

AFRICAN INDABA

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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

Dear Reader

An African Safari is the dream of every hunter around the world. This huge pool of tourist hunters is and will be the source of huge revenue streams. Experience has shown that the funds generated can have substantial economic benefits for the African people and a positive impact on the conservation of Africa's wildlife. These facts put an enormous responsibility on all stakeholders in African safari hunting (included are: tourist hunters, professional hunters and safari operators, game ranchers, professional and recreational hunting associations, conservation NGOs, governmental and intergovernmental authorities, private and communal landowners, rural communities).

African Indaba wants to stimulate a discussion and dialogue about the future of African Safari Hunting across the board with the publication of a series of articles in this and the next issues. The authors of the articles have welcomed the opportunity to reach a cross-section of the stakeholders mentioned. But writing, publishing and reading articles is only the beginning. The article series should be seen as stimulant for active reader participation.

We have not yet finalized the format of such participation (i.e. an internet based forum); in the meantime comments and contributions can be emailed to **African Indaba (see Box on page 3 for details)**. Once the final discussion format has been finalized we will inform all participants by email and also publish related information in the future issues of African Indaba.

We must obviously not limit our discussions to Africa's open rangelands of savannas and forests, but include also game ranching and hunting behind escape proof fences as practiced in South Africa and some of its neighbors. Hunting behind fences can be as rewarding as hunting on the open ranges, as long as the parameters of Fair Chase are adhered to. Fair Chase means in my opinion *"the pursuit of a free ranging animal or enclosed ranging (i. e. fenced) animal, possessed of the natural behavioral inclination and possibility to escape from the hunter. These animals should exist as naturally interacting individuals of wild sustainable populations, located in ecologically functional systems that meet the spatial (territory and home range) and temporal (food, breeding and basic needs) requirements of the population of which that individual is a member"*.

Excesses like canned lion shooting, or any canned or put & take shooting must not be tolerated at all! National and international hunting organizations have a huge responsibility to exert peer pressure amongst their members, no matter whether the respective country's legislation has shortcomings in this respect.

I therefore invite all readers to read the articles and analyze the ideas and concepts. Please take this opportunity to make your opinion heard!

In this issue we also bring you first-hand information about the rediscovery of the Giant or Royal Sable of Angola. Brendan O'Keeffe's article makes fascinating reading, although I had to cut it drastically for space reasons. The rediscovery of the *Palanca Negra* is actually living proof of my theory put forward in the first paragraph of this editorial: *"hunting and hunters do have a positive impact on African wildlife conservation."* The funds which made the van Hoven expedition in 2002 and the O'Keeffe/Vaz Pinto expedition of 2004 possible came exclusively from hunting organizations like Dallas Safari Club, The Shikar Club, SCI Italian and Utah Chapters and the former SCI African Chapter.

Another living proof of this theory can be seen in the outcomes of the Botswana National Lion Workshop. Conservationists and hunters are seen working hand in hand for the benefit of lion conservation and the rural African population.

I hope that you enjoy this issue and I am looking forward to a lively and unbiased discussion of the issues at hand.

Sincerely

Gerhard R Damm
Editor & Publisher

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African Indaba is a e-newsletter for hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources

2 Introducing a Debate on the Reform of Safari Hunting

By Dr. Rolf D. Baldus and Andrew Cauldwell

When we asked the publisher and "father" of INDABA why he devotes a quarter of his time without any material reward to produce this newsletter (which actually has matured meanwhile into a fully-fledged hunting and conservation magazine) he answered: "Because I want that my son will still be able to hunt in Africa." We found this a good enough answer, but it made us think at the same time. Is there a danger that the next generation will not be able to book a safari in Africa any more (We don't talk about small, fenced game ranches)? Will our sons and daughters learn about the hunting of antelopes and dangerous game in wild and open country only from "armchair safaris" with old hunting books?

There are enough reasons why this indeed might become true. The most obvious one, and one which is very difficult to influence, is the ongoing population growth. Despite Aids Africa's population will most probably have doubled by 2025 as compared to today. Many wildlife areas and hunting grounds of today will therefore have gone by then. They have given place to settlements, fields, roads and degraded land due to bad agricultural practices. The growing population and the buying power of the urban elites will increase the present demand for land. Wildlife is just one land use option, and already it has to compete economically with other options like growing crops, cattle, infrastructure or just investment and speculation. And even where wildlife is the accepted land use option, hunting has to compete with photographic tourism. This means hunting has to produce competitive revenues for landowners, the state and communities and also for its own upkeep. Do we have the data to prove that wildlife and hunting has such comparative advantages?

Other reasons for a future without safari hunting are political. Urban populations become more and more alienated from nature and natural processes and are easily misled for all kind of anti-hunting ideologies. Many of the activist groups earn millions of dollars with campaigns against hunting and sustainable use of wildlife, and this money is normally not reinvested into conservation, but used for more campaigns. These groups are influential and are able to convince politicians in Europe and the USA to put more restrictions on the import of trophies from Africa, and this could automatically strangle the wildlife industries. Some groups agitate for a complete ban on all imports of hunting trophies from Africa. So far this anti-hunting movement was confined to the rich countries, but Kenya and South Africa now lead the way on the African continent. We shall soon have such groups in all countries with hunting in Africa.

However, it is much too simple to believe that it is only the "green movement" and extreme animal-rightist views which drive the anti-hunting agenda. Look closer at the real performance of tourist hunting. Too many examples of bad hunting practices and of unsustainable trophy hunting have been known. Too much unethical behavior has been reported by TV, sometimes unjusti-

fied or as an exaggeration, but sometimes well-founded. This creates a negative image in the public, and governments react to this.

In the next years the world will watch more closely whether safari hunting in Africa is in line with national and international legislation and whether it takes place under generally accepted ethical standards. This is not bunny hugging! Can the hunting industry prove that it is mainly clean and that the violators of the law and of ethical standards are the exception, and that they are prosecuted and barred from continuing their dirty business?

There are many "best practices" of good hunting - hunting which has contributed to the survival of rare species, to the finance and continued existence of large game reserves or to the creation of game ranches on formerly degraded land. But there are undoubtedly also examples for "worst practices" like over-shooting of quotas, unethical chase, corruption and violations of the law.

