

# AFRICAN INDABA

Volume 8, Issue No 4 & 5

eNewsletter

September 2010

Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

## The War On Rhinos

Gerhard R Damm

During August a flurry of blogs, webpostings and newspaper reports focused on the worsening rhino crisis in Southern Africa. I attempted to summarize the information in this article, adding some comments and thoughts of my own.



Photo credit: John Van Den Berg

On August 18<sup>th</sup> one male white rhino was killed with one shot to the head by poachers armed with an AK-47 assault rifle close to Masinda Camp in the iMfolozi Game Reserve - a place that is world famous for its successful restoration and conservation of the white rhino. Later the same day, a 40 years old rhino cow with a horn measuring 93 cm was shot dead presumably with an R5 assault rifle near Roedtan in Limpopo province; the animal was found with hamstrings and horns chopped with an axe. On August 23<sup>rd</sup> an armed gang of ten men held up two farm workers before proceeding to shoot and kill two rhinos on a farm between Modimolle and Vaalwater in South Africa's Limpopo province. The brazen daylight attack near Modimolle was unusual, in that most reports of the 300 rhinos believed to have been poached in South Africa since the beginning of last year suggest the attacks were done stealthily and mostly at night.

The highly organized poaching syndicates, probably steered by Asian mafia-like structures are using state of the art technical equipment like night-vision technique, global positioning systems from the air and ground, all kind of aircraft like microlights, helicopters and small fixed wings, high-tech air guns and cross bows delivering darts with efficient veterinary drugs and high-powered hunting rifles. Invariably they are heavily armed and ruthlessly willing to open fire on anyone who gets in

their way. They are working with top-of-the range communication gear and surveillance/spotting and action teams; they are also not shy to use substantial bribes to make some security and conservation officials look the other way or collude in the killings; they pay high fees to induce people smuggling horns across international borders – and so on.

End of July 2010, the chief executive of South African National Parks (SANParks), David Mabunda said in a statement that "Perhaps it is no longer appropriate to refer to [the] illegal killing of rhinos as poaching given the levels of sophistication, violence, precision and the money behind it. We are dealing with unprecedented high levels of organized crime which the Police and all security agencies are helping to defeat." [Wildlife Ranching South Africa](#) (WRSA), a nonprofit association established in 2005, said in a recent press release that "over 180 rhino have

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been killed in the past 8 months alone in South Africa. This [threatens] our African heritage and the safety and livelihood of many thousands of game farmers. The situation is now out of control and urgent new initiatives will need to be taken to deal with the escalating crisis."



Photo credit: John Van Den Berg

In this increasingly brutal war some desperate rhino owners have been reported to exploring biological warfare. There have been rumors that they have or are planning to inject toxins into horns which are essentially tightly packed hairs. The toxins wouldn't have a way into the animals' bloodstream and cyanide or any similar toxin would, theoretically, remain in the horn material when it is ground up. The assumption obviously is that a global awareness of poisoned rhino horn might act as deterrent for consumers of traditional Chinese medicines from using those that are or are said to containing powdered rhino horn. The demand for rhino horn could thus be dried up and the poachers will have no incentive to kill rhinos.

A recent, but questionable, report from the "Bangkok Star" circulated on Facebook about a Thai man who died after consuming medicines which were purported to contain rhino horn said that "the source of the contamination is still to be verified but it is thought to be from a private game farm somewhere in southern Africa." Commenting on this incident WRSA said "while there is a huge empathy for the game farmers, WRSA does not support this unilateral action.

Although many people (especially from the extreme animals' rights corner) have applauded the idea of poisoning rhino horn, it is not a good solution to the rhino poaching crisis. Innocent people who might not even know they are taking rhino horn could die and if any person dies from consuming poisoned horn material, it is murder. The people who actually do the poaching and smuggling – and who finance the sordid business would in all likelihood remain unharmed. A better way to tackle the consumer side of the rhino trade may be that the governments of the consumer countries in the Far East promote a general awareness that rhino horn is completely useless as a medication. In high-profile publicity they could expose the scams involving fake rhino horn in traditional medicine, so users may think twice before they part with their money.

Rhino horn, a time-honored component of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) for thousands of years, has been credited with the potency to cure an unusually wide array of mala-

dies from headaches to pus-filled boils – and even evil spirits, hallucinations and bewitching nightmares. Ironically, it seems the only condition rhino horn is not prescribed for is a lagging libido, although western media often report to the contrary.



NGS stock photo by Steve Raymer

Research in 1983 by Hoffmann-LaRoche, and 25 years later during a study at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) also concluded that rhino horn has no medical properties. Testing confirmed that "rhino horn, like fingernails, is made of agglutinated hair" and "has no analgesic, anti-inflammatory, anti-spasmodic nor diuretic properties" and "no bactericidal effect could be found against suppuration and intestinal bacteria." The tests at ZSL confirmed what by Hoffmann-LaRoche researchers found earlier. "There is no evidence at all that any constituent of rhino horn has any medical property. Medically, it's the same as if you were chewing your own nails." Scientists at the Chinese University of Hong Kong also failed to confirm the alleged efficacy of rhino horn as a useful medicine. Interestingly, the ZSL analysis revealed that rhino horn contains identifying elements which could provide information about where the horns originated.

WRSA repeatedly called for controlled legal trade in rhino horns as a way to help address the rhino poaching crisis saying that legal trade rhino horn via the strictest controls and standards, overseen by the South African authorities is key to the solution. Proponents of opening formal trade argue that it allows for more transparency and profits that can be used for conservation (see also Michael Eustace's article in African Indaba No. 8-1 "Rhino Poaching: Legalizing Horn Trade May Be the Answer"). Michael 't Sas-Rolfes, a South African wildlife conservation economist with specialist expertise in trade in endangered species worked extensively from 1990-1995 on the rhino issue especially on economic approaches to rhino horn management and the world trade in rhino horn. 'T Sas-Rolfes concluded in his report to TRAFFIC/WWF that legal trade was probably the best long-term solution, but the final report never got published (probably because of 't Sas-Rolfes' conclusions). In 1995 some of the work was however summarized in a publication "Rhinos: Conservation, Economics and Trade-Offs" by the UK Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA). 'T Sas-Rolfes also worked on the tiger products trade, which is in many ways closely related to the rhino horn trade. A major study on the tiger bone trade will be released in the next few weeks. His work increasingly demon-

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strates that the continuing CITES trade ban might be a high-risk policy for rhinos and tiger, and may in fact be driving both closer to extinction.

The 2009 IUCN/TRAFFIC report [African and Asian Rhinoceroses--Status, Conservation and Trade](#) stated that the illegal rhino horn trade progressively worsened since 2006 and Southern Africa emerging as a hotspot. The combined numbers of theft from government facilities and private collections, abuse of legal trophy hunting and illegal private sector sales suggest that a minimum of 1,521 rhino horns entered the illegal trade since 2006 (a two-fold increase over the previous period). Trade routes shifted from Yemen, where rhino horns were used crafting dagger handles to the traditional medicine markets in China and Viet Nam. China as signatory of CITES has banned trade in rhinoceros horn and its derivatives in 1993, but it appears that the use of rhino horn continues unabated in the TCM markets.

Since rhino horn has been proven to be totally ineffective as TCM ingredient, opening a legal trade route is however probably not the golden bullet for the desperately sought solution.

Why do millions of people persist in their belief that rhino horn is a miracle cure for all? Is this simply because they do not have access to accurate information? Or has the rhino horn business become so profitable that **belief in the curative properties of rhino horn is actually encouraged** as Rhishja Larson of [Saving Rhinos LLC](#) assumes? The ghastly trade where buyers in Viet Nam and China are willing to pay as much as US\$1,000,000 for a single rhino horn is fueled by superstition, greed and skulduggery. **Should we fuel this sordid environment with a "legal" rhino horn trade?**

Yet, there might be still ample room for discussion and good arguments for the controlled horn trade issue. However, it seems to be clear that consumer education must play a major role. Hence the governments of China and Viet Nam face a major challenge to their credibility in an increasingly conservation-minded world. Apart from consumer education, syndicated commercial poaching, illegal wildlife trading and smuggling should be dealt with harshly within each country's judicial system. The Chinese government and many of the Far Eastern countries do so successfully (and sometimes against the pleadings of western governments) in case of drug smuggling. Their judicial systems have the clout to deliver the crippling blow to those who are profiteering from steering the rhino poaching pandemic. In Africa we can only stop the killings – we cannot eliminate the sinister forces guiding the African poachers. In the depressed rural economic environment there will always be willing (and poorly paid in relation to overall profits) accomplices. Our governments need to stress this in their political talks.

In June 2010 the South African Department of Environmental Affairs published a "National Strategy for the Safety and Security of Rhinoceros Populations in South Africa" The strategy focuses on strategic planning and critical intervention strategies:

- Implementing an immediate action plan aimed at mitigating the current escalation in the poaching of rhino and the illegal trade in rhino horns;
- Securing the shared commitment of government (at national and provincial level), private land owners, local communities and international stakeholders, as well as the necessary financial and manpower resources and political will to

implement this policy;

- Supporting the establishment of a national coordination structure for information management, law-enforcement response, investigation and prosecution;
- Developing an integrated and coordinated national information management system for all information related to rhino species in order to adequately inform security related decisions;
- Investigating proactive security measures aimed at facilitating regulated and controlled international trade in the species, and any associated by-products.

The recent spate of attacks on the country's rhino now prompted various bodies to unite in the fight against rhino poaching at the **LeadSA Rhino Summit** held at Primedia Place on Monday 23 August 2010 (on this day two rhinos were brazenly killed – see introduction). **LeadSA** initiated by South Africa's [Independent Newspapers](#) company and [Radio 702](#) aims at inspiring positive actions and so keeping alive the constructive spirit created by hosting the 2010 Soccer World Cup.

Sam Ferreira – SANParks representative and chairman of the newly formed committee to tackle rhino poaching stated after the meeting that a coordinated effort between all stakeholders will address the problem of rhino poaching in South Africa. The partners will look at what can be done to tackle the demand for rhino horn. The intention of the committee is to improve communication and coordination among the anti-poaching initiatives by SANParks, government, police and security agencies, private game reserves and rhino owners as well as other conservation and wildlife organizations. The initial priorities of the committee are:

- agree on a national anti-rhino poaching reporting number to allow the public to blow the whistle on poachers;
- coordinate the provision of intelligence from all groups to the National Wildlife Crime Reaction Unit;
- coordinate a national fund raising campaign for specific anti-poaching initiatives and
- run an information campaign about rhino poaching and the use of rhino horn.

Plans are going ahead for the establishment of a combined Wildlife Crime Reaction Unit within the next few weeks. The unit would include SANParks environmental protection services, the police, state intelligence services, SA Revenue Services, SA Customs, rhino owners and wildlife organizations.

The resolution was endorsed by South African National Parks; The Hawks; South African Police Service; Identipet/ID Africa; Space for Elephants Foundation; 50:50; NSPCA Wildlife Unit; Spots; Wildlife ID; Professional Hunters Association of South Africa; African Outfitter; WESSA/Taylor Environmental; Entabeni LGSR; Legend Lodges; Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa; Game Rangers Association of South Africa; Private Rhino Owners Association; Vaalkop NR; Endangered Wildlife Trust; SANParks Honorary Rangers; Mission Rhino; Mango Groove; Crimeline; Shout; EBlockwatch; Maquba Ntombela Found; CAA; StopRhinoPoaching.com; Yellowwood; Grey SA; Wildlife Ranching SA; Wildlife Group/SAVA; South African Veterinary Association; Department of Environmental Affairs; ConservSecurity; Aquavision; Working Wild.

**[For HAWK Hotline Numbers turn to Page 7](#)**



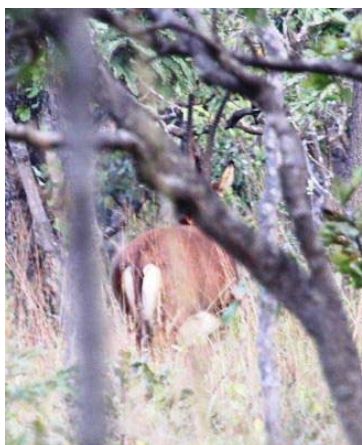
# Angola: Giant Sable Update

Pedro vaz Pinto

The second trimester marks the end of the rains and beginning of the dry season. If I could choose this is clearly the least appealing of periods in the *palanca* woodlands. In April the climate is hot and moist, the rivers are over-flooding, the soils waterlogged and the fast growing grass is often impenetrable. All this makes the process of moving around across the region, a very painful exercise at best. Then the weather changes sharply as we enter May, when the rains come to a sudden halt. And throughout May and June, the most annoying factor is, no doubt, the long and hard dry grass. The dead grass blocks visibility, hiding tracks and roads while clotting the car's radiators and its sharp edges cut easily through human skin when we're on foot.

In any case we were entering a crucial phase in Cagandala, as the cows in the sanctuary completed the first 9 months of confinement in the company of our master bull, so from now on anything was possible... meaning calving of course! In the best case scenario they could calve in May, but I suppose that would be wishful thinking and it just hasn't happened yet. The animals must require some extra time to adjust to their new condition in semi-captivity and I'm confident that we will have our first pure calves in the next trimester.

In spite of this, there are some very promising signs that we registered on several visits. The first thing to note is that the females, although still packed together, seemed to be more sensitive and not allowing our approach as before. In sharp contrast, the bull seems very relaxed while protecting the herd. Every time we approached the group, the bull would calmly stand in between us and the females while allowing them to quickly vanish into the thick forest. While providing us with some nice views of the bull, this became a very frustrating exercise as we were focusing on getting a clear view of the females. We did however obtained glimpses, and the overall impression was that they did look shiny, healthy and curvy... and on a few photos they do seem to be pregnant ...



Hybrid Cow – possibly pregnant

On the other hand, the routine monitoring of hybrids in the remaining park through the trap camera, revealed a big surprise: the hybrids may be capable of breeding after all! This

was quite unexpected as we detected no evidence of it for the past few years. The first troubling record was a photograph of Anastacia (the first hybrid caught – also known as our *Judas* as she was the one who betrayed the herd during the capture operation), alone at one *salina* and showing a clearly swollen udder. It is still unclear if she did calve, but it strongly suggested breeding behavior and pregnancy (either successful or not). But the shocker wouldn't take long, when a sequence showing the remaining hybrid group, in which one of the older females was joined by a small two month calf. And as if to clarify any doubts we might had still, they clearly interacted, behaving like every mother and calf do. It's a fact: the hybrids are capable of breeding!

The immediate obvious question, to which I still don't have an answer, is: who the hell is the father of that little calf? Or, in other words, what sort of new hybrid do we have now? So far all hybrids were presumed to be F1's (the product of a cross sable X roan), but now we must have something else, either a F2 (hybridF1 X hybridF1), or a backcross (hybrid F1 X roan or sable). The later of course would result on an animal which will be 75% one species and 25% the other species. The implications of being one or the other type of hybrid can be relevant. While an F2 proves the hybrids can, at least occasionally, breed among themselves, a backcross poses an immediate and real threat of contamination into one of the parent species.

My gut feeling is that we're dealing with F2's, mainly because the hybrid group has been consistently seen escorted by an impressive hybrid bull. In the past, the herd was lacking a mature "resident" bull, and this is what must have led the pure sable females to seduce roan bulls, but since last year this young hybrid bull grabbed the empty seat as dominant male. We shouldn't however rule out just yet, the possibility of having a backcross with a roan bull (or even with the stray sable bull – this seems a remote possibility but it is also the most worrying one).

