AFRICAN INDABA

Volume 7, Issue No 6 eNewsletter November/December 2009

Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

Elinor Ostrom's Nobel Prize: Encouragement for CBNRM

Gerhard R Damm

The award of the Nobel Prize in economics to Elinor Ostrom is a great choice. Ostrom's economics are based on time-consuming field work examining the institutional structures that humans build to solve their own real-world problems. Ms. Ostrom gathers much of her rich data outside the field of economics from case studies of common-property resources and her work shows that voluntary associations work.

> "Our findings are that some local people who have had long-term assurances of harvesting rights are able to manage forests more effectively than people who do not have the same assurances. The lessons are that when regulation comes from a distant authority and is uniform for a very large region, it is not likely to succeed."
>
> Elinor Ostrom

Most economists are familiar with the late Garrett Hardin's classic article, "The Tragedy of the Commons." His idea was that when no one owns a resource, it is overused because no one can control its usage and each person has an incentive to use it before others do. This insight has helped us understand much human behavior and has led people to advocate either having the resource privately owned or having it controlled by government.

Elinor Ostrom has put her entire lifetime's effort in the researches on outlying and underdeveloped communities, living over a very long period of time with their impoverished residents. Not so fast, said Ms. Ostrom consequently with respect to Hardin's conclusions.. Examining dozens of case studies, she found cases of communal ownership that worked—that is, that didn't lead to the tragic outcomes envisioned by Hardin—as well as ones that didn't. Were there systematic differences? Yes, and interestingly the ones that worked did have a kind of property rights system, just not private ownership.

Through her study of the way that natural resources have been managed around the world, Ms. Ostrom has found that, left to manage resources on their own and given the right support, local people often develop the most effective methods of sustainable development. Based on this, she proposed several rules for managing common-pool resources, which the Nobel committee highlights. Among them are: rules clearly define who gets what, good conflict resolution methods are in place, people's duty to maintain the resource is proportional to their benefits, monitoring and punishing is done by the users or someone accountable to the users, and users are allowed to participate in setting and modifying the rules. You will notice the absence of top-down government solutions. In her work on development economics, Ms. Ostrom concludes that top-down solutions don't help poor countries. Are you listening, SADC governments?

In a 2006 article with Harini Nagendra, Ms. Ostrom wrote: *"We conclude that simple formulas focusing on formal ownership, particularly one based solely on public [government] ownership of forest lands, will not solve the problem of resource use."* Garth Owen-Smith, who helped solve the common-resource problem of elephants in Namibia by ensuring that local residents shared in the financial benefits from tourism and trophy hunting, drew explicitly on Ms. Ostrom's work. If locals benefit from having a resident population of elephants, they are much less likely to poach and more likely to stop other poachers.

Economists talking about real humans and not mathematical abstractions and winning the Nobel Prize for it? Good on ya, Nobel committee!

> Ostrom's set of eight "design principles" include: clearly defined boundaries, monitoring who are either resource users or accountable to them, graduated sanctions, and mechanisms dominated by the users themselves to resolve conflicts and to alter the rules.
> The challenge, she observes, is to foster contingent self-commitment among the members: *"I will commit myself to follow the set of rules we have devised in all instances except dire emergencies if the rest of those affected make a similar commitment and act accordingly."*

Author's Note: I used fragments of an article by David R Henderson, a research fellow with the Hoover Institution and economics professor at the Naval Postgraduate School for the composition of this article. For further facts and guidelines about Community Based Natural Resource Management read also the articles on page 2 and 3 and other information in this issue of African Indaba.

Collaborative Natural Resource Management in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is well known among natural resources practitioners for innovation in collaborative management of wildlife through the CAMPFIRE programme. But Zimbabwe has also experienced great upheaval in the last five years – exceptionally high rates of inflation, shortages of fuel and other commodities, land disputes and occupation on both large commercial farms and state land, plus political tensions that have circumscribed the lives of ordinary rural people.

Here we are able to share some of the tools developed within the CAMPFIRE programme for community use, from the Wildlife Management Series produced by WWF (SARPO) through collaboration with rural communities. This is accompanied by a critical review that asks how far the technical tools developed under the support to CAMPFIRE project helped communities to empower themselves. There is also a review of the resilience and adaptations of collaborative management under Zimbabwe's dynamic political conditions, using CAMPFIRE and forest co-management as examples.

Tools from the CAMPFIRE Wildlife Management Series

The Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) is a Zimbabwean initiative to give rural people control over local wildlife. Under the legal provisions of CAMPFIRE, Rural District Councils became the "Appropriate Authority" for the management of wildlife – but the intention was that villages within the districts would become the real managers and beneficiaries of wildlife.

CAMPFIRE was facilitated by government departments and several locally based non-governmental organizations. The NGOs included Zimbabwe Trust, ACTION, Africa Resources Trust and WWF (SARPO). The CAMPFIRE Association, the lead agency of the CAMPFIRE Collaborative Group, coordinated their projects and roles. In 1993, the Collaborative Group recognized that villages were really passive participants in CAMPFIRE, and asked WWF to develop appropriate methods to help Communal Area residents take a more active role in the natural resource management. Through the Support to CAMPFIRE Project (SupCAMP 1994 to 2002), WWF worked with farmers to develop methods – now documented as the Wildlife Management Series.

Most of the Wildlife Management Series are guideline manuals that explain how to perform a particular task, for example counting wildlife. In addition there are several toolboxes that are designed to guide a facilitator through a process, for example setting hunting quotas. SupCAMP also developed the CAMPFIRE Game, which is a participatory training tool for financial management.

The Wildlife Management Series and the CAMPFIRE Game are available below for download in PDF format, along with a critical review of the SupCAMP experience to provide extra insight for practitioners in similar fields.

WWF Wildlife Management Series Manuals

(To download the complete files, please click the Hyperlink)

1. Quota Setting Manual
   Published in 1997 by the WWF-World Wide Fund for Nature Programme Office, Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe Trust and SCI.
2. Counting Wildlife Manual
   Published in 2000 by the WWF-World Wide Fund for Nature Southern African Regional Programme Office (SARPO), Zimbabwe Trust and SCI.
3. District Quota Setting Toolbox
   Published in 2000 by the WWF-World Wide Fund for Nature Southern African Regional Programme Office (SARPO), Zimbabwe Trust and SCI.
4. Electric Fencing Projects
   Published 1997 by the WWF-World Wide Fund for Nature Programme Office, Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe Trust and SCI.
5. Maintaining Electric Fencing
   Published in 1999 by the WWF-World Wide Fund for Nature Southern Africa Regional Programme

Continued on Page 3

CONTENTS VOLUME 7, # 6 Page

Continued from Page 2
Collaborative Natural Resource Management in Zimbabwe

Office (SARPO), Harare

6. Financial Management Manual
   Published in 2002 by the WWF-World Wide Fund for Nature Southern African Regional Programme Office (SARPO).
7. Fire Management Manual
   Published in January, 2001 by WWF - Southern Africa Regional Programme Office (SARPO), Harare, Zimbabwe.
8. Marketing Wildlife Leases
   Published in 1997 by the WWF-World Wide Fund for Nature Programme Office, Zimbabwe.
9. Problem Animal Reporting
   Published in 1997 by the WWF-World Wide Fund for Nature Programme Office, Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe Trust and Safari Club International.
10. Project Planning Manual
    Published in June, 2001 by WWF-Southern Africa Regional Programme Office (SARPO), Harare, Zimbabwe.
11. Managing Safari Hunting
    Published in 1997 by the WWF-World Wide Fund for Nature Programme Office, Zimbabwe.
12. Campfire – The Accountability Game Board
    Published in July 2001 by WWF-Southern Africa Regional Programme Office (SARPO), Harare, Zimbabwe.
13. Campfire – The Accountability Game Rules
    Published in July, 2001 by WWF-Southern Africa Regional Programme Office (SARPO), Harare, Zimbabwe.
14. Financial Management Toolbox
    Published in October, 2001 by WWF-Southern Africa Regional Programme Office (SARPO), Harare, Zimbabwe.
15. Empowering rural communities to manage wildlife: lessons learned from WWF's Support to CAMPFIRE Project 1993-2002
    Authors: Lilian Goredema, Russell Taylor, Ivan Bond and Sonja Vermeulen, 2005. This report was developed within the initiative "Sharpening policy tools for marginalized managers of natural resources" coordinated by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) with funding from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ).

Abstract: The Realities of Community Based Natural Resource Management and Biodiversity Conservation in Sub-Saharan Africa

Paul A. De Georges and Brian K Reilly

This article belongs to the special issue Economic Growth and Sustainable Wildlife Management

Download PDF Full-Text [1181 KB]

This is an historic overview of conservation in Sub-Saharan Africa from pre-colonial times through the present. It demonstrates that Africans practiced conservation that was ignored by the colonial powers. The colonial market economy combined with the human and livestock population explosion of the 21st century are the major factors contributing to the demise of wildlife and critical habitat. Unique insight is provided into the economics of a representative safari company, something that has not been readily available to Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) practitioners.

Modern attempts at sharing benefits from conservation with rural communities will fail due to the low rural resource to population ratio regardless of the model, combined with the uneven distribution of profits from safari hunting that drives most CBNRM programs, unless these ratios are changed. Low household incomes from CBNRM are unlikely to change attitudes of rural dwellers towards Western approaches to conservation.

Communities must sustainably manage their natural areas as "green factories" for the multitude of natural resources they contain as a means of maximizing employment and thus household incomes, as well as meeting the often overlooked socio-cultural ties to wildlife and other natural resources, which may be as important as direct material benefits in assuring conservation of wildlife and its habitat. For CBNRM to be successful in the long-term, full devolution of ownership over land and natural resources must take place. In addition, as a means of relieving pressure on the rural resource base, this will require an urbanization process that creates a middleclass, as opposed to the current slums that form the majority of Africa's cities, through industrialization that transforms the unique natural resources of the subcontinent (e.g., strategic minerals, petroleum, wildlife, hardwoods, fisheries, wild medicines, agricultural products, etc.) in Africa.

Paul A. DeGeorges [#,*] and Brian K. Reilly
2201 Mayflower Drive, Greenbackville, Virginia 23356, USA.
* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed.

Bushbuck, Harnessed Antelope or Both?

Torsten Wronski and Yoshan Moodley *(edited for space)*

The bushbuck, known as *Tragelaphus scriptus*, is one of Africa's most common and widely distributed antelope species (East, 1998). Over the last decades, the bushbuck has received little attention by conservationists since it is found in almost all habitats of sub-Saharan Africa and occurring in approximately 73% of the total land area. It persists in a wide range of natural habitats across the continent and it seems to be easier to describe where it does not occur than to specify where it occurs. Only in the primary lowland forest of the Congo basin, in the Somali-arid area (Horn of Africa) and in the south and southwest African arid and semi-arid habitats it is absent. The bushbuck is known to be an extremely flexible species surviving in numerous anthropogenically influenced habitats and plasticity in habitat use may be a key to its survival, even in densely settled areas and urban surroundings with severe hunting pressure.

Due to its common appearance throughout Africa and its secretive and crepuscular life style the bushbuck represents possibly the most ignored and misconceived ungulate species in Africa. Until recently the bushbuck was thought to be non-territorial, with a dominance hierarchy acting between males and little or no knowledge about the female social organization. Recent studies revealed a complex social organization with matrilineal structures amongst females and alternative mating strategies amongst males. Regarding its ecological plasticity, its behavior and its life history traits, the bushbuck resembles the European roe deer, which as an anthropophilous species benefits (or at least does not suffer) from human activities.

Based on phenotypic differences in fur-colorations and patterning, early taxonomists hypothesized that two bushbuck species, *T. scriptus (*harnessed antelope*)* and *T. sylvaticus (*bushbuck*)* exist (Lydekker 1893; Sclatter and Thomas 1900; Matschie 1912).The strongest contrast in coloration on the extremities and a harnessed color pattern was found in *T. scriptus* males, while a weaker contrast and non or fainted harnessed pattern was described for *T. sylvaticus* males. Thomas (1891, 1902) however, suggested a subspecies status for *T. sylvaticus*, rendering this taxon one amongst many other subspecies described for *T. scriptus*. In total 42 subspecies were described by various authors across the African continent. A recent analysis of genetic diversity using mt-DNA sequences revealed an unprecedented example of 23 phylogenetically distinct groups ('ecotypes'), the distribution of which was found to correlate strongly with pan-African eco-regions, suggesting that ecological heterogeneity on the African mainland acted as a driving force for local adaptation within both the '*scriptus'* and the '*sylvaticus'* lineage. Moreover, 19 'ecotypes' corresponded with previously suggested subspecies, while six others haplotypes were newly recognized forms in the upper and lower Volta region, in Niger, Angola and the Luangwa and Zambezi Valleys.

