

AFRICAN



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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

Dear Reader,

When this **African Indaba** reaches you the **Vth IUCN World Parks Congress** will be in full swing in Durban. The theme of the congress "**Benefits Beyond Boundaries**" will challenge the 2500 delegates in an unprecedented way. In my understanding, this theme is bound to lead to a paradigm shift from existing exclusionist conservation policies towards a new phase of inclusion in conservation.

The people living in, around and with the protected areas have gained the least from the indirect, option and existence values of the wildlife and they have sacrificed the most by having to shoulder all the opportunity costs. For them, the equation "Wildlife Benefits = Wildlife Costs" – a prerequisite of meaningful community involvement into conservation – never balanced. They had no benefits in the past – and in order to make African conservation really work that has to change. Kenya's disastrous experience with an incompetent Kenya Wildlife Service and the meddling of emotionally charged foreign interests in form of the ideologies represented by IFAW, HSUS and their ilk must not be allowed elsewhere on this continent.

The elephant overpopulation problem in Southern Africa, to cull or not to cull, will certainly be discussed with passion. I have voiced my views in **African Indaba** and in this issue I give you my analysis of the current debate about the South African elephants.

A side event of WPC will be a discussion of the precautionary principle. Does "precautionary" imply "protectionist"? Many developing countries have expressed concern that it may conflict with development priorities, particularly when used to restrict sustainable utilization of natural resources and in discussions between conservation interventions and indigenous peoples. I tend to concur.

On **Africa Day** on Sept. 16th three major issues will be discussed: The **African Protected Area Initiative (APAI)** – a program to develop system of protected areas that will meet the environmental and social needs. The **African Protected Areas Trust Fund** – a \$250 million fund, supported by African governments, international donor agencies, the business community and key local stakeholders. One objective of APAI, has the aim to ensure that African protected areas can provide a sustainable flow of benefits to African communities and ensure predictable financing. The **African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources**, approved in July 2003 by the Assembly of the African Union, establishes a "road map" to manage natural resources. WPC will lobby for its ratification. **African Indaba** is heartened by the visionary approach and firm commitment to sustainable

utilization enshrined in this Convention.

The "days of wanton killing are over" wrote Prof. Gerhard Verdoorn in an article published in SA Game & Hunt Vol.9/8 – but the situation in **Zimbabwe**, abetted by unscrupulous South African professional and recreational hunters, shows that our associations have urgent work to attend! High ranking Zimbabwean politicians and their relatives who have taken over lucrative wildlife properties, the "new settlers" and local district councils work hand in glove in issuing hunting permits on a totally unsustainable basis. It is sickening that the once glowing example of Zimbabwe as a hunting destination has been permitted to reach such a low, and even more sickening that so-called hunters and their agents are playing a part in this extermination game.

On a more encouraging note, the South African Government has finally come out with "**National Principles, Norms and Standards for the Sustainable Use of Large Predators in South Africa**". Although the document – in my opinion – still falls short in certain aspects, it is a good step on the right way. I had some discussions with officials from Nature Conservation and feel confident that the final bugle for the nefarious practice of canned lion shooting and indiscriminate lion breeding has been sounded. Let us hope that the provincial authorities pull the noose of these minimum prescription a bit tighter still.

Our **environmental education program** continues to receive support and recognition. Book and poster are now used by universities, technikons, schools and NGOs. Recently "**Food and Trees for Africa**" requested and received 60 sets for distribution to the prize-winning schools in their yearly competition.

Gerhard R Damm, Editor

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1 WWF on poaching in Zimbabwe

Editor's Comment: *A small minority of South African and Zimbabwean professional hunters, their agents from North America and Europe, as well as their clients from South Africa and overseas blatantly disregard ethical standards and decent human behaviour with their callously taking advantage of the unsettled situation in Zimbabwe. Some of them are claiming to have acted within the law of the country and having been in possession of the required permits, but nevertheless they are abetting the illegal land grabs by acquiring the "permits" from those who drove the rightful owners from their land. This is absolutely unacceptable and immoral. They are no better than those who act knowingly against the law. Beware of special late season offers in Zimbabwe – many of these "offers" are the result of drastically increased – and totally unsustainable – quotas!*

Names of those involved are known and in time justice will catch up. If you want to be kept up-to-date and receive newest information you can either contact the WWF Southern African Regional Office E-mail: wwfsarpo@wwf.org.zw or Ben Zietsman, CEO of Commercial Farmers Union, Matabeleland branch, email: matabele@cfu.co.zw. Other contacts are the professional hunting organizations of South Africa and Zimbabwe, whose contact details are listed on page 16.

Those who want to lodge formal ethics complaints against any perpetrators may use the prescribed ethics complaints procedures of Safari Club International. Details are available from Sezaneh Seymour sseymour@sci-dc.org.

African Indaba readers should also be aware of the names of Zimbabweans close to Robert Mugabe as listed by the US government. You may find some of these names and their relatives as "owners" of hunting ranches, concession holders and/or shareholders in safari companies. Be sure that you know whom you are hunting with, should you decide to go to Zimbabwe.

WWF in collaboration with the Zimbabwean Parks and Wildlife Management Authority and other conservation agencies, is assisting in emergency responses to increasing rhino poaching pressures.

Since March 2002, at least 16 black rhinos and several elephants have been slaughtered in the Matusadona and Hwange National Parks in northern and western Zimbabwe. The Parks and Wildlife Management Authority have responded through enhanced patrol efforts, despite crippling shortages of manpower, fuel and equipment. Four poachers have been killed in recent firefights, and several have been arrested. WWF-funded operations enabled the relocation of 22 black rhinos from areas of high snaring risk to safer areas during 2002. Future operations are likely to be approved by the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority. Other supporting NGOs, in particular the Marwell Zimbabwe Trust, the Zambezi Society and the SAVE Foundation of Australia, have helped to deal with the new crisis of commercial rhino poaching in National Parks.

Over the past three years, at least fifteen black rhinos have died in these ranching areas as a consequence of indiscriminate snaring, adding to the ongoing problems of rhino snaring by subsistence poachers in conservancies. Investigations into the shooting of a young female rhino in a conservancy in southern Zimbabwe in June 2003 led to the identification of South African participants in this incident. Some South African

hunters are taking advantage of the unsettled situation in Zimbabwe's rural areas to run illegal safari hunting operations. Members of this network pay small "trophy fees" to the occupiers of wildlife properties. They then shoot whatever animals they can (including elephants) for meat, hides and trophies, which they market illegally.

"Prompt action is required by the South African and Zimbabwean authorities to deal with this recent case and to clamp down on the cross-border hunting forays by readily identifiable hunting parties," said Dr. Harrison Kojwang, Regional Representative for WWF in Southern Africa. WWF's rhino specialist, Raoul du Toit, adds, "Whereas impoverished Zimbabweans may claim that they are driven to poaching in order to feed themselves, relatively wealthy sport hunters from South Africa have no such excuse for their unethical behaviour."

During the late 1980s and early 1990s, Zimbabwe's black rhino population fell from about 2000 to 370, due to commercial poaching perpetrated mainly by gangs from across the northern border. Effective conservation measures then rebuilt the population to about 500.

Recently, Zimbabwe's deteriorating economy and land disputes have stimulated poaching for "bushmeat", and rhinos are being caught in the wire snares. Unemployment and inflating costs of living are driving more and more Zimbabweans into informal occupations, including destructive activities such as uncontrolled gold panning and poaching. The consequent harvesting of wildlife and other natural resources is proving difficult for state conservation agencies to regulate. While it is impossible to quantify the overall loss of wildlife, estimates of 50 to 80% of wildlife being lost from some former commercial farms, are widely reported.

"The resolution of internal poaching by rural communities is a long-term issue requiring the evolution of equitable and durable land reform arrangements within various sectors of Zimbabwe's complicated wildlife industry," warned Dr. Kojwang. "WWF stands ready to assist with technical support in developing these arrangements, which will take a great deal of effort and a willingness by all stakeholders to negotiate workable and sensible solutions on an area-by-area basis."

For further information:

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"The Conservation Game - Saving Africa's Biodiversity"

"Sustainable Use in Africa"

This 287 page textbook and the full colour poster (1000 x 700mm) published by the African Chapter have received high acclaim from the hunting fraternity as well as from conservation circles. Did you order your copy already?

Please support the on-going educational efforts of the Chapter by ordering some sets for distribution to your friends and clients. We all have the obligation to spread the message of sustainable use! Order your copy for only R85.00 (postage included in RSA only) now. All funds received will be used for project continuation.

Email gerhard@muskwa.co.za or fax 011-784-2074

3 CAN CURRENT TRENDS IN THE GAME INDUSTRY BE RECONCILED WITH NATURE CONSERVATION?

By Kas Hamman, Savvas Vrahimis and Hannes Blom

Over the years serious problems have developed in all aspects of the game industry and, especially seen from the perspective of the South African nature conservation authorities, some of these issues are now beginning to take on such proportions that the credibility of all role players is being adversely affected. Provincial conservation bodies are also partly to blame for this state of affairs, because they have allowed, over an extensive period, other factors in the game industry to overshadow conservation principles. If this tendency is allowed to continue, it may ultimately undermine nature conservation principles as well as the long-term economic viability of the game industry. The purpose of this short contribution to **African Indaba** is to expose the game industry to the latest schools of thought in conservation circles, and to initiate a positive debate in search of workable solutions.