All this makes it obvious and unavoidable the need for a serious genetic study, to clarify all these issues, and assist us to manage the recovery of the giant sable breeding group while controlling (and understanding) what is happening with the hybrids.

The following months should be interesting...



**News Break: A single calf has since been born!**



## Rhino Darting In South Africa

PHASA Communication

PHASA received the following notification from the Department of Environmental Affairs during the last week of July 2010,

The Veterinary Council proposed amendments to their legislation that will have an impact on the darting of rhinos by foreign clients. Herewith is a summary of the information:

1. According to the proposed amendments only veterinary professionals, or persons authorized by the Veterinary Council and under the supervision of a veterinary professional, will be permitted to administer Schedule 5 or 6 medicines with the purpose to tranquilize or anaesthetize an animal.
2. These amendments have not been published for implementation yet. However, the Veterinary Council will probably forward these proposals to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) next week, for DAFF to obtain approval from the Minister to publish the amendments in the Gazette for implementation. The implementation will then be with immediate effect.
3. The rules will be published in terms of Section 30 of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, Act 19 of 1982. (Act)
4. The Veterinary Council went through the consultation process, but did not extend this to the professional hunting industry.
5. According to the policy of the Veterinary Council, it would officially be unethical for veterinarians to be involved in darting safaris from 1 June 2010. As a result of the industry not being informed of the time frame of the implementation, there are Hunting Outfitters who have permits to conduct these safaris, and safaris have already been booked. There would thus be an interim period from 1 June 2010 until publication of the amendments, that Outfitters would have problems with existing contracts. The Veterinary Council was therefore requested if it would be possible for them to honor existing permits. The Registrar of the Council undertook to forward our request to the Executive Committee for approval.
6. In the mean time, it is recommended that provinces do not issue new permits for applications for darting safaris. Further, it is requested that all provinces must indicate to us how many permits they have issued of which the safaris still need to take place. The reason is so that we can indicate to the Council how many permit holders will be affected by the interim period (my proposal was that the Council regard this period until publication, as an official phase out period for permits).
7. DEA will have to amend the TOPS Regulations to make provision that only veterinary professionals or persons authorized by the Council, may dart animals. Therefore, written approval from the Council will be a prerequisite for a person other than a veterinary professional, to obtain a darting permit.

In the meantime PHASA communicated with the Department of Environmental Affairs receiving the following information on the Veterinary Council's decision taken at their meeting of 30 July:

"Decision taken by Council that the conduct of any veterinarians involved in green hunts i.r.o. permits issued after 30 June 2010 will be investigated. Permits issued prior to 30 June 2010 not affected."

This means that darting safaris for existing TOPS permits may continue, but no new TOPS permits should be issued for foreign clients to do the darting, as veterinarians may not be involved in those safaris. The above provision only affects the 5 outstanding permits issued by MTPA. All other provinces indicated that they have no outstanding permits (permits that have already been issued, of which the safaris still need to take place). We will amend the TOPS Regulations accordingly to give effect to the decision of the South African Veterinary Council.

For more details please contact PHASA [phasa@phasa.co.za](mailto:phasa@phasa.co.za) [www.phasa.co.za](http://www.phasa.co.za)

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## Uganda Suspends Trophy Hunting

Barbara Crown – [The Hunting Report](#)

The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) has suspended sport hunting in Uganda until further notice. The agency distributed a letter to safari operators, signed by UWA Executive Director Moses Mapesa, in the last week of July which said that "*sport hunting is suspended with immediate effect save for any clients who may already be in Uganda and on safari.*" Hunting Report Editor Barbara Crown called the UWA and was told a nationwide suspension is indeed in effect.

Crown also contacted several safari operators, all of whom confirmed receiving such a letter or hearing about it. Some were actually in the field conducting safaris and had been unable to follow up with UWA. The letter raised more questions among operators than it provided answers. Operators specifically question whether a blanket suspension can be issued in the middle of the hunting season and in spite of their contracts. They pointed out the new Board of Trustees may not be aware of the far-reaching complications of a suspension in the middle of the safari season.

The reasons for the suspension include concerns about illegal hunting, the need for agreed upon scientific criteria for quota setting and "*equitable benefit sharing from the sport hunting activity.*" However, when Crown spoke with a UWA representative, he insisted the only reason was the need for a better method to set quotas. He could not say when the suspension might be lifted. The letter also said that a number of concerns had been raised by the public and stakeholders in the wildlife and tourism sector about sport hunting, causing the Board of Trustees of UWA to examine the matter and resolve that sport hunting be temporarily suspended.

Look for hot-of-the-press updates at [The Hunting Report](#).



# PHASA Counters Unfounded ARA Accusations

PHASA Press Release

Eduard Katzke, president of the Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa, expressed his dismay at articles in local newspapers about the report of Animal Rights Africa (ARA) entitled "*Hunting in South Africa: A bloody mess*". The report was released earlier this week. The report allegedly finds that the R754 million hunting industry is often based on the exploitation of animals and that at least one million animals are hunted annually – mostly for their horns or fur or "simply for fun". According to the newspaper articles Ms Michele Pickover, spokesperson for ARA, apparently said that ethics in the hunting industry are negligible.

The perception that ARA is trying to create, namely that hunting is an unlimited form of destruction that will ultimately annihilate our wildlife, is completely unfounded. The use of the term "poaching" and hunting in the same context further proves how ignorant ARA is about the role of the hunting industry in conservation and wildlife management. The contribution of the hunting industry to conservation, research and training of the previously disadvantaged should not be underestimated. This industry currently provides approximately 70 000 people with job opportunities, mainly in the rural areas. Over the past 3 years PHASA has generated more than R5 million for the training of the previously disadvantaged at the SA Wildlife College in Hoedspruit. In addition, approximately R400 000 has been made available to combat rhino poaching.

The direct financial contribution of hunting associations in South Africa to other conservation initiatives over the past year amounts to almost R3 million while more than R150 000 has been spent on research in the recent past.

South Africa undoubtedly is the most popular Southern African destination for foreign hunters. The number of trophy animals hunted by overseas hunters, however, constitutes a small percentage of the animals hunted. The hunting industry can indeed be regarded as a massive economic injection for our country. Equally important, however, is the role of hunting as a wildlife management mechanism. As is the case with all living creatures, game populations are constantly growing and should therefore be managed accordingly.

It is a great pity that ARA selectively chose certain parts from a previous address by former PHASA president, Mr Stewart Dorrington, to create a negative perception of the hunting industry, and more specifically about the game ranching sector. During the Limpopo Expo in May 2005, Mr Dorrington delivered an address on "The Professional Hunting Industry of South Africa: Past and Future". In his presentation Mr Dorrington provided the background to the establishment of the professional hunting industry in South Africa and the challenges associated with it. Surely it would have been short-sighted if he hadn't addressed the mistakes of the past made by both professional hunters and game ranchers. He dealt with specific matters that were pertinent at a time when the industry experienced rapid growth. PHASA definitely realizes that the value of private landowner-

ship to wildlife in South Africa is often underestimated. Private game ranches today cover an area of about 20 500 000 hectares (16.8%) as opposed to national and provincial parks that jointly cover 7 500 000 hectares (6.1%). In addition, the number of game animals on private property is almost double that of the game in our country's Parks. Taking into account that there is an estimated 60% more game in South Africa today than in the mid-1900s, the success of private game ranching speaks for itself.

What is not mentioned in the newspaper articles and possibly also not in ARA's report, is that Mr Dorrington also specifically referred to the positive role and influence of the hunting industry. The facts and figures already mentioned in this media release also emphasize this fact. Subsequently not only particular species benefited from this but also the entire ecosystem and biodiversity.

However, Mr Katzke welcomes ARA's decision to submit their report to the parliamentary portfolio committee on water and environmental affairs for discussion. PHASA supports the "inclusive process" of our current Government and would therefore appreciate the opportunity to be involved in discussions with the committee about the economic, research and biodiversity role of the hunting industry. Furthermore, PHASA supports ARA's view that the current nine sets of provincial legislation do not benefit the industry at all. For this exact reason PHASA is also striving to introduce a national professional hunting permit. The association believes that one set of national legislation will be much more effective than the current system of nine sets of provincial legislation plus national legislation, which causes a great deal of confusion.

For more details please contact PHASA [phasa@phasa.co.za](mailto:phasa@phasa.co.za) [www.phasa.co.za](http://www.phasa.co.za) or Eduard Katzke (President): 082 804 6676 and Adri Kitshoff (CEO): 083 650 0442

## Understanding Animal Rights

Ron Thomson

Most people in society do not understand the difference between "animal rights" and "animal welfare" and this causes great confusion in the public arena. The recent "Scathing report on (the) hunting industry" article that the Despatch newspaper published earlier this month is a "confusing" case in point. This article discussed a recent press release put out by Animal Rights Africa (ARA) entitled "*Hunting in South Africa: A Bloody Mess*". In it ARA exposed a number of flaws, some genuine some imagined, in the South African hunting industry. It also called for a public referendum with the object of getting public support for the total banning of hunting in this country.

The author of the ARA press release, and a leading member of that organisation, Michelle Pickover, published a book a few years ago (*Animal Rights in South Africa*) in which she explained her perception of the difference between animal rights and animal welfare. She said that animal welfare works towards *regulating* man's "use" of animals whilst animal rights works towards *abolishing* man's use of animals. She said that,

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### Understanding Animals Rights

as a consequence, the work that animal welfare organizations do is the biggest obstacle to the attainment of animal rights goals.

This, however, is a simplification of the very great differences that exist between these two ideologies.

The World Conservation Strategy (WCS) (1980) is the mission statement of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). This document, *inter alia*, is a blueprint for the survival of mankind on planet earth. All responsible sovereign states (like South Africa) are members of the IUCN and these member states obligated themselves to world society in 1980 to model their National Conservation Strategies (NCSs) on the WCS template. Thus the objectives of the WCS became those of South Africa's NCS.

The three principle objectives of what the WCS calls "Living Resource Conservation" are:

- To main essential ecological processes and life support systems;
- To preserve genetic diversity (i.e. to stop extinctions); and
- To ensure the sustainable utilization of species and ecosystems (notably fish and other wildlife, forests and grazing lands) which support millions of rural communities as well as major industries.

The easiest way to differentiate between an animal welfare organization and an animal rights organization is to ask them their views on these three objectives.

The animal welfare organization will respond by saying that they support all three of these objectives with the proviso that (in objective number 3.) when man "uses" a live animal (such as when he ploughs a field with an ox) he should treat the animal humanely; and that when man has to kill an animal to gain benefits (such killing an ox for its meat) the killing process should be carried out without cruelty.

The animal rights organization will oppose entirely any notion that man should "use" an animal, any animal, for his own benefit. They will say that all animals have a "right to life", just as humans do, and that man has no right whatsoever to "use" an animal for his own benefit in any way at all. Animal welfare organizations, therefore, seek to maintain civilized standards when man "uses" or "kills" an animal for his own benefit; and animal rights organizations seek to abolish man's use of ALL animals. In the process animal welfare organizations support South Africa's NCS whilst the *raison d'etre* of the animal rights organizations is to make sure that, in South Africa, the third objective of the WCS (and so of our own NCS) is never attained.

Animal rights organizations, therefore, work against the better interests of mankind - bearing in mind that the WCS is a blueprint for the survival of man on this planet; and they are constantly striving to undermine the efforts of government to achieve the objectives of its NCS. Taxpayers should take note of this!

The current attack on the South African hunting industry by ARA, therefore, should be viewed against this light. Our hunting industry is just one of the many dominoes that ARA has lined up for demolition. All and every other "animal use" industry is another domino in their game - and they will strive to knock

them down one by one. And who are these other dominoes? They are: Cattle, sheep and goat farmers; poultry farmers; egg producers; abattoirs and butcheries; supermarkets that sell animal products such as meat, poultry, eggs and milk; ostrich farmers; restaurants that serve meat dishes to their clients; commercial fisheries and recreational anglers; fishmongers and restaurants specializing in fish meals; horse racing enthusiasts; recreational horse riders; pigeon fanciers and those who race pigeons; rural people who plough their fields with oxen; those who own donkeys and donkey carts; pet owners (dogs and cats); the police who use dogs to hunt down criminals; people who use leather in the manufacture of clothes; and a whole host more. There is not one single "animal use" activity which will escape their net if honest, sincere and responsible people in society allow ARA, or any other animal rights organisation, to knock down the first domino.

The ARA attack on our hunting industry is a declaration of war on ALL animal "users" in this country. It is not an isolated incident. It is the start of a planned long term campaign and be assured that ARA is not standing alone. They have the backing of a huge world-wide animal rights confidence industry that will be backing them to the hilt - because "success" in South Africa will make it easier for them all to have similar successes at home.

Our hunting industry has short comings and they need to be corrected. The same applies to every other "animal use" industry in the country. What every "animal use" industry needs to understand, however, is that they must stand together in this fight. They ALL need to impress upon our government the iniquities of the nefarious animal rights ideology. They would be well-advised to nip-in-the-bud this growing canker in our midst and have it excised *completely* from our society.

And for those who say that animal rightists in South Africa have the right have their views heard, I must retort: if that is so, then so should pedophiles have the same right. Both, in my view, are pariahs in our society. Given free reign the animal rightists will change our South African life-style in many different ways, forever.

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# Conservation Status Of The Lion In Mozambique

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Supported by: DNAC/MITUR & DNTF/MINAG

Funded by: SCI Foundation, Campfire Association, DNAC/MITUR and IGF Foundation

## Abstract

The IUCN-SSC organized two regional workshops, one for West and Central Africa (2005) and one for Eastern and Southern Africa (2006), with the intention to gather major stakeholders and to produce regional conservation strategies for the lion. Mozambican authorities, together with local stakeholders, took part in the regional exercise for establishing the Regional Conservation Strategy for the Lion in Eastern and Southern Africa. They recognized the importance of establishing a National Action Plan for the Lion in Mozambique and realized the lack of comprehensive information for reviewing the lion profile in the country.

A survey has been launched to update the conservation status of the lion in Mozambique. The final report of this survey is expected to become a comprehensive material for submission as a contribution to the forthcoming National Action Plan workshop.

The current report is the final product of the whole survey made in three phases. The methods used are explained and results are provided. A database has been set up to collect and analyze the information available as well as the information generated by specific inquiries. Nine thematic maps have been drawn. The lion range in Mozambique is still quite extensive with a surface ranging between 515,000 and 610,000 km<sup>2</sup>, i. e. 66 to 78 % of the terrestrial surface of the country. An assessment of the lion population size has been attempted with tentative number of 2,700 individuals in Mozambique at this stage. The lion appears unevenly distributed although more lion range (71 %) lies in non-gazetted areas outside Protected Areas (named Conservation Areas in this country), a majority of the lion observations come from Protected Areas including National Parks, National reserves, Hunting Blocks, Coutadas (Game Reserves), Community Programs and Fazendas do Bravo (Game Ranches). In line with the regional Lion Conservation Units (LCU), 3 national LCUs are suggested for Mozambique. Human/lion conflicts are of great concern in this country, especially in northern (Niassa and Cabo Delgado Provinces) and western (Tete Province) Mozambique.

## Extract on Lion Hunting (pages 38 to 41 of the report)

Informal harvesting of lion is not allowed in Mozambique. If practiced it is treated as poaching and subject to fines and penalties as any illegal activity.

