

AFRICAN INDABA

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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

Editorial

The [CITES Conference of Parties 14](#) has come and gone and what a meeting it was. Read the report of CIC's Director General Kai Wollscheid on Page two of this issue. Just some short remarks from my side – Kenya's divisive approach did not bear fruit; neither in the black rhino issue nor in the leopard quotas. But it certainly made for some long nights for those who wanted solutions for the African elephant.

Some heartening news came from Southern Sudan with the upbeat report about the wildlife populations in this country. Seems that there is far more wildlife left than the greatest optimists ever dreamt of. The late Peter Pichler said this in African Indaba already four years ago.

Congratulations must go to the Namibian Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs and the Kyaramacan Association for receiving the coveted 2007 CIC Edmond Blanc Award for their sterling work to open two new hunting concessions in the Bwabwata National Park in Namibia's Caprivi Strip. The awards ceremony in the Serbian Parliament in Belgrade and the long-lasting applause bear testimony to a job well done!

I hope that the Minister will take this as encouragement to involve more local communities and open more new hunting concessions. Namibia's track record of a sensible triple-bottom-line approach to nature conservation is an example for other African nations to follow.

We are grateful to the editor of "[African Outfitter](#)" to give African Indaba permission to reprint two articles about leopard hunting in Southern Africa. The issue of hunting leopard with hounds has created quite some debate and you can now read the views of a houndsman and an old professional hunter.

In the last minute, before closing this issue, I received a very disturbing report from Philippe Chardonnet, director of the [International Foundation for the Conservation of Wildlife \(IGF\)](#) about Sudanese elephant poachers in Sudan. With this report included, the July issue of African Indaba has again exceeded the planned page limit, but it is so important that I did not want to wait for the September issue also in connection with the report about the violent death of Daniel Breyton at the hands of Sudanese poachers (see "Deadly Encounters").

I have not included a full report about the 54th CIC General Assembly in Belgrade. But you can read details about this on the CIC website www.cic-wildlife.org. Let it be said, however, that the co-operation between the international hunting associations and the representatives of IUCN, CITES and FAO was more than satisfying. This must be said especially about the

workshop "Trophy Hunting, Hunting Trophies and Trophy Recording". African Indaba was proud to have the CIC logo in the title line of two special issues dealing with this topic. The pre-workshop issue was sent already in May, but you can download it also at www.africanindaba.co.za/Archive07/AfricanIndabaVol5-3.pdf.

African Indaba published the key note presentations of the workshop as well as reviews, comments and articles in hunting media in a follow-up special edition; use this link www.africanindaba.co.za/HuntingTrophies/AfricanIndabaVol5-3SpecIssue2.pdf to download.

The topics of the Belgrade workshop will be re-visited during the July conference of the Society of Conservation Biologists in port Elizabeth/South Africa. Make sure that you get the next African Indaba with reports from there.

Last not least I would like to thank the many readers via this editorial for their encouragement and thumps-up! African Indaba is a non-commercial one-man show; yet, the preparation involves a lot of people who volunteer their contributions and work free-of-charge. I take the opportunity to thank them too!

Sincerely
Gerhard R Damm
Editor & Publisher

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

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“Only one Elephant in this Room...”

Report from the CITES Conference (COP-14) in The Hague, Netherlands, 3-15 June 2007

By Kai Wollscheid, Director General, CIC

Sustainable trophy hunting was cited as a positive example of conservation of endangered species. At the opening ceremonies of COP-14 CITES Secretary General Willem Wijnstekers mentioned that local communities sharing their environment with game should benefit from trophy hunting. Even though some decisions taken by the 1,250 delegates of 151 countries at COP-14 later acknowledged the contribution of sustainable hunting to conservation and the fight against poverty, it remains obvious that a number of Parties and non governmental interest groups continue to put pressure on those countries with proven track records of successful sustainable use programs. As usual, the elephant and ivory debate was THE “blockbuster” of the conference and attracted more attention and media coverage than any other of the 70 topics on the agenda.

Right before the beginning of COP-14, the Standing Committee authorized the sale of 60 tons of stockpiled ivory based on the decision made already at COP-12 in Santiago in 2002. That time, CITES Parties endorsed the sale of ivory from Botswana, Namibia and South Africa subject to the MIKE (Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants) project establishing baseline data on elephant poaching and populations' levels. This has now been completed. In a related but separate decision, the Standing Committee has also decided that Japan has established sufficiently strong domestic trade control systems to be granted the status of a trading partner allowed to import the approved ivory.

Elephant populations in four of the Southern African Elephant range states – Namibia, Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe – have, due to successful management methods (including sustainable hunting) increased substantially since the late 1980s. They continue to grow and have in many cases exceeded the maximum carrying capacity of the habitat they live in. Neither status nor management of these elephant populations would warrant any CITES listing whatsoever. On the contrary, habitat destruction and alteration through burgeoning elephant herds is rapidly taking place and human-elephant conflict, especially in the regions bordering protected areas, is on the increase, whilst local rural people derive little or no benefits in face of these growing conflicts.

The past 18 years of ivory trade ban have already compromised elephant conservation in the mentioned countries and viewing the continuously increasing elephant numbers more problems arise – hence the request of these countries for being allowed to sell government owned ivory to registered buyers.

The talks at CoP-14 between the African Range States dragged into two weeks of tense negotiations. The main protagonists were the Southern African countries in favor of selling their ivory, and their opposition led by Kenya (with IFAW holding this country's delegation's hand) in favor of a 20 years ban on all ivory trade. Considerable pressure from NGOs and lobbying that

could not always consider fair, led to days of stand-still, before a weak consensus was found.

Chad and Zambia, on behalf of the African countries, presented the compromise proposal. A new annotation authorizes Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe to hold a one-off sale of raw ivory originating from government stocks registered by 31 January 2007 in addition to quantities agreed at COP-12 in Santiago, subject to verification of trading partners. Funds from these sales will be ploughed back into conservation and local communities. The US expressed concern about including Zimbabwe in the ivory sale, and called for the inclusion of regional IUCN elephant management plans into the development of an African Elephant Action Plan, which CoP wants the Range States to prepare. In view of the conflicts of rural communities are experiencing with elephants almost on a daily basis, a Southern African delegate summarized his dissatisfaction with this slow process: *“If there would only be one elephant in this meeting room, it would make a huge difference – decisions would be taken the right way and, believe me, much quicker!”*

Even though the lowest common denominator was finally agreed, Kenya and its supporting organizations made no secret about their ambitions to continue to push their concept of wildlife(mis-)management becoming the ruling principle for all African elephants.

“A moratorium on trade in ivory for 20 years, as originally suggested by Kenya and Mali, would have indeed fully jeopardized elephant conservation”, said CIC Director General Kai Wollscheid, *“as it will remove all incentives for conservation from those countries with proven track record of successful elephant conservation”.* Wollscheid concluded, *“if you are punished for completing a task successfully, the system is wrong!”* This is exactly what happened now to these countries that have managed to conserve one of the most precious animals on earth successfully.

Even though many delegates felt that good progress was made and were relieved that consensus had been reached among African countries, this consensus is not based on solid ground – the positions of Kenya and the Southern African countries are too far apart. Julius Kipng'etich, Head of the Kenya Wildlife Service who led his country's delegation in arguing for a ban, said after the compromise that it was *“Africa's finest hour, a proud moment for the continent, its people and the elephant.”* Kipng'etich's does not mention the abject record of failure of the Kenya Wildlife Service – a proud moment for Africa and the World would rather have been Kenya accepting rational wildlife management policies! Safari Club International (SCI) also saw the “compromise” in the consensus in a positive light. In a press statement SCI said that *“the result was recognition of the good management of elephants in southern Africa and the dramatic increase in those populations.”*

In contrast, Eugene Lapointe of IWMC said: *“We now have the ridiculous situation where CITES is suspending elephant conservation programs that work and replacing them with something that can't. The idea that law enforcement agencies will stop elephant poaching is simply naive. CITES is punishing*

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

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communities that have conserved elephants and is rewarding poachers and illegal traders that kill them indiscriminately." If the good elephant management practices had been recognized properly, the trade in ivory stocks would have been allowed as requested by the Southern African Range States – instead they have been punished for their success by 9+ years moratorium of ivory sales!

CIC strongly supports all African states in the sustainable use of all their natural resources for the enhancement of rural livelihoods and the conservation of wildlife and wild places. Whether species are listed under CITES Appendices or not, communities need to derive benefits from living wildlife. The rural Africans need to be given added value by being allowed to market their resources and share equitably in the benefits. Sustainable hunting quotas are integral part in furthering conservation of imperiled species and the future of communities.

Last not least, let's not forget on simple fact: the use of elephants is not only important for the livelihoods of rural Africans – elephants as a "sexy" flagship species sustain even better the "live styles" (e.g. expensive field trips, international conference participation, plush offices and high salaries, and of course also ever increasing "gifts" to their local "loudspeakers" in Kenya and beyond) of the key people in the world's leading anti-use NGOs!

A short briefing on other species and matters

Black Rhinoceros

Kenya's effort to repeal the hunting quotas for ten black rhinos (Namibia 5 and South Africa 5) that were agreed upon in 2004 in Bangkok went down the road of defeat in the first week. Kenya claimed to speak on behalf of all the rhinos and urged parties to consider other ways than hunting to fund rhino conservation, thereby neglecting the excellent contribution of sustainable hunting to the survival of the white rhino! Supported by the DR Congo and Rwanda, Kenya suggested that other countries could pay Namibia and South Africa for the costs of translocating unwanted animals. Rwanda even proposed to buy surplus males (and pay for all related costs) to re-establish its own population." The question, how Rwanda with one surviving rhino could re-establish a population with surplus males from Southern Africa, was left unanswered. The delegates rejected Kenya's proposal with 82% majority.

Leopard

Mozambique requested approval to increase its annual export quota for hunting trophies and skins for personal use from 60 to 120. Many parties and NGOs supported this proposal in view of the fact that such increase was conservative and would be sustainable. The proposal was approved by consensus.

Uganda presented a revised proposal to for an annual export quota of 28 leopard reducing the originally requested quota of 50. The proposal was approved.

Bobcat

The US proposed deleting its bobcat from Appendix II,

explaining that the species is thriving and that look-alike issues are in fact no longer a concern due to improved identification techniques. Mexico opposed the proposal. Opposing statements on the basis of look-alike problems were cited by the European Union. At the vote, the proposal was rejected, with 28 votes in favor and 63 against.

Barbary Red Deer and North African Gazelles

The proposals of Algeria to include the Barbary red deer and the Cuvier's gazelle in Appendix I were rejected following a vote. Even though the species are at risk, there is no evidence for commercial or international trade, and thus the requirements for inclusion in Appendix I as stated in CIC's COP-14 position statement are not met. Following the two rejections, Algeria withdrew its proposal to list the Dorcas gazelle in Appendix I. The delegates agreed by consensus to include the Slender-horned gazelle in Appendix I.

In Plenary, the discussion on Cuvier's gazelle was reopened following a request by Algeria that informed delegates about "consultations [that took place] since last vote". Algeria repeated that the biological criteria were met, yet trade is difficult to monitor but indications on illicit trade are at hand. Germany, on behalf of the EU, "realized that all range states are in favor of a listing. The arguments of the range states are convincing". Following the discussion, Plenary accepted the proposal of Algeria to list Cuvier's gazelle on Appendix I by consensus.

Treatment of Hunting Trophies

Italy – in violation of its EU member status – unilaterally questioned the treatment of hunting trophies in the context of "Personal Household Effects" citing as an example the differentiation between crocodile skin products and hunting trophies. The Chair decided that this matter was not within the scope of the agenda and dismissed it. An extended working group under the Standing Committee was tasked to further look into the treatment of specific types of personal and household effects.

Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines (AAPGs)

Even though found as not always immediately applicable to CITES, particularly with respect to making non-detriment findings (NDF), the AAPGs may be considered for possible development for certain taxa-specific NDF guidelines, and are a voluntary additional tool that can be used for making NDFs.

