

# AFRICAN INDABA

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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

## African Rhinos: A Near Disaster May Lead to a Sustainable Future!

Editorial by Gerhard R Damm

For more than two decades now, controlled and highly regulated trophy hunting of white rhino contributed significantly to the renaissance of the species on private lands in South Africa; the white rhino success story was one principal reason for the CITES parties to the eventual granting of a restricted quota to Namibia and South Africa for black rhino. Hopes were and are high that a similar conservation victory would be won for the black rhino.

In 2006 something happened, however, which nobody had foreseen. Suddenly a large number of hunters from Asia discovered their passion for rhino hunting. You read right – for rhino hunting, not hunting per se! The target was in many cases not one, but up to half a dozen rhinos. We reported about this and the emergency actions taken by the Professional Hunters Association of South Africa (PHASA) in February 2008 (AI Vol 6/2, page 17).

Since price is a function of supply and demand, the prices for the limited resource “white rhino safaris” started an inexorable upward movement, slow at first, but with the momentous demand from the East showing no sign of slack, quite the contrary, the price of a typical rhino safari soon reached and passed 100,000 dollars. Of course, any entrepreneur who holds the coveted goods will smile at such a development, and some rhino-holding landowners in South Africa did just that. Warning calls from the international hunting community and CITES experts were ignored. The folks from the East were confidently labeled bona-fide hunters without much ado by some; we even heard that *“we welcome the hunters from the East just as much as we do welcome those from America”*. Those who raised their warning voices were called dreamers without a connection to the real world of hard money and return on investment.

We have even heard of proposals being made to DEAT to consider drafting a proposal for the next CITES CoP to permit farming rhino for regular horn harvest and trade in the cut horn for the traditional medicine market.

In fact, these very people are the dreamers, but by dreaming of a monetary manna falling from the heavens in form of rhino horn, they are actually endangering years of hard work by conservationists and hunters to bring the rhino and many

other species back from the brink. They forget that well regulated trophy hunting and the international hunting community are the major driving factors in the South African Conservation Revolution (Flack 2002). They forget that scientifically sound ecological principles are one of the underlying purposes of private conservation and wildlife management. To deservedly use the proud phrase “The South African Conservation Revolution”, the stakeholders in the wildlife industry – in particular the landowners – need to ensure that the conservation of biodiversity on their land is based on these principles. Economics, sustainable financial returns on investment and socio-political aspects

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

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**African Rhino: A Near Disaster May Lead to a Sustainable Future**

with broad-based public support are other factors to be considered.

It took some people many months to recognize how serious the rhino issue in southern Africa has become and it is high time to wake up for those who still sleep.

Rhino poaching and fraudulent trophy hunting of rhino was a focal discussion point at the 57<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CITES Standing Committee in Geneva (Switzerland), 14-18 July 2008. The CITES Secretariat highlighted the increasing illegal trade in rhinoceros horn and that some of this trade appeared to involve horns that had been obtained as a result of legal trophy hunting. This points towards considerable fraud in some sectors of the legal hunting of rhinoceros (Source SC57 Doc. 34). CITES member states, especially those from the SADC region, and organizations such as WWF, IUCN, TRAFFIC consider the illicit trade of rhino and its linkage to organized crime and money-laundering the most serious issue facing CITES and urged the CITES Standing Committee to take immediate action. Indeed the rhino populations in the states bordering South Africa are under severe threat and poaching incidents especially in the Zimbabwe Lowveld, but also in protected areas in South Africa are on an alarming increase.

What has been said a year ago, namely that in South Africa legal hunting is being abused and that illegal trade is using the cover of legal hunting prompted DEAT and PHASA into action (see African Indaba Vol. 6/4, page 12). PHASA actually put a strong-worded circular to all members already in mid February 2008. Yet these actions did not prevent opportunistic anti-hunting countries and NGOs to enter into strong anti-hunting rhetoric. Just as we had warned it would happen. It remains to be seen to what ends this rhetoric will built up when we approach the next CITES Conference of Parties.

Fortunately the South African authorities announced a national moratorium on the trade in individual rhino horns on 11 April 2008 to give provincial and South African National Parks (SANParks) enforcement officers a chance to ensure that approaches and protocols for dealing with the trade in rhino horn are consistent and comply with biodiversity conservation requirements. A national audit of privately owned rhino seems also to be under way in the country. It stands to reason that those who own live black and/or white rhino or horns from animals found dead in the veld will finally recognize the importance of full and fast cooperation with the authorities.

It is an open secret that South African authorities are cooperating with INTERPOL and the CITES Law Enforcement Task Force. Criminal investigations are in progress, prosecutions will be forthcoming and penalties will most likely be severe. CITES law enforcement officers and TRAFFIC staff have been in South Africa and cases are built for the prosecution. There is no lawful use of rhino horn anywhere in the world and all non-trophy use is illegal and remains so. Trophy hunting will be rhino's top value for the foreseeable future – thus prices above the customary value of white rhino hunts are suspicious and will probably draw criminal investigations.

What will happen now? Let us assume that the law en-

forcement actions bite. We will see a drop in prices of live rhino at game auctions. The true bona fide hunters who seek a trophy hunt for white rhino will again get a "normal" price. Speculation and illegal use will exit from the equation and the market will be not less free to determine the price by demand and supply, yet just by excluding illegal demand, the prices will not reach the astronomical figures seen in the past 12 months. However, there is still enough financial incentive for game ranchers not to despair.

Hunters were the first to raise the red flag of alert more than a year ago; Conservation Force Chairman and CIC Sustainable Use Commission President John J Jackson II made passionate pleas to the stakeholders to act decisively. PHASA for its part did just so and in time. International hunting associations must now follow suit, alert their members and encourage measures to bring any illegal activities to a halt and/or help mend any loopholes.

The future of the private conservation efforts as important contribution towards the National Conservation Strategy of South Africa and its neighboring states will rest on the correct combination of the three pillars of sustainability: **Ecology** (measured in the conservation contribution, the diversity of indigenous species in healthy habitats, and improvement of genetic diversity, etc); **Economy** (capability for yielding a return on investment and profitability, conservation self-sufficiency, etc.), and **Social Responsibility** (public interest of conservation, identifying, addressing and solving the issues of BEE and community participation, traditional indigenous hunting, etc.). Not one of these three pillars may be excluded. Therefore a "Triple Bottom Line" approach appears to be the only solution.

Game ranchers with the triple bottom line approach derive income from ecotourism, hunting, culling, cropping or live sales or any combination thereof. They may even include intensive species-focused breeding of rare species, if their operational and spatial structures allow such subdivision, in order to maximize the potential of a triple bottom line approach. At the same time game ranchers should urgently explore innovative approaches like the formation of large conservancies under common management schemes in order to keep in tune with market demands for an adventure under the limitless African skies. Hunters prefer large areas without internal subdivisions. Ecotourists also find them more attractive and more akin to the "Old Africa". Game and veld management will be less complicated and less susceptible to climatic changes and disease incidents on large conservancies. Conservancies are ideally suited for the inclusion of communities (CPAs) and BEE partners and last not least they have the highest triple bottom line potential.

South African game ranchers and their colleagues from professional hunting need to take a positive attitude and think forward in these difficult and challenging times. Pro-active engagement in holistic biodiversity conservation initiatives, participation in wildlife research and an integrated approach to natural resource management is important cornerstones which need to be included in the South African Wildlife Model. This will not only ensure the continued prosperity of the wildlife industry and its important economic contributions to the South African GNP, but last not least continue the Conservation Revolution!

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

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## The Other Food Crisis

*“Conservation and Use of Wildlife-Based Resources: The Bushmeat Crisis”*, published by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and CIFOR, summarizes the state of knowledge on this topic. According to Nasi *et al*, the bushmeat trade constitutes a significant, if largely hidden, component of the economies of tropical forest countries, with estimates ranging from US\$42-205 million per year for countries in West and Central Africa. However, “voluminous and varied” empirical evidence suggests that current rates of bushmeat extraction are unsustainable, and are leading to wildlife depletion in many areas. Large mammal species are particularly vulnerable, and many are already locally extinct.

The “empty forest syndrome” is not just of interest to conservationists. Bushmeat is an important source of protein and fats in rural diets – up to 80 percent in Central Africa – as well as an important seasonal safety net. And in many countries, there is no clear substitute available if wild meat sources were to be depleted, or off-take reduced to sustainable levels.

Bushmeat’s importance to rural livelihoods is not restricted to its direct consumption. Research suggests that the poorest households are more dependent than the rich on bushmeat sales to local and urban markets. Thus, the conventional wisdom that commercial trade can be banned without harming the subsistence needs of the poor is misguided.

The report suggests that sustainable management of bushmeat resources requires different approaches for different species and circumstances. For example, species with low intrinsic population growth rates and high dependence on undisturbed habitat – such as gorillas – are particularly vulnerable to overhunting. By contrast, fast reproducing generalist species that thrive in agricultural mosaics – such as duikers or rodents – may be very resilient to hunting pressure. Blanket bans on hunting and trade that don’t discriminate between these extremes are bound to fail.

The authors argue that the solution to the bushmeat crisis is a more secure rights regime: if local people are guaranteed the benefits of sustainable land use and hunting practices, they will be willing to invest in sound management and negotiate selective hunting regimes. Sustainable management of bushmeat resources requires bringing the sector out into the open, removing the stigma of illegality, and including wild meat consumption in national statistics and planning.

Reframing the bushmeat problem from one of international animal welfare to one of sustainable livelihoods – and part of the global food crisis – might be a good place to start.