Since 1995 South Africa has been a signatory to the International Convention of Biological Diversity and other multilateral agreements, which implies, among other things, that our country subscribes to principles such as: the maintenance of natural processes and biological diversity; the sustainable utilization of natural resources; the conservation of species within their natural area of distribution; the effective communication of the conservation message; and the formation of partnerships with all role-players and user groups.

In our contribution to **African Indaba**, we argue from the premises that hunting and game farming subscribe to the above principles and that the industry's long-term sustainability is dependant on making an important contribution to nature conservation and sound environmental management. South Africa with all its experience in the game industry, should set an example to the rest of the world and, especially, to the rest of the African continent.

Problems in the game industry

In our opinion the most important problems that must be addressed are discussed below.

- **Cross-breeding or hybridization of closely related game species:** deliberate cross-breeding of subspecies such as the bontebok and blesbok endanger the genetic purity of both, but naturally poses a greater threat to the scarcer bontebok. Unfortunately financial gain remains an important motivator for these actions. Such hybrids are sometimes offered to uninformed trophy hunters and tourists as thoroughbred bontebok at highly inflated prices. Possible hybridization among several other subspecies such as the Cape Mountain zebra and Hartmann's zebra threaten the genetic purity of both subspecies. Hybrids of distinct species that have fertile offspring, for instance between black and blue wildebeest, are unfortunately a common occurrence today. The

cross-breeding or hybridization of different species and subspecies is in conflict with conservation principles and offers no long-term benefit to anyone.

- **Genetic manipulation:** a good example is the deliberate mixing and therefore genetic manipulation of the two acknowledged springbok races or subspecies. A disconcerting tendency is for game breeders to buy "bigger" springbok rams at game auctions in the northern provinces in order to breed "bigger" animals from the smaller southern animals for trophy purposes. In the long run these practices serve no purpose, as the dominant gene in the population determines the size of individuals.
- **Freak animals:** serious concern reigns in nature conservation circles regarding the increase in manmade "freak animals" that are deliberately being bred and offered as hunting trophies or tourist attractions. Colour variations or recessive colour variations that occur in practically all forms of life, have become sought after among game farmers and trophy hunters, and are developing into a very lucrative industry. Well-known examples are black impala, black and white blesbok, red wildebeest, as well as deliberately cross-bred blesbok and bontebok, kudu and eland, black and blue wildebeest, and several other possibilities. These practices make no contribution to nature conservation or the long-term survival of these animal species. Such animals do not normally survive in nature, and unnatural or undesirable features may emerge should they be used for breeding. This also establishes the wrong messages with the ignorant and naïve trophy hunter or tourist, and does great harm to the image of the game industry.
- **Breeding of rare game varieties:** the breeding of rare game like roan, sable antelope and bontebok for trophy purposes by breeders without the necessary expertise may lead to undesirable levels of inbreeding which makes no contribution to the conservation of the species or to nature conservation. These practices are genetically undesirable and should be discouraged by nature conservation authorities and the game industry, unless it is done according to acceptable and co-ordinated zoological principles as part of an approved programme. The survival rate of animals originating from intensive breeding programs translocated/transferred to free ranging conditions is generally very low – especially in the case of roan.
- **Game outside of their distribution ranges:** the resettlement of game on private property outside of their natural area of distribution may lead to competition, hybridization, inbreeding, destruction of the habitat, or even abnormal defects. An example of problems that occur regularly is that of springbok in the southern parts of the West Coast, where they do not occur historically. These Springbok regularly contract foot-rot due to the more humid conditions. Another example is the "langkelou" problem which occurs among Cape Mountain zebra in the Saldanha dune fields, also outside of their natural distribution range. Here unnatural hoof growth has been observed and is being attributed to the sandy substrate which does not sufficiently wear away the hooves of the animals. Although bushbuck and nyala are found together in certain parts of the country, there is

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4 Black Wildebeest Hybridization Workshop Report

Editors Comment: Prior to the workshop on Black Wildebeest Hybridization, Dr Kas Hamman (Western Cape Nature Conservation), Savvas Vrabimis and Hannes Blom (Free State Nature Conservation) met with **African Indaba** and Gary Davis of PHLASA. We were given background information. The influence of the international hunting community as “client base in the market place” and the land-owners – the “supplier base in the market place” was highlighted by the nature conservation officials. The very real problems posed by hybridization of the two wildebeest species are, however, only part of the problem, albeit of significant conservation consequence. Of concern are also that certain species are bred and hunted on Southern African game ranches outside their natural distribution range, the breeding and hunting of color variations (i.e. Springbuck, Blesbuck, Impala), and other potential hybridization dangers (i.e. Cape Eland X Livingstone’s Eland, etc).

In order to inform our readers and to contribute to solutions in line with the “Convention on Biodiversity” we are starting a series of articles. In this issue of **African Indaba** we bring you an Executive Summary of the proceedings of the workshop on “Black Wildebeest Hybridization” and an article written by Kas Hamman, Savvas Vrabimis and Hannes Blom “Can current trends in the game industry be reconciled with nature conservation?(see page 3)”

The future integrity of hunting in Southern Africa will receive a much needed boost from a cooperative effort between nature conservation authorities, university researchers, game ranchers and local and overseas hunters. **African Indaba** will keep you informed and will also provide a forum for discussion.

In order to better understand the hybridization process and effectively address the threats posed to the conservation of the “pure” species, a Conservation Planning workshop was organized by the Free State Department of Tourism, Environmental and Economic Affairs involving participation by the University of Pretoria, the Animal Genetics Laboratory at the Agricultural Research Council and Provincial Parks Boards and Nature Conservation agencies throughout South Africa. The workshop was held at the Florisbad Quaternary Research Station in the Free State in June 2003 and was facilitated by the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (SSC / IUCN) Southern Africa and the Endangered Wildlife Trust. Participants worked in two working groups focusing on the research aspects of the hybridization process and the regulatory and policy mechanisms which are necessary to manage the situation.

The outcomes of working group sessions were presented in open plenary sessions and debated before being finalized. Where possible, responsible people and timelines were assigned to each task and action. The following summarizes the outcomes of the working group sessions.

POLICY AND LEGISLATION WORKING GROUP:

This working group developed six problem statements which cover the core issues faced by the relevant persons and governmental departments implementing regulations. These

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however no natural overlap in the Western Cape. Where nyala are artificially introduced to bushbuck habitat in the Western Cape, nyala tend to displace the bushbuck from their natural habitat. Impala, blue wildebeest, black wildebeest, blesbok, mountain reedbuck, waterbuck, lechwe, common reedbuck and giraffe are more examples of game species that are increasingly introduced in areas outside of their natural distribution range. A further problem with closely related game outside of their range of natural distribution, like blue and black wildebeest, waterbuck and lechwe, is that they tend to hybridize and produce fertile offspring. From a farming point of view game outside of their natural distribution range may be as acceptable as herds of livestock. In the game industry there is a substantial exchange of animals between the so-called intensive and extensive game farming practices. The important question is what contribution do these practices make to nature conservation, especially as such ventures find it profitable and essential to do business under the banner of conservation?

- **Impact on the habitat:** undesirable invasive alien species such as the Himalayan tahr, for example, may have serious negative influences on the natural environment, which ultimately results in the costly extermination of such animals. Animals indigenous to Africa, are alien (to South Africa?) and often invasive if introduced to natural vegetation outside of their natural distribution ranges.
- With the growing interest in game farming certain farmers are converting veld, for example, natural fynbos in the Western Cape into grassland, with regular burning or by cutting down the natural veld with a bush cutter. This makes it possible for them to temporarily keep a greater variety of game species alien to this area and vegetation type. What has to be taken into account however, is the fact that fynbos soil types are basically nutrient poor and that these animals will ultimately be dependent on supplementary feeding for their survival. Again this is undesirable from a conservation point of view.
- **Unregulated relocation of animals:** conservation authorities are acutely aware of the fact that game is sometimes moved or translocated without the required permits, or without the co-operation of the responsible conservation bodies. This unfortunately gives the game industry a very negative image in conservation circles. Naturally not everyone is guilty, but everybody is indeed eager to do business under the conservation banner. Conservation bodies are partly responsible, as only a few provinces have a game translocation policy and as very little was done over the last few years to adequately inform the game industry on these matters. With the formation of the nine provinces the situation has deteriorated further, as a uniform game management policy is not followed. Conservation bodies in South Africa will therefore have to get their acts together without delay, to prevent the dangers of genetic contamination, transmission of parasites and diseases, and possible ecological

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issues including the fact that South Africa does not have uniform national legislation which can be used to address issues such as hybridization. In light of these inadequacies, South Africa is not considered to be complying with its obligations in terms of the Convention of Biodiversity (ratified by South Africa in 1995). Furthermore, current market forces are encouraging private game owners to stock their farms with a variety of species and hence, conservation of the species falls behind the need for wildlife to generate an income. As a result of undocumented hybridization having taken place on several farms, there is also uncertainty as to the purity of many wildebeest herds and the capacity within government departments is inadequate to deal with the issues. Finally, of grave concern is the contradictory and poorly coordinated legislation which has been developed by different organs of the State, for example, between Conservation and Agriculture, and which further complicates the matter of implementing conservation activity or preventing biodiversity loss.