Further issues of importance at CoP 14 and the reason for long negotiations were the Strategic Vision of the Convention as well as its budget for the triennium 2009-2011. After highly controversial discussions, a 6% nominal increase in the budget was finally adopted.

On proposal of the Dutch hosts, youth representatives addressed the Opening Session of the conference, voicing their concern about the illegal poaching of elephants and urging delegates to implement a ban on ivory trade. Students also reported on the *First Student CITES CoP* held in The Hague and said that during this simulation exercise participants considered issues on the COP-14 agenda, and called on other multilateral environmental agreements to follow suit in organizing student CoPs.

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 "Only One Elephant in this Room ..."

The "student meeting" was yet another avenue of addressing the ivory issue by using "concerns" of the youth of the world over elephant decline. It certainly achieved one objective: to fuel public emotions and increase public pressure.

Also for the first time at a CoP, a Ministerial Roundtable had been convened for the original purpose of addressing issues of marine species, timber and enforcement issues in the context of CITES. The roundtable added a noticeable political dimension to the conference. This was an entirely new aspect at a CoP. Other conventions do have such high level segments either in the beginning (for the purpose of assuring political commitment to the cause of the convention) or in the end, in order to framework the outcome of the meeting. A ministerial roundtable right in the middle of ongoing discussions has no precedent. Ideally, the final declaration of the Ministerial Roundtable should not have had any bearing on the decision-making process of CITES, which – in theory and in the sense of the original agreement between Parties – needs to be based on scientific evidence and not on political considerations! In connection with the other Dutch idea of a *Students' CoP* the Roundtable can, however, easily be perceived as attempt to apply more political pressure on the delegates of sovereign states into accepting the will of a few – in the context of the ivory debate an obvious, yet dangerous agenda!

In conclusion, CoP-14 saw a paradigm shift in conservation politics with ministers getting involved in negotiations. Decisions, which are supposed to be taken by experts based on scientific evidence, have been shifted to a political level for the first time. If this will become a tradition, CITES will face a crucial change in its decision-making processes. Matters of high political and most likely also those of high financial impact to protectionist NGOs, like elephants, whales, sharks etc. will continue to land on the ministers' table. Media campaigns and the lobbying work of protectionist groups will most likely gain a much higher influence on CITES decisions!

On a positive note, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) is internationally regarded as partner and knowledge-resource organization at CoP. The CIC status as Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO) with a seat in the plenum next to such notables as IUCN certainly helps! CIC also received excellent support and cooperated intensely with representatives of the International Professional Hunters' Association (IPHA) and the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE). John J Jackson III represented both the CIC Sustainable Use Commission and Conservation Force.

The coming years will see conflicts shifting towards climate change and livelihood issues. The present polar bear debate in North America is one example. Hunting organizations will have to be prepared to address the linkages of species conservation and sustainable use with climate change and livelihoods and cooperate intensively with those countries with a triple-bottom-line conservation approach.

CITES & CIC Work Together

Address given by Stephen Nash, Chief Capacity Building Unit, CITES Secretariat, at the opening session of the 54th General Assembly of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), 2 May 2007, Belgrade, Serbia.

The theme of this year's CIC General Assembly is "Passion for wildlife means caring for people". This is very true, and the link between conservation and concerns for livelihoods is a very topical subject at the moment.

CITES has over the last 31 years not lost any of its importance as an international legal instrument to conserve biodiversity. Since its entry into force in 1975, CITES has grown and matured, and its rules and procedures have developed into a coherent and well-established system for promoting non-detrimental wildlife trade and conservation. Importantly, CITES has learned to balance conservation and sustainable use, emphasizing different strategies for different situations.

CITES increasingly seeks to make conservation and poverty reduction mutually supportive. To significantly reduce poverty and promote development, it is essential to achieve sustained and broad-based economic growth. Trade is an important engine of growth and that is what CITES is all about.

Commercial trade or non-commercial trade such as hunting trophies, when conducted in accordance with CITES, is by definition non-detrimental to species or to their role in ecosystems.

CITES is also a means of integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and reversing the loss of environmental resources. CITES further helps with managing ecosystems for environmental sustainability, and these ecosystems provide the services that sustain human livelihoods. Sound species conservation and management can and does deliver on poverty reduction and livelihood improvement.

It is unfortunate that for many in the NGO community, particularly among animal welfare NGOs, the link between CITES and livelihoods, or conservation and livelihoods, is far from being supported. They simply want no trade in animals and in their view CITES is the tool to achieve that. Certain NGOs advocate that CITES should not get involved in things that are not within its 'mandate' as it is seen by them, namely the protection of animals and to a lesser extent plants, but certainly not people. It is unfortunate that these organizations do not want to see the bigger picture.

The Parties to CITES have agreed to develop appropriate legislation and policies that encourage the adoption of social and economic incentives that promote and regulate sustainable management of and responsible trade in wild resources.

In conclusion, CITES can be a guarantee for sustainability and given the necessary resources CITES can be the best green certification system for sustainable and legally traded wildlife, which in turn offers benefits to people.

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One Shot Hunt Club South Africa

By Howard Knott

Concern has been increasing within the hunting community regarding the negative image in which the media often portray hunting and in how it is perceived in some political circles. Many in the hunting community believe that this continuing negative portrayal seriously endangers the future of sport hunting in Africa as well as in other countries around the world. To counter this trend, a group consisting of international hunters and African outfitters and PHs has created a program that provides a way for hunters to directly benefit local African communities. This group's members believe that highly visible support is critical for hunting to retain African community and political support. This group conducts its programs through two organizations that are called the One Shot Hunt Club SA and the OSHC Foundation Inc.

The One Shot Hunt Club South Africa began in the year 2000 when several veterans of the One Shot Hunt Club of Wyoming decided that they wanted to start a similar club in South Africa. The Wyoming club has been in existence for over 60 years and it has become famous for its one shot pronghorn hunt. The planning came to fruition in May of 2001, when the One Shot Hunt Club South Africa (OSHC SA) held its first event at the Wintershoek game farm near Kimberly. Ten teams of two shooters each competed in the event. The animal hunted by the teams was the springbok; an animal which is similar to the North American pronghorn in both size and difficulty to hunt.

Since the first year's event, additional competitions during the event have been added and the attendees now compete in sling shot, shotgun, air rifle, and timed target shooting as well as spear throwing and the one-shot-hunt itself. For the 2005 event, a one shot bow hunt was being added. Hunters from New Zealand, North America and South Africa have participated.

Beginning in 2005, the OSHC SA moved its annual South African event to the Aventura Tshipise Resort northeast of Polokwane. In this area, the species hunted is impala.

Following the successful staging of the first one-shot-hunt, in South Africa, several officers of the club had the occasion to visit a few community grade schools in the Kimberly area. The needs of the school children and the shortage of resources available were dramatically obvious. Even though it was South Africa's winter, many of the school children were without shoes and many came to school hungry because their families couldn't afford to provide them with breakfast.

Believing that they would like to return something to the country which had provided them with so many hunting opportunities over the years, the club's members began a program to collect tennis shoes and funds for maize meal which could be distributed to needy during the next years hunt. Conversations with school and government officials indicated that most of the schools had very few working computers available for teaching, text books were usually shared among several students and

students didn't have enough money themselves to purchase such basic school supplies as pencils and paper.

The virtual non-existence of computers was seen as a major impediment. The frustration felt by both the teachers and school officials caused by the lack of teaching computers was very evident. This resulted in the club substantially increasing its programs to support the schools during the next year and it was adopted as the primary mission of the club. Efforts were initiated to encourage the donations of computers and school supplies.

Before the 2003 one-shot-hunt, a number of organizations in the United States provided very generous donations of computers, software, text books and school supplies which required 20 full pallets to ship. Federal Express air freighted the pallets to Johannesburg free of charge. Since then, officers of the club have worked in conjunction with the Educational Ministry of the Free State to maximize the utilization of the computers, text books and school supplies within the school system. This effort eventually resulted in the creation of a computer training center near Christiana for which a local school provided the facility, the club provided the computers and a local resort funded the wiring and computer infrastructure. In 2004, the club distributed another shipment that included computers, text books, school supplies, tennis shoes and first aid supplies as well as blankets and corn meal that were purchased by the club in South Africa with donated funds.

In 2005, the club launched a new effort to donate programmable hearing aids to needy individuals with hearing impairment. As these hearing aids cost typically cost over \$2,000 each in South Africa. This hearing aid program has been continued thanks to the donation of 25 additional hearing aids each year by a generous USA citizen and the support of a Polokwane hearing clinic which assists the club in identifying qualified individuals and which fits the hearing aids to the recipients. In 2007, the club duplicated this successful partnership model when it donated 11 laptop computers for use in a computer training center which is being established in the Tshipise area.

One of the newer programs of the club is to create partnerships with African outfitters and local communities to market donated hunts. For these partnerships the outfitters donate their daily fees, the community donates the trophy fees for the animals and the club then sells the hunts. When a hunt is sold, all of the proceeds are transferred directly to the local community. Sales of hunts donated under this program have provided support to communities in Mozambique and South Africa.

The newest OSHC SA program is to work with its African members to arrange the distribution of free wheelchairs that are provided by another charitable USA based organization. This program began early in 2007 when the club received its first shipment of 550 wheelchairs in Durban. The club's responsibilities include: receipt of the wheelchair shipments and their storage in South Africa, identification of appropriate organizations and individuals for receipt of the free wheelchairs and providing documentation of the distribution of the wheelchairs to the USA organization that supplies them. The response within South Af-

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One Shot Hunt Club South Africa

rica to this free wheelchair program has been outstanding and it appears that there is a much greater need for wheelchairs than had been anticipated. The club is planning to continue and possibly expand this program within South Africa and in other countries such as Mozambique.

Funding for the club's activities is provided by direct cash contributions from businesses and individuals and by the sale of donated hunts, services or goods. Funds received by the club are used to purchase items such as maize meal, blankets, and first aid and school supplies. There are no paid employees and the officers and directors of the club are obligated to pay their travel and other expenses on their own without reimbursement.

To-date, the value of the monies and goods donated for the club's charitable programs in Africa exceeds \$500,000 USD.

To successfully conduct the activities involved in accepting both cash and goods and in distributing donated goods, the club has registered non-profit corporations in South Africa and the United States. Their formal mission is providing of support to needy African school children and their communities. Both have also been recognized by their respective governments as publicly funded, non-profit corporations.

The US-registered OSHC Foundation, Inc. is used to receive funds, goods or services which are donated by USA based individuals and organizations. Because it is recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c) (3) organization, donations are fully tax deductible.

The South African One Shot Hunt Club SA is registered as a Section 21 corporation and serves a similar purpose for South African individuals and businesses donating funds, goods or services. Additionally, the South African corporation provides an organization that can import donated goods duty free which is next to impossible for a foreign chartered non-profit corporation.

For hunters, participating in the one-shot-hunt is a great way to contribute to the children and future of South Africa, help to insure the future of sport hunting, meet others of similar interests and to broaden their contacts within South Africa. For those who do not wish to hunt but would like to participate in some of the other activities of the event, there are options available: including attending the banquets or participating in the school programs. Individuals and organizations who may wish to contribute to the South African programs without participating in the activities of the annual event may do so by contacting the South African directors of the club.

Howard Knott, phone +27 (15) 539-0720, email howard@greaterkuduland.co.za or Sandy McDonald, phone +27 (15) 289-9288, email enquires@mcdonaldhunt.com. Further information; including schedules of future activities, listings of the current club and Foundation directors, officers and members, pictures from past events, newsletters, club sale and auction items and event registration forms is available on the club's website www.oneshot-huntclubsouthafrica.com.