Nasi, R.; Brown, D.; Wilkie, D.; Bennett, E.; Tutin, C.; van Tol, G.; Christophersen, T. 2007. *Conservation and Use of Wildlife-Based Resources: The Bushmeat Crisis*. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, and Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Bogor. Technical Series no. 33, 50 pages.

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-33-en.pdf>

## Robin Hurt Wildlife Foundation

The Robin Hurt Wildlife Foundation, formerly known as the Cullman and Hurt Community Wildlife Project, was founded by Robin A. Hurt with the assistance and contributions of Joseph F. Cullman III in 1990 on the conviction that wildlife and its habitat can only be conserved by involving the local people, and from that involvement, give them a direct benefit from the wildlife among which they live. Local communities would be encouraged to help conserve and protect these renewable resources. For a safari operator, intact ecosystems and healthy wildlife populations are its long-term investment; human-poverty is the single greatest threat to that investment.

The project had its origins in the United Republic of Tanzania in 1989. Mr. Hurt’s perceptive philosophy of encouraging local communities to take part in conserving their indigenous wildlife as well as benefiting from its utilization was progressive for the time, but is now the basis for many wildlife programs in Tanzania and Community Based Conservation (CBC) and Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) are words that are now common throughout African conservation circles.

More details on the new RHWF website <http://www.rhwf.org/>

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## Population Biology: The Science of Population Management for Captivity, Reintroduction, and Conservation

Colleen Lynch

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### Population Biology and Conservation

Captive populations, as well as wild populations requiring conservation action, are typically small. As a result, biological and logistical challenges to their successful management exist. Small populations experience high levels of demographic stochasticity (random variation in individual reproduction, mortality, and sex ratio) and deleterious genetic effects, which combine to greatly enhance extinction risk. As genetic effects influence reproduction and mortality rates, populations decline further and demographic stochasticity increases. These declines lead to smaller populations and increased inbreeding and loss of gene diversity. Genetic and demographic effects are therefore highly synergistic. Populations of sizes less than 200 are generally considered to be especially susceptible to synergistic dynamics of demographic and genetic risk.

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### **Population Biology: The Science of ...**

Through the application of standardized methods for population management, these potentially detrimental demographic and genetic effects can be mitigated, and optimal management strategies for captive populations can be devised. Examples of such strategies include those employed by the Species Survival Plan® (SSP) of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the EEP of European Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

The goals of these programs include rapid growth of founding populations to achieve demographically stable populations at program carrying capacities, creation of stable age structures, and limiting extinction risk. Management strives to maintain the genetic variation present in the founder stock to the greatest extent possible, avoiding loss of heterozygosity due to genetic drift and inbreeding, and thus maintaining adaptive potential in populations. These populations are managed both for genetic health in captivity and as genetic reservoirs in the event of future reintroductions to wild populations. To ensure the suitability of these captive populations as genetic reservoirs, management goals also include avoidance of artificial selection, including both the unintentional selection of animals with characteristics "well suited" to captivity, and the intentional selection for or against specific traits. The role of selection in captive populations is poorly understood and maintaining maximum genetic variation is therefore prioritized over selection for or against specific traits.

### **Data for Population Management**

A prerequisite to the development of a population management plan is the compilation and maintenance of a studbook. This is a computerized database of parentage information and life history events (births, deaths, transfers, etc.) for individuals within the population from the time of population founding to the present. Data entered into the studbook should be as complete as possible, but unknown or missing data is to be expected. "Analytical studbooks" incorporating potential or assumed values for missing information can be created and evaluated.

### **Population Status**

Once compiled, studbooks can be analyzed using a variety of software tools. Demographic evaluations of age-structure, population growth rates, and population vital rates (fecundity and mortality) are conducted. Genetic parameters including gene diversity, kinship, and inbreeding are calculated. Studbook analysis is used to examine population history, evaluate current population status, and predict future population status under varying management conditions. Analyses are conducted as part of informed population management planning resulting in specimen-by-specimen recommendations for breeding and non-breeding individuals.

### **Population Management Plans**

Population biologists create population management plans suited to needs of specific programs. These needs vary from the creation of breeding and transfer recommendations for individual animals to overall strategies for long-term management of healthy populations in captivity and the wild. Captive

populations may be managed to supply specimens for exhibit facilities, provide redundancy for endangered wild populations, or to supply in situ conservation plans. Plans include designating animals for breeding, holding, or release. They may include the transfer of individuals between holding facilities or between captive and monitored/managed wild populations through meta-population analysis. Plans are also able to address the special needs of conservation programs by creating genetically informed evacuation strategies for breeding facilities, and nest/den protection prioritizations for monitored wild populations.

In the selection of individuals for conservation programs such as reintroductions, it is critical that the genetic and demographic integrity of the source population be maintained. Indiscriminately selecting animals for reintroductions can have serious genetic and demographic effects, such as skewed founder representation or loss of founder lines, and destabilization of age structure through over-harvest of targeted age classes. Selection of animals for reintroduction must consider the maintenance of the remaining captive population's ability to serve its conservation role into the future, for the perceived extent of the program.

### **Conclusion**

Whatever their role, captive populations must themselves be stable and secure, being managed for demographic and genetic health, to support these functions. Mean kinship management strategies are generally employed, though they may be customized to meet specific program needs. Monogamous, polygamous, and colonial breeders can all be accommodated. Using this strategy, populations can be managed to maintain at carrying capacity or to supply surplus individuals for reintroduction or for export to other managed populations.

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## **New Books of Interest to Hunters & Conservationists**

### **Responsible Tourism: Critical Issues for Conservation and Development**

**Edited by Anna Spenceley**

Conservation efforts are often seen to be in conflict with local livelihoods and resource use - the 'park versus people' debate. 'Responsible tourism' or 'Eco-tourism' is often invoked as a third way that serves both ends. Yet does it actually work in practice? This volume delves deep into practice in southern Africa, the hotbed of innovation on the issue, and provides a comprehensive, evidence based examination of what works and what fails from practitioners working in the region. It opens with an overview of the issues, looks at what sustainable and responsible tourism are in practice and how they may contribute to conservation, poverty alleviation and local economic development. Part

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New Books of Interest to the Hunter-Conservationist

one examines policies and institutions in responsible tourism by governments, donor agencies and NGOs. Part two considers wildlife tourism and ecotourism, looking at local economic development, supply and demand for responsible tourism, certification and fair trade, the economics of wildlife tourism, transfrontier conservation areas, ecological impacts of tourism and other issues. Part three looks at more detailed case studies of community based tourism projects. The book concludes with a synthesis of the key findings with implications for policy, management and the business side of tourism.

Published by Earthscan with the Southern African Sustainable Use Specialist Group (SASUSG) of IUCN  
<http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=26778>

### Evolution and Innovation in Wildlife Conservation: Parks and Game Ranches to Transfrontier Conservation Areas Edited by Helen Suich and Brian Child with Anna Spenceley

The crucible of innovation in wildlife and habitat conservation is in southern Africa, where it has co-evolved with decolonization, political transformation and the rise of development, ownership, management and livelihood debates. Charting this innovation, early chapters deal with the traditional 'fines and fences' conservation that occurred in the colonial and early post-independence period, with subsequent sections focusing on the experimentation and innovation that occurred on private and communal land as a result of the break from these traditional methods. The final section deals with more recent innovations in the sector, focusing on building and strengthening the relationships between parks and society. Importantly, the book provides a data-rich summary of experimentation with more inclusive models of conservation in terms of ecological, social, political and economic indicators.

Published by Earthscan with the Southern African Sustainable Use Specialist Group (SASUSG) of IUCN  
<http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=26775>

## Latest APHA News

Adam Hill retired as Executive Officer of the African Professional Hunters Association (APHA). Hill held the position since 1999 and has left his mark in the development of the Association.

Joe Prather took over the reins from Adam Hill. Prather is the President of Griffin & Howe and a safari hunter of considerable experience and was appointed an honorary member of APHA in 2006. Prather is an American citizen and resides in the USA.

## African Professional Hunters Association (APHA)



The African Professional Hunters Association, is an Association whose membership is strictly limited to only the most experienced Professional Hunters of impeccable integrity who regularly guide Safari Hunters in pursuit of dangerous game (in addition to all other species) in all countries on the Continent. The Members of the Association are the best Professional Hunters in Africa.

The primary objectives of the African Professional Hunters Association are:

- To ensure the continuation of Safari hunting in Africa.
- To ensure that Safari Hunting is undertaken only in an ethical manner.
- To collaborate with and assist all Government authorities and realistic NGO's concerned with all aspects of the conservation of big game and its environment
- To ensure that African game continues to be conserved for the ultimate benefit of the local people who live surrounded by it. Such benefits are best derived from Safari Hunting, the activity that is in the forefront of wildlife conservation. The Association believes that the indigenous people benefiting from their resource of big game will ensure its conservation and that of its environment.

### APHA Code of Ethics

We, APHA members, agree to be bound by the association's code of ethics which require respect for the game we hunt and the habitat entrusted to us. We will obey all laws and will not engage in any unethical methods of hunting. We will make all of clients aware of our ethical standards and insure that they abide by those standards, including the use of proper weapons and adherence to our hunter safety rules.

#### RESPECT for GAME

All APHA members are pledged to show respect for the game they hunt. We will make every effort to track up, find and kill wounded animals irrespective of whether they are dangerous or not. We will not shoot from, or near, a vehicle or aircraft; or shoot animals within a restrictive fence that in any way prevents

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African Professional Hunters Association (APHA)

their escape. "Caged", artificially bred, pregnant females, immature, or previously drugged animals will not be shot. Baiting, where permitted, is acceptable, but meat will not be wasted

**RESPECT for the HABITAT**

All APHA members are pledged to promote, observe and initiate long term respect for the environment, the wildlife and their habitat. We will promote community involvement in safari hunting by the encouragement of village anti poaching activities and by direct monetary benefit earned from the proper legal use of wildlife; and we will assist the relevant Government Game Departments in any way possible.

