from both activities arises from the environments where they take place and, overwhelmingly, from the company in which they are undertaken. An evening stroll out of camp with a couple of companions, to return with a brace or two of francolin or guineafowl, or a quiet evening's casting over forest pools and landing a three-quarter pound trout, are experiences to be treasured.

Others might want more 'body' to their hunting and, relishing a quotient of adrenalin and danger, want larger quarry. With that I have no quarrel. I certainly understand that the difference between me taking a couple guineafowl and someone else stalking a bushbuck – or a buffalo for that matter - is slight and relative.

The satisfactions derived are personal. Hunting, as I comprehend it, is a private undertaking both in the compulsions that lead to it and in its rewards. One way or another, it is not a 'spectator sport' – which is why films about hunting fall so short of the mark and do more damage than good to the hunter's reputation.

The philosophical arguments for and against hunting are ancient, interminable and largely pointless. Hunting may be cruel, it may be atavistic, it may satiate drives that aesthetes preferred didn't exist: I'll not dispute the charges (though this is no concession to verity or otherwise). What surely counts is that throughout civilization's history, wild animals have been conserved so that they can be hunted. Whatever the flaws in pro-

Continued on Page 20

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

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Continued from Page 219

Hunters Shoot Themselves in the Foot by Ian Parker

hunting arguments, that fact is indisputable.

The most common and widespread reason resulting in successful conservation across time and cultures, has been to sustain hunting. Other reasons have been successful locally – but none as generally effective as the measures taken to provide hunters with quarry. In view of this success, it is profoundly stupid to turn against it. That, for me, is the strongest case for hunting.

Yet the manner in which hunting in Africa is widely conducted contradicts its own supporters' claims of it being a sport. It is the hunters who say that they get no enjoyment from the actual act of killing, and that the sport lies in outwitting wary quarry through skill, cunning and physical endeavor.

When animals are shot from vehicles – and let's face it, many are – then the only enjoyment has to be the act of killing, for driving up to them in vehicles calls for no skill or physical endeavor. When animals are reared as domesticants then taken into the bush to be shot, that, too, undermines the hunters' stated cases. As I have written in these pages before, hunting big dangerous animals is, like mountaineering, a fit man's sport. Elderly, over-weight, unfit people who, at best, can only waddle short distances cannot hunt. They are no doubt the reason why so many animals in Africa are shot from vehicles.

In similar vein, the obsession with trophy quality seems to override what hunters claim is the rationale for hunting. There was a time when hunting involved endurance, tracking, getting up to potential quarry, then turning it down, possibly going home with nothing, because the trophies did not come up to the hunter's standard. Even those opposed to hunting acknowledged the endeavor and admired it.

The reward for that sort of hunting was intensely personal: as I said earlier, hunting is not a spectator sport. Yet the extra inch of horn that is now such a competitive element – particularly in America – is difficult to divorce from public display.

I am well aware of all the economic arguments that favor the short cuts and the 'tupa nyuma' style of hunting so prevalent today. Safari hunting is a business, the customer is always right and has to be satisfied. All these factors shape what is happening in Africa. It is disturbing, however, that so few hunters are addressing the fundamental issues and tackling them head-on.

My point: I believe that hunting can produce effective conservation and that this is a powerful argument in its favor. Yet hunters shoot themselves in the foot when they fail to abide by the 'ethics' and arguments through which they justify themselves. If, in the end, hunting loses ground in Africa, then this failure will have contributed in large measure to that loss.

Visit the African Indaba Website for cutting-edge information about hunting and conservation in Africa

www.africanindaba.co.za

Trophy Hunting: The Professional Hunter's Dilemma

By Stewart Dorrington, President, and Peter Butland, President-Elect of the Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa (PHASA)

The Hunter

The hunter's desire for a trophy, a memento of the hunt, a reminder of the sweet and the bitter of past hunts, is as old as mankind itself. From the rock art of ancient man, adorning the walls of his cave, to the heads and horns lining the walls of the modern trophy room, trophies have served to give immortality to the hunted animal.

For some, a photograph will suffice, a private reminder of a personal experience, or a small item, used daily, made from the hide or horn of a fondly remembered animal. A bag of biltong, personally made and slowly savored by the hunter, piece by piece through the long hunting off-season, while not conventionally seen as a trophy, is certainly a memento of the hunt.

For others, the animal lives on through the art of the taxidermist, to be enjoyed by the hunter and shared with those back home, those who do not have the privilege of visiting far places and seeing at first hand the living wonders of the natural world. Such hunters will remember for each trophy, each stalk, each shot and each follow up. Eyes will light up in the retelling and the sharing of each tale.

For others still, there are systems in place whereby they plan their hunting lives, working their way through lists of species and sub-species, recording their progress and earning credits as they do so, and setting goals for the future.

And for yet others, the trophy is no longer a memento of the hunt. It has become an end in itself. It has become tangible evidence of an achievement. It is part of the constant challenge thrown out from man to man to compete, to measure one against the other, to achieve perceived success and to demonstrate dominance.

Cultural background has an inevitable influence on the hunter's trophy expectations and his hunting motivations.

"Is it old?" may be a question to pass some hunters' lips. Worn down tips, thick, gnarled bases or bosses, cracked and green with fighting and rubbing are the attributes of a mature animal, which is approaching the natural end of its life cycle.

Broken or malformed horns are fine. "That is nature," the hunter will say.

"Is it bigger than Karl's?" may be the first concern of others. As Pop said to Hemingway, "It's impossible not to be competitive. Spoils everything, though."

Husbands and wives, friends and brothers have all had relationships strained and hunts soured by the insidious competitive spirit of man being allowed to intrude on the hunt to the exclusion of appreciation of the multi-faceted wonders which make up a holistic hunting experience.

Continued on Page 21

Continued from Page 20

Trophy Hunting: The Professional Hunter's Dilemma by Stewart Dorrrington & Peter de Villiers Butland

The Professional Hunter

The professional hunter will in time face a wide spectrum of these desires.

It is not for him to be judgmental about the motivations of his hunting clients. They are products of their upbringing, of their cultures, of the world in which they live and of the pressures under which they are placed, or place themselves. And were it not for them in their totality, with all their good and all their bad, with all their strengths and all their weaknesses, he would not be a professional hunter. There would be no hunting profession.