News From Africa

Angola

Angola's national emblem, the Giant Sable (*Hippotragus niger variani*), is facing a crisis from an unexpected source: hybridization with congeneric Roan (*Hippotragus equinus*). [In the newsletter of the IUCN Antelope Specialist Group Vol 24/2] a reader suggested that a young giant sable shown in a camera-trap photo taken in Cagandala National Park looked like a possible Roan/Sable hybrid. Additional camera-trap pictures, including a long video sequence, have proved that he was [right]. What happened in the Kruger National Park, the only known case of hybridization at the time, has happened in Cagandala – and not just once but repeatedly. The evidence accumulated over time.

The present study [of Giant Sable] was initiated in 2003. Despite extreme logistic difficulties [it] had been possible to establish the presence of sable in several areas with the help of local villagers. In September 2004 an expedition into Luando Reserve and confirmed the presence of some sable from fresh tracks and dung samples. (Editor's note: Brendan O'Keeffe in African Indaba Vol3/4). During the first dozen or so visits to key points of the animals' home range in Cagandala direct sightings were not made, but dung and hair samples were collected and sent for DNA analysis to two laboratories.

Botswana

Dr Cyril Taolo, assistant director for research with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) confirmed that Botswana has the largest elephant population in the world. The current estimate for elephants in Botswana stands at 155,000. The population figure is not stagnant. Neither is the elephant range contracting. Botswana's elephant population is growing at a rate of five percent per annum. The highest elephant concentration is found in northern Botswana (Chobe and Ngamiland), while a small number of about 1,038 elephants are in the Bobirwa region. Botswana has already 54 tons of ivory at the Central Ivory Storeroom. It is against this background that the on going crafting of Botswana's elephant management plan is being formulated. According to the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, 1,204 cases of human-elephant conflict were reported in the 2005/2006 period.

Botswana and its southern African neighbors have been seeking to cull their excess elephant populations or to remove the animals from the list of endangered species. But countries like Kenya have fiercely opposed the proposals with backing from powerful American and European conservationists.

Central African Republic

A white bongo bull has been taken by a European hunter in the Brendja hunting block of the Central African Republic. The PH was Mike Currie from South Africa. The Hunting Report informed its readers about a white bongo in CAR in January 2006. You can see the photos of both the live bull and the one just taken by clicking on [this link](#) (Source The Hunting Report).

Kenya

Trophy-hunting schemes have worked in less populated

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News From Africa

bits of Namibia and Zimbabwe, but some doubt they would work in Kenya. Richard Leakey, a former KWS head who is one of Kenya's doughtiest campaigners for cleaner politics, is not against hunting in principle. "Market forces are essential for the long-term survival of species," he says. But he wonders how such forces could be controlled in Kenya, where public services are ropey and corruption rife. Who, for instance, would regulate a trade in bush meat?

Moreover, the argument arouses fierce political passions. Unless income from hunting is effectively distributed to locals, through local councils that have often squandered or filched their receipts from other types of tourism, populist politicians will castigate hunting, if it is brought back, as a return to "white man's Africa". (Extract from The Economist, May 17th http://www.economist.com/world/africa/displaystory.cfm?story_id=9199799)

Kenya

The Virgin Group will assist in the creation of a new elephant corridor, north of Mount Kenya, to help create a lifeline for local communities and the dwindling elephant population in the region, announced Virgin Founder and Chairman Sir Richard Branson after he disembarked from Virgin Airlines' June 2 maiden flight to Kenya. The Virgin Mount Kenya Elephant Corridor will take about 10 years to construct and will run between the Ngare Ndare Forest Reserve and the Mount Kenya National Reserve, enabling elephants to benefit from each habitat's diverse resources. Branson plans to personally donate \$250,000 to the ambitious project.

Around 2 000 elephants, part of the Laikipia-Samburu elephant population, will benefit from the Virgin Mount Kenya Elephant Corridor, which will cost up to \$1mn to build and maintain over the next ten years. The Virgin Mount Kenya Elephant Corridor is the brainchild of the Bill Woodley Mount Kenya Trust and is supported by Virgin Group; the telecoms company Safaricom, Kisima Farm, Marania Farm, the Ngare Ndare Forest Trust and Lewa Conservancy. Support has also been received from the Borana Conservancy and the Laikipia Wildlife Forum.

Namibia

The Namibia Farmworkers Union (NAFWU), representing nearly two-thirds of the country's 50,000 farm laborers slammed the country's land reform process for being too slow and called for the expropriation of white-owned farms to be accelerated. The process should be concluded within 90 days without allowing farm owners to contest the decision. The union resolved that all farm land belonging to foreign nationals should be disowned, farms should only have a size up to 7 000 hectares maximum and ownership of all existing game farms for trophy hunting - a lucrative sector of the tourism industry - should take in black empowerment partners. In addition, Namibians should only own one farm. Namibia's government has expropriated five white-owned farms so far and aims to acquire 15 million hectares by 2020 that will be set aside for some 240,000 landless blacks. About 800 previously white-owned farms have been acquired by black farmers through preferential

government loans.

Netherlands - CITES

The Born Free Foundation headquartered in the United Kingdom, in coordination with the Species Survival Network (SSN) headquartered in the United States, has offered to provide a number of laptop computers for distribution to participants from developing countries to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES. These computers will be enabled with wireless internet connection. The text of the Convention and the official documents of CoP14 that are currently available *as well as other relevant information* will be installed on the computers. The recipients will retain ownership of the computers after the conclusion of the meeting. Born Free Foundation has not established any formal criteria for deciding which Parties will qualify for the computers, but rather will distribute them based on the number of responses and in consideration of the level of need in the requesting Party. *Editor's Note: With the anti-use history of Born Free and SSN we can very well guess what kind of other relevant information will be on these laptops!*

South Africa

The government is defending High Court action being brought against it in Bloemfontein by the SA Predator Breeders' Association opposed to new regulations designed to eliminate "canned shooting". Environment Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk confirmed in his budget speech that they would be defending this not unexpected legal action. "South Africa has a long-standing reputation as a global leader on conservation issues. We will not allow our achievements to be undermined by unethical and rogue practices." He explained that the delay in bringing the new regulations into force - originally scheduled for this week, but now delayed to February 1 - was to allow provincial

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African Indaba eNewsletter

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

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

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News From Africa

authorities time to make the necessary preparations. "I want to make it clear that this is in no way intended to signal a softening of our position."

At a media briefing ahead of the budget speech, senior officials said they were in the process of drawing up replying papers in the court case, which could be heard late this year. Director-general Pam Yako agreed that the canned lion shooting industry was making a significant contribution to the economy, but said: "We will be defending this action - we're sending out that message very, very clearly."

South Africa

Some Free State farmers use fully-grown lions as security guards to patrol the perimeters of farm houses at night. They have surrounded their homes with fences to provide a cordoned-off area patrolled by the feline crime-fighters. Is there a future for the SA lion breeders?

South Africa

Stakeholders and authorities in South African nature conservation are preparing to discuss 700 pages of comments received from a wide range of individuals and organizations regarding the management of the nation's elephant population after DEAT had published draft norms and standards for the management of elephant populations in South Africa for public comment. The comments have been consolidated into a single document, which will now be discussed with the provincial authorities and other requisite stakeholders before being amended and finalized.

In February this year Minister van Schalkwyk said South African elephants could be culled in terms of the Draft Norms and Standards for Elephant Management (DN&S), but only once other options had been considered. Decision making authorities will be guided by the DN&S principles which state that where lethal measures are necessary to manage an elephant or group of elephants or to manage the size of elephant population, these should be undertaken with circumspection.

South Africa

A court interdict prevented the removal four buffalo on a farm in the Bethlehem area by Free State environmental officials. An aggressive buffalo bull killed a man and hampered the retrieval of his body on the farm in April this year. The Free State department of environmental affairs considered the buffalo a danger to humans on the farm and wanted to remove them. Officials were also investigating the owner's lion permit to keep lions on the property. According to a departmental spokesperson, the owner has a permit to keep 10 lions while they found 36 lions on the property. Over the past year there had been incidents in which lions escaped from their enclosures in the Free State; in one incident two security guards were killed.

An illegal Zimbabwean immigrant was killed and his brother narrowly escaped death in early June when they landed in a lion enclosure at a game farm in Limpopo according to police reports

Tanzania

Grumeti Reserves Ltd plans to build an international air-

port at Mugumu in Serengeti district of Mara region and a road highway linking Mara and Tanzania's Arusha regions through the Serengeti National Park. The Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA), local and international non-governmental organizations and Kenya oppose the project because of its ecological and physiological impact on the parks and animals. Director general of Tanapa, Gerald Bigurube said that development of human activities in Serengeti would restrict the movement of animals to Maasai Mara in Kenya and reduce gene flow, thereby impacting negatively on their population and species. "To maintain biodiversity and ecosystem functions in both the short and long-term it is necessary to maintain habitat connectivity so that individual animals can move freely across the landscape," he said, adding that the international airport, the highway and other linear developments within the park would reduce and eliminate animal movements and habitat connectivity. Bigurube said experts from Grumeti Reserves had already made their feasibility studies for the two projects without involving TANAPA. Zoologists say noise from aircraft will expose animals to "excessive stimulation of their nervous systems, leading to chronic stress, which is harmful to the healthy growth and reproductive fitness of animals."

Robert Dugger, chairman of Grumeti Reserves says it is not involved in the construction of any road or airport in Serengeti. He said that "it is our understanding that the government has been studying such projects for several decades". He added that his company is "committed to restoring and preserving the environment of the wildebeest migration route through the Grumeti, Ikoma and Ikongoro game areas."

Joe ole Kuwai, projects director of Frankfurt Zoological Society's Tanzania Regional Office had told The EastAfrican from Serengeti last week that they had had discussions with the proprietor of Grumeti Reserves - Paul Tudor Jones - over the issue and that he will be coming over to Tanzania in July for further discussion. Mr Kuwai said that a zoological team of experts from the Frankfurt Zoological Society and Kenyan zoologists will this week meet the Tanzania Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources and Environment over the proposed projects.

Zimbabwe

The Parks & Wildlife Management Authority has launched a massive dehorning exercise for black and white rhino. "We want poachers to know that if they kill any rhino in Zimbabwe, they will not find any horns", said chief ecologist Henry Madzikanda. Team of experts from WWF and PWMA are to dehorn more than 780 rhinos, starting in southeastern Zimbabwe. Official reports said at least 40 black rhinos had been killed for their horns in state parks and private conservancies over the past 3 years.

Former Game Warden and wildlife author Ron Thomson, who was part of the pioneering efforts to save the rhino in the former Rhodesia is against dehorning, saying it would disrupt social interactions between rhinos and reduce the ability of females to defend calves.

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News from Africa

Zimbabwe

The Parks & Wildlife Management Authority did an elephant survey late last year at a cost of US\$105 000 provided by WWF to determine the rate of population growth and ensure best practices were employed for sustainable management. Outside Gonarezhou NP about 90,000 elephants were counted and the park held more than 20,000 pachyderms. It is estimated that Zimbabwe's total elephant population stands at over 110,000 elephants and the number is growing 5% pa although there is space and food for only 47 000. This is raising fears of a second Sebungwe Disaster, when half a century ago a population explosion caused massive destruction to vegetation and depletion of other wildlife in the Gokwe and Binga areas. The hunting quota of about 500 elephant per year is insignificant and the country needs to adopt effective management strategies to deal with the overpopulation situation.

Zimbabwe

The 2007 Valley Auction was well attended with many South African agents and bidders. No alternative ZW\$/US\$ exchange rate was provided other than the official rate of ZW\$250:US\$. Lots were divided into foreign and local. Local buyers were restricted to 8 camps and 18 animal lots in Nyakasanga and to 6 camps and 13 animal lots in Sapi.