The problems were addressed in several ways, but mostly, they involve improving the communication between, and participation of the various provincial authorities in the drafting of national legislation, supporting and fast-tracking the development of a National Translocation Policy which includes specific mention of the issue of wildebeest hybridization and ensuring a greater input specific to this problem. Various incentive schemes for private wildlife owners to keep and manage pure wildebeest herds were discussed as was a certification system for pure herds. Plans for developing a national database for collating and housing all available information on Black, Blue and "Red" Wildebeest were also initiated. Plans to compile a "Wildebeest Policy" uniform to all provinces, were also discussed.

RESEARCH WORKING GROUP (RWG):

The RWG focused on the lack of integration between the various projects working on identifying genetic benchmarks for Black and Blue Wildebeest and their hybrids. It was felt that by integrating the available data, completing or filling any existing gaps would not be a difficult or expensive task. Research to complete any existing gaps, as well as to improve current knowledge of the hybridization process may require acquiring additional reference material and plans were made to obtain this. Additional data on the extent of the hybridization problem, the current distribution of wildebeest and the origin of these herds needs to be obtained and this data collated into a single, national wildebeest database. Information on the role of Black Wildebeest in the transmission of Bovine Malignant Catarrhal (BMC) fever or "snotsiekte" was also deemed important for inclusion in the conservation plan. Finally, it was stressed that it is important to disseminate information on the issues and possible solution to appropriate audiences, through either training workshops, scientific journals, newsletter and popular media publications.

*For the full text of the proceedings please contact **Yolan Friedman, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group Southern Africa CBSG, Species Survival Commission, IUCN - World Conservation Union, Endangered Wildlife Trust at Tel/fax: + 27 (0) 11-701-3811, cell: 082-990-3534 or email to cbgsa@wotl.co.za***

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damage.

- **Availability of information:** *limited information is available on the state of hunting and game farming in the country as a whole. A comprehensive survey on among other things, the diversity of game, numbers, origin of breeding herds and forms of utilization (including hunting) is essential for good game management.*
- **Conduct of professional hunters:** irregularities and unacceptable conduct by certain professional hunters and professional outfitters in the country are currently being investigated by conservation authorities, and it seems that the problem is likely to be bigger than originally anticipated. Once again and most unfortunately it is the conduct of a few unscrupulous individuals that give the industry a bad name

Joint solutions

➤ Consistent management guidelines must be applied for the translocation and introduction of game species in order to reduce and eventually to eliminate the introduction of key game species outside of their natural distribution ranges. The fact that several precedents already exist definitely does not justify an unqualified perpetuation of this practice. A practical solution must be found here with the full cooperation of the industry. Conservation bodies at both provincial and national level are currently working on a draft national game translocation policy. Once this document is ready it will be made available to the hunting and game industry for comment.

➤ Uniform national policy is urgently needed to spell out clear guidelines to all role-players regarding undesirable practices mentioned such as the cross-breeding or hybridization of subspecies and species, the keeping of invasive species, the breeding of recessive colour variants, the breeding of rare species solely for trade purposes or as tourist attractions, and also to lay down guidelines to combat possible pathological consequences.

➤ Partnerships between conservation authorities and all facets of the game industry must urgently be established. Incentives and effective communication must be used by these partnerships to discourage undesirable practices. In the interest of nature conservation and the game industry it is imperative that reliable information systems are developed for the sustainable management of this important resource.

➤ Game farms and facilities for keeping animals could be classified according to a SABS system, and accredited according to certain nature conservation requirements. In the highest category could for instance be awarded to a private nature reserve status, while the lowest categories could represent zoological gardens or breeding facilities with educational and commercial value, but with little or no conservation value. Incentives ought to be developed that are economically and ethically attractive to the game industry to aim at the highest possible category of game keeping facilities. Prospective trophy hunters or tourists could then be assured that ac-

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5 Humans and Wildlife in Conflict

A man was killed by an elephant and his body partially eaten by a leopard in the Kruger National Park in April. Rangers heard gunshots during the night and next morning, they found footprints and two pairs of shoes, a jacket and an axe. Alongside were elephant tracks and blood suggesting that an elephant had been wounded. The disfigured body of a man was found near the river, apparently trampled by the elephant and later mauled by a leopard. AK-47 cartridges were spotted near the body.

Dr Pauline Stratton, 46, a British doctor was trampled to death on May 2nd by an irate elephant while game viewing at Liwonde National Park. The incident happened only a day after six tourists drowned when a boat capsized on the Shire River on the way to Liwonde park.

Villagers at Nzinze in the Kavango Region complain that crocodiles are threatening their lives. Crocodiles attack them, when they fetch water from the Okavango River. Late April a pregnant woman was killed by a crocodile when she went to draw water. Villagers suggested that the Ministry of Environment and Tourism should permit to protect themselves against crocodiles by using their own tactics to kill them. Last year various villages in the Kavango reported attacks in which many villagers fell prey to crocodiles.

A 3-month-old baby boy died on June 3rd after being abducted from his bedroom and bitten on the head by a baboon in South Africa's North West Province. Police said the boy's mother was washing dishes and left her infant sleeping inside. She heard the baby screaming and ran into the bedroom to see him being carried away by the baboon. She tried to rescue her son but the baboon evaded her. The mother called for help and neighbors came with dogs. The baboon became aggressive and bit the child on the head, dropping him before disappearing into thick bush.

End of May, **Yasin Mwana**, a secondary school student died when fishing in Lake Victoria in Uganda's Burigi district. A crocodile attacked him in his canoe, as he reached out for his hook in the water. Survivors said the crocodile leapt and ripped off Dede's arm and hurled him into the lake. The boy's body was recovered an hour later at the landing site, with the lower limbs missing.

2 years after **Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)** embarked on an operation to cull crocodiles in Lake Victoria, residents of Tororo District continue to bury loved ones killed by the predatory reptiles. They are appealing to local authorities to summarily eliminate the crocodiles. The calls come in the wake of a series of crocodile attacks. According to a village head in the region, more than 18 persons have so far died this year. An estimated 63 were killed last year. UWA aims to help villagers coexist with wild animals. Residents are, however, not amused by UWA's proposals, and accuse the authority of placing animal safety above that of people.

Baboons have gone on the rampage in the sleepy **Gabonese countryside village** of Niani Barajally inflicting serious injuries on a student. The victim, a nine year old boy was among several students of as they gave chase to a large gang of baboons in an attempt to stop them from eating and de-

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cepted norms and standards are being maintained in the game industry.

➤ It is particularly heartening that at the latest meeting of the Confederation of Hunters Associations of South Africa (CHASA) it was recognized that a hunting trophy only qualifies if it comes from an indigenous game species which "was hunted under normal circumstances according to ethical norms in its natural area of distribution", and where all statutory requirements have been met. Also heartening is the fact that practically all the above-mentioned "problems" in the game industry are also seen as "undesirable" by CHASA, and according to them, should not qualify for recognition as trophies. In our opinion all role players in the game industry should support this position of CHASA.

Publication of this contribution is positive proof that contact has also been established with the **African Chapter**. Our ultimate intention is to persuade the international hunting organizations (Safari Club International, Dallas Safari Club, Houston Safari Club, Shikar Safari Club, International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, etc) to recognize only trophies that comply with mutually agreed conservation criteria. Such an agreement would ultimately bring an end to the freak hunting trophies that currently seriously threaten the ethics of the game industry.

The road ahead

We believe that effective communication and good co-operation between all role-players will be a key to the solution of current problems in the game and hunting industry. We also fully realize that the possible solutions as outlined in this contribution are not enforceable and are primarily dependent on the positive co-operation of the role-players. Furthermore, practically achievable encouragement (goals) or incentives will offer a workable alternative to render this industry sustainable as well as beneficial to nature conservation. We believe that conservation authorities in South Africa can make an important contribution by providing a professional service to all facets of the game industry.

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stroying the fruit of the village's baobab tree. Apparently some of the baboons waylaid the victim, pouncing on him from atop nearby trees, causing a deep lacerating wound on the thigh before he was rescued by a herdsman.

Malawi's army has been sent to round up a herd of ram-paging elephants that have killed at least 3 people after they broke out of a game reserve. Their mission: to drive an estimated 150 of the beasts back into the Kasungu National Park on the Zambian border before they do more damage. The world's largest land mammal lives in uneasy co-existence with rapidly growing human populations in rural Africa and only a handful of countries on the continent still have free-roaming herds that are not confined to fenced-off game parks.