It is the professional hunter's job to do his very best to meet his clients' expectations. He must empathize with his clients, seek to understand their cultural backgrounds and meet their reasonable expectations. He must meet his clients' material needs and see to their safekeeping. He must try to open their eyes to the beauties of the natural world, sharing with the client his knowledge and understanding of that world. He must guide them in the hunt as best he possibly can, in accordance with his, the professional hunters, value system.

The Dilemma

And this is where the professional hunter's dilemma arises. What should be the guiding principles upon which his value system is based?

Great strides have been made in nature conservation in Southern Africa in recent decades. Scientific, social and economic principles have been applied to the benefit of wild life and the environment. Increasing wildlife numbers have been widely, but not universally, matched by improved trophy quality. Successes in habitat restoration, the rebirth of biodiversity in previously devastated areas and the reintroduction and conservation of wildlife should be honored and respected by every professional hunter. That respect should underpin his value system.

A genuine, informed and applied concern for the well being of the wildlife in his hunting area will, therefore, be a good starting point. Over time it will make a difference. It will make a difference to wildlife, the environment, to the clients' respect for him as a person and for the profession in which he operates. But does the professional hunter have the luxury of time?

A soundly based ethical code of hunting is an essential further element of the professional hunter's value system. But does he have the strength of character to impose it on a strong willed client with his own, perhaps very different, hunting ethic and ambition?

In their heart of hearts, most professional hunters know what it is that should form the basis of their value systems. But the pressures of the modern world intrude on all aspects of life. The influence of these pressures in the hunting field can and does lead to corruption. Competition among peers and the desire to see their names in the record book are real temptations to professional hunters too.

There is widespread concern that in many parts of the world the record books are compromising much of what hunting is all

about. African hunting – with its wide variety of species – is particularly affected. The record books and award programs have turned an individualistic pastime into an occasionally fierce competition. Fair chase, hunting traditions and sound conservation principles often fall by the wayside.

Far too many visiting hunters have only limited time available and yet they want to hunt a long "shopping list of trophy animals". And many hunters want record trophies – in the "top ten", wherever possible. These expectations are simply unrealistic, but they put the professional hunter under extreme pressure. Importantly too, it's the professional hunter's reputation, which is at stake. What does he do, if the visiting hunter's objectives are nothing short of high scoring record trophies and if the client insists on unfair chase methods to achieve his goals? If he disregards the client's wishes, an unfavorable hunt report may be the result. And unfavorable news travel fast in the hunting world. Is it reasonable to expect a professional hunter or outfitter to put his business success at stake?

For an outfitter and professional hunter, the economic dilemma is augmented by the enormous market power vested into the record books by international hunting associations. Professional hunting associations and individual professional hunters have been critical of the present recording and award procedures and its system-immanent abuses. Unfortunately, the hunting associations have not to date addressed the issues on an internationally coordinated, industry wide basis.

There is only one way to change this situation – hunting associations must look for a solution which adequately considers the interests of all, and importantly also those of biodiversity conservation. Sustainable trophy hunting requires that game populations be managed according to biological principles – and not those dictated by the figures of a scoring system. Killing a high scoring, yet immature buffalo bull has serious implications on sustainability. This applies not only to buffalo, but to all game in general.

Last but not least a word about hunting ethics. It is generally said that ethics are valid in the eye of the beholder only. What is ethically acceptable hunting practice in one culture or on one continent may be unethical in another. But let us not forget that hunting ethics are the result of thousands of years of hunting traditions – they change and evolve with the times, but one thing is for sure, their origin and purpose is in one key factor called sustainability.

The Challenge

We would like to issue a challenge for all hunters and in particular for the international hunting associations. Although this challenge emanates from Africa, we are sure that it applies to all continents. The challenge is to decide what is right and what is wrong and to determine what your own personal value system should and will be. The real challenge then will be to stand by what you believe is right. And if alone, it is a challenge to strive to stand steadfast and to lead steadfastly by example. Let us analyze the conflicting demands, emotions and beliefs; let us get the scientific evidence and most importantly, let us arrive at solu-

Continued on Page 22

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

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Continued from Page 21

Trophy Hunting: The Professional Hunter's Dilemma by Stewart Dorrrington & Peter de Villiers Butland

tions which will benefit wildlife!

Of course the challenge points towards the international hunting associations and their members, but significantly, it also addresses the professional hunters and guides here in Africa and around the world.

We, as the professionals in the hunting field, need to show our visiting hunters what hunting is really about. That the fulfillment in hunting is not found in inches and points, but in a holistic, participative experience in natural surroundings. Anything else lessens the value of the experience. A trophy obtained easily is not well remembered nor cherished, whereas the one that has been hard earned will always be respected and cherished, as will the memory of the hunt and the animal.

There are a good number of highly dedicated professional hunters who are conducting their safaris, (and hunting clients who hunt), in this way. There are those professionals who refuse unacceptable demands and turn their backs on the money. There are those who are seeking a different way to evaluate trophies, to achieve desired ends and to avoid undesirable results.

On one thing we can all agree. We wish to preserve our hunting heritage for posterity. To do so we all need to ask ourselves where we as hunters stand in meeting the challenge.

The Laikipia plateau in central Kenya represents a strong hold for wildlife conservation. The region is not formally protected, but holds high densities of wildlife mixed with livestock, and some agriculture. Wildlife populations are increasing, including significant populations of cheetahs, lions, leopards, hyenas, and endangered African wild dogs. But livestock densities are high, and there are increasing incidences of conflict between people and predators over livestock.

In 2005, I completed a survey of Kenyans in the Laikipia region to explore potential means of promoting coexistence between people and predators. I gained the help of a few assistants to conduct interviews in the multiple native languages used in the communal lands. We completed 416 one-on-one interviews with community members and commercial ranchers to learn about their attitudes toward predators, policies for lethal control when livestock are attacked, and prospects for coexistence.

Livestock losses to predators are high in the region; 53% of interviewees reported livestock losses to predators the previous year. Commercial ranchers were willing to tolerate losses of between 4 - 8 head of stock before killing the responsible predator, and community members were unwilling to lose more than one head of stock.

We asked interviewees how their tolerance for predators could be improved, and the two most common responses we received were to give value to predators through ecotourism and through trophy hunting. Photographic tourism has been successful in the region, and interest remains high among overseas visitors to experience Kenya's wildlife and human cultures (e.g., Masai).

Much of Laikipia is gifted with healthy wildlife populations, though this is not the case for the entire region, and not for most of Kenya's unprotected areas. Areas without easily viewable densities of wildlife (e.g., in heavily grazed livestock areas) may not be able to attract photographic tourists. Another problem with relying on ecotourism alone to provide financial incentive for conservation is that photographic tourists tend to avoid travelling to areas experiencing political instability, as experienced by Kenya following terrorist bombings in past years.