Some forward looking professional hunters, hunting operators, game ranchers and conservationists have argued during the last fifteen or so years that the hunting industry must react to the challenges. Hunting must prove that it contributes to the survival of wildlife and the conservation of wildlands. Revenues must contribute to the protection of natural resources and to the well-being of people who live side by side with these sometimes destructive and dangerous beasts. The number of such constructive actors in the hunting world with a long term perspective is fortunately growing.

But for another part of the industry it is still the old lip-service brigade: "Hunters are the real conservators and without hunting the game would disappear". And when they are back in the loneliness of the bush, unfortunately many of them do not care much about conservation, law and ethics. The client pays a lot for his trophies and therefore all means are right, provided the client gets what he has paid for. The Tanzanian Director of Wildlife recently even wrote a personal letter to every PH and hunting operator in Tanzania in which he said: "*There are reports about some professional hunters failing to pay serious attention to the law, regulations and guidelines used in the administration of safari hunting industry in Tanzania*". As examples he mentioned shooting a second larger trophy and doing away with the first, shooting animals without permit, leaving wounded animals and not registering them, and hunting undersized elephants and leopards. If all the trophies which were bagged in violation of the game laws and acceptable ethical hunting standards could scream, there would be a lot of noise in some trophy rooms around the world.

There are strong forces within the hunting industry that resist any reform. This was epitomized when one of the authors was invited to speak on improving the Tanzanian hunting industry in one of the regular public lectures of the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania. The Chairman of the Tanzania Hunting Operators Association had enough influence to force the independent NGO to cancel the lecture at the last hour. So much for free speech! Such actions are based on a fear of reform. Some fear that reform would bring transparency and open up competition

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that brings new players to the industry. They fear losing their privileged status and that costs will rise and consequently profits fall. Their greatest fear is that they will have to compete against alternative wildlife-based industries, which in some areas (not all) could generate higher levels of income.

Unfortunately bad hunting has a strong ally – that is the many corrupt individuals in wildlife administrations around Africa. It is difficult to say whether the egg or the chicken came first – but in practice both sides benefit and have created a strong and lasting alliance which has proved nearly impossible to crack. Good game laws, international conventions and management plans for conservation areas do not help much, if the violators can pay their way out.

There is no easy recipe how this can all be changed. **African Indaba** knows from contact with its readers that many share the view that the safari hunting industry needs reform quickly. With this edition of **African Indaba**, we therefore start a series with which we present some of the issues and hopefully some of the solutions. We encourage **African Indaba** readers to participate in this discussion and contributions will be publicized and made available on the **African Indaba** website as far as possible.

Tanzania is chosen as a practical case from which we will take our examples, as it is the country with one of the largest hunting industries in Africa and is the country with the highest number of CITES trophy exports on the continent. It still represents the original safari hunting opportunity in wildlands without fences. Additionally the authors, who write here solely in their private capacity, know this case empirically best.

As a first contribution we start with one of the possible solutions, namely the introduction of "certification systems for safari hunting" (see article on page 12). This is a new idea, and it certainly will be controversially received. Therefore we should like to offer the readers to confront this proposal with the articles on the present hunting industry and to have sufficient time to collect comments. The objective of this debate is not a merely analytic one. It is a normative one. We want to provide inputs for a reform of the industry. Otherwise it will not survive and consequently will neither be able to contribute to the conservation of game nor to poverty reduction. Whoever has long-term interests as opposed to the short-term goal of maximizing profits or delights for a few remaining years should agree on this with the editor of **African Indaba** and the authors. We might differ with others in the industry on how reform can best be achieved, but hopefully after this debate, the issues and solutions may be clearer to all.

The Future of African Safari Hunting

A selection of articles in the current and next issues of **African Indaba** have the objective of stimulating a broad-based discussion and dialogue of this important topic. Participate in this forum and send your contributions (comments, articles and papers) to the Editor (Gerhard@muskwa.co.za) with your complete contact details (mandatory).

3 Botswana Holds First National Lion Workshop

By Dr. Paul Funston

In concordance with the outcomes of the CITES 2004 process, various regional and country specific lion workshops were requested. As the Botswana government has recently wisely decided to lift the moratorium on the trophy hunting of lions for 2005, a national workshop to evaluate the population status and threats to its lion population was required. This was achieved during a two day workshop hosted by Chobe Marina Lodge, Kasane, from March 18th to 19th. The workshop was well attended by members of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, other government bodies, community leaders, independent researchers, and experienced lion biologists from other countries. Representation from the photo-tourism and safari hunting sectors, however, was relatively lacking, although the voices of senior members were certainly heard.

Estimating abundance of any large carnivore is never easy, but there was general consensus that the lion population in Botswana comprises approximately 2500 to 3500 individuals in three fairly distinct populations: southern Kalahari (Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park and adjoining WMAs), central Kalahari (Central Kalahari Game Reserve and some adjoining WMAs and wildlife ranching areas), and the greater Chobe-Okavango-Makgadikgadi area. While population size is relatively well known, little information on the population trend is available, but some tentative indications of its relative stability exist.

Perhaps more important was to evaluate the perceived threats to Botswana's lion population. These were broadly listed as:

- Disease
- Trophy hunting
- Human-lion conflict

Although a few delegates were left wondering, the scientific evidence presented by Prof Craig Packer (Serengeti Lion Project), convinced the majority that feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) poses no threat to Botswana's lion population. Supportive evidence of this is many and varied, and includes data on survivorship of infected lions, and phylogenetic evidence indicating that lions have been exposed to this virus for millions of years with no deleterious affect. Although not present to defend his supposedly conflicting evidence, Dr Peter Kat who runs a lion project in the delta, was regarded as having been responsible in raising false alarms about the supposed severity of this disease in lion populations without any published research and through using the international media.

Dr Kathy Alexander, a veterinarian with substantial experience in lions and other large carnivores, also presented similar findings, indicating that FIV is a non-issue in lions in Botswana. Other diseases were also discussed, one of which that is known to affect lions at times, is canine distemper virus (CDV). While present in Botswana, being carried by domestic dogs, CDV only seems to

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pose limited local threat to lions. Preliminary indications are that this could be during periods of high prevalence of brown ear ticks. As this disease can also affect other large carnivore populations, particularly the threatened African Wild Dog, vaccination programs for domestic dogs were proposed. Generally, however, it was concluded that there are no major current disease threats to be concerned about, but that vigilance and well structure disease ecology studies were to be supported.