The high genetic diversity within both lineages (west-central '*scriptus*" and south-eastern "*sylvaticus*") as compared to other tragelaphines suggests that bushbuck may actually comprise two distinct species. An analysis of Moodley *at al.* (2008) recovered well-supported clades for both the *scriptus*- and the *sylvaticus*-lineage confirming the nonmonophyly of *Tragelaphus scriptus*. More importantly, however, the two bushbuck lineages did not form a monophyletic group. If these results are corroborated, then one should resurrect the species status of both bushbuck species using the names *Tragelaphus scriptus* and *T. sylvaticus*.

The results indicate that propositions of early taxonomists were right, in that actually two 'bushbuck' species may have evolved, the bushbuck or *Imbabala* and the harnessed antelope or *kéwel*. In the light of these findings, the impact on conservation science is considerable since at least two evolutionary significant units are existent in Africa and by understanding the genetic similarity of bushbuck populations inhabiting different habitats conservation managers can potentially trace which ecoregions are most similar and establish which are the most unique in evolutionary history. The conservation of habitat or ecoregion biodiversity is one of the greatest challenges in Africa. Using the bushbuck will allow conservationists in Africa to focus their efforts on the most biodiverse and more unique habitats which harbor the most genetically distinct populations. The bushbuck therefore provides a model framework for the incorporation of genetic and biogeographic information into a more a widely applicable model for pan-African conservation and, potentially, for the conservation of other global regions.

The full article with a complete reference list appeared first in Gnusletter Volume 281; Authors: Torsten Wronski, *Zoological Society of London (ZSL), Conservation Programs, Regents Park, London NW1 4RY, United Kingdom,* Yoshan Moodley, *Max-Planck Institut für Infektionsbiologie, Charitéplatz 1, 10117, Berlin, Germany*

Editor's Note – Glossary:

Anthropogenic	Caused or produced by human action as opposed to those occurring in natural environments without human influence
Anthropophilous	in this context referring to animals which live near humans and their dwelling
Clade	A group of biological taxa or species that share features inherited from a common ancestor
Ecological plasticity	The capability of living organisms being shaped or changed or having a function altered through environmental conditions
Ecoregions	Subdivisions of the ecozone characterized by distinctive large order land forms, micro-climates, vegetation, soils, water, wildlife and regional human activity patterns/use.
Ecotype	Within a species, an ecotype is a

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4
Bushbuck, Harnessed Antelope or Both

	genetically unique population that is adapted to its local environment.
Genetic diversity	is a level of biodiversity that refers to the total number of genetic characteristics in the genetic makeup of a species. It is distinguished from genetic variability, which describes the tendency of genetic characteristics to vary.
Genotype	The genetic identity of an individual that does not show as outward characteristics
Haplotype	A contraction of the term 'haploid genotype'. In genetics, a haplotype is a combination of alleles at multiple loci that are transmitted together on the same chromosome.
Heterogeneity	heterogeneous - consisting of elements that are not of the same kind or nature; "the population of the United States is vast and heterogeneous"
Locus	In the fields of genetics, a locus (plural loci) is the specific location of a gene or DNA sequence on a chromosome. A variant of the DNA sequence at a given locus is called an allele. The ordered list of loci known for a particular genome is called a genetic map. Gene mapping is the process of determining the locus for a particular biological trait.
Matrilineal	Tracing descent through the female line
Monophyletic	A group of taxa that contains an ancestor and all of its descendants
mtDNA	Mitochondrial DNA is maternally inherited and enables researchers to trace maternal lineage far back in time
Phenotype, phenotypic	What an organism looks like as a consequence of the interaction of its genotype and the environment
Polyphyletic	(Non-monophyletic) Having multiple ancestral sources; referring to a taxon that does not contain the most recent common ancestor of its members
Taxon	In classification, a group of organisms (such as mammals) at any rank (e g, species, genus, family); taxonomy is the science of classifying

Spiral Horned Antelope Club: A Letter From Brian Herne

Bushbuck were well distributed throughout much of Uganda except for a few parts of central Karamoja. I did notice mostly slight variables among individuals, sometimes even among those living in the same areas. These slight variables included color of hair, markings, “harnessing” or lack of it, mane or lack of it, as well as horn shape and design. But having said that I must say I sometimes noticed similar variables wherever I encountered bushbuck in other countries and habitats too.

For instance, I have met male bushbuck living in the Budongo and adjacent Siba forests that seemed markedly darker in coloration than the dark chocolate or chestnut color of mature bushbuck I encountered on the Butiaba Flats, a few miles away as the crow flies. Similarly female bushbuck I met on walks through the same forests also seemed a shade or two darker than their bright reddish-rufous colored female cousins on the Flats. I had decided the darker coloration of those bushbuck I met in the forest or forest periphery must somehow be an adaptation directly connected with their habitat beneath the forest canopies, as well as possibly for camouflage too.

But then one day I met a dull rufous colored mature male bushbuck (with horns of about ten inches) on a logging track deep in the forest. At first sight I thought I was looking at a light colored female. That single sighting of a markedly different colored male bushbuck shot my speculations about color and habitat to pieces

We obtained a few big bushbuck trophies from Budongo and Siba, the best was 15 5/8 inches taken by a German client. More often the bushbuck from that area and the shores of Lake Albert usually averaged between ten and twelve inches. These forests also held leopard, buffalo, numerous itinerant herds of elephants (there to feed on the young mahogany trees) bush pig, and both blue and red duiker and much else besides, as well as chimpanzees.

I found a few good bushbuck trophies in the region above the Butiaba escarpment and north of the Budongo forest. The bushbuck in this area were living along gullies sometimes fringed with palms and surrounded by rolling tall grass plains where the grass was six or seven feet tall. In the dry season after the annual fires the new grass stubble shoots attracted buffalo, wart hogs, waterbuck and Jackson’s hartebeest. I met a few lions in this region too, and leopard were by no means uncommon.

All the Lake Albert areas had healthy populations of bushbuck. Bushbuck could be found in the riverine vegetation along the Bubwe, Sonso, and Waisoke Rivers. I hunted these and all the eastern Albertine areas almost on a daily basis for every species of game but particularly for elephant. From Busingiro I was able to hunt all of Karuma Falls Game Reserve and the vast “open” or uncontrolled areas (that is areas that did not have a specific quota of game species) throughout Bunyoro Kingdom, including Kaiso-Tonya Game Reserve. Even after we had dismantled our semi-permanent camps, and returned to fully

Continued on Page 6

Continued from Page 5
Spiral Horned Antelope Club: A Letter From Brian Herne

mobile safaris I went back to that region on many safaris. Prior to my semi-permanent camps in Bunyoro, I had lived on the shores of Lake Mburo for an entire season.

Your informal spiral horn antelope club sounds interesting. I would like to see your online magazine African Indaba, and will contact Gerhard Damm. Thanks for the suggestion.

With Kind regards,

Brian Herne

The Leopard That Almost Wasn't

Craig Boddington

On this July day in 2006 I was awfully happy with a big old tom leopard. I wasn't so happy eight months later when I learned U.S. Fish and Wildlife had seized it because Namibia's long-used export tag was no longer acceptable.

It was a cold, rainy early spring day in Minnesota. I was at a charity sporting clays shoot with the Gander Mountain crew. I'd just finished shooting and I was in the parking lot stripping off raingear when my cell phone rang. It was John Meehan of the Fauna and Flora customs brokerage, and he had news no hunter wants to hear: "U.S. Fish and Wildlife has seized your leopard."

The leopard was a magnificent tom that I'd taken in Namibia eight months earlier, a wonderful old warrior with broken canines and skin hanging loose on its too-lean frame. We'd hunted with dogs, and I'd shot it perfectly and fairly at perhaps twenty yards. I'd applied for and received a CITES import permit, and when the shipment was ready, I'd overnighted the original permit to Meehan. And now my own government that I loved had taken my leopard away from me.

Shivering in the rain, I called the fish and wildlife inspector, and I didn't get much. All he could tell me was that Namibia's export tag didn't meet U.S. Fish and Wildlife standards, and the cat had been seized. In due time I would receive a "notification of seizure," and of course I was facing dire consequences.

It took a while to figure out what was going on. At that time the actual law "recommended" that CITES country of origin tags should be metal locking tags. But the fine print on my import permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife stated clearly that a metal locking tag was *required.* Most African countries use such a tag, but for years Namibia had used a simpler tag that could, in theory, be moved from one skin to another, and for years Namibian leopards had been accepted with proper paperwork. In late 2006 and early 2007, certain inspectors decided to crack down on the Namibian tags and several leopards were seized, mine among them.

In due time I received the draconian notification of seizure, and its message was clear: I should abandon the trophy and perhaps avoid prosecution, or face the full weight of the American legal system. There aren't many places to turn under such circumstances. I turned to John J. Jackson III.

Jackson is a Louisiana lawyer and former president of Safari Club International. For much of his career, he has been in the front lines of fighting hunting's political battles on a global scale. In the 1980s, it was Jackson who drafted the language in the International Ivory Ban that, from the start and to this day, allows exemption for sport-hunted elephant trophies (subject to quota), from countries that have demonstrated a huntable surplus. Thus, it is John Jackson III who must be given credit for the fact that Americans can hunt elephant at all. In more recent years he established Conservation Force, a nonprofit organization that is "the culmination of forty years of pro bono wildlife conservation advocacy."

The scope of Conservation Force projects is staggering, and can be viewed on their excellent Web site, www.conservationforce.org. They range from "in the weeds" conservation and habitat projects in far-flung corners of the globe to political and legal battles close to home. Current key projects include the Wood Bison Initiative, Polar Bear Initiative, All of Africa Lion Study, Argali Conservation, Cheetah Initiative, and much more. Jackson and his team are key players in the CITES conferences, and also with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (who are not always the bad guys). In 2007, U.S. Fish and Wildlife issued the first import permit for a markhor from Chitral, Pakistan. This was the first new CITES Appendix 1 hunting trophy for which a permit was issued since Botswana reopened elephant hunting in 1996. At the 14th Conference of the CITES Parties, there were numerous victories, including initiation of a leopard quota for Uganda, increase of Mozambique's leopard quota, and validation of black rhino quotas in Namibia and South Africa. Jackson received the Conservationist of the Year Award at the Namibian Professional Hunters Association annual meeting.

Oh, there was at least one more small victory. All the Namibian leopard trophies that were seized or detained because of the type of tag Namibia used were released and returned, including mine. Conservation Force was already on the case long before I contacted Jackson, and he represented all of us who were in the same pickle. As unfair as the situation seemed, and despite the fact that the tag that was suddenly a problem had not previously been a problem, the inspectors were technically correct. The bottom line is that the government usually wins on such a technicality, and the trophies go bye-bye. Jackson attacked it as a political issue, not only securing the release of the leopards but also obtaining a regulatory change permitting post-import correction of government-level errors. In the past there was little chance for reprieve if the exporting authorities made an error in the permit process. Thanks to our leopards (and Conservation Force), innocent permit holders of any CITES animals now have a chance to correct governmental errors and receive their trophies.

Unfortunately, 2008 may be a tough year. The near battle is the proposal to list the polar bear as endangered, this

Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 6
The Leopard That Almost Wasn't

based on future predictions and despite the facts that polar bear populations are sound and the current Canadian hunting program has demonstrable benefit. And there is much more on national and international levels. The work Conservation Force did for me was pro bono, as is the work they are doing throughout the world. But at year's end I wrote them a check. It wasn't your leopard, it was mine (this time)—but the work that Conservation Force undertakes benefits hunters and wildlife all over the world. Check out the Conservation Force web site, and consider helping out in the fight.

Source:
http://www.sportsafield.com/site/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=129&Itemid=9 reprinted in African Indaba with kind permission of Craig Boddington.