When we asked for thoughts on legalizing trophy hunting in Kenya, older community members tended to be in favour of trophy hunting, mentioning benefits brought through employment. Younger community members were split in their views. For example, respondents involved in ecotourism were concerned that trophy hunting would kill all wildlife and leave nothing to show photographic tourists. One important finding was that reinstating trophy hunting was not considered an ethical issue, contrary to beliefs by groups trying to keep the ban on trophy hunting.

Locals' concerns about the possible impacts of hunting on wildlife populations suggest lack of knowledge of current practices in neighbouring countries, including quota systems with very low offtakes from wildlife populations. This kind of misconception is perhaps not surprising given that hunting has been banned for 30-years, was poorly-regulated in the past, and is maligned by misinformation in the Kenya press. Such concerns

Continued on Page 23

Predator Conservation and Hunting in Kenya

By Dr. Stephanie S. Romañach

Human-wildlife conflict is one of major reasons why predators are declining in number throughout Africa. Predators are often killed in response to attacks on livestock, and sometimes are killed preemptively as a perceived threat.

In Kenya, wildlife has very little, if any, value to most of its citizens. As a result, wildlife population numbers have been decreasing over the last three decades, with recorded declines of 40 - 90% for most species. The beginning of the steep population declines coincided with Kenya's ban on trophy hunting in 1977.

Wildlife in Kenya is owned by the government, not by land-owners. Some East and southern African countries have devolved full user rights of wildlife to its citizens, allowing people to profit from wildlife on their land. These profits serve as financial incentives for wildlife conservation on privately- and, in some cases, on communally-owned land. In recent years these incentives have led to major increases in the amount of land used for wildlife in South Africa and Namibia, and, on a smaller scale, in Botswana and Zambia.

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

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Continued from Page 22

Predator Conservation and Hunting in Kenya by Dr Stephanie Romañach

might be assuaged by raising awareness of the low impact of trophy hunting on wildlife populations, and of the importance of hunting to conservation in other African countries.

Trophy hunting has been successful in creating incentives for wildlife conservation on communal lands in countries such as Namibia, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. In Namibia, for example, vast areas of community lands are being converted into wildlife conservancies, due largely to the potential financial benefits available from wildlife via trophy hunting.

There are problems associated with the trophy hunting industry in Africa, which not only tarnish the image of the industry, but are also commonly used by animal rights groups in Kenya to lobby for support for retention of the ban on hunting. However, one of the major problems with the hunting industry is one that is also common to ecotourism; there is a need for improvement in revenue sharing from hunting such that benefits reach community members living with wildlife.

The ability to derive income from wildlife can improve prospects for wildlife conservation. Currently, this is not an option in Kenya because wildlife belongs to the state. My findings stress the potential for allocating user rights over wildlife to local citizens as a means for benefits to offset losses from human-wildlife conflict. These findings are timely because they coincide with Kenya's wildlife policy review. A draft of the new policy has been created and includes these ideas. The proposed policy will be put to vote, possibly by June 2007.

I have presented the results from my interviews twice in Kenya in attempts to let Kenyans know about options for deriving benefits from wildlife, and to provide examples of the workings of the trophy hunting industry elsewhere in Africa. Wildlife policy makers should be urged to consider options for Kenya's citizens to benefit from wildlife, thus providing incentives for conservation.

Detailed findings from this study are published in the April 2007 edition of *Oryx - The International Journal of Conservation* under the title *'Determinants of attitudes towards predators in central Kenya and suggestions for increasing tolerance in livestock dominated landscapes'*.

"The basic idea of a trophy is the pursuit of an animal that has grown to maturity by having survived both nature's limitations and many hunting seasons. The pursuit of such an animal limits the hunter's chances of taking an animal because there are few of them in a population. Testing your skill as a hunter by restricting yourself to the pursuit of these uncommon, individual animals elevates your personal standard."

Jim Posewitz

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

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

The Rowland Ward Guild of Field Sportsmen

By Peter Flack, Chairman, Rowland Ward



"To hunt is a privilege not a right. The Rowland Ward Guild of Field Sportsmen brings together likeminded field sportsmen who believe in maintaining and upholding a Code of Ethics in Field Sports, who hope to encourage and actively guide and teach the youth, who regard as a priority the improvement of the environment and who want to conduct the sport with great care and consideration in order to preserve the sport for those that follow."

Let me say at the outset, that I am not one of those people who can say, "If I had to live my life over, I would do it exactly the same". Quite simply, I have made far too many mistakes (many of which I deeply regret) to make such a statement. The same goes for my hunting life and, I confess that I have both done things, sometimes in the heat of the moment which, in retrospect, I should not have done, and have also omitted to do things which I should have done. For example, especially when I was younger, I took shots at game that I should never have tried and I unnecessarily wounded some wonderful animals. I can also remember, I am ashamed to say, more than one wounded animal which escaped me. In the early pre-dawn darkness these animals sometimes march through my mind's eye and, when they do, sleep is not something that follows. As such, I don't want to appear holier than thou and as if I wash in cold water Omo each night. I don't.

Nevertheless, I do want to ask you this, when you first watched the infamous "canned lion" video that those two ugly characters, Cooke and MacDonald, effectively combined to produce, what was your reaction? Anger? Embarrassment? Frustration that, as a hunter, you were, once again, unfairly tarred with the same brush as those in the video who were also described as hunters even though there was clearly no hunting of any kind involved? Killing, yes. Shooting, yes. But definitely no hunting! Certainly, my feelings changed to bewilderment as most of the hunting associations to which I belonged failed to deal with the matter swiftly and in a clear and unequivocal manner.

The Professional Hunters Association of South Africa ("PHASA") seemed to take forever to disassociate themselves, and then only half heartedly, from the incidents portrayed in the video, and the rumor quickly circulated that the reason behind their tardy and ineffectual conduct was that MacDonald was not

Continued on Page 24

Continued from Page 23

The Rowland Ward Guild of Field Sportsmen by Peter Flack

the only member to have engaged in such conduct in the past. I did not know whether to believe the rumors or not.

What did you think when the news was first published in a national newspaper that a member of the executive committee of a national hunting association was alleged to have imported elephant tusks illegally into the country? Then there was the case of senior members of an international hunting organization being accused of "hunting" elephant from a helicopter in Mozambique. There's that misuse of the word again.

