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**CIC – International Council for  
Game and Wildlife Conservation**



**AFRICAN INDABA**

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## L' évaluation des trophées français: Histoire – Organisation

André-Jacques Hettier de Boislambert  
Président d'honneur, fondateur, de l'AFMT

Pendant des siècles, le grand gibier de France a été principalement chassé "à course", un héritage des peuples Celtes. Selon ce mode de chasse, nommé "La Vénerie", la valorisation de l'action de chasse s'effectue par le goût de la poursuite d'un seul animal, du sport équestre et surtout par l'appréciation du travail des chiens de meute. Le trophée, tel que nous le voyons aujourd'hui dans les bois des cervidés, les cornes ou les défenses, n'a qu'une importance secondaire pour les veneurs, de sorte que, dans les collections publiques ou privées, il n'en existe presque pas qui soient antérieurs au XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle. A partir du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle, l'intérêt des chasseurs à tir s'est progressivement éveillé. A l'exposition internationale de Berlin, en 1937, la France présentait un bel ensemble de trophées "coloniaux". En 1938 à Paris, une exposition nationale comprenait plus de 700 trophées de qualité, dont la moitié provenait du sol français.

Les premières cotations effectuées selon le système du CIC ont été enregistrées en 1950 par un groupe de chasseurs membres du CIC, en vue du premier Salon de la Chasse organisé à Paris après la 2<sup>e</sup>me guerre mondiale. Ce groupe de chasseurs, qui a fondé au même moment notre Association Nationale des Chasseurs de Grand Gibier, a constitué une commission permanente d'examen des trophées, dont les travaux ont débouché sur la publication d'un premier catalogue en 1972.

En 1976, nous avons fondé une structure spécialisée, réunissant les 3 structures concernées par le grand gibier de plaine, de montagne et la Vénerie, plus des représentants de la forêt d'Etat et des régions cynégétiques. Progressivement, afin d'étendre le champ du recensement des trophées, nous avons constitué un réseau de correspondants agréés, qui nous a permis de publier en 1979 un catalogue plus important. En 1982, la structure fondée par une initiative des 3 associations a reçu une approbation officielle et pris le nom de "Commission Nationale de Mensuration des Trophées".

En 2002, une rencontre était organisée à Paris entre les responsables de la commission française et les responsables de la commission des Expositions et Trophées du CIC, qui validaient

l'ensemble de nos travaux. Le développement de ceux-ci à travers tout le territoire national s'est accompli grâce à l'organisation du réseau d'experts agréés. Leur recrutement est soumis à des règles précises. Ils doivent être adhérents de l' Association Nationale des Chasseurs de Grand Gibier (ANCGG), ils doivent être titulaires du Brevet Grand Gibier, catégorie OR, qui atteste d'un haut niveau de connaissances techniques sur l'environnement, la faune, la gestion. De plus, ils doivent avoir acquis une formation théorique et pratique sur la cotation des trophées au cours d'un stage organisé chaque année.

En 2005, nous avons mis en place une structure spécialisée pour regrouper tous les experts agréés, au nombre d'environ 150, dans l'Association Française de Mensuration des Trophées (AFMT), depuis lors l'unique responsable de tout ce qui a trait aux trophées français et qui adhère au CIC en tant qu'association constituée selon le Droit français.

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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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## L' évaluation des trophées français: Histoire – Organisation

Pour faciliter les choses à nos cotateurs experts, nous avons préparé et édité un guide illustré complet. Au cours des stages de formation la méthode correcte pour photographier les trophées est expliquée, car 3 photos (de face+ 2 profils de 3/4 avant) sont exigées à partir de certains niveaux qualitatifs. L'AFMT a mis au point une procédure d'enregistrement par informatique, qui permet la transmission et le suivi de toutes les données instantanément.

Pour les trophées atteignant le niveau des "médaillies d'or", les signatures de deux cotateurs sont demandées. Pour les trophées de très haut niveau, le bureau de l'AFMT doit être réuni pour faire l'homologation définitive.

### Particularités

Pendant une époque, les trophées provenant des territoires enclos étaient repris dans les catalogues dans des listes séparées. Depuis une dizaine d'années l'AFMT ne les enregistre plus, répondant à une demande générale. Pour le sanglier, suite à une règle appliquée par le CIC à une époque, nous n'attribuons pas de points de beauté. Pour le chevreuil, afin de ne pas laisser entrer dans la catégorie "médaillable" un trophée médiocre grâce aux points dits "de beauté", il est exigé que le trophée obtienne au moins 94 points par les seules mensurations. En France, les statuts de l' AFMT ne prévoient pas de médailles pour les trophées. Ces mêmes statuts ne prévoient pas la cotation de trophées obtenus dans des pays étrangers par des chasseurs français.

### Dernières données

Notre plus récent catalogue national a été publié fin 2007. Il contient les caractéristiques de 10.629 trophées, dont les meilleurs sont: Sanglier 130,40 CIC (133 en 2008) Cerf 237,65 - Chevreuil 232,97 et 206,62 (n°2) - Chamois 129,17 - Isard 114,47 - Mouflon 229,10

### Objectifs

Promouvoir chez les chasseurs une véritable culture du trophée, à l'écart de tout esprit de compétition et de trophéite. Nous reconnaissons au trophée toute sa valeur en tant que souvenir personnel du chasseur, nous souhaitons que la qualité du trophée soit étudiée au niveau des populations et puisse apporter une information technique réelle sur l'équilibre et le bien-être de celles-ci. Nous constatons que le système actuel du CIC, avec la prise en compte d'éléments subjectifs, ne peut pas répondre aux attentes des scientifiques. Il a donc été demandé au CIC, par un rapport présenté en 2007 par le signataire, de réformer le système en supprimant notamment : points de beauté et pénalisations, poids pour les cervidés, envergure ou écartement. Un système CIC modifié, s'inspirant des observations de MM. Bubenik et Geist, pleinement objectif et reflétant la qualité de l'individu et de la population dans laquelle il s'intègre, renforcerait les positions et le prestige du CIC. Il est très encourageant de constater que le Groupe de travail spécialisé "Trophy Workshop" a pris le problème à cœur dans un sens très positif.

## Harry Tennison Passes On

Gerhard R Damm

Harry Tennison died on March 4, 2009 aged 89. He was deeply interested in conservation, sustainable use and the protection of endangered species, originating over 30 conservation programs worldwide. Harry was Founding Member of Game Conservation International (GAMECOIN) and that organization's president for more than 25 years. Through his dedicated efforts and leadership a multitude of grants were created for wildlife conservation. He was President of Shikar Safari Club International (1969 and 1970). Harry was also one of the founding members of Operation Orphans, an organization that provides underprivileged children opportunities to hunt and become acquainted with the outdoors. He was instrumental in the formation of the African Wilderness Leadership School in KwaZulu-Natal. In Texas, Harry was the first Chairman of Operation Game Thief and one of the Founding Members of the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth. Harry served as the President of the Fort Worth Zoological Association. He became famous with 'Operation Rhino,' one of the most successful programs in the conservation world for which he earned the title 'Father of the Black Rhino.' Harry was a full member of the famed East African Professional Hunter's Association since 1984 and a member of the International Professional Hunter's Association. Harry has been honored with many awards: amongst them the IPHA Gold Medal for Conservation; GAMECOIN Gold Medal for Conservation and Teddy Roosevelt Bronze; Outstanding Alumni Award for Conservation, Baylor University; Ducks Unlimited Sportsman of the Year and Hunting Hall of Fame Inductee. In 2005 he was the first ever recipient of the Peter Hathaway Capstick Hunting Heritage Award at the Dallas Safari Club Convention.

The late Stan Studer said of Harry L. Tennison *"he was not just a joiner, he always was a doer whose outstanding dedication will serve as a powerful inspiration for succeeding generations whose task is to ensure the viability of wildlife, its habitat and our hunting heritage for generations to come."* John Jackson III, Chairman of Conservation Force, and a personal friend of Harry Tennison stated *"Harry was a consummate hunter, conservationist extraordinaire, and inspirational leader. Our way of life and some part of the state of the natural world are part of his legacy. He is one of those that have left this world a better place."*

### African Indaba eNewsletter

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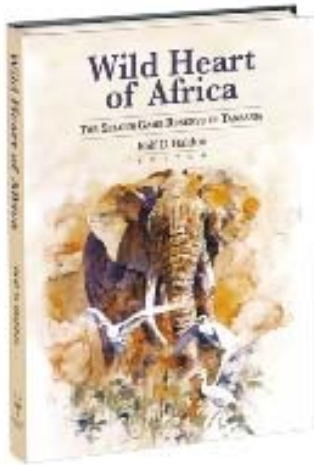
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## Wild Heart of Africa – Review of an Extraordinary Book

Gerhard R Damm



Rolf Baldus is a regular contributor to African Indaba and his provocative and sometimes controversial views on wildlife issues are valued content of this newsletter. In addition to the many articles and papers – both for the lay public and for scientific circles – published over the past 15 years or so, Baldus now has two major Africa books to his name. Last year, his first book, an account of his personal adventures during his time in Africa, and in particular in Tanzania as manager of the Selous Conservation Program, took German speaking readers by storm. Finally, his new *Opus Magnus* is available through Rowland Ward Publishing Pty Ltd. And a great work it is indeed. I suggest “Wild Heart of Africa” is THE authoritative book on the Selous Game Reserve, one last paradise of untouched Africa, remaining so largely due to the sustainable hunting program and the support of many hundreds of passionate hunters around the world. Anybody who has been fortunate enough to hunt this magnificent wilderness, all those who contemplate to hunt there, and more importantly also those who will never make it to the *Shamba la Bibi* as the Selous is called in the local lingo will be spellbound by a masterfully arranged collection of highly informative, but also entertaining chapters.