**OBEYING the LAWS**

All APHA members are pledged to obey all of the Game Laws and to respect the boundaries of individual hunting areas, private land, game reserves, and National Parks. We will not overshoot established quotas. We will count all wounded and lost animals on license. We will not hunt during the hours of darkness.

**PROHIBITED METHODS**

All APHA members are pledged to not use unfair methods of hunting. These methods include chasing of animals with a mechanized vehicle, boat or aircraft; herding or driving animals towards the hunter with any mechanically driven vehicle, boat or aircraft. We will not use aircraft, radios, artificial lights or night vision equipment, or dogs in the hunting of game, unless the methods are specifically permitted by the Wildlife Laws of the country in which we are hunting.

**DEALINGS with CLIENTS**

APHA members will not make farfetched promises and "guarantees" of obtaining specific trophies. Such undertakings will inevitably involve unsporting methods of hunting in order to obtain the "guaranteed" trophy. Neither will the Professional Hunter make suggestions to clients to hunt in an unsporting manner.

The Safari Hunting Client's expectations must be reasonable and based on the concepts of ethical fair chase. The client must not demand or expect "guarantees" from the Professional Hunter for obtaining specific trophies. Neither should the client encourage the Professional Hunter to adopt unsporting hunting methods. APHA members will make every effort to insure that all of our clients are aware of our code of ethics; and we will make every effort to see that our clients abide by our code of ethics.

**PROPER EQUIPMENT**

All APHA members will insure that their clients use proper calibers for hunting big game; for dangerous game, except leopard, .375 magnum and above; for large big game and leopard .300 caliber and above; for medium game .275 caliber and above; and for small game .243 caliber and above.

More information about APHA at <http://www.africanpha.org/>

# FACE Unveils Redesigned Website with More Features and Expanding Content

The *Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU* (FACE) has redesigned its website ([www.face.eu](http://www.face.eu)), making it more user-friendly and contemporary while maintaining the FACE look and feel.

The website provides expanded information about Face's ongoing conservation efforts, promotional campaigns like the recent one on NATURA 2000, ongoing work at the European Parliament's "*Sustainable Hunting, Biodiversity and Countryside*" Intergroup, new publications, as well as further information on hunting in Europe in general. Users can be ensured that they will find the right information and data on sustainable hunting and biodiversity conservation that they came looking for far more quickly.

The website will be the cornerstone for FACE to use to reach out to a diverse range of stakeholders. "*Competition and increasing expectations means that conservation organizations need to develop robust communication and information strategies if they wish to reach their audience,*" said Dr LeCocq.

The site also provides users with clearer structure and layout for the different themes and issues ongoing within the FACE HQ, better links to information, a new interactive Members' map powered by Google, new hunting products and services, and the latest news and events in the world of sustainable hunting and biodiversity conservation.

The *Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU* (FACE) is an international non-profit making, non-governmental organization that acts in the interests of over 7,000,000 European hunters since its founding in 1977. It represents its 36 Members that are national hunters' associations within the Member States of the European Union and other Council of Europe countries, as well as its four Associate Members. Furthermore, FACE has been a member of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) since 1987.

## APHA News

Ms. Natasha Ilum-Berg was unanimously confirmed by the APHA Executive Committee as a member of the most experienced and elite association of Professional Hunters. Ms. Ilum-Berg's record as an extremely experienced and ethical hunter is renowned throughout the world of Professional Hunting in Tanzania. She makes a point of hunting lion by tracking on foot and avoids shooting them from blinds. She also makes a point of doing all her hunting on foot using the vehicle only to reach the hunting grounds. Ms. Ilum-Berg, a thoroughly competent and Professional Hunter, has an enviable record of success for her clients.

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## News from Africa

### Angola

Pedro vaz Pinto continued sending regular reports about his efforts to save the remaining Giant Sable in Angola. Recently he travelled for the first time to the Luando Strict Reserve, the core area of the giant sable distribution, where most giant sables have been photographed, studied or hunted in the past. The land between two rivers, as it was often called stretches for more than 250 km between the Kwanza and the Luando rivers. The Luando River forms a truly spectacular riverine ecosystem, with virtually hundreds of lakes of different sizes in both sides and a maze of channels. The abundance and diversity of birdlife is outstanding, and this should be regarded by its own right as one of the most relevant wetland in southern Africa. Vaz Pinto said that they were shown anharas where giant sables have been reported and they saw could see lots of spoor, fresh and not so fresh. At a small spring where they were told that sable drink almost daily in August and September; they left one digital camera trap after cleaning the area. Vaz Pinto's best guesstimation based on the few data available, points to a maximum population of around 200 hundred palancas. They seem to have been reduced to isolated pockets in some of the most remote or more suitable corners of the reserve.

### Cameroon

Game rangers in Southeast Cameroon confiscated 22 ivory tusks and 11 elephant tails in July in Mikel, a village in Boumba et Ngoko Division, located 740km east of Yaounde. The owner of the tusks, a businessman, had cut each tusk into two halves, packed them in two plastic bags and hidden them in the driver compartment of a fuel tanker en route to Cameroon's economic capital city Douala. The elephants are suspected to have been killed in and around Lobeke (Cameroon) and Dzanga-Ndoki (Central African Republic) national parks. Lobeke National Park has one of the highest densities of forest elephants in the Congo Basin but the park is under pressure from poachers from all sides. TRAFFIC cited Cameroon amongst three countries in the Central African sub-region heavily implicated in the traffic of illicit ivory tusks to international markets.

### DR Congo

The Ngiri-Tumba-Maindombe area in the Democratic Republic of Congo has become the world's largest Wetland of International Importance, officially recognized by the Ramsar Convention. More than twice the size of Belgium, the 65,696 square kilometer site is situated around the Lake Tumba region in the Central Western Basin of the DRC and contains the largest freshwater body in Africa. The Lake Tumba landscape contains species of conservation concern such as forest elephants, forest buffalo and leopards. There are an estimated 150 species of fish, a wide variety of birds, and three types of crocodile as well as hippopotamus.

### Namibia

The World Wildlife Fund conducts the largest land-based

game count by surveying 16 million hectares (39.5 million acres) of Namibia. The survey began on June 11 and is using off-road vehicles to drive the equivalent of about 5,000 miles (8,045 kilometers) in the southern African country, said Chris Weaver, director of the fund in Namibia. Since 1995, the numbers of lions have increased to 130, from 30, while the elephant population has risen to 26,000 from 7,500. Mountain zebra, oryx and springbok, which previously numbered less than 1,000, have increased to 16,000, 38,000 and 120,000 respectively. Income to local communities from game-viewing fees and trophy hunting has also increased, Weaver said. "The WWF operates in 105 countries and Namibia is ahead of all of them in this area," he said.

### Namibia

A South African farmer paid 4 million Rand (US\$527,000) for five female and three male Namibian black rhinos as Namibia auctioned five species of rare animals and raised 19 million Rand (US\$2.5 million) in less than an hour. Another South African game farmer paid 7 million Rand (US\$926,000) for 27 buffalo that were auctioned. The rhinos and the buffaloes were only sold to foreign buyers. Ninety black-faced impalas, 16 sable antelope and 21 giraffes also were made available to buyers in Namibia to boost local breeding stock. Kalumbi Shangula, a top official in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, said the government planned to make available zebras, springbok, oryx and eland to black farmers who have been resettled on former white-owned farms, as part of the country's land redistribution program, through the newly created Wildlife Breeding Stock Loan Scheme.

The government holds such auctions every two years to

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## African Indaba eNewsletter

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

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### News from Africa

raise funds that are then used in conserving and managing protected areas, and says this has contributed immensely to improving wildlife populations in the country and beyond. "Our wildlife are proudly making a contribution to wildlife sectors in South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, the U.S., Nigeria and other countries as Namibia has become a major player in the wildlife industry, not only through auctions like this, but through targeted donations to sister countries to help revive dwindling populations," said Shangula.

The money raised at this year's auction, which is more than the US\$1 million raised in 2006, would be deposited into the Game Products Trust Fund, which was created to channel revenues from wildlife products into conservation and community development programs.

### Namibia

The revenue the country will generate from the sale of ivory to either China or Japan will be used exclusively for elephant conservation and local communities living alongside elephants. The proceeds of the sale will be channeled into the Game Products Trust Fund which supports wildlife conservation and community development programs. Namibia welcomed the approval of China to trade in ivory because having two trading partners would possibly lead to higher prices at the auction.

### Namibia

Trade in omakipas (plural for ekipa) and other ivory carvings will not be allowed from September 1 until the law governing controlled wildlife products is in place, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) has announced. An ekipa is a traditional ornament that is worn by Oshiwambo women as a status symbol and became a souvenir popular with tourists. Although trade in omakipas as cultural objects is provided for in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the ministry says it also has to deal with newly carved omakipas from ivory of unknown origin. The Controlled Wildlife Products Bill, which governs the trade of ivory products, is expected to be tabled during the next sitting of Parliament. The Bill provides for comprehensive regulatory and enforcement measures and once enacted will replace the interim measures.

### Rwanda/Uganda/DR Congo

Government officials from Rwanda, Uganda and DR Congo have pledged to protect wildlife preserves and develop tourism in the Greater Virunga Transboundary Landscape, where a number of wildlife sanctuaries share international borders. Of particular concern is Virunga National Park, most of which lies in the DRC. It is threatened by military conflicts between rebel militia groups and the Congolese army, illegal trade in charcoal that promotes clear cutting old-growth hardwood forests and encroachment by the human population.