Zambia Elephant Import Suit

John J Jackson III

In October, Conservation Force filed suit against the USF&WS to compel the processing of Zambia elephant trophy import permit applications. Applications dating back to 2005 have not been processed at all. A Freedom of Information Act Request disclosed that the Division of Scientific Authority had not even taken the first step of making a non-detriment determination – positive or negative. The USF&WS also failed to act when sent the required 60-day notice of intent to sue.

Particularly troubling are International Affairs' repeated representations to Zambian authorities that they were close to approval of elephant trophy imports. Year after year has passed. Recently, International Affairs has started asking for information that the Zambia authorities had already furnished in their initial request for approval. This has exasperated the Zambia authorities who have responded by filing a proposal to downlist its elephant at the next CITES CoP in March 2010 to avoid such arbitrary and capricious treatment. If the elephant is downlisted to CITES Appendix II, at least for the limited purpose of trophy trade, no import permit will be necessary. That is already the case in Namibia, RSA, Zimbabwe and Botswana, which all have downlisted their elephant with annotations that trophies are to be treated as Appendix II trade.

Zambia has only had a quota of 20 elephant per year for the five years since it opened elephant hunting. The hunting has been limited to communal areas to reduce conflict between the local people and the growing number of elephant. Those local people get one-half of the revenue. That should meet the enhancement requirement of the USF&WS, so in effect the elephant has been denied enhancement while the permit applications go unprocessed. Zambia has more than 20,000 elephant and the population has been growing, now approaching 30,000 according to a recent survey. The quota of 20 per annum has been less than one-one thousandth of the population, but the Division of Scientific Authority and Division of Management Authority of International Affairs have neglected to make either a non-detriment determination or an enhancement finding. They have just run Zambia around in circles for five years. To International Affairs, the applications are a low priority and they have to make self-imposed findings before approval, contrary to very express recommendations of CITES Resolutions and Decisions. The USF&WS will no longer accept the quotas or biological non-detriment finding of exporting scientific authorities.

International Affairs' own regulations require it to process applications "as soon as possible" and its written acknowledgment to applicants specifies a processing time of 30 to 90 days. The suit is based upon that regulation, the Administrative Procedures Act that provides a right of action for "unlawfully withholding" or "unreasonably delaying" proper procedure, the procedural "due process" clause of the Constitution and the bundle of obligations to encourage and cooperate with foreign nations and not to jeopardize listed species under the ESA and CITES. Important legal precedent could be set in this case. Regardless, the Court should certainly issue a mandamus compelling the processing of the permits. A copy of the suit is in the *News and Alerts* section of the Conservation Force website.

International Affairs may deny the permits, in which case the suit can be amended to challenge the denials. Recently, International Affairs denied the permits for Niassa Reserve in Mozambique, a model program, when we compelled them through suit to act on the permits after five years. The reasons for those denials sadly reflect more on International Affairs than the merits of the permit applications and the exemplary Niassa Reserve program. In that instance the suit will simply be amended to challenge the arbitrary, capricious and irrational denials. Granted or denied, no import permit will be necessary if the elephant are downlisted to Appendix II next March.

Only when the permits are processed can we define what the issues are since International Affairs waffles, is so indecisive, and is such a poor partner. When the ultimate denials are irrational it is time for Court review.

African Indaba eNewsletter

Editor & Publisher: Gerhard R Damm
Postal Address: PO Box 411, Rivonia 2128, South Africa
Email: gerhard@muskwa.co.za
Phone +27-(0)11-883-2299, Fax +27-(0)11-784-2074

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

Opinions expressed in African Indaba are not necessarily those of the publisher and editor. Whilst every care is taken in the preparation of this newsletter, we cannot accept any responsibility for errors.

African Indaba eNewsletter is published every two months as a free service to the sustainable use community. Please share it with others who may be interested in the topics covered by African Indaba.

We would like to remind you that archived copies of African Indaba eNewsletter are available from our website.

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

Navigating the Fire Swamp of Hunting Ethics

Mike Leggett

When we muck around in the never black-and-white shallows of hunting ethics, it's like Westley and Buttercup tiptoeing through the horrid Fire Swamp. Like the lovers in "The Princess Bride," we could get burned by the flame spurts, disappear into the lightning sands or get eaten by the Rodents Of Unusual Size, in a metaphorical way, of course. Nothing's ever easy. When Westley was attacked by one of the mythical beasts, he rolled it over a flame spout and then skewered it with his sword. In other words, he killed it because it tried to kill him.

If an animal was trying to kill us, then we'd have mostly universal approval for killing it. There are some who would claim total nonviolence and say they wouldn't try to stop such an attack, but they're full of it. We'll pass on even addressing them. However, when we kill rodents of any size, or deer, or ducks, or any game animal, we must address the ethic that led us to that place and that allows us to move on.

I say this because of a conversation I had with a friend, another writer, who was saying he'd been surprised by the negative responses he'd received on a story about a woman who killed an alligator with a crossbow. It was legal. She and her family planned to eat the good parts and make wallets and boots out of the rest of it. But some people took offense, and he was a little surprised by it.

"I've hunted alligators," I said, "and it's not a hunt. It's a harvest. I wouldn't do it again. And I have to say, there's an odd feeling wearing something made out of an animal I've killed." I should have said wearing something decorative. Here's why:

I have an elephant tail-hair bracelet given to me by a friend. Native trackers weave one when a hunter kills an elephant, and it's worn as a sign of *mojo* or medicine. As Native Americans would say, I've been close enough to count coup on an elephant. But I could never kill one, so I can't wear that bracelet even though it's a beautiful piece of workmanship and absolutely legally acquired. I would love to wear it, but hunters just don't do that.

I would wear an arrowhead necklace or give one to my wife. I would wear a bear-claw necklace, if I could kill a grizzly bear, but I can't bring myself to do it. I might kill a black bear with a bow, but I haven't done that. I'm working up to it.

My friend then asked about Cape buffalo. "You've killed a buffalo. How much of that did you eat? And you've got the skull in your house. That's like having some alligator skin boots."

We ate part of the buffalo the night I killed it in Tanzania, and the natives in camp for sure finished off every last particle of that battle-scarred old bull, including some of the innards.

But I don't wear the skull around on my head. That skull is a trophy, sure, but it's also a reminder of my face-to-face with one of the world's worst-tempered, willing to take another bullet to kill you, animals. I did it. I stood on my own two feet within yards of a herd of 250 that could have stampeded right over us. I took the shot, and then followed it up to finish the job.

I deserve that skull. I earned it. It's in my living room along with dozens of other trophies from other special hunts, and I don't regret killing the buffalo or any of the others for a second. I'm going back to do it again.

This week, I finished what's likely my 57th or 58th consecutive season of squirrel hunting. Though they are the tiniest mammal I hunt, I don't regret that either. Not because they'll die if I don't hunt them — that's a poor excuse for any hunt — but because my grandfather and father took me squirrel hunting as soon as I could walk. They taught me the woods and the animals, how to sneak through the trees and how to cook and eat what we killed. And it's still legal.

But most of all, I squirrel hunt because that's when I can still feel that connection we had, even though they've been dead for more than 15 years. That's why I squirrel hunt.

Other animals, I mostly hunt because I must. Not must kill, but must hunt. It's as much a part of me as breathing. I get kidded about it, and I'm often ridiculed for it too. So what?

Nothing worthwhile could ever be gained if we turned and ran every time someone looked at us through squinted eyes and said they thought we were wrong.

And so we come to the other side of the Fire Swamp, having dodged some ROUS and jumped a flame spurt or two but not really any closer to a clear definition of hunting. We've also not clearly stated a universal hunting ethic.

Maybe it's this: A hunter — with nothing in his heart but a love of the chase — pursuing a legal game animal. I can live with that.

Source:
www.statesman.com/sports/content/sports/stories/outdoors/2009/10/11/1011legcol.html, The Austin-American Statesman (Mike Leggett is the American-Statesman's outdoors writer. He may be contacted at mleggett@statesman.com)

News from Africa

Angola

Pedro vaz Pinto reports focusing in keeping the captured Roya; Sable under surveillance within the fenced area Pete Morkel of the capture team thought the females looked unusually fat when captured, probably a result of several years of almost no breeding stress. The bull seems to be a competent master, being always near the females, leading them in the daily routines, securing the rear and guarding the herd from intruders. The herd is tracked by radio signal, with several animals wearing a VHF collar. The minimum and maximum distances for a sighting is 100 to 150 meters (see one of Pedro vaz Pinto's photos on page 10).

Botswana

Dr Larry Patterson who has worked in Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia and conducted wildlife management consultancies for international organizations, said that despite high financial rewards the photographic safari model can cause serious

Continued on Page 9

Continued from Page 8
News From Africa

environmental degradation. "Although most ecotourists would claim to be educationally sophisticated and environmentally concerned, they rarely understand the ecological consequences of their visits and how their day-to-day activities have physical impacts on the environment," he said at the Kalahari Conservation Society (KCS) annual fundraising dinner, attended by President Ian Khama.

Kenya

Taita and Taveta regions face one of the worst human-wildlife conflict cases in the country. Tsavo East and West National Parks occupy 62 per cent of the total area of 17,128 square kilometres covered by the region, turning it into a virtual theatre of conflict between humans and wild animals. Rangelands occupy 4,110 square kilometres or 24 per cent while only 2,055 square kilometres — 12 per cent — is land suitable for agriculture. Widespread invasion by wild animals into inhabited areas has been a thorn in the flesh to local residents for long. The effect is felt across the four districts of Taita, Taveta, Mwatate and Voi. Residents over the years have suffered huge loses occasioned by herds of marauding elephants, buffalos, zebras and other animals which invade their farmlands destroying crops and threatening lives. According to the area Community Wildlife senior warden Bernard Koruta, 330 cases of human-wildlife conflict were reported between January and September this year and out of these 291 had been attended to by KWS. Education Assistant Minister Calist Mwatela who is also the Mwatate MP accused the KWS of dragging its feet in handling the wildlife menace in the area.

Kenya

Scientists reported evidence of natural hybridization between the endangered Grevy's zebra *Equus grevyi* and the abundant plains zebra *Equus burchelli*. Grevy's zebra number <3000 individuals globally, and occur only in northern Kenya and Ethiopia. Both species are sympatric in the Laikipia ecosystem of northern Kenya, where the purportedly hybrid individuals have been observed. Hybrids integrate themselves into plains zebra society, rather than adopting the social organization of Grevy's zebra and female hybrids seem to be fertile with viable offspring. Stakeholders have discussed hybridization as a potential threat to Grevy's zebra survival.

Lebanon

It is suspected that Lebanon is being used as a hub for wild animal 'laundering', where some species are being imported illegally, and then tagged with a legal stamp before being re-exported. In the Arab region, only Lebanon, Iraq and Bahrain are the countries that have not ratified CITES. These international loopholes need to be closed.

Mozambique

Colleen and Keith Begg of the Niassa Carnivore Project attended a workshop in Maputo to develop a National Lion Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for Mozambique. Over the past year the IGF Foundation, supported by the Ministry of Tourism (MITUR/DNAC) and the Ministry of Agriculture (DNTF/MINAG) and funded by SCI Foundation and the Campfire Association, DNAC/MITUR and the IGF Foundation have been conducting a survey to assess the status of lions in Mozambique in preparation for this meeting. NCP has been collaborating in this process. The results of the Mozambican survey are encouraging. Mozambique still supports at least 2,700 lions (800-1,000 of which are protected within Niassa National Reserve) with lions present both inside and outside of protected areas. This is a globally important lion population and a national treasure for Mozambique with important links to lion populations in other neighboring countries. By the end of two days of intense work, led by Christine Breitenmoser of the IUCN/ SSC Cat Specialist Group, objectives and activities for an Action Plan and Conservation Strategy for lions in Mozambique were agreed upon.

Mozambique

Conservation Status of the Lion (*Panthera leo*) in Mozambique, co-authors: Philippe Chardonnet, Pascal Mesochina, Pierre-Cyril Renaud, Carlos Bento, Domingo Conjo, Alessandro Fusari, Colleen Begg, Marcelino Foloma, Francisco Pariela, Maputo 2009. Funded by SCI Foundation, Campfire Association, DNAC/MITUR & IGF Foundation. The PDF-File is available from African Indaba.