After an absence of more than a decade, a **small pride of lions** has made its way back to the Hoarusib River in the Skeleton Coast Park of Namibia. It caused concern among the local Himba community at Purros. On their way through to the Park, the pride killed the stud bull of one of the head-man of the community. In the meantime the lions took eight more head of cattle and several donkeys. The conservation personnel officer of the Skeleton Coast Park as well as the staff of Wilderness Safaris, operating in the Skeleton Coast Park, welcomed the return of the lions for its ecological importance as well as the tourism potential. The pastoral Himba at Purros however have a long tradition of fiercely protecting their livestock against predators. The situation has become a classical of clashing interests in a truly African context.

In June a **man was killed by a lion** while cycling along a lone path near Liwonde National Park in southern Malawi. The latest attack brought the number of persons killed by lions to eight throughout the country this year. In February, villagers around Kasungu and Nkhokhota national parks in central Malawi, were living in fear after lions that went loose devoured at least seven persons.

African Conservation Organizations

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Kalahari Conservation Society, PO Box 859, Gaborone, Botswana, www.delin.org/kalahari

East African Wildlife Society, PO Box 20110, 00200 Nairobi, Kenya, <http://www.eawildlife.org/index.php>

The Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA), PO Box 394, Howick 3290, RSA, mjp@futurenet.co.za, www.wildlifesociety.org.za

Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), Private Bag X11, Parkview 2122, RSA, ewt@ewt.org.za, www.ewt.org.za

African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) Zambezi Center, PO Box CT 570, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, fourcorners@awfzv.org, www.awf.org

6 Conservation Value of Tourist Safari Hunting

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For more info about Conservation Force please access their website <http://www.conservationforce.org> or contact Conservation Force Email: cf@conservationforce.org

Hunting has been the cornerstone and most important conservation development in the 20th Century and continues to be the leading contributor to conservation in the 21st Century. Hunting is an exceptional form of sustainable use that has been proven to create conservation stakeholders, to stimulate conservation incentives and generate operating revenue for conservation budgets; hence, is one of the foremost forces for conservation.

"In a civilized and cultivated country, wild animals only continue to exist at all when preserved by sportsmen. The excellent people who protest against all hunting and consider sportsmen as enemies of wildlife are ignorant of the fact that in reality the genuine sportsman is, by all odds, the most important factor in keeping the larger and more valuable wild creatures from total extermination." (US President Theodore Roosevelt).

In the last quarter of the 20th Century, a new conservation tool arose from regulated sport hunting. The safari hunting industry began providing new conservation opportunities. Safari hunters were amongst the first eco-tourists. Their contribution has become world renowned through programs such as CAMPFIRE, the Chobe Enclave Conservation Trust, etc. Tourist safari hunting is the most efficient, effective, self-funding tool to conserve wildlife, promote biodiversity and to provide immediate benefits to rural people in remote areas.

It Provides Immediate Tangible Benefits to Rural People

- Is a source of high pay employment providing dignity and self-determination.
- Is a source of basic public services (medicine, bore holes, etc.) where governments can't otherwise provide them
- Stimulates secondary industries and employment while preserving traditional culture.
- Converts wildlife from a liability to an asset from being intolerable pests and nuisances to game animal status.
- Converts wildlife habitat to a higher revenue producing land use.
- Promotes bottom up development and human wellbeing.
- Is a major source of revenue wherever it exists.
- Has the potential to generate more income for land owners from a given number of wild animals than wildlife cropping, ranching and viewing tourism.
- Provides the highest revenue per tourist of any ecotourism activity.
- Often occurs in remote areas where no other means are available to improve human well-being and the quality and duration of human life.
- Can occur even where other land uses are impractical or impossible.

It Provides the Highest Level of Conservation Benefits

- Gives animals their highest lawful, positive, economic

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7 Game meat and South African consumers

Professor Louw Hoffman, University of Stellenbosch

African Indaba publishes here two articles in a series of four, which will deal with game meat and South African consumers, tourists, retail of game meat by supermarkets, butcheries and restaurants. For more information, contact Prof. Louw Hoffman at (021) 808 4747 or email: lch@sun.ac.za

How much do South African consumers know about game meat? And how much does the game meat industry know about the South African consumer? It is virtually impossible to obtain reliable data on game meat consumption and marketing in South Africa. For this reason, the University of Stellenbosch recently completed a research project on game meat as a consumer product in the Western Cape. A multi-disciplinary team of scientists from the Departments of Animal Sciences (Louw Hoffman) and Consumer Science (Karlien Crafford and Nina Muller) joined forces with Dr. De Wet Schutte (Unisearch Research Consultants) to conduct this survey.

South African consumers are increasingly becoming aware of food issues and trends. The food retail industry is focusing consumer's attentions to "organic" and "natural" products. Current meat trends advise consumers to buy lean meat cuts and species that are naturally lower in fat. **Game meat is low in fat and can be considered as organic and natural.** Game meat processing plants in South Africa seldom sell more than 8% of their meat locally. We set out to study consumers in the Cape Peninsula of the Western Cape's knowledge of game meat, their perceptions of game meat and their buying of game meat. 300 consumers (100 black, 100 colored, 100 white) were questioned on their eating habits as well as their knowledge and perceptions of game meat. For the purpose of this study the term "game meat" referred to the fresh meat of all South African ungulates. Game biltong was therefore excluded from this study.

Who is the game meat eater?

73% of the 300 consumers in this research have eaten game meat before. 95% of the white group have eaten game meat, while 60% of the colored and 53% of the black groups have eaten game meat. Consumers were asked how frequently they eat different meat types. Only 5.6% of the total group indicated that they eat game meat more frequently than once per month. We then asked the consumers if they would eat game meat in the future. A total of 67% of the consumers said they will eat game meat again. The majority of this group that will eat game meat again, consisted of white consumers. The typical game meat eater was identified as a white consumer, or a consumer of any race with at least a post-matric qualification.

Where is game meat eaten?

Most consumers (80%) have eaten game meat at home, while only 15% of them have eaten game meat in restaurants. Half of the white consumer group indicated that they would order game meat in a restaurant. Consumers are more likely

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6 Conservation Value of Tourist Safari Hunting

value in the remote bush.

- Reduces poaching through physical presence, reporting, funding and by creating an atmosphere of local intolerance towards poaching
- Creates wildlife and habitat conservation incentives locally and nationally.
- Provides badly needed funding, locally and nationally.
- Stimulates adaptive wildlife management.
- Provides means of having game scouts in remote locations at no cost to governing authorities.
- Provides a primary rationale for conservation.

It Has No Detrimental Environmental Impact

- It is insignificant in animal off-take, and, therefore, of low risk to the population.
- It is low in habitat disturbance because of the low volume of tourist hunters and their desire for a natural experience.
- It is self-limiting as tourists lost interest automatically when trophy quality decreases.
- To maintain trophy quality, quotas are set far lower than sustainable yield, resulting in a greater margin of safety.
- It is focused on a small, select segment of surplus adult males past breeding prime:
- It is easy to monitor, regulate and to manage adaptively.
- It is a legal activity and positive value for wildlife.
- It occurs where little or no other management and conservation incentive would exist but for it, outside of parks and protected areas.

Tourist Hunting is an Exceptional Conservation Tool

- It is the principal conservation tool beyond the borders of protected areas where most wildlife and habitat still exist and the need is greatest (Parks are limited to 5% of habitat).
- It is self-funding and self-sufficient since tourist hunters pay their own way.
- Tourist hunters spend prodigious amounts, by far the highest tourist spending per tourist and per animal.
- Requires no government capital investment or donor agency support.
- It is one of the most highly taxed, licensed and intensively regulated activities in the world because of the revenue it generates and low cost of monitoring due to its low volume.
- Quotas are set to maintain competitive trophy quality, which is far less than the level of sustainable off-take.
- It is efficient and the most cost effective method of financing conservation.
- It is a special category of sustainable use that can be put to immediate use.

*Editor's Comment: This is an excellent listing of arguments pro-safari hunting. **John Jackson III**, founder and Chairman of **Conservation Force** is diligently working for all hunters and supporters of the sustainable use principle around the globe. Contact details see start of this article*

8 African Indaba Book Shelf

“An impossible Dream” by Ian Parker and Stan Blezard

Safaris, Maneaters and Poachers: The last colonial game wardens tell their stories in this book reviewed by Rolf D. Baldus. Before the last of the few who are still alive have also passed away, Ian Parker and Stan Blezard – both wardens before independence themselves – could convince a good couple of them to tell us a few of their best stories. We hear of the last lion in the Nairobi city centre, of the game scout who mistook Jomo Kenyatta’s best cow for a hippo and shot it, of the biggest pair of tusks – 189 and 178 pounds – ever taken in Kenya and of many extravagant and exciting personalities. We hear tales of tragedy, farce, hardship, achievement, failure and laughter, of safaris to distant places and adventures with man-eating beasts.