### Republic of Congo

The Wildlife Conservation Society announced that their

census of gorillas in two areas of the northern part of the Republic of Congo covering 18,000 square miles discovered 125,000 western lowland gorillas deep in the forests. This is a major increase in the species' previously estimated population. Previous estimates from the 1980s put the number of western lowland gorillas at less than 100,000. But the animal's numbers were believed to have fallen by at least 50% due to poaching and disease. With the newly discovered gorilla population, the total estimated number is now between 175,000 to 225,000.

"This is a very significant discovery because of the terrible decline in population of these magnificent creatures to Ebola and bush meat," said Emma Stokes of the research team. The researchers in the Republic of Congo worked out the population figures by counting the sleeping "nests" of gorillas. Western lowland gorillas are one of four gorilla subspecies, which also include mountain gorillas, eastern lowland gorillas and Cross River gorillas. All are labeled either endangered or critically endangered by IUCN. While calling the new census important, Stokes said "the gorillas are still under threat from Ebola and hunting for bush meat. We must not become complacent about this. Ebola can wipe out thousands in a short period of time," she said.

### South Africa

The SAPS in the Mtubatuba area, assisted by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife staff, have arrested six people following the shooting of a white rhino bull on the western shore of Lake St Lucia to the south of Charter's Creek in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park on 6 May 2008. The carcass of the rhino was found in open grassland adjacent to a thick patch of forest by a contractor involved in removing alien vegetation. The scene of the incident was examined by SAPS and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife investigators who found several cartridge cases and also recovered several spent bullet heads from the carcass. The accused appeared in the Mtubatuba Magistrate's Court. In the course of making the arrests, the SAPS officers recovered an R1 rifle and several rounds of live ammunition, which have also been sent in for forensic testing

### South Africa

Mid August a black rhino heifer, belonging to famed South African conservationist Clive Walker, was poached next to the house and its nine inch horn was removed by the poachers.

### Tanzania

Mweka College of African Wildlife Management will start offering a one-year certificate course in Wildlife Tourism. CAWM Principal, Mr Emmanuel Severre said that since its establishment forty years ago, the college has trained over 3,800 wildlife managers from 50 countries worldwide. He said being a pioneer institution in technical and professional wildlife management training in Sub-Saharan Africa, the College has shaped and influenced the professionalism in wildlife conservation and management in eastern and southern Africa.

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News from Africa

### Tanzania

The government was accused in Parliament of unilaterally deciding to lower wildlife hunting fees. The opposition claimed the decision did not follow proper procedures after the legislature had endorsed the new rates. The Minister for Natural Resource and Tourism said the government lowered the hunting fees to keep pace with the actual situation. As a result of the decision, the ministry's revenue collections dropped by 38% in the 2007/2008 financial year.

### Uganda

Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) has signed an agreement with a Germany investor to manage wildlife which is not in gazetted parks. Christian Weth would invest in eco-tourism and game farming in Luweero and Nakaseke districts. "There is huge potential for tourism, sport-hunting and game farming in this area. We will bring tourists to see the animals," Weth said. He owns the Uganda Wildlife Safaris. Luweero and Nakaseke have game such as warthog, leopard, bushbuck, hyena and Uganda kob. There are presently three hunting safari operators in Uganda (Kaka Matama of Game Trails Safaris books through Jensen Safaris [jensen@icon.co.za](mailto:jensen@icon.co.za); Gavin Godfrey at [gavin-bots@bots.net.bw](mailto:gavin-bots@bots.net.bw) and now Chris Weth of Uganda Wildlife Safaris [Christian.weth@uganda-wildlife-safaris.com](mailto:Christian.weth@uganda-wildlife-safaris.com).)

### Zambia

South African has donated 160 elephant to Lusenga Plains National Park (Zambia) as part of an ongoing restocking program. Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) had given the Park 100 Zebra, 100 Wildebeest and 280 Impala.

### Zimbabwe

US President Bush has increased sanctions against the Government of Zimbabwe by expanding the Specially Designated Persons (SDN) list, which lists individuals that American citizens cannot do business with. One of the 17 new individuals and entities placed on the SDN list is a registered Zimbabwean safari company, Famba Safaris. The list of individuals and entities added to the SDN list can be accessed at [Executive Order Expanding Sanctions against Zimbabwe](#) (Source: *Hunting Report*). The European Union uses stricter sanctions by expanding their list by 37 persons from Mugabe's circle thus increasing the total to almost 170. For the first time EU authorities sanctioned also four companies which support the Mugabe regime. The assets of the individuals and companies will be frozen.

### Zimbabwe

"The Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (PWMA) want to establish the population of animal species in the country by having the information from stakeholders in the hunting industry. The Parks Authority said stakeholders from the hunting industry would meet in various provinces to provide information on aspects of wildlife and attend workshops to establish the game quota setting.

## Rowland Ward and SCI Go Separate Ways

Richard Flack

In a July Press Release Rowland Ward to advised its customers and supporters that the company had recently been informed by SCI that, despite Rowland Ward's attendance at and support of the past 11 SCI conventions, SCI will no longer allow Rowland Ward to exhibit at the annual SCI convention in Reno, Nevada. This was not entirely unexpected as the convenor of the previous convention unjustly accused Rowland Ward of being owned in part by and/or sharing its profits with two US organizations. Jane Halse, the managing director of Rowland Ward, wrote to SCI specifically denying these false accusations but, to date, has not received the courtesy of a reply despite a further reminder in this regard.

Rowland Ward naturally regrets the decision by SCI as the organization never considered to be a competitor to SCI but rather complementary in Rowland Ward's support of hunters and hunting worldwide.

Rowland Ward will, nevertheless, exhibit at the Dallas Safari Club, NRA, Wild Sheep Foundation and at least one other show in the United States next year.

To better serve customers and supporters in North America, Rowland Ward decided to move its current office from Fredericksburg, Virginia, where it has been ably run by Lucinda Lorei for the past six years, to Dallas, Texas where Haskell Stricklen, who worked with Gray Thornton, immediate past Executive Director of Dallas Safari Club, has accepted the task to head up Rowland Ward's renewed expansion program. The move is designed to place Rowland Ward geographically closer to the centre of its current business and Rowland Ward believes that Haskell is the right person, with the right talents, in the right place to help Rowland Ward to implement its current strategic plans.

The office move took place during August, 2008 and Rowland Ward will inform hunters in North America shortly about the official launch date for its new office and showroom in Dallas, Texas.

For any further information please contact: Richard Flack (Rowland Ward Marketing Director) [rich@rowlandward.com](mailto:rich@rowlandward.com)

## APHA 2008 Awards

The **John Sharp Award for Dangerous Game** went to Luke Blackbeard (Botswana) for an amazing black maned lion from the Kalahari

The **Robin Hurt Award for Non-Dangerous Game** went to Andre Roux (South Africa) for a Giant Eland taken on the Mbali River C.A.R. with horns measuring 56 ¼." and 55 ¼" and 14 ½." bases.

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## Algunas de las razones por las que cada vez son menores los trofeos de Búfalo

Isabel de Quintanilla

**Editor's Note :** With this article by Isabel de Quintanilla, huntress, author and last not least wife of the legendary Tony Sanchez-Arino, African Indaba commences publishing articles in languages other than English in order to provide our non-English speaking readers with some easy reading. Isabel's article may be easy reading for those who dominate Spanish, but the contents are concerning. Isabel takes up where I left in my article about buffalo trophy scoring methods. Her statements are sombre, disturbing and end in a sobering conclusion: "Trophy quality of African Buffalo is rapidly declining, and the trend has been obvious for more than a decade. It is high time that we get our act together and do something about it." Please read also the articles in African Indaba Volume 5, numbers 3 and 3a, as well as my editorial in the July issue 2008.

De los llamados "Cinco Grandes" trofeos africanos, el búfalo es el más común y uno de los más codiciados por los cazadores deportistas. Su caza es además también la más económica y popular entre ellos.

Desde hace unos años, concretamente hacia 1990, se ha notado una evidente regresión progresiva en el tamaño de los trofeos que se consiguen, lo cual es debido a dos razones primordiales:

La primera es que a los potenciales grandes ejemplares capaces de transmitir su genética a las nuevas generaciones de búfalos, no se les da el tiempo necesario para que la naturaleza siga su curso puesto que se les caza antes de llegar a su completa madurez, dejando la labor de procrear a ejemplares con cornamentas pequeñas o medianas que, lógicamente, engendrarán trofeos mediocres a corto plazo. Los búfalos, como cualquier ser viviente, necesitan un tiempo para alcanzar su pleno desarrollo y ser portadores de una cornamenta en donde exista un "boss" cerrado y completamente endurecido.

Pero el problema está en que, tal y como se puede ver continuamente en fotografías publicadas en revistas de caza de todo el mundo, continuamente se están matando ejemplares que tienen amplia cornamenta pero totalmente inmaduros y como se puede apreciar, con el futuro "boss" aún sin formar, bien visible que está cubierto de pelos y carne. Esto es muy lamentable y hay que decir que los principales culpables de que tal cosa suceda son tres:

1. Las autoridades de los correspondientes países por permitir cazar animales totalmente inmaduros sin imponer severas medidas-
2. Cazadores profesionales sin miramientos que ante tanta presión y demanda de la caza del búfalo, no les importa sacrificar futuros grandes trofeos con tal de satisfacer a los clientes.

3. Cazadores deportistas que sin ningún conocimiento ni resquicios de ética, disparan a lo que se mueva sin importarles si son animales jóvenes que están a medio desarrollo. Lo que les interesa es "llenar el zurrón" y regresar con una buena colección de fotografías hábilmente tomadas, dando la sensación de que el animal es mucho más grande de lo que en realidad es; sin embargo el "boss", como el algodón, no engaña.