Namibia

Balyerwa Conservancy managed to buy another 4x4 vehicle and distributed N$180 000 to members as cash dividends for the last accounting period. Unemployment has been reduced. Namibia's conservancy legislation, the Nature Conservation Amendment Act of 1996, enables rural communities in communal areas to register conservancies for the sustainable utilization of wildlife through tourism and trophy-hunting. "The community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) is based on a number of principles that have been developed through experience in community-based natural resource management in Southern Africa. Conservancies provide economic incentives by enabling land holders to earn income from wildlife. They give landholders management authority to take key decisions regarding the use of wildlife, enable communities to establish management systems/institutions and reduce cost barriers that discourage sustainable management.

South Africa

South Africa's Limpopo Province will introduce a new system of allocating Leopard CITES tags in 2010. Only Limpopo based hunting outfitters will be allowed to apply for the allocated leopard permits with an application deadline set at 23rd November 2009. Successful operators will be notified in writing on or before the 15th of December 2009 and outfitters must provide the department with the clients name, proof of contract, copy of passport, proof of TOPS application in the name of the client and permit payment as well as dates of the safari before 14th April 2010. Failure on any of these points will forfeit the right to hunt leopard. Unsuccessful hunts must be reported within 24 hours after the hunt is finished and the permit will be cancelled.

Continued on Page 10

Continued from Page 9
News from Africa

South Africa

Lion breeders are making a last effort to save their ill-conceived industry from ruin by calling on the judge president of the appeal court for permission to appeal against the June judgment. Only some weeks ago Judges HM Rampai and Ian van der Merwe refused them permission to appeal against their judgment in the high court in Bloemfontein. Meanwhile breeders continued operating their lion hunting practices as in the past.

South Africa

5 years ago the spokesperson for the Central Firearm Registry declared that the State was in possession of approximately 2,5 million weapons. That means – at least statistically – that every member of police and defense force has approximately ten firearms. None of these weapons have been openly and independently audited to this day. The South African Police Service has lost about 10,000 firearms over a two year period.

South Africa/USA

A federal jury in Aberdeen found Wayne Breitag guilty of smuggling the skin of a leopard into the United States in violation of CITES. Breitag was also found guilty of violating the Lacey Act and faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and up to a $250,000 fine for smuggling, while the Lacey Act violations are punishable by up to five years in prison and up to a $250,000 fine. Read the full story at
http://bigcatnews.blogspot.com/2009/10/leopard-skin-smuggler-found-guilty-by.html

South Africa

Ms Adri Kitshoff has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of PHASA with effect from 1 January 2010. Adri plays a leading role in various Government/Industry forums that deal with such challenging issues as the Norms and Standards for Hunting in South Africa and the Firearms Control Act. She is presently Executive Officer of KwaZulu-Natal Hunting & Conservation Association and Vice Chairperson of the Confederation of Hunting Associations of South Africa (CHASA). She is the first woman to have reached these senior executive positions in the South African hunting industry.

Tanzania

Anton Turner, 38, a British safari guide described as an expert with elephants, was killed by an elephant in the Mburika Mountains, situated in the Selous Game Reserve. Turner was escorting a BBC television crew during filming of an episode of the BBC series *Serious Explorers*, which traces the footsteps of e David Livingstone in Africa. Turner, a former British Army officer, suffered massive injuries and died at the scene

USA

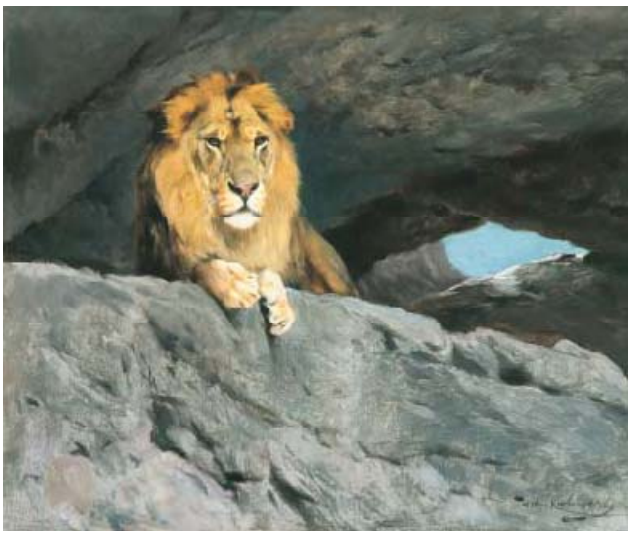
With probably more than a dozen hunting trophies to choose from, thieves took a rhinoceros skull complete with horns from an Albany business in October, an Albany Police Department report stated. The skull and horns weighed about 80 pounds. The trophy owner is offering what he called a "significant" reward for the information leading to the prosecution and conviction of the thieves.

Zimbabwe

Save Valley Conservancy Hunts continue undisturbed. The Government's Wildlife Based Land Reform Policy has been discussed, but no changes suggested have yet occurred nor are they likely to be implemented. The Save Valley Conservancy has been working on this issue for several years and dialogue with Government is ongoing. The high quality of hunting offered by the Save Valley Conservancy operators has not been and will not be affected and superb big game hunting continues to draw the international hunter to Zimbabwe. Apart from hunting safaris, the Save Conservancy has a very proud history of conservation work and supports healthy populations of black and white rhino, lion and African wild dog.

Any questions regarding reported and/or rumored developments in the Conservancy should be addressed to the safari operator or the Chairman of the Save Valley Conservancy, Clive Stockil (clives@senuko.com). Representatives of the Conservancy will attend the SCI and Dallas Safari Club Conventions.

Magnificent Royal Sable Bull
(Photo Pedro vaz Pinto)



Wilhelm Kuhnert, (1907), Oil on Wood, 29.7 x 41.5 cm

Wilhelm „Lion“ Kuhnert (1865-1926)

Gerhard Damm

Wilhelm Kuhnert was born on 28.9.1865 in Opeln. In 1883 he started his studies at the Academy Bellermann, Heim and Meyer in Berlin and in 1884 he opened his own studio.

Kuhnert undertook numerous trips to Africa, India and Egypt as well as to the northern countries. After the acquisition of African Colonies by the German Empire in 1886, Kuhnert ventured on to his first expedition (1891/1892) to East Africa. Upon his return, he exhibited his art in the "Great Berlin Art Exhibition" 1893. In addition to painting, Kuhnert worked as an illustrator, i. e. in the 1901 book "The animal life of the earth" and the 4th edition of "Brehm's Animal Life" (1912-1916) with 13 revised volumes.

Wilhelm Kuhnert (1907), Oil on Canvas, 31.4 x 48 cm

His love of adventure and Africa drove him to his second expedition to German East Africa in 1905/1906. Kuhnert started out in Dar es Salaam; the journey took him along the Ruvu and Rufiji Rivers through today's Selous Game Reserve. He hunted and painted extensively. When Kuhnert arrived in Iringa where he found himself in the middle of the Maji Maji Rebellion against German colonial rule; he took part in the fighting. Further trips to Africa followed in 1911 and 1912. The experiences of his hunting safaris to Africa are vividly rendered in his book "The Land of my Models" (Leipzig 1918). The final chapter describes a hunt in Ceylon during a short stay tin Southern Asia in 1906.

When the outbreak of the first World War stalled further overseas travel and Germany lost her colonies, Kuhnert devoted his life to the fauna at home. Between 1914 and 1925 he created 115 etchings with limited print runs of 20 to a maximum of 100 per etching. In 1916, he traveled from the German occupied Białowieża, formerly a private hunting preserve of Czar Nicholas II of Russia. Here Kuhnert concentrates extensively on the representation of the European Bison (Wisent). His 1920 stay in Jämtland/Sweden kindled his interest in Scandinavian moose.

Kuhnert died of severe pneumonia in Switzerland on February 11th, 1926.

Wilhelm Kuhnert, 1905, Oil on Canvas 27 x 41.5 cm

Wilhelm Kuhnert was a highly gifted artist who dedicated his life to art of wildlife painting like no other before him. He represented wildlife in pencil, pen and brush with realism and a deep rooted vitality. With the observing eye of the hunter Kuhnert rendered minute details. There are also numerous portraits, primarily of African people.

Lion are Kuhnert's preferred models in the African fauna. This earned him the nicknamed "Lion Kuhnert". But probably there is hardly an African game animal that Kuhnert has not drawn or painted, in big or small format oil paintings, watercolors, etchings, sketches, drawings and also in many book illustrations.

During his travels, Kuhnert always had paper and canvas, pen and brush at the ready to spontaneously capture the spirit of the wilderness. He was undaunted, adventurous, and spared no effort to meet them the objects of his art in their own realm.

Status of the Wildebeest *(Connochaetes taurinus)* in the Wild 1967-2005 by Richard D. Estes and Rod East

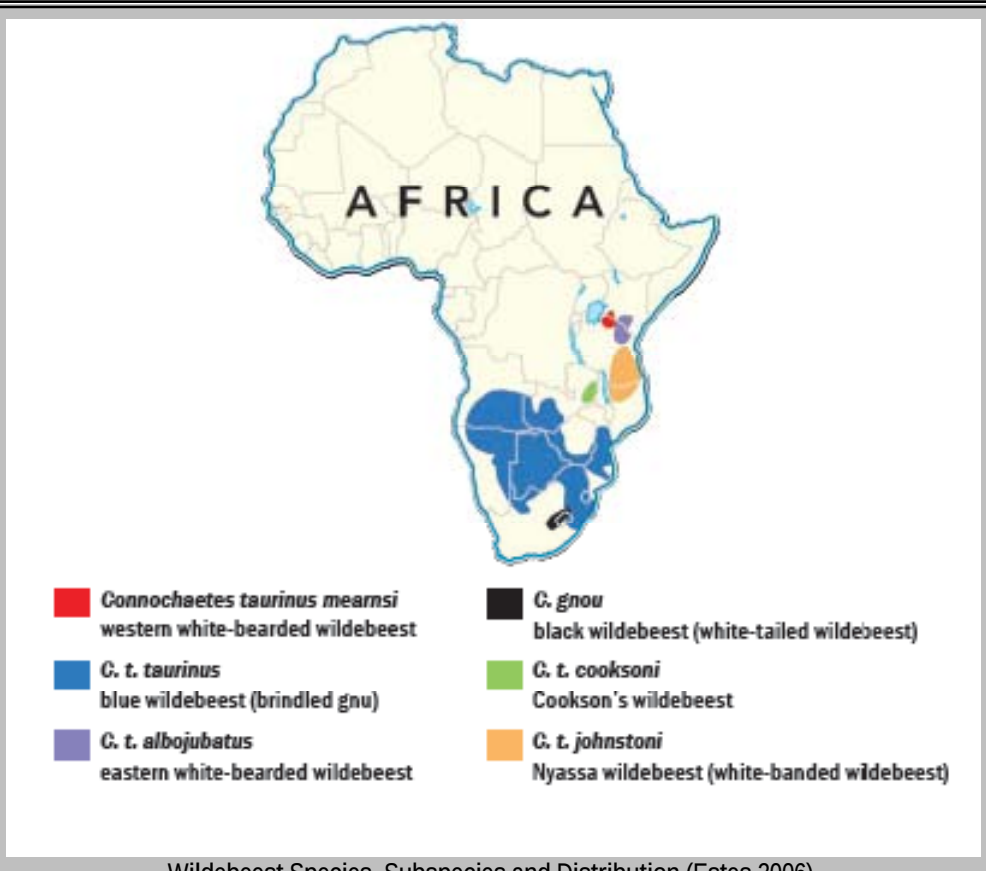
Tim Davenport, Country Director. WCS Tanzania Program writes in the prologue to the important wildebeest working paper of Richard Estes and the late Rod East:

Few large mammals conjure up the wide-open spaces of the African savanna quite so evocatively as the wildebeest (*Connochaetes taurinus*). Known also by its Bushman name gnu, and across much of East Africa in KiSwahili as nyumbu, this charismatic antelope has become synonymous in the public mind with the short-grass plains of the great Serengeti. It is here that a million wildebeest seek out forage and calving grounds during the annual migration, offering one of the world's most extraordinary wildlife spectacles. This unique antelope remains the consummate flagship species, linked irrevocably to its landscape and epitomizing the free-ranging wildness that used to typify so many savanna ecosystems.