The foreign lots sold in US\$ and local lots in ZW\$. Any foreign lot not sold was in theory to be offered to local buyers and visa versa. In practice this did not happen except in a few instances. Preference was given to foreign buyers. Foreign buyers were not required to pay VAT, but local buyers paid VAT (15%) on the auction premium (0.01%). The parallel rate on day of auction was about ZW\$10,000:US\$1. The Parks and Wildlife Management Authority used a rate of about ZW\$6500 per US\$ for the auction. Local buyers paid approximately the same price for camps in ZW\$ as the foreign buyers (assuming a rate of 10,000:1). The overall result of the auction generated ~US\$1,274,288 (US\$1,723,101 in 2006).

For Nyakasanga the gross income for the camps (~US\$499,423) is less than that achieved in 2006 (~US\$703,861); this also applies to the trophy fees in Nyakasanga (~US\$312,808 versus US\$413,610). This could have been much lower if the single lion (Lot 13) had not fetched the high price of US\$48,000. Similarly solitary buffalo males sold for prices equivalent to a 10-day buffalo hunt (~US\$7200). Local buyers also paid above average prices for some species.

The auction for Sapi was dominated by one buyer (Buyer no 56) who bought ~80% of the camps and the animal lots. The gross income for Sapi Camps is slightly lower at US\$371,238 than that in 2006 (~US\$443,502). Several key lots (elephant, lion) did not sell. The trophy prices were generally lower than Nyakasanga animals. The gross income from animals in 2007 stood at about US\$90,818 versus US\$162,128 in 2006.

Bowhunting Course at the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC)

By Cleve Cheney

With the phenomenal growth in bowhunting over the past six years has come a huge responsibility to train and educate bowhunters to ensure that bowhunting complies with acceptable ethical standards.

The [Southern African Wildlife College](#) (SAWC) situated in the Kruger National Park about 40km east of Hoedspruit sees the education of bowhunters as an essential step towards skilled and ethical bowhunting and has taken the decision to make a valuable contribution in this regard by training bowhunters and then assessing them for competence. The Wildlife College is building a reputation as one of the leading wildlife training institutions in Africa. Rangers, nature guides, trackers, and wildlife managers from throughout the African continent are being trained there. SAWC is a non-profit institution carried by the [World Wildlife Fund](#), the [Peace Parks Foundation](#).

SAWC held its first five-day Bowhunter Education and Competency training and assessment course in April. The course, presented by Cleve Cheney, is accredited by the College and the [Southern African Bowhunters Association](#). At the end of the course students write a 3-hour theory paper and participate in a practical assessment which involves shooting from sitting, kneeling and standing positions at realistic animal targets under hunting conditions and in full hunting gear, following a blood trail, demonstrating skill in setting up and choosing equipment and various other disciplines. Students are required to achieve a pass mark of 70% or higher in both practical and theory assessments to be considered competent. Successful course participants are issued with a Bowhunter Certificate of Competency by the trainer, the Wildlife College and by SABA.

Classroom lectures using multimedia presentations lay the theoretical background on a comprehensive range of subjects covered including bow and arrow dynamics, choosing and fitting of equipment, bowhunting ethics, shot placement, judging distance, shooting form, kinetic energy and momentum, tracking principles and much more. Course participants are taught how to go about the practical tasks associated with bow maintenance and repair. Then comes the practical part that all students enjoy - going out into the three-million-hectare classroom! This entails daily early morning and late afternoon bush walks where theory is put into practice. Students get first hand experience in tracking and blood trailing, stalking the abundant game in the area (including the "big 5"), and setting up ambush positions at likely points such as at waterholes and along well used game paths. Students are taught how to set bows correctly and get to do a lot of shooting with their bows, conducting arrow velocity tests, working out momentum and kinetic energy values, tissue penetration index and paper testing. Camouflage and concealment

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Bowhunting Course at SAWC

principles are discussed and put into practice. Students are taught what betrays human presence and learn how to avoid being seen, heard or smelled. Emphasis is laid on constantly monitoring wind direction using various methods.

Time is spent shooting at animal targets from realistic hunting distances and under realistic hunting conditions. Students learn to judge range accurately and learn to discipline themselves to shoot within their optimum ranges, be very selective of shot placement and to learn when to shoot and when not to. Attention is also given to shooting from various positions - also sitting and kneeling, uphill and downhill, from tree stands, hides, down narrow shooting lanes, etc. There is a lot of work to squeeze into five days. Days begin at first light, and end in the field at last light. The student's day is not over for some serious study time has to be put in, in preparation for the examinations.

A learner who has achieved this qualification will be able to integrate practical skills and theoretical knowledge in achieving basic competency as a bowhunter. Embedded throughout this course is an emphasis on hunting ethically and with a sense of responsibility towards wildlife and the environment.

Course Details:

Date: August 6th to August 10th 2007

Cost: R3000 per person** (normal price R3500) incl. accommodation, meals, course material & training at SAWC. Course participants must provide own bows, arrows (at least 8), broadheads (practice), and camo gear.

Training Approach: Courses are characterized by hands-on, practical, and highly participatory approach, complemented by group discussions and lecture sessions. Focus is on the development of practical skills with many of the activities conducted in our training area which forms part of the Greater KNP.

Course Topics: Bowhunter & archery safety, archery terminology & equipment, bow theory, arrow theory (kinetic energy, momentum, penetration etc.), arrow points, setting up bows, shooting form, bowhunting ethics, sighting-in bows, bowhunting techniques, when to shoot, after the shot, camouflage & concealment, distance judging, bowfishing, working with the trophy; anatomy and physiology, shot placement, arrow building, animal behavior, bow maintenance, bowhunting & the law, advanced shooting techniques, blood trailing and basic tracking (theory and practical), first aid and survival for the bowhunter.

Who can attend: The Program is aimed at a broad target market and will be beneficial to individuals wishing to become a bowhunter, current bowhunters who would like to expand their knowledge and skills base, professional hunters who wish to specialize in bowhunting, trackers and guides.

For further information, please contact: Craig Hay at the Southern African Wildlife College on 015-793-700 email chay@sawc.org.za, or Cleve Cheney on 082-922-5547 email cceagleswing@mweb.co.za

CIC Edmond Blanc Award 2007 Goes to Namibia

By CIC Staff Writer

During the closing session of the 54th General Assembly of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), held in the Serbian Parliament in Belgrade, one of the coveted 2007 Edmond Blanc Awards went to Namibia. After last year's success of Sango Game Ranch from Zimbabwe, this is now the second African success in a row! The Kyaramacan Association and the Namibian Ministry of Environment & Tourism were the joint recipients 2007.

The Bwabwata National Park in Northeastern Namibia is one of two parks in Namibia in which people are allowed to reside. The Park is inhabited by approximately 7,000 mainly Kwe San (Bushman) community members who live side-by-side with elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard, and hyena. From 1990 to 2005 the Kwe San community played a pivotal conservation role in anti-poaching activities and monitoring of wildlife populations, despite the fact that they were never able to benefit from their wildlife. Finally, in early 2006 the Government of Namibia recognized the rights of the community when the Ministry of Environment & Tourism awarded two trophy hunting concessions to the Kyaramacan Association. During the remainder of 2006, the Kyaramacan Association received more than US\$ 400,000 in income from trophy hunting from the two hunting concessions and other benefits. These funds were used to pay the salaries and support a range of development activities. An additional 17 community members are employed by the concession's hunting operators.

The award of the Edmond Blanc Prize to the Kyaramacan Association and the Ministry of Environment & Tourism gives, as CIC Honorary President Dr Nicolas Franco mentioned in his laudation, "international recognition to the significant achievements both partners have made and to the valuable role that hunting tourism can play for conservation, rural development and empowerment of impoverished communities".



Nicolas Franco presenting the Edmond Blanc Award to the representatives of MET and Kyaramacan

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Unexpected Wildlife Abundance in Southern Sudan

By Gerhard R Damm

The Dr Mike Fay of the Wildlife Conservation Society, together with the autonomous government of South Sudan, announced that a study had revealed an abundance of antelope, particularly of white-eared kob. Flying over an area of about 590,000 sq km sandwiched between the Sahara and a belt of tropical forests, scientists witnessed a column of animals in their seasonal migration through grasslands and swamps that was 80kms long and 48kms across. They estimated the population of the white-eared kob at about 800,000, Mongalla gazelle at about 250,000, about 160,000 topi (tiang) and 13,000 reedbuck.

Maj. Gen. Alfred Akwoch, undersecretary of the Ministry of the Environment, Wildlife Conservation & Tourism for the Southern Sudan, said "although we were telling people that wildlife was still present in southern Sudan, nobody believed us." Readers of African Indaba will remember that in 2003, the late Peter Pichler, hunting safari outfitter from Uganda, had already traveled to Southern Sudan and discussed wildlife issues with Maj. Gen. Alfred Akwoch. He also presented the Southern Sudan Wildlife Force at that time with several boxes of my book "The Conservation Game". Pichler personally told me at that time about the rich game populations in some areas he visited.



The late Peter Pichler presenting Major General Akwoch of the SA Wildlife Force with boxes of "The Conservation Game" in 2003

The researchers around Dr Fay said that they also found at least 8,000 elephants in the upper Nile river valley, the largest freshwater wetland in Africa as well as fresh clues that an even greater number of elephants had passed through Boma park and the Jonglei region. Other species found in southern Sudan were 8,900 buffalo, 2,800 ostriches, as well as lion, leopard, giraffe, crocodile and hippo. Biologists have even seen Oryx, which were thought to be extinct there. The research team plans to go back and conduct further surveys which should show that this survey actually underestimated many animal populations.

The kob migration they observed is close to the size of migrating herds of wildebeest on the Serengeti, long considered the biggest migration of mammals. But Dr. Fay and his colleagues suspect that because they were replicating pre civil war survey methods, their estimates to be low. New survey methods, such as digital photography, would likely raise it above the Serengeti. "My personal feeling is that it's the biggest migration on earth," Dr. Fay said, "we just haven't proved it yet."

Geography may explain much of the surprising survey results. Poachers on horseback could ride into the western part of Southern Sudan, but the Nile River and the notorious Sudd swamp may have acted as an impenetrable shield protecting the eastern region of Southern Sudan.

The WCS review was not universally positive. In the south-west of the region up to 90% of species had been lost. There were no buffalo where in 1981 there were estimated to have been 60,000 and only one group of elephants was sighted, where some 10,000 had been estimated to roam in the past," said Paul Elkan, head of the WCS's program in southern Sudan.

In other parts, zebra populations appear to have been wiped out. Zebra used to number up to 20,000 in the Boma National Park, in the south-east corner of the autonomous region, but were not visible to the survey planes.

The animals in the region remain at risk, because poachers have automatic weapons to decimate herds, thousands of refugees are returning to the region, and oil exploration is taking place within migration corridors of the kob.

Northern White Rhino Hope

By Gerhard R Damm

Whether the remnant population of Northern White Rhino is still viable, or whether there are indeed any survivors is unknown at present. By 2000 the species had been reduced to 30 animals in the Democratic Republic of Congo's Garamba National Park. By last year there were only four left.

There are ten animals in zoos, however: seven in Dvur Kralove in the Czech Republic and three in San Diego. Only two of them are fertile females and both – a mother and her offspring are in Dvur.

Robert Hermes, a zoologist at Berlin's Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, and his colleagues Frank Goritz and Thomas Hildebrandt, work in cooperation with several other groups in European zoos in order to prevent that the Northern White Rhino join the blue buck and quagga into extinction. Hermes and his colleagues are testing instruments and methods for artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization and sex-selection of embryos and are hopeful to launch the program still this year. It is critical that the two reproductive cows in the Czech Republic are used in a captive breeding program, in order to stave off the danger of extinction in a seemingly hopeless population bottleneck situation.

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Northern White Rhino Hope

Hermes' team is using up-to-date medical methods, including ultrasound scanners and instruments and some success has already been achieved by the birth of a southern white rhino calf in the Budapest zoo earlier this year. The experience gained there could be applied to its northern cousin. It is planned to artificially inseminate one of the cows at Dvur later this year. There might be another way to overcome the situation of having only two reproductive females available. Researchers are learning now to remove eggs from ageing rhinos, allowing them to build up stocks of northern white eggs, which could then be fertilized. The resulting embryos could be implanted in southern whites, which would act as surrogate mothers for the species. The scientists are also planning to use separation techniques to split female-producing sperm from the male-producing version in order to "produce" only female northern rhino calves for further breeding programs.