I hunted with a senior African professional hunter who told me how he had recently refunded the safari costs to a member of the executive committee of a major international hunting organization to which I belong. After hunting for a grand total of three days without success, he insisted that the professional hunter hire local villagers to drive the game to him. When the professional hunter refused, the committee member threw a temper tantrum along with various items of crockery and cutlery.

I know it is guilt by association but I felt ashamed that I belonged to the same body as this spoilt, unethical, little brat. What makes the matter even worse, is that although the facts of the incident were widely known, the individual went on to hold even higher office in the organization. What sort of message did this send to other members, to youngsters, to beginners? Was there one set of rules for politically well connected members and another set for the rest?

Certain of our local hunting institutions are no better and I know of one where the political infighting became so severe that telephones were tapped, meeting rooms bugged and the funds of the body misused to provide sheltered and unnecessary employment for certain sad sacks who were unable to make a living in the private sector.

And what about those people who drive through the veld blazing away at animals from the back of a bakkie? Or those who sit in well concealed hides at waterholes or overlooking well established game paths? The whole sorry point of this sad dia-tribe is that all the people involved are called hunters by the outside world and, in particular, the media.

I know that I think the same as many millions of genuine hunters out there. We know our passion, our pursuit, is under threat from animal rightists and others. We know that these organizations are working hard to win the hearts and minds of many urbanites, in particular, using horrible examples such as those described above to do so. We know that if they win here in South Africa it will be the death knell for the hunting and conservation efforts in our country which has seen land under wildlife in private hands grow to cover nearly three times the area of all provincial and national parks combined. And this area continues to grow at the rate of approximately 500,000 ha p a.

Since the 1950s, we have seen our population of Bontebok recover from as low as 19 in number to a healthy huntable population of over 3 500. Similarly, white rhino have recovered from as few as 28 to nearly 12 000, Cape mountain zebra from about 11 to some 1 100, black wildebeest from about 34 to over 22 000. It will not escape the reader that those animals that have been hunted most assiduously have recovered best! It has, in

fact, been empirically established that hunting has been the primary cause behind these major conservation success stories. And yet, the unethical, disgusting behavior of a few shameless individuals chips away and damages the fabric of all this good work and many other conservation initiatives based on sustainable and consumptive utilization.

So what can we the ordinary hunters do about the threats to our sport and the conservation and other industries which it supports? I remember shortly after the "canned lion" video was first shown on T.V., discussing the matter with a member of PHASA's executive committee. I said that I thought that the first genuinely ethical hunting organization to be established would suck members away from the organizations described at the beginning of this article like a hot and thirsty man drinking a cold drink through a straw.

Shortly afterwards, I learnt that Robin Halse, doyen of the Eastern Cape hunting fraternity, and Rodney Kretzschmar, one of South Africa's leading taxidermists, had made an attempt to convert PHASA into such an institution. They failed. They based their attempts on a set of guidelines produced by Robin, the late Steve Smith (who in his lifetime was a well-respected professional hunter and originator of the Uncle Stevie Award for the professional hunter who produced the best trophy in South Africa), and Chappie Sparks, a well-known Eastern Cape hunter.

The aims and objectives which these four eminent sportsmen wanted to achieve were the following:

Aims and objectives

1. To maintain, uphold and propagate by example a Code of Ethics in Field Sports which has been handed down over many generations.
2. To actively encourage, guide and teach the youth interested in field sports in the knowledge that they, the sportsmen of the future, will carry on the tradition.
3. To regard as a priority the conservation and improvement of the environment by both fellow sportsmen and owners of the land and make every effort to influence both the public and the authorities in these matters.
4. To conduct the sport with great care and consideration in order to preserve the sport for those that follow."

The Code of Conduct which they wanted to institute in order to help give effect to these aims is set out below:

Code of Conduct

1. That at all times a member will extend every courtesy, privilege and assistance to a fellow field sportsman.
2. All hunting be conducted only during the hours of daylight.
3. That no creature be hunted for sport in an enclosed area of such size that such creature is not self-sufficient.
4. That no shooting take place from, or within a short distance of a vehicle, nor the use of vehicles to drive game.
5. That only firearms of such power and caliber that are capable of killing game quickly and efficiently at practical ranges be employed.
6. That all forms of competition in the field between Sportsmen whilst hunting and fishing be avoided.
7. That no creature be killed for sport, that is deemed to be immature, breeding or dependant and cannot, by virtue of

Continued on Page 25

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

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Continued from Page 24

The Rowland Ward Guild of Field Sportsmen by Peter Flack

- its trophy or flesh, be fully utilized.
8. That every effort is made to respect and safeguard the property of the landowner.
 9. That a landowner-member extent every courtesy, comfort and assistance possible to a member who hunts or fishes on his property.
 10. That a Professional Hunter/Guide-member makes sure that his clients understand, and are fully aware of the Guild's code of Ethics and Standards that will be upheld during the course of any hunt.
 11. That a Sportsman respects with understanding, the attitudes, feelings and principles of those that do not engage in activities of Field sport.
 12. That a Sportsman should conduct his sport with due regard to his own physical capabilities, recognize his limitations and responsibility to his companions or assistants.
 13. The Guild recognizes that 'culling', 'cropping', 'trapping', 'capture' and vermin control are a necessary part of game management as long as they are conducted with consideration and humane treatment of the wildlife involved. However, at no time can these activities be regarded in the context of Field Sports."

But the Code is to be a living set of rules and as is stated in the membership application form:

"The interpretation and implementation of a Code of Conduct and the standards a Sportsman sets will depend on each individual Sportsman's conscientious behavior, and whilst many traditional manners must be upheld, many present day practices should be examined and evaluated. Above all it must be accepted that it is a privilege to hunt, not a right. To this end, therefore, the Guild considers that certain broad rules governing the conduct of Field Sport should be observed, and that it is irrelevant whether some of these basic rules are, or are not legally applied by current laws of the land."

After Steve Smith's untimely death in a motor vehicle accident, the Halse family acquired from his estate the rights to the world famous Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game, housed in Rowland Ward Publications. The business is currently managed by Robin's daughter, Jane, from the company's offices in Houghton, Johannesburg and, together, due to popular pressure, they have decided to lend the name and weight of the Rowland Ward organization to the establishment of just the type of hunting and conservation organization so urgently needed in South Africa, in particular, and Africa, in general.