There is little doubt Tanzania is one of the most important countries in Africa for wildlife. Sadly however, the integrity of Tanzania's wild places faces grave challenges, not least in balancing the needs of a growing and developing human population with a globally significant environment. Against this background, it is important to remind ourselves that, of all Tanzania's mammals, the wildebeest is probably the single species that contributes most to the national economy. In a recent consumer survey, the wildebeest migration was cited as one of the main reasons tourists visited Tanzania. But the wildebeest is a species of continental fascination and value. It ranges across sizeable landscapes of eastern and southern Africa, and for each of its range states this unique animal provides meat, tourism revenue, and plays crucial roles in local cultures and ecosystems. The wildebeest is a harbinger of the success or failure of conservation interventions. For all these reasons, the *Status of the Wildebeest in the Wild 1967-2005* by Richard D. Estes and Rod East is not only an invaluable treatise on a pivotal large mammal, but also an extremely important conservation text.

It is perhaps no coincidence that such an important species should have been studied by two of the continent's most dedicated conservation biologists. Author of the highly acclaimed *The Safari Companion: A Guide to Watching African Animals*, *The Behavior Guide to African Mammals,* and the *National Audubon Society Field Guide to African Wildlife*, Richard Estes has an encyclopedic knowledge of the continent's mammalian fauna. Mentored early in his career by Konrad Lorenz and Niko Tinbergen, the co-founders of ethology and co-Nobel Laureates, Richard spent decades studying Africa's large mammals. However, it is in the wildebeest, subject of his doctoral dissertation, that

Continued on Page 13



Wildebeest Species, Subspecies and Distribution (Estes 2006)

Continued from Page 12
The Status of the Wildebeest (*Connochaetes taurinus*) in the Wild

he has always had a particular interest, and his publications provide most of the world's knowledge of wildebeest behavior. Co-author Rod East rightly dubbed him the 'Guru of the Gnu'.

The late Rod East is generally considered to have contributed more to the conservation of African antelopes than any other individual. He was a long-standing member and co-chair of the Antelope Specialist Group, advising on the conservation of antelopes for the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). He compiled and published key data on all African antelope species, including his mammoth 1998 African Antelope Database, and also raised considerable funds to protect threatened African antelope populations. His contribution to conservation was recognized with the Sir Peter Scott Award for Conservation Merit in 2006.

Together, these authors have compiled data on the wildebeest from forty years of research; the result is a monumental work that reaches across the continent. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has been active in Tanzania for a similar length of time, using science, education, and partnerships to help government and Tanzanians manage their unique natural heritage. In its current strategic plan, the WCS Tanzania Program identified four of the greatest challenges to wildlife as natural resource extraction, the interaction of human livelihoods and biodiversity, climate change, and landcover change. All these challenges now confront the wildebeest. The WCS Tanzania Program is consequently very proud to support this extraordinary volume, and is confident it will serve both to guide and inspire conservationists across the African continent for decades to come.

WCS Working Paper No 37, July 2009, ISSN 1530-4426 Online posting: ISSN 1534-7389
Copies of WCS Working Papers are available at www.wcs.org/science

The WCS Working Paper Series, produced through the WCS Institute, is designed to share with the conservation and development communities in a timely fashion information from the various settings where WCS works. These papers address issues that are of immediate importance to helping conserve wildlife and wild lands either through offering new data or analyses relevant to specific conservation settings, or through offering new methods, approaches, or perspectives on rapidly evolving conservation issues. The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in the Papers are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Selling Ivory to Save the Elephants

John Frederick Walker

Editor's Note: John Frederick Walker is the author of "Ivory's Ghosts: The White Gold of History and the Fate of Elephants" a very recommendable book for African Indaba readers. Walker presents strong evidence that the current system's ivory ban and elephant protection without culling when needed is a failure and he provides important, informative, and thought provoking material. The following article was published on John F Walker's Blog http://www.johnfrederickwalker.com/blog/

Ivory poaching is back, big time, and the Internet is awash with photos of bloodied tusks and elephant carcasses. In 2007, Kenyan wildlife officials counted 47 elephants killed by poachers. In 2008, the number jumped to 98. Estimates of the number of elephants now being poached across the African continent range as high as 37,000 a year. All this despite a ban on international trade in ivory that was enacted 20 years ago today. Why hasn't the ivory ban been effective? Mostly because it doesn't fit the reality of the situation.

In 1989, anti-ivory campaigners were riding a wave of worldwide revulsion at poaching that had halved the African elephant population over the previous decade. They took their cause to CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), the U.N.-administered convention that governs trade in endangered species. At the 1989 Conference of Parties in Lausanne, Switzerland, member countries ended more than a week of heated debate on Oct. 17. On a vote of 76 for, 11 against, and four abstentions, the African elephant was put on the list of species considered threatened with extinction. Inclusion prohibits all cross-border trade.

But there was a catch: Countries with well-managed populations could apply to CITES to have the status of their elephants declared to be less threatened. If they proved their case, they might be allowed to resume trade in ivory. Still, global trade in tusks had been banned, putting an end to the commerce that had been the curse of elephants for millennia. In the aftermath, elephant poaching in Africa declined. But then it grimly started climbing back, and today it is at disturbing levels, as recent seizures of huge amounts of poached ivory make clear.

Some conservationists say the problem with the ban has been lack of enforcement. Many African countries with elephant populations have unregulated domestic markets at which items made from poached ivory can be purchased and then smuggled out of country. There's little dispute that better policing is desperately needed.

Other advocates point to CITES-permitted legal ivory sales as the ban's major flaw. These sales have been authorized twice -- most recently in late 2008, when Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa were allowed to auction 100 tons of

Continued on Page 14

Continued from Page 13
Selling Ivory to Save the Elephants

ivory collected from elephants that had died of natural causes. Those tusks went to Japan and China, which agreed not to re-export any ivory, and the $15 million raised went toward elephant conservation.

Ivory trade opponents -- including Kenya -- have long argued that legitimizing any trade in ivory, no matter how tightly controlled, sends the wrong message to poaching rings and feeds the demand for ivory. But TRAFFIC, the joint WWF/IUCN wildlife trade monitoring network, says there's no hard evidence that these sales lead to more poaching or increased illegal trade in ivory. Enforcement issues and potential ivory sales are sure to dominate the CITES conference in Doha, Qatar, in March next year at which Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique are expected to submit proposals to sell their ivory stockpiles -- and set off alarmist media coverage.

But what's happening to elephants and their ivory is far more complex than the picture painted by most news organizations, which focus almost exclusively on elephant killings, giving the impression that these great creatures are being killed all over the continent. The truth is that ivory poaching is most widespread in African states saddled with civil wars and racked by humanitarian crises, riddled by corruption and lacking effective conservation -- of which Congo is an all-too-ghastly example. By contrast, elephant numbers are increasing in the stable countries of southern Africa, where anti-poaching efforts have had some effect. Botswana has 130,000 elephants [*Ed. Note: probably over 150,000 by now*], nearly a quarter of the entire continental population. In South Africa's Kruger National Park, officials have concluded they will have to turn to culling to keep their growing herds from altering the landscape of the New Jersey-sized refuge.

Add in another inescapable fact: Tens of tons of gleaming tusks are recovered annually from elephants that die of natural causes in Africa's parks and reserves. Not surprisingly, countries that are doing a good job of managing their elephant populations argue that they should be able to benefit from the sale of guilt-free tusks to raise badly needed funds for the conservation of their giants.

That's what the procedure for seeking an exemption to the ban and gaining permission to sell ivory stocks was supposed to address. The problem is that the possibility of these sales is revisited at every CITES conference, which means that legal buyers (currently, ivory traders and merchants in China and Japan) can never be certain of future supply. That keeps the black market alive, preventing legal ivory from undercutting illicit supplies and crippling organized poaching. It's estimated that 100 tons of ivory could be supplied each year from the natural mortality of Africa's elephants, an amount likely to meet Asian demand for this long-revered carving material. A tightly controlled but steady stream of legal ivory from countries with protected herds, coupled with strict policing of domestic African ivory markets, may sound like an unholy coupling of conservation policies -- but it just might work.

Through almost all of human history elephants have been regarded as mere bearers of treasure; now we find them far more important than the ivory they carry. That's why the ivory ban came into being 20 years ago, and why the international community will never return to a completely unregulated ivory trade. But if the ban's limitations aren't addressed, its provisions strengthened -- and new ideas incorporated -- we'll end up facing another 20 years of poaching, ivory trafficking and elephant killings.

Do ivory sales encourage elephant poaching?

The illegal killings of five elephants so far this year in Kenya's Tsavo National Park have generated international furor and a spate of outraged reportage. The fact that their remains were found with their tusks hacked out—in a park that was notorious for out-of-control ivory poaching in the 1970s—has given rise to renewed talk of impending doom for the remaining herds in Africa. And, predictably, unprecedented attacks on how the nearly 20-year-old international ivory trade ban is being administered by the Geneva-based CITES Secretariat.

Patrick Omondi, species management coordinator for the Kenya Wildlife Service, is one of a number of conservationists and animal advocates convinced that the recent 60% rise in ivory poaching in his country can be blamed squarely on last year's legal sale of over 100 tons of ivory from southern Africa. No one doubts that Omondi cares deeply about elephants. But is he, and those who agree with him, right? Almost certainly not—and that's bad for elephants.

Here's the background. The 2008 sale of tusks from Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa was only the second exception to a global ban on cross-border trade in ivory that took effect in 1990. It was conducted under the auspices of CITES and netted $15.4 million dollars. Approval for it came out of the Hague CITES meeting two years ago, at which African nations allowed four countries with growing, well-managed herds to profit from their conservation successes in a "one-off" sale—with restrictions. Only ivory from legitimate sources (natural deaths, problem animals) could be sold, and only to CITES-approved buyers (Japan and China), who agreed not to re-export it. Funds raised had to be used for elephant conservation and no further exports from countries involved in the sale would be permitted for an additional nine years.

But Omondi has been in I-told-you-so mode since the latest incidents in Tsavo. "What we warned would happen is happening," he told the UK's *Telegraph*. "This legal sale has restarted the demand for ivory, and illegal poachers and smugglers are back in business."

The idea that any legal ivory sales will surely encourage poaching is the mantra of anti-ivory campaigners (and widely repeated in the media), but on examination it just doesn't stand up. It's very hard to prove a causal connection between the two, as serious researchers have discovered. TRAFFIC says there's no hard evidence that these sales will lead to more poaching or increased illegal trade in ivory.

In fact, legal sales may help suppress poaching. CITES expects the recent sale of tusks, at which legitimate ivory reached $152 per kilogram, to undercut black market ivory, which was said to be going for up to $800 a kilogram—and it's those inflated prices that provide the primary incentive for poaching in countries suffering from poverty and corruption. Legal ivory sales raise much-needed elephant funds. Guarding these

Continued on Page 15

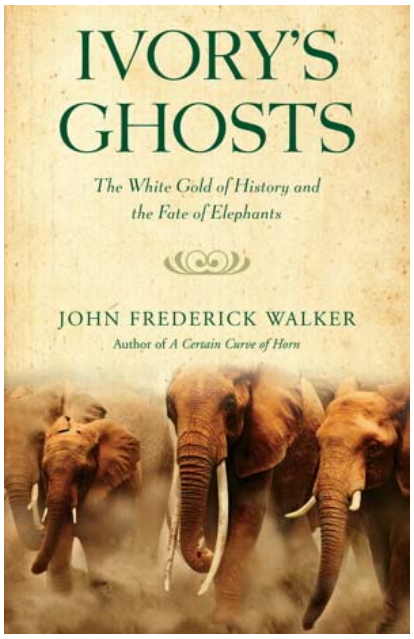
Continued from Page 14
Selling Ivory to Save the Elephants

magnificent creatures isn't cheap. There are rangers to hire and arm, fences to repair and build, land to be purchased for wildlife corridors. Think about it: elephants don't have to be killed to get their tusks. They leave these spectacular incisors behind when they die, and in many areas these are routinely recovered. That's why tons of ivory is stockpiled in the warehouses of African parks and wildlife services each year. Cash-strapped African nations aren't about to destroy stocks of this valuable "white gold"—particularly when no elephants were harmed in collecting it.

The history of ivory makes it clear why demand for this alluring organic material is never going to disappear. It's been prized for millennia for its seductive, tactile qualities and its ability to be finely carved, and its use is ingrained in numerous cultures around the world.

Ivory needn't be the elephant's curse. Tightly controlled exports of legitimate ivory from Africa could be treated as a self-renewing resource that helps fund the effective conservation of the animal that has always been its greatest source. Obviously, that would require a degree of regulation and enforcement that has so far proved elusive, but that doesn't mean it isn't worth striving for. New approaches to assuring a future for elephants—ones that Africans as well as elephants can live with—are desperately needed.