As editor, Baldus assembled a great group of people, who all have intimate insights into the wonders of Africa’s oldest game reserve; and these insights don’t come from short sojourns into the wilderness, but by-and-large from years, in some cases decades of close to the ground work in Africa’s wild heart. First and foremost amongst them, the former warden of the reserve, Brian Nicholson. Ludwig Siege, himself an African stalwart of the German Development Corporation GTZ, writes an authoritative chapter about the eccentric first warden of the Selous, Iodine Ionides. In his chapter, Nicholson describes the devastating sleeping sickness epidemic and the *Kihamu* ensuing evacuation process which led to the depopulation of Liwale and Mahenge. This status should never change again. Nicholson may be considered as the father of hunting safaris into the

Selous, strongly supported by Major Bruce Kinloch, at that time head of the game department. He explains in short and clear words, why hunting safaris provide the bread and butter to maintain the reserve, much more so than photographic safaris (sometimes erroneously called eco-tourism).



This Greater Kudu is the last African trophy shot by Frederick Courteney Selous, taken in 1915. The portrait and trophy were hanging in the library of the late Commander G. M. B. Selous  
(Reproduced from “Wild Heart of Africa”)

Gerald Bigurube, who started as a junior warden in the Selous was the Tanzanian counterpart of Rolf Baldus during the latter’s years as Selous Conservation program project manager; now Bigurube is director general of TANAPA (Tanzanian National Parks Organization), His exploits are aptly described in Baldus’ chapter about “Decline and Recovery” covering the all-out war against commercial poaching gangs which halved the Selous’ elephant population in the early 1980s. With dry humor, but some sense of bitterness, Baldus recounts the futile efforts

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Wild Heart of Africa - Review

of well-meaning but amateurish animal welfare organizations, and how the millions of dollars collected by them failed to turn up on the ground where they were needed for conservation. No or very little money was made available from these funds, collected by playing to the global public's emotions; the equipment sent was either unusable in the harsh environment of the Selous, or it did not function. Baldus highlights that income generated from photographic tourism could not sustain the reserve and constituted only 10% of the revenue. Safari hunting income soon boosted the reserve's annual retained revenue from US\$2 per square kilometer (1987) to US\$55 in 2003. Baldus also critically remarks that the Tanzanian Government cut this sustainable funding stream by more than half after the project came to an end. In another chapter, "Past, Present and three Scenarios for the Future, Baldus focuses on "Use it or lose it", the involvement of rural people and community-based conservation, he discards the notion of absolute protection and recommends that Tanzania follow best practices to achieve the high standards laid down in the Tanzanian Wildlife Policy.

Hunting does have its rightful place in Baldus' book. The late Rolf Rohwer, experienced professional hunter and outfitter for decades, gives an overview over the hunting blocks, how safaris are run, camps built and accessed and how a typical safari day rolls out. Ludwig Siege spins the stories of the "Hunting and Hunters of Old", spiced with many historical photos, starting with James Sutherland's elephant exploits, and two hitherto unpublished (in English) hunting stories from the early 1920s. These are complemented by another English "first" of Wilhelm Kuhnert's (the famous painter) antelope hunts and some stories from General von Lettow-Vorbeck, the last commander of the Imperial German troops in East Africa. Finally the hunting stories of the wardens lead to the modern times with Rolf Rohwer's harrowing lion experience in a personal letter to Rolf Baldus. The chapter ends in Baldus himself being chased up a tree by a wounded buffalo. Baldus also describes the dangerous job of hunting *simba watu*, man-eating lion, and includes a death portrait of Osama, the notorious man-eater of the Rufiji.

Another chapter deals with the Selous-Niassa wildlife corridor at the Tanzanian-Mozambique border. Baldus and Hahn interweave history, people, culture and conservation with some spell-binding photographs. The story finds a continuation in some hair-rising accounts of chasing elephant bulls with dart guns, collaring them (and de-collaring them again after the study has been concluded). - a real close-up story of hard and effective conservation work.

History doesn't come short-changed neither - from the early years of Shamba-la-Bibi, when the Kaiser ruled at the Rufiji, and a chapter peppered with rare historic maps assembled after years of researching libraries, to Burton and Speke searching for the sources of the Nile, Keith Johnstone's ill-fated expedition of 1878 to establish a route from the coast to the great lakes, the search for Johnstone's grave and the Great War epitomized by General von Lettow-Vorbeck and Frederick Courtenay Selous.

The icing on the cake come in extracts from Wilhelm "Lion" Kuhnert's safari diaries from 1905. Kuhnert, artist, natural-

ist and hunter left his native Germany to use the wilderness of what was to become the Selous Game Reserve as his studio. 500 or so stunning oil paintings of lion added the "Lion" to his name. Kuhnert - the pioneer of wildlife art - documented the Selous in thousands of pictures, drawings and paintings, and Baldus selected seven impressive ones to be reproduced in the book. With Bodo Meier, a worthy 21<sup>st</sup> Century artist stepped into Kuhnert's tracks.

Last not least - the "Wild Heart of Africa - contains an absolute wealth of photos - not the run-of-the mill animal portraits, the African sunsets and hunters posing with impressive trophies, but rather a vast collection of photos - over 450 all in all - showing the everyday life of the game wardens, being on patrol, doing conservation work in the bush. Every single page holds another surprise, another scene.

The Wild Heart of Africa is a complete book - informative, entertaining, and educating. It is the account of the "Company of the Selous", men who have spent years in creating, protecting and enhancing this unique place in Africa, called the Selous, from the humble beginnings in 1896, to the 5 million hectares (13 million acres) which the reserve encompasses now. The contributors to this book share over a century of work in the reserve. They also share the belief that the Selous is not only the largest and oldest protected area in Africa, but one of the finest in the world. They hope that this book will make the public aware of how important it is to conserve this World Heritage Site.

You cannot, must not ignore this book.

#### Wild Heart of Africa

Edited by Rolf D. Baldus

288 pages with color photographs

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Read more from Rolf Baldus by visiting his homepage at [www.wildlife-Baldus.com](http://www.wildlife-Baldus.com)

#### Namibia Latest News

The auction of eight big game concessions and three black rhino permits took place on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and raised a total of 13.6 million Namibian Dollars (ca 1.4 million US\$). One black rhino permit went for N\$ 1.7 m and two for N\$ 1.5 each. Only one black rhino per year will be hunted, however. The Mahango concession in Bwabwata National Parks was sold for N\$ 3.4 m and includes amongst other game 10 elephant and 4 buffalo. The eastern Kavango concession with 8 elephant amongst other game went for N\$ 2.1 m. Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Dr Kalumbi Shangula, said this was the first Ministry auction and the money generated from the auction will be put into the Ministry's Game Products Trust Fund, which funds conservation work in Namibia.

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## The Royal Antelope

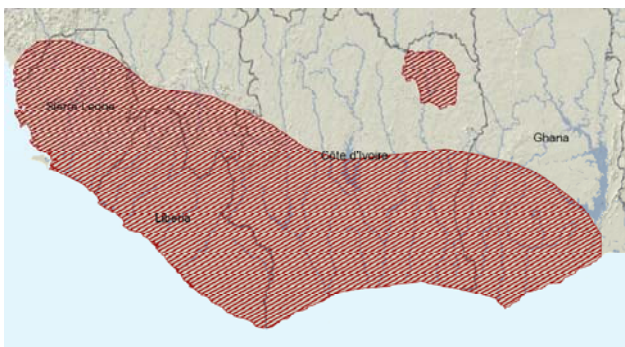
Steve Kobrine

*Editor's Remarks: The Royal Antelope *Neotragus pygmaeus* is listed as "Least Concern" in the IUCN Red List 2008 as the total population is estimated at ~62,000 (likely an underestimate), and their secretive nature and ability to utilize secondary vegetation and to persist in small forest fragments should enable it to persist in substantial numbers despite the high-density, increasing human populations over large parts of its range.*

*The Royal Antelopes ranges from south-western Guinea (the Kounounkan Massif perhaps representing the westerly known limit), Sierra Leone, Liberia, south-eastern Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, to the Volta R., Ghana (Kingdon and Hoffmann in press). Records from the forests east of the Volta River in north-east Ghana remain questionable (Grubb et al. 1998). Fischer et al. (2002) reported what they considered to be reliable observations of the tracks of Royal Antelopes in Comoé N. P. in north-east Côte d'Ivoire.*

*The world's smallest antelope species is nocturnal, timid and very secretive. It occupies moist lowland forest and secondary vegetation habitats, forest edges and other areas with dense undergrowth; its range extends into forest-savanna mosaic to the north of the main forest block in West Africa. The Royal Antelope is often encountered more in logged forest with some undergrowth than in primary forest and it is frequently encountered in farm bush (Source IUCN Red List 2008).*

*Steve Kobrine was instrumental in opening sport hunting opportunities in Ghana. His article gives some impressions about the difficulties of hunting this tiny antelope and we encourage readers to comment on Steve's proposals.*



Distribution Map Royal Antelope

I have been fascinated by the tiny animals of Africa for many years and, over the last three years, have made seven trips to Ghana in pursuit of the most fascinating of them all, namely, royal antelope. During the course of my visits, I met Nana Adu-Nsiah, the executive director of the Wildlife Division of

the Forestry Commission in Ghana who showed me a briefing document on Collaborative Resource Management which his department had produced. In the document it is stated that, "People will manage wildlife and other resources when they are provided sufficient incentive to do so. This incentive is primarily an economic incentive and direct financial benefit provides one of the strongest incentives for farmers."

Given that the trade in bushmeat in Ghana is estimated to be worth between \$200 and \$300 million dollars per annum and that the Wildlife Division has admitted that the trade in bushmeat is an integral part of the Ghanaian culture which it was not realistic, feasible or desirable to stop, a decision had been taken to try and introduce both trophy hunting and game ranching, on bases similar to that which existed in South Africa, in an attempt to save the remaining game in Ghana from extinction.