In response to the appeal from many hunters, Rowland Ward has published membership application forms to Rowland Ward's Guild of Field Sportsmen. Of course, the Guild is currently in its infancy and much will depend on how many serious, honest and ethical hunters are prepared to put their money where their mouths are. I have no doubt that the response will be overwhelming. The Guild starts life with a number of advantages. Unlike so many other hunting organizations, it is untainted by any scandal. It is committed to upholding the highest ethical standards. It has the world famous Rowland Ward brand

name to help market membership in the Guild. It has the offices and permanent staff of Rowland Ward to initiate the administration of the organization and it has credible leadership in the form of Robin Halse.

The initial membership benefits include a Guild tie or cap, special offers on Rowland Ward books and a bi-annual magazine which, knowing Rowland Ward Publications as I do, is sure to be of a high standard, if for no other reason than it will start with a wide, international circulation which is sure to appeal to advertisers. In due course, once the Record Book is made available via the internet, which is scheduled for later this year, Guild members will have access to it at much reduced rates.

The Guild is clearly not for everyone. In my discussions with Robin Halse he made it crystal clear that the Code of Conduct is central to and contains the pillars upon which the Guild is to be built. Unlike many ethical codes, which appear to be honored more in their breach than in obedience thereto, the Code of Conduct is to be firmly policed and upheld and the Guild will not shy away from terminating memberships where there are material breaches of the Code. In fact, each member is obliged to sign a form indemnifying the Guild from legal proceedings in the event he is sanctioned for misbehavior.

What it is not, as yet, is an accredited hunting association which South African hunters and sports shooters are now obliged to join in terms of the Firearms Control Act. As such, the Guild membership must be seen as a necessary adjunct to membership of such a body.

In my opinion however, the formation of something like a Guild of Field Sportsman is long overdue. Genuine hunters want and need an association based on honest, ethical and fair rules and regulations, impartially and fairly policed by a decent body of men, openly and democratically elected by their peers. Built on this foundation - and there are few if any organizations which can grow and prosper over the long term if they are built on any other type of foundation – the Guild can offer a home to those who genuinely have hunting at heart and who want to be able to hold their heads up high and proudly proclaim that they are not only hunters but hunters who belong to an organization with impeccable, authentic and traditional hunting roots, which not only upholds our ancient sport and profession but which stands for all that is good and right in this regard. And if this sounds idealistic, well, then so be it.

The vision is there. It is for those like minded individuals who have been hankering for such a body and who share these views to step forward. It will be for those individuals to provide the flesh and blood and funds to clothe the bare bones set out by Robin, Steve and Chappie. To my mind, all new ideas have a proper time and place in which they should be launched and the time and place for the Guild is now. If you are a genuine, ethical hunter who shares the aims and objectives of the Guild, please join - the African continent needs you.

For a membership application form for the Rowland Ward's Guild of Field Sportsmen please contact Jane Halse janehalse@rowlandward.com

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

Hunting for Trophies

By Raymond Lee, President, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS) & International Sheep Hunters' Association (ISHA)



Hunting Programs

Humans have pursued wild animals since the very dawn of man. Early hunters secured their food, clothing, and tools from the animals they harvested. Human social structures were formed around hunter/gatherer groups; with status within the group often determined by one's success at acquiring food. As millennia passed, hunting continued to provide sustenance. However, due to changes in agricultural production, advances in food storage technology, and cultural changes in society, the life giving essence of hunting also changed. No longer was it absolutely necessary for a person to hunt for their immediate food. Hunting came to be considered as recreational, or a sporting activity. While there are still some passionate individuals who would say that they hunt to live – it is probably more accurate to say that they live to hunt. Many authors have written on man's connections with wildlife through the challenges of the hunt.

A more modern form of hunting is that practiced by the conservation hunter. This is the person who uses hunting as a means to help support wildlife conservation and promote professional wildlife management. These hunters pay, sometimes huge fees, for the opportunity to pursue an animal – with the knowledge (hope) that some of the fee will go to help wildlife conservation efforts and to support the local community. Programs like this exist in North America, Africa, and Asia. For these programs to be successful there must be a reasonable return of money to the central government, to the state/provincial government, to the local community, and to wildlife conservation. A \$50,000 hunt fee should certainly be able to provide a little something for each of these levels.

Rather than, or in addition to, the more common charitable gifts, these philanthropists make their donations to enhance wildlife. These donations can easily surpass \$100,000 for a single hunting opportunity. These opportunities offer no guarantee of taking an animal. In fact, on a number of these hunts, the hunter/donor chooses not to harvest an animal. The North American model of wildlife management, where hunters pay to support wildlife conservation efforts, is augmented by these contributions. The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, alone, has generated over \$30,000,000 through this fundraising process. These funds have allowed the Foundation and its partners to increase wild sheep numbers in North America from fewer than 50,000 in 1975 to over 200,000 animals today. A significant benefit of these programs in the inclusion of the local community. Typically, locals are used to help guide hunters, locate game, and assist in the hunting camps. This gives the individuals involved with the hunts a job – thus greatly enhancing

their self-respect and their respect for wildlife. This also leads to local efforts to manage and to protect their animals. Thus the hunting programs lead directly to local social benefits (such as health care and education) and to wildlife conservation benefits.

Keeping Score

Since the earliest cave paintings, man has depicted the largest animal specimens in their art. This desire to take the largest animals is not directly related to food quantity, but to the challenge of acquisition. Taking a larger, older aged, presumably more wary animal has always been a challenge. And man has always liked challenges.

As hunting reached the recreational stage, seeking out older, larger animals became the more desired approach to hunting. Following the huge declines in wildlife populations, it was considered more sporting to pass over the young and the females and to take only a limited number of "trophies." This change also led to the end of unregulated meat harvesting and to the initiation of the tenets of fair chase. In the United States this occurred in the end of the 19th Century and was heralded in by the formation of the Boone and Crockett Club in 1887. Subsequently groups like Safari Club International and the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep were organized by hunters who wanted to share their experiences with others, and to give back to the animals they so enjoyed pursuing.

As this practice of trophy hunting became more popular, it also became more competitive. It therefore became necessary to develop a method for assessing the "quality" of a trophy. The Boone and Crockett Club developed their first records book in 1932. They conducted their first scoring competition in 1947. In 1950, they combined the systems of Grancel Fitz and of James Clark into their new Official Scoring System.