Last fall's CITES-supervised ivory sale was a step in that direction, not a step backwards.



Ivory's Ghosts by J F Walker, Hardcover, 304pgs, 229x163mm, 2009 ISBN : 0871139952, available in South Africa at ZAR 249.00 from Netbooks www.netbooks.co.za and in USA at US$ 25.00 plus shipping from The Hunting Report www.huntingreport.com

Reader Feedback on Peter Flack's Lord Derby Eland Article

African Indaba has edited the letter for space

I have hunted a lot in CAR and have taken five giant eland and three bongo over the years and I agree that northern CAR has very bad problems with poachers. The areas seem to bet totally emptied today. But there is a place where there really are no poachers and which I really believe is one of the last eland strongholds today. This is the CAWA concession in eastern CAR leased by Erik Mararv.. It is, in my opinion, the best area in Africa for Lord Derby's eland especially when we talk trophies. It is an incredibly beautiful area that I did not think existed any more. I have taken two eland that were over 50 inches and one very old bull which measured 48 5/8 inches. When I was there, I saw in total five different herds ranging from 30 to 100 animals. In the herd where I took a bull, there were larger bulls but it was getting late and I was eager to shoot. In each herd we found I saw at least two good bulls. In the largest herd there must have been at least eight to nine trophy quality bulls. My point is that what I have seen contradicts some of what you wrote in your article. Yes, there are areas in CAR, probably most of them, that will be gone in the near future but there are also other areas that are amongst the best in the world. I say this before going to Cameroon, and the reason I want to go to Cameroon is to be able to compare. But what I know for sure is that trophy quality in Cameroon cannot be higher then in eastern CAR. From the two safari companies I have gathered the following information for the 2009 season: CAWA took ten eland bulls and seven measured over 50 inches. Mayo Oldiri took 16 eland bulls and two measured over 50 inches. Thank you for a nice article.
Peter Haglöv

I read Peter Flack's article in African Indaba, "CAR versus Cameroon". Interesting and I will firstly admit that I like your articles and reviews. They are well written and there are some good facts. I will also agree with you on some points and would like to make some remarks:

Poaching in CAR is definitely a huge problem and will destroy most areas still left today. The area you hunted in CAR was apparently Idongo da Bangoran, an area I also hunted for five years as an assistant PH and then PH. It is a nice area but evidently the huge problem is poaching. The year I left (05), 95 % of all animals taken had bullets in them. Cameroon seems to have good eland left. Mayo Oldiri is doing a good job and it amazes me that they can take that number of eland (16) out of their small territories. There seems to be good quantities but remember one thing - small areas, open areas and a lot of roads make it easy to spot game. No area in Cameroon is very large and they all have one thing in common - an extensive road network which makes it easy to spot game (even eland) from the

Continued on Page 20

Black Rhino Forge New Territory

WWF-Press Release

The critically endangered black rhino continued to forge new territory when a founder population of 14 animals was released on to a new home in northern KwaZulu-Natal in October. The animals form the fifth founder population created through the WWF/ Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Black Rhino Range Expansion Project. "The Project has shown how one species can help many," says WWF project leader Dr Jacques Flamand. "Black rhino range in KwaZulu-Natal has increased by more than 25% (approximately 90 000 hectares) over the last six years. That is excellent for black rhino, but also for many other species that live alongside them. This includes cheetah, wild dog, vultures, elephants and many of the lesser known species that also need large areas of undisturbed wild land."

The Black Rhino Range Expansion Project has shown that partnerships between landowners and formal conservation organizations make otherwise unattainable goals possible. Under the custodianship agreements, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife retain ownership of the founder populations and ownership of their progeny is shared. A variety of business models have been created to suit the circumstances of different sites. "The hope is that our experiences can inspire others to replicate what we have done," said Dr Flamand. "Something this ambitious is not without its challenges, but we have shown that it is possible to drop fences and create large, ecologically viable areas of land that are good for black rhino, for other species, for biodiversity and for landowners. We have been extremely lucky to work with courageous, visionary people who are driven by a passion for wildlife, as well as having sound business heads."

South Africa has had an unprecedented wave of rhino poaching. Just fewer than 100 rhino were poached in 2008, of which 15 were in KwaZulu-Natal. The trend has continued this year. "Fortunately, none have been poached on our Project sites, perhaps partly because good security systems are in place. But no one can afford to be complacent and perhaps we have just been lucky, so all security personnel are on their guard to protect the black rhino under their care," said Dr Flamand.

The Black Rhino Range Expansion Project concept is now being expanded beyond the borders of KZN into other regions of South Africa and possibly beyond. Dr Flamand has also visited Malaysia in order to advise about conservation of the Sumatran rhino (which is critically endangered). He was able to share experiences from KZN, and suggest techniques for release and monitoring of Sumatran rhinos, as well as training of guards and opportunities for scientific research.

The Black Rhino Range Expansion Project is a partnership between WWF and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, and is supported by the Mazda Wildlife Fund.

Fact File

- The WWF/ Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Black Rhino Range Expansion Project aims to increase land available for black rhino conservation, thereby increasing numbers of this critically endangered species. This is done by forming partnerships with landowners with large areas of black rhino habitat. Usually several landowners agree to remove internal fences in order to create large enough areas to hold a significant population of black rhino.
- The inclusion of community-managed game reserves represents a new conservation model. 44% of the range area of Black Rhino Range Expansion Project sites is community-owned.
- Removing black rhino from existing populations to new homes creates new populations and also stimulates population growth on the existing populations. If animals are not removed, the existing populations can suffer from high density and range competition.
- Black rhino are critically endangered. There are currently approximately 4000 black rhino in the wild. This represents an increase from the lowest point of just over 2000 early in the 1990s after a wave of poaching decimated almost the entire population of black rhino in Africa. However there is no room for complacency and the recent surge in poaching shows how committed and vigilant rhino conservationists need to be.
- There are two kinds of rhino in Africa – black rhino and white rhino.
- Black rhino have an undeserved reputation of being bad-tempered. In fact, they are just shy and nervous of strangers, and new research suggests they have social structures that were previously not recognized.

Opportunistic Wildlife Trade in Yemen

David B. Stanton

In conservation circles, Yemen is notorious as one of the world's top two markets for rhino horn, and by some estimates the Yemeni trade in illegal horn for *jambiyyah* (traditional dagger) handles caused a 96% decline in East Africa's Black Rhino *(Diceros bicornis)* population between 1970 and 1992. Yemen is also the main source for CITES-protected Arabian Leopards *(Panthera pardus nimr)* and other endangered wildlife. Endemic species including Socotra's "Blue Baboon Spider" *(Monocentropus balfouri)* and the Yemen Veiled Chameleon *(Chamaeleo calyptratus)* are popular in the pet trade and are smuggled to Europe and North America where they command impressive prices. In addition to this lucrative international trade in wildlife and wildlife products, Yemen traffics a significant number of wild birds, mammals, and reptiles domestically. This trade is largely opportunistic as evidenced by the variety of wildlife that is offered for sale at roadsides and intersections. While there has been little, if any, formal study of this traffic, recent tallies of the animals that pass through the *Nuqum* animal *suq* in Sana'a

Continued on Page 17

Continued from Page 16
Opportunistic Wildlife Trade in Yemen

show that thousands of animals of numerous species are captured and sold each year in Yemen.

When my student TK informed me that "…about 30 Golden-winged Grosbeaks..." *(Rhynchostruthus socotrana)* were being offered for sale at Nuqum I investigated their claim. Piqued by the fact that this species had recently been declared as Yemen's national bird, I asked them to take some pictures. The birds were in fact Arabian Golden Sparrows *(Passer euchlorus)* but this experience has caused TK to continue documenting the animals that pass through Nuqum with weekly lists and photographs. In the three months since their initial visit on March 16th of this year, they have documented 36 species of birds, 13 species of mammals, and 7 reptile species - not counting those which have been imported such as squirrels and parrots - passing through Nuqum.

The merchants who sell these animals, like the people who catch them, are simply trying to make a living in a weak economy. However, neither have much regard for the animals' welfare, and the manner in which these creatures are handled and kept, sometimes for weeks, is horrendous. The traders are ignorant of many of their animals' needs and not surprisingly, many die of starvation, dehydration, injuries sustained in capture and handling, and diseases contracted in the appalling circumstances in which they are housed. Customers buy the animals for a variety of reasons. Yemen Linnets *(Carduelis yemenensis)*, for example, are favored as cage birds since they are the only Yemeni birds that sing in captivity. Others, such as Greyheaded Kingfishers *(Halcyon leucocephala)* have novelty value. Still others are used in traditional medicine - porcupine blood, for example, is believed by some to cure diabetes and is taken with juice. Many species including partridges, hyraxes, quails, and the various doves end up on buyers' dinner tables. Owls and hawks are considered charismatic and although the more valuable species such as Peregrines *(Falco peregrinus)* are not traded at Nuqum, at least 12 species of raptors have passed through the suq in the past three months. Some animals such as the baby baboons that frequently come up for sale are 'cute,' and would be owners buy them without regard for the sad circumstances of their capture (i.e. the mother is usually shot by the captor) or the logistics of keeping them into adulthood. Finally, I suspect many animals are offered for sale simply because the hunter has managed to capture them. Two Coots *(Fulica atra)*, for example, came up for sale during the week of April 16th and remained in the market unsold for the two months it took them to die.

Three facts have surfaced as a result of TK's sleuthing:

a) Yemen's internal wildlife trade is extensive in both the number and variety of animals involved,
b) many animals suffer needlessly as a result of inhumane handling and care, and
c) the issues woven into this problem; ignorance, poverty, animal welfare, and sustainability are complex, and therefore solving the problem will also be complex.

Other than TK's ongoing research, little is currently being done to stem this pernicious trade. Yemen's Minister for Water and the Environment, HE Abdulrahman al Eryani, states that enforcement is out of his ministry's hands and he advocates media exposure as a means of raising awareness. Save Yemen's Flora and Fauna (SYFF), a young and vigorous NGO, is keen to take the lead in an anti-trafficking campaign and is developing an action plan to stop the trade. Of course, the most important thread in a successful campaign will be finding alternative sources of income for the impoverished people who catch the animals and those who sell them. However, creating opportunities in a country where more than 40% of the rural population lives on less than $1 per day and where there is rising unemployment won't be easy, yet it must be done if we are to slow the flow and preserve Yemen's unique biodiversity.

David B. Stanton, Yemeni Leopard Recovery Program, P.O. Box 7069, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen, yos@y.net.ye, ylrp@yemenileopard.org, or Mobile No. +967733916928. www.yemenileopard.org

Source: Wildlife Middle East News Vol 4 Issue 2 Sept 2009

The Hunting of Bustards in South Africa – Threats, Challenges and Opportunities.

Adrian Lombard.

A recent article by Ian Michler in *Africa – Birds and Birding*(1), highlighted concerns regarding the interest by Arabs in hunting Bustards with Falcons in Southern Africa. His article provides some insight into this possible threat to Southern African Biodiversity but the topic merits further consideration. Concerns regarding the hunting of Bustards by Arab Falconers in Southern Africa have been fueled by reports of land purchases by Arab buyers in South Africa, but indeed such concerns are not new. This has been one reason sited for the refusal to grant permits for Falconry in Namibia. Similar reasoning was applied by the Northern Cape's Nature Conservation Department in its decision to prevent the use of exotic and hybrid raptors for Falconry in that province of South Africa. In recent years I have had the singular good fortune to represent South African Falconers at the International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF), and more recently, I have served as a member of the Board of that organization. I was one of the Working Group of the IAF that formulated its Policy Statement regarding the Saker Falcon. This involvement has allowed me two visits to the United Arab Emirates as well as contacts with Arab falconers so I have some grounds to comment on this issue.

The unsustainable hunting of the Houbara Bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*) is of serious concern to Falconers, including many of those in the Middle East. To put this in context, the Houbara has been hunted sustainably for the past 2000 years and it is only in the past 50 years or less, that oil-wealth

Continued on Page 18

Continued from Page 17
The Hunting of Bustards in South Africa: Threats, Challenges, Opportunities

has permitted the excesses that we so abhor. This behavior could be compared to that of our own Victorian fore-fathers whose unsustainable hunting activities resulted in the virtual extirpation of many of the larger mammals of Southern Africa. The pendulum is turning in the Middle East, championed by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan of Abu Dhabi. The reintroduction of the Houbara Bustard is currently being undertaken in Morocco with a release rate of 10,000 birds per annum; is being initiated in Western Pakistan and examined in the Yemen. This will be the largest reintroduction program for a species ever and the production of Houbara Bustards in Abu Dhabi in 2008 was slightly in excess of 16,000 birds (2).