During my initial scouting trips, I came to the conclusion that just about the only animals that existed in viable quantities and which might attract dedicated trophy hunters to Ghana, were the royal antelopes, black duikers, Maxwell's duikers and harnessed bushbucks which existed in the coastal rain forests and thickets bordering the rubber plantations and cassava fields of the locals. Along the coast people can obtain fish as an alternative source of protein and, as such, poaching is not as fierce as in the interior although it often seems in Ghana as if every man owns a Russian made 12 guage shotgun.

In February of this year, Nana Adu-Nsiah personally issued the first hunting licenses to the first trophy hunters in Ghana in living memory, namely, Katharina Hecker and Peter Flack from South Africa, who were outfitted by my company, Steve Kobrine Safaris, and guided by myself and one of my professional hunters, Ian "Tweek" Roodt. Since then, a further three American trophy hunters have come and gone and another two are due to arrive shortly.

The first hunt was in the nature of an exploratory trip and Katharina and Peter had kindly agreed to act as guinea pigs, both to iron out any initial difficulties and also to help prospect areas for good concentrations of game. Peter is a member of Rowland Ward's Guild of Field Sportsmen and, as such, had specifically arranged to hunt the strictly nocturnal royal antelopes during the full moon as the rules of the Guild, while allowing hunting with natural light, forbid hunting with artificial light. It is here we struck the first problem. We learnt that a royal antelope can simply not be hunted during moonlight and it is the one time when no one, not even the most ardent poacher, attempts to hunt them.

The three poachers who I have employed to act as game guards under the supervision of the local chief (who is also in my employ), use two cell torches powered by used batteries which throw a dull, yellowy white light for about 20 to 30 paces. The reason is that, if a bright light is shone on a royal antelope, it immediately leaps out of sight. Bearing in mind that these tiny antelope measure approximately 10 to 12 inches at the shoulder and weigh only one and a half to two kilograms, it does not have to leap very far in order to disappear in the thick undergrowth of the rain forests or even the rubber plantations and cassava fields. Having said this, however, these tiny beasts are known to make bounds of up to three metres in length.

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Royal Antelope

The hunter and I follow behind the game guard wearing red cap lamps which only illuminate the ground at your feet and the heels of the man in front. When a royal antelope is spotted, the hunter and I immediately turn off our cap lamps (to avoid back lighting the game guard) and the hunter immediately moves forward and positions his shotgun over the shoulder of the game guard in order to aim down the beam of his torch. This has to be done pretty smartly as, even in the dull beam of the torch, the royal antelope will not stand for more than four to five seconds before scuttling off.

Of the five hunters who have hunted royal antelopes so far, only three have been successful. Katarina shot a female which was facing away with its back to the game guard's torch as did Tom Hammond and Bruce Keller shot a very good male which may become the new world record in Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game where, currently, only four animals have been recorded as meeting the minimum entry level of one inch in the 117 year history of the book. Of the remaining two hunters, Peter did not want to shoot one as it would contravene the Code of Conduct of Rowland Ward's Guild of Field Sportsmen and the remaining hunter, unfortunately, wounded two animals for which he paid in full.

And this brings me to the crux of this brief article. All five trophy hunters, Peter included, agreed without reservation that these arduous, walk and stalk hunts, at night, in the heat and high humidity of Ghana's dense coastal rain forests, were fair chase in every respect.

Now I am a great fan of Rowland Ward and its record book, which not only serves as a good reference source for hunters but, by setting high minimum entry levels, encourages hunters, for the most part, to shoot only the older animals. In addition, the modern fad of awards for shooting animals is not part of this traditional record book and the animal certainly receives as much recognition as the hunter himself. In fact, I have been considering becoming a member of the Guild but now I find I can't. My question, therefore, to African Indaba readers, in general, and Rowland Ward's Guild members, in particular, is, do you not think that an exception should be made to the natural light rule set out in the Guild's Code of Conduct insofar as royal antelope are concerned?

My request is based on three fundamental reasons, firstly, the hunt is fair chase and, as the animal is strictly nocturnal, there is no other way of hunting it. Secondly, we know that hunting an animal in Africa is the surest way of conserving it – South Africa has conclusively proved this with the Cape mountain zebra, the bontebok, the white rhino and the black wildebeest.

Finally, I can think of no other way to stop this beautiful tiny antelope becoming extinct in a country where commercial bushmeat poaching is a way of life.

## Black gold...or white?

John Newby

In the fall of 2008, Niger began drilling for oil in the Tin Toumma desert to the east of the country. Tin Toumma is where SCF and its partners are working to set up a vast new national nature reserve. It is also home to the world's last viable population of addax antelope. Will the search for black gold deal the final blow to the survival of this magnificent white antelope? Or can we find a just compromise that allows Niger to benefit from its subterranean riches whilst conserving its precious living natural resources?



Whatever the final outcome, this new threat will require enormous effort on all sides to resolve. Not only is there a strong possibility the addax will be hunted but the peace and tranquillity they have enjoyed and require to cope in such a rigorous habitat will be shattered. Enormous trucks are already roaming noisily across the desert and with funding from Niger's Chinese partners, an airstrip and base camps have been established deep in the desert.

The solution lies in constructive engagement between environmental and mining interests, coupled with a mutual desire to see a win-win solution developed. It is possible to have both black gold and white addax but this rosy outcome should not be taken for granted. Niger is determined to get at its oil and as one of the poorest nations on earth this is understandable. A major challenge lies not only with the disturbance caused by oil prospecting and extraction but controlling the activities of the military forces put in the field to protect the oil workers. Thanks to our network of community game guards we know already that gazelles have been poached and it is only a matter of time before the addax also come into range. During a recent fieldtrip, the remains of three freshly killed addax were found (photo) but with no conclusive evidence of military involvement.

So, what can we do to help? SCF's strategy is based on three interrelated components: dialogue, awareness and action. To begin with we must continue playing the role of moderator

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Black Gold ... or White?

and catalyst to bring the various stakeholders together to look for mutually beneficial outcomes. To assist in this process we are using tools such as posters, films, lectures and workshops to raise the nation's awareness of the unique, living wealth of natural resources that Niger's deserts contain. A major strand of this campaign has been the showing on TV, both at home and throughout the region, of a documentary made by a local cineaste in 2007 with SCF on the ecology of Tin Toumma and the global importance of conserving its unique and rapidly dwindling wildlife. Moves are now afoot to get a fully professional documentary made and initial contacts have been established with a number of top players, including the BBC.

Equally important is the need to demonstrate quite tangibly that Niger's wild-life is worth saving and the only way to do this is by having a strong presence in the field to watch and to dissuade would be miscreants from poaching. Even though the addax is protected by law, poaching will certainly occur unless vigorously controlled. Unfortunately the odds are not in our favor. The desert is vast and the means and manpower at the disposal of the wildlife service limited. But thankfully wildlife protection is not uniquely a question of force but a delicate balance between carrot and stick, where getting people onside is much more likely to have a long-lasting effect than force alone. As Theodore Roosevelt said quoting an African proverb "Speak softly and carry a big stick, and you will go far." Frankly I doubt it. If there is one thing we have learned about conservation it is big sticks are no guarantee of success. To the contrary they don't resolve the root causes that often lead to hunting and overuse of wildlife and tend to create enemies rather than friends. As a result we are proactively engaged in working with the military forces and local government to harness their presence in the field to assist in conservation rather than act as agents of its destruction. Slowly, progress is being made to change attitudes. As for the critically endangered addax, let's sincerely hope when the oil is long gone, the dust and smoke settled and peace has returned they are still out there secure in their desert fastness.

Published first in *Sandscript* is the twice-yearly newsletter of SCF, the Sahara Conservation Fund. To subscribe to or sponsor *Sandscript* please contact SCF by email at [scf@bluewin.ch](mailto:scf@bluewin.ch)

#### Addax, *Addax nasomaculatus*, Critically Endangered A2cd

Today, the total global population is estimated at probably less than 300 animals surviving in the wild, distributed unevenly along a narrow, 600-km-long band lying between Termit/Tin Toumma in Niger and the Bodélé Depression in Chad (Newby in press). Ground and aerial surveys of Termit/Tin Toumma carried out in 2004 (Wacher *et al.* 2004) indicate a population of between 100 and 200. A total count carried out by SOS Faune du Niger in October 2004 returned a figure of 128 Addax for a little under 10,000km<sup>2</sup> of prime habitat in Termit, Niger.

## The Namibia Professional Hunting Association Trophy Medals: Selective Hunting Is Conservation

NAPHA, Namibia

In the area of conservation, Namibia is one of the leading countries in Africa. The number of animals has doubled since the 1960s. Seventy to eighty per cent of all wild animals in Namibia are found on private land – this is credited largely to the trophy-hunting industry. The Namibia Professional Hunting Association (NAPHA) wants to ensure that all hunting clients coming to Namibia have an exceptional experience. We therefore encourage the hunting client, to hunt only with registered NAPHA members. NAPHA is committed to providing the highest standards of excellence relating to every aspect of your hunting excursion. It is important for Namibians to see you leave as a happy and satisfied hunting client.

Hunting with a NAPHA member will not only ensure recourse if you are not satisfied with your hunt. You will also be supporting the upliftment projects that NAPHA is passionate about.

The NAPHA medals programme was established not only to give hunting clients an award for the trophies harvested in Namibia, but as a source of revenue for NAPHA to use for the various ongoing projects important for the future of hunting. The NAPHA medals measuring system is based on the Safari Club International (SCI) measuring system, that is the sum length of both horns and both circumferences at the base, with the following two exceptions:

- Warthog – only the length and circumference of the longest tusk is required.
- Elephant – the combined weight of both tusks in pounds (lbs).

The Namibian minimum measurement system is to protect hunting clients hunting in Namibia from harvesting animals below the minimum requirement, as per the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET). This does not apply to conservation harvesting programmes or in cases of old age, an animal with a broken horn, or a sick animal, if the hunting client expressly asks for this trophy. The Namibian minimum measurement system should, however, not be confused with the NAPHA medals system.