Since it is widely stated as being negative for lion populations, trophy hunting was discussed in some detail. Once the dust had settled it was clear that the low quotas issued in Botswana over the last two decades (15-37 lions/year) constitute a relatively minor offtake. The annual quotas only amount to 1-2 % of the population being removed annually. Thus, although locally disruptive to specific prides, these low off takes could only have minimal impact on the population. Botswana does not allow the hunting of female lions, and in line with findings from Tanzania, a minimum age threshold of six years will be stipulated for male lions that are to be hunted. Combined, these two measures result in trophy hunting having the least possible impact on lion populations. Furthermore the consensus of opinion was that the breeding of lions for canned shooting should remain outlawed in Botswana, as it was clear how harmful this could be to the image of trophy hunting as a sport with substantial conservation benefits. A strong point of encouraging community participation in profit sharing and ownership (partnership) in trophy hunting was made.

However, what became very clear during the workshop is that substantial tension exists between some segments of the photo-tourism and trophy hunting sectors. The main source of this tension is that the photo-tourism operators object to lions, which they spend time habituating to tourism vehicles, getting shot in adjoining hunting blocks when they move into those areas. Sometimes this also then leads to disruption of the pride that those males were with. This is a real problem at times, and is exacerbated by the scenic beauty and wildlife splendour of even the peripheral areas of the delta being as highly suitable to photo-tourism, as they are for hunting. Essentially the problem thus lies in the spatial and/or temporal zonation of the land-use pattern. Unless this can be addressed, both parties need to try and develop ways of minimizing this conflict, primarily through better communication and understanding.

Lastly, it was clear that human-lion conflict is a large problem in Botswana, and undoubtedly leads to the highest number of dead lions. While this is a problem throughout, certain 'hot spots' have been identified where intense conflict occurs. For example, along the Boteti River in the area of the Makgadikgadi Pans National Parks the conflict is so intense that the government has erected a fence to help minimize the problems. Similar fences erected for the same reason in other parts of Botswana, e.g. the southern boundary of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, have resulted in reduced levels of conflict. They, however, require the necessary maintenance in order to be effective. In areas of less severe conflict, or where fences are clearly not an ecologically wise option, other strategies must be pursued to minimize conflict.

The main thrust needs to be in developing and encouraging livestock husbandry and wildlife management practices that facilitate co-existence as much as possible. Alternative creative and practical solutions need to be tested, and if found to be useful, encouraged. Furthermore, the current financial compensation system should be reviewed, as in many respects it has created a society dependent on government handouts. One set of suggestions to replace direct compensation, revolved around the development of insurance programs whereby the state, other financial sources, and the livestock owners themselves all invest (financially and through improved husbandry) and thus have a stake in the program.

The value of wildlife to communities was also clearly expressed, and it was felt that facilitating the destruction of some problem animals through financially more rewarding trophy hunts, would substantially increase the tolerance towards large predators in some areas.

In closing the workshop the three perceived threats were revisited and the above summation given. A list of more detailed and specific outcomes of the workshop was then compiled, which is to be disseminated to the government departments concerned and to the relevant stakeholders. A general feeling by most stakeholders was that a better understanding of the issues had been achieved, and that communication had improved, and was paramount to resolving outstanding or lingering concerns.

Importantly the communities who live on the ground, and have to deal with these issues on a daily basis, want to be consulted and more involved in all these processes. They felt that they had much to offer, and that the survival of lions in Botswana was as much in their interest as that of anybody else.

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

4 Tourist Hunting: How Tanzania Can Benefit From SADC Best Practices

By Simon Milledge, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa

Sport hunting in the SADC region

The sport hunting industry in the SADC region is massive. During the late 1990s, direct annual trophy hunting revenues reached USD29.9 million in Tanzania, USD28.4 million in South Africa, USD23.9 million in Zimbabwe, USD12.6 million in Botswana and USD11.5 million in Namibia. Further, it is a growing industry in most countries, since well-managed sport hunting can be one of the optimal land use options, especially in marginal habitats. As a result, sport hunting is commonly the backbone to community-based natural resource management in communal lands, especially in Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe, and brings wildlife management to new areas. Southern Africa currently offers some 420,000km² of communal land and 188,000km² of commercial land for sport hunting. Wildlife numbers outside of protected areas in Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe communal and private lands are increasing, due mainly to the value now placed on the lucrative sport hunting resource. In general, sport hunting is a high-return, low-impact wildlife use which can compliment a host of other activities, for example wildlife viewing safaris and trade in hides, horns and meat. It is also recognized as a valid wildlife management tool under certain circumstances, for example in addressing human-wildlife conflicts or enhancing species' population performance.

Although not hunted in large numbers, the 'big five' species – lion, leopard, rhino, elephant and buffalo – are responsible for generating the largest proportion of income. South Africa is the only country which offers all five, but other countries offer individual species of better trophy quality. For example, Tanzania is known for its lion, leopard and buffalo.

Further growth and development of the industry depends upon optimal trophy quality, species diversity and professionalism of the services offered. However, the growth of the industry currently exceeds the capacity to manage it well throughout the region. Overall successes of the industry are marred by the continued existence of unsustainable management practices, especially in relation to quota setting and hunting concessions allocations. The lucrative nature of the industry and potential for abuse and corruption still affects the industry and incentives are required to improve such management practices. Further, the demand for sport hunting in SADC currently outweighs the supply, and poor ethical practices have become an issue resulting from intense competition. It is also becoming increasingly important that the management structures (private, governmental or non-governmental) implement socially responsible policies.

Tourist hunting in Tanzania

The tourist hunting industry in Tanzania is one of the most lucrative within the SADC region, due to the country's reputation for trophy quality and unspoiled hunting areas. Total off-take in terms

of animals hunted is negligible when compared to total revenues generated. Wildlife policy incorporates tourist hunting and the revenues it raises as the economic backbone to the country's community-based wildlife management aspirations. Although contributing significantly to community livelihood in some areas (e.g. Friedkin Conservation Fund and Cullman & Hurt Community Programs, and in areas surrounding the Selous Game Reserve), the potential for harnessing the potential of tourist hunting for stimulating community wildlife management has gone largely untapped. This is mainly due to a lack of legislative change to adequately reflect wildlife policy. In addition, management strategies as outlined in well-developed Tourist Hunting Policies remain largely unimplemented, suggesting a lack of motivation and will on the part of government and private sector. Legislative reform, and increased impetus to affect implementation of management strategies needs to occur as a matter of priority so that the overall viability and integrity of the tourist hunting sector is safeguarded.