Formal harvesting of lion is strictly controlled in Mozambique. Lion hunting is governed by law, mainly the Forestry and

Wildlife Law (Law 10/99) and its regulations (Decree 12/2003). According to the forestry and wildlife regulations, the lion is considered a game species, not a protected species.

Lions are hunted in Mozambique through (i) tourism or sport hunting by foreign tourist hunters and (ii) recreational hunting by national citizens. However, lion harvesting is also carried out through Problem Animal Control (PAC) involving problem lions. Lion hunting is only permitted

- In some defined areas: Coutadas (Game Reserves), Hunting Blocks of Niassa NR, Community Based Natural Resources Management Areas (CBNRM programs), fazendas do bravo (Game Ranches) and Multiple Use Areas (under special conditions only).
- During a defined hunting season which is the same as for other game species (from April to September in Multiple Use Areas and from June to November in the other areas).

The annual lion quota is set per hunting season based on rules which determine the quota for each specific areas where hunting is permitted. It is revised annually by the relevant wildlife authority (DNAC/MITUR & DNTF/MINAG) and applies to adult male lions only.

The annual quota is set for two categories of areas (1) areas mostly used by international tourist hunters (i) Coutadas, (ii) Hunting Blocks of Niassa NR, (iii) areas under CBNRM and (iv) fazendas do bravo and (2) areas only used by Mozambican citizens, i. e. Multiple Use Areas or non-gazetted areas. Only Mozambicans can hunt lion in these areas (under special conditions only). The lion quota is much lower in open areas compared to the first category of areas, although these areas are larger.

The annual quota is set in a global figure. According to the DNAC, the evolution of the national quota for lion was 52 in 2007, 111 in 2008 and 60 in 2009. However some discrepancies appear between various sources of information. In 2007, the quota was 55 according to safari operators interviewed and 68

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## African Indaba eNewsletter

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### Conservation Status of the Lion in Mozambique

according to the DPT in Tete province (as compared to 52 as provided by DNAC). In 2008, the figure was 106 according to the safari operators interviewed (compared to 111 by DNAC). In 2007 the national quota was divided into 58% (Hunting Areas,  $n = 30$ ); 13% (Game Reserves,  $n = 7$ ) and 29% (Non-Gazetted Areas,  $n = 15$ ). In 2007, the Niassa Province was the province with the highest lion quota representing 39% ( $n = 20$ ) of the national quota. In all other provinces, the respective lion quotas per province represented less than 15% of the national quota.

The annual lion offtake evolved as follows: In 2007 nine lions, for an overall offtake percentage of 17.5, according to DNAC; in 2008 fourteen lions, for an overall offtake of 12.6% according to DNAC, SGDRN and safari operators interviewed. Again some discrepancies appear between various sources of information. In 2007 the offtake was 19 lions according to safari operators interviewed (compared to 9 as per DNAC) and in 2008 it stood at 22 lions according to DNTF (as compared to 14 as per DNAC).

The following offtake of lion was observed in 2007: Lion were mainly hunted in Niassa National Reserve Hunting Blocks, where 8 out of the 18 lions on quota were taken (local offtake 44%) against 9 out of 16 in 2006 (56%) (Begg and Begg, 2007). In all the Coutadas only one out of the seven lions on quota was Harvested (14%). No lion was reported as harvested in the Tete Community Program area.

### Extract on Discussion of Lion Hunting (pages 49 to 51 of the report)

The monitoring system to evaluate the offtake of lion (quota utilization) as well as for other species is not well developed and needs to be improved. With a few local exceptions, it remains quite difficult to determine precisely the level of lion offtake in the country. The reporting systems as well as the data collection need also to be improved. Currently there is no standard format for the safari operators' annual report. And only a percentage of safari operators are used to submit their annual reports to the wildlife authorities.

Quota setting for lion as well as for other game species is done through a procedure of data analysis and consultation that is essentially based on information received from safari operators, provincial directorates for tourism, forestry and wildlife services, previous years quota offtake as well as the safari operators requirement.

With the exception of the study conducted in Niassa NR by SGDRN, very few surveys of the lion populations are carried out in the other regions. In absence of specific lion surveys, a set of indirect criteria can be efficiently used for monitoring the lion conservation status and trend in hunting areas, and for setting quotas, e. g. lion trophy size and trend, lion hunting effort parameters, direct and indirect lion signs and their indices. Participatory methods for setting quotas have been designed and are well known in Southern Africa (WWF 1997, WWF, 2000).

Recent advances suggest that hunting quotas might be replaced by targeted harvests selected upon biological criteria as it is sometimes done for elephants with minimum tusk length and weights or with leopards with minimum length. Whitman et

al (2004) developed a model showing that trophy hunting is likely to have minimal impact on the whole lion populations if the offtake is restricted to males older than 6 years, regardless of the level of offtake. The rationale is to let enough time for pride males to produce cubs old enough to become independent (i. e. to escape infanticide) when incoming males coalitions take over the prides. The Niassa NR is already combining the usual quota system with the new method of the minimum age threshold (Begg & Begg, 2009). It may be hypothesized that Mozambican lions have their own ecological and biological features, according to their respective ecosystems and regions, as suggested by the difference between the evaluation of maximal pride sizes conducted during this survey (mean 5 to 8; min 2 to 5, max. 3 to 19) and the value observed in Northern Tanzania (nearly 30) where the Whitman model was developed.

Accurate ageing of live lions is critical for properly applying the minimum age threshold method. Five lion ageing criteria are used by Whitman et al (2004): facial markings, mane development, nose pad pigmentation, leg markings and teeth. Whether the visual standards used in Northern Tanzania to assess the age of live lions at a distance are accurate when applied to other lion populations elsewhere remains questionable. Preliminary results from the Zambia Lion Project provide growing evidence that neither mane development nor nose pigmentation in Zambia provide reliable ageing criteria in the same way as in Tanzania (White, pers. comm. to the authors). According to Begg (pers. comm. to the authors), the Tanzanian lion ageing criteria seem to apply to the Niassa situation.

Research studies are needed in Mozambique to improve the knowledge of lion ecology and lion ageing, assuming possible regional differences given the size and shape of the country.

The national lion offtake, i. e. the percentage of the national lion quota which is utilized, is surprisingly low (17% in 2007 and 12.6% in 2008). This is one exception in the country with the Niassa NR producing reliable data and decent figures. Some questions may be raised to look for explanations:

Trophy fees for fixed quotas are paid regardless of whether the animal has been hunted or not. This system of fixed fees does not provide any incentive for hunting operators to avoid male lions that are less than 5 years old or that are in breeding prides (with lion cubs less than one year old). This untargeted hunting could result in unsustainable harvest with potential detrimental effect on population genetic and dynamic (Loveridge et al, 2006). Placing lions on optional quota, with fees only paid if animals are shot would help ensuring sustainable offtake.

Official lion hunting by Mozambican citizens remains marginal and insignificant. From 2007 to 2008 no lion hunting license was issued for national hunters to hunt the Multiple Use Areas, which are reserved for Mozambican only. Most national hunters hunt for meat, some as a recreational activity, very few for trophy. The national hunter is looking more at plains game. Also a number of them are scared to hunt dangerous game such as lion. Finally, the cost of hunting big game is much higher than medium or small size game.

Overall, killing of lion by people in Mozambique is by far mostly due to poaching, either unintentional in the quest for

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bushmeat or intentional for retaliation. The second cause responsible for lion killing by humans is lion PAC operations. Lastly tourism hunting is harvesting a few adult male lion every year. The question remains whether diseases are responsible for lion mortality in the country to what extent and if human activities play a role.

## Rowland Ward Lion Taken In Mozambique



This huge lion scoring 24¾ was recently killed in Mozambique's Sabie Game Management Area. The hunter reported that it was an old nomadic male with a full, very dark mane (for more details see [THE HUNTING REPORT](#)).

## Illegal PAC Hunts Sold In Mozambique

Barbara Crown, Editor [THE HUNTING REPORT](#)

Problem Animal Control (PAC) hunts for foreign clients in Mozambique are illegal, according to Afonso Madope, national director of conservation areas in Mozambique. "Criminal charges will be laid against participating hunters, outfitters and PHs involved in such practices," he wrote in a memorandum that was forwarded to *The Hunting Report*. There are no permits that allow a hunting client to participate in a PAC hunt. Forewarned is forearmed. For more details see [THE HUNTING REPORT](#).

## The Zambia Lion Project

Dr. Paula A. White

The future of African lion populations – and the desire for continued access to hunt trophy lions for sport – are inexplicably linked in that they share a common goal of long-term conservation of the species in the wild.

While controversy persists over the value of sport hunting to conservation, the stark contrast of lion population status in countries such as Zambia (where hunting still exists) versus Kenya (where hunting was banned many years ago) illustrates the benefits of consumptive tourism.

In Zambia's Game Management Areas, hunting safari operators engage in land stewardship that includes anti-poaching patrols and enforcement against illegal human and livestock encroachment, thereby protecting vast tracts of prime wildlife habitat adjacent to National Parks. In addition, hunting activities distribute crucial income and provide development aid such as bore holes, schools, and clinics to remote villages through local employment and community pledges, respectively. Economic incentives derived from safari hunting of lions also promote tolerance for villagers to co-exist with large predators that they otherwise seek to destroy as dangerous pests.

In turn, it is the responsibility of the hunting community as well as the wildlife managing authority to ensure that hunting of lions is done in a sustainable fashion. This includes sustainable quotas and age-based selection of older male lions as trophies. Sound management practices must be built upon a strong, scientific basis and must also constitute practical measures that can realistically be applied in a hunting situation.

Since 2004, the Zambia Lion Project has collected empirical data on African lion populations within Zambia. The goal of the project is to assist Zambia Wildlife Authority in developing and implementing a rigorous, scientifically based management plan of African lion populations in Zambia that includes sustainable trophy hunting. Working in partnership with Zambia Wildlife Authority, and with the kind cooperation of the Professional Hunters Association of Zambia and the Safari Hunters and Operators of Zambia, the Zambia Lion Project collects samples (photographs, tooth, and DNA) on the trophy lions taken each year. In exchange, safari operators are provided with individualized results of their trophies, while an overall summary is presented to the greater hunting community.

In May 2010, the Zambia Lion Project produced a booklet on age-based trophy selection that was distributed to each safari operator in Zambia. Funded by Conservation Force and Safari Club International Foundation, "A Regional Guide to Aging Lions in Zambia" compares physical characteristics (trophy photos) with age criteria (tooth x-rays and tooth wear) for each of 47 trophy lions taken in Zambia between 2006-2009. The purpose of the booklet is to inform and elicit dialogue between clients and professional hunters alike on the topic of lion trophy selection. Presented as a 'work in progress', the booklet is intended to generate feedback that, along with trophy data from the 2010 season, will be incorporated into a final version for 2011. Ultimately, the final guide is intended to serve as a practical and

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### The Zambia Lion Project

informative tool that will assist in age-based trophy selection of Zambia's lions in the bush.

Zambia Lion Project's research has contributed to Zambia Wildlife Authority's completion of "Zambia's Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for the African Lion" which marked an important step forward and helped demonstrate to the international community that Zambia is genuinely committed to lion conservation.

Further aspects of the Zambia Lion Project's research include field surveys and interviews to determine lion distribution and abundance countrywide, in-depth genetic analysis of Zambia's lions, and quantification of the socio-economic benefits derived from trophy hunting in Zambia.

**For more information on this project, please contact:**

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## Towards Sustainable Wildlife Management Areas in Tanzania

Review by Jeremy Hance,

Wildlife Management Areas in Africa were created to serve a dual purpose. By granting local communities usage rights over wildlife in designated areas, African countries hoped both to allow communities to benefit from their wildlife while taking an active part in conservation. A new paper published in the open access journal *Tropical Conservation Science* outlines the current problems facing WMAs, using Tanzania as an example, and recommends possible solutions. To date there are 16 pilot WMAs in Tanzania, encompassing 135 villages. However, there are a number of challenges facing WMAs, including loss of wildlife habitat and overconsumption of resources.

Agriculture, grazing and settlements have all contributed to habitat loss and fragmentation; as well there is a direct connection between the human density and the decline of wildlife. The study found that in WMAs where the human density was increasing rapidly conservation challenges proved more significant, including the bushmeat trade and unsustainable natural resource exploitation.

Game hunting by tourists and subsistence hunting of some species are allowed in the WMAs, yet, especially in dense areas these allowances need better monitoring to ensure sustainability. In addition, governments must ensure that tourist hunting provides direct revenue for the local communities and isn't just funneled back to the government.

According to the paper, WMAs can be successful in their dual role if they implement frequent monitoring of wildlife, conservation promotion and outreach programs within the communities, and low capacity building to ensure the sustainable-use of

natural resources. As an example, the paper points to successful beekeeping in the WMAs of Uyumbu and Ipole, a program which provides additional income without hurting the environment. Finally, the study recommends that the formation process for WMAs is simplified. As it is, the complexity of establishing a WMA makes the process slow and cumbersome: some communities have had to wait up to 10 years for WMA status.

Paulo Wilfred, 2010. **Towards sustainable Wildlife Management Areas in Tanzania.** *Tropical Conservation Science* Vol. 3 (1):103-116. Download the full article at: [http://tropicalconservationscience.mongabay.com/content/v3/10-03-29\\_103-116\\_paolo.pdf](http://tropicalconservationscience.mongabay.com/content/v3/10-03-29_103-116_paolo.pdf). *Tropical Conservation Science* is an open-access e-journal that publishes research relating to conservation of tropical forests and other tropical ecosystems.

**Keywords:** wildlife management areas, human pressure, resource utilization, Tanzania, sustainable management.

**Abstract :** Within the last few years, Tanzania has witnessed mushrooming growth of "wildlife management areas" (WMAs). These are broadly meant to halt (or reduce) loss of wildlife populations, and ensure that local people benefit from their conservation. However, human pressure is rapidly increasing and causing management problems in the WMAs. Some human land-use activities also limit wildlife dispersal, potentially destabilizing wildlife population dynamics. In addition, poor resource use diversification and lack of creativity constrain sustainable use of natural resources in the WMAs; consequently, their contribution to sustainable livelihoods is seriously undermined. A key question is how WMAs can be a sustainable and competitive land-use option that meets their predetermined objectives? Without doubt, a road map to sustainable WMAs should responsibly engage the government, non-governmental organizations, and community-based organizations in a joint effort towards realization of simple and flexible WMAs establishment process, quality wildlife habitat, and reduced human pressure on the wildlife resources, as well as successful and sustainable wildlife-based enterprises.

First published in: [http://news.mongabay.com/2010/0328-hance\\_wmas.html](http://news.mongabay.com/2010/0328-hance_wmas.html)

## Tanzania: Serengeti Shall Not Die! – Really?

Rolf D Baldus

For 20 years Tanzania plans the construction of a highway to connect the ports of Mombasa, Dar es Salaam and Tanga connect with Central Africa. Apparently the plans have now firmed up. The construction work is said to start in 2012. 70 km of the new road would be south of the Kenyan border effectively cutting the Serengeti National Park into two parts.

This would be in sharp contrast to the national park management plan and to all international obligations that the country has signed, when UNESCO recognized Serengeti NP as a world natural heritage site. TANAPA, the National Park Authority is in an

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### Serengeti Shall Not Die! – Really?

uproar, however, as a parastatal TANAPA may not articulate its true opinion publicly.