I am skeptical as to the veracity of reports that suggest the potential for breeding projects of the Houbara in South Africa (1) and would consider that the control of such activity by our Conservation Authorities to be relatively straight forward. The breeding of Houbara Bustards in captivity is a remarkably complex and labor-intensive exercise. The Houbara does not imprint on humans or on an artificial environment. This means that they require constant management and habituation to keep them relatively tame in captivity. Coupled with this, being creatures that naturally occur in widely dispersed populations, they are very susceptible to disease when confined. The management problems are immense and can easily be seen by a visit to a Houbara Bustard breeding facility. The birds are housed in large sheds and entry to these requires dressing in clothing similar to surgical theatre "greens" and washing your feet in disinfectant. Each shed is staffed, around the clock by two "keepers". Their duties include the weighing of all food and water consumed by each individual bustard. The birds are fed on specially formulated pellets and, when additional habituation is necessary, by hand with meal worms and "fuzzy" mice. Breeding is done by artificial insemination. Semen is collected by inducing the males to mate with taxidermy specimens. The females are inseminated and the eggs are removed to induce multiple clutching. The eggs are then artificially incubated. This must only seek to emphasize that we must never allow our indigenous Bustard species to be impacted in this fashion as we could not contemplate a reintroduction program of this complexity.

The scenario of Arab hunters targeting Southern African bustards would appall most conservationists and certainly elicits a knee-jerk reaction in people who are interested in the wellbeing of our Biodiversity but this may bear closer consideration. Bustard populations in Southern Africa are not currently hunted in any conventional sense. Historical hunting of the larger bustards with rifles and shotguns was not sustainable. Bustards are currently facing a number of threats including habitat loss and death through collision with fences and power-lines. These birds show slow recruitment rates due to small clutch sizes and slow maturation. Of the 10 species of Korhaans and Bustards in South Africa, 4 are listed in terms of the Biodiversity Act of 2004. The Kori Bustard (*Ardeotis kori*), Blue Korhaan (*Eupodotis caerulescens*) and Ludwig's Bustard (*Neotis ludwigii*) are listed as vulnerable, while the Denham's Bustard (*Neotis denhami*) is listed as protected. None of the other Bustards are listed in terms of this legislation but a permit would be required to hunt them. Of these, all are considered not threatened globally, although the White–bellied Korhaan is considered vulnerable in South Africa and Black –bellied Bustard is considered near-threatened in South Africa (3). Mammalian species in similar categories of protection are hunted on permit, so whilst legislative controls are in place to control or prevent the hunting of these birds; this protection does not preclude their hunting under special permit. Arab Falconers may be particularly interested in hunting those species that most equate to the Houbara Bustard in terms of size, but it is possible that any bustard species will be of interest to them. Only the Kori Bustard would be excluded as it is too large for consideration (if for no other reason). Much of the evidence that we have for Arab interest in the hunting of Southern African Bustards appears to arise through contact with Hunting Outfitters. The most likely scenario is that the Arab hunter sees the local bustards and enquires about the possibility of obtaining falcons and hunting the bustards. Approaches are then made to local falconers and Nature Conservation officials. These approaches can be seen as relatively trivial as the enquirers have not yet considered the considerable logistic implications for this form of hunting. What cannot be considered as trivial is the other prospect, that there is significant and knowledgeable interest in the hunting of Southern African Bustards and that this is the motivation behind large land purchases in the Karoo and Eastern Cape. I am aware of no real evidence to suggest that this is indeed the case, however.

Arab Falconers wish to practice their traditional style of Falconry which they see as an integral part of their heritage. The dramatic changes to their lifestyle and environment, wrought by oil wealth, have made them crave the traditional practices that provide stability to their society and their lives. Traditional Arab Falconry involves the hunting with large falcons, generally Sakers, and the prize quarry is the Houbara Bustard, although Thick Knee (*Burhinus sp.*) and Hares are also pursued. The traditional style is described as "out of the hood" or "pursuit" falconry. In this style of Falconry the quarry is sighted, the Falcon's hood is removed and the falcon is cast off to chase the flushed quarry. The Falconer then follows the hunt on foot, horse or camel-back, or, more recently, 4X4 SUV. Chases can be a kilometer or more and hawk needs assistance from the falconer to keep pressure on the bustard which, being a feisty quarry, will fight back on the ground and an unassisted hawk may think twice about tackling such large quarry again. Arab Falconers view the traditional Western Falconry method, where the falcon is trained to "wait-on" above quarry that is flushed, with disdain. They believe this form to be less sporting and less exciting. Similarly they show disinterest in the traditional Western quarries such as duck and game-birds. For these reasons, safari operations offering "western style" falconry to the Arab market have failed.

Consideration must be given to the logistical challenges that would face the provision of Falconry opportunities to Arab Falconers in South or Southern Africa if the legal and permitting restrictions were to be overcome. To do this we need to examine each of the components required for this practice.

1. <u>The Falcons:</u> Only large, aggressive and heat-tolerant birds are suitable for this practice. These would include Sakers

Continued on Page 19

Continued from Page 18
The Hunting of Bustards in South Africa: Threats, Challenges, Opportunities

and Gyr X Saker or Peregrine X Saker Hybrids. Pure Gyr falcons could possibly be flown in the Karoo in winter, with great care. There are no indigenous falcons that hunt Korhaan. The African Peregrine could possibly be induced to take Black Korhaan but would be very unlikely to do this on any sort of regular or predictable basis. The Arab Falconers could bring their own birds from the Middle East. These birds would be subject to a 1 month quarantine which would mean that they would require fitness training before they could be hunted. They would also be out of season with their molt coming from northern to southern hemispheres. Essentially this is not a practical proposition. The alternative would be to establish a collection of hunting birds in South Africa. A Falconry bird will generally only take one kill per day, with good fortune. A falconer will require 3 birds to have at least 2 hunts per day. In order to establish sufficient birds on a renewable basis for an operation of any magnitude, a breeding facility would be required with birds set aside for breeding purposes. This sort of operation would require competent staff, with the knowledge to fly big Falcons, the ability to run a very technical breeding facility and manage the veterinary problems associated with these exotic and valuable birds.

2. The Quarry: The Karroo and Blue Korhaan are territorial and can be found fairly predictably in suitable habitat. Ludwig's and Denham's Bustards are more mobile and are less predictable although appropriate habitat management would increase numbers and may have the effect of concentrating birds. As already mentioned the slow recruitment of these birds would mean that overhunting would rapidly denude the farms purchased by Arab investors (if this is indeed the purpose of those farms) of suitable quarry. The next alternative would be to purchase or hire hunting rights on other land, given that most huntable land is in private hands.
3. Hunting Requirements: The Arab hunting style and preferred quarry requires large open spaces. Hunts may easily cover a kilometer or more. Internal fencing on the farms would have to be dismantled and boundary fences (to say nothing of neighbor's permission) would pose a considerable problem. Following the hunt is also a significant issue. The use of horses in the Karoo or Free State veldt, riddled with Aardvark and ground squirrel holes, is somewhat limited. Quad-bikes or 4X4 vehicles are a possibility, but also have limitations (to say nothing of ethical considerations). The author's personal opinion is that, even given the considerable enthusiasm of the Arab Falconers who like to be in at the kill, much of the South African terrain is too rugged and unsuitable for this style of hunting to be carried out in any real magnitude.

The Draft Norms and Standards for Hunting in South Africa, in their current form, contain a definition of Falconry and will have the effect of making Falconry a legitimate hunting method. In terms of these regulations, all Falconers will need to hold a Grading from an Accredited Grading Body and this will be reviewed annually. The Falconers believe that this Accredited Body should be the South African Falconry Association (SAFA), being the umbrella organization representing all of the Provincial Falconry clubs in South Africa. This body has set minimum standards for the practice of Falconry in South Africa since its inception some 20 years ago and has the current Grading System written into its Constitution. This Grading System is currently under review and will be re-vamped to reflect current practice and circumstances. This process will not compromise the system and, if anything, the requirements for higher grades will become more formal and rigorous. The Grading System ensures that our Falconers are competent and responsible and is admired and envied elsewhere in the world. In terms of the Grading System, only A Grade Falconers may fly Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus minor*) and only those with sufficient experience flying Peregrines may fly exotic falcons. This limits the use of exotic falcons to a very select few and, coupled with SAFA's very stringent requirements for the flying of these falcons, negates any impact that these birds would have on our biodiversity. In terms of the Draft Norms and Standards legislation, SAFA, as the Accrediting Body, would have considerable say and interest in any venture involving the hunting of Bustards with Falcons in South Africa. Indeed those involved would be outside the law, without a Grading from SAFA. Falconers in South Africa have an excellent record of co-operation with the authorities and we have demonstrated ourselves clearly willing to restrain any "deviant" practitioners of our Art. SAFA is a Member of the International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF), which, itself, is a full member of the IUCN, the World's largest conservation organization. Sustainable use is the cornerstone of IUCN strategy.

The Nature Conservation Authorities in South Africa are well informed regarding Falconry. Appropriate Falconry Policies are either in place or in process, both on a national and provincial level. Similarly any illegal or unacceptable activities by members of the professional hunting community would receive rapid sanction by AGRED, the South African delegation of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) or PHASA. It is difficult to envisage a situation in South Africa, given the competency of the Nature Conservation Authorities, the well-motivated bodies which control hunting as well as the vigilant Conservation NGOs, where bustard hunting on any organized or commercial scale could be practiced illegally.

Ian Michler quotes the depredation of Sahelian species resulting from unsustainable hunting as a result of the "Tragedy of the Commons" in that region (1). This clearly does not apply to the South African situation where private land ownership has resulted in custodianship which has benefited many indigenous species. Indeed the Middle Eastern purchasers of land in South Africa are following a very different pattern to that which we are decrying in North Africa and their intentions for this land need to be investigated. Further lessons can be learned by examining this contrast. South Africa has a proud tradition as an innovator of "sustainable use" conservation. It is possible that the sustainable hunting of Bustards could benefit conservation through habitat improvement and extending conservation measures to additional large tracts of land. It may also be of benefit to the economy through creating jobs, developing infrastructure and

Continued on Page 20

Continued from Page 19

The Hunting of Bustards in South Africa: Threats, Challenges, Opportunities

drawing additional well-paying tourists to our land. Before any Bustard hunting can be countenanced in South Africa, a thorough Environmental Impact Study should be done, to establish which, if any, species can be hunted, what numbers could be harvested and what dates could be considered for hunting seasons. It is the opinion of AGRED that Bustards should not be hunted in South Africa and such an E.I.A is likely to fail to show that Bustards can be hunted. Falconers with the wealth to purchase large areas of farm land can be required to fund these studies, if the hunting of Bustards is indeed their intention. Over and above this, effective checks need to be in place to ensure that hunting quotas are not exceeded and all Falconers, be they professional, paying guests or foreign nationals, must comply with the law and the grading requirements of SAFA. Furthermore, there must be strict controls on the number of exotic falcons utilized and the restraints governing their use, imposed by SAFA and enumerated in the Falconry Code of Conduct applied by the Dept. of Agriculture, must be enforced. While such measures are probably possible, it remains the opinion of SAFA and that of the Author, that Bustard hunting on any significant scale is not desirable and will certainly create problems that we wish to avoid. Falconry currently enjoys a position where it is acknowledged as being a minimally consumptive sustainable use activity that encourages conservation. This position is jealously guarded by Falconers in South Africa.

The hunting of Bustards with Falcons in South Africa may present a means of encouraging conservation through sustainable use. It remains uncertain whether sustainable use is a practical possibility and it is probable that it is not. If this activity is prohibited in South Africa, the potential Falconers may cast their eyes elsewhere. Falconry is well established in Zimbabwe and conservation authorities there are capable of restricting activities of this nature. Falconry has been forbidden in Namibia and there is little knowledge of this activity amongst the authorities. This may make the country more vulnerable as the checks and balances enumerated for South Africa are not in place. There are suitable areas in Angola and Zambia but these countries lack the South African infrastructure and share the negative issue of being in the Southern Hemisphere. East Africa, in particular Tanzania, must be seen as vulnerable to unsustainable bustard hunting practices and particular vigilance is needed with respect to East Africa as a whole. We must also be alert to the danger of illegal trapping and trade in our bustards which could certainly pose a serious unsustainable threat.