They tell us from fights against poachers who hunted elephants with poisoned arrows and whom they respected as daring hunters despite bitter war-fare. Perhaps it was one of the largest mistakes of these years, some wardens contemplate today, to think that the wildlife could be protected against the people behind fences and with a fortress mentality. Under-staffed, under-funded and mainly untrained amateurs, the game wardens fought against poachers and bureaucrats to establish a safe haven where man and animal could share the land. They wanted to keep the Africa of the great migrating herds, of the unlimited wilderness without game fences. It was an “impossible dream”, as the book title says – but none of the men regretted his effort when he had to leave his job at the time of independence.

“An Impossible Dream” - Ian Parker & Stan Blezard, Librario Publishing, ISBN Number 1-904440-20-7.

“A Game Warden's Report” by Ron Thomson

The book – fourth in a row of the highly acclaimed books by Thomson - outlines the dangers that threaten wildlife throughout Africa and offers new, fully articulated and innovative solutions to Africa's wildlife problems.

Over 450 pages with 50 photos and 40 tables the author argues that the only way to save Africa's wildlife for posterity is the introduction of hunting as management tool in Africa's national parks. The African real life circumstances today are very different to those that were in existence during the colonial period. Thomson suggests the application of new policies and wildlife management strategies that address present day circumstances in Africa.

If the continent's post colonial governments continue to follow colonial-style wildlife “conservation” practices, Thomson forecasts that there will be no “wild” African wildlife left by 2050.

This will happen because of 2 sets of causes for Africa's commercial poaching pandemic. The principle “proximate” cause and main driving force behind the poaching is poverty amongst Africa's rural communities. The sole ultimate cause is the non-African black market for ivory and rhino. It is essential to understand that the black market will disappear if the several proximate causes of poaching are eliminated. If society will not permit the necessary changes to be made in wildlife management practices and in national parks admini-

stration, the proximate causes of the poaching will become ever more acute as rural communities in Africa expand.

Africa's many and multifarious wildlife industries will only be sustainable if the wildlife resources upon which they are based are themselves sustainable. This reality applies to ordinary game viewing, wildlife photography tourism as well as to international safari hunting. It also applies to the work programs of the national park and wildlife management agencies as well as to the work of international conservation NGOs.

Thomson argues that most of Africa's wildlife resources are not managed sustainable. Their future is not sustainable because many of the wildlife management practices being applied to wildlife populations are totally inappropriate - or because there is no management being applied at all. They are not managed sustainable because the wildlife policies being followed do not take into account the realities of Africa in the 3rd millennium. They are not managed sustainable because few governments bring into operation conservation policies that will take into account the continually escalating poverty in Africa's rural population. Therefore all of Africa's wildlife-based tourism industries are constructed upon a very unstable foundation.

Sustainable utilization of the renewable wildlife resources of national parks is the best way to alleviate poverty in communities that live within or next to Africa's wildlife sanctuaries.

Therefore national parks all over Africa should consider being zoned for multiple uses. One use is definitely safari and licensed hunting. The economic return (from community levies, trophy fees, etc.) generated for communities and parks will completely out-compete the illegal black market and will effectively generate a genuine desire amongst the sanctuary's human neighbors to have the national parks remain a part of their lives forever.

Order the book directly from **MAGRON PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 733, Hartbeespoort 0216, Tel/Fax: 012-253-0521, email magon@ripplesoft.co.za Price: R340.00** (postage included for South Africa).

Game Ranch Planning and Management

The Wildlife Group of the South African Veterinary Association has just published the proceedings of a symposium on Game Ranch Planning and Management. Some of the topics in the publication are:

- Selecting a property for game ranching,
- Breeding of game,
- Nutrition,
- Geochemical mapping,
- Economics,
- Veld condition
- Disease prevention
- Game capture
- Ecotourism

The publication is selling for R60.00. Postage in South Africa: R20.00 Please order from: SAVA Wildlife Group, PO Box 12900, Onderstepoort 0110, South Africa. Fax: +27-(0)12-529-8312 Tel: +27-(0)12 -529-8253, contact person: Prof Banie Penzhorn, Email: banie.pnzhorn@up.ac.za

9 News from Africa

South Africa

The Eastern Cape government added R6.2 million into its coffers from private game reserve owners during the game auction at the Thomas Baines Reserve in June. Although the number of animals sold were less than half of those sold 2002, the auction still managed to approach last year's R6.3-million. The auction sold wild animals from 7 government-owned reserves. The most popular animal on auction were 18 the Cape buffalo sold for just over R2-million. 18 mountain zebras were achieved a total price of R270 000. 46 bontebok were sold for R71 000 and a young white rhino bull went for R140 000.

Chief Director Albert Mfenyana said that government was encouraging people from historically disadvantaged backgrounds and communities to get involved in the game sector, but that it was a complex business. He stated, that people have to understand how it works, how a game sale like this works, how game farming works and how jobs are created..

South Africa

Details about the following gazetted environmental draft bills can be downloaded from the SA government websites. *National Environmental Management Draft First Amendment Bill (Gazette 25052, Notice 752)*, *National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Draft Bill (Gazette 25052, Notice 753)*, *National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Draft Bill (Gazette 24935, Notice 1581)*.

SADC

IUCN announced the appointment of Dr James Murombedzi as the new Regional Director for its Regional Office for Southern Africa. Dr Murombedzi joins the IUCN from the Ford Foundation where he was responsible for developing and implementing the Foundation's initiative on securing land and resource rights for marginalized constituencies in southern Africa.

Zimbabwe

When Zimbabwe designated a 5000 Km² stretch of southern savannah as the Gonarezhou National Park in 1966, the new park boundaries did more than protect the wildlife within the park, they locked people out. The government forcibly relocated a number of traditional communities that had lived on the land for generations. In 1982, the government gave limited permission for locals to benefit from sport hunting in wilderness areas outside the park when it adopted the Communal Areas Management Program for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE).

However, communities are now pushing for more than sport hunting rights; they want land and resources back. "We have learned in the past 40 years that communities outside parks must be allowed to benefit from the environmental goods and services those protected areas produce" said Dr Miller (World Resources Institute). "Only then do we see truly sustainable parks and viable communities with proper human services".

Tanzania

Tanzania's Finance Minister Basil Mramba announced during his budget speech in the Tanzanian Parliament that the 5% import duty imposed on the temporary import of firearms of visiting hunters will be waived. Until now, visiting sportsmen had to pay 5% duty on the declared value of firearms. Mramba stated that the waiving of the duty should have a

positive influence on hunting related tourism.

South Africa

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) has announced the appointment of Yolana Friedman to the post of Conservation Manager. Yolana has worked for the EWT since 1996 and most recently, initiated and managed the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG of the SSC/IUCN) Southern Africa, under the banner of the EWT.

South Africa

The 2003 Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Game Auction was attended by over 1 000 people, despite of the adverse conditions like the drought in Southern Africa and the difficult world economy. The price achieved for black rhino fell R50,000 short of the expected half million tag. Almost 1600 head of game, including 40 white rhino were sold. The total sales figure was just over 19 million Rand – an excellent improvement over last year's figure under the circumstances.

France

The 6th International Wildlife Ranching Symposium will be held in Paris in July 2004. For details please contact igf@fondation-igf.fr

South Africa

The De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Trust near Johannesburg, suggests that the rise of private game farming has intensified a long conflict between farmers and cheetahs. At least 200 wild cheetahs - from a wild population that may now be as low as 250 – have been killed or removed from their wild habitat in South Africa over the last 2 years according to the center. De Wildt has responded to the killings, and to calls to allow hunting of the cats in South Africa, by launching a country-wide census that will use aircraft, radio collars, video cameras and genetic testing to obtain the first ever

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The Basis for Hunting is Conservation

- Hunters harvest species which permit sustainable use
- Hunters strive for wildlife and habitat equilibrium
- Hunters accept responsibility for non-game animals
- Hunters are actively engaged in the conservation and the protection of species

Hunters Observe a Code of Ethics

- Hunters respect the rules of fair chase
- Hunters respect and obey all laws
- Hunters set high ethical parameters and strive for excellence in the field
- Hunters ensure humane wildlife harvesting practices
- Hunters constantly hone their skills

Hunters & Hunting Project a Positive Image

- Hunters are reliable and competent partners to the public and conservation organizations
- Hunters respect the needs and requirements of others for enjoyment of nature
- Hunters cooperate with indigenous communities supporting their right to the sustainable use of nature
- Hunters inform the public and the media of their objectives, about problems, solutions and achievements

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9 News from Africa

hensive survey of a national cheetah population.

Namibia

A private German initiative, led by Carlo von Opel seeks to support San people in Namibia. 5 young San men, who presently study in Windhoek to become teachers have received bursaries. These young men will eventually educating San youth in their own language. Only 20 San from a population of 90 000 are being educated at a secondary institution right now. The initiative is also cooperating with the German-Nambian-Development Association. Both groups plan eventually to purchase a farm, which could be handed over to the San. The website www.unternehmenbuschmaenner.de gives details about the initiative.