Humans, being competitive by nature, developed a variety of scoring methods, with perhaps the most common being the Boone and Crockett system and the SCI system. The primary difference between the two is that the Boone and Crockett system rewards symmetry, while the Safari Club International system rewards gross size. These systems are both complex measuring systems to determine the total mass of the feature considered most admirable about the trophy, i.e., horns for sheep, antlers for deer, and skulls for bears. These scoring systems have proven helpful in wildlife management as declines in trophy quality may indicate over harvest, while increases would allow for greater levels of harvest. Decreases can also be affected by diet, climate, and disease – all factors of interest for the professional manager. The ability to compare scores by geographic area and through time is of value to many wildlife biologists studying environmental changes and their impacts.

As time has passed there have been more and more trophy books produced and a surfeit of hunting awards invented. Many of these trophy books are produced to stimulate interest in hunting, and to enrich the individuals producing the books. At this time, many individual states in the United States have their own trophy books, with many for individual groups of animals (the deer family represented by "Bucks and Bulls" being most common). Individual organizations also produce their own record books to promote their interests, such as the Mountain Hunter

Continued on Page 27

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the

conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Continued from Page 26

Hunting for Trophies by Ray Lee

Record Book produced by the Guide and Outfitter Association of British Columbia. To be recognized in this book, you must have hunted with a member of the Association.

More modern awards promote the experience of the hunt and the contributions of the hunter over the mere harvesting of trophies. The International Sheep Hunters Association, for example, presents just 2 awards at their annual meeting. These awards are based on: (Super Slammer Award) the difficulty of the hunts, the weapon of choice, and the quality of the animals harvested – not necessarily the total number of sheep taken. It is a tribute to a person that shares the values of fair chase hunting, supports wildlife conservation, is a good ambassador for hunting, and has a sterling reputation in the sheep hunting fraternity; and (International Hunter Award) is based not only upon the recipients honoring the tenets of fair chase hunting, but it is for conducting themselves in a manner that does honor to both themselves and their country. The recipient is involved in conservation projects, promotes the benefits of hunting to political figures and government officials, and presents a pro-hunting image.

Public Opinion

Various opinion polls of the general public demonstrate a tolerance for, and even some support for, recreational hunting. Trophy hunting, in its strictest sense, however, is not well supported. It will require hunters to send a stronger conservation message to allow for the continued practice of purely trophy hunting – where typically only the trophy parts are retained by the hunter for display and recognition, and the edible portion is left for others. The ethics of the conservation hunter will be very important to the future of hunting. As long as the public sees a conservation value from hunting and feels that hunters respect their game, hunting will continue to enjoy the support of the public. Hunting opportunities will likely cease when hunting practices are no longer consistent with public values.

The ultimate trophy animals – certainly the ones that garner the most interest and produce the most money - are wild sheep. China, for example, could be one of the greatest recipients of financial support from conservation hunters. There are numerous wild sheep species in this country – the very popular Argali-forms, comprised of the Asiatic bighorns (*ammon* types) and central Asiatic thin horns (*polii* forms). However, the on-again, off-again hunting policies have certainly had their impacts upon the popularity of China's hunting programs. In addition, due to a disconnect with the public, China's hunting programs were recently terminated. It will take convincing this public that sufficient biological information exists to support the harvest and that appropriate conservation values will be protected to restart hunting.

Perhaps the most modern, and least desired, outcome of trophy competitions is the "artificial" production of trophies. By manipulating diet, genetics, and activity, it is possible to produce unnatural sized animals. Growing trophies is anathema for conservation hunters. This sort of manipulation of trophies will certainly not stand up to public scrutiny, and should not be sanctioned by the hunting community.

SCI Record Book of Trophy Animals: Documenting the Hunting Heritage

By R. Douglas Yajko, MD, Chairman, SCI Trophy Records Committee



The Safari Club International measuring system was developed by SCI founder and Chairman C.J. McElroy in 1977. Mac as he was known in those days had a vision of providing a record book for SCI members the scoring system was developed for use in the SCI Record Book of Trophy Animals.

The record book quickly gained notoriety with the members and began to evolve into what it is today. The largest change occurred in 1993, giving more emphasis to mass for antlered game. Since that time, all entries for deer, elk and other antlered game have been measured under the new system. The new books have more than 134,000 entries in a four-volume set, including a two volume set of Africa, North America and Rest of the World pages. Encompassing 29 years, this record book is the epitome of an international record book. It includes species, categories, maps, taxonomy and all internal boundaries. We are continuing to refine the distinction between free range and estate animals, and this book will include both categories for all continents except Africa. The previous editions, edited by C.J. McElroy, John Brandt, Al Cheramie, Jack and Casey Schwabland, Irvin Barnhart, and me, show progressive and dramatic growth over the past 29 years.

The new edition continues to recognize the increasing international character of SCI. Federal laws in the U.S. prohibit taking of species designated as "endangered." However, game laws vary from country to country. So, we now list animals that are legally taken and then exported legally from the country where they are taken to the homes of members of SCI and other countries where these stringent rules do not apply. We also list endangered species that were taken prior to the passage of the endangered species law.

The goal of the SCI Record Book is to provide an accurate and complete natural history of the world's game animals. It also records in a regular and timely way the trophies that define contemporary hunting throughout the world.

The Trophy Records Committee is committed to using the record book to market SCI through taxidermists, meat processors, outfitters, guides and booking agents throughout the world. A concerted effort is being made to increase the measurers' network, making it much easier for SCI members and potential members to have their animals scored. SCI members can now locate an official SCI measurer near them by visiting www.scifirstforhunters.org and clicking on the Trophy Records

Continued on Page 28

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the

conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Continued from Page 27

SCI Record Book of Trophy Animals: Documenting the Hunting Heritage by Douglas Yajko, MD

icon on the home page. Documenting the Hunting Heritage is the primary focus of the SCI Record Book of Trophy Animals. The minimums are lower in the SCI Record Book to encourage more hunters to submit their trophies and provide us with a better picture of the distribution of wildlife.

The Latest edition to the SCI Record Book of Trophy Animals is the Virtual Record Book. Now hunters from around the world can research a hunt prior to booking their hunt. The Virtual Record Book has many sort functions allowing hunters to sort the records by species and location or by species and guides. For example if a hunter is planning his or her first trip to Namibia for Gemsbok and other plains game they can go into the virtual record and pull up all gemsbok taken in Namibia and view the score sheets to see what the horn length and base circumferences are on mature animals. After learning about the species the hunter can then sort the Gemsbok entries by guide/outfitter determining who SCI members rely on the most when traveling to Namibia.