Source: FZS

The Serengeti has the highest concentration of wild mammals in the world: 1.3 million wildebeest, hundreds of thousands of zebras and gazelles, and thousands of predators such as lions or hyenas which live off the abundance of their prey. The herbivores are constantly on the move in search of water and greenery. A gnu may travel on its migration up to 2,100 km a year. As the southern Serengeti dries, the herd migrate to the north and into the Kenyan Mara, where they find permanent water. This migration is the secret of the abundance of game in the Serengeti; it is one of the last great animal migrations that exist today. All others were made impossible by human settlement, infrastructure and fences, and this has led always, as for example in Botswana, to the collapse of game populations.

#### Small cause - big effect

The planned construction of the overland route across the Serengeti will prevent the migration according to the experts. "The road will have fatal consequences. In the long run it could not do without a fence," said Dr. Christof Schenck, director of the Frankfurt Zoological Society, in discussion with the author. According to mathematical models the current solution would amongst others cause a wildebeest decline of 80%. And if there are less big grazers than now, the entire Serengeti ecosystem would undergo drastic changes.

#### There is an alternative route

Development is not possible without roads. The conservationists know this too. However, there is an alternative route south of the Serengeti, which would in fact be significantly cheaper and less environmentally harmful.

It could also encourage the domestic economy here much better, as it would reach five times as many people in the country, as the route through the park. Christof Schenck: "Infrastructure is important. However, one should decide to take the best alternative." In a statement on the construction of the road the Frankfurt Zoological Society, which has been engaged in the

Serengeti since Bernhard Grzimek ("Serengeti shall not die"), summarizes the expectations of the Tanzanian government: "We sincerely hope that the Tanzanians and Tanzanian politicians take wise decisions are not risking to put the Serengeti at risk as well as the reputation of their country as one of the leading nations in terms of nature conservation."

Typical of the Tanzanian government system the project is treated as a state secret. "The critics of the road have no idea what we try to do," grumbled the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Shamsa Mwangunga, but continued to keep the government plans in the dark. The only thing she divulged is that the road section in the Serengeti would not be asphalted and that it would in fact constitute no danger for the migration. Evidence? Forget it! The Tanzanian Embassy in Berlin declined to comment when approached by the author. They are waiting for official comment from Tanzania. The public nevertheless does not know why the present alternative is pursued, which has the potential to jeopardize one of the biggest tourist attractions in the country that is also of great economic importance. UNESCO, which administers the World Heritage Convention has already raised a number of critical and boring questions to the Tanzanian government.

It is not yet known who will fund the road. Given the utter financial dependence of the country on donors, the government's claim that one would do that from own resources, cannot be taken seriously. The Roads Administration TANROADS is faced with a huge mountain debt, which they cannot pay off on their own.

Resistance against the Serengeti Highway is stirring in the meantime. The local NGO Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania which is normally quite close to the government is leading the local critics. The tourism companies are anxious about their long-term future. Kenya is equally concerned and called the project an "idiotic road." If the migration is disrupted in the Serengeti, the Kenyan Masai Mara will as well be affected. And some of the world-renowned scientists, who have researched in the Serengeti, are in this very moment preparing a publication in a prestigious scientific journal, with which they want to explain the possible negative impacts.

The hope that international criticism could lead the Government to review its position and opt for the alternative routing south of the Park received a severe blow when the country's President, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, took up the issue on TV in his address-to-the-nation-speech on July 31<sup>st</sup>. He confirmed that the road would be built through the Serengeti national parc, but that it would be gravel and not tarmac. Again, he did not explain why the southern alternative routing is not considered. The project is a fulfillment of a pledge made by the President during the 2005 General Elections campaign. The next elections will be held on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

This road could be the just the tip of the iceberg in terms of current threats to national parks and game reserves by major projects. In Tanga, a new deepwater port is planned in the middle of the new Coelacanth Marine National Park, which has been established to protect the Coelacanths as living relicts. And on the northern tip of the Selous Game Reserve, a controversial dam is in the planning stage, whereas at the southern tip of World Heritage Selous after years of prospecting a huge uranium mine might soon start uranium ore extraction with completely unknown effects on the environment.



# Fence Leads To Mass Mortalities Of Threatened Ungulates In Mahazat-As-Sayd Protected Area In Arid Central Saudi Arabia

M. Zafar-ul Islam, Khairi Ismail and Ahmed Boug

Die-offs of large numbers of globally threatened Arabian oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*), and Arabian sand gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa marica*) were recorded from 1999 to 2008 in the fenced Mahazat as-Sayd Protected Area in western-central Saudi Arabia. We found that mortality of these animals occurred every year during summer months when the rainfall is negligible. Deaths were due to starvation because of reduced availability, accessibility and quality of food plants in the area. The population of Arabian sand gazelle between 1991 to 2008 was estimated as 66, 120, 220, 300, 450, 413, 812, 856, 1034, 1104, 1245, 1683, 700, 800, 1537, 1200, 800, and 654 respectively based on Distance sampling technique. During the stressful summer months between 1991 and 2008, large numbers of dead Arabian sand gazelles were recorded in Mahazat as-Sayd PA. Between these years, the number of dead sand gazelles were 13, 12, 3, 5, 0, 9, 0, 31, 939, 644, 8, 0, 77, 21, 77, 679, 302 and 151 respectively (Ostrowsky and Ismail 2000, Ismail 2005, Ismail and Strauss 2006, Ismail 2007, Islam *et al.* 2007, and Shah *et al.* 2008). (Figure 1). Most of the dead gazelles were found under large green *Acacia tortilis* or *Maerua crassifolia* trees, which were typical shading places for ungulates at Mahazat during summer months. More dead gazelles were found in the vicinity of the external Mahazat as-Sayd fence especially southern and south-north and north-western parts of Mahazat as-Sayd.

The population of Arabian oryx from 1988 to 2008 was estimated as 9, 19, 31, 42, 89, 128, 170, 221, 326, 355, 405, 415, 413, 469, 523, 547, 529, 605, 614, 550 and 378 respectively. On 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008, N (population size) of Arabian Oryx was 378 or with 95% CI was 113 to 432 oryx with total number of observations 47, survey effort 231.1 km and the mean group (cluster) size was 5.45. The mortalities of Arabian oryx have also been recorded since the re-introduction and die-offs of 30, 34, 26, 35, 20, 37, 36, 12, 46, 71, and 159 animals were recorded between 1998 to 2008.

Most of the dead animals were calves and lactating females. Arabian Oryx are free-ranging animals and move long distances in search of food and the Mahazat fence prevents this movement especially during the stressful summer periods when food availability is extremely low and finally animals die near the fence.

Mortalities of ungulates were higher in 1999-2001, 2006, 2007 and 2008. Grazing of Arabian oryx habitat depends on rainfall and animals move over great distances in response to rain. The fence around Mahazat as-Sayd PA prevents natural movements of animals, and artificially concentrates the ungulate populations into possibly unfavorable habitat. The sand gazelle

is a highly gregarious and migratory species, moving long distances in search of good quality pastures. Populations of sand gazelle in Central Asia are also known to migrate over large distances, covering several hundred kilometers. It is therefore likely that by preventing natural movements of sand gazelles and Arabian oryx, fencing may have reinforced the effects of stressful conditions such as drought. To reduce the catastrophic effects, a Strategy and Action plan was developed in August 2008 to manage oryx and gazelle within the Reserve and with provision for food and water at the five camps in the Reserve as an emergency plan to minimize mortalities.

A fully referenced version of this article can be found on the WME News website. <http://www.wmenews.com/>. M. Zafar-ul Islam, Khairi Ismail and Ahmed Boug are affiliated to the: National Wildlife Research Center, PO Box 1086, Taif, Saudi Arabia. Email: [mzafarul.islam@gmail.com](mailto:mzafarul.islam@gmail.com)



Skulls of Arabian oryx that are systematically kept in one camp of Mahazat as-Sayd Protected Area (© K. Ismail)

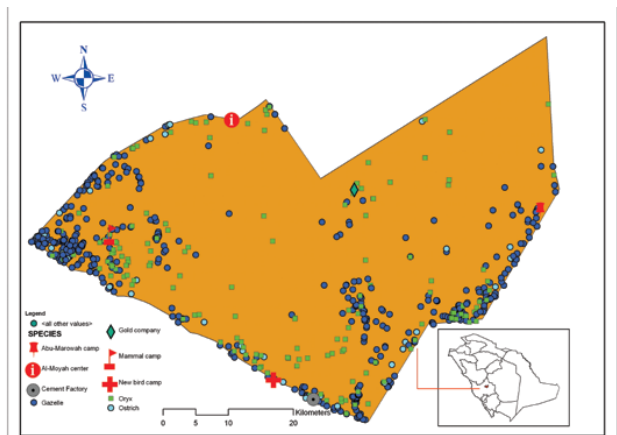


Figure 1: Locations of carcasses of Arabian oryx, Sand gazelle and ostrich in Mahazat as-Sayd Protected Area in Saudi Arabia during 2006, 2007 and 2008 (Most of the carcasses were recorded near the north-western, southern and south-eastern parts of the Reserve mainly under green *Acacia* or *Mearua* trees, which were sites with typical thermal cover that are required for ungulates at Mahazat during summer months while in the north-eastern part very few carcasses were recorded which could be due to less vegetation in that section).



# Agriculture Development And Wildlife Conservation In Africa: Call For A “Green” Revolution

Dr. Kaush Arha

Professional Member of the Boone & Crockett Club

## Much Awaited Attention to Agricultural Development in Developing Countries – Particularly in Africa

An international commitment to facilitate agricultural development in the poorer countries is underway. Three out of four people in these countries derive sustenance directly, or indirectly, from agriculture. Over 2 billion people, who depend on agriculture, live on less than \$2 a day, of which over 800 million subsist on less than \$1 a day. Between 1993-2002 numbers of individuals living on less than \$1 a day increased in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The Millennium Development Goal calls for halving the share of people suffering from extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. In agriculture-based countries – which include most Sub-Saharan Africa - agricultural development remains the primary driver for spurring growth, overcoming poverty and enhancing food security.

In July, 2009 the G-8 in its L'Aquila Declaration affirmed commitment to invest \$20 billion in agricultural development in developing nations, particular in Africa. This is welcome news given the declining share of agriculture in official development assistance from 18 percent in 1979 to 3.5 percent in 2004 and in absolute terms from a high of \$8 billion in 1984 to \$3.4 billion in 2004. President Obama and Secretary Clinton have proclaimed that the United States would pay greater attention to improving agricultural production in poorer nations. In the last decade the Gates Foundation has led non-governmental investment in improving agricultural productivity in Africa.

### Time for African Agricultural Green Revolution

Africa has yet to experience a green revolution such as that which transformed Asia beginning in the 1960s. Since the 1960s yields of cereal grains have dramatically risen in developing nations – particularly Asia - due to widespread use of irrigation, improved crop varieties and fertilizer. Sub-Saharan African has lagged behind. Today 39 percent of the crop area in South Asia is irrigated compared to only 4 percent in Sub-Saharan African. By 2000, improved crop varieties were sown on 80 percent of cereal areas in South and East Asia but only covered about 22 percent of cereal grain areas in Sub-Saharan Africa. South Asia uses about 100 kg of nutrients per hectare of arable and permanent cropland compared to 13 kg in Sub-Saharan Africa. Agricultural growth per capita of agricultural population in Sub-Saharan Africa - a rough measure of agricultural income – has amounted to less than 1 percent per annum for the last 25 years - less than half that of any other region. Conversely, some

of the highest population growth rates are observed in this part of the world.

Time is ripe for a green revolution for Africa. Pray it is true “green”. Agriculture with livestock production constitutes the largest imprint of human land use on the global landscape and is the largest user of available fresh water. Around the globe, about 1.4 billion hectares of arable land is used for crop production and domestic livestock graze on a quarter of earth's terrestrial surface. Agricultural policies and practices have the greatest impact on natural resources of a given area – a given nation. The emerging African green revolution should learn from experiences of agricultural development elsewhere and endeavor to minimize the detrimental environmental effects while striving to improve degraded lands and the environment.

### Agriculture and Wildlife – A Lamentable History

Prudent agricultural practices can accommodate and aid wildlife and natural resource conservation. However, agricultural development has historically led to large scale demise of wildlife populations and diversity. In the United States conversion of prairies to farmlands and fencing contributed to the demise of wild herds of American buffalo and other migrating herds of large mammals. In Europe, historical agricultural development led to eradication of large wild mammals. In Asia and South America on-going conversion of forests and grasslands to farm and ranchlands continue to heighten human-wildlife conflicts and contribute to dramatic reduction in wildlife habitat. Between 1999/2000 and 2004/2005 almost 54,000 square kilometers of cerrado – savanna woodland - in Brazil was converted to soybean fields. In northern Argentina almost half of the present area under soybean cultivation in 2002/2003 was covered by the now threatened chaco ecosystem.

This trend – unmitigated - need not continue in Africa. African countries, with few exceptions, have lagged behind in modern agricultural development. Agricultural development is an integral component in a nation's economic progress. Thanks to the work of the Gates Foundation and renewed multilateral commitment African nations are attracting investments in improving agricultural productivity. It is a collective global responsibility to facilitate a green revolution in Africa. However, it is critical that this revolution be “green” in nature. Such a revolution need not be achieved at the expense of Africa's wildlife resources. Conversely, Africa's wildlife resource cannot be sustained at the cost of human hunger and economic stagnation. A way must be found to achieve both ends.

The richness of the wildlife resources of a nation is related to the abundance and diversity of wildlife species on its working landscapes i.e. for most part on its agricultural lands, managed forests and pasture lands. Working landscapes constitute the overwhelming majority of landmass of a given nation. Environmental health and wildlife habitat of working landscapes have significant influence on the health and viability of protected areas. The future direction of agricultural development in Africa determine both the future of elephant, lion, buffalo and other wildlife species' abundance across the working landscape and

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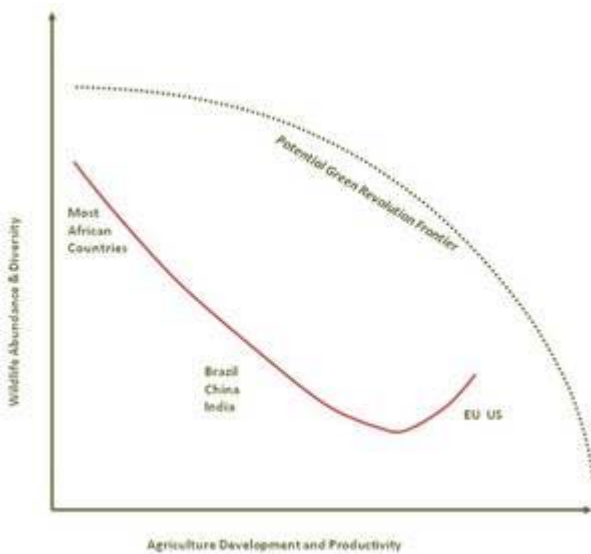
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**Agriculture Development and Wildlife in Africa**

the carrying capacity of protected areas such as the Serengeti.