La otra razón, la segunda, de la pérdida de la calidad de los trofeos es debida a que la caza se centra únicamente dentro de concesiones, tanto privadas como gubernamentales en las cuales, año tras año se persiguen y machacan a los mismos rebaños de búfalos, con la intención por supuesto de matar siempre los animales más grandes, lo que hace que con el paso del tiempo los grandes trofeos sean cada vez más raros y difíciles de conseguir.

En tiempos pasados, cuando no existían estas concesiones que han sido el deterioro del safari auténtico, los cazadores profesionales iban donde querían y sabían en las zonas donde se encontraban mejores trofeos. Cazaban aquí y allá, se movían por distintas áreas y no estaban siempre acosando a los mismos animales temporada tras temporada, como ocurre en la actualidad. Se cazaban unos ejemplares en una zona, luego se trasladaban a otra en una especie de sentido de rotación, de manera que los búfalos no estaban tan acosados, sobrecazados, machacados... Siempre estaba presente la posibilidad de encontrar el gran trofeo, lo que raramente puede suceder hoy en día

Es tan grande la presión sobre la caza del búfalo que en determinados países como por ejemplo en Africa del Sur, ofrecen según precio, búfalos pequeños o grandes, lo que es verdaderamente lamentable. Es como ir a comprar el trofeo en la carnicería, solo que en lugar de precio por kilos, es por pulgadas.

Otro sistema es el que algunos cazadores deportistas solicitan y profesionales conceden. Vender varias licencias a un mismo cliente, pudiendo éste cazar varios animales en un solo safari, sean del tamaño que sean; o las "batidas" que se dan al final de la temporada donde varios amigos hacen juntos un lamentable safari y disparan a todo lo que se mueve y tenga cornamenta, da igual el tamaño.

Si se continúa cazando de ésta manera a los búfalos, pensando en los beneficios económicos solamente, dentro de unos años veremos los resultados negativos de lo que se hace hoy, cuando conseguir un búfalo de 38 pulgadas de envergadura, se podrá considerar como un gran trofeo de caza y un gran triunfo... claro que todo cambia y no precisamente siempre para bien.

**La caza se debe practicar con sentido común, dando a los animales la oportunidad y ayuda para que continúen siendo los grandes trofeos de años atrás y no por dar gusto al gatillo, bajar el listón y considerar trofeo a lo que en realidad es un novillo que prometía ser un gran bovino de gran encornadura.**

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## Trophy Hunting Workshop for Namibian Farmers

The Namibia Professional Hunting Association (NAPHA) and the Emerging Commercial Farmers' Support Programme hosted a workshop on trophy hunting as a lucrative form of land utilization in partnership with the Lazarus Shinyemba Ipangelwa Foundation at the NamPower Convention Centre in Windhoek. Speakers included the Minister of Environment and Tourism, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Governor of the Bank of Namibia and Tom Alweendo, local veterinarian Dr Ulf Tubbesing. The workshop targeted farmers and emerging commercial farmers who want not only to preserve the game on farms, but to possibly earn an income from sustainable trophy hunting and to diversify from livestock and is part of a comprehensive project of the Namibia Agricultural Union (NAU) together with the Namibia National Farmers' Union (NNFU) to train newcomers to farming. According to a strategic plan issued by the Environment and Tourism Ministry in March this year, trophy hunting is estimated to generate around N\$500 million per year. Hunting quotas granted to communal conservancies in rural areas in the past two years earned the conservancies around N\$11 million annually. Speaking at a workshop for emerging commercial farmers.

Diethelm Metzger, the president of NAPHA said 80% of all wild animals in Namibia lived on farmland - a unique situation experienced in no other country and earnings from trophy hunting had increased by 12% a year over the past few years. This is 5% more than the goals set in the country's blueprint for economic development, Vision 2030.

"Trophy hunting contributed N\$316 million to the local economy in 2005, thus surpassing the small livestock sector in agriculture, which contributed N\$285.1 million" Metzger said.

Metzger continued that "the total agricultural output came to N\$637,1 million in 2005, while the N\$316 million coming from trophy hunting alone was about half of total agriculture. This represented 2.3% of the entire GDP in 2005, while small stock and other livestock amounted to N\$285 million and N\$258 million respectively. Statistics also indicate that cattle and small stock production have declined by between 60% and 48% between 1971 and 2006 because of various reasons, including bush encroachment. Since Government by law put communal land on an equal footing with freehold land (commercial farms) in 1996 and rural communities were thus given a say in their natural resources, which includes wild animals, the numbers of game species in the rural conservancies have increased substantially". In his speech he mentioned further that. Gemsbok shot by trophy hunters increased from 1,312 animals annually in 1994 to 4,400 in 2005, and springbok from 692 to 3 012 animals over the same period. Trophy hunting has in the meantime expanded into communal conservancies, which have increased to 52, cover over 121,000 square kilometers.

"We are now reaching a point where we need more wild-life producers so that their excess game can be sold to other areas for trophy hunting," Metzger told the approximately 80

emerging commercial farmers.

Environment Minister Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, who opened the workshop, encouraged the new farmers to seriously participate in trophy hunting. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism has introduced a game breeding loan scheme to communal and emerging farmers, which they should definitely take advantage of.

"Just last Friday I witnessed the game auction of our Ministry in Windhoek, where 175 wild animals were sold in record time within one hour for a total of N\$19 million and how keen the people were to bid high prices to own these animals, like N\$500,000 for a black rhino and N\$340,000 for a sable antelope. This should be an eye opener how valuable natural resources like our wild animals are," the Minister emphasized.

Trophy hunting created jobs and communities derived benefits like the meat from the shot animals and sharing in the income from hunting fees, she said. "Farmers, whether communal or commercial, should seriously think of diversifying their farming activities as wild animals consume less grazing than livestock. I don't want to undermine the very important beef industry, but also consider that meat of wild animals [venison] is healthier than beef."

The Minister commended NAPHA for turning the once white trophy-hunting sector around to include an increasing percentage of previously disadvantaged Namibians since 1990. "I am informed that the NAPHA Education Committee and Eagle Rock Hunting School have trained 148 previously disadvantaged Namibians as professional hunters and hunting guides plus 377 hunting assistants and camp attendants. This is good progress, but more needs to be done." Presently, there are 377 registered hunting assistants and 76 registered camp attendants. However, the numbers of professional hunters still remains low because formerly disadvantaged Namibians only account for 3%. In communal area conservancies, trophy hunting has become the second highest source of income. Nandi-Ndaitwah said that with the conservancies accounting for 14.7% of Namibia's total land surface, many people would benefit from trophy hunting.

According to NAPHA, the hunting tourism has the potential to grow more by the development and careful management of additional game and trophy hunting operations on commercial farmland, and through developing untapped markets. Metzger said people have invested money in hunting tourism because they know it is an investment that brings returns.

The workshop also covered topics like legal requirements and investments to start trophy hunting, management of game populations, ethical hunting practices and practical hints for success.

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## SAWC Nature Guide Course

The College is presenting a Nature Guiding Level 1 (FGASA) course at its Orpen facilities from 12 November - 10 December 2008. Courses offered by the College comprise unit standards of National qualifications in Conservation as registered on the NQF. This course is accredited by the Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA). The Nature Guiding Level 1 programme is aimed at a broad target market and would be beneficial to any of the following:

- People with no prior guiding experience
- Those interested in becoming field rangers or run guiding trails
- Private people who want to enrich their knowledge of wildlife
- Those interested in learning basic geology, astronomy, ecology, arthropods reptiles, birds, plant and animal identification, amphibians and fish
- People wanting to learn more about animal behaviour, habits as well as field guiding techniques
- Individuals wishing to get into the wildlife/conservation industry
- Field rangers and field patrollers
- Trackers and guides who are involved in the in the wildlife industry

The 4 week course costs R10,900 and includes all accommodation, meals, registration with FGASA, course learning material & training at the Southern African Wildlife College. It also includes a level 1 first aid certificate. The price does not include for transport to and from SAWC.

For further information, please contact: Terry Harnwell at [tharnwell@sawc.org.za](mailto:tharnwell@sawc.org.za), phone (015) 793 7300

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## Wild Sheep Foundation Announces Gray Thornton as New President

Chairman Lou Rupp, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Wild Sheep Foundation (formally the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep) announced the appointment of Gray Thornton as incoming President/CEO. "Gray Thornton will be a tremendous asset to the organization," says Rupp. "He brings his 11 years experience as Executive Director of the Dallas Safari Club, 18 years in conservation association management and development, and the talent and leadership skills we need to help us achieve our purpose of *"Putting and Keeping Sheep on the Mountain."*

Thornton expressed his enthusiasm for the job ahead at his first Board meeting in July at Foundation headquarters in Cody, Wyoming. "I am looking forward to building the Wild Sheep Foundation and furthering the mission as well as expanding the scope our efforts to the new world-wide campaign which is reflected in our new logo and trade name *Wild Sheep Founda-*

*tion,"* stated Thornton. "Our mandate is expanded to duplicate our North American successes to sheep ranges everywhere." Thornton added.

"Gray Thornton was recruited as an outstanding candidate to be the face of our organization," says Rupp. "He brought dynamic leadership to the Dallas Safari Club and we know he will take the Wild Sheep Foundation to new heights."