A free demo of the virtual record book can be viewed by clicking the following link: <http://www.scirecordbook.org/demo>. An annual subscription is required for the SCI Virtual Record Book and is available to non-members as well as SCI members. Pictures of the species taken are being gradually added to the Virtual Record Book. The Trophy Records Committee is planning to add the taxonomic notes, diagrams and maps to the Virtual Record Book in 2008.

The magnitude of producing the record book presents many challenges that require careful judgment and an enormous amount of work to provide this tremendous service for SCI members. In May 2005, updated and state-of-the-art software was implemented. The records in this edition are much cleaner than in past volumes; however, there is a lot of work to be completed for future editions of the record book. Volunteers on the Trophy Records Committee and the staff at SCI headquarters in Tucson, Arizona, put in the time and effort because we love and believe in what the book represents. The book is not just a list of trophies, but a conservation tool to use in hunting camps throughout the world. We are striving to print the most accurate and informative record books in the industry and wants to thank the members of SCI for adding their personal trophies to the book, hunters from around the world benefit from the data printed in the record books.

*"In a moment of decision the best thing
that you can do is the right thing. The
worst thing you can do is nothing!"*

*Theodore Roosevelt
Founder of the Boone & Crockett Club*

Boone and Crockett Club: Fair Chase and Conservation Since 1887

By Jack Reneau, Director Big Game Records, Boone and Crockett Club



The Mission of the Boone and Crockett Club

It is the policy of the Boone and Crockett Club to promote the guardianship and provident management of big game and associated wildlife in North America and to maintain the highest standards of Fair Chase and sportsmanship in all aspects of big game hunting, in order that this resource of all the people may survive and prosper in its natural habitats. Consistent with this objective, the Club supports the use and enjoyment of our wildlife heritage to the fullest extent by this and future generations of mankind.

Formation of the Boone and Crockett Club

Theodore Roosevelt, a dedicated sportsman and visionary, founded the Boone and Crockett Club in 1887. In 1883, Roosevelt, an avid hunter, outdoorsman, and explorer returned from his ranching days in North Dakota with a mission. He had witnessed first-hand the negative affect on big game populations from unchecked exploitation. He called a meeting of several of his friends who shared his passion for the outdoors. One of these gentleman hunters, George Bird Grinnell, described this gathering as "an association of men bound together by their interest in game and fish, to take charge of all matters pertaining to the enactment and carrying out of laws on the subject."

Successful men of science, business, industry, politics, and public service, had joined together out of their common concern for dwindling wildlife populations and irresponsible land use, to conserve wild resources for the future. Because of the dedication of these respected leaders and riflemen hunters, this meeting eventually resulted in the foundation for the greatest conservation revolution in the history of mankind and the survival of our hunting heritage.

B&C First for Conservation

When Roosevelt took office in 1901 the contemporary thinking on natural resource matters was that of "protection" and "preservation." Through his discussions with Grinnell "conservation" became the keynote of his administration. The word soon appeared in dictionaries defined as "prudent use without waste." Roosevelt's administration produced a federal natural resource program that was balanced between economic development and aesthetic preservation, setting aside and protecting 150 million acres of national forests. In seven years, more progress was

Continued on Page 29

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

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Continued from Page 28

Boone & Crockett Club: Fair Chase & Conservation since 1883 by Jack Reneau

made in natural resource management than the nation had seen in a century, or has seen since.

Throughout the 20th century, Roosevelt and the hunter-conservationists of the Boone and Crockett Club continued to make significant contributions to wildlife and environmental welfare. Some of these early accomplishments of Club members include:

- The establishment of game laws, the enforcement of hunting seasons and bag limits;
- The abolition of market hunting practices;
- The protection of Yellowstone National Park and the establishment of Glacier and Denali National Parks;
- The establishment of the National Park Service, National Forest Service, and the National Wildlife Refuge System;
- Passing of the 1894 and 1900 Lacey Acts, Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson) Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Migratory Bird Act of 1913, the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act of 1934, and the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit Program.

Boone and Crockett Club Members were so effective that their conservation history, commissioned to be written in 1960, was so nearly a complete history of the conservation movement that it was expanded to include non-Club related items. This history was detailed in James B. Trefethen's book, *An American Crusade for Wildlife*, which has been accepted as a landmark text for conservation.

The Rules of Fair Chase

In a land of abundance, free-spirited pioneers and outdoorsmen were naturally resistant to change, new laws, and limits. Early European law mandated that all wildlife belonged to the crown; therefore, American pioneers shunned anything that resembled old-world restrictions.

As indicated in Roosevelt's master plan, a set of guidelines had to be established. An ethical code of conduct for all sportsmen was required. If wildlife was to survive, and for "conservation" (wise use) to prevail over "preservation" (non-use) sportsmen must lead the charge. With the leadership of Roosevelt, the Boone and Crockett Club's "Fair Chase" tenants encouraged laws in the states and provinces to maintain sport hunting at a high level of sportsmanship and ethical action. This "Fair Chase" code directly engaged the hunters' conscience to enjoy hunting in an ethical fashion. Born from these efforts were the concept of public stewardship and the realization that wildlife did indeed belong to the people.

Throughout its existence, the Boone and Crockett Club never skirted thorny issues. Changing the culture and thinking of the American sportsmen, was perhaps, one of the most difficult, yet significant, accomplishments of the Club. The Club's Fair Chase statement provided the foundation for hunter ethics, as we know them today. The public image of the hunter was raised to that of a sportsman – one who can kill, yet protect and nurture what is taken.

They Belong to All

One of the early challenges facing the Club, and a successful launch of the conservation movement was the disconnect that existed between citizens and wildlife. This disconnect was held over from the old days of European rule – no public ownership of wildlife. To bring the public into the realization that wildlife in the "new country" did indeed belong to them and was in their care, the Club went into action with two major initiatives – the protection of Yellowstone National Park and the establishment of the National Collection of Heads and Horns.

From the Club's first formal meetings a plan was initiated to save Yellowstone National Park (the Nation's first national park) from poachers, mining and timber speculators, and the Northern Pacific Railroad, which was lobbying to gain a right of way west, through the Park. "Resolve that a committee of 5 be appointed by the chair to promote useful and proper legislation toward the enlargement and better Government of Yellowstone." A single resolution, in a single sentence, but it marked the beginning of the Boone and Crockett Club's conservation crusade.