**Agriculture and Wildlife – Conflict to Coexistence – Reverse J-Shaped Curve**

Evolution of agricultural development and resultant effect on wildlife abundance and diversity is best represented by a “reverse j-shaped curve”– Figure 1. Primitive agricultural practices in areas of low human density coexist with relatively abundant and diverse species of wildlife. Rapid institution of modern industrialized agricultural production techniques results in mass conversion of wildlands to agriculture resulting in loss of wildlife habitat and intolerance for wildlife species that damage or competes with agricultural production. Eventually, technological advances that increase agricultural production per acre and subsequent growth of agri-environmental policies lead to improved agricultural practices and conversion of some agricultural lands to permanent vegetative cover resulting in improved wildlife habitat. The relationship between agricultural development and wildlife abundance and diversity in figure 1 holds true also for a broader set of environmental and natural resource variables including soil erosion, water pollution etc.



Strong agricultural growth has provided the foundation on which diverse national economies subsequently flourished. In the early stages of an agricultural revolution national policies have demonstrated a focus on agriculture growth through conversion of wildlands to agriculture and increase in crop productivity by improved seeds, farm inputs and practices. An institutional nexus supporting agricultural growth then develops aided by legislative support, expansive governmental agricultural departments, a network of agricultural universities, and agriculture trade associations and lobbying groups. The political economy of developing nations demands such results as overwhelming portions of such nation’s citizens live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for livelihoods. Subsequent industrialization of agri-

culture leads to consolidation of agricultural lands, mechanized farming, heavy reliance on chemical inputs, significant gains in productivity and more efficient clearing of wild lands for square crop fields. Understandably, at this stage of development, wildlife and environmental considerations are subservient to meeting the needs for food and economic progress. Eventually, the great agricultural push accompanied by government subsidies can result in over production. Measures to constrict agricultural production by paying farmers to leave fields fallow often are vanguard to the subsequent growth of agri-environmental programs and policies. Political economy in a developed nation similarly directs this outcome whereby a largely urban and prosperous citizenry with a heightened environmental consciousness, and the economic luxury to act, calls for greater environmental protection. This trend is further facilitated by international agriculture trade rules that restrict market access and export subsidies and, consequently, encourage policymakers to divert a larger share of domestic farm support to agri-environment programs.

In general, the United States and Western European countries, with their robust set of agri-environmental programs, are situated at the shorter end of the J curve. Most transitional or advanced developing nations such as Brazil, China and India are presently engaged in rapid growth in agricultural sectors through bringing more land under cultivation and improving agricultural productivity. These countries occupy the area around the base of the J curve. With relatively underdeveloped agricultural practices most Sub-Saharan Africa nations occupy the area around the long end of the J curve.

There are important qualitative and quantitative differences in the abundance and diversity of wildlife species at the two ends of the curve. At the long end wildlife abundance and diversity is typified by large, migratory and wilderness species. Whereas, species found on the short end are often small, sedentary (with exception of several bird species) and those that can coexist in close proximity with human settlement. There are few wide spread examples of developed agriculture coexisting with migrating large mammals – particularly large predators and herbivores. Once such large mammals are gone it is near impossible to re-introduce them among settled communities. Permanent habitat loss as opposed to poaching represents an irreversible negative impact on wildlife abundance and diversity.

The reverse J curve traces the predictable demise of wildlife species associated with wilderness areas with the advance of agricultural development and eventual rebuilding of wildlife species that can more readily cohabit with relatively dense human settlements. The question for African countries is whether they should follow a similar trajectory and trade in their wildlife resource for agricultural growth? Does a better alternative exist? Should African nations and the global community demand and create a better alternative?

**Need for an African Brand of Agricultural Development – An African “Green” Revolution**

African nations should strive to develop their own brand of green revolution that improves agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods while maintaining and improving its wildlife resource. African nations could benefit from the experiences of

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### Agriculture Development And Wildlife In Africa

other developed and advanced developing nations and their own traditional knowledge. In order not to repeat American, Asian or European agricultural policies and practices that have led to the demise of wildlife and natural resources African nations should, instead, adapt and grow their own agri-environmental programs and practices.

The first responsibility of African nations is to improve the livelihoods of their citizens, most of which reside in the rural areas and depend on agriculture. These nations need to recognize and implement policies that ensure that farming with wildlife improves livelihoods. Developmental assistance programs - in conjunction with private foundations - should assist in developing such policies and practices.

The traditional model of agricultural growth, represented by the J curve, presents the greatest long term threat to African wildlife. A consensus among African nations, donor countries, development agencies, private foundations and multinational corporations should proclaim that African agricultural growth will not be attained at the cost of Africa's wildlife. A collective effort by African nations, and the international community, should strive for an agricultural development model that seeks to achieve the Potential Green Revolution Frontier depicted in Figure 1. Such a consensus would stimulate creativity necessary to develop innovative programs to integrate agriculture development with wildlife conservation while improving livelihoods of rural Africans. A new African agricultural development model could be the world's first to demonstrate agricultural growth in consonance with thriving wildlife populations including large mammals.

### Climate Change Accentuates the Need for African Green Revolution

Tropical African nations are among the most vulnerable to expected detrimental effects of climate change. Increased variability in time and amount of rainfall will have great effects on agriculture productivity, prevalence of waterborne diseases and stability of natural habitats. Climate change may displace agro-ecological zones affecting regional suitability for various crops. It may hasten land degradation and desertification in some areas. Displacement of livestock and crop varieties from present locations may have significant impacts on diversity of domestic animal and plant species. Unstable seasonal weather patterns may alter harvest cycles affecting availability of food supplies. Rising sea levels and increasing storm frequency and intensity have great implications for aquaculture and coastal fisheries.

The scope and impact of the climate change effects are uncertain but may be substantial. The developed world should be prepared to assist African nations to cope with these changes by addressing food security and economic growth. Once again agricultural development will take center stage as most Sub-Saharan countries have agricultural-dependent economies.

The natural assets of Africa coupled with the uncertain effects of climate change call for a diversified agricultural growth strategy that improves rural livelihoods rather than focusing solely on increase in agricultural productivity. An African Green Revolution that improves agricultural productivity for small landholders while rewarding maintenance of a healthy natural resource

base that includes wildlife habitat is called for.

### Few Guidelines and Principles for African Green Revolution

In developing an African Green Revolution – an African Model of Agricultural Development -- few general guidelines and principles derived from the experience of other nations may be borne in mind. These guidelines and principles - by no means exhaustive - include:

Agriculture Integrated with Natural Resource Conservation & Rural Development: agricultural institutions, policies and practices should be closely integrated with natural resource conservation and rural development institutions, policies and practices from the national to the local levels.

- Aim of Agricultural Revolution to Improve Farm Incomes: Often the objectives of agricultural development are to increase cropland by conversion of wildlands and to increase agricultural productivity. These are essential attributes but need not be the only attributes. The overall aim should be to improve farm incomes to which gains in cropland and productivity may contribute. A diversified farm portfolio that not only devises to increase crop production but also other environmental services should be encouraged and the latter monetized for the benefit of the farmer.
- Improve the Quality and Quantity of Farm Inputs and Practices: improve the available quality and quantity of farm inputs including irrigation, crop varieties, fertilizer, pest management, tillage etc.
- Improve Agricultural Infrastructure: facilitate the growth of agriculture associated capital projects, products and services to improve overall agricultural efficiency such as roads to market, availability of credit and insurance, accessibility to agricultural and natural resource extension services etc.
- Enact Land Reforms and Land Use Guidelines: enact credible and reasonable land reforms that offer incentives to farmers to invest in improved agricultural practices and diminish the tragedy of commons. Rules and guidelines for use of natural resources by rural communities on wildlands under local, state or national management should be clearly articulated and enforced.
- Improve Off-Farm Rural Employment and Development: in agriculture-dependant nations agricultural often receives all attention to improve rural livelihoods and be the sole engine for rural development. National policies and international development assistance should endeavor to develop an integrated rural development strategy based on agriculture, local craft, natural resources, tourism etc.
- Eliminate Policies that Degrade Environment and Agricultural Sustainability: policies that may result in short-term agricultural gains by mining of water, extensive nutrient input etc. at the cost of long term agricultural sustainability and natural resource damage should be abolished with haste.
- Engage in Landscape Planning at Sub-Watershed Scale: integrated agriculture, natural resource conservation and rural development policies and practices should be executed at the landscape level. Sub-watersheds offer the most useful ecological units to plan and execute integrated

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### Agriculture Development And Wildlife In Africa

strategies with water quality and quantity measures offering the most inclusive environmental index to gauge the health of the land.

- Invest in Agricultural Governance: the majority of international assistance in agricultural development is focused on improving crop varieties, agricultural practices and agricultural infrastructure. Strong attention should also be directed at building capacities of national, state and local institutions of governance responsible for implementing agricultural policies.

### Future Agricultural Development Poses One of the Greatest Natural Resource Challenges of the 21st Century

One of the greatest natural resource challenges of the 21st Century is to feed growing humanity while improving the environment when confronted with declining rates of crop productivity and diminishing availability of land and water. Hunger and malnutrition afflict over a billion people and more than quarter of all children under the age of 5 in developing countries are malnourished. To feed the estimated global population of 9.2 billion in 2050, food production will need to be double that of 2000. The estimated land per capita is set to decrease from 4.3 hectares in 1961 to 1.5 hectares in 2050. Crop productivity measured in annual growth rate of major cereals is set to decrease from 3-5 percent in 1980 to about 1 percent in 2050. Projected stresses from climate change and eroded ecosystems may further exacerbate the situation.

Such presents a daunting challenge. But success is not beyond human industry and ingenuity. The task does, however, require a new paradigm for agricultural development and natural resource conservation. That paradigm calls for foresight and policy development and action that integrate multiple factors across major sectors of the economy. It calls for a concerted strategic – not opportunistic in nature – commitment by the international community to develop and execute a new paradigm of agricultural development and natural resource conservation. This will require establishing institutions that embody the new paradigm and execute necessary policies and programs. International Agencies such as the Food & Agricultural Organization, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Development, the World Bank are well positioned to lead the way.

The past and future of African agriculture and wildlife are inextricably linked. Traditional model of agricultural development in Africa will doom African wildlife as we know it. Such would be the greatest conservation tragedy of the 21st Century and it need not be so. African leaders, in conjunction with the international community, should strive to do better. They should chart an African path to agricultural development and wildlife conservation that sets an example to the world.

## Lion Trading The Same As Cow Trading For Some

Tony Carnie

A pending court case on South Africa's canned lion controversy is expected to have far-reaching ramifications for local hunters and several thousand lions - and possibly open a new and much uglier can of worms. In a nutshell, local lion-breeders have mounted a last-ditch legal challenge to prevent the government from shutting down their hunting and breeding industry. If they lose the case, the captive-breeding/ hunting industry will have to shut down or go underground and most of its members will be looking for new jobs. When this happens, lion breeders say, there will be no alternative but to "euthanize" most of the captive-bred lion population estimated at about 5 000 animals. Local animal welfare groups say there are not enough zoos or sanctuaries to accommodate so many lions and acknowledge most of them will probably have to be destroyed.

There is also a possibility the government will grant the lion-breeders a phasing-out or sunset period to wind up their businesses and offer the last captive lions to hunters and other takers. But there is also a much grimmer alternative - turning lions into the equivalent of bone meal. The notion that the government would tolerate such a proposal seems outlandish and far-fetched, yet it is not illegal to export and trade lion products, if traders can obtain permits.

David Newton, Johannesburg-based head of the international wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC, says in theory there is nothing to stop lion products being traded legally under the provisions of the international Convention on Illegal Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Lions are classified under CITES Appendix II, which affords a lower level of protection than is given to the more endangered Asian tiger, which falls under Appendix I.

In his opinion, international laws would not prohibit trading of captive-bred lion bones. Asked if lion-breeders could exploit this opportunity, Newton said: "I'm sure they will. There is some interest in this already. Whether breeders choose to acknowledge this or not is neither here nor there. Some traders don't follow the animal rights view. For them it is just another commodity... trading in lions would not be any different to trading cows.

"We know there is a limited trade in lion bones already and this is of great concern to us - especially if it is being driven by the Asian markets. We also know tiger bone is in demand in Asia and there have been some recent confiscations of intercepted lion patella bones (kneecaps)." Newton says wildlife intelligence sources indicate cat bone traders in Asia could be prepared to accept lion bones as an alternative to tiger bone, as the two big cat species are closely related and also capable of interbreeding. "So far we have not seen any lion bones in powdered form, and I would be surprised to see that happening, because most traders would want to be supplied with the real thing. Perhaps if they really trusted the supplier they would accept pow-

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### Lion Trading The Same As Cow Trading For Some

dered bones."

Asked for his opinion on whether trade in the products of captive-bred lions might help ease hunting pressure on wild lions, Newton said there were captive-breeding facilities, such as the De Wildt cheetah-breeding centre, that had conservation objectives. "I'm not sure the captive-lion breeders help conservation. To some extent they are creating a new market, so TRAFFIC does not support tiger farming or lion farming where the final product is bone. We think there is a risk that some animals will be mixed up to create a new market. "People in China have tried to farm tigers for some time, yet we have not seen any improvement for wild tigers - and so the same holds for South Africa. My feeling is that some farmers are catering to hunters who could not care less where their lion comes from."

As for lion-bone farming, Newton says this could increase the pressure on wild lions but says the organisation does not have enough information about this market and hopes to raise funds to do a more detailed study. "How do you know whether lion bones are coming from wild or captive bred animals? How many wildlife officers can recognise a lion bone? If you are going to allow something like this you need to know what you are looking at." In his opinion, local wildlife officials could be entitled to sign a CITES export permit for lion bones if scientific experts decided such trade was "not detrimental" to the species. Another source cites a recent case in which the Free State nature conservation agency allegedly issued a permit allowing the export of lion bones to a neighbouring province. What rang alarm bells was that the permit contained only English and Chinese text, sparking concern that some lion breeders had already made contact with Chinese intermediaries. "My information is the Chinese will pass off the lion bones as free-ranging tiger bones. If South Africa relaxes controls there is no way to flood the Chinese bone medicine market because it's so massive."

Last month the Endangered Wildlife Trust and other conservation and animal welfare groups met Department of Environmental Affairs officials and urged them to put regulations in place to avert a further conservation crisis involving lion bones. Sarel van der Merwe, chairman of the Kuruman-based African Lion Working Group, also fears lion-breeders are poised to exploit the potential lion bone trade option. "If there is money to be made from bones they will find ways to do it - or the trade will simply go underground. At the moment, some of our concerns are based on suspicion that lion breeders, zoos and safari parks from all over the world will find it increasingly worthwhile to export bones, much like the illegal trade in rhino horn.

Leigh Fletcher, a lion breeder from Sandhurst Safaris in North West, testified in a recent trial that she had spent her life feeding, rearing and doctoring lion cubs in much the same way as farmers bred cattle. Her brother Clayton Fletcher will stand trial in October for his alleged involvement in a criminal syndicate that poached, procured and traded illegal rhino horn throughout South Africa.

Van der Merwe says the African lion is already under severe threat from habitat loss, disease, poisoning and human

persecution. Compared with estimates of about 200 000 lions in Africa in 1975, Van der Merwe and Dutch researcher Hans Bauer believe the continent's wild lion population has declined to between 16 000 and 30 000 animals. Other researchers suggest a more optimistic figure of 47 000 lions. But regardless of the true total, Van der Merwe says the entire African lion population would not fill a large city soccer or rugby stadium.