#### The Medals

The prestigious Game Fields Medal rewards the hunting client for harvesting a gold-medal trophy of an extreme age. It is crucial for the hunters of the future that the hunters of today preserve strong gene pools by harvesting trophies that are past their prime – thereby ensuring superior genetics for future generations. Hunting professionals apply for the Game Fields Medal following the same procedure as for the other medals, with the condition that a trophy photo is supplied to substantiate the ap-

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### The Namibia Professional Hunting Association Trophy Medals

plication.

The Gold, Silver and Bronze medals, together with the appropriate certificate, are obtainable for mature trophies that qualify. The SCI record book is the recording standard for the NAPHA medals system. Trophies making the minimum scores for entering into the record book are rewarded the Silver medal. Trophies that are 5% below this minimum score are awarded with the Bronze medal, and trophies 5% above this minimum are honoured with the Gold medal. Trophies that do not qualify for the above-mentioned medals because of old age or because the trophy is deformed or broken, qualify for the Conservation Medal minted in Old Silver.

Medals are available after your safari from the NAPHA office in Windhoek. Your hunting professional must supply the trophy measurements and permit number. Medals can also be purchased retroactively for trophies taken in Namibia in past years, on submitting the trophy measurements and permit number.

The esteemed NAPHA Top 10 is a record of the best trophies taken over the years with both rifle and bow. See if any of your trophies qualify at [www.napha.com.na](http://www.napha.com.na). The spectacular Kudu and Baobab portrait medals will honour the trophies you take in Namibia. These pleasing mementos of your Namibian hunting trip will remind you of those wonderful weeks spent on safari in Namibia, and will also honour the hunting area that the trophy came from. Please ask a Namibian Hunting Professional for more information.

## Lion Campaign Kicks Off in the Nick of Time

John J Jackson, Conservation Force

There can be no pretense to save African lion without adoption of national action plans. Hunters should rightfully have a seat in the workshops to develop those plans and be partners in their implementation. The campaign to complete those action plans in all four regions of Africa announced in the November *World Conservation Bulletin* has not fared well. Although action plans are finally being adopted over much of Southern and Eastern Africa (at least in draft form), not one has been even drafted in Central or Western Africa. That is a big enough hole to sink the whole ship at the next CITES Conference of the Parties, CoP 15, next January, 2010. Worse, the non-consumptive action plan adopted by Kenya (apparently the very first plan drafted) is being touted as the model to follow in critical countries.

The necessary field studies in Central and Western Africa had to commence in the January-February dry season else they could not be completed this year. Had we not commenced those field studies and instigated others, the hunting community would be going into the next CITES CoP with too little product after the time span of two CoPs.

A month late, in the last drop-dead point in time in the

last week of January, Conservation Force resorted to pleading and begging. Five lion conservation heroes from the safari hunting industry reached into their pockets and wired sixty-thousand (\$60,000.00) dollars to Conservation Force. Imagine this in light of the state of the economy!

The heroes in the order they donated are Eric Pasanis for Tanganyika Safaris in the amount of \$20,000.00, Michel Mantheakis for Miombo Safaris in the amount of \$10,000.00, Danny McCallum for Danny McCallum Safaris Tanzania in the amount of \$10,000.00, and Raoul Ramoni in the amount of \$15,000.00. We were still \$5,000.00 short to commence the fieldwork in at least three of the four chosen countries. The International Professional Hunters Association, IPHA, came through with that \$5,000.00 after only days before providing Conservation Force with its annual \$5,000.00 supporting contribution for necessary operating/survival costs. That extra \$5,000.00 left IPHA practically no balance in their own operating account! These leaders and stewards of the hunting world reacted!

Within 24 hours the directors of wildlife of the respective countries and lion authorities were informed and the work was initiated. The groundwork had months before been approved by the respective wildlife authorities, but everyone including them had nearly given up as Kenya and protectionists started filling the vacuum.

Now we are getting worried as we have launched the whole project, have hired the experts and vehicles in three countries and will need at least \$200,000.00 more by April. Approximately \$40,000.00 more has come in or is promised in sums of \$50.00 to \$5,000.00. Conservation Force has taken nothing for itself, no out-of-pocket costs, no fees, nothing. This is a true crisis that must be addressed. In these lean times it must be done purposefully and smartly.

The lion authorities and conservation community have taken note of the extreme effort and importance of the initiative. The recognition of the safari hunting industry is having a positive effect that may save more than the African lion. If this was not such a serious crisis, it could be seen as an opportunity to demonstrate the caring role of the hunter. We thank you all so very much. You are indeed the heroes of African lion conservation!

## Gnusletter

*Gnusletter* is the bi-annual journal of the IUCN/SSC Antelope Specialist Group (ASG). All articles published in *Gnusletter* reflect the individual views of the authors and not necessarily those of the editorial board, the ASG, the Species Survival Commission, or IUCN. *Gnusletter* is now available in portable document format(PDF).

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## A Critical Review of an Article by T. Caro *et al*

Peter Flack

I have been asked by the publisher to comment on a recent article by T Caro *et al*, titled "Animal Breeding Systems and Big Game Hunting"; it is with some reluctance that I have agreed to do so. Firstly, although I have been a game rancher for nearly twenty years in the Karoo region of South Africa, I am no expert. In fact, I am wary of experts in Africa. After all, an "ex" is a has been and a "spert" is merely a drip under pressure. As such, I am going to confine my comments to the one or two things that I think I know on this topic.

At the conclusion of the article, the authors state that they have reached their conclusions, "*based on best guess estimates or data borrowed from other parts of Africa or even taken from similar species*" and go on to confess that, "*There is danger in such extrapolations. Better life hunting data on hunted species need to be collected. Ideally, studies should be conducted in those areas where hunting quotas are under review.*" This does not stop them, however, from going on to recommend the reduction of hunting quotas for nine separate species in the Selous Game Reserve.

The body of the article is littered with statements such as, "*We applied age-sex structured density independent models to determine maximum sustainable harvest for a variety of parameterizations and hunting policies.*" And then again, "*We use the conventional but arbitrary maximum sustainable yield for species as the largest offtake level for which population growth remains positive.*" I have had to read these statements more than once to try and understand what I think they might mean but, at the end of the day, it seems to me that actual and accurate field observations have in many cases been replaced by academic and office based formulae in order to reach a conclusion.

Furthermore, the authors make a number of admissions such as, "*data on the illegal hunts are unavailable at present*" and "*all these estimates are necessarily crude but they are the best available at present*" and, finally, "*we assumed hunters would continue to fill their quotas based on their prior agreement with the hunting company rather than according to population abundance.*"

Finally, certain of the data on which the authors rely, is based on aerial censuses. These took place in October, 1986, September, 1989, June, 1991, September, 1994, October, 1998 and October, 2002 as well as from foot surveys conducted in three hunting blocks. One thing I have learned from conducting aerial surveys of the game on my own ranch, is the importance of conducting these surveys on an annual basis, at exactly the same time of the year, with the helicopter flying exactly the same transects with experienced and reliable game counters on board. Failure to follow any of these basic rules renders the game counts extremely unreliable even over a small area such as my game ranch, let alone the vastness of the Selous.

I can also tell you that, on our game ranch, which is devoid of large predators and poachers, our plains game has increased, on average, over nearly twenty years, at a compound rate of 24, 7%. I can also tell you that, by maintaining our offtake of trophy quality animals, in other words, those that would be at or about the minimum entry level into Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game, to between three and six per cent of the total game numbers of such species, we have managed to not only retain but increase our trophy standards. These numbers are at odds with the predictions of the authors and, although there is a world of difference between our small game ranch and the Selous, the figures from our ranch are based on actual numbers not formulae and best guesses.

I guess this is the point I wanted to make and it is a simple one. In my humble opinion and with the greatest of respect, there appears to be too little accurate, field based research by practical, hands on managers and too many academic generalizations and formulae in the article for me to be able to attach any, and I do mean any, value to it for purposes of reaching practical game management decisions and, to the extent that the authors have had the temerity to make actual recommendations based on what is to me nothing more than mumbo jumbo, is at best ill-founded and, at worst, arrogant.

If this sounds a little harsh, I apologize but I have too often seen the disastrous results of academic research by "experts" in Africa and, I confess, articles like this are a bit like a red rag to a bull.

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## A New "Record Red Deer" From Argentina and Another One in the Making

Gerhard Damm

After the well known Burlei affair a couple of years ago, the specter of captive red stags, bred, born, raised, manipulated and shot to satisfy some person's ambition to hang a record size piece of bone on a "trophy wall" respectively to satisfy the ambition of the owners to maximize profits raises again its ugly head. We have received notice of a so-called world record deer shot in a small enclosure in Argentina's La Pampa province after having been bred and raised on a deer-breeding farm near Buenos Aires. Although this stag is claimed as being the new world and South American record based on the existing CIC measuring methods, this "claim to fame" has no authorization whatsoever through the CIC or its Commission on Exhibitions and Trophies; it was not measured by any official CIC measurers and in all likelihood will never be submitted for official measuring, taking into account the rumors which have surfaced so far.

Another potential record stag – even larger than the mentioned Argentinean stag – was recently offered to the

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A New "Record Red Deer" From Argentina and Another One in the Making

highest bidder by a European booking agent. The respective email, which we have in copy, reads "new world record red stag both in SCI and CIC measurement systems (over 700 SCI points and over 300 CIC points). Will be sold to the hunter who makes the highest offer. The hunt can be taken starting now and until September". We do not want to speculate where this monster stag is growing, but we have heard that the CIC took exception to the use of its name and accordingly advised the booking agent who spread the email.

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## CD-ROM on the Application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines

TRAFFIC

In 2002, a Biodiversity Liaison Group was established to enhance coherence and cooperation in the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions. This group comprises:

- CBD Convention on Biological Diversity
- CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- CMS Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
- ITPGR International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Ramsar Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- WHC Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- (World Heritage Convention)

At its fifth meeting (Gland, September 2006), the Biodiversity Liaison Group decided to develop an interactive CD-ROM on the application of the Addis Ababa principles and guidelines within the biodiversity-related conventions. The preparation of this CD-ROM is now complete and the Biodiversity Liaison Group is pleased to announce the launch of the first edition. Composed of four sections, it contains information on the application of the Addis Ababa principles and guidelines by the six biodiversity-related conventions, the full text of the principles and guidelines, relevant decisions, recommendations and resolutions, and background documents and other materials, including links to relevant websites.