There still might be hope for the northern white rhino.

Deadly Encounters

Central African Republic

In May 2 persons were killed and 3 injured on the road crossing concession #21 (N'Goumbiri Safaris) in the north of the country after their safari vehicle was shot at by 6 Sudanese poachers. Daniel Breyton, a Frenchman working as camp manager for Hunting-Vision-Safaris was killed instantly by a shot to his head; the wife of a tracker was seriously wounded and died later. Aoumar Aboussair, a CAR PH was seriously wounded by 4 gun shots from AK47s; another woman and a man were wounded in the attack. The victims were traveling with other staff from the safari company. The survivors fled into the bush and walked to 6 km the camp of Goumbiri Safaris.

Congo DR

A conservationist was killed and 2 park guards wounded on May 19th when Mai Mai militia attacked their gorilla observation post in DR Congo. A third guard was believed abducted. The Nature Conservation Institute suspects locals living illegally in the Virunga National Park of ordering militias to attack the post to frighten off conservationists and persuade DRC authorities into a compromise with locals illegally farming park areas. At least 10,000 people are still living in the park, whose preservation was declared a priority by the DRC environment ministry.

Kenya

3 rangers and 4 poachers were killed and another ranger seriously wounded on May 18th in a firefight in Tana River District, a remote area notorious for poaching activities.

Namibia

2 game guards were trampled to death by an elephant in the Mahango Game Park/Kavango Region. Environment Minister Willem Konjore said in a statement that the elephant had been killed and an investigation had been ordered.

South Africa

Professional Hunter Nick Kilbride, son-in-law of Outfitter

Angus Brown, and the pilot died in a helicopter accident at the Mpofu Game Lodge near Lephalale. A CAA senior manager for accident investigations said the final cause had not been established, but it was believed the Robinson R22 hit a fence.

Uganda

A total of 13 people have been killed by crocodiles in Mayuge district since the year began. The crocodiles mainly attack fishermen, women and children from communities that border Lake Victoria.

Zimbabwe

A game scout, who allegedly tried to poach an elephant in Gonarezhou NP was gored to death. A large bull with 70lb tusks was found dead nearby. In two more cases, a Chirundu man was trampled to death by an elephant on the Zambezi and an elephant trampled a man to death while he and his son tried to scare the pachyderms from their fields in the Zambezi Valley. A couple working their cotton field in Mushumbi were killed by a buffalo which went on to kill a 25-year-old man.

In other attacks, 2 British tourists, a mother and her 10-year-old daughter, were trampled to death by an elephant in Hwange in March and in Mwenzi district, a crocodile killed and ate a young boy in April. A young Australian diplomat on her first overseas posting was badly mauled by lions at Harare's Lion and Cheetah Park in April.

PH Christo Kaiser Killed

By Tharia Unwin, Johan Calitz Safaris

The hunting fraternity was shocked to learn about the tragic death of Christo Andre Kaiser (40), owner of Unico Hunting Safaris from Limpopo in South Africa. Christo accompanied 2 Spanish hunters and their families and friends on an elephant safari. The party arrived 10th of May 2007 in hunting concession NG42 in northern Botswana.

On 11th May on their way to camp, Christo and a tracker spotted some elephant at a pan. They left the vehicle to observe the herd. Christo was unarmed. Unseen and without warning or provocation, a young elephant cow charged them from the side. Christo and the tracker ran to the vehicle for cover. Unfortunately Christo did not reach the vehicle and was savagely attacked by the cow. The tracker frantically blew the vehicle's horn and drove towards the enraged animal, which stopped her attack and ran away, leaving a critically injured Christo behind.

The tracker called professional hunters Henk Vorster and Dave Lincoln to the scene by radio. They immediately put a medical evacuation plan in action and started applying first aid. However, Christo had suffered fatal internal injuries and died before the MRI helicopter could get him to Maun.

Hunting operators in Botswana said that they are devastated by Christo's tragic death. "We have lost a great friend, a gentleman and a true professional whose integrity served as example to us all. Christo was a unique and special person. His memory will live forever in the hearts of those who had the honor and privilege to know him." Christo leaves behind his wife Tania, daughters Talya (9), Lane (6) and Christi (2) as well as his mother, brother, two sisters and a grandmother.

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Southern African Leopard Hunting Perspectives

Courtesy: [African Outfitter](#)

The editor of African Outfitter decided to tackle the issue of Leopard Hunting with Hounds and asked Ron Sparks and Ronnie Rowland to share their views with the readers. African Indaba appreciates that permission was given to reproduce the two articles here in African Indaba and we welcome your views. Please visit the website of African Outfitter at <http://www.africanoutfitter.com/index.php>

African Outfitter is an independent bimonthly publication promoting fair hunting and ethical business practices within the hunting industry. From a hunting perspective, the preservation of biodiversity on the African continent is the first and foremost priority. The emphasis is however also on the sustainable utilization of wildlife.

Editor's Note: The readers should note that the Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa (PHASA) does not support the practice of using dogs for hunting purposes, where the dog or dogs act as the hunter. This policy, adopted by the PHASA EC in 2001, included that hunting leopards with hounds being considered as contrary to the spirit of the PHASA Code of Conduct. The policy was put to vote at the 2004 PHASA AGM, after being challenged by the houndsmen. A seventy percent majority vote supported the PHASA EC stance, thus ending the debate. When Roy Sparks brought the issue to the attention of the EC at the 2005 AGM, it was dismissed.

The Houndsmen Say...

By Roy Sparks

The traditional method of hunting leopard used by most safari operators is by the baiting method. A few lucky hunters have taken them by chance during the course of other hunting activities and in this case it is purely by opportunity.

About ten years ago a small number of houndsmen started making their services available to outfitters seeking the assistance of their hounds that were being used to hunt problem predators in stock farming areas. The houndsmen along with their keen scented and well-trained hounds were soon to revolutionize leopard hunting in southern Africa in respect of the safari industry. Due to the amazing results and quality of the experience the hunting client was afforded, the practice soon gained in popularity in the market place and is now a client-driven demand. This can be attributed to vision and foresight on the part of those now in the enviable position of being able to offer these hunts.

The houndsmen are specialists at their task of tracking problem predators and their knowledge and skill acquired from

years of hunting extremely cunning livestock killers has been adapted to tracking leopard, making for an immensely informative and interesting hunt for anyone involved. Even for the bystander this is a most rewarding experience as you are taken into the Kingdom of the Stealth Killer. This is a proactive approach to pursuing leopard and is more often than not a hunt for a specific individual leopard that has a history of livestock predation. These leopard are specialists in their own right having evaded all conventional attempts by farmers, professional hunters and the game departments at bringing them to book. Conducting a hunt of this nature is an extremely revealing and rewarding experience for the client who is taken in pursuit of the leopard and enters his domain. The hunt may take the full duration (14 days) and it may be over in less time but the final outcome is not guaranteed. Like all hunting, these hunts are not always successful as there are limiting factors that may influence the final outcome.

This is a positive approach to hunting leopard as often a damage permit is awarded and these leopard are harvested using less desirable methods such as poisoning and trapping. The damage permit is awarded irrespective of a client being involved or not and is not related to the CITES quota. If a problem leopard is hunted by a paying client it serves a good purpose as it means the harvesting of a problematic animal by a hunter that would otherwise be eradicated by any method, foul or fair. Fewer leopard will be put under pressure as this concept will be serving a double purpose. The CITES quota is over and above all leopard that are harvested as problem animals. The perfect way to deal with these leopard is by tracking them with trained hounds and making the chance and experience available to a willing and paying client. It is a sensible and practical solution.

A very valuable point to mention at this stage is that the reader needs to be informed that those of us who specialize in this practice use trail hounds. This group of hunting dogs has several breed types who characteristically use their keen noses to track scent that is invisible to the naked eye – a truly remarkable feat. The specialist can train his hound to be absolutely target specific. These hound breeds can be traced back for centuries and were developed for the specific purpose of hunting by trailing scent deposits left by the game animal they are expected to pursue. If they manage to close the gap they are expected to hold the animal at bay until the hunters arrive on foot dispatch it. The pointing breeds can attribute their origins to the true hounds. Hunting breeds of dogs are synonymous in the world of hunting and we should be proud to still have them as valued assistants in the field for whatever purpose. To start discarding these ancient practices which are the very essence of the chase is senseless and in doing so we may as well throw in the towel on all forms of hunting. For most of us true hunters this is very much a heritage and tradition that we should be proud of and keep on handing down from generation to generation.

Hunting with hounds has come under attack from many fronts, the most surprising of which is from our very own Profes-

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sional Hunters' Association (PHASA). Their reason is supposedly due to the ethics of this form of hunting. From 1993 until now my hound teams have completed 160 successful leopard hunts. I have not had a single client question either the fairness or ethics of this method of hunting. I have, however, had many clients who have previously tried to secure a leopard by the baiting method, who had reflected on these experiences with contempt due to certain malpractices, etc.

It would be unfair not to acknowledge the skill of some pro-hunters at baiting leopard and the skill required in order to do so successfully. This method entails putting up bait such as sections of warthog or impala in a tree and is usually applied in the true wilderness areas like northern Botswana, areas of Zimbabwe and Tanzania. The results are quite often positive. However, we must not confuse or compare the situations there or the leopard to leopard that co-exist with and are in constant confrontation with us humans due to their predation habits on ranches. The scenario differs entirely. Ranch leopard are street-wise and over generations have adapted to become super cunning stealth operators that will seldom if ever take bait. They have adapted so well under these conditions that they actually thrive and do remarkably well despite the odds that seem to be stacked against them. I am willing to say that, percentage wise, most of the top ranking leopard trophies come out of cattle ranching areas. This in itself bears testimony as to how successful they actually are.

Here a problem exists in that often a rancher is not satisfied in having to wait for a pro-hunter using baits to kill a problem leopard with his client. It simply takes too long and is seldom successful and during this period he and his neighbors will sustain losses due to predation which they cannot afford and will not tolerate. They normally then take the matter into their own hands, often using poison with devastating results and after-effects.

Proudly the hounds have proved to be a practical, sensible solution in this respect and as a direct result have convinced farmers owning many thousands of hectares of land throughout southern Africa that there is a successful way of dealing with stock killers. All the private land we hunt on is now poison free and for the most part trap free. The leopard we hunt are free roaming and cover many farms in their territories. The farmers receive a handsome reward from us and most are far more tolerant of leopard on their land than before. I claim this as a very positive contribution on the part of the houndsmen and their teams toward conservation and ironically to the long-term welfare of the leopard and other carnivores.

What needs serious addressing at this point is PHASA's adopted policy against the use of hounds for tracking leopard. PHASA has taken orders from the NSPCA and has acted in favor of their whims, rather than sticking to its guns on a practice that has many merits for both the hunting industry and conservation. If PHASA allows an organization like NSPCA to influence them, they are playing right into their hands.

In the UK fox hunting and firearms have been banned, a

classic victory for the anti's using the old method of divide and rule. We cannot afford a division or any concessions to the anti's as it is just the first nail in the coffin. All hunting is under threat and none of us in the business of hunting or those that contribute to hunting by way of paying for the privilege to hunt can afford division at all. We need to be rational and tolerant and supportive of all role-players in the hunting practice.

We houndsmen are sorely tempted to join the fray and get involved in the mud-slinging in an effort to defend ourselves. If we had to reveal what is currently happening during some of these baited hunts it would only serve to further strengthen the case of any radical anti-hunting movements by discrediting hunters as a whole, and assisting the anti's to reach their ultimate goal which would be an outright ban on all hunting. My goal is to achieve unity between us hunters by encouraging tolerance and common sense.