South Africa

Concessions were allocated in Kruger, Cape Peninsula, Addo, Golden Gate National Parks and the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. SANParks Peter Fernhead explained that concessions granted to private enterprise are not accompanied by land ownership and are not for the "exclusive use" of the successful concessionaires. According to Fernhead, "successful applicants are responsible for the full cost of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), construction of the lodge, marketing and performance bond".

This happened with the increasing encouragement from SA government for SANParks to enter into Public Private Partnerships (PPP) as a source of long-term sustainability. The government has recently allocated R76 million to SANParks to be used to grow the size of the nation's parks. This comes with the understanding that these funds are used for purchasing more national parks, and not for administration. These steps will ultimately increase the base of South Africa's national parks, support the growing eco-tourism requirements, and encourage SANParks to step in line with solid business principles and triple bottom line accountability. Sustainability requires a long-term view with quantitative accountability to business, society and the environment.

Namibia

Concern has been expressed previously over the chaos that erupts during the peak tourist season at the Hoanib River - the prime area to see desert elephant. Between 30 to 50 vehicles per day were counted. Detailed articles in outdoor magazines in South Africa on the Hoanib and its elephants have sparked a wave of visitors. Off-road driving, including quad biking, has become a major problem. "Save the Rhino Trust" said another problem was big groups camping at waterholes in the river. Elephants could walk as far as 70km to find water, only to find a large group of people at a waterhole. As tourism is growing at a rapid rate in the country, there is an urgent need for better control and restrictions to avoid potentially fatal incidents with wild animals.

South Africa

Dumisani Makhaye, KZN Agriculture and Environmental Affairs MEC, seeks an amendment to the KZN Conservation Management Act that would abolish the Ezemvelo Board and transfer the executive authority of the body to his own office. and establish a KZN Conservation Advisory Body, made up

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7 Game Meat and South African Consumers

to buy game meat in butchery rather than a supermarket. Half of the total group of consumers said that they will buy and cook game meat themselves. This is interesting, as only 40% indicated that they know how to cook game meat, and most of this 40% still consider "drowning" game meat in vinegar or red wine, as a suitable cooking method.

How do consumers feel about game meat?

Consumers named the healthiness and leanness of game meat as the two most positive attributes. The price and availability of game meat was seen as the negative attributes of game meat. Black consumers were concerned with the hygiene and smell of game meat.

The culling of game animals is often surrounded with emotional responses from consumers. Half of the consumers in this research had no opinion on culling of game animals. 37% were against culling. Of this group that were against game culling, most indicated that they will eat game meat. It is thus apparent that culling is not really an issue for most consumers. Most consumers (73%) have, however, never hunted.

Availability of game meat

The availability of game meat is still surrounded by many contradictions. It is apparent that consumers do not see game meat as a meat type that is readily available. They indicated that game meat is "sometimes" available in their area, but that it is mostly unavailable during summer. It is apparent that consumers still have the idea that winter (traditional hunting season) is the only time of the year that game meat is supposed to be available. With night cropping on exempted game ranches, meat availability should not be restricted to the winter months of the year. It is possible that this idea of game meat as a winter meat, is further strengthened by the "traditional" picture of a venison pie or stew.

Consumers and the marketing of game meat

Many consumers consider game meat as the most expensive meat type on the market, while it actually depends on where you buy game meat and on the cuts that you buy. The consumers further indicated that they are not willing to pay more for game meat than for other meat types. The species that most consumers (in the Western Cape) have eaten include springbok and kudu. In other areas impala would probably be most popular.

Consumers do not agree on what they expect from the quality of any meat type that they buy. They did, however, indicate that they prefer meat with a lower fat content. On average, game meat has less than 2% fat. Consumers are not aware of this fact. They also indicated that they expect game meat to be of a lower quality than other meat types. In an industry without standardized cuts or quality control (the new laws are not yet in place), it is understandable that consumers are not informed on the quality characteristics of game meat. It is therefore no surprise that 81% of consumers have never seen any game meat promotional activities. What is interesting, however, is that more than half of the consumers would buy game meat more often if they were better informed on health benefits, preparation and cooking methods of game

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9 News from Africa

of conservation management experts and environmental law experts. Board members and conservation groups in KZN warned that the move would spell disaster for conservation ethics and biodiversity management.

South Africa

PHASA informs us that hunters arriving with firearms in South Africa have to ensure sufficient time to process the temporary importation at point of entry. Hunters should also be aware of the obligatory proof of ownership by way of a gun license, customs declaration from the country of origin. The temporary import permit must also show name and address of the outfitter with fixed and mobile phone numbers. These permits are not transferable, i. e. firearms have to be exported by the person who imported them. No temporary import permits will be issued for person under 21 years of age.

Hunters should also be aware that the temporary import is absolutely free and nobody has the right to charge any fee.

If you want to keep updated on this matter look into www.saps.org.za or contact PHASA at phasa@pixie.co.za

Thank you for the copy of "African Indaba". I would very much like the newsletter regularly, and also the previous 3 copies. May I circulate your newsletter to the rest of ALWG?

Sarel van der Merwe

Chair: African Lion Working Group (IUCN/SSC)

Thank you for including me on the recipient list. Please can the first three issues be made available to us for posting to our departmental resource centre.

Dr. P E. "Trish" Hanekom

Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment & Land Affairs

I think your African Indaba Newsletter is great. Congratulations on putting out such an excellent product. Keep up the good work!

Ray Lee

CEO – Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS)

Thank you very much for the copy of Indaba, which I really enjoyed. Please send me the first three editions as well, as much of the reading material is very applicable to the activities we are promoting in Namibia.

L. Chris Weaver,

WWF/LIFE Programme

Many thanks for emailing these two issues to me. I would appreciate receiving future issues, so please put my name on your mailing list. While I am not a hunter myself, I appreciate that hunting has contributed significantly to conservation in this country.

Dr Ian Whyte

Specialist Scientist: Large Herbivores, Kruger National Park

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7 Game Meat and South African Consumers

meat. But who is supposed to inform the consumer?

What can we conclude?

Consumers are ill-informed regarding game meat and will buy game meat if they are better informed. They want meat that is low in fat, and game meat can provide a low fat meat with excellent nutritional value. The perception that game meat is supposed to be of inferior quality is shocking and should be contested by hunters, farmers and game meat producers everywhere. It is time we take pride in this natural resource of ours and prevent the marketing of game meat of inferior quality.

Do consumers consider game meat as a healthy delicacy or is it too rough on the palate? It seems that consumers have a very traditional perception of game meat but that they are receptive for new information on game meat. Regrettably, we have much to learn from the Australian and New Zealand venison industry as far as promotion and quality control is concerned. Promoting game meat in South Africa can further strengthen the game meat export market, as overseas tourists will also become more aware of game meat.

10 Tourism and game meat – An opportunity we can't afford to miss!

South Africa is currently experiencing a massive surge in tourism. Can game meat play a role in attracting overseas tourists?

Tourism is currently said to be the fourth largest industry in South Africa and is growing at a steady rate. This surge in tourism provides South African industries ample opportunity to market "African" products, specifically for tourists. Game is one such product that provides multiple opportunities. Trophy hunting, game watching and various animal curios are but a few of the attractions, but does game meat interest these tourists? We set out to study tourists' knowledge and past experience of game meat, visiting the town of Stellenbosch in the Cape Peninsula of the Western Cape. 60 tourists staying in a popular hotel were questioned on their eating habits as well as their knowledge and perceptions of South African game meat. For the purpose of this study the term "game meat" referred to the fresh meat of all South African ungulates (not ostrich). Game biltong was therefore excluded from this study. The tourists participating were mostly from Germany, Belgium and Britain.

Do the tourists know game meat?

All of the tourists that took part in this research acknowledged that they have eaten game meat before. 90% of these tourists indicated that they enjoy game meat, while 87% said they would definitely eat game meat again in the future. It was apparent that the tourists were better informed on the health benefits of game meat than South African consumers. 80% of the tourists were aware that game meat has health benefits. The tourists listed these health benefits as "low fat",

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11 Boost for the black rhino in South Africa

South Africa's shy and cranky black rhino population received a boost with the announcement of a multi-million rand partnership between WWF and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.

The Black Rhino Range Expansion Project aims to increase numbers of the critically endangered animals by increasing the land available for their conservation, thus reducing pressure on existing reserves and providing new territory.

"We're looking for strategic partnerships with landholders within the species' historic range, initially in KwaZulu-Natal and thereafter further afield," says WWF's project leader Dr Jacques Flamand. "The landholders won't necessarily have been traditionally involved in conservation and they could be from the private, community or state sectors." Once partnerships have been formalized, founder populations of about 20 black rhino will be released simultaneously on the land. Experience has shown that releasing relatively large groups simultaneously is optimal for rapid population growth.

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife has a world-class track record in white rhino conservation and is also one of Africa's most successful black rhino custodians with about 530 of the sub-species *Diceros bicornis minor* in its care, but the provincial conservation organization is running out of space in which the species can breed. Ecologists estimate that for the population growth rate to remain high, the number of black rhino in any area should be kept below 75% of the area's ecological carrying capacity. Some protected areas are possibly already nearing or at carrying capacity.