More detailed information on the Tanzania tourist hunting industry is adequately described in the same issue by Baldus and Cauldwell. This article serves to draw upon the experience gained from an assessment¹ of the sport hunting industry in five SADC countries (Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe). The following are some of the key recommendations specific to Tanzania.

- Hunting block concession allocations should be based on a transparent and accountable open tender system. Block allocation and retention criteria should include economic as well as concession and community development indicators.
- Government should formalize a policy position with regard to the sub-leasing of hunting concessions. It is recommended that this practice be restricted where possible, to encourage greater tenure and ownership of the hunting block concession.
- The number of Safari Operators licensed in Tanzania should be kept to a manageable size, and not allowed to increase further by the subdivision of existing hunting blocks. Further subdivision of hunting blocks may damage the reputation of the tourist hunting blocks and result in unsustainable quotas being set in

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CITES Trophy Exports From Tanzania

Tanzania is one of the top five CITES trophy exporting nations in East and Southern Africa, the others including South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana. Analysis of CITES annual reports submitted to UNEP-WCMC between 1998 and 2003 show that a net trade of almost 500 CITES-listed trophies were exported from Tanzania. Large cat trophies constituted 60% of all CITES trophies exported from Tanzania. Indeed, more large cat trophies (2946) were exported from Tanzania during this period than any country in East and Southern Africa. They included 1,310 lion trophies (42% of all lion trophies from the region) and 1,509 leopard trophies (36% of all leopard trophies from the region). Tanzania also accounted for 50% hippopotamus trophies (1,044) from the region, in addition to a significant proportion of elephant trophies (Milledge, 2005).

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subdivided blocks.

- The pricing structure with regards to hunting fees is based on a “pay as used” basis, rather than a “right to use” basis. This has resulted in companies not being motivated to fully utilize their quota of animals, and has necessitated governments insistence on 40% of the quota block being paid for in advance. In turn, this may motivate a skewed utilization of quotas in favor of renowned and lucrative trophy species that may be bringing into question the sustainability of their quotas. It is recommended that hunting blocks be competitively marketed and concession fees charged according to the open market value of the blocks.
- The process of establishing Wildlife Management Areas and Authorized Associations should be supported and where possible expedited to enable rural communities to harness wildlife benefits through Tourist Hunting and consequently be motivated to manage and conserve a valued resource.
- A greater proportion of tourist hunting revenue should be distributed directly to local communities through District Councils and Retention Schemes.
- Sport Hunting Operators should be supported by government and non-governmental sector to establish community based natural resource management programs along the lines of the Cullman & Hurt and Friedkin Conservation programs.
- The Wildlife Division should establish an effective monitoring system for the collection of biological, financial and hunt return data that through analysis should be used for the improved adaptive management of the Tourist Hunting Industry, especially with regards to quota setting.
- Quotas for sought after and renowned trophy species such as lion, leopard, sable and roan should be reviewed to re-assess their sustainability in light of high utilization rates.
- A thorough review of the Professional Hunters licensing system should be undertaken to ensure that ethical and professional standards of hunting are maintained within the industry. This review should consider the possibility of introducing trainee, learner and full professional hunter categories according to years of experience and knowledge. Examinations should also be restructured to ensure that all aspects of tourist hunting are adequately included.

Implementing best practice guidelines from the SADC region

TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa is currently finalizing the report ‘Sport Hunting in the SADC Region: A regional overview’ by Rob Barnett and Claire Patterson, which consolidates experiences of seven countries in the region. The draft best practice guidelines include the following key components which provide a solid foundation for Tanzania to strengthen the regulation and management of a sustainable sport hunting industry.

Maintaining Quality and Standards of the Sport Hunting Industry

- Minimum trophy quality should be imposed for safari operators hunting State and communal land concession areas.
- Wildlife hunting regulations that help maintain the sustainabil-

ity of hunting and standards of ethical hunting should be enforced through the promotion of CBNRM programs which provide incentive for community game scouts to accompany hunting safaris.

- The leading role that sport hunting associations play in promoting the ethical hunting and professional standards of hunters in the SADC region should be recognized and encouraged.
- Successful sport hunting training camps that target citizen hunters to gain further experience necessary for becoming professional hunters should be supported so that the industry becomes fully integrated.
- Examples of thorough professional hunter standards and the setting of theoretical and practical examinations should be used by those countries currently establishing their training and testing systems.

Monitoring and Administration of the Sport Hunting Industry

- Information and data obtained through monitoring systems should be effectively analyzed and used for making more informed management decisions.
- Using hunt return registers as the basis for applications for trophy export permits is an effective way to motivate hunter adherence to monitoring requirements.
- Laws outlining monitoring requirements, such as completion and submission of hunt return forms before new hunting permits are issued, should be enforced.
- Monitoring systems should be simple, clear and streamlined to facilitate the collection of data from key stakeholders.
- Data collection forms should include financial as well as biological information necessary for the effective management of the sport hunting industry.
- In line with the gradual devolution of management responsibility to local communities in CBNRM programs, monitoring systems should also be established to provide information for informed management decisions, as well as to provide timely feedback for adaptive management purposes.

Quota Setting

- The quota setting process should be transferred, where appropriate, to private land owners in the commercial farming sector, whilst maintaining some supervisory control by central government.
- Management capacity should be built among community managed hunting concession areas to develop and approve their own quota of animals to be hunted.
- The most effective quotas are set when resource managers are fully engaged in the collection and analysis of information used in the decision making process.
- Different sources of information, such as aerial, ground, catch effort and trophy quality, may be used to triangulate the most reliable indication of population trends and adaptively determine the quota.
- Monitoring systems that collate critical data and information necessary for effective quota setting should be established.

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This should include past hunting off-take records, aerial and ground population census data, trophy quality and financial and biological indicators.

- Trophy quality should be regarded as an excellent indicator of population status.
- Once management capacity is established, central government should devolve the approval of quotas to land holders in private and communal lands.

Maximizing Economic and Social Benefits from the Sport Hunting Industry

Hunt Packaging and Hunting Fees:

- The composition of species and duration of hunting is instrumental in providing a balanced hunt maximizing revenue.
- Government hunting fees should be established according to the sport hunting open market value of trophy animals, as is the case in Zimbabwe and Tanzania.