PHASA would be respected by all concerned hunters if they would only acknowledge the fact that they actually oppose hound hunting because it is far more successful than baiting, not because of the ethics or NSPCA. They regard this as unfair competition as many hunting clients are choosing to hunt their leopards with hounds, rather than do a baited hunt. Unfortunately not every outfitter has access to a good hound team, but pretending to concede to demands by NSPCA is a shameful excuse. We believe PHASA's true motive is competition in the industry. They would do better to come on board and benefit from the services we can assist with, rather than resort to coniving tactics. At this point they are portraying divided loyalties, which should be a matter of extreme concern to all participating in the industry and creating a wonderful opportunity for the anti-hunting fraternity to divide and rule!

I attended the 2005 PHASA AGM to represent the Southern African Houndsmen Association (SAHA). At this meeting, I was informed by Mr Stewart Dorrington, chairman of PHASA, that his association had already adopted a policy against the use of hounds to track leopard and that there would be no further discussion on the matter as a decision had already been reached.

Dorrington explained that the decision was in the best interest of PHASA and the hunting industry. He explained that in dealing with NSPCA, he was told by their representatives that they did not have problems with hunting as such, but practices like using dogs to hunt leopard were unacceptable to them. In respect of their sentiment toward this practice, he felt that PHASA should distance itself and not associate itself with anyone using hounds.

I feel PHASA should seriously reconsider conceding to the wishes of an extremely anti-bloodsport organization, as believing that the society actually condones certain methods of sport hunting is extremely naive. Making concessions to an organization like NSPCA is just the first nail in the coffin. What will be their next demand? Hunting with hounds is a perfectly acceptable and very popular method of hunting many animals in Europe and the Americas. Why is PHASA suddenly supposedly embarrassed to be associated with it?

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At a special meeting called for Eastern Cape members concerning several matters, I used the opportunity to raise this issue again. This took place during the same PHASA conference mentioned above. A vote was called for by those attending this meeting and virtually everyone voted in favor of the use of hounds for hunting. Realizing the popularity and support this practice received, Matthew Greef, in defense of PHASA, stated that PHASA was not in favor of hunting leopard this way. PHASA did not have a problem with the use of hounds for hunting caracal or bushpig, or for that matter, employing them to flush blue duiker and bushbuck. I find this remark to be a contradiction to the policy adopted by PHASA. The question which now begs to be asked is how can leopard be accorded a higher status than other game animals and on what grounds? I was taught to revere and respect all huntable game animals, irrespective of the species or if it was classified as one of the Big Five. We are talking about basic principles.

Briefly, before closing, I would like to add that hounds have been around for a long time. This is not something new and sinister. There are records of the British settlers bringing hounds into the Cape in the 1800's and a lot of leopard were successfully hunted with hounds in the old Cape province because of predation on domestic stock. It is only recently, since money has become involved, that we who have had the vision to offer these classical hunts to paying clients, have been the target of our competitors who do not offer these hunts. Some other operators who do not have access to hounds regard us as a threat because so many clients now want to book their leopard hunt with hounds. It has become obvious to us as houndsmen that we are simply being targeted by fellow hunters so as to eliminate us as competitors in the business! As the old saying goes, "Money is the root of all evil!" How sad it is that our very own association chooses to "run with the hares, rather than hunt with the hounds!"

Views of an Old Professional Hunter

By Ronnie Rowland, Past President PHASA

Ortega made famous the words: "A hunter does not hunt to kill, but kills to have hunted". The struggle to survive, the keenest of senses and the wisdom of experience are the hallmarks of the hunted. To pit your own skills, senses and wisdom against those of the struggle hardened and wisest of the bush, be it an old kudu bull or leopard, constitutes the true spirit and ultimate experience of selective trophy hunting. To me hunting is neither a sport nor an art. It is much more – it is a way of life, it encapsulates my whole existence, it embodies the soul of my being.

Humankind has become entrapped in comfort and luxury – it can no longer escape the modern way of life, which is driven by self-interest and materialism. Quick-fix solutions, fast and

ready food habits, instant guaranteed results and consumerism, are the order of the day. Modern life governed by technology has left no part of our existence untouched, not even hunting. To underline this fact compare the development of safari hunting of yesteryear to that of today, e.g. the basic fly camp has in most cases been turned into a luxury 5-star lodge. So too, compare the evolution that has taken place in our own fraternity. Today just about anyone, even "suites" (city slickers), can become PH's and outfitters. In most cases we have evolved from being a person who grew up with nature and was part thereof, loving the wilderness for what it is, to being an astute business manager, driven by demand and supply, detached from the ways of the wild, serving the demands of the modern-day client who in most cases is a collector, wanting to bag as many animals in as short a time possible.

The trophy has been reduced to being a collection item. Its value is judged according to the tape measure and record book. I often wonder about what and whose record book? What has happened to the actual experience i.e. the hunt itself? The only thing that seems to count nowadays is instant results and even worse, guarantees. Ten or more trophies in seven days – supermarket hunting fuelling the practices of put and take, guaranteed lion (canned) and leopard (caged) shooting.

Gone are the days of the true spirit of hunting where the actual hunt overshadowed everything, where nothing was guaranteed, where you had to depend on your skills, senses (including the sixth sense – what is that?) and knowledge of the bush and its animals. No longer (in most cases) does a client book his/her hunt with a personality e.g. a Selby, who has earned his reputation and experience the hard way deserving respect. On the contrary, as pointed out, most of the modern-day clients want quick-fix, guaranteed, instant results since their time is limited and their money is the sweetest lure to those outfitters who readily adapt and provide him/her with what they want. Welcome to the world where the thunder of the dollar god reigns.

Reading the above you may think that here we have another old cynical PH yearning for the glory of days gone by. Or you might even think of me as a relic of the past who, just like the dinosaurs, cannot adapt and will become extinct. If so, you are wrong on both accounts because I believe there are enough of us around (old and new PH's) who have a conscience and who can stop the rot by standing up to be counted and show the way back to the roots. Now you will be asking, what has this got to do with the topic being discussed? Allow me to explain.

Being a known opponent of hunting leopard with hounds as well as having been part of the deliberations and decisions on this subject, I was asked to put my thoughts on paper. Addressing this sensitive issue I would like to, at the outset, clarify my position with a few points of departure. First and foremost, I would like to state that I am neither against hounds nor ethical houndsmen. I know quite a few and respect them. Secondly, being of German descent, I certainly do not contest the place of hounds or gundogs in the tradition of hunting. On the contrary, they have earned their rightful place as a hunting companion and aid, e.g. in the wingshooting fraternity. In addition they have

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become an integral part of for example the European hunting tradition (where human tracking skills have almost become obsolete) as flushing dogs during driven hunts or as tracking dogs once game is wounded.

Even in our own country the tradition of using well-trained dogs for predator control or driven hunts are part and parcel of traditional hunting amongst our indigenous peoples and especially the folk from the Eastern Cape. The latter tradition mainly evolved from a yearly social event where farmers, their families and friends gathered, whilst unfortunately it needs to be said that the former type of dog hunting by indigenous people has changed from being a hunt for meat for existence to being a gambling exercise and commercial poaching.

All this, however, has in my opinion nothing to do with hunting leopard with hounds. If so, then what? Having briefly touched on our modern way of life in my introduction, I believe that we as entrapped consumers are being forced away from nature. As guiding principle in our market-driven global economy a false rationality, namely brutal capitalism, has become the norm of survival. I use the term "false rationality" deliberately since it should and cannot be construed as being the same as the rationality which is inherent in the ways of the wild, where mutual respect despite inequality and survival of the fittest are the norms of the day.

In addition to this, is it not true that generally speaking supply and demand plus maximizing profits have become the essence of our existence? By this I mean that most of our decisions and actions are based on calculable utilitarian reasoning. Even in hunting we have embarked on a mission of trying to justify our actions and existence by means of utilitarian arguments such as the sustainable utilization of wildlife based on the wise consumptive use as a means.

In 1998, I have already made the point that we are neglecting morality in our reasoning. With regards to ethics I furthermore argued that the root problem in many cases was our refusal to admit to some things we do as being ethically indefensible, even though they might be legal or tradition.

The common error we keep on making whenever reasoning about ethical behavior, I believe, is confusing prudence with morality. Prudence in this case means acting with one's overall best interest in mind, whilst morality sometimes requires sacrificing self-interest in the service of a greater good. In practical terms this means that prudent decisions (e.g. hunting problem leopard with hounds as a wise consumptive use alternative) require thorough knowledge of the issue at stake only (e.g. overpopulation of leopard, livestock farmers killing leopard with poison, using hound hunting to increase success rate and change farmer's attitude, etc.) whilst moral decisions involve something more, namely conscience (e.g. is it morally defensible to chase down the prince of stealth, king of survival and ultimate hunter with a pack of hounds to have a paying client kill it or does this type of killing leave this noble creature any dignity?) Obligations and actions in wildlife preservation and conservation have no moral meaning without conscience! Bare facts alone

should never supersede our conscience!

Furthermore it needs to be emphasized that most of us tend to confuse legality, inclusive of traditions, with morality. For example, we know that many immoral activities and behavior are prohibited by law. This, however, should not soothe our conscience, since not all behavior permitted by law can be considered as being moral. A case in point is the "canned lion" or captive bred lion shooting debacle. We as hunters should never assume that whatever the game and hunting laws and regulations permit or even tradition supports, is morally correct or acceptable. We are all obliged to evaluate on an ongoing basis all laws, traditions and actions according to our moral sense.

This brings us to the question on hand whether hound hunting of leopard should be permitted or not. In arguing this point I want to emphasize that my quarrel is neither with ethical houndsmen nor their hounds. It also needs to be pointed out that I'm neither a total novice in this regard nor am I an inexperienced protagonist against hound hunting, speaking for a lobby, since I have myself chased down cattle killers with mongrel dogs in my youth as well as have had the opportunity to experience first hand leopard and caracal hunting with well-trained hounds in the company of ethical houndsmen. As far as anyone else is concerned, allow me to assure you that I have always been my own man with my own ideas. Those of you who know me, know this to be true because I have always put animals first. Thus my arguments, points of view and discussion do not purport to be the know it all and be it all – they merely portray my opinion and soul.

The first point I would like to raise in this regard is the question who actually hunts the leopard when a houndsman and hounds are involved? Is it not so that it is the houndsman, more specifically his hounds? The paying client merely tries to keep up with the dogs, which seldom happens, eventually reaching the point where the dogs have either cornered or treed the leopard and then kills it. Question: How many houndsmen can keep up with the hounds, let alone PH's and clients? Based on my opening thoughts on hunting I cannot but deduce that in this case it is the hounds that do the hunting and not the PH and his client. He merely does the killing and irrespective of the thrill of the chase, he definitely does not hunt according to my definition.

My second concern raises the question of ethics versus materialism. As pointed out to Barry York, a well-respected houndsman arguing for the case of hound hunting leopard, I do not believe that in our world today there are many Barry Yorks around, irrespective of whether we can by law regulate this activity e.g. by limiting the registered number of packs, etc. There are just no guarantees avoiding the pitfalls where materialistic aims will supersede true ethical behavior. I know most of my colleagues and certain farmers and, sad as it may seem, soon we could be confronted by the fact that every leopard becomes a problem animal.

As a matter of fact, some farmers would be happy to eradicate the leopard in their area and so too there are outfitters/PH's who would readily oblige. Believe it or not, but it has already happened that in certain areas two to three hound-

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hunted leopard were killed as problem leopard, but only the largest was reported for export purposes.

In addition we should not turn a blind eye to the development of hound-hunting the bongo in certain African states. This elusive forest dweller once upon a time represented the holy grail of African hunting (fortunately in some areas still does) – no guarantees of success plus the difficulty of the hunt and its terrain including climate, rightly elevated it to a status beyond the dreams of everyday mortals.