This article was originally published on page 6 of Cape Times on July 22, 2010

## Arabian Oryx Reintroduction In Abu Dhabi – UAE

Husam El Alqamy

Three years ago and under the patronage of HH Sh. Mohamed Bin Zayed, the Environmental Agency - Abu Dhabi embarked on a new project to bring the Arabian oryx back to the deserts of UAE. Arabian oryx reintroduction started in 2007 in the Arabian Oryx Protected Area (AROPA). The first release involved 98 animals in 3 different release sites in the eastern part of the Empty Quarter desert (Rubaa Al Khali) in the emirate of Abu Dhabi. The animals were selected from three different sources in an attempt to carry the highest possible genetic diversity into the reintroduced herd. The animals have been monitored since then on a daily basis. The monitoring strategy was devised in a way to provide discrete measurable indicators of the progress of the reintroduction. The population had a harsh first year where significant mortalities were recorded especially among new recruits. However, the herd has now started to cope well with its new habitat and has evolved into distinctive social groups.



Arabian oryx in the Arabian Oryx Protected Area (© Husam El Alqamy)

Survival rate increased in the second and third year, and improved fertility was reflected in the high rate of recruitment of

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### Arabian Oryx Reintroduction In Abu Dhabi-UAE

new wild born calves. Here we report some of the most prominent indicators up to the end of 2009.

**Indicator 1 - Births:** A total of 91 deliveries were recorded in the project since the first release in 2007. These are distributed as 14 in 2007, 36 in 2008 and 41 in 2009. These numbers show that fertility level is within acceptable limits. However, there was mortality among these recruits. During 2007, 5 calves were lost while 8 out of 36 lost in 2008 and only 2 calves were lost in 2009. The current population totals 154 individuals. Thus, the herd has a population growth of 21%. Such a steady growth in population and reproductive success is considered to be the first indicator of success and shows that the reintroduced animals are adapting well to their new habitat.

**Indicator 2 - Survival rate:** The first year of reintroduction showed a low calf survival rate. Only 64% of the calves survived their first year and grew into adults. This increased over the years and 77% of calves survived in 2008 and 94% of the calves survived their first year in 2009. Adult survival rate was 94%, 97% and 95% in 2007, 2008 and 2009 respectively. This is a second indicator of population establishment.

**Indicator 3 - Population Growth Rate:** There has been a varying, but steady increase in the rate of population growth in the herd. Growth rate was measured using two parameters. The instantaneous annual rate which gives indication of annual individual growth and the second is the overall intrinsic growth rate that indicates growth over a period of several years. The annual rate is increasing each year. The overall rate also shows an increase over the cumulative time period. When overall intrinsic growth rate is over 1.00 this is interpreted as an increasing population and that available resources are still accommodating for future increase. in the new habitat.

**Indicator 4 - Habitat utilization:** The locations and numbers of animals are monitored on a daily basis.

Since the beginning, the herd divided into three main groups with some individuals remaining either solitary or in small isolated groups. The biggest group is the one in Al Arbaien forest. This group has grown now to about 67 animals. Movements of some individuals for considerable distances away from the forest are recorded but they tend to be seasonal and are not frequent. The second group has moved from the second release site to reside in Quessiwra forest and comprises 32 individuals. Movement of this group is more frequently observed. Movements are mainly confined to the colder months of the year. The third big group is found in the area of the northern shades and this group comprises 29 animals. This group of animals is more active in their movements. However, there is a noticeable reduction of their movements during summer. Though this group is considered to be more active compared to the other two and this may be attributed to the lack of forested areas in the vicinity and thus the animals are actively looking for resources of food and shade.

This heat regulated pattern of spread is evident in all large groups of the herd. However, the northern group is thought to be isolated from the southern groups as no crossing between the two populations has been recorded. As the fourth indicator assessed to monitor the reintroduction process, habitat utilization has not yet been fully achieved by the reintroduced oryx as

movement patterns are still sporadic and there are no long distance movements that are known to occur in other wild populations.

A version of this article with all the figures is available on WME website <http://www.wmenews.com/>. Husam El Alqamy is from the Biodiversity Management - Terrestrial Section. Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi email [alqamy@gmail.com](mailto:alqamy@gmail.com)

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## CIC: Nationalparks sind nicht das Allheilmittel für den Wildschutz in Afrika

CIC Pressemitteilung

„Nachhaltige Jagd und Nationalparks sind keine Gegensätze. Es sind zwei Seiten derselben Medaille,“ sagte der Präsident der CIC-Tropenwildkommission, Dr. Rolf D. Baldus. Er reagierte damit auf die zunehmenden Berichte über dramatische Rückgänge der Wildbestände in Afrikas Nationalparks. So wurde vor wenigen Tagen eine Forschungsarbeit der Universität Cambridge veröffentlicht, nach der im Schnitt rund 60 % der großen Säugetiere seit 1970 verloren gegangen sind. Die Gründe liegen vor allem in der Wilderei für den Handel mit Wildfleisch und einer Unterfinanzierung der Parks.

Der Internationale Rat zur Erhaltung des Wildes und der Jagd unterstützt Nationalparks, wo sie Sinn machen. Er wendet sich jedoch gegen Neugründungen, wenn nicht von vornherein die langfristige Finanzierung sichergestellt ist oder solche Parks nicht von der Bevölkerung mitgetragen werden. Oft bringen Nationalparks noch nicht einmal das Geld wieder ein, das für die touristische Infrastruktur aufgewandt wird. In solchen Fällen ist es sinnvoller, dort eine nachhaltige Trophäenjagd zu ermöglichen. Mit minimaler Umweltbelastung und ohne Infrastruktur wird so ein Maximum an Einkommen erzielt. Dadurch erhält auch die ländliche Bevölkerung einen Anreiz zur Erhaltung des Wildes.

In Westafrika und in Kenia sind die höchsten Rückgänge in den Parks zu verzeichnen. Dies ist bezeichnend, da dort die Jagd überwiegend verboten ist. Im südlichen Afrika hingegen gibt es teilweise Zuwächse zu verzeichnen, nicht zuletzt aufgrund der Erträge, die Grundbesitzern und Kommunen aus der Jagd zufließen. Der CIC rief die afrikanischen Regierungen, Entwicklungshilfegeber und Naturschutzorganisationen auf, beim Wildschutz die nachhaltige Nutzung mit zu berücksichtigen. Dies entspreche auch den Forderungen des Übereinkommens über die biologische Vielfalt.

Über den gemeindeorientierten Wildschutz in Afrika, der fast immer die Jagd mit einschließt, hat der CIC zusammen mit der Welternährungsorganisation der Vereinten Nationen (FAO) kürzlich eine Studie vorgelegt, die die Erfahrungen der letzten Jahrzehnte auswertet. Sie zeigt eindrucksvoll sein Potential für Naturschutz und Armutsbekämpfung.

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CIC: National Parks And Sustainable Hunting

## CIC: National Parks And Sustainable Hunting – Two Sides Of The Same Coin

CIC Press Release

„Sustainable hunting and national parks are no contradictions. Instead, they complement each other. They are two sides of the same coin“, said Dr. Rolf D. Baldus, President of CIC's Tropical Game Commission. He commented the increasing reports on dramatic decreases of wildlife in African national parks. Just recently the University of Cambridge published a research report according to which the abundance of key species including lion, wildebeest, giraffe, buffalo and zebra had declined on an average of almost 60 % between 1970 and 2005. Main reasons are poaching for bush meat and the lack of financial and personnel resources.

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation supports national parks wherever they make sense. The CIC opposes, however, the establishment of parks which cannot be financed in the long run and which are rejected by the local people. Sometimes parks cannot even generate the expenses for tourism infrastructure and its maintenance. In such cases it is much better to introduce sustainable hunting tourism. No infrastructure is needed and with a minimum of environmental impact maximum revenues can be secured. This allows benefits for the local population and strengthens their interest in conservation.

West Africa and Kenya face the highest decreases of wildlife in their parks. This is symptomatic, as hunting is mostly banned there. In Southern Africa on the other hand populations are mostly stable or are even characterized by significant increases. One important explanation is the revenues earned by landowners and rural communities from hunting. The CIC appeals to African Governments, development aid donors and NGOs to include sustainable use of wildlife, including hunting, in programmes for wildlife conservation. This is also in line with Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Together with the UN-Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) the CIC has recently published an evaluation of the experiences with Community Based Natural Resources Management in Africa during the last three decades. This shows clearly the potential for conservation and poverty alleviation.

### Veröffentlichungen zum Thema -Relevant Publications

Cambridge Research:

[https://secure.sendyourfiles.com/pages/4\\_download\\_file/?email\\_guid=%7B75239F68-51CE-47ED-A273-3D59B34E105A%7D](https://secure.sendyourfiles.com/pages/4_download_file/?email_guid=%7B75239F68-51CE-47ED-A273-3D59B34E105A%7D)

Kenya:

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0006140>

CIC/FAO Publication

<http://cic-sustainable-hunting-worldwide.org/publications.html>

## A New Kenyan Scheme: KWS Asks The World For Funds!

KWS Director, Mr. Julius, Kipng'etich called on the public and the international community to honor biodiversity and contribute to its conservation. The East African region, according to the Director, is home to three quarters of the world's biodiversity, wild animals included. "It is why we are telling the world to come and participate in conservation by adopting these animals so that we may be able to conserve them for posterity," said Kipng'etich. He added that the conservation endowment fund will protect Kenya's wildlife from any vagaries beyond her control for the present and future generations. Some of the proceeds from the adoption program will go towards improving the state of biodiversity in the country's protected areas.

The latest arrivals from the wild available for adoption include two one-month old lion cubs and two leopards aged two weeks old. KWS has 56 more wild animals for adoption at the Nairobi Animal orphanage and more than 40 at the Kisumu Impala Sanctuary.

## Godzilla Versus King Kong – East African Style

Mike Norton-Griffiths

*Editor's Note: Mike Norton-Griffiths 2007 article becomes relevant again when reading the passionate yet largely fictional arguments of ARA in South Africa in their recent vitriolic attack on hunting. A leopard doesn't change its spots, so the saying goes – and sound scientific arguments are lost on PETA, IFAW, HSUS, ARA and their ilk. To be read also in conjunction with the PHASA press release and Ron Thomson's remarks on pages 5 and 6 in this issue.*

A new battle rages over the remaining wildlife in the savannahs of East Africa – only this time not over such mundane topics as the ivory trade or poaching. At stake is the very soul of conservation itself – control over national conservation policies. The *ancient regime* of international conservation organizations in Africa, such as the African Wildlife Foundation AWF, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), Conservation International (CCI) and their ilk had, just like the colonialists of past eras, divided Africa up into spheres of influence. Respecting each others' territorial boundaries they largely refrained from overt interference, and when territory was relinquished from one to another it was done with great decorum.

But suddenly these cozy arrangements have been abruptly shattered by new, brash upstarts paying not even lip service to the *status quo* and intent on capturing all the high ground there is to be had. Spearheaded by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), the animal welfare lobby is riding roughshod across these previously elysian fields.

The immediate prize is Kenya which, along with India,

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### Godzilla Versus King Kong – East African Style

shares the dubious distinction of banning all wildlife hunting of any kind. 70% of all Kenya's wildlife has vanished since the ban on hunting and all consumptive use of wildlife way back in 1977. Wildlife photo-tourism occupies only 5% of Kenya's wildlife areas outside the National Parks so on the rest of the rangelands there are no economic returns of any sort to be had from wildlife. Many conservationists now consider that only the reintroduction of ranching, cropping, trading and hunting can recreate the essential economic incentives to make it worthwhile once again for landowners to maintain and invest in the wildlife on their land. Without such new incentives the continued loss of wildlife is inevitable.

The international animal welfare lobby is reacting vociferously against any move to reintroduce hunting in any form back into Kenya. Working through wholly sponsored, local animal rights pressure groups, they have mounted a ruthlessly efficient publicity campaign in newspapers, radio, and television, cleverly playing the race card by arguing that the only beneficiaries would be rich, white landowners who had anyway stolen their land (and the wildlife on it) from Africans.

Concentrating their efforts on the institutionally weak and financially strapped Kenya Wildlife Service, IFAW has poured in funds for budget support, "salary incentives" and high profile projects – such as the \$3.5m recently spent on moving some 300 elephant from the lush, coastal forests of the Shimba Hills National Park to their near certain death in the arid wastelands of Tsavo East National Park.

The opening skirmish was in late 2005 when the Kenyan parliament passed some much needed amendments to the existing Wildlife Act. But following "spontaneous" street demonstrations and some highly misleading lobbying and briefings of MPs, Ministers and even the President himself, it was never signed off into law.

But battle was really joined during the 2006/07 national review of wildlife policy. The government appointed a National Steering Committee and a policy drafting team and views were sought throughout the country in a series of national and regional seminars. But the entire process was hijacked by the animal welfare lobby who literally shipped in paid, rentGodzilla v King Kong Page 2 of 2 a-mob crowds and reduced everything to an endlessly sterile shouting match about the reintroduction of sport hunting.

But it went even further than this, for an unholy alliance of local animal welfare and land reform groups, in a move eerily similar to the extremist pro-life groups in the USA, resolved that were wildlife hunting to be reintroduced into Kenya then they would arm bands of local militias to shoot to death the hunters in the field.

And in a final irony, once the policy review process was completed the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife sidelined their own drafting team and turned instead to a single IFAW consultant to draft the new Wildlife Act. Now before cabinet, the draft panders solely to entrenching the power of the animal welfare lobby while having little to do with the genuine conservation problems facing Kenya. Kenya's wildlife are indeed poorly served by this new Act.

But now here is the rub – how come that the *ancient re-*

*gime* of conservation organizations, who had so actively supported for years the consumptive use of wildlife and sport hunting as valid and effective conservation tools, so meekly surrendered to the animal welfare lobby? They made no concerted effort whatsoever to counter their propaganda or argue against their irrational conservation policies, and made only token gestures against the Draft Wildlife Act once it was published.

It cannot be that they experienced a sudden change of heart for they still support, as a cornerstone of conservation, consumptive utilization of wildlife elsewhere in Africa. So clearly their decision had nothing whatsoever to do with effective conservation in Kenya.

These not-for-profit organizations are not necessarily the knights in shining armor they would wish us to believe, for just like commercial companies they compete fiercely against each other for critical market share of donor funds, of philanthropic funds and for the donations of the millions of the well meaning among us. And like the current motley crop of wannabe presidential candidates in the USA, these NGOs must appear always to be squeaky clean.

Seen from this perspective, the behavior of the *ancient regime* so placidly to relinquish their property rights to Kenya's wildlife in favor of the animal welfare lobby can be seen as a rational and essentially economic decision.

For the animal welfare lobby possessed what Saddam Hussein clearly did not – a weapon of mass destruction: for had any of these mainstream conservation NGOs volubly and openly challenged the welfare lobby, and put up the matching funds needed to resist them, they would have been quickly labeled as supporters of "... shooting animals for fun...". Like being labeled a pedophile, this is the kiss of death in the conservation environment from which there is no return.

So is all lost in Kenya? ... for the wildlife that is, not for those wretched conservation organizations who have sat so idly by while 70% of all Kenya's wildlife vanished from under their very noses. Probably so, for under the draft Wildlife Act Kenya's remaining wildlife will simply continue to fade away. The animal welfare lobby has no interest whatsoever in conservation – only in using their "success" in Kenya to attract more members and raise more money.

A plague on all their houses.