Hunting Block Allocation and Benefits Sharing:

- The longer the hunting concession lease period, the greater the likelihood that safari operators will be willing to invest in the infrastructure, enforcement and wildlife management of the area, as well as to initiate such long-term initiatives as CBNRM programs.
- Hunting concession leases should be allocated according to a fully transparent and open process that allows for a high degree of competition between safari operators. Open tender processes that realize true market values of hunting concessions and their quotas should be promoted. Experiences obtained from public auction of leases and packaged hunts should be assessed.
- Mechanism for retaining revenues to those who own the hunting resource should be promoted, such as the requirement that a proportion of revenue be banked in-country.

This article was first published in “Miombo” Tanzania. We acknowledge with thanks the permission to reprint.

"It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

Theodore Roosevelt

5 Savannas Forever: A Certification Program for Lion Trophy Hunting

By Dr Craig Packer

There is immediate need for a certification program for lion trophy hunting. The lion is under severe threat from habitat loss and "problem animal conflict." Scientific studies of human-lion conflict around Tarangire National Park, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Makgadikgadi Pans National Park and Laikipia, and information provided by hunting companies around Africa, make it clear that the lion is experiencing unprecedented hostility from local people in retaliation for attacks on humans and livestock. A comprehensive survey of man-eating throughout Tanzania has found that well over 100 people are attacked by lions each year, as well as thousands of cattle. Thus it is no surprise that the lion is in serious trouble.

Over 75% of the protected areas in Tanzania were originally set aside for trophy hunting, and the African lion is the most important single species to the Tanzanian hunting industry. Concerns have been raised over the possible sustainability of lion trophy hunting, owing to the complex social system of this species. However, highly-detailed population simulation models show that trophy hunting causes virtually no harm to the population as a whole provided that clients only shoot males that are at least six years of age. Hunting areas can yield a sustainable harvest of trophy males, provided that they utilize their resources wisely, and trophy hunting is the only mechanism for financing conservation activities over most of the wild areas in Africa. The most urgent problem for lion conservation, therefore, is not trophy hunting, but large-scale retaliation by local people against problem lions.

I therefore propose a coordinated program to recruit individual hunting companies to become genuine partners in the conservation of savanna ecosystems. The program is called "Savannas Forever" and it requires each participating company to meet standards for the following three activities:

1. Restrict all lion hunting to males that are at least 6 years of age. The lion's age can be estimated prior to being shot on the basis of nose coloration. Once killed, the lion's age can be accurately estimated from its teeth. We will establish a lab at the Tanzanian Wildlife Research Institute in Arusha where our technician will extract and X-ray the relevant teeth. All underage trophies will be destroyed before export or kept in Arusha for scientific study.
2. The company must engage in effective anti-poaching that links to the enforcement activities of the Wildlife Division. We will conduct on-site inspections and advise the company on specific tactics to improve the effectiveness of their anti-poaching efforts. All data collected by the inspection team will be made available to each participating company to guide future activities; thus strategies that have been successful in

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5 Savannas Forever: A Certification Program for Lion Trophy Hunting

one area will be made available to other concessions.

3. The company must develop meaningful community conservation projects that focus on risk-reduction of local people from lion attacks on their families and their livestock. This also requires on-site inspections and interviews with neighboring people. Once again, we will advise the companies on specific strategies for reducing risks of lion attacks. In areas where lions do not inflict harm on local communities, the companies must provide sensible economic returns to local people (which would generally be linked to the villages' agreement to refrain from bush meat hunting).

If the company meets our criteria for all three activities, they will receive a "Gold Star" certification. "Gold-Star" rating will have real value only if international hunting organizations reward Gold-Star companies with preferential treatment at annual conventions and by allowing only those animals shot on Gold-Star safaris to be entered into their record books. The resultant value of Gold-Star status would therefore provide a strong incentive for other companies to improve their conservation activities -- and strengthen the industry as a whole.

A significant percentage of Tanzanian hunting companies are already highly ethical and would be likely to receive Gold-Stars. However, a proportion of operators are believed to engage in poor conservation activities and thereby tarnish the reputation of the industry as a whole. A vast amount of land has been set aside for hunting in Tanzania, and thus a well-regulated trophy hunting industry is essential not only to the conservation of Tanzania's natural resources but also to the economic development of the country. Because of recent concerns over the potential uplisting of the lion to Appendix 1 of CITES, the industry must be seen as responsive to lion conservation. Prior attempts to establish a certification system for trophy hunting have failed, but now we have a real window of opportunity to get a foot in the door. The Tanzanian government is under significant pressure to provide certification of hunting companies, and the Director of Wildlife has given me his enthusiastic support. After my recent visit to Botswana, I would like to start Savannas Forever simultaneously in Tanzania and Botswana. The Botswana government and hunting industry were as enthusiastic about Savannas Forever as their Tanzanian counterparts, and Botswana and Tanzania are the two premier lion-hunting destinations in all of Africa.

Savannas Forever cannot be seen as an arm of the hunting industry; we must be completely independent to be able to have international credibility and to set strict standards. Thus my initial goal is to find 3 years funding from an international donor such as the World Bank or USAID. But if the Gold-Star system has sufficient value to the hunting companies after three years, we could look to the industry to support the program via some sort of general fee structure.

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6 African Lion Workshops

By Gerhard R Damm

SADC invited IUCN to organize the African Lion Conservation workshops as follow-up from CITES CoP 13. Cecil Machena of Zimbabwe heads the central coordinating committee with formal organizational responsibility. Other members are Kristin Nowell (IUCN Cat Specialists), Luke Hunter (WCS) and Holly Dublin (IUCN SSC Chair)

Prior to the actual workshops, technical sessions with participation limited to lion specialists, will be held. The objective of the technical sessions is to produce a scientific overview of the threats to, and status & distribution of the African lion. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in cooperation with the Cat Specialist Group will jointly host the technical sessions. ALWG and RO-CAL members will participate and contribute information previously gathered by the ALWG and Chardonnet surveys, with updates and review conducted by some 50 invited technical specialists. The outcomes are expected to be an authoritative and comprehensive assessment of African lion status and a rigorous assessment of threats. The result will form the basis for lion conservation strategies.