Gray Thornton's biography is highlighted with service to non-profit groups including the Dallas Safari Club, Safari Club International and he has campaigned for wildlife, habitat and ethical hunting on both the national and international level. He maintains extensive memberships in conservation organizations as well as professional groups including the Outdoor Writers Association of America and various professional hunting organizations. Among his numerous awards he counts the "Wildlife Utilisation Award" and the "Coenraad Vermaak Distinguished Service Award" by the Professional Hunters Association of South Africa as his most cherished. He has also published and received awards for his writing talents. He has served on the Steering Committee of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners, is a Director of The Conservation Fund where he presently serves on the Governance Committee, and was appointed to and serves on the Board of Directors of the Banovich Wildscape Fund supporting global wildlife conservation initiatives.

Thornton is an avid sportsman and his interests include wildlife conservation, writing, fresh and salt water fly-fishing, hunting, fly-tying, sporting clays and practical pistol competition, motorcycling, cross country skiing, and ice-climbing. He received a BS in Management & Marketing from California State University at Fresno and advanced credits in Wildlife Management from Colorado State University.

Thornton announced plans to expand the international focus of the Foundation. Whilst it is not turning away from its North American roots, it plans to export its successful sheep conservation programs. To accomplish this, the Wild Sheep Foundation partnered in Europe with the CIC (International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation) to identify species and areas where they can develop focused conservation projects with local authorities and people. The CIC's scientific knowledge and connections will help the Wild Sheep Foundation develop what Thornton says is a surgical strategic approach to maximize results in specific areas

"Gray Thornton steps in the job with vast experience and is already setting and exceeding goals consistent with our vision to raise and expend funds for the benefit of wild sheep," says Rupp. Thornton is already busy organizing the Wild Sheep Convention and Western Hunting and Conservation Expo scheduled for Feb. 5-8, 2009 in Salt Lake City and expects the event to set new attendance and fundraising records. Since forming in 1977, the Wild Sheep Foundation and its chapters have raised and expended more than \$70 million on programs benefiting wild sheep, other wildlife and their critical habitat.

For more information on Thornton, the 2009 convention, or the Wild Sheep Foundation please visit [www.wildsheepfoundation.org](http://www.wildsheepfoundation.org) or contact the Cody office at 720 Allen Avenue, Cody, WY 82414, Tel. 307-527-6261

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# Press Statement by the Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Minister of Environment and Tourism, Republic Of Namibia

## Elephant Newspaper Articles

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism has learnt with concern and surprise about the inaccurate, false media reports and the assumptions made in the articles published in the Namibian Newspapers of Thursday, 31 July 2008 on an article titled "Last desert elephants in firing line" and of Thursday, 21 August 2008 on an article titled "Elephant shot dead for braai in front of tourists", respectively.

I would like to bring to the attention of the general public and the international community that elephants occur across the entire north of Namibia with two main subpopulations in the north-east and the north-west. In 2004 the total population was estimated at over 16 000 animals and, allowing for underestimates on aerial surveys, the true number this year is likely to be over 20 000.

The north-western population is about 4,000 animals and includes the elephants in the Etosha National Park. Elephants are being seen as far south as the Ugab River and in all of the river catchments which flow westwards to the Atlantic Ocean in the north.

The north-eastern population is over 16 000 animals. The recent increases are well in excess of normal growth rates and must be attributed to immigration from the northern Botswana population which is about 150 000 elephants, and the north-western Zimbabwe population which is about 50 000 elephants.

The conservation status of elephants in Namibia is more than satisfactory, their numbers already exceed what many would consider desirable for the available habitats and they have been identified as a possible threat to other rare and valuable species which Namibia is trying to conserve. There are no limiting factors preventing an increase in their numbers.

Elephants are classified as Specially Protected Game under Namibian law. Namibia's wildlife legislation requires the preparation of management plans for species which are rare or valuable. Elephants are not rare in Namibia but they are potentially valuable and a management plan is in place.

In 1996, the Government of the Republic of Namibia through the Ministry of Environment and Tourism amended legislation, the Nature Conservation Amendment Act of 1996 (Act 5 of 1996) to allow for the formation of Communal Area Conservancies that gave consumptive and non-consumptive utilization rights of wildlife to rural communities.

Communal area conservancies manage 120 000 km square of communal land in Namibia and thus over 220 620 people live within these conservancies. To date, there are 52

registered conservancies that generate over N\$ 6 million from consumptive utilization of wildlife including trophy hunting of elephants, per year. For Kunene region there are eighteen (18) registered conservancies which also benefit from the animal quotas allocated for trophy hunting.

The three elephants in question are included on the game utilization quotas for 2008 of Conservancies in the Khorixas district in the Kunene Region. The three elephants are shared by the conservancies as follows:

- Torra and Khoadi-//Hoas Conservancies: one elephant
- Huab and Doro !Nawas Conservancies: one elephant
- Sorris-Sorris and Otjimboyo Conservancies: one elephant

The Ministry took the decisions to award the three elephants for trophy hunting based upon the approved Elephant Management Plan, existing Policies and Legislation, and most important, the results of the game census conducted from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June 2007, where 365 elephants were counted at a coverage of 53, 69%. These elephants originate from the Etosha National Park population.

With the counted elephant number of 365 in that particular area, there is no way that the sex ratio of the population could be skewed to three bulls only.

These quotas include problem animals and the Ministry will only under exceptional conditions consider granting approval that any additional problem animal be destroyed.

Human Wildlife Conflict is also escalating, and in 2006, the number of problem incidents reported to the Ministry was 5 637. During the year 2007, seven people lost their lives to elephants in the North Eastern Regions of Caprivi and Kavango, one person in the Uchab area of the Kunene Region and another one in the area north of Etosha National Park.

Addressing human-wildlife conflict requires striking a balance between conservation priorities and the needs of people living with wildlife. Elephant-human conflict is not new in the Kunene Region. The issue was also brought to Cabinet already in 2000 when an American tourist was killed by an elephant, and another tourist seriously injured. Two other tourists were killed in the same region the previous year. With the above tourists' incidents, Cabinet resolved that the movement of tourists in specific identified areas in Kunene be restricted because of threat to the future existence of endangered species such as elephants and black rhinos. In July 2001, Cabinet was again informed about the Elephant-human conflicts in Kunene, and the Ministry was then instructed to take certain measures to reduce the conflict such as capture and sell, trophy hunting of problem animals and additional waters for wildlife.

The allocation of elephant quotas for trophy hunting in Namibia, is also based on the number which we are allocated by CITES, which is ninety (90) elephants per year only.

It is the opinion of the Ministry that the aggressiveness of the elephants and their new migration patterns inland is an indication of disturbance in the Uchab River, probably caused more by irresponsible eco-tourism and vehicles than anything else.

Namibia's elephant population and the Kunene popula-

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### Press Statement MET Namibia

tion in particular, is a healthy and growing population. It is growing at about 3.3% per year. The current levels of consumptive off-take are extremely conservative. They are well below sustainable off-take levels, and the population continues to grow and expand.

There are more elephants in Namibia today than at any time in the past 100 years. One of the reasons for their increase in numbers is that they have a value, communities have rights to manage and use the wildlife, and are starting to earn significant income from wildlife and this is creating the incentives for them to look after and protect wildlife, including elephants, all of which leads to a positive conservation result.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism has also not issued a permit for research purposes to Elephant-Human Relations Aid (EHRA) or to Mr. Johannes Haasbroek himself, in this regard. Any work being done on elephants status in the Kunene Region by this NGO is illegal and cannot be relied on.

With regard to the elephant shot in the Bwabwata National Park, it is unfortunate that a certain Andrew Momberg who is referred to in the Newspaper did not approach the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to get the exact information of what had happened.

I would like to confirm that yes an elephant was shot in the Bwabwata National Park but not for the reason of a braai for a traditional festival as stated, and of course not in front of tourists.

What happened was that on the 08<sup>th</sup> August 2008, officials of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism responsible for the management of the Bwabwata National Park at Susuwe Ranger Station were out in the Park for usual Park duties. While at an area known as Horse shoe bend on the Kwando River, a herd of eleven elephants were from drinking water and heading towards the road which the officials were using. At a distance of about 30 meters before the elephants, the officials stopped, as the elephants started to approach the vehicle. When the elephants got very close, a sub adult elephant cow appeared to have noticed that there are people at the back of the vehicle and the elephant then came aggressively for the vehicle, and the Ministry officials realized there was danger, and they quickly lied down at the back of the vehicle.

The elephant then started lifting the vehicle, probably thinking the people were under the vehicle. It pushed the car twice, and with the third push, the car was almost overturned and the officials realized there was no other option but to serve their lives and therefore the elephant was shot. The elephant was also found with a wound on its right front leg and this might have caused its aggressiveness. It could not be determined what caused the wound.

At a distance of about 500 meters, Ministry officials met a vehicle of tourists and they informed them not to proceed with that road to avoid visibility of that elephant carcass, and the tourists adhered to that. To clear the carcass from the Park, the meat was removed and donated to the neighboring community for own consumption.

When I visited Bwabwata National Park on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2008, I was shown the vehicle that was almost overturned by the elephant, and the dent or mark by the elephant on the vehicle was visible.

This elephant was therefore not shot for the Traditional Authority festival of Mashi Community, and not the Mafwe as the Newspaper reports, which took place on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2008, but as defense of human life and in this case Ministry officials. There was also no hippo shot in the Bwabwata National Park for the purpose as reported in the Newspaper.

This is not the first time that officials of the Ministry are attacked by elephants or other wild animals. Recently the Warden for Khaudum National Park survived a similar incident when a vehicle he was traveling in was attacked by elephants on his way from the Park to Tsumkwe. He had to leave the vehicle and proceed on foot.

In May 2007, two officials of the Ministry, the late Tekla Haseb and Kapinga Kasanga, were unfortunately attacked and killed by an elephant in the Mahango Game Park, which is now part of the Bwabwata National Park.