Through a series of exposé editorials in Club member, George Bird Grinnell's *Forest and Stream* magazine, the public was drawn into the cause. The dramatic telling of a bison-poaching incident within the pages of *Forest and Stream* was a national sensation that focused public attention and outcry on the serious plight of Yellowstone. Sportsmen, nature lovers, and those who planned to someday visit the Park finally said, "No more." In 1894 the Yellowstone Protection Act (Lacey Act of 1894) was pushed through Congress by Club Member, Senator John F. Lacey. The laws gave Yellowstone the staff, funding, protection, enforcement, and penalties for violations it needed to be maintained as pristine national treasure for all people.

The National Collection of Heads and Horns was another brainchild of the Club. It was a trophy exhibit opened for public display in 1922 at the Bronx Zoo in New York City, in cooperation with the New York Zoological Society (also founded and directed by several B&C Members) and the Bronx Zoo, of which Club member, William T. Hornaday was its first Director. The inscription over the entrance to the exhibit read "In Memory of the Vanishing Big Game of the World." The display sparked public interest in big game animals, elevated the concept of public stewardship of wildlife, and created the momentum needed to launch a conservation and recovery effort that saved many of these great animals, and hunting itself from extinction.

Once the positive effects of the conservation movement began to pay dividends, the plight of big game animals was no longer as much of a concern. Interest in the collection had waned and the building, which housed the trophies, became used for storage space. After a burglary in 1974 the Club rescued what remained of the collection and found a temporary home for them at the national headquarters of the National Rifle Association in Washington, D.C. In 1981 the collection was permanently moved to the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming, where it resides today as a testimonial to the success of the North American Model of Conservation.

Why Keep Records

The grave condition our big game species were in at the turn of the century had many responsible sportsmen wondering if

Continued on Page 30

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

The distribution of African Indaba is supported by the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and Conservation Force

Continued from Page 29

Boone & Crockett Club: Fair Chase & Conservation since 1883 by Jack Reneau

these great animals would decline to the point of Audubon's bighorn sheep, and the eastern and Merriam's elk – extinction. Certain species of animal and bird life were vanishing and before it was too late, a biological record of their historic range and mere existence was needed. The Boone and Crockett Club again accepted the challenge.

When the Club's Executive Committee appointed Theodore Roosevelt, Casper Whitney, and Archibald Rogers to the Club's first Records Committee in 1902 it wasn't to develop a scoring system for bragging rights, endorsements or what fees to charge for the taking of a trophy. Their goal was a system to record biological, harvest, and location data on the vanishing big game animals of North America.

With the publishing of the first edition of *Records of North American Big Game* in 1932, the Club set in motion a system that would continue to elevate our native big game species to an even higher plane of public stewardship. A by-product of this book was an increased interest in trophy hunting, which subsequently motivates more hunters to become interested in the conservation movement.

Records-keeping activities enabled the Club to promote its doctrine of ethical hunting by accepting only those trophies taken under "Fair Chase." Through prestige received from the success and acceptance of the Records Book, the Boone and Crockett Club had the ability to forge a new understanding of species biology and the need for the management of big game species.

When it was reported that the Club would reject cougar trophies entry into the records book from states that offered a bounty for them, the result led to cougar being elevated to the status of a big game animal. This allowed the cougar both management and protection such a classification warranted. This same awareness and recognition became available to other species such as the Central Canada barren ground caribou found in the Northwest Territories. The declaration of a separate records book category allowed caribou from parts of Northwest Territories to become eligible for funding and management from the government. These territories received a vital boost to their economies from the sale of licenses, tags, and a new interest in these great animals.

In Quebec, when complaints were received from hunters about the practices of caribou outfitters and guides, the Boone and Crockett Club contacted Quebec's Game and Fish Department. If questionable hunting practices continued, the Quebec-Labrador caribou would no longer be accepted for the Records Book. As a result, ethical, Fair Chase hunting became the norm rather than the exception.

Into The Second Century

Throughout its history the Boone and Crockett Club has supported science, research, and education. In recognition of the Club's 100th anniversary, Club members committed to expand this purpose by purchasing the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch (TRM) in 1986. This 6,600-acre working cattle ranch is located on Montana's Rocky Mountain Front adjoining the Bob Marshall Wilderness and other privately owned ranches. This region encompasses prime wildlife wintering grounds. Here,

habitat research and land management practices present an example to community ranchers demonstrating that diversified populations of big game, even predators like grizzly bear and cougar can be compatible with profits from ranching.

Open to the public each fall, the TRM Ranch, through a Block Management agreement with the State of Montana, allows people of all ages to hunt on the Ranch; however, special emphasis is given to youth hunters who must be accompanied by an adult mentor. Hunting traditions will be preserved in the future through hunter/mentor opportunities like those who enjoy the privilege of participating in Fair Chase hunting, in natural, well managed environments.

In 2001, the Boone and Crockett Club constructed the Elmer E. Rasmussen Wildlife Conservation Education Center on the Ranch. This Center serves as the headquarters for the Lee and Penny Anderson Conservation Education programs. Using the TRM Ranch as an outdoor classroom, the Club's K-12 Education Program helps students and teachers build lasting awareness, understanding, and appreciation for the living and non-living components of our natural world. Through the Conservation Across Boundaries (CAB) program, teachers from across the country are invited to participate in workshops where wildlife and habitat conservation curriculum models are taught benefiting both teachers and their students.

New Knowledge

History has proven there is no better investment in the future than knowledge through education. In keeping with the Boone and Crockett legacy of leadership, the Club launched a pilot program in 1993. This program funds the research of university graduate students who have chosen wildlife or natural resources as their life's work. The first B&C Endowed Professorship Chair found its home at the epicenter of today's resource challenges – the Rocky Mountain West. Here, at the University of Montana in Missoula, the Boone and Crockett Professor of Wildlife Conservation plays a central role in the Club's Conservation Program. The Professor teaches, guides graduate student research, and offers public service in the fields of wildlife conservation and ecosystem management for sustainable development. By focusing on education at the highest level, the Club insures that investments made today will continue to pay dividends for decades as these students advance in their careers.

In 2005, success of this program in Montana was replicated at Texas A&M University when a second chair was endowed. The focus of this program is the impact of state and federal environmental regulations on private lands and wildlife populations; the potential of consumptive and non-consumptive wildlife resource use on landowner income; and public perceptions of private land stewardship and resource conservation. Other endowed professorships are planned at other universities throughout the U.S.

For more information about the Boone & Crockett Club and the many activities it is involved in, call +1-406-542-1888 for a free copy of the general Boone & Crockett Club brochure, and visit the Boone & Crockett Club website at <http://www.booneandcrockettclub.com/>.

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