This collaborative endeavor aims to promote greater awareness and use of the principles and guidelines. It also exemplifies a strategic and collaborative use of data resources by the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions to meet the information needs of their Parties more effectively. In due course, the information on this CD-ROM will also be made available through the Web. Copies of the CD-ROM are available from the convention secretariats on request.

## Trophy Males as Individuals of Low Fitness

Valerius Geist, Professor *emeritus*, Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

While wildlife trophies get a lot of attention in modern times in North America and Europe, such infatuation has a long and instructive history. Already in the Upper Paleolithic, cave painters invariably chose to paint large, complex antlers on male deer and long horns in ibex, bison, and woolly rhinos. The trophy mania hit its high point in medieval central Europe when huge red deer antlers were used as gifts of state, when hunting records of nobility were recorded in exquisite detail and antlers were venerated objects of display in castles built to house trophy collections. Such castles have survived into modern times, i.e. the castle of Moritzburg close to Dresden, Germany displays red deer of unequalled size. These have, naturally, raised the question, "How might such antler growth be duplicated?"

Moreover, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the vagaries of treatment of wildlife in central Europe led to declines in the trophy quality of antlers which led to an early "Quality Deer Management" movement. This movement reversed the decline within about a quarter century, and generated an intense interest in how to produce huge trophy antlers. We see, currently, in the United States the birth of a similar "Quality Deer Management" movement. Some of the most interesting experimental deer management for trophies was carried out during the Third Reich on the Rominten Heath by Walther Frevert. There is, consequently, a rich historical background on the biology of "trophy males," but this is currently poorly known.

The recent study by Coltman et al. which demonstrated declines in horn and body size in bighorn rams with hunter selection for large-horned males, confirms the findings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries on European cervids. The ongoing removal of males with superior antlers led to a severe shift in sex ratio in favor of females. This imbalance was primarily addressed by the culling males with inferior antlers, while sparing males with good antler growth. Wildlife eugenics, the culling of undesirables, was made popular by Ferdinand von Raesfeld's "Hege mit der Büchse" (husbanding with the rifle) which subsequently was institutionalized in Germany's 1934 wildlife management legislation. One thus suspects that, contrary to Coltman et al.'s fears, the declines in horn and body size in bighorn rams are not permanent, but can be reversed by similar means. Even if merely left to themselves, the selection pressures favoring horn size in bighorns would return normal horn growth in time.

Moreover, the rehabilitation of formerly strip-mined bighorn habitat in Alberta, as well as the reintroduction of bighorns to former ranges throughout the United States has not merely increased the wild sheep population of the continent by nearly 50 percent in a quarter century<sup>16</sup>, but has also resulted in the growth of many rams with record-sized horns.

In central Europe, management for trophy deer also led to deliberate population reductions, habitat improvements, and

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Trophy Males as Individuals of Low Fitness

the introduction of males with superior antlers from other regions. The latter, however, was considered a failure. The interest in improving trophy quality led to research into the nature of body and antler size variations in red deer, with the aim of reproducing antler sizes such as has been seen in medieval times. This illuminated the "biology" of trophy males in clinical detail and led to surprises.

One can summarize the findings as follows: Deer varied in body size along a pedomorph/hypermorph axis, so that small-bodied deer retained juvenile proportions compared to large-bodied deer. Body size was plastic, but slow to shift and it took some five generations for medium-sized deer to reach maximum body size. This finding, rediscovered three decades later, was labeled the "maternal effect". Continuous access to highly digestible feed rich in protein calcium, and phosphate was a necessary condition for large antler and body size. However, trophy stags were exquisitely sensitive to shortages in food quality, which indicates that medieval foresters must have been very concerned about the possibilities that their treasured and pampered stags might move off somewhere else. It explains, in part, the brutality with which these foresters treated peasants who disturbed deer.

While a high plane of nutrition was a necessary condition for exceptional antler growth, it was not a sufficient condition in itself. Optimal results were achieved by artificially preventing males from rutting. Males that did not rut had no need to heal the severe rutting wounds suffered by rutting males, and were thus able to shift their body resources from repair and re-growth into increased body and antler growth. Moreover, the absence of wounding would lead to the desirable symmetrical antler growth.

However, stags that reached maximum antler development were severely handicapped by their unwieldy antlers in fighting and tended to lose out to normally antlered males. Not infrequently trophy stags locked their complex antlers and died. Large trophy antlers conveyed no apparent benefit to their bearers, quite the contrary. This suggests that in free-living populations, male deer with exceptionally large antlers may be non-breeders, and thus individuals of low fitness.

During 8 years of field work with habituated mule deer in Waterton National Park, Alberta, Canada, I was fortunate to closely observe three bucks with exceptionally large antlers. All three became "shirkers" during the rutting season. They avoided other deer, bucks especially, and thus failed to court and breed females. They merely fed and rested in seclusion. However, one of these bucks had a surprising history. He had been a normal rutting buck up to three years of age. During a fight with an old buck, he was flung upward and landed on his back in some wind-blown aspen trees. He quit rutting that year and for two more years. By then, he had grown to a very large body and antler size. The next rutting season he reversed and became a fully engaged, breeding master-buck. He continued as such for three rutting seasons. Hence, "shirking" is potentially reversible.

Nevertheless, managing populations for trophy size remains highly questionable, as do the stated concerns of Colman *et al.*

## Central African Giant Eland - Cameroon versus C.A.R.

Peter Flack

Editor's Remarks (Source IUCN Red List 2008): Giant Eland inhabit woodlands and forested Sudanian to Guinean savannas, never far from hilly/rocky landscapes nor from water (Planton and Michaux in press). Kingdon (1997) considered that it is quite strictly confined to *Isoberlinia doka* woodland, but recent studies indicate that its range includes areas of *Terminalia-Combretum-Azelia* woodland where there is no *Isoberlinia*, e.g., in parts of Cameroon's North Province such as Boumedje Hunting Concession (Bro-Jorgensen 1997). Giant Elands feed mostly on leaves, shoots, herbs and fruits (but occasionally on grasses), and will drink daily where water is available (Planton and Michaux in press). There are two recognized subspecies of Giant Eland, *Tragelaphus derbianus*.

The Western Giant Eland (*T. d. derbianus*) is listed as Critically Endangered C2a(ii). This subspecies still occurs in southeastern Senegal, the far north of Guinea, probably south-western Mali and possibly eastern Guinea-Bissau (East 1999; Darroze 2004; Planton and Michaux in press).



Distribution Map Western Giant Eland

The Eastern Giant Eland *T. d. gigas* (East 1999) which Peter Flack deals with in this article is listed as Least Concern. Eastern Giant Eland are one of the most sought after antelope trophies and sustainable safari hunting is having a positive effect on the conservation of populations in many

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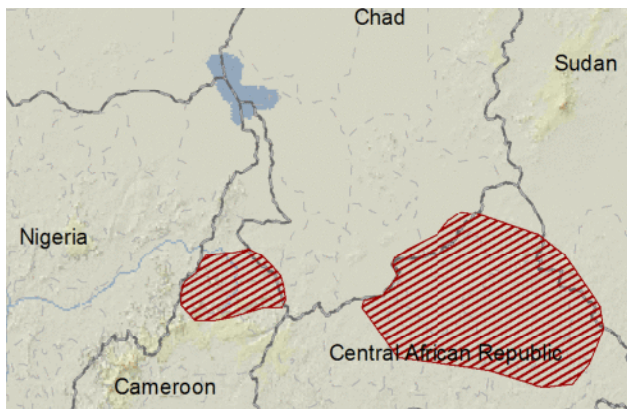
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Central African Giant Eland - Cameroon versus C.A.R.

areas. Eastern Giant Elands occur in the central African region, and were formerly distributed from north-eastern Nigeria to north-west Uganda. They now survive mainly in north-east Central African Republic. A separate population lives in northern Cameroon, with herds crossing the Chad border to the east; occasional vagrants may enter Nigerian territory. They may still occur in south-western Sudan, from which they may visit north-eastern DR Congo and north-west Uganda (East 1999; Planton and Michaux in press). East (1999) estimated that there are probably more than 15,000 Eastern Giant Eland remaining, with over 12,500 in the CAR. Numbers have increased in CAR, Cameroon and Chad since the 1990s. The numbers that survive in Sudan are unknown, but could be substantial. This suggests a total population of the Eastern Giant Eland in the order of at least 15,000-20,000. Its numbers are probably more or less stable over large areas of its range in Central African Republic and Cameroon where human population densities are very low. However, the Eastern Giant Eland's overall, long-term population trend is probably gradually downwards (East 1999).



Distribution Map Eastern Giant Eland

For more years than I care to remember, I have repeatedly heard hunters say that giant eland were much bigger in C.A.R. than in Cameroon. In fact, I heard it so often and from so many people that I automatically assumed it was true and confess that I have also repeated this statement as if it were gospel. But is it?

50 years ago you could have hunted these magnificent animals in five countries – C.A.R., Cameroon, Sudan, Chad and the Congo. 40 years ago the Congo slipped off the giant eland radar screen and was joined by Sudan and Chad some 15 years later. Today, only Cameroon and C.A.R. still remain as viable Central African giant eland hunting destinations. Elsewhere, Lord Derby's eland have all been eaten.

These events are clearly reflected in Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game. Altogether, there are 357 Central African giant eland (as opposed to West African giant eland which can

no longer be hunted) entries which exceed the minimum entry level of 44 7/8 inches. Of these, 200 are from C.A.R., 53 from Sudan, 50 from Chad, 32 from Cameroon, seven from the Congo and 15 from unknown countries.