During the beginning of 2006, a thatched hut in the tourist camp at Khaudum National Park was attacked by an elephant when three officials of the Ministry including the Deputy Director of Parks and Wildlife Management and two staff members of the Namibia Nature Foundation were inside. Fortunately no one was hurt or injured.

I therefore dismiss these two articles as published in the Namibian Newspaper, where it is reported that last desert elephants are in firing line and that an elephant was shot dead for braai in front of tourists.

The information contained in the said articles about desert elephants and elephant for braai is incorrect and misleading, and we call upon the general public and the international community to ignore these articles.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism further regrets any inconvenience caused by the incorrect statements and is hereby appealing to members of the media, to in future contact the Ministry and obtain accurate information and verification thereof.

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

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## Ivory Sales Get the Go-Ahead

Gerhard R Damm

The CITES Standing Committee (which oversees the implementation of CITES between the major conferences) has given the go-ahead to the one-off sale of ivory that was agreed in principle in June 2007. China has been approved as a buyer of the one-off sale of African Elephant ivory under strict conditions. Only Japan has been approved as a buyer so far. To gain approval, China had to convince CITES it had put in place adequate measures to manage regulated sales and tackle any illegal domestic ivory trade. Conditions of the sale direct the revenue into special funds to support elephant conservation and community conservation and development programs. Purchasing countries have to demonstrate adequate control measures to ensure that the ivory can be tracked and remains within domestic markets.

China's Foreign Ministry has disputed concerns by a number of animal rights organizations that China cannot adequately police its trade in ivory. Beijing has passed a series of laws and strictly cracked down on ivory smugglers and illegal traders. Smuggling and illegal sales of ivory in China has plummeted remarkably and many international experts who visited China have made objective assessments of China's efforts and achievements. The increase in seizures in the past six years has been dramatic. According to the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS), the world's largest database of elephant ivory seizures compiled by TRAFFIC, China is now involved in around 63% of seizures. In 2002 the figure was 6%. Tom Milliken, the east and southern Africa director of TRAFFIC, said the contrast with some central African countries is stark: Nigeria has made 12 seizures in 20 years.

Milliken also confirmed that China was cracking down on retailers and had developed systems of certification. "When we go back to stores we flagged up as having illegal ivory they aren't selling it anymore or have been closed down. Product identification cards come with items legally sold and for items over a certain amount you get a photo ID." "China has acted rather successfully against its own illegal domestic ivory market; now China should help other countries do the same, especially in central Africa where elephant poaching is rampant and Chinese nationals have been implicated in moving ivory out of the region," he added.

Susan Lieberman, director of the international species program at the World Wildlife Fund, said she was satisfied with the decision as China had come along way. "China did everything that it was asked to do," Lieberman said and that "the sight of ivory openly and illegally on sale in many African cities is likely to be a far more powerful encouragement to those contemplating poaching and smuggling, than a strictly controlled one-off sale. The only way to end elephant poaching is through an effective clampdown on illegal domestic ivory markets."

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and TRAFFIC supported China's application. They say China should use the opportunity to assist African countries in their conservation programs and increase awareness among Chinese about the illegal

ivory trade.

The upcoming single auction of government-owned stockpiles includes 51,121.8 kg of ivory from South Africa, 43,682.91 kg from Botswana, 9,209.68 kg from Namibia and 3,755.55 kg from Zimbabwe and is the second organized by CITES since 1999, when Japan bought 50 tons of Ivory from Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe for five million dollars. By allowing bids from Japan and China, the value of the stockpile is enhanced, ensuring maximum economic benefit for communities in the trading elephant range countries. By enlarging the regulated and legal market for ivory, this decision will make black market ivory less valuable, force down black market prices and thereby undermine the illegal traders that fuel elephant poaching in Africa.

The CITES Standing Committee also acknowledged that regulated ivory sales to Japan have not resulted in increased poaching, contrary to the warnings of animal rights groups. Poaching and wildlife corruption are particularly prevalent in central African countries that have banned ivory use and rely on law enforcement officials to deliver conservation.

Legal sales of ivory derive from existing stocks gathered from elephants that have died as a result of natural causes or from problem-animal control. Today the elephant populations of southern Africa are listed in Appendix II of the Convention (which allows commercial trade through a permit system), while all other elephant populations are listed in Appendix I (which prohibits all imports for commercial purposes).

Banning almost all cross-border trade in ivory, as the United Nations did in 1989, doesn't seem to have achieved its stated aim, that of ending a smuggling business worth hundreds of millions of dollars a year. Soon the world will be able to assess the effects of a move in the other direction: a decision to let China bid at a one-off auction of legal ivory from four African countries whose elephant populations have stabilized. Hitherto Japan is the only country to have been authorized to make legal bids.

A more interesting question is how the legal sales now in prospect will affect the black market. A fresh supply of legal ivory may depress the price, and reduce the incentive to poach. TRAFFIC notes that after a legal auction in 1999, the price fell; this led to a decline in poaching over five years. For doctrinaire types who oppose all trade in ivory, as animal rights organizations like IFAW who heavily influences wildlife policies in Kenya, the forthcoming sale is not just a challenge to endangered animals; it could be a threat to the credibility of their best-loved arguments.

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## Elephant Hunting - An Alternative View

Garth Owen-Smith, Co-director of IRDNC Namibia

Over the past few weeks I have watched in amazement the escalating media frenzy, sensational headlines and misinformation over the Ministry of Environment and Tourism's issuing of trophy-hunting permits for six elephants to conservancies in Namibia's northwest. Having worked as an agricultural official in the then Kaokoveld (1968-70), I was in charge of the Endangered Wildlife Trust's field operations in Kaokoland and Damaraland (1982-1990), and since then been co-director with Dr Margaret Jacobsohn of the Namibian NGO Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation, which works with 25 conservancies in the Kunene Region, I would like to give my perspective on the issue.

Let me start with the situation in the late sixties. At the time I estimated the number of elephants in the Kaokoveld (north of Sesfontein) to be between 600 and 800, of which about 200 were permanently, or semi-permanently resident west of the escarpment, in the pre-Namib but which also moved down the larger riverbeds into the true Namib Desert. The only other elephants inhabiting such an arid habitat were in the Gourme Reserve, on the border between Chad and Mali.

When I returned to the region in 1982 the situation was very different. On the highlands of Kaokoland commercial poaching had wiped out all but about 50 elephants along the border with Owambo and the Etosha National Park. An accurate figure was impossible to get because most of this area was then a war zone. Based on Dr PJ Viljoen's research (1975 to 1983) and an aerial census in 1982, west of the escarpment only six elephants survived on the lower Kunene River and 30 along the lower Hoanib River.

The situation in Damaraland was a little better, with 185 elephants in the Ombonde, Uniab and Huab river catchments, of which between 30 and 40 were in the pre-Namib along the Uniab and its tributaries. There were then no elephants in the lower Huab or in the Uchab catchment. However, as over 80 elephant carcasses were also counted, it was clear that large-scale ivory poaching was now taking place here.

Over the next two years nature conservation officials under Chris Eyre, assisted by the EWT staff and community-appointed game guards, achieved numerous convictions for illegal hunting and stopped the poaching of elephants. Sporadic cases of rhino poaching still occurred until 1994, but in only one case was a local community member responsible.

As between 600 and 1,000 elephants were killed or sought refuge in Etosha during the previous decade, without a single prosecution, this was a remarkable achievement, due primarily to the local people in the region now actively supporting conservation. Since then elephant numbers have rapidly increased on the highlands, probably supplemented by some returnees from Etosha to the highlands because illegal hunting was no longer occurring in this prime elephant habitat.

In 1992 an aerial census counted 366 elephants in the region, but some herds were known to have been missed and

the actual figure was taken to be about 400 - up from a total of 270 ten years earlier. Although there have been no recent accurate counts, over the past 16 years we know that elephant numbers north of the veterinary cordon fence have increased substantially and they have now re-colonised much of the range they inhabited before 1970.

This would have been an unmitigated success if Kunene Region was a game reserve. But it is communal land where the local people are trying to make a living from livestock and rain-dependent agriculture. The elephants raid their crops, damage water installations and come into villages to drink large amounts of water that is pumped by the farmers at their own expense. They also pose a hazard, particularly to women and children, that very few people anywhere in the world would be prepared to live with.

In spite of this most of the communities in the Kunene Region have shown they are prepared to live with elephants and have formed, or are in the process of forming conservancies, so that they can get the rights to manage and benefit from the wildlife on their land.

It is also important that we clarify the term 'desert elephants'. Internationally deserts are defined as areas receiving less than 150 mm of rain annually. The highlands of Kunene Region get substantially more than this, so the elephants here are not 'desert elephants' and in fact, live within a habitat that is little different to that in western Etosha, the Tsavo National Park in Kenya, or many other parts of Africa.

As highly intelligent animals, elephants should not be killed lightly anywhere, but if they are to expand their range beyond our national parks the cost to the people living there must be taken into account. To put it crudely, they must "pay the rent" and where there are no non-consumptive opportunities available, the trophy hunting of a few bulls is the best option.

Now let us look at the situation in the west, where the rainfall is less than 150 mm. The elephants along the lower Kunene were killed in Angola around the time of Namibia's independence. However, the 30 elephants in the lower Hoanib have expanded their range to include the Hoarusib River, and according to Dr. Keith Legget now consist of 38 adult cows and 16 adult bulls. One teenage bull was shot here in 2005 because its behaviour posed a threat to both the local people and tourists staying at the Purros campsite. The Uniab 'desert elephants' have also expanded their range, although fewer of them appear to use the pre-Namib now that the poaching has stopped and they are not being persecuted in the more favourable habitats to the north and east.