The actual workshops are planned with [invited] participation from government officials, local NGOs, safari operators, key community leaders, and international donors and organizations. The goal of the conservation sessions is to produce 4 regional conservation strategies (to provide broad guidance to governments and stakeholders and encourage inter-regional cooperation) and the foundation for a continental African lion conservation action plan. The process is not finalized yet, and is subject to ongoing discussions within an advisory committee formed by the Cat Specialist Group, African Lion Working Group (AWLG), Réseau Ouest et Centre Africain pour la Conservation du Lion (ROCAL) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). It is expected that by end of May themes and contents of the workshops and the list of invited participants will be finalized

The technical workshops for East & Southern Africa are tentatively set for Victoria Falls/Zimbabwe on August 22 and 23 and feed directly into the main workshop on August 24 to 26. The technical workshop on West and Central Africa will be in Douala/Cameroon and the dates are under discussion for September/October 2005. The Africa-wide strategic & technical workshops are planned for February 2006 with dates and venue to be determined. It is expected that the East & Southern African events will lead towards lion conservation and management strategies for East and Southern Africa respectively, similar as the West & Central African workshops to two strategies for the respective regions. Another set of objectives is that the regional conservation and management strategies thus developed will positively influence the national lion conservation and management plans or stimulate formulation of new plans where none existed before.

Further information and confirmation of dates and venues can be obtained by contacting the Central Coordinating Committee member Cecil Machena Machena@art.org.zw

African Indaba featured at "Jagen Weltweit" Website

The German-language hunting magazine "Jagen Weltweit" now features **African Indaba** with downloadable pdf files on the informative **Jagen Weltweit** website.

Go to www.jww.de and follow the links for **African Indaba** for all 2005 issues.

7 Circus Lions from Brazil

By Fiona Mcleod, Mail & Guardian

A Gauteng zoo owner is suspected of laundering permits to import 9 old circus and zoo lions from Brazil in the face of an import ban. Conservation authorities are investigating whether Pablo Urban, owner of the Animal and Reptile Zoo in Muldersdrift, fooled Free State permit officials into facilitating the deal after Gauteng officials refused to give him permits to import the lions. The investigation came at a time when the national government is reviewing legislation regulating the controversial "canned" lion hunting industry. Critics say the incident highlights loopholes in the system that can be exploited by unscrupulous wildlife dealers.

Early last year the Gauteng department of agriculture, conservation, environment and land affairs rejected an application by Urban for permits to import 16 Brazilian lions. Mail & Guardian reported at the time that about 60 "abandoned" lions, casualties of an uncontrolled wildlife trade in South America, were up for sale.

Urban used a Free State connection to get CITES permits to import the 10 lions. When the cats arrived at Johannesburg International, however, only one was sent to the Free State and the other nine allegedly went straight to Urban's zoo in Muldersdrift. Lourens Badenhorst, Gauteng's director of conservation said the original reasons for the rejection of Urban's permits remain. "One of the many reasons is that he will contaminate the local gene pool." Another reason given at the time was that there is "over-production" of lions in South Africa, because of the large number of lion-breeding facilities in the country. The Free State is home to some of the largest of South Africa's 50-plus lion-breeding facilities. Urban used permits granted to Sarel Wessels, owner of Lechwe Lodge near Kroonstad, to import the lions. Urban is said to have signed an agreement stating that the animals will not be used for hunting. "He said they will be used for reproduction in a conservation program". Urban slammed the phone down when the M&G contacted him.

Critics of the government's proposed new regulations on "canned" hunting point out that the industry depends on captive breeding of predators. Even if the Brazilian lions are not hunted, their offspring would almost certainly fuel the industry in time.

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8 Large Predator Hunting & Hunting in KNP Buffer Zones

By Gerhard R Damm

In a speech in parliament on April 6th DEAT minister van Schalkwyk stated: "In order to decisively address both of these issues [the Draft for the Norms and Standards Relating to the Management of Large Predators and Hunting in Buffer Zones Bordering KNP, editor] I am appointing a panel of experts which will include, amongst others, conservation and environmental ethics experts, to be chaired by Dr. Crispian Oliver and including Kungeka Njobe (CSIR), Tony Frost (WWF), Nick King (Endangered Wildlife Trust), Stewart Dorrington (PHASA), Marcelle Meredith (NSPCA), Dr Shibu Rampedi (Limpopo), Prof. Koos Bothma (Centre for Wildlife Management at the University of Pretoria) Dr Holly Dublin (Chair Species Survival Commission of the IUCN), Lambson Makuleke (Community Representative), and Mlünleli Pukwana (legal advisor). The panel will be requested to report back within four months on both hunting in buffer zones and canned hunting of large predators." The first panel meeting is planned for May.

In light of this announcement, the three workshops that were planned for April as a continuation of the public consultation process for the draft Norms and Standards and Regulations for the Sustainable Utilization of Large Predators relating to the keeping and hunting of *Acinonyx jubatus* (cheetah), *Hyaena brunnea* (brown hyaena), *Crocuta crocuta* (spotted hyaena), *Lycaon pictus* (wild dog), *Panthera leo* (lion) and *Panthera pardus* (leopard) were cancelled. The written comments on the draft documents received from the public are being processed and forwarded to the panel of experts for consideration.

The second issue – hunting in buffer zones – was brought about by a March letter of UDM leader Bantu Holomisa to MEC Chabane of Limpopo Province, copied to minister van Schalkwyk and the media, complaining about hunting in the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve (TPNR). Holomisa's allegations were strongly contested by TPNR Chair Tom Hancock and a spokesperson of SANParks. Limpopo Province reacted by invoking a moratorium on all the hunts within the Associated Private Nature Reserves (APNR). TPNR instituted a high court action, but before the matter went to court, the province lifted the moratorium, however, without issuing permits.

What I tell you three times is true

Conservation, Ivory, History & Politics by Ian Parker

In African Indaba Vol3/2 we discussed Ian Parker's new book. This soft-cover book is now available for also from **Russel Friedman Books, Johannesburg**, for the moderate price of R260.00 (= ca US\$ 43.00). Contact Rholda Leff at phone +27-11-7022300, fax +27-11-7021403, email rholdal@frbooks.co.za; Russell Friedman Books specializes in a wide selection of African natural history books – ask for their list!