Is it a coincidence that after the introduction of hounds in certain areas and states that we see more and more outfitters and agents at hunting conventions offering 100% bongo hunts? Add to this the remarks of some well-respected taxidermists that the trophy quality of bongo has diminished drastically over the past few years and we can safely assume another victory for our market-driven march of folly where demand and supply dictate.

Having said this, it however also needs to be pointed out that the above should not detract from the fact that there are still more than enough ethical bongo outfitters and PH's out there that have not bowed to the dollar god. Hats off to our iron men within the ranks of our fraternity!

Whilst on the topic of materialistic gain (refer to introductory remarks) the following question inadvertently jumps to mind: Why is it that purporters argue that stock farmers can be educated and persuaded to rather conserve their leopard than poison them? Why can this only be done by raising the success rate of leopard hunting through hound hunting? Why not increase the price of a leopard hunt to be on par with lion and elephant hunting and to pay the farmer accordingly? Won't the latter also change the farmer's attitude to rather conserve?

I personally do not for one minute believe this, since a farmer that poisons in most cases will carry on doing so! My father always said a leopard never changes its spots. The same goes for the unethical PH and outfitter. Thus my answer to the argument of increasing the success rate and possible greater conservation of leopard by stock farmers is that only one party can gain by this, namely the PH/outfitter since the demand by clients exists and money is to be made. Where possibly could the moral base be regarding this position? To my mind non-existent! On a side-note – who was first, the leopard or the cow?

Turning to a more emotive dimension inherent in this discourse, which most of us tend to overlook, i.e. the leopard itself. Put yourself in his shoes (paws) and view the whole exercise and happening of hound hunting through his eyes.

To actually understand this, we need to first take a closer look at who and what he is. To me he is the prince of the wildlife universe. He is the ultimate hunter (something we would all like to be). Silent, stealthy, powerful, secretive, cunning, regal, noble, he is grand, a gentleman (letting his lady feed first whilst pairing, in many cases, to the detriment of many an experienced and novice PH) and above all he is wise! Add any adjective to describe him and you will be spot-on. He embodies the totality of beauty in nature, dead or alive. When seeing him jump up effortlessly to the bait in the last rays of sunlight, his grace and poise, his golden brown illuminated skin represents the golden fleece of

hunting, the sight of which to me is heaven on earth. If ever I were to be found worthy enough of being accepted beyond the pearly gates into the great hunting grounds in the sky I imagine he will be the shining light illuminating paradise.

Having waxed lyrical the essence of beauty to me as a hunter, we should also not forget that the leopard throughout his life survives on his own. Unlike his big brother, the lion, he is dependent on his own skills and cunning as a predator to prevail. To subject this animal to the practice of chasing him with a howling pack and in most cases with no escape and then having him killed by a paying client, to me is just not on! Imagine his panic trying to escape, then realizing there is no way out, cornered, he holes up or climbs into a tree, full of fear with the constant howling and yelping of hounds in his ears awaiting the henchman. No, this cannot be! We will be robbing him of everything he owns and represents – there is no respect or dignity in killing him this way, irrespective of hound hunting traditions or anything else.

At least with baiting he still is the master of the situation and beats us hands down in most cases. I'd rather have hunted using all my skills, know-how and experience and not be successful, than to devalue the personification of the ultimate predator. No money in the world, no existing hound hunting tradition, no demanding client, no stock farmer nor profit-driven PH/outfitter should be allowed to jeopardize the way of life of the true hunter. Prudence with self-interest as motive should never be allowed to supersede the greater good based on morality. A hunting world with no conscience will mean the end to us all.

To conclude, heed the following: Whatever you believe in right now, please consider my final statement. Do not at any time confuse the thrill of the chase of hounds hunting and the killing of the prince with the thrill of the chase based on your own skills and experience. Make every client part of the hunt to the extent that it becomes his hunt. Let the actual kill be secondary so that the total experience triumphs and has a moral foundation.

I salute every PH, including houndsmen, who has not lost his sense of being. Wisdom comes with experience and age. May we return to our origins where our love of the wildlife and nature, freedom and above all respect for Creation dictates our lives and not money.

PS: I am a leopard hunter who believes in baiting and blinds as the only traditional way of selective hunting with a moral base. To those of you, who frown upon this method, believe you me there is nothing more exhilarating, captivating and interesting than blinds and a wily old tomcat. Wish you were here to experience what I'm talking about, even though we might not have success.

Long live the prince!



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Global Tourism – A Multi-Billion Dollar Venture

The United Nations World Tourism Organization estimates that total 2006 tourism industry receipts — including everything from airlines to resorts — amounted to US\$730 billion. In 2005 the top 10 country destinations received more than 330 million visitors.

By 2010, tourism will eclipse oil as the largest industry on the planet, said Cleo van Rijk, an official in the organization's market intelligence section, in Madrid.

The environmental damage done by mass tourism includes soil erosion, pollution of land and oceans, natural habitat loss, pressure on endangered species, heightened vulnerability to forest fires and increased strain on water resources, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, in Paris.

Research by the UN Environment Program shows that about 80 percent of spending by vacationers on all-inclusive package tours goes to airlines, hotels and other international companies, often with headquarters in the travelers' home countries, and not to local businesses or workers.

Editor's Note:

Hunters can rest assured that their contribution to World Tourism has actually positive effects – the hunting dollars (and not only those spent on safari) find their way into conservation of habitat and endangered species, but local rural communities also benefit.

The [International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation \(CIC\)](#) stressed the potential of sustainable hunting tourism for conservation and regional development at the Global Ecotourism Conference in Oslo in May 2007.

Kolja Zimmermann, Coordinator of CIC's Sustainable Hunting Tourism Program, outlined the potentials and chances of consumptive use by sustainable hunting tourism to an audience from around the world. He pinpointed the quality of hunting tourism as "a small-scale tourism with outstanding monetary, ecological and socio-cultural benefits to rural areas".

Zimmermann is persuaded that well managed hunting tourism meets the concept of Ecotourism and could be one potential solution for sustainable regional development.

He described the development process of "principles and guidelines for sustainable hunting tourism" as part of the CIC Program Sustainable Hunting Tourism.

You can download the PowerPoint presentation of Kolja Zimmermann [here](#) and his manuscript [on this link](#) from the official conference website.

Belgrade CIC Trophy Hunting Workshop Report

By Gerhard R Damm

The Belgrade Trophy Hunting Workshop, a joint undertaking of the [CIC Commissions on Tropical Game, Sustainable Use](#), and [Trophies & Exhibitions](#) and [African Indaba](#), brought together more than one hundred hunters and experts from around the world – amongst them representatives from Iran and China – for two mornings during the [54th General Assembly](#) of the CIC.

The organizers were particularly pleased by the presence of Jan Heino, Assistant Director-General, and Dr Rene Czudek of the Forestry Department of the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#), Stephen Nash the Chief of the Capacity Building Unit of the [CITES](#) Secretariat and representatives of [IUCN The World Conservation Union](#). From the International Hunting Organizations, [Dallas Safari Club](#) was represented by past president Ben Carter and Executive Director Gray Thornton. Thornton also represented the [Boone & Crockett Club](#), the [Foundation for North American Wild Sheep](#) had sent President Ray Lee, and Chairman Peter Flack participated for [Rowland Ward](#). Unfortunately, [Safari Club International \(SCI\)](#), who had originally confirmed attendance through Dr. Doug Yajko, Chairman of the SCI Trophy Records Committee, informed the organizers a week before the event that budgetary reasons prevented SCI representatives to participate.

You can read more about the workshop and underlying facts in the two special issues of [African Indaba Volume 5, Number 3](#) and [African Indaba Volume 5 Number 3a](#). Both issues are available online at the African Indaba Website at the two highlighted links.

Make Your Views Known

We appreciate your opinion in the complex topic of **Hunting Trophies, Trophy Hunting and Trophy Recording**. Participate in the discussion and send us your views

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Central African Republic: Elephants in Turmoil

By Philippe Chardonnet & Hubert Boulet – [International Foundation for the Conservation of Wildlife \(IGF\)](#)

What?

Massive poaching of elephants for ivory

Where?

North East of the Central African Republic (CAR), Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga Provinces, near to the borders with Sudan (South Darfur Province) and Chad (Salamat Region).

When?

In 2007, such as in the previous years, we are faced here with a really organised campaign. The slaughter of elephants started with the arrival of Sudanese poachers at the beginning of the dry season, early January for some areas, and mid-January for others. The end of the campaign takes place when the poachers leave with the onset of the wet season, around mid-May in some areas, and end of May for others. One can therefore estimate that the poaching campaign lasted 4 to 5 months.

Old or new?

This poaching campaign is not new; it is a recurrent phenomenon which repeats itself at each dry season, most probably since centuries. Qualifying it as a “traditional” event is probably not appropriate in this context, but it is a good image of the reality. This phenomenon is fluctuating a great deal, particularly according to the level of the anti-poaching efforts. This year is a “great year » for the poachers who have taken advantage of the interruption of the [ECOFA/CZCV](#) Program. Financed by the European Union, the ECOFA/CZCV Program provides support to the Central African authorities and to the local communities to manage their wildlife in the North of the country

Which evaluation method?

o Data collection:

All the data have been directly collected by the authors who were physically present in the concerned area during the poaching campaign. The authors only collected statements and reports from direct observers (first-hand observations), in other words from persons who directly witnessed elephant carcasses. All the statements reported by third parties (second-hand observations) were systematically rejected.

o Observers:

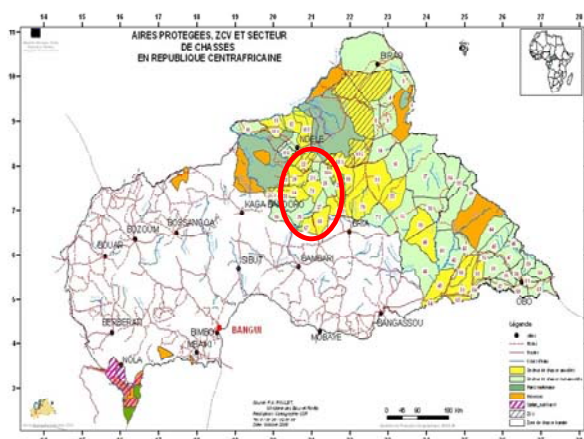
All the observers (in alphabetical order : Stéphane Cordesse, Thierry Fécomme, Richard Guhenne, Daniel Kou-doumé, Jean-Louis Laborde, Matthieu Laboureur, Christophe Lemée, Florent Mathieu & Jean-Jacques Roulet), nine in total, are field working individuals who lived through the poaching campaign whilst in their working areas; these areas being perfectly known to them as they have been responsible for their management for years. These observers include either professional guides, or tourist operators who have been assigned with management responsibilities by the Government for their contract period, either for the

lease of a Game Management Area (GMA), or the rent of a Community Hunting Area (*Zone de Chasse Villageoise – ZCV*). All these operators have joined to form an association (NGO) officially registered in CAR: the *Association pour la Protection de la Faune Centrafricaine (APFC)*. On the ground, the observers are in connection with each other through a double network of HF radio and satellite telephone.

o Evaluation area:

The present evaluation is strictly limited to the very areas managed by the observers concerned. Contiguous neighbouring areas have not been integrated in this evaluation, even though one can reasonably suspect poaching incidents also. All the areas concerned by this evaluation are listed into the category IV of the IUCN. With respect to Central African legislation, all these areas are officially listed into two categories:

- (i) either Community Hunting Areas (*Zone de Chasse Villageoise – ZCV*) subject to an agreement with local communities;
- (ii) or Game Management Areas leased by the Government.



o Size of the evaluation area:

The total size of each of the concerned areas put together amounts to 23,634 km², or around 2.4 million hectares.

o Carcass observation:

Each observer has recorded the number of elephant carcasses witnessed by him in his own working area during the poaching campaign, excluding any other areas including contiguous ones. All the carcass observations were made at random. This means they are not the result of specifically focused research aiming at discovering elephant carcasses. Observers did not make any particular effort to find the elephants because they are not elephant hunters. Indeed, elephant hunting is now suspended in CAR. Therefore, all the observed carcasses were accidentally found in the course

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of tourist operations. Several observers have even mentioned that they were intentionally avoiding looking for carcasses when they suspected they were nearby, either from the smell in forest galleries or from the close sound of gun shots.

o Carcass observation rates:

Each observer provided his own estimation of "the carcass observation ratio", i.e. the ratio between (i) the number of witnessed carcasses & (ii) the evaluated total number of carcasses in their specific operating area, during the campaign period. This estimate is of course subjective, but it is supported by a whole set of indices, direct and indirect, that were collected in the course of daily movements throughout the area:

- Strong smell of decaying carcass in forest galleries;
- Gun shots heard every day, mainly from war weapons;
- Baby elephants observed on their own in the bush (the very small one come to take refuge with the observers);
- Tracks of Sudanese poachers: footprints of military shoes, of donkeys, of horses and of camels, campsites;
- Increasingly aggressive elephants, etc.

o Total number of elephants killed:

By applying the carcass observation rate to each area, we have managed to estimate the total number of elephants shot in the given area. Adding up all the figures obtained in each area, we have estimated the total number of elephants slaughtered.