The world record, measured around the spiral, was shot by Darryl Hastings in 2004 in Ndele Province, C.A.R. The longest horn measured a whopping 56 3/4 inches. The world record measured according to the previous silhouette measuring system was shot by Ms. Blancpain in 1954. The location was given as north eastern Obangui, Zaire and the longest horn measured 47 5/8 inches. More importantly, C.A.R. accounted for nine out of the top ten entries, 18 out of the top 20 and 26 out of the top 30. That is an impressive percentage and, judged by the record book alone, the evidence would seem to be conclusive. C.A.R. rules the roost. But does it still do so today?

Last year reports were published stating that Mr. Marc Watts had shot a huge giant eland in C.A.R. which would rank in the top three in the world. Of course, everyone knows that trophies measured in the field during the excitement and success of the moment are prone to shrink, not only from natural causes but also from fright when they reach the taxidermist and are confronted by an official measurer's official tape measure and I look forward to seeing these measurements in print in a reputable record book. Even taking the wonders of modern photography into account, the tremendous animal shot by Mr. Watts looked hugely impressive to say the least and certainly provided anecdotal evidence that C.A.R. was continuing to produce the goods

I also hunted in C.A.R. in March last year, admittedly not the best time for giant eland and, during the entire 21 day hunt, saw only three giant eland herds, only one of which held a shootable bull which probably would have measured 47 to 48 inches. I did not have a shot at him and, after 11 long days on the tracks, went home empty handed. My hunting partner only managed a mediocre 47 inch bull on the nineteenth day of our hunt. What was more instructive, however, was that although all ten previous hunters had shot giant eland, when I examined their hard won trophies in the skinning shed, only one measured in the region of 49 inches while all the rest were the same as my friend's.

The quota for our concession was 12 bulls. As a game rancher of some 20 years standing, I know that to retain trophy quality I must confine my offtake of trophy males to between three and five per cent of my game numbers. In other words, to be sustainable, the quota would presuppose approximately 250 to 400 giant eland in the concession and, after a total of 42 hunting man days of dawn to dusk hunting, during which time we drove, walked and glassed the entire concession, we certainly saw no sign of such numbers. Admittedly, giant eland do wander and it is well known that, at different times of the year, much like caribou, eland numbers in a particular area can vary from fleas on a dog's back to zero. Nevertheless, we were hunting in one of, if not the, most famous giant eland concession in the whole of C.A.R. (made famous by Giorgio Grasselli, the author of the book, African Sunsets, published by Rowland Ward, in 2007) with highly experienced and capable French professional hunt-

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Central African Giant Eland - Cameroon versus C.A.R.

ers with extensive knowledge of the area.

And it is not sour grapes speaking. Apart from the eland, I had a fantastic hunt with a professional hunter that I both liked and rated very highly. I took home an excellent bag consisting of a bongo, giant forest hog, red river hog, yellow-backed duiker and oribi. All were good, highly sought after trophies and the bongo was exceptional.

Contrast this experience with my hunt in the northern, Sahelian region of Cameroon in January of this year, not too far from the large, regional town of Garoua, with Mayo Oldiri. During my giant eland hunt I saw substantial herds of these animals each day and could have shot a good representative bull each day that I spent on the tracks. Admittedly these were only three in number but, on questioning the three PHs I met there, I was told that this was, and had been, par for the course for some years. Certainly no-one took longer than a week to find a good, representative bull.

Two bulls shot in 2009 measured over 50 inches – the giant eland holy grail - but, of the remaining 14 eland shot this season in Mayo Oldiri's concessions, none joined this select group while the average for the year was just over 47 inches, well over the minimum entry level into Rowland Ward of 44 7/8 inches. I contacted two other highly reputable outfitters in the area – Faro West and Faro East (previously called Faro Koti Manga) but only Patrick Dahlen, owner of the latter company, replied. Over the last six years they have shot three plus 50 inch bulls. The smallest was 44 inches and, of the balance, over 90 per cent measured between 47 and 49 inches. OK you doubting Thomases, I know what you are thinking – how scared did these trophies become when they hit the taxidermist and the dreaded official tape measure. That, I'm afraid, I can't answer.

But let's assume for the moment that the pendulum has swung in Cameroon's favour. What could have caused the change? The most obvious answer is poaching. Quite simply, in my opinion, it is out of control in C.A.R. and that hackneyed response that the Sudanese only poach elephant may have been correct once but no longer. What is true is that the Sudanese are the main poachers but today they are ably aided and abetted by the locals with whom they are often in cahoots. They supply the Sudanese with everything from intelligence to porters to food and I can speak from first hand experience. We found signs of poaching in almost every bako we crossed – a camp, blood spoor of wounded animals, fires, tracks, rifle shots and once a group of porters.

In the 1990s, when I first hunted in C.A.R., poaching was confined to the eastern border region of the country. A few years later, the safari outfitter I used, Ubangui Safaris, was forced out of this area by poachers and, today, poachers control the eastern half of the country.

During my hunt last year, my PH told me that, earlier in the season, he had found two horses in the veld. He took them back to camp thinking that he and his fellow guides could ride them. A few mornings later they were woken by the arrival of some 15 heavily armed Sudanese who not only reclaimed their horses but instructed the guides that they were poaching elephants in the area and, if they knew what was good for them,

they would stay out of their way.

In the month after I left, the poachers ambushed a white Land Cruiser, similar to the one used by the small anti-poaching squad employed by the outfitters in the area. The driver, the late Daniel Breyton, a camp manager and a woman on the back of the vehicle were killed and others wounded.

Clearly, the poachers were convinced that they could behave like this with impunity and rumours have long circulated that cabinet ministers in both C.A.R. and Sudan have funded these poaching teams.

In stark contrast, I was surprised while out hunting in Cameroon by a heavily armed, 12 man, anti-poaching squad from the neighbouring national park. In addition, the outfitters can call on a rapid reaction unit specially trained to deal with poachers and other rural criminals which has been remarkably effective in this part of Cameroon. And yes, the national park still worked (sort of) and had game, unlike the one in C.A.R. near our concession which had long since been poached into extinction.

Please don't get me wrong. Cameroon is no bed of blushing roses. Far from it. Although the country is often best known for the exploits of its soccer teams at the World Cup, Cameroon competes most effectively in another arena and has been awarded the trophy three times in the last 11 years by Transparency International for the most corrupt country in the world. Its hunting camps have also not escaped the violence experienced in C.A.R. Hunters have been robbed in their camps. A PH was arrested for murder after defending himself against an attack by an armed poacher he was trying to apprehend and his camp was subsequently burnt down. I was there when a senior wildlife official arriving in our camp and demanded money quite openly. He made it crystal clear that should we refuse he would not issue export permits for our trophies. But, when all is said and done, my impression is that the scale of poaching, although bad and becoming worse, is not anywhere near the scale of that in C.A.R.

And that can be seen clearly in general game numbers. I have hunted three times in C.A.R. (twice in the east and once in the north central region) and was amazed at the difference between the two countries. Both the numbers and variety of game in Cameroon were far superior to C.A.R. and, at the end of the day, genetics and food aside, to a large extent hunting is a numbers game. The greater the number of eland, the better the chances of finding one and a big one as well. And that, in turn, begs the question. Given that food resources appear on a par, are the genetics in C.A.R. simply better than those in Cameroon? And so we have come full circle. Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game would appear to agree with this hypothesis. So is that the final answer?

I think not. Just as decades of over shooting and the repeated killing of big springbuck rams in South Africa's Karoo has reduced the size of all springbuck over years, the same thing can happen elsewhere especially where the process is hastened by uncontrolled poaching. Personally, although I can't prove it, my impression is that this is what we are seeing in C.A.R. And that is why I put my money where my mouth was and booked to hunt in Cameroon this year.

I know that the outfitters in C.A.R. are fiercely, some

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Central African Giant Eland - Cameroon versus C.A.R.

might say over, protective of their turf and I look forward to a good debate on this issue particularly if those participating can provide facts and figures to support their arguments.

Anyone who would like to become a member of the Spiral Horn Antelope Club (SHAC) or wants to participate in the above debate is asked to contact Peter Flack at [peter-flack@mweb.co.za](mailto:peter-flack@mweb.co.za).

## CIC Trophy Scoring Symposium Vienna

Gerhard Damm

This workshop which took place in February 2009 was initiated and arranged by the CIC Austrian Delegation. All members of the CIC Commission Exhibitions and Trophies were invited for this symposium at the Universität für Bodenkultur. 48 Delegates from 20 countries participated; amongst them scientists like Professor Sven Herzog (TU Dresden), Professor Marco Apollonio (University of Sassari/Italy), Professor Klaus Hackländer and Professor Fritz Reimoser (both Universität für Bodenkultur, Vienna), who filled the morning session with their extremely interesting view points of the importance of trophy scoring. They elaborated on the following parameters which should be used in judging new, and/or revised, and/or existing formulae.

- **Biological Relevance/Validity/Justification**
- **Comparability**
- **Practicability**
- **Objectivity**
- **Social Acceptance**

### Biological Relevance/Validity/Justification (and Conservation-Biological Consequences)

Professor Reimoser and his professorial colleagues consider *Biological Relevance/Validity/Justification* in trophy formula design of prime and imperative importance. In their opinion, these aspects need to form the underlying scientific base for any existing, and/or new and/or revised formula. Irrespective of the individual stance towards change, the team members should share the responsibility of considering complete and up-to-date socio-biological and morphometrical parameters and eliminating any purely anthropocentric or subjective interpretations (compare Bubenik and Geist in Trense 1989).

### Comparability

The meaning of the word *comparability* needs to be investigated. Listening to the contributions of the scientists and the interventions of the CIC leadership at the symposium, it may be

interpreted in the context (1) of the existing CIC trophy formulae and/or their individual segments, (2) of commonly used scientific parameters in wildlife research and, (3) with taxa of the same or similar trophy morphology.