The best way to ensure the co-operation and compliance of Falconers in defeating any threat to our biodiversity, be it the unsustainable hunting of bustards or the use of significant numbers of exotic raptors, is to continue to permit a controlled, limited and sustainable harvest of wild raptors for Falconry purposes. This process is now well understood by our conservation authorities, the Bird of Prey Working Group of EWT and Birdlife South Africa. Falconers are very cognizant of this significant privilege and will defend it through maintaining standards of excellence, compliance with the law and involvement in conservation. This is indeed Conservation through Sustainable Use, as envisaged by the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Continued from Page 15

Reader Feedback on Peter Flack's Article on Lord Derby Eland

truck.

What I definitely know though is that there is a difference in size between the eland and the bongo of CAR and Cameroon.. From my experience on ground and from all the trophy pictures I have seen over the years from both Cameroon and CAR not only in trophy but also in body size. The size of the trophies in eastern CAR appear to be larger than in the north of the country (where we both have hunted) and this I am sure is due to the very rich mineral soil in the east. We have countless natural mineral licks in eastern CAR and these minerals are likely to be the reason that the trophies get bigger then any other place I have seen. You are right that trophies have a tendency to shrink when they see a master measurer and that white tape. And most probably my field measurements will shrink as well but they are for sure better then any other place in either Cameroon or CAR this year. We took ten eland this season and seven out of the ten were either just 50 inches or over with the largest being 56 inches. Anyway, the reason we obtained these exceptional results is not because we are so incredibly good but because the area hosts very large trophies, there is no poaching and the soil is very rich in minerals, which helps develops good horns. These are my conclusions.

Erik Marav

I want to thank Peter Flack first of all for nice articles and good books, but I must disagree with some statements in your recent article. CAR is far from finished. I personally think, after a decent number of trips, that some of the best giant eland grounds are still in CAR. I have hunted CAR five times and have taken three eland and one bongo. I have taken two eland in the northern CAR and one eland and a bongo in the CAWA concession in eastern CAR. I went there in January 09 and it was one of my best safaris ever - very organized, very nice people, good reception and the best camps I have seen in wild Africa (although I have visited very nice places in Tanzania and Zimbabwe) plus the guides and the game were much better then expected.

I hunted 21 days and took a 51 inch eland and a 29 ½ inch bongo. I saw two bongo herds with more than 20 animals in each. I saw more eland on this safari then I had seen during three safaris in the northern territories. I counted six different herds with sizes ranging from 20-80-100 animals. There were black maned bulls in each herd and, in the large herds, I saw more bulls then I could count. They were moving all the time and it was difficult to keep track of all of them but I would say close to ten big shootable bulls. I also hunted only approximately 600 km^2 of the approximately 10 000 km^2concession. My point is that CAR is far from finished. Northern CAR is most probably going to be finished in the next couple of years but not the eastern part. This must be one of the best eland and bongo areas in Africa today.

Marc Meiss

The Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) and the Illicit Trade in Ivory

T. Milliken, R.W. Burn and L. Sangalakula
TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa*

This voluminous 40 page report was published on 14 October 2009. The entire report is extremely interesting and readers are advised to download the complete report at the CITES Website African Indaba publishes here the conclusions and recommendation given in this report (Pages 29 and 30):.

Conclusions of assessment of factors giving rise to illicit trade in elephant ivory:

With respect to assessing the causes of illicit trade in elephant ivory, the following conclusions can be made:

- The ETIS analyses have consistently indicated that, following the first conditional one-off ivory sale under CITES in June 1999, illicit trade in ivory subsequently declined for five consecutive years between 1999 until 2004 (as measured by both the adjusted and the smoothed and adjusted trend lines). This result provides no evidence that the first one-off ivory sale under CITES resulted in any increase in illicit trade in ivory globally.
- With respect to the second conditional one-off ivory sale under CITES in October and November 2008, the pattern in the trend is not so clear. The macro representation of the illicit trade in ivory, as depicted by the smoothed and adjusted trend line, shows that illegal ivory trade has been steadily increasing since 2004, with the increase predating the recent one-off ivory sale by approximately four years. On the other hand, the peaks and troughs of the micro representation of the trend, as depicted by the adjusted trend line, show a decline in illegal trade activity in 2007 and 2008, followed by a significant upsurge in 2009.
- The consequence of these somewhat conflicting trade patterns is that it is not possible to interpret the trend in this ETIS analysis unambiguously and without reservation. Whether the apparent increase in illicit ivory trading in 2009 is a direct result of the one-off ivory sale under CITES or some other cause or group of causes remains to be conclusively established. It is believed that further time and the collection of more data and information will lead to a more lucid and compelling interpretation of this issue in the future.
- One thing that is clear, however, is the fact that, in both representations of the trend, the year 2004 represents the low point and the year 2009 represents the high point for illicit trade in ivory over the last decade. This result is cause for concern and sufficient justification for a more forceful approach to the implementation of the '*action plan for the control of trade in African elephant ivory*' articulated in Decision13.26.
- The frequency of large-scale ivory seizures is increasing and provides evidence that there is a growing involvement of organized crime in the illicit trade in ivory. Asian crime syndicates operating from bases in various parts of the African continent are an increasing dimension in the trade which produces major challenges for effective law enforcement and good governance both in Africa and Asia.
- The issue of governance and the ivory trade deserves greater attention as a root cause of illicit trade dynamics. There are governance implications at all levels of the ivory trade, including whether or not seizures are made, seizures are reported, ivory stock management systems are developed, legislation is amended or improved, or ivory trade offenders are investigated or prosecuted. Unless governance issues are firmly addressed at the national level, successful implementation of the CITES action plan will be seriously compromised in Africa.

Recommendations

The trend in illicit trade in elephant ivory continues to increase and is now marginally more strongly correlated to the presence of organized crime syndicates than to large-scale domestic ivory markets that are poorly regulated. At a national level, some countries, such as China, continue to mark progress in exerting law enforcement action against illicit ivory trade but, at the global level, CITES actions to reduce illegal trade in ivory have not been effective. Whilst the CITES Parties have mandated a mechanism for ensuring compliance with the requirements for internal trade in ivory articulated in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP14) and Decision 13.26, the *action plan for the control of trade in African elephant ivory*, its effective implementation remains illusive. Countries which were identified in the first ETIS analysis in 2002 as actively engaged in undermining CITES policies which support elephant conservation are still being identified as major culprits in the illicit ivory trade. In the meantime, the illicit trade in ivory continues to grow and impact an increasingly large number of elephants, especially in Central Africa. So far, CITES mechanisms are failing to arrest this development and more stringent actions are required at national, regional and global levels if the Parties truly seek a decline in the trafficking on ivory. Towards that end, ETIS recommends the following:

- Decision 13.26, the *action plan for the control of trade in African elephant ivory* needs to be strengthened and actively implemented. The status of compliance with the requirements of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP14) needs to be assessed and the obvious need for serious remedial measures should be addressed.
- Priorities for attention concern the three countries most heavily implicated in illicit ivory trade – the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Thailand. Measures to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions for internal ivory trade articulated in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP14) would certainly improve the status of these countries in future ETIS analysis. At this time, however, the status of these countries in the ETIS analyses has not changed appreciably since they were first identified at CoP12 as players of major concern. These countries should receive focused and unwavering attention as priori-

Continued on Page 22

Continued from Page 21
The Elephant Trade Information System ETIS and the Illicit Trade in Ivory

ties with respect to the implementation of Decision 13.26.

- China and Japan, as 'designated ivory importing country' under CITES for the one-off ivory sale, hold a special responsibility for taking actions against the illicit ivory trade globally. China, in particular, needs to address the ongoing complicity of its citizens in ivory trafficking within Africa as a matter of urgent concern. Previously, the Chinese government made an undertaking to engage in a mission to Africa to raise awareness amongst Chinese nationals living abroad about the country's 'zero tolerance' for illegal trading in ivory. China's future delivery of this undertaking would hopefully serve to reverse the growing frequency of its citizens in illicit ivory trade activities within Africa.
- Other countries of concern in the cluster analysis should be carefully monitored in the context of the Decision 13.26 process, particularly those with significant domestic ivory markets and those which function as major trade entrepôt and staging posts for organized criminal networks.
- Those Asian and African elephant range States, transit countries and end-use consumers, which never or only rarely report ivory or other elephant product seizure information, should be encouraged to improve their participation in ETIS.
- Capacity building events to improve implementation of the Convention and law enforcement for wildlife trade issues should include modules which promote participation in ETIS and address ivory trade issues. Donors should be encouraged to provide funds for such events in priority countries.

NAPHA Press Release – 9th October 2009

We at NAPHA, the Namibian Professional Hunting Association, are proud of our country, our clients and our members who are committed to ethical hunting. Namibia is one of the few countries in the world where government and the hunting industry work closely together. In Namibia sport hunting is widely accepted and approved and our visiting hunters are treated well. In hindsight we realize that, unfortunately our press release of September 23 created several impressions that worked against us. We would like to correct those impressions and set the record straight.

First, some background on the issue of hunting big cats: On April 24 and June 15 this year, the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET, which has jurisdiction over our hunting industry) issued moratoriums, first on cheetah and then on leopard, for the issuing of trophy hunting permits. The export quotas for these two species had been met for the year. MET's decision was supported by NAPHA, although several Trophy Hunting Operators had to inform clients of this on short notice. Meanwhile, word of unscrupulous and possibly illegal leopard hunting began to reach us. NAPHA's Executive Committee called a Special General Meeting, on July 31, of the membership to discuss the leopard and cheetah situation. An overwhelming majority voted to request MET to temporarily suspend hound hunting, and to draft better guidelines for fair-chase pursuit of these animals.

Second, our public perceived threats: We should not have invoked the US Fish Wildlife Service, the America's Lacey Act or any other international authorities or laws. It was not our intention to threaten or single out any specific nationality of hunting client. A trophy that was taken unlawfully in Namibia, could in turn, trigger local laws in whatever country the illegal trophy is shipped to.

Third, visiting hunters are *not* responsible for knowing Namibia's trophy hunting laws and regulations in detail. We agree that they must be able to put themselves in the hands of our qualified and registered Namibian Hunting Professionals and have the confidence that these laws will be kept.

Fourth, NAPHA itself: We are a not-for-profit, member-run trade association, not an arm of government, and we have no legal authority. Since 1974 we have sought to protect the right to hunt by establishing guidelines for fair chase and by advising government on game and land-use laws to sustain our wild species. Membership is voluntary and today the majority of Namibia's Hunting Professionals belong to the association. In order to join NAPHA, Hunting Professionals are required to provide proof that they fulfill all the required criteria to operate in Namibia - this is one of the many benefits of booking with a NAPHA member. We are the only group that represents the private sector of the trophy hunting industry in Namibia.

Hunting Professional certification in Namibia is awarded by MET, not by NAPHA. There are legitimate Hunting Professionals in Namibia, who are not members of NAPHA. Disagreements can occur in any group of people, and some individuals are not "joiners." It is not our intention to force people into our association. It is our intention, however, to get everyone in our country to play according to the rules in order to safeguard hunting for the future. Illegal hunting became a fact of life from the moment the first game laws were enacted, centuries ago. Since then it's been an ongoing battle, with standards continually evolving. Today Namibia has some of the most sane and sensible game laws on earth—and, as a direct result, some of the best trophy hunting. However, as long as there are hunting clients who want certain trophies at any cost and by any means, there will be Hunting Professionals willing to deliver, even here in Namibia.

The present furore has come about because we take these matters seriously and because we want to inform people about the possible pitfalls of hunting in Namibia with illegal, non-qualified and unregistered outfitters conducting unlawful and unethical hunting. However, our original statement was too harsh; we apologize. With hunting under pressure in so many places, we cannot afford to create divisions within our own ranks—especially concerning matters that most hunters agree on. Response from around the world showed us this, and is helping to guide our actions. We appreciate the feedback.

Our goals here are self-regulation within Namibia and open communication with the international community—for the sake of our superb trophy hunting.

NAPHA Executive Committee