9 Our Search for the Giant Sable 1997 to 2004

By B.W.J. O'Keeffe

Editor's Introductory Note: The good news is that photographic evidence of the continued existence of at least one population group of the Giant Sable (*Hippotragus niger variani*) has finally been obtained. These photos have circled the world in the meantime. It is less known that some time prior to this particularly photogenic group of Giant Sable triggering infrared beams of the cameras, Prof. Christian Pitra of the German Institute for Zoo Biology and Wildlife Research had already established conclusive DNA sequences from the dung samples the 2004 expedition had brought back. Scientific caution and political tact forbade however that the sensational news being published. The scientists needed time and DNA samples from other authenticated sources. Last not least, the Angolans should have the right to proudly announce the news themselves; the latter happened on April 7th.

Brendan O'Keeffe's report in this **African Indaba** recounts the story of his personal involvement in the search of the Giant Sable, but it ends in November 2004 – when the expedition returned without tangible proof or photos – but with some casts of Sable spoor, and with dung samples which eventually proved to be from the very *Palanca Negra* they were searching. I could have asked Brendan to add a post script to his article, but since I reluctantly had to seriously shorten his splendid original report for space reasons, I feared that I would have again to use the editor's cutters and therefore opted to write this lengthy introductory note myself.

I am convinced that we would be even now wondering whether that magnificent antelope still roamed in the wilderness of Northern Angola if it would not have been for the sheer determination and terrier-like bite of Brendan. Many of those who hail this "rediscovery" now had repeatedly stated that "all efforts are just a wild goose chase and a waste of money"! Brendan's insistence prevailed and he collected sufficient funds from his peers at The Shikar Club to rekindle the fire of the search. The SCI African Chapter (prior to its dissolution) added ten thousand Rand to his war chest and when the need was greatest – just days before the expedition was about to leave for Angola – Gray Thornton from DALLAS SAFARI CLUB saved the day and wired the money to buy the cameras which ultimately took the pictures which now prove to the world that the Royal Sable still exists!

The DNA story started in Brendan's lovely home in Johannesburg in 2003 after the Durban World Parks' Congress. I had introduced CIC's Kai Wollscheid and Rolf Baldus to Brendan and we talked about many subjects – of course also his personal Holy Grail, the *Palanca Negra*. Later, Brendan showed us a treasure – a dried out dung sample collected during the 2002 expedition with Prof. Wouter van Hoven. Rolf immediately suggested taking it to a laboratory in Germany and Brendan consented without hesitation! After many months news came back – the scientists were positive that it was of *hippotragini* origin, but since roan antelope also oc-

curred in the area, a conclusive proof was not yet possible. More material was needed, they said!

Brendan had his mind already set on a follow-up expedition and after clearing many hurdles with dogged persistence and after just as many delays, the South African expedition members departed in September 2004. It must be noted here that the funds raised by Brendan paid for the entire expedition – with the exception of Michael Eustace from African Parks who came up with a contribution, and the transport provided by the Angolan Armed Forces.

Hunting Organizations like the members of venerable Shikar Club, the pro-active and agile Dallas Safari Club and the now dissolved SCI African Chapter were the ones who put their real money where the hunters' mouths often are: Towards the conservation of a unique and critically endangered species! And just as a footnote - van Hoven's 2002 expedition was also funded by with US\$20,000 by the SCI Italian Chapter and R10,000 by the SCI African Chapter.

The cameras tied to trees around salt licks which were now triggered by the animals breaking infra-red beams were paid for with hunters' money – and if Dallas Safari Club had not come up with the funds for this equipment, Pedro Vaz Pinto's trips to Cangandala would not have brought back the sensational photos which are now floating around in the internet. We still would be waiting for photographic evidence!

Pedro Vaz Pinto – the Angolan leader of the expedition – braved many disappointments over as many years and certainly deserves his claim to fame, but we must not forget the driving force of Brendan O'Keeffe and his international hunting friends.

I want to conclude with Vaz Pinto's words: "The worst has passed for the giant sable, now we need to secure its future" – and here again the hunters come in. I heard that a considerable amount from moneys held by IUCN's Antelope Specialist Group has already been transferred to secure ongoing activities in Cangandala. Guess where the money originated from: **under the leadership of Ann & Bill Dodgson some dedicated hunters from the United States collected it in 1997 for just this moment!**

And now enjoy Brendan's tale:

Following 400 years of colonial rule and 30 odd years of internecine warfare, the politics of Angola today is difficult to comprehend. The response therefore to anyone expressing an interest in the continued existence or extinction of an antelope, beggars belief. More so, when the motives for such an exercise do not include a financial incentive or any other quid pro quo! Put simply, my personal quest to see the giant sable defied any rational explanation when seen from an Angolan perspective. It is against this background that I commenced my mission to establish whether the Giant or Royal Sable still existed or not.

In 1995 I made an undertaking to an elderly gentleman in England. While on a partridge shoot in England, I was introduced to Colin Lees-Millais. Coming from Africa, as I do, the name Millais excites one's curiosity! Having discreetly established over

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10 Our Search for the Giant Sable 1997 to 2004

lunch that my new acquaintance was indeed from the same family, I asked Colin if he'd do me the kindness of taking me to meet his famous sporting artist grandfather, Raoul Millais, the son of the great J.G. Millais, and godson of F.C. Selous. I knew about his trip with his father in 1923 which led them beyond the sources of the White Nile to Bahr el Ghazal in the Sudan. I soon met Raoul, now in his nineties, and we exchanged correspondence about our common interests of Africa and the desire for discovering the untamed and lesser known areas of Africa, on foot with porters and a rifle for rations and a camera for posterity.

An Irresistible Challenge – The Royal Sable

Colin Lees-Millais and his grandfather invited me to join the Shikar Club. It was founded by, amongst others, his father J.G. Millais and his godfather, F.C. Selous and the first dinner was held in 1907. Raoul was quick to assure me that he had something in mind. He earnestly wanted to know if the giant sable was extinct or not and he thought I should go to Angola and see for myself and then report back accordingly. I was delighted to oblige.

Unfortunately, Raoul Millais passed away in 1999 shortly after his 99th birthday, by which time I could only report to him that the anecdotal evidence from the Songo tribes in central Angola was that the Giant Sable, or the Palanca Negra, as it is known locally, certainly still existed. I had ascertained that it was regarded as their spiritual link with their ancestors and the existence of one without the other was inconceivable to them. Hardly convincing to the western rational mind, especially as nobody from the outside world had seen them since Prof Brian Huntley in 1975 in the Luando area and by Prof Dick Estes in 1982 in the Cangandala area. There has not been any reliable evidence of a sighting since then.