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# World Record Nyala Versus South Africa's Conservation Revolution

Peter Flack

*Editor's Note: Peter Flack wrote this article for the South African Magazine Game & Hunt (Wild & Jag), but discussed it with me in June. I immediately contacted Lynette van Hoven, Editor of Game and Hunt and was kindly granted permission to reproduce the article for African Indaba. The relevant issue of Game & Hunt has in the meantime been published. Those of the AI readers who are interested in up-to-date information on South African Hunting and Game Ranching should consider looking at the website of Game & Hunt <http://www.wildlifehunt.co.za/> for more information.*

I resigned in June after five years as chairman of Rowland Ward. There are many reasons for my resignation and one of them comes from the first book on management that I ever read called, "Up the Organization," by Peter Townsend. He wrote that no one should stay on as a chairman or CEO of a business for more than five years because, after this, they started to become stale, repetitive and boring. Of course, I was all of those things before I even took on the job but I am sure the last five years have only exacerbated the situation.

During my time as chairman of Rowland Ward I was privileged to be privy to the production of the 27<sup>th</sup> edition of Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game, published in 2006 and have contributed, where I could, to the production of the new, 28<sup>th</sup> edition, which should be published later this year. A record number of entries have been received for the 28<sup>th</sup> edition and a number of them exceed in size anything that has previously been recorded. In some instances, this has provided clear evidence that conservation of these particular species, in the areas where they have been found, is on a sound, if not flourishing footing.

One of these species which attracted my attention was nyala as it is no secret that, for many years, I have been hunting for a big nyala. There are a number of reasons why. Firstly, I find them to be one of the most attractive antelope species on the African continent - a true African hunting icon. Secondly, I thoroughly enjoy sneaky hunts and as nyala, particularly the big bulls, are creatures of the thickets, for the most part, that is the way you hunt them. Stop, look, listen, moved quietly forward for a few paces and then carefully repeat the exercise.

Thirdly, I have been lucky enough over the 28 years since I shot my first one, to have shot a further five nyala, each one bigger than the next with the last one a fraction shy of 29 inches, nearly two inches bigger than the current Rowland Ward minimum. Now, while I do not make a fetish of this, I try hard when hunting a species that I have already shot, not to shoot one smaller than I already have. To me, as a trophy hunter, this simply makes no sense and almost seems greedy. In addition, while I have never belonged to the club which believes that, if I shoot a bigger animal than you, then I must be a better hunter

than you, shooting a big, mature bull, on its own, out of the breeding cycle, which beats the minimum entry level into Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game, is, for me, the cherry on top of the cream on top of the cake and so the time seemed right for me to go in search of one of hunting's holy grails - a plus 30 inch nyala bull.

Lastly, and I am sure that my Calvinistic upbringing has something to do with this, after all, even my after shave has to sting, my enjoyment of a successful hunt is in direct proportion to its difficulty and, while it is not that difficult any longer to shoot a good, mature, representative nyala bull, a really big one with horns measuring over 30 inches in length, is a different kettle of fish altogether and, thus far, I have devoted five hunts over as many years to my quest for one of these monsters but, thus far, the score is five to the nyala and nil to me.

So, of course, I was immediately gob smacked when I read in the March edition of Game & Hunt about a massive 33 3/8 inch nyala bull shot on Dr. Johan van Dyk's horse breeding farm, Reebokfontein near Klerksdorp, by a bow hunter, Mr. Alexander Sachs, who was guided by Mr. Jason Stone of Stone Hunting Safaris. This beat Paul Phelan's wonderful 32 7/8 inches nyala bull, shot in KwaZulu-Natal where they naturally occur, which has stood as the world record for over 28 years.



Paul Phelan's Nyala

Paul, now a professional hunter, outfitter and PHASA member, at the time in question was in charge of the Umfolozi Wilderness Area, forming the southern part of the 50 000 hectare Umfolozi Game Reserve. He was on culling duty that day stalking along the banks of the White Umfolozi with his two game scouts when he saw what he thought was a waterbuck. On closer inspection, the waterbuck transformed itself into a nyala which he immediately downed with his trusty Mauser.308 (converted for

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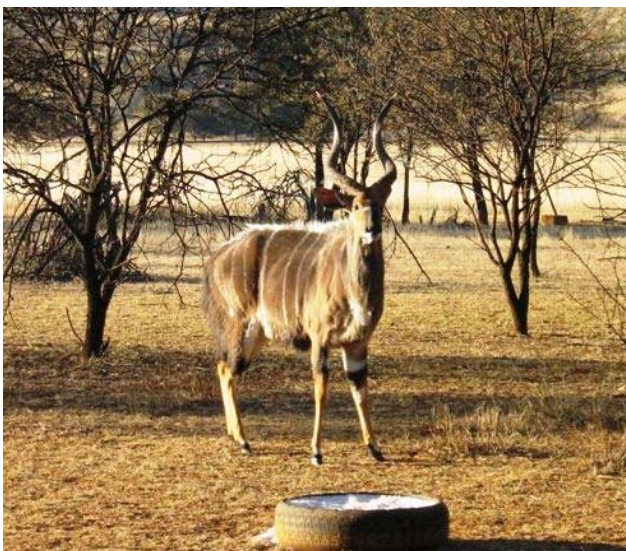


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**World Record Nyala Versus South Africa's Conservation Revolution**

him by Ben Musgrave from a 9x57) and hand loaded 150 grain PMP bullets. It was only much later when a friend, Mike Balcomb, saw the horns and insisted that they be taken to KwaZulu-Natal Hunters and Game Conservation Association to be officially measured that their length was established and even later still before Robin Halse, my predecessor at Rowland Ward, contacted Paul and insisted that they be entered in The Book.

I wanted to learn more about the amazing animal that had knocked Paul's nyala off its perch and called Dr. van Dyk. He explained that, although the primary business of the farm, was breeding Arabian horses, he kept a 130 hectare enclosure stocked with nyala, impala, springbok, steenbuck, duiker and two giraffes. He was not sure how many nyala he had as the vegetation was very bushy and thick but he estimated that they might number some 50 to 60 in total. He said that he had known about the big bull since it was youngster and added that it was very tame – you could “nearly catch it by hand” he said - and, particularly after cold weather, when he fed the game pellets and lucerne.



**The Big One on Dr. van Dyk's Farm**

As can be seen from the photograph, the bull is a reddish brown in colour and not the usual dark charcoal that one would expect in a bull of this size and age. Doctor van Dyk explained that it was a very timid animal and would always back down when confronted by the younger bulls in the presence of the cows or at the feeding area. In response to my question, he said that the bull had very small testes. Yes, I thought, both literally and figuratively. But mine was not an idle question as there is some scientific evidence to support the fact that animals like this nyala bull often seem to convert their lack of testosterone into horn length.

Last year he said that these younger bulls had started to, “really go for him” and, as he was already some seven to eight years old, he was worried that the big bull might lose a horn or,

worse still, be killed and, as such, put a price of R50 000 on it and sent his estimate of the nyala's vital statistics to the Professional Hunting Association of South Africa (PHASA). After that, numerous people contacted him but all wanted to be absolutely sure of the bull's horn measurements before making a commitment. Some people were prepared to pay the price provided they could dart the bull and check the measurements first but Dr. van Dyk was not prepared to countenance this.

In the end, Vleissentraal called in October 2009 and announced that they would send someone in seven days' time to kill the animal and Mr Jason Stone, who is not a member of PHASA, duly arrived with a young German hunter, Mr Alexander Sachs who, within about an hour of setting off, at a distance of about 25 metres, managed to place an arrow in front of the left hip of the nyala, which traversed the bull's body and exited in front of the right foreleg as the animal walked obliquely away from him. Job done.



**Mr. Sachs and the Big One**

According to Dr. van Dyk, Mr Sachs lives in Munich but spends most of his time hunting around the world and was on his fourth trip to South Africa at the time. I could not find out any further information about him and so turned to the web site of Mr. Stone's company, Stone Hunting Safaris. What can I say? I was flabbergasted and can certainly not do justice to it in this article but, if you are interested, I would recommend that you look it up. Nothing that I have ever experienced in the hunting world prepared me for what I found there. Mr. Stone's clients, or at least the 14 who appeared on the web site, have together shot an absolutely astounding 75 animals in total with he and his brother Clinton, which rank in the top ten of SCI's trophy records. Of these, Mr. Sachs has accounted for no less than 14 while a certain Mr. A.S.J.D. Murray was responsible for a further 29. Yes, that's right, 29 animals in SCI's top ten! And I nearly forgot, Mr. Stone has himself shot the number one Cape bushbuck and the number eight common oribi. What is more, it appears as if Mr. Sachs may have bow shot the new number one nyala, leopard, caracal, brown hyena and African wildcat all on that same trip!

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## World Record Nyala Versus South Africa's Conservation Revolution

Excuse my ignorance but do you know of, or have even heard or read about, anyone anywhere in the hunting world who, either as a professional or amateur hunter, can rival these statistics? I certainly have not. I wonder if they have a secret and, if so, what it is?

Up until the 1980s, Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game measured nyala along the front of the horn without following the spiral. By that stage, 354 animals had equalled or bettered the minimum measurement (which was then 26 inches), of which only 12 exceeded 30 inches with the biggest two specimens tied in a dead heat at 32 7/8 inches. They were shot in Mozambique and Zululand in 1909 and 1934, respectively.

Since then Rowland Ward has added a further 388 entries by the time the 27<sup>th</sup> edition was produced, of which 44 exceeded 30 inches. The new 28<sup>th</sup> edition will add still further to this list of plus 30 inch monsters and, for example, Mr. Donald Dusick shot a 31 3/4 inch specimen in Ellisras in 2007; Mr. Jasper Atcheson his 32 1/4 bull at Komatipoort in 2008; Mr. J. Potgieter a 32 3/4 incher in Swaziland that same year and, there's that name again, Mr. A.S.J.D. Murray, a 33 inch giant in Hluhluwe the following year.

In other words, in the 93 years from its first edition in 1892 until 1985, using the old measuring system, Rowland Ward, on average, entered 3,8 nyala per year in The Book of which 3,4 % exceeded 30 inches. Over the next 25 years, Rowland Ward entered 15.5 nyala per year (or over four times as many per year) in The Book of which 11.3% beat the magical mark. In other words both the quantity and quality of nyalas have improved and, furthermore, if you look at the places from which they have come, it is clear that this animal has spread its wings across the length and breadth of South Africa.

The question, however, that Rowland Ward has to ask itself, is whether the Sachs/Stone nyala should be entered in The Book. Rowland Ward's Code of Conduct requires that: "no creature be hunted for sport in an enclosed area of such size that such creature is not self-sufficient. Self-sufficiency includes the ability of the animal to exercise its natural inclination to escape from the hunter as well as catering for all its basic needs such as water, food, shelter and breeding."

So, where am I going with all of this? Firstly, it is abundantly clear that the quiet conservation revolution which has swept across South Africa for the last 50 years or so has dramatically increased the numbers and range of virtually every game species that exists in this country and this has been a good thing for a whole variety of reasons. For example, wildlife is much easier on the land than domestic livestock; the land can carry a far greater biomass of wildlife or, in simple terms, more kilograms of wildlife meat per hectare than domestic livestock and, therefore, provides far greater food security in the long run; wildlife requires less water; is far more drought and disease resistant; and leaves a far smaller carbon footprint than the belching, burping, farting domestic livestock which it usually replaces. That this revolution has been driven by hunting has been empirically established and there is no need to discuss or debate this. However, there are questions that need to be asked. Firstly, can we still distinguish between hunting and shooting, on

the one hand, and wildlife ranching and domestic livestock farming, on the other hand? If not, how long do we think that our conservation revolution is going to continue and what effect will this have on the 9,600 wildlife ranches, the thousands of jobs and the some R7 billion per annum which this burgeoning industry currently contributes to our Gross Domestic Product?

As a postscript, I have been advised by Dr. van Dyk that Reebokfontein, which is bordered by the Klerksdorp Municipality on two sides, was sold in January to property developers who are being advised by Nature Conservation in the province, Free State University and himself. As such, they are aware of the value of the game which, according to the good doctor, includes a number of plus 30 inch nyala bulls. As such, he feels that the game will be unaffected by the sale.

If Messrs. Stone, Sachs and Murray et al continue to have the same degree of success in the future as they have in the past, will we be able to say the same thing about hunting?

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## South Africa: Overseas Hunters Must Comply With the Law

### PHASA Information

Game ranch owners, hunting outfits and professional hunters should ensure in their publications and on their websites that foreign hunters who wish to hunt in South Africa know the legal requirements for hunting in the country, said Ms Adri Kitshoff, Chief Executive Officer of the Professional Hunting Association of South Africa (PHASA). Hunting opportunities are often being advertised in magazines and association newsletters, in-house magazines and on websites. Sometimes these advertised hunts are aimed at the resident South African hunter, but it is evident that overseas hunters also have access to this information, especially via websites. South African provincial legislation clearly states that a foreign client may not hunt in South Africa unless the hunt was organized and presented by a registered hunting outfit and the client is guided or escorted by a registered professional hunter. Game ranchers, hunting outfitters and professional hunters are obliged to ensure that clients hunt according to the provisions of the applicable laws; any contravention must be reported within 24 hours to the SA Police Service or Nature Conservation. All parties involved must ensure that the remuneration contract between the Outfitter and the client is signed prior to the client arriving in South Africa.

A "*client*" is any person, not normally resident in South Africa, who pays or rewards somebody for the hunting of wild, alien or exotic animals. A "*Hunting Outfitter*" is any person who presents, or organizes the hunting of a wild, alien or exotic animal for a client and who is in possession of a valid permit to do so. A "*professional hunter*" is any person who guides a client and is responsible for a client who hunts a wild, alien or exotic animal and is in possession of a valid permit to do so.

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## In Memoriam Gilberto Vicente



**Gilberto Vicente in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park talking to an international conservationists group. Typical of him: always working, communicative, friendly and with a smile. We shall miss you, Gilberto!**  
(Photo © Thomas Petermann-Inwent)

African Indaba mourns the death of Gilberto Vicente, the Warden of the Maputo Special Reserve in Mozambique. He was murdered by unknown assailants on July 25, 2010. The 39-year-old Mozambican wildlife officer was on duty travel in the late evening from his Reserve to Maputo, when six criminals ambushed his car and killed him with eight shots from pistols and assault rifles. A fellow traveler, Carlos Nunes, was injured. The attackers left the scene in several vehicles without stealing anything. This supports the assumption of the police that it was a contract killing, as Vicente was a thorn in the flesh of organized groups of poachers.

Vicente joined the Wildlife Department in 1998. He worked as Warden of Limpopo National Park before he became the Warden of the Niassa Game Reserve. In that position Vicente was closely connected with the Selous-Niassa-Corridor development. Together with his Tanzanian colleagues and on behalf of the Niassa National Reserve he received the CIC Markhor Prize in May 2008 in Bonn during the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the CBD Convention. The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation awarded the Prize for the efforts to create a 120,000 km<sup>2</sup> transboundary conservation area transgressing the boundary between Mozambique and Tanzania and in particular for safeguarding biodiversity through the sustainable use of wildlife.

We knew Gilberto as a highly committed warden and conservationist, a dedicated and hard worker and an upright personality of highest integrity. And he always had a smile on his face. For me who collaborated with him for several years in the development of the Selous-Niassa Corridor he was not only a

colleague, but also a dear friend. Gerhard Damm and I express our heartfelt condolences to the family, in particular to his wife and his three children. May he rest in peace. We also extend our best wishes to Carlos Nunes for a fast and complete recovery.