*Comparability* attains relevance, if the individual attributes (the bio-indicators of a trophy) are objectively measured and analyzed. Meaningful comparisons can then be made on specific trophy morphology attributes and on the entire three-dimensional aspect of the trophy on one hand, as well as on population, zoo-geographical and management unit levels on the other hand. Our scientific colleagues considered that *Comparability* of old and new systems should be reached "*as far as possible*" and "*as far as practical*". Mr. André-Jacques Hettier de Boislambert added in a subsequent written comment regarding comparability "*Is this criterion really essential? Once a new road is opened, it must accept its own traffic*".

The discussions have shown that *Comparability* may still be an ambiguous term in the context that opponents to a system revision have yet to specify their specific definition of comparability. It seems that this particular circle interprets comparability merely as comparing point totals, e.g. in Red Deer 255.6 versus 273.4 points.

Interpretations are controversial and a broadly acceptable definition of *Comparability* needs to be found.

Prof. Sandor Csanyi of the Szent Istvan University has offered the availability of the extensive Hungarian trophy database which contains tens of thousands of complete data sets for the five main European species (mouflon, red deer, fallow deer, roe deer and wild boar) and the relational database management system at his institute to test and compare existing and/or alternative models of trophy scoring methods in cooperation with the experts of the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. This testing process of a variety of proposed alternatives will be a focal point of the work of future species-specific sub-teams.

### Practicability

*Practicability* is related to ease of system application in practice, e. g. how, where and by whom (or by how many) trophies are measured. Furthermore, how and where trophy data are stored, how these data are managed and in which form the data are made available. This complex concerns also the ease of data access through hunters and scientists. Another requirement of *practicability* is the repeatability of measuring results.

In some cases, *practicability* has been undermined by the regional introduction of changes to the present system without adhering to prescribed CIC procedures, thus undermining the integrity of the existing CIC system. The task at hand is creating a user friendly framework of integer and practice oriented methods

### Objectivity

The present CIC formulae are a complicated compilation of subjective, semi-subjective and objective methods, based on linear, volume and/or mass measurements and on individual perception. Professors A. B. Bubenik and V. Geist bemoaned already the biologically incomplete formulae and their lack of

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CIC Trophy Scoring Symposium Vienna

objectivity. The creation, respectively the restoration of *objectivity* in all measured parameters is, therefore, of importance.

### Social Acceptance

*Social acceptance*, long a foster child of our considerations, has now been included, last not least because of a trend expressed by recent articles in Nature and Newsweek. In these two publications trophy hunting came under attack as fostering undesirable evolutionary consequences in wildlife populations. Another popular opinion accuses hunters of "breeding" wildlife with a unique focus on "breeding and shooting" mega-trophies. These opinions do not yet represent a majority in society, but we need to engage in focused public relation work to convince the broad public opinion that hunting in general and trophy hunting in particular has broad conservation and other benefits. As co-developer of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, the CIC has a strong incentive to use a scientifically based trophy scoring system in support of hunting.

It has been stated that trophy formulae should place emphasis on the age of the trophy animal to promote sustainable management practices and conservation as part of the hunters' ecological responsibility. Information on the age of individuals is of great importance for studies on diverse aspects of the biology of mammal species, to develop population models, life expectancy and mortality rates. Age related trophy scoring formulae will substantially strengthen a positive perception of sustainable trophy hunting.

The lack of differentiation between sustainable hunting and other activities often also called "hunting", creates unfavorable public sentiments towards hunting *per se*. It is therefore necessary to clearly differentiate and segregate between the two activities (Reimoser, 2009). It was suggested that the CIC trophy database should monitor sustainable wildlife management under free range conditions. Nevertheless, the CIC recognizes that private ownership of land or game has led in some instances to safeguarding game within escape proof fenced enclosures and that hunting in such enclosures may well be conducted under "Fair Chase" conditions. The 2008 CIC symposium in Sopron "Enclosures – A Dead End?" dealt with this subject, but definitive answers are still outstanding and beyond the working scope of the task team.

In the moderated afternoon session, CIC president Dieter Schramm proposed and the participants agreed that an international task team should be nominated and work along the structures elaborated during the meeting. Factors such as age, origin of the game (e. g. free range, enclosures), medal and certificate awards, comparability with existing methods and the integration of data into a relational data management system should be taken into consideration. Apart from the task team members nominated during the symposium additional names were added to expand the expertise of team.

The Vienna Workshop was another effort in the process to achieve long term consensus on the methods of trophy evaluation within the CIC and between the CIC and wildlife biologists.

This difficult transformation process began with the Vienna Press Conference of the CIC in April 2006, the discussions during the General Assemblies in Belgrade and Marrakech, and a number of relevant documents which have been circulated to interested CIC members during the past 24 months.

Consensus has been reached that age may be a valid parameter to be included in the scoring of Caprinae trophies, but must be treated with circumspection, and may only serve as supplementary information in Cervidae and Carnivora. Opinions of task team members tend to favor the mandatory application of the incremental cementum line method for all top-scoring trophies of national and international interest and possibly also the introduction of compulsory genetic testing for such trophies. This may also assist eliminating blatant "canned super trophies". Another outcome of task team interaction was the proposal to restrict age considerations for "normal" trophies (i. e. representative specimens ranging below medal levels, respectively between bronze and medium gold medal level) to "age classes" like pre-prime, prime and post prime. Aging methods developed by Professors Stubbe and Lockow in Germany for some Cervidae species may assist in this respect.

Consensus has been reached on the necessity of forming sub-teams, who will intensively review species-specific trophy scoring methods and where necessary, adapt and change these methods, by considering the interaction between the five major parameters mentioned in the symposium report. During the interactions of the team members, it became clear no single one of the five criteria will most likely dominate. In view of the complexities of the issues, compromise solutions may often be necessary.

Additional sub-teams are suggested to deal with legal aspects, software and administration of the Relational Database Management System, taxonomy and trophy categories. Focused discussions, cooperation and interaction with national trophy scoring entities (e. g. JNH, AFMT, CNMT), FACE member associations, the Russian Federation of Hunters and Fishers, Rowland Ward, Boone & Crockett Club, Wild Sheep Foundation and other international hunting associations are within the scope of work of another sub-team.

**Consensus has been reached that the current system cannot be changed abruptly and overnight, although certain circles and individuals disseminated the rumor that such a sudden and abrupt change was on the cards or is the intention of the Coordinator and the CIC leadership.**

The **Need for Change** has been clearly elaborated by the professorial colleagues who presented the scientific background papers on the morning of the Vienna Workshop. The tone for the **Speed of Change** was subsequently established by Dieter Schramm, who chaired and moderated the afternoon session, when he said that all revisions must

1. be developed on a sound technical/scientific basis,
2. be rigorously tested and compared and,
3. gain acceptance at the CIC client-base through solid argumentation.

The workshop provided a lot of food for thought regard-

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ing the evolutionary development of the CIC formula system and the projected updated edition of a combined Red and Blue CIC Book.

The task team subsequently developed a set of by-laws which is still under consideration by the legal experts of the CIC. Nevertheless, the preamble should provide the interested reader with a good background to the thoughts of the task team:

"The CIC Scoring System and Database gets its internal and external legitimization through the adherence to the CIC Statutes and the objectives of CIC 2010, the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and the recognition of fair, legal and environmentally sound hunting practices. A set of principles, criteria and indicators for sustainable trophy hunting and trophy hunting tourism is of fundamental importance for the social acceptance of trophy hunting. Recognized principles, criteria and indicators allow evaluating trophy hunting in an objective and transparent way by taking into account important ecological, economical and socio-cultural aspects. The CIC firmly believes that sustainable trophy hunting and the inherent appreciation of hunters for hunting trophies has a positive effect in all three fields.

Information from harvested wildlife and comprehensive records of harvest data are not only essential segments of wildlife management to determine hunting quotas, hunt structure, general and specific conservation impacts, but render also important feedback to support rural economies and cultures that live with and from their natural assets.

Antlered, horned and tusked trophies are true bio-indicators. Their precise measurements and statistical evaluation play an important role for the implementation of sustainable use regimes of wild living resources. Hunting harvest data allow detecting changes, evaluating management success and failures, and predicting future needs for the adaptive management of the resource. Basic record keeping begins with a date and sex for each harvested animal and is expanded with parameters like age, linear trophy measurements, weight, and location where the animal was hunted.

Hunters typically select a non-random subset of the respective wildlife population based on characteristics which may influence the demographic and genetic structure in wildlife populations. At the same time, natural selection pressures exist. Hunter induced selection and mortality should not significantly impede natural patterns. Besides anthropogenic influence, nutrition and genetics, age is one of the primary factors influencing antler or horn size in wildlife species. The largest antlers and horns are carried at the transitional age between the prime and post prime stages. Males of full maturity may be harvested (1) as a reward for the conservation of the primes, (2) just before they are declining physiologically and (3) as best trophy bearers. Ageing the trophy is therefore essential for the interpretation of the recorded hunting data within the CIC Trophy Scoring System.

The taxonomy for mammal species is not universally accepted and, although taxonomy standards like Wilson & Reeder (2005) exist, individual taxa are frequently subject to

regional or individual scientists' interpretation. Moreover, there is no consistent use of taxonomic terms in multinational environmental agreements. Taking this into account, the CIC recognizes that the sustainable use of genetically distinct extant species and subspecies as well as of isolated phenotypes has implications for conservation and environmental legislation. The CIC further recognizes the economic and cultural aspects of locally distinct wildlife populations. Therefore, the CIC advocates the separate classification for zoo-geographical and phenotypical distinguishable trophy categories. The science-based CIC Trophy Scoring System will provide the necessary cross references of trophy categories with standard and historic as well as disputed taxonomy.

Recognizing these complex dynamics and in line with Article 2 of the CIC Statutes, the CIC, in close cooperation with scientists, will evaluate and where necessary revise its proprietary trophy recording system taking into account the specific biological and conservation requirements of each huntable wildlife species as well as the regional economic and socio-cultural context. The permanent evolution of the CIC Trophy Scoring System incorporates these challenges and works on adequate solutions."