Rapid population growth can mean the difference between survival and extinction for endangered species. In South Africa was a rapid growth of the overall black rhino population between 1989 and 1996 followed by a leveling off. If rapid growth had been maintained for just 5 more years, South Africa could have had another 250 to 300 black rhino.

Security of existing and new black rhino populations will always be a top priority and a major component of the Black Rhino Range Expansion Project in the continuation of WWF's funding in this area. But focusing exclusively on keeping existing animals safe at the expense of growth "is like keeping your money under the bed in case you get robbed on the way to the bank," says Richard Emslie of the African Rhino Specialist Group. "What on the surface might seem a safe, low-risk strategy could be anything but. It is far more prudent to invest in real growth. 10 years down the line the key question should be "How many rhinos are there?" not "How many rhinos have been poached?"

Source: WWF

If you want to receive an email with a PDF or Word file of the article "Hunters and Conservationists – Natural Allies!" as published by "Africa Geographic" Volume 11, Number 1 please mail G. Damm gerhard@muskwa.co.za and indicate format preference.

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10 Tourism and game meat, an opportunity

"low cholesterol", "low kilojoules" and "no BSE".

It is interesting to see that the absence of BSE (*Bovine spongiform encephalopathy*) was listed as a health benefit. Due to the spread of foot-and-mouth disease, the occurrence of dioxin in poultry and BSE in the 1990s, European consumers are concerned about the safety and quality of meat products. Although these "meat-scares" are no longer a problem, it is apparent that it still is in the minds of consumers. It is evident that game meat export opportunities are strengthened by these "meat scares" and that SA exporters should focus on marketing game meat as a "safe" and "healthy" meat type.

Where is game meat eaten?

92% of the tourists have eaten game meat in restaurants and hotels in South Africa. More than 75% claimed that game meat is their most favored meat to order in a restaurant in South Africa. We asked the tourists if they would order game meat in South Africa and Europe. It was interesting to see that 91% would order game meat in South Africa, while 88% would also order game meat in Europe. It is possible to conclude from this, that the tourists do not only eat game meat in SA because it is part of an "African" experience, but also because they enjoy it. This provides further evidence for the potential of the export of South African game meat.

Only 10% of the tourists in this research have ever hunted. The tourists were subsequently asked to give their opinion on the culling of game animals. Only 12% felt negative about the culling of game animals. This 12% have, however, all eaten game meat in the past, whilst most indicated that they would eat game meat again in the future. The tourists did, however, mention that if culling should be done, it should be conducted using the correct procedures. It is interesting to compare this with the number of South African consumers (37%) in a similar research project that were opposed to culling of game animals.

The species of game that most tourists have eaten includes warthog, springbok and kudu. Sixty percent of the tourists were not aware of any game meat promotions in SA.

The missing link

The tourists in this research showed that they enjoy game meat, they know it well and they want to consume game meat in both Africa and Europe. The demand for game meat by tourists visiting SA is therefore by no means a problem in the game meat industry. Farmers, meat traders and restaurants should make use of the opportunities tourism provides.

It is possible to conclude that the missing link in the game meat and tourism equation is marketing. Tourists, along with SA consumers confirmed that game meat marketing is not visible. Marketing does not only involve promotions, but it also involves identifying target consumers, manufacturing products consumers want, and promoting it that consumers will buy it. As an example, European consumers are concerned with meat safety. It would therefore benefit game meat sales to use meat safety issues in the marketing of game meat. The possibilities are endless. Game meat and tourism provides an opportunity you can't afford to miss.

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12 Elephant Culling – More Food for Thought

By Gerhard R Damm

“The painful die-off [of Tsavo elephants and rhinos in 1971] was nature’s response to an overburdened, over-pressured, rapidly deteriorating, absolutely finite wasteland of ruined wood including thousand-year-old baobab trees, eaten through and fallen over, sometimes squashing two or three hungry elephants in one crash of timber”

From the afterword of the 1988 edition of Peter Beard’s book “The End of the Game” (ISBN Number 0-8118-2881-6)

Southern Africa has a major elephant issue and it's not one that animal welfare groups in the West like to highlight.

For the entire month of August South African papers carried headlines like “No policy on elephant culling”, “Open season on Kruger elephants”, “No culling of elephants, says Moosa”, “Kruger elephants safe for now, says parks boss”, “No change in policy on elephant culling”, “Mega solution to jumbo problem”, and the latest on August 31st, “Kruger elephants face new cull”. Talk shows on radio took on the topic and quite a number of people got their say. Not all were qualified, though – but since we live in a pluralistic society, that’s part of our democratic liberties. Unfortunately these liberties entail that we have to endure the lamentations and boycott-threats of international animal rights organizations like the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and from extremists like the rather misnamed Kalahari Raptor Center closer to home.

Academia also had its say with Professor Rudi van Aarde (University of Pretoria) advocating as solution the creation of a mega-park straddling the entire subcontinent. Van Aarde said in an interview “In the mega-park, natural forces and not current management actions should limit populations.” Van Aarde believes that the fragmented nature of Southern Africa’s [elephant] population has not provided the answers to the challenges of modern conservation. He says if elephants were allowed to move freely throughout the region, the population would stabilize naturally. Professor van Aarde just has to look at the map of Southern Africa, take stock of the political realities in the countries which form the subcontinent, and consider the pressing needs of a generally desperately poor rural population to find an answer to his thesis. I do not even dare to calculate the cost of acquiring the huge tracts of land his proposals imply, nor contemplate the social and infrastructural consequences.

Professor van Aarde’s solution would take first prize in a Utopian Africa, which never was and never will be! Despite of the commendable efforts of peace and transfrontier conservation areas, the dream of one huge sub-continental “mega-park” will remain a dream, although we should all work to assist in creating a transfrontier network as large and as complex as possible, but - under the realities of Africa of today. And these realities primarily call for massive investment in poverty alleviation of millions of Africans and not daydream-

ing of a “subcontinent wide mega-park” during a time when a series of complex issues are making it rather difficult to achieve the already very ambitious transfrontier park plans. In this context it appears also rather cynical to call for unlimited time and even more funds to prevent the death of some elephants; elephants which are involuntarily but nevertheless effectively destroying the biodiversity which we are all constitutionally charged to conserve! There is, quite bluntly, little additional space for them in the face of surging and impoverished human populations.

Let’s, however, assume that van Aarde gets – through the commendable efforts of Peace Parks Foundation – at least in part what he wants, namely interlinked parks.

Kruger is overpopulated by elephants. Despite the much publicized merging of KNP, Gonarezhou and Coutada 16, the Kruger elephants haven’t started their migration yet. Most of those “forcefully” translocated moved back! Madikwe Game Reserve is almost at double its carrying capacity – reached in a mere decade, despite of a good number having been translocated to other reserves. The ecological damage done there is obvious. Pilanesberg Reserve runs at almost triple capacity of its elephant management plan. And the media reports now speak of sixty reserves in South Africa facing an elephant overpopulation problem. What will the “linkage” of these overpopulated reserves achieve – assuming it would be achievable within a relatively short time span?

. Another academic, Professor Rob Slotow of the University of Natal, admits that certain South African elephant populations are experiencing annual growth rates of incredible 15%! He is even quoted in the Sunday Independent of August 24th saying that all populations will be over their planned stocking rates within a few years. Yet, Slotow argues for “modern contraception methods” for elephants, and promises that “rapid technical advances would soon make it a viable management procedure”, although with the caveat, “in certain areas”. How soon is soon, and which areas is he referring to? Significantly, Rob Slotow said on August 16th in the same paper that research showed that at present contraception is extremely viable in small populations, but is not currently viable in larger populations. Rob Slotow points to his study under way at the Makalali Game Reserve, where all adult females (*tell us how many, Sir, and at what effort and cost*) have been contracepted. He adds that to implement this in a large reserve such as KNP would need a very detailed plan, vast resources, and a dramatic increase in capacity. So how many years will it take - provided a suitable contraceptive method is available – until we see a population decreasing effect? And to what level will the elephant population grow in the meantime?

Elephant have a complex social life; a social life which is built on family groups. How would the “childless” elephant cows and how would the bulls - deprived of receptive cows - react? But that could form the basis for a few more lovely research projects for academia.

Our national and international obligations in maintaining biodiversity in protected areas (and even more important, to restore biodiversity on as much land as possible outside of formally protected areas) dictate that we act fast – at least much faster than a lot of the so-called “pure scientists” would like. These “pure scientists” are the ones who usually and

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continuously call on the application of the “Precautionary Principle”. It is evident that every adaptive wildlife management approach can be questioned by invoking the principle, thus creating more questions than provide answers. The precautionary principle supplies the “pure scientists” with a continuously with new and often self-serving research projects.