How many elephants killed?

The detailed results of the evaluation are provided in table in the next column, the grand totals are below:

- o Total number of elephant carcasses observed: 180
- o Estimated average rate of carcass observations: 33%
- o Estimate of the total number of carcasses: 553
- o Total area (square km) 23,634

The total number of elephants killed in the North of CAR is difficult to assess, especially because the evaluation area covers less than 30% of the total elephant range in this part of the country. However, it can be reasonably said that:

- Estimated figure for the evaluation area is a minimum
- The actual figure is, of course, much greater because elephants, as well as poachers, extend beyond the area subject to this study.

What percentage out of the total population has been killed?

- o The estimate of the elephant population in CAR provided by the Group of Specialists on the African Elephant of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (Elephant Survey 2007, AfESG/SSC/IUCN) cannot be taken into account as a basis for calculation because it only involves extremely

fragmented information. The limits of the elephant range are a good indicator of this deficiency. The occurrence of elephants in areas where they are regarded as absent, in the assessment published by IUCN is well known in CAR. At present, no reliable evaluation of the elephant population in CAR is available.

- o Even if we estimate that the evaluation area represents 30% of the Northern Region, it is not correct however to use this percentage to calculate the total number of elephants poached, simply because the elephant density in the evaluation area is probably much higher than that of the contiguous areas. Indeed, the presence for many years, of tourist operators has certainly fostered a bigger concentration of elephants in the Hunting Areas and the ZCV where they appear more secure than elsewhere.
- o With the arrival of the wet season, the 2007 poaching campaign is now over. Poachers are on their way back with their ivory booty. Today, information from the ground is coming from the permanent staff in place to secure the areas and camps managed by the hunting tourism operators. Informants report that elephants are still there. Evidently, not all the elephants have been shot yet. The poaching level is therefore probably not reaching 100%. Therefore, a new poaching campaign can be expected for 2008.

2006/2007 Season	GMA	21 & 21 bis	73	27	66
	Area km2	2423	1515	1984	1884
	Elephant Carcasses Observed	25	48	6	13
	Estimated Percentage of Carcass Observation	25%	25%	15%	25%
	Estimated Number of Elephant Shot	100	192	40	52
	GMA	24,25, & 26	22	20 & 23	28 & 28 bis
	Area km2	7195	2730	2863	3060
	Elephant Carcasses Observed	23	19	26	20
	Estimated Percentage of Carcass Observation	50%	50%	50%	60%
	Estimated Number of Elephant Shot	46	38	52	33

Poachers

Elephant poachers belong to two main categories:

- o Foreign poachers : They do not speak the local language, Sango. They wear, at least partially, military clothes and shoes and are generally identified as coming from Sudan. They carry war weap-

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ons and have donkeys, often horses, sometimes camels, even in areas infested by tse-tse fly. There are almost exclusively, but not completely, interested in ivory and generally leave the elephant meat untouched. The meat is then collected by local people of the region. The poachers invest all their efforts in the search of elephants.

- Local poachers:
They are villagers from local communities, or from more distant areas, who are coming to take advantage of the situation, or mainly to search for diamonds. These are not focusing exclusively on elephants, but poach all the available species for bushmeat.

The fight against poaching

The fight against poaching is theoretically implemented by:

- Government authorities: due to the current context, the relevant authorities have to tackle an extremely difficult situation. Rangers are faced with gangs of poachers who are, at the same time, better equipped, more experienced and trained, more numerous and certainly more motivated.
- International assistance: The ECOFAC/ZCV Programme, interrupted two years ago, was playing a double role: (i) deterrent, with the distribution of the revenue derived from sport hunting to the local communities & (ii) repressive, with anti-poaching patrols, including with the assistance of community rangers.
- Private operators: hunting tourism operators have always contributed to the general effort in the fight against poaching. This year, however, due to the general context and the interruption of the ECOFAC programme, private operators suddenly found themselves alone facing the problematic situation by themselves. Unfortunately, they have suffered from injuries and even human losses among their staff.

The methods used for anti-poaching differ:

- Poaching by outsiders: preventive methods (community-based approaches) proved to be ineffective; therefore only coercive (repressive) methods can be contemplated. However, negotiations with the sleeping partners abroad might be envisaged.
- Local poaching: The community-based approaches have already been in place for several years. Thanks to the ECOFAC programme and the voluntary contribution of tourist game operators, the ZCV are already functioning through a mechanism similar to CAMPFIRE, where local communities benefit from tourism. Nevertheless, the current system appears to be insufficient to provide enough incentives to dissuade communities from pursuing their poaching activities.

Need for help

Considering the magnitude of the problem, only international assistance can improve the situation and save these elephants.

Migratory Species: Working towards a Vision for 2020

From the CIC Website

“Connectivity” is one underlying principle of globalized business and information technology; it also is important in the conserving migratory species. Over 70 scientists and policy makers gathered in Washington in May 2007 to discuss opportunities and challenges for migratory wildlife from a North-American perspective. The CIC views sustainable use concepts as critical for the conservation of many of the world’s migratory species and calls for more honesty in presenting the successes of such programs.

Peter Marra of the Smithsonian’s Migratory Bird Center highlighted the understanding of migratory connectivity as critical for conservation in his keynote presentation. Participants agreed that more research is needed on migration pathways and patterns as well as better understanding of the life cycles. “Connectivity is needed at the physical level to link important migration areas; it is also needed amongst governments and their agencies. Physical and political connectivity determine successful conservation of migratory species moving across borders”, said Robert Hepworth, Executive Secretary, UNEP Convention on Migratory Species.

Various presentations outlined our current understanding and mechanisms in migratory species management. Important issues for the medium-term future, like better monitoring of harvest rates of hunted migratory birds and mammals were addressed, explained CIC’s Kai Wollscheid. Harvest data is sometimes regarded by resource users as limitation to future use rather than an incentive to improve management and knowledge. Users need to see harvest data as supporting both the long term survival of managed species, and of the human traditions associated with its use.

Starting with a description of the success of the North American Wildlife Conservation Model, now one of the most successful conservation models in the world, Wollscheid explained that its success is based on extractive use, not just simply viewing. The North American approach of using ethical and biological parameters to harvest wildlife, supported by legal frameworks and international cooperation offers many best-practice-examples to inspire strategies elsewhere in the world.

Wollscheid explained that conservation concepts must be sustainable in political, economic and ecologic aspects. Sustainable conservation needs to generate its own funding since wildlife is a valuable renewable resource. He continued that sustainable use options for wildlife (including migratory species) are varied: photo tourism, hunting, meat production, use of by-products, etc. and a combination of different use forms provides the highest income and best long term conservation support. Public awareness and education were also seen as important tools to broaden support for migratory species conservation.

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Why Tanzania was well advised to withdraw its proposal to CITES to sell 100 tons of ivory

By Rolf D. Baldus

In February 2007 Tanzania had formally requested the forthcoming CITES Conference to agree to a sale of 100 tons of ivory. The application was registered and published on the CITES website. According to the procedures an international panel of independent experts was scheduled to inspect details of the planned sale on behalf of the CITES Secretariat in Dar es Salaam. However, shortly before these experts were due to arrive the Government of Tanzania withdrew its proposal at the end of March.

Tanzania's recent elephant counts obviously were seriously flawed with regard to the scientific planning and analysis as well as the execution. Nevertheless it is clear that the elephant population has increased significantly over the last 15 years. According to the African Elephant Specialist Group the elephant population of Tanzania has increased since the early 1990ies to more than 110.000 elephants and continues to grow. In principle the country has a similar case for trade as the Southern African countries have.

On the other side there are strong indications of increased elephant poaching in recent years, although not at levels comparable to the eighties. In some cases officials of Government institutions were involved, and it is not known whether proper court action was taken.

Due to a general lack of transparency of the present wildlife management in Tanzania, little is known about the management of the ivory stock. There is information existing that inventories went missing in the past and were rewritten shortly before the Panel was expected to arrive. Some impounded ivory which went into the Ivory Room in past years was already stamped. This either indicates that official stocks of other countries were smuggled into Tanzania in transit or that formerly impounded and stamped Tanzanian ivory was allowed into the illegal trade again. No information on such incidents was released.

In general, the Wildlife Division has suffered from major governance deficiencies in recent years. A Parliamentary Commission has studied these issues and has developed recommendations to rectify the problems. The local newspaper "This-Day" wrote on June 8th that "tough new measures to tackle what is deemed as institutionalised corruption leading to massive revenue losses in the country's wildlife sector are set to be announced". Nevertheless such a thorough reform which would have facilitated a transparent and correct implementation of ivory sales and a proper use of the proceeds for conservation and rural communities is still outstanding. Past experience shows that under the present Tanzanian wildlife management the

proper execution of ivory sales according to CITES rules and regulations would have been doubtful.

The Government had announced that a major part of the proceeds from the ivory sales were to benefit the communities which live side by side with the elephants. In line with the Poverty Reduction Policies of the central Government Tanzania has indeed created legal mechanisms to involve local populations into wildlife conservation. With substantial outside support "Wildlife Management Areas" have been formally created during the past 15 years, but the implementation has been delayed and frustrated by bureaucratic procedures. This is a finding of the "Development Partners Group", an association of international donors supporting the process. Only recently after much pressure by the Central Government and the international community the Wildlife Division has finally registered a few Associations. However, up to now the communities do yet not benefit financially from wildlife management although the respective Policy is in place since 1998. This means that presently no mechanism actually existed through which the relevant communities would have benefited from ivory sales.

When CITES agreed to an increase of Tanzania's crocodile quota to 1500 (plus 100 for trophy hunting) in the Harare COP in 1997 this had also been done with the expectation that rural communities would benefit. This mechanism was, however, never implemented by the Wildlife Division. Communities did not benefit from the increased quota with one exception, but this was due to a donor effort and not due to Wildlife Division support.

Taking this all into account and irrespective of the question whether the sale would have been permitted or not, it would have been difficult for the Tanzanian Wildlife Division to convince the Panel of Experts that the preconditions for a proper implementation of an ivory sale were in place. The Government was therefore well advised in its own interest to call off the exercise in the last minute.

Tanzanian ivory had in the past and possibly still has two easy loopholes to leave the country undetected: Firstly, the thousands of containers with mostly illegal hardwoods which have left the country from four harbours without controls to Asia. Secondly, the United Republic consists of the mainland and the island of Zanzibar. Natural resources, including ivory, are not a union issue, and Zanzibar has its own Ministry to deal with these issues. CITES is not applied on the island, and the Wildlife Division of the mainland does not even send CITES papers to their colleagues on the other side of the Zanzibar channel. Any wildlife product can be legally moved without controls from the mainland to the island, and the Zanzibar authorities do not control exports of ivory. At least they did not until recently, and I do not assume that this has changed.

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