The area they move in comprises the Palmwag and Etendeka Tourist Concessions, as well as the Anabeb and Sesfontein conservancies. In 2008 these two conservancies were jointly given a trophy permit, the first time since they were registered in 2003. One trophy elephant shot here every five years is sustainable, but the question arises: Is this the best use of big bulls in conservancies with high photographic tourism potential? I will return to this point later.

South of the veterinary fence the situation becomes much more complex. As there are no restrictions on livestock

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### **Elephant Hunting - An Alternative View**

movements here, many of the residents are, in fact, commercial farmers living on communal land. And for years they have asked why they have to live with elephants causing them economic losses, when white farmers do not have to and call for blood every time one comes onto their property.

Thanks to the Ministry's conservancy legislation these attitudes are changing, but until much more income is earned from non-consumptive wildlife utilisation this unanswerable question will not go away. Another complicating factor is that in the Uchab catchment there were no elephants before the early nineties, and had not been since the 1940s.

Consequently, unlike the communities further north, living with elephants is a new experience for the farmers here. Add to this that a number of local people have been killed by elephants in recent years, including a community game guard in 2007, and you have a conservation dilemma for which there are no easy solutions.

With the elephants in the arid west of the Kunene Region having doubled in number over the past 26 years, and their range having extended both northwards to the Hoarusib River and south to the Uchab River, it is ridiculous to suggest that their survival is threatened. However, that too many large bulls are being hunted is a valid concern. Selective killing of big tuskers by poachers in the 70s and early 80s, the shooting of bulls as problem animals and the number of trophies hunted south of the veterinary fence have all contributed to there now being a severe imbalance between adult bulls and cows. According to Johan Haasbroek this is particularly so in the Uchab River, and as IRDNC has not worked in this area since the early '90s, and no reliable count has been carried out recently, we do not have any reason to dispute this.

So what should be done? Firstly the Ministry deserves praise, not criticism or threats, for a community-based policy and enabling legislation that is widely recognised as the most progressive in Africa. Without this we may not have had any elephants left in Kunene Region. Instead we now have wildlife populations, including elephants, recovering and extending their range in virtually all of Namibia's communal areas - in stark contrast to what is happening over the rest of the continent.

It is equally important to recognise the contribution made by the communal area farmers, who are not only prepared to bear the cost of living with elephants and large predators, but have set aside land exclusively for wildlife and tourism, as well as employing game guards at their own cost to stop poaching and thereby safeguard the business interests of their private-sector partners.

From the early 1980s NGOs have also played a major role in supporting Namibia's community-based natural resource programme and the fledgling conservancies that have grown out of it, with their many donors having invested close to N\$100 million in the Kunene Region alone. Here EHRA's contribution of building protection walls around water-points in the Uchab and Huab catchments is also recognised.

Namibia's professional hunters have played their part by paying good prices (determined by a closed tender process) for

the few animals that are shot as trophies every year. Their injection of funds directly to conservancies has often been crucial in their early years, and will continue to be needed to make them into sustainable community-based organisations that improve the quality of life for the residents of communal areas.

Considering the combined contributions of all the above to make the Kunene Region the conservation success story that it is, why do we still need to shoot precious elephant bulls in the west? Unfortunately, with a few exceptions, one party has not yet come to the table in a meaningful way: The lodge and photographic safari operators who profit from the wildlife that the local communities conserve for them.

As part of the Ministry's policy of allowing communities who live with elephants to benefit from them, in 2008 Purros Conservancy could have claimed a quota to trophy hunt one bull. They did not do so because their income, primarily from their own campsite, but also from two joint ventures and traversing rights to the Skeleton Coast concessionaire, had given their elephants a non-consumptive value much greater than what they would earn from one being shot.

I believe Sesfontein and Anabeb conservancies would have done the same if they had been earning sufficient income from the Palmwag tourism concession - 550 000 hectares of land that in the 1980s their communities agreed not to use and to reserve for wildlife. For the first 17 years, while it developed into one of Namibia's premier tourism destinations, they received nothing at all. Even under the new exclusive concessionaire, who operates three lodges and a very lucrative campsite here, the income they received up to 2007 did not even cover their staff salaries and other conservancy management costs. In order to give their members some long awaited benefits, in 2008 they decided to jointly trophy hunt one elephant.

Most of the conservancies south of the Huab River have to date received little or no non-consumptive income from their wildlife, in spite of the area being an extremely popular destination for both local and foreign tourists. Until this situation is rectified the MET will continue to be faced with demands for elephants to be shot here, either as problem animals or trophies.

No conservationist, government or NGO, wants to see any more of the western elephant bulls killed, but sensational headlines and one-sided opinions in the media do not help. Therefore, my advice to Johan Haasbroek is to stop being a "lone ranger" and work with us to find a solution that addresses the local communities' legitimate problems, as well as Namibia's international responsibility to conserve this unique sub-population of 'desert elephants'.

And to the private sector: If they are also concerned about the real conservation issues in the Kunene, and not just their profit margins, then recognise what the local communities have done to make your businesses possible, and pay them a fair price for the right to operate on their land.

If this does not happen much of what has been achieved over the last 25 years could be lost.

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## Business Vital to Conserve Continent's Wildlife

Brigitte Weidlich

Strong partnerships between governments, conservationists and the business sector are required to derive commercial benefit from Africa's most competitive advantage - its wildlife and scenic beauty - in a sustainable way to generate income for future generations and protect the natural assets. This is the main outcome of an international conference at the Etosha National Park in early September. The third annual general meeting of the non-profit organisation Leadership for Conservation in Africa (LCA) confirmed that tourism is not only the fastest growing industry worldwide and in Africa, but also brings financial benefits to those who need it most - rural communities in undeveloped areas.

"To date there is no single unifying body in Africa pulling the conservation focus and efforts in an agreed visionary direction, in partnership with business," said LCA CEO Chris Marais. "LCA could unify conservation efforts and support a time- and cost-effective drive to address generic problems in Africa regarding the conservation of nature. Transboundary and regional co-operation is gaining more importance to open up more pristine areas for tourism, which at the same time preserves them through the income they generate."

Ben Beytell, Director of Parks and Wildlife Management in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, reported that Namibia's tourism sector provided 77,000 jobs and contributed N\$7, 8 billion to the country's GDP in 2007, surpassing the fisheries sector and now second after mining. "Projected growth of the tourism industry is 7.4 per cent annually for the next 10 years," Beytell said. "The economic impact of Namibia's protected areas overall translated into N\$17 million income from live game exports, N\$19.5 million from a recent game auction that included eight black rhinos, which went for N\$500,000 each, and around N\$10 million income from hunting concessions," he said.

Namibia has 52 proclaimed conservancies in rural areas, where 230 000 people are living, and the income in 2007 from tourism and trophy hunting in these conservancies came to N\$223 million.

The 60 delegates of the business and conservation sector discussed skills development and the possibility of drafting unified conservation legislation for all African states and 17 country presentations were heard. According to Marais, conservation experts were usually very knowledgeable about wildlife, but had few business skills. "As LCA aims to involve the international business community within as many countries possible in Africa, this in itself could be beneficial for the economic development in general on the African continent," Marais said.

LCA was initiated by South African National Parks in 2006 and established with support from Gold Fields and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), in collaboration with the heads of conservation of 13 African countries. This number grew to 17 this year - Namibia, Botswana, Cameroon, Congo Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Gambia, Malawi, Mozam-

bique, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These countries presented conservation and tourism projects requiring funding to the LCA meeting. LCA will link the countries with potential investors if the projects are regarded as viable. Namibia and seven other LCA member states in Africa have already established their national chapters, with Deputy Environment and Tourism Minister Leon Jooste chairing the Namibian chapter.

According to Theo Mberirua, Managing Director of the Standard Bank Group in Namibia, it is important to approach conservation efforts from a business viewpoint. "To ensure the preservation of wild animals and our vast open spaces, everybody must get involved and we must pool expertise so that our children and grandchildren can still view them and derive an income from them," he told reporters at Etosha on Saturday.

About 20 African and international business leaders including Gold Fields, ABN Amro, the Buffett Foundation, De Beers Group, Mittal Steel, the Plattner Foundation, Sasol, Virgin International, the United Nations World Tourism Organisation and the Getty Conservation Institute are already involved. "Until recently environmentalists would not talk to large mining and oil companies, saying they were raping the world, but getting them on board through LCA, there is now a platform to find compromises where to mine or not and if oil must be drilled or minerals exploited, then both sectors can discuss how to preserve ecologically sensitive areas."

According to LCA Chairman Ian Cockerill, who is also Chief Executive Officer of Anglo Coal International, the founding of LCA was mullied after the 2005 summit of the world's eight economically most powerful nations, the G8. At that summit, the G8 leaders resolved "to stimulate growth, to improve the investment climate and to make trade work for Africa by helping to build Africa's capacity".

"In line with this goal, the founders decided to influence business and conservation leaders to find ways to integrate business principles with conservation management, and to actively facilitate the involvement of business in sustainable conservation-led socio-economic development and capacity building in Africa," Cockerill said.

The LCA vision statement also stipulates that the organisation wants "to influence governmental and political decisions in favour of best conservation practice". Six Namibian companies sponsored the LCA meeting. The De Beers Group, Shell, Frans Indongo Group, Methealth Namibia, Sanlam Investment Management Services and the Pupkewitz Group pledged N\$100 000. Standard Bank Namibia gave N\$250 000 towards the Okaukuejo meeting.

*Editor's Note: Edited version of the original article which was first printed in The Namibian, Windhoek, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2008)*

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