**Gilberto Vicente (in white shirt) amidst wardens from Niassa Game Reserve and Selous-Niassa Corridor in a planning workshop at the Ruvuma-River. Photo © Rudolf Hahn**

Game scouts and wardens in many parts of Africa fight poaching and other threats to conservation under hard conditions and often with very limited means. Just recently two scouts were murdered in Ethiopian conservation areas. We appeal to African Governments to give scouts the best possible equipment, legal support and to train them well for their dangerous and demanding work amongst the African wildlife.

**Rolf D. Baldus, President CIC Tropical Game Commission**

## The Selous Game Reserve

Extract from a report submitted to World Heritage Committee at the 34<sup>th</sup> session (25 July - 3 August 2010), Brasilia, Brazil (UNESCO Convention Concerning The Protection Of The World Cultural And Natural Heritage)

**Editor's Note:** African Indaba has access to the full report to the World Heritage Committee. We publish here the section on the Selous Game Reserve (SGR) in full. SGR contains some of the most important hunting areas in Africa and African Indaba has repeatedly reported about SGR, the issues, the problems and possible solutions. Readers are urged to search the archives of African Indaba for such previously published background information. Illustrative material can also be downloaded from <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199>

### Current Conservation Issues

On 25 February 2010, the State Party submitted a detailed report on the state of conservation of Selous Game Reserve (SGR), which provides information on the different recommendations included in Decision 33 COM 7B.8. The report provides an update on the status of funding for the property, mineral and hydrocarbon prospecting, potential and proposed

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### The Selous Game Reserve

dam developments, anti-poaching measures, hunting, and tourism management and development, but does not acknowledge the reported increases in poaching. The report also notes that a new Wildlife Act n° 5 has come into force in 2009 and refers to some of the new provisions in the report.

#### a) Increases in poaching

The State Party report recalls that regular wildlife censuses have been conducted in the Selous Mikumi Ecosystem in previous years and that available data show that populations are stable. It notes that a dry season wildlife census was conducted in August 2009 by Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute and that the report will be provided as soon as it is available. However a publicly available report submitted by the Panel of Experts to CITES on the status of elephants and ivory poaching in Tanzania provides some figures of this survey. The report notes a decline of the total elephant population in the country, attributed largely to the downward trend in the Selous-Mikumi ecosystem. A dramatic loss of approximately 31,500 elephants is reported from the ecosystem between 2006-2009 (from 74900 to 43500). The CITES Panel of Experts expresses its concern over this decline and concludes that based on the proportion of elephant mortality attributed to illegal killing (a reliable poaching threat indicator) which jumped from 18% in 2004 to 63% in 2009, the illegal killing of elephants is not only significant, but has also been increasing.

This confirms the conclusion of the 2008 World Heritage Centre/IUCN monitoring mission, which highlighted reports indicating that poaching pressure was on the increase, in particular elephant poaching and noted the need for the State Party to react decisively to indications of increasing poaching pressure in order to avoid a future negative impact on the elephant populations. While the recent Tanzanian elephant census report notes that the 44% decline of Selous' elephant population between 2006-2009 could be due to elephant migration to Niassa Game Reserve in Mozambique, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the minor levels of in-migration observed in particular in the southern part of Niassa cannot explain the dramatic decline of Selous' elephant population. According to information received, the increase observed in Niassa Reserve seems more related to development pressures to the south of the Reserve.

The State Party notes that enhancement of SGR's capacity to carry out anti-poaching activities is foreseen in the implementation of the new Wildlife Act No 5 of 2009, and that it intends to prepare a proposal to request technical and financial support from the IUCN Species Survival Commission to assist with the new aerial survey in 2010.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are extremely concerned about the dramatic decrease in the elephant population which seems to be due to an increase in poaching and a result of an apparent breakdown of anti-poaching activities in the property, which is in part probably due to insufficient funding. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that without decisive and immediate action on the part of the State Party to halt poaching, poaching levels in SGR, which contains one of Africa's largest elephant populations, might further increase. The World Heritage Centre considers that the State Party should urgently enhance SGR's capacity to carry out anti-poaching activities.

#### b) Management of the property

The State Party reports that under the new Wildlife Act the Wildlife Division will be transformed into a new autonomous Wildlife Authority and that the accrued revenue for all game reserves will be reinstated, including SGR, which will significantly increase the availability of financial resources to manage the property. It is not clear from the report when this will be implemented. While SGR currently has 365 Game Scouts, the State Party highlights that it will take considerable resources and time to attain the 2000 Game Scouts it estimates necessary to effectively patrol and manage the 50,000 sq. km of the property. The State Party notes that it will seek financial and technical support from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to: conduct an independent evaluation of the implementation of the General Management Plan; and convene a workshop to discuss the implementation of the recommendations of the 2007 and 2008 reactive monitoring missions as requested by Decision 33 COM 7B.8.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the restoration of accrued revenue for the property, as well as the creation of the new autonomous Wildlife Authority. These are significant steps towards reinstating effective management following the interruption of the Revenue Retention Scheme since 2004. They consider that the new revenue accrual scheme should be designed along the same lines as the original Revenue Retention Scheme, and that at least 50% of the revenues accrued from tourism and hunting are retained by SGR management. World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome also the intention of the State Party to undertake an independent evaluation of the management plan and convene a workshop on implementing the recommendations of the 2007 and 2008 monitoring missions.

#### c) Mineral and hydrocarbon prospecting and mining

The State Party acknowledges the incompatibility of mineral exploration, mining, oil exploration and exploitation with inscription on the World Heritage List. However, the revised Wildlife Act now allows exploration and extraction of uranium, oil and gas in game reserves, including the property, as long as the prospector undertakes an Environmental Impact Assessment. The report confirms that uranium mining potential is being assessed within and around the property and that a prospecting license has been issued to MANTRA Resources. However, no uranium mining activity is currently being undertaken. Moreover, no oil exploration is taking place within the property. The State Party notes that it has not as yet issued any permits to allow uranium mining or oil exploration within the property and confirms that it will comply with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* before executing any such permits.

World Heritage Centre and IUCN remain seriously concerned with the on-going uranium exploration and in particular the existing proposal for hydrocarbon prospecting within SGR. They reiterate the clear policy position of the World Heritage Committee that mineral exploration, mining and oil exploration are incompatible with World Heritage status. Moreover, they are concerned that these activities could now be legally possible within the Property as a result of the new Wildlife Act of 2009. They note that the new Wildlife Act has weakened the legal provisions for protection that were in place at the time of inscription of the property, and they consider that the current legal protection is not sufficient for a World Heritage property. The World

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### The Selous Game Reserve

Heritage Centre and IUCN reiterate the conclusion of the 2008 mission that the impacts of oil exploration would impact large areas in the property and recall that oil exploration in the 1980's also coincided with a sharp increase in poaching and a dramatic decline in wildlife populations, in particular elephants.

#### d) Potential and proposed dam developments – Kidunda and Stiegler's Gorge dams

The State Party confirmed the information gathered by the 2008 monitoring mission that the proposed Kidunda dam, which is intended to meet increasing water demand in Dar-es-Salaam, is 12km outside the property boundary, and that the dam's capacity has been reduced. The current design would result in 4 to 5 km<sup>2</sup> of SGR being inundated. The State Party report notes that a Steering Committee is being created to review the project, including experts from the Wildlife Department and SGR and that a second EIA is foreseen in February 2010.

With respect to plans for a hydroelectric dam in Stiegler's Gorge within the property, the State Party notes that in spite of an earlier feasibility study in 1970 which considered that it would be uneconomical and therefore should not go ahead, the Ministry of Energy has included it in the National Power System Master Plan (PSPM) 2009-2033 as an important infrastructure project for meeting long term power demand in Tanzania. Feasibility studies in the Rufiji River Basin are currently being prepared.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the revised plans for the Kikunda dam could also have significant negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of SGR as it will affect Gonabis, which is an important area for many of Selous' large mammals. They also reiterate the conclusion of the 2008 mission that a dam in Stiegler's Gorge would have serious impacts on the values and integrity of the property. The State Party is urged to ensure that the on-going or planned impact assessments will evaluate the impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value and details in line with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* are submitted to World Heritage Centre before a final decision on the dam projects is taken.

#### e) Hunting

The State Party reports on the 2007 and 2008 mission recommendations to regulate hunting. The State Party considers that a transparent system is in place through the Reviewed Wildlife Act No. 5 of 2009 and Tourist Hunting Regulations of 2002; transparency is currently exercised in the quota setting; and SGR is in the process of developing an integrated database which will allow the linkage of information and reports within the property.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that while the new wildlife act sets out a clear procedure for the attribution of hunting blocks, the system still lacks transparency. Hunting blocks are allocated by the Minister based on the advice of the Hunting Block Allocation Advisory Committee, but there are no clear criteria to guide the allocation. The Wildlife Act also does not prescribe a methodology for setting the hunting quota. The State Party report, while noting that wildlife census data are taken into consideration in the process of setting the quota, did not explain how this scientific information is used. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the commitment of the State Party to develop an integrated database linking monitoring sys-

tems, and reiterate the recommendation of the Committee to use this as a basis for wildlife management.

#### f) Tourism management and development

The State Party notes that SGR does not have a detailed Tourism Plan with a clear vision for both consumptive and non-consumptive tourism and that a proposal is currently being prepared to request technical support from the World Heritage Centre to assist in developing a Tourism Plan. The State Party further notes that it is developing camps in the northern area of the property (10 currently exist with another 10 under construction), and that it intends to expand photographic tourism south of the northern sector.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the number of lodges in the northern area of Selous is now much higher than specified for in the Management Plan. They are concerned that Selous may be developing mass tourism infrastructure prior to formulating a clear and sustainable vision for both consumptive and non-consumptive tourism. A Tourism Plan should be prepared as quickly as possible with the assistance of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in order to avoid any potential impacts of increased tourism on the property's values and integrity.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are also concerned by the significant increase in threats to the values and integrity of SGR and consider that a coordinated approach is necessary to address these, in collaboration with local and international NGOs and other stakeholders. They are specially concerned by the dramatic results of the elephant survey and the indications of a strong increase in poaching and express the hope that the creation of the autonomous Wildlife Authority and the announced restoration of the revenue retention mechanism will create the necessary momentum to address this issue seriously.

The World Heritage Committee should encourage the State Party to take full advantage of the proposed workshop to consider the 2007 and 2008 mission recommendations, and use this as an opportunity to support the elaboration of an anti-poaching programme. It is also clear that the new Wildlife Act is weakening the legal protection of the property and that under the new provision uranium, oil and gas exploration and exploitation activities are permitted. The State Party should make a specific exception on this provision for SGR as a World Heritage property and reiterates the Decision by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009) that any decision to go forward with oil exploration inside the property would constitute a clear case for inscribing SGR on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

#### Draft Decision: 34 COM 7B.3

##### The World Heritage Committee

1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 33 COM 7B.8, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),
3. Expresses its serious concern about the results of the 2009 elephant survey, which shows a decline of the elephant population in the Selous-Mikumi Ecosystem by 44% between 2006 and 2009 and an increase in the proportion of illegally killed elephants;
4. Urges the State Party to take immediate and decisive action

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**The Selous Game Reserve**

to halt the upsurge in poaching of elephants as well as other wildlife, which risks seriously degrading the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;

5. Also expresses its utmost concern about the weakening of the legal protection of the property by the 2009 Wildlife Act, which allows for the prospection and mining of oil, gas and uranium inside Game Reserves and reiterates that any decision to go forward with oil exploration inside the property would constitute a clear case for inscribing Selous Game Reserve on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
6. Also urges the State Party to enact specific legislation to prohibit the prospection and mining of oil, gas and uranium inside the Selous Game Reserve on the basis of its status as a World Heritage property;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of all planned activities within and in the vicinity of the property which could impact its Outstanding Universal Value, including dam and mining projects, and provide an Environmental Impact assessment before taking a decision on these projects;
8. Welcomes the State Party's decision to create an autonomous Wildlife Authority and to reinstate revenue accrual which should over time significantly increase the property's human and financial resources;
9. Further urges the State Party to continue to implement the recommendations of the 2007 and 2008 monitoring missions, as detailed in its Decision 33 COM 7B.8;
10. Also welcomes the intention of the State Party to convene a workshop on implementing the recommendations of the 2007 and 2008 monitoring missions, and requests the State Party to use this opportunity to ensure the implementation of a full and effective set of actions, including support the elaboration of an anti-poaching programme, in collaboration with local and international NGOs and other stakeholders;
11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2011, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including information on progress in addressing poaching and in implementing the recommendations of the 2007 and 2008 monitoring missions, as well as information on the current status of the impact assessments for the Kidunda and Stiegler's Gorge dam projects and on the legal protection status of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011.

Source: WHC-10/34.COM/7B; State of Conservation of World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. The full reports of reactive monitoring missions requested by the WHC are available <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/34COM/>. Apart from the Selous report, the document also reports on Dja WR (Cameroon), Ngorongoro CA (Tanzania), Serengeti NP (Tanzania), Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls (Zambia/Zimbabwe), Mana Pools NP, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas (Zimbabwe). We will inform our readers in the next issues of African Indaba

## Peter Sarstedt To Sing For Conservation In South Africa

SAPPI Press Release

Peter Sarstedt, the famous musician and supporter of conservation and the planet will be visiting South Africa during the month of September as a guest of Sappi Limited to help raise funds and awareness for various environmental conservation organizations. He has previously visited South Africa to provide support, along with Sappi Limited, for the Ann van Dyk Cheetah Centre at De Wildt. His upcoming visit will again benefit Ann van Dyk's Cheetah Centre, along with Birdlife South Africa; the Freeme Rehabilitation Centre; the Pilansberg Wildlife Trust; the Two Oceans Aquarium Cape Town Harbour Seal Project; the Bergvlam Wetland Rehabilitation project in Nelspruit, in conjunction with the Innibos Arts Festival; the Water Sisulu National Botanical Gardens in Roodepoort; the Anatolian Sheppard Project with Cheetah Outreach at the Bienne Donne Outdoor and Travel Show in Franschoek and the Sappi Green Ambassador Recycling programme. He will also hold a number of 'singer songwriter' workshops for aspiring musicians, in keeping with both Sappi and his support and encouragement of music in South Africa.

"We invited Peter back to South Africa to add a new dimension to our long-standing support for the arts, community development and conservation" said André Oberholzer, Group Head Corporate Affairs at Sappi Limited. He continued "Peter's wonderful music and his passion for conservation will help generate much needed funds and awareness for a number of very worthy causes across the country". Peter Sarstedt will also help Sappi celebrate 10 years of Sunday Picnic Concerts in support of the Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens when he appears as a guest artist on the Mathys Roets programme at the Sappi Sunday Picnic Concert of 12 September 2010.

Sarstedt's commitment to environmental conservation is highlighted in his 'Green Alphabet' song as it explores environmental issues that require urgent action from A to Z. 'Hemmingway' is a song of passion for Africa which depicts the ease in which we can lose the beauty of the natural world. Sarstedt's signature songs were a product of a time when folk singing created an awareness of and protested many an injustice and captivated the world in passive protest that formed the basis of change in many communities and countries.

Today, Sarstedt continues to write and perform music and songs throughout the world. While his 'green music' entertains, it importantly also speaks of the hope for sustainable improvement of our planet.....'Save the Rhino' will be performed in South Africa to raise awareness of the plight of these magnificent creatures.

Further information regarding tickets for the fundraising events can be obtained through the beneficiary organisations or by contacting Tim Neary at [tim@neary.co.za](mailto:tim@neary.co.za).