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## News From Africa

### CAR

The US State Department has renewed its Travel Warning on the Central African Republic, recommending against all non-essential travel outside of the capitol of Bangui. The warning even addresses big game hunters, stating armed poachers pose a threat in north central CAR and in and around the Parc National de Bamingui-Bangoran. Travelers are told to stay out of northwestern and northern CAR, particularly areas bordering Chad. Download the warning at [State Department's travel web site](#).

### Namibia

The global credit crunch threatens to impede the short-to medium-term development of trophy hunting in the country. Local operators are reporting an increase in the cancellation and postponement of advance trophy hunting safari bookings for the 2009 and 2010 seasons. "The prospects for the international safari industry have been negatively affected by the current global economic challenges. At most conventions the attendance by potential buyers, and bookings, were drastically down," said Marina Lamprecht in an interview reported by New Era on April 22.

### South Africa/USA

Rowland Ward closed the office in Dallas, Texas. "Unfortunately, the global financial crisis and particularly its effect on North America has left us with no choice", said Jane Halse, Managing Director of Rowland Ward. "Being a proud

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company with a long history of actively supporting the hunting and shooting fraternities over many years, it was with great reluctance that Rowland Ward has been obliged to face the inevitable. We are aware that, in doing so, we will have not only inconvenienced many of our loyal supporters and customers but have let them down as well. We apologize, most sincerely. We will also do our level best to minimize the inconvenience and, to this end, will ensure that deliveries to North America will be air-mailed from our Johannesburg office at no additional cost than had they been shipped from the Dallas offices. As soon as the conditions allow, we fully intend to re-establish a North American presence. Our office in Johannesburg remains as active and enthusiastic as ever and, after the positive results of the AIM Show in a Johannesburg, southern Africa's premier hunting show, are cautiously optimistic that, in Africa at any rate, hunters and the hunting industry are starting to come to terms with the changed worldwide economic circumstances" the statement of Rowland Ward concluded.

#### Tanzania

As global recession continues to bite, some tour operators here have started laying-off workers one of them being Thomson Safaris. The firm recently laid off 45 employees out of its 140 Arusha staff. The remaining ones will endure 10 percent cut from their usual monthly salary packages. The company's confirmed tourists bookings had dropped by as much as 40 percent. Mustafa Akonaay the executive for Tanzania Association of Tour Operators said firms whose customer bases were in either United States or United Kingdom, countries badly hit by recession, were bound to experience high declining number of visitors than other companies.

#### Tanzania

The High Court of Tanzania has ruled that the Tarangire Safari Lodge were negligent in ensuring the safety of a seven-year old French boy killed by a leopard on October 1, 2005 within the precincts of the lodge. In his judgment Justice Kasukulo Sambo ruled that Tarangire Safari Lodge whose operations are inside the wildlife park did not care to beef up the security of its guests after noticing that a leopard frequented a barbecue area outside the lodge's dining hall. According to Tanzania National Parks rules and regulations, security of the people in any particular lodge was the responsibility of lodge operators. Witnesses told the Tanzanian Court during hearing process that the leopard frequented the lodge premises Wednesdays and Saturdays during barbecue dinners and has been a good attraction to lodge visitors.

#### Zambia

Environment and Natural Resources Minister Catherine Namugala has dissolved management boards for Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) and Zambia Tourism Board (ZTB). Ms Namugala said at a media briefing in Lusaka on April 22 that the ministry would soon reconstitute new boards once consultations have been concluded. She said the reason for the dissolution was to streamline the management of the two institutions in the

quest to reorganise the tourism sector as a key driver of the country's economic development. Ms Namugala said the tourism sector was facing numerous challenges and there was need to reposition the boards to assist the Government address the issues effectively. She said Permanent Secretary Teddy Kasonso would be managing the two institutions on behalf of the president and the country.

#### Zimbabwe

Rhinoceros poaching has been increasing throughout Zimbabwe including in the Lowveld Conservancies in the south of the country, home to three-quarters of the country's surviving rhinoceroses. About 20 rhinoceroses have been shot in the area during 2008. For more than a decade, the Lowveld Conservancies have been host to a rhinoceros conservation project involving WWF, the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority of Zimbabwe, the private sector and several other conservation agencies including the International Rhino Foundation. Recent conservation work has led to the expansion of both species of African rhinoceroses in the Lowveld region, to current totals of 400 Black Rhinoceroses *Diceros bicornis* and 150 White Rhinoceroses *Ceratotherium simum* (of an estimated total, respectively, of 500 and 300 in Zimbabwe as a whole). According to Raoul du Toit of WWF, Lowveld rhinoceros conservation project manager, approximately 70 rhinoceroses have been killed in the area since 2000, where previously there had been no rhinoceros poaching at all for a period of seven years.

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## Global Status of Antelopes: 70 % Not Threatened

Rolf D Baldus and Gerhard R Damm

Nearly 70 percent of antelope species are not threatened with extinction. This is how we prefer to headline this article – and not that “a quarter of all antelope species are threatened with extinction”.

The result of the latest IUCN status report compiled by the Antelope Specialist Group of IUCN's Species Survival Commission, show that out of 91 species of antelope, 66 are not threatened and 25 are threatened with extinction. “Unsustainable harvesting, whether for food or traditional medicine, and human encroachment on their habitat are the main threats facing antelopes,” says Dr Philippe Chardonnet, Co-Chair of the IUCN Antelope Specialist Group. “Most antelopes are found in developing countries which is why it's critically important that we collaborate with local communities there since it is in their own interest to help preserve these animals.”

Five species of antelope are in the highest category of threat, Critically Endangered, including the Dama Gazelle (*Nanger dama*), Aders' Duiker (*Cephalophus adersi*), the Saiga Antelope (*Saiga tatarica*), Hirola (*Beatragus hunteri*) and Addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*). The Scimitar Horned Oryx (*Oryx dammah*) is already Extinct in the Wild, but there are ongoing efforts to reintroduce it. The Dama Gazelle and Addax are both reduced to

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### Global Status of Antelopes: 70 % Not Threatened

tiny remnant populations and highlight the dire situation for wildlife in the Sahelo-Saharan region.

Overall, populations are stable in 31 percent of antelope species and decreasing in 62 percent of antelope species.

Regulated and legal hunting tourism and trophy hunting does not represent a danger to any of the antelope species. To the contrary, economic benefits from hunting antelopes has led to population increase, especially in southern Africa (Namibia and South Africa) mainly as a result of the well-functioning game ranching industry

Download the complete report (12 MB) at [http://cms.iucn.org/news\\_events/?uNewsID=2758](http://cms.iucn.org/news_events/?uNewsID=2758)

## Southern African Wildlife Management Association (SAWMA)

Wildlife Management: Ensuring Sustainability  
Conference: 13-16 September 2009

Protea Hotel Black Mountain, Thaba 'Nchu, Free State,  
South Africa

### Conference Topics

Putting a price tag on sustainability  
Managing small reserves and fragmented populations  
Sustainable projects for rural upliftment  
Managing ecosystems  
Maintaining biological processes  
Alien and invasive species as a threat to sustainability  
Monitoring and criteria for sustainability

### Deadlines

Submissions of paper/poster titles: 31 May 2009  
Submissions of paper abstracts: 30 June 2009  
Booking of accommodation: before 13 August 2009  
Early Registration: before 14 August 2009  
Final submission of registration forms: 4 September 2009

Registration and accommodation booking forms are available from the SAWMA Secretariat: [elma@mweb.co.za](mailto:elma@mweb.co.za). See also SAWMA website [www.sawma.co.za](http://www.sawma.co.za)

## CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST MOSALE CONCESSION NIASSA PROVINCE, MOZAMBIQUE

The Malonda Foundation, a non-profit organization concerned with economic development, is in the process of securing a DUAT to establish a Game Ranch on an area of land approximately 200km east from the provincial capital of Lichinga known as the *Mt. Mosale Conservation Area* (MMCA) in Niassa Province in northern Mozambique. MMCA lies within Majune District which is divided into three Administrative Posts that converge within the concession area. Traditional land holdings include the Matola Community to the south of the Lugenda River, and Revia Community with land to the north of the Lugenda River. The MMCA is 108,284ha (1,082.84km<sup>2</sup>) and borders the Niassa National Reserve in the north, a government hunting concession in the east and subsistence agricultural land to the south and west.

The Malonda Foundation is now calling for Expressions of Interest from parties who wish to tender for this rare opportunity to develop and operate the *Mt. Mosale Conservation Area* as a diversified tourism destination. Further information can be obtained by sending a request to The Malonda Foundation, Maputo or to [info@malonda.co.mz](mailto:info@malonda.co.mz) for a mini electronic prospectus. The Expression of Interest should not exceed 5 pages but, as a minimum, should include the following information:

1. Proposed Bidder Details: (a) Name; (b) Corporate Structure; (c) Date of Foundation; (d) Base Location; (e) Ownership / Shareholders; and (f) Directors / Principal Officers.
2. Past / Current Operations and Relevant Experience: Summary details of all current and past operations that have been developed and managed by the proposed bidder. Specific reference should be made to experience that has been gained from these operations that will be relevant to developing the MCA as a tourism destination.

The following should also be noted:

1. The Malonda Foundation reserves the right not to issue a formal invitation to tender following receipt of an Expression of Interest.
2. The Malonda Foundation will reserve the right to charge a non-refundable tender qualification fee which will be payable to the Malonda Foundation by all parties invited to tender.

The deadline for receipt of the Expressions of Interest will be midday (Mozambique time) 30th April 2009. Expressions of Interest may be submitted in Portuguese or English and should be emailed to the Malonda Foundation using the following address: Malonda Foundation, 1156 Avenida Kim Sung 11, Maputo (Tel: +258 21487671) or to [info@malonda.co.mz](mailto:info@malonda.co.mz).

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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