Wildlife and protected area managers in Africa, if they do not want to be condemned to a life of inaction, cannot wait for so-called final answers, which might never come anyhow. The “pure scientists” will take care of that. Admittedly, the good people in charge of our parks have to base their actions upon objective predictions made from the analysis of available scientific research data. However, not only data relevant to the animals and plants have to be taken into account, but science and research in wildlife must also include political, sociological and economic factors of the nation.

“Pure scientists” do not provide the multidisciplinary answers to pressing conservation questions.

But luckily there are research scientists whose purpose in doing research is to evaluate certain ecological circumstances to assist the work of protected area managers. The purpose of such evaluation is to come up with a scientifically-based set of measured values that can be used to determine what management action is needed to reverse unwanted ecological trends in a conservation area. These management-orientated scientists are actually those whose voices should be heard. Actions, which are the result of that cooperation fall under the heading “adaptive management”! No self-perpetuating research and risk assessment without action, but a carefully managed response to existing uncertainties by using scientific, practical and traditional knowledge translated into small management steps, whilst continuously monitoring and recording the effects.

An interdisciplinary scientific research program, which acknowledges the necessity of the controlled loop of *adaptive wildlife management*, which deals both with the status quo and possible consequences of management actions, in contrast to a purely traditional scientific precautionary approach, therefore seems to be the future of conservation, and especially of the conservation of the beleaguered elephant.

Having said this, we have to accept that any adaptive conservation management activity carries a risk, however infinitesimal, of serious or irreversible harm. It is, however, also true that inconclusive action, or the lack of any action carries far larger risks. Appropriate safeguards against abuse by pressure groups of all denominations – scientific and/or emotional – should therefore be present in order to prevent that adaptive conservation management activities be forestalled, or unduly influenced by wasteful, disruptive or even counterproductive interference.

Luckily, sounds of reason are also to be heard in the elephant debate. Dr Ian Whyte, a specialist scientist at KNP and member of the IUCN elephant specialist group said that he believed neither relocating elephants nor contraception were viable options. Whyte stated: "We calculated that to move 1100 elephants with our available resources into Mozambique would take about 3 years at a cost of R15 million. We could raise that money but the total KNP population is increasing at more than 700 animals a year so by the time we had moved

the original number, we would still have a growth of at least 1000 animals." In SABC online, Dr. Ian Whyte said: “With elephants in a protected area, you have two choices, you manage the area to maintain biodiversity or else you have an elephant sanctuary; you cannot have both, since at some stage elephants will start to impact on biodiversity.”

Hector Magome, Conservation Director of SANParks, says that “culling is the only realistic option left, since contraception and much bigger parks have been tried without delivering the desired result” and his boss, CEO Mavuso Msimang added “We are in the business of managing biodiversity. We are not quite in the business of sentiment”.

And encouragingly, a member of private business, Les Carlisle, environmental director of Conservation Corporation Africa, a leading African lodge operator, is quoted saying "Protecting biodiversity is our mandate and the mega-herbivores have a staggering impact. Elephants and humans are the only mammals with the ability to destroy the habitat on which they depend for survival. They have to take action now or they will lose the park.”

Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mr. Valli Moosa, was quoted on September 2nd on SABC online with the following remark: "Some people in the West are still under the impression that the elephant population in southern Africa is under threat. They are not a threatened or endangered species. The fact of the matter is that southern Africa does have an elephant overpopulation."

The South African elephant woes shrink in significance however looking to neighboring Botswana. Joseph Matlhare, director of Botswana National Parks and Wildlife puts the countries elephant population at a staggering 123 000. Very similar problems exist in Zimbabwe, where the total population – estimated in the 1998 census to a maximum of 80 000 animals - should have reached and surpassed 100 000 by now if we take a low 6% annual growth into account.

Professor van Aarde’s dream of a subcontinental mega-park; his colleague’s Professor Johan du Toit’s “seed pulse theory” in Botswana’s Chobe area; the “big cycle theory” in which elephants naturally destroy their forest periodically making room for increasing number of plains game; the argument that the dead bodies of elephants return much needed elements to the soil – none of these theories do anything to alleviate the poverty of the rural population, they do not address or even consider socio-political aspects, they do not take into account the realities of 21st century Africa, and most of all, they do not provide solutions for the problem at hand: that the finite elephant range in Southern Africa is heavily overpopulated by pachyderms and to a large extent surrounded by too many of us. Some of the mentioned theories sadly remind me of Tacitus’ words: “*They make a desert and call it peace*”!

On March 13th, Dr. Mike Norton-Griffiths addressed the East African Wildlife Society with the provocative question “how many Wildebeest do you need? How many elephants are enough”? In his discourse he presented a detailed tally of the failures of the Kenyan Wildlife Service., calling KWS “a total and unmitigated failure”. Kenya has lost 50% of the wildlife under KWS “management” over the past 25 years, consuming untold millions of dollars in the process, in what must be a world record of conservation incompetence.

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Not only did KWS – a cherished ally of the international animal rights movement - achieve to loose the wildlife in the national parks – their incompetence spread out to encompass the entire country. Under the Kenyan Wildlife Ordinance of 1952 the landowners had the right to utilize wildlife in any way they wished. In 1976 the value of sport hunting, cropping, and sale and capture of wildlife was, in today's money, worth around \$200 million. A large proportion of these revenues went to the pastoral landowners who supported the wildlife resource. Consequently, up to 1976, wildlife was husbanded and encouraged and survived in significant numbers. 1977 was a watershed, for this is when all consumptive utilization of wildlife was banned under Legal Notice 120 with the able help of a certain Dr Richard Leakey. This effectively stopped the flow of all direct benefits to landowners, after which wildlife became simply a cost with no associated benefits. The result – an 80% loss of wildlife in Kenya's non-protected areas!

Meaningful conservation can be done given the right conditions, says Norton-Griffiths, in an enabling policy environment; with well defined property rights over land and wildlife resources; rights to use wildlife and trade in live game and wildlife products; and a strong international demand for wildlife viewing and sport hunting.

KWS was ably assisted in their sheer incompetence and monstrous failures and in the uncompromising rejection of any consumptive wildlife use by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). IFAW even managed to have its former director appointed as KWF CEO – but luckily the new Kenyan government sacked him some months ago.

These very same IFAW people, with their Southern Africa director Jason Bell-Leask, are now trying to bully South African politicians, conservationists and the public with the threat of international tourist boycotts. They and their ilk of HSUS rather risk a catastrophe against which the Tsavo elephant die-off will look like a benign affair. The Southern African range states manage their elephant herds conscientiously and successfully, yet the Western non-use and anti-culling campaigns deny Africans to derive maximum benefit from a combination of sustainable non-consumptive and consumptive use options of a uniquely African resource!

We must not allow the Kenyan failures to be repeated in Southern Africa. It is time that South Africans stand up against those ill-advised pressure groups. The South African Constitution, our country's membership in the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and a number of post Rio-1992 treaties give our politicians a clear mandate to conserve and enhance biodiversity – and if that means culling of elephant, it must be done.

Dr. Norton-Griffiths' final words in his lecture are also a fitting end to this article:

“So, how many elephant do you need? Clearly - just enough and not one more!!”

The struggle to conserve elephants holds indeed some lessons!

CONTACT INFORMATION HUNTING ASSOCIATIONS IN AFRICA

Confederation of Hunting Associations of SA (CHASA), PO Box 184, Bethal 2310, RSA, phone: 017-647-5882, fax: 017-647-4057 **Consult CHASA for a listing of affiliated South African sport hunting associations and contact these associations directly for membership information.**

Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa (PHASA), PO Box 10264, Centurion 0046, RSA, phone 012-667-2048, cell 084-449-8962, fax 012-667-2049, phasa@pixie.co.za, www.professionalthunters.co.za

Eastern Cape Game Management Association (ECGMA), POB 1344, Uitenhage 6230, RSA, phone & fax 041-922-7618, ecgma@global.co.za www.ecgma.co.za

African Professional Hunters' Association (APHA), PO Box 24919, Nairobi, Kenya, phone 254-2-891809, ravnep@swiftkenya.com

Botswana Wildlife Management Association (BWMA), Private Bag 095, Maun. Botswana, phone 267-686 2673, trophy@info.bw

Namibian Professional Hunter's Association (NAPHA), PO Box 11291 Windhoek, Namibia, phone 264-61-234455, napha@natron.net www.natron.net/napha

Zimbabwe Professional Hunters and Guides Association (ZPHGA), P.O. Box 7240, Harare, Zimbabwe, p 263-4-708878, pangeti@zct.co.zw

Tanzania Professional Hunters' Association (TZPHA), PO Box 3483, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, p 255-22-26666174 tzpha@hotmail.com

Professional Hunters' Association of Zambia (PHAZ) Postnet 184, Pte. Bag E835, Lusaka, Zambia, p: 260-1-251-946, suedale@zamnet.zm

SA Wingshooters Association, PO Box 11022, Maroelana 0161, admin@wingshooters.co.za www.wingshooters.co.za

If your association is not included, or if address details have changed, please contact African Indaba, gerhard@muskwa.co.za

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