These animals only occur in one area of the world which lies on the north bank of the Luando River near the confluence with the Cuanza (Cangandala) and between the Cuanza and the Luando rivers, known as the Luando Reserve. These areas had become inaccessible during the war. None of this war had been conducted between the two rivers but the surrounding areas were, and still are well covered by landmines. Hence access has been difficult if not impossible for a long time. The inescapable irony was that the protracted war had ensured their continued existence.

As the body size and weight is similar to that of the typical sable, the spoor is similar and also difficult to discern from its larger cousin, the roan. As the horns are much longer, the sight of them must be breathtaking. The facial markings are quite different from the typical Sable.

Many years before the Giant Sable was first described in 1914, Raoul Millais' godfather, F.C. Selous observed a single sable horn of extraordinary length in a museum in Florence. Later he came across reports of larger than usual sable and suspecting they were from north of the Zambezi, he attempted to go there in 1888 but was thwarted by hostile tribes. In 1907, one Frank Varian went to Angola. Varian had made the first observation about this rather different sable, some time prior to 1914 in an article in

the Field magazine and in discussion with Oldfield Thomas, the curator of the natural history museum in London. By 1912 the Angola Boers had got access to giant sable country. Frank Varian had observed the widespread destruction of game by the Boers in other parts of Angola and persuaded the governor, Joao Norton de Mattos to declare the giant sable royal game and to restrict access to the area by special permit only. That provision still remains on the statute books today.

Then in 1914 he followed up by sending a male and a female head to the natural history museum for examination. Soon afterwards Oldfield Thomas named it *Hippotragus niger variani* after Frank Varian. Selous' godson Raoul Millais went to Angola in 1925 and collected a few specimens of this magnificent antelope, one of which is recorded in Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game. There is also an entry for 1921 in the name of J.G. Millais but the family are not sure how this came about as he did not go to Angola. Only in the 1950's a further population group of giant sable was discovered to the north of the Luando River in the Cangandala area. The local Songo people had maintained the secret from the outside world for ages.

Soon after I had become a member of the Shikar Club I received much encouragement from the chairman the Lord Charles Cecil, the president Viscount Ridley and from Raoul's lifelong friend, Hamish Wallace, himself the son of another great explorer, big game hunter and writer, Frank Wallace.

I have to add that the rump of the cost of the expedition in 2004 was carried by some of the members of the Shikar club. Two further generous donations were received from the now dissolved SCI African Chapter and from Dallas Safari Club. I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking all these generous donors and particularly The Dallas Safari Club which responded to an 11th hour appeal within 24 hours! That final donation enabled us to install a series of still cameras around a salt lick in the bush with infra red triggers.

The Members of the 2004 Expedition

Our party in Sept 2004 comprised six South Africans and two Angolans and we had only the best support from the Angolan military and several government departments. The expedition was led by Pedro Vaz Pinto who advises the Catholic University of Luanda on conservation projects. Without his co-ordination, access to the area would otherwise have been impossible. The "Bateleurs" Club sent along two veteran bush pilots, Joe Holmes and Peter Vosloo. Our photographer was Pierre van Heerden who had filmed much of the elephant translocation to Angola and Prof Van Hoven's trip in 2002. Bebecca from the Dept of Agriculture in Malange, Jeremy Anderson, a member of the IUCN antelope specialist group and Michael Eustace, director of African Parks completed the team.

The main language of the area we explored is Kimbundu. It is unlikely that anyone speaks Kimbundu and English. A few people speak Portuguese and Kimbundu. Hence everything was discussed through two translators, our leader Pedro Vaz Pinto who is fluent in English and Portuguese and his colleague Bebecca, who is fluent in Kimbundu and Portuguese, but not English.

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For me, it was my third trip to Angola, having been there in 2000 with a plane load of elephants donated by the Madikwe Game Reserve in South Africa and again in 2002 with Prof Van Hoven's expedition to Cangandala in an attempt to find the giant sable. Various parties tried to establish the status of the giant sable over recent years. None have been conclusive and only anecdotal evidence suggested that the animals were still there. DNA analysis of dung samples from previous parties have turned out to be from other species and my own samples from the trip in 2002 showed a 96% correlation with that of the *Hippotragus* genus which includes sable and roan. Although not conclusive, it was encouraging.

Getting there!

A Russian owned cargo company based in Johannesburg, Aerolift, arranged our transport to Luanda military base. Our 3 tons of cargo included 2 microlight aircraft and we landed at Luanda military base about midnight, finishing unpacking the Illyushin at 5:00 am! Pedro Vaz Pinto met us and by mid morning we were airborne again in an Antonov and a MI 17 military helicopter. After re-fuelling at Malange, the MI 17 flew us in two relays to our selected site while the microlights flew there under their own steam.

The area has no roads for hundreds of kilometers and no motor vehicles. The rivers must be crossed in makoros since the few Portuguese-built bridges had been blown up. Information about landmines is unreliable. However, everyone seemed to be in agreement that there were none within the area we wanted to explore although almost certainly all around its perimeter. We had used satellite images to analyze the vegetation and identify old bush airstrips. We also looked for burned areas in the hope that the green patches would be good areas to search for the giant sable. Researchers had recorded the giant sable habit of moving from the dry forest into these green glades before sunrise and after sunset during the winter months. Of course we had to be near water and a village to employ camp staff and porters. Having decided on an area, Pedro Vaz Pinto secured the support of the provincial governor. About a month before our arrival, he dispatched a bush telegraph to the village sobas of the area announcing our arrival and that they should assist us in finding the Palanca Negra

The local tribes are not very keen on visitors who come in search of the Palanca Negra. All the explorers and big game hunters over the last 80 odd years who have written about their experiences make mention of what bad trackers these people are. Having done a fair bit of tracking big game in various parts of Africa, I've come to the conclusion that they're very good, but also very shrewd. They'll take one on a wild goose chase or straight in to where one wants to be depending on their view of your objective. Partly due to the variety of gifts we presented and the official backing of the governor we enjoyed enthusiastic support from the village sobas.

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10 Safari Hunting Certification

By Dr. Rolf D. Baldus and Andrew Cauldwell

Vast areas with free-roaming wildlife still exist in many parts of the world, but these and the hunting there are under serious threat from many sides as elaborated in more detail in an article by the same authors in this edition of **African Indaba** (see page 2). Part of the threat is brought about by malpractices within the safari hunting industry, which is the concern of this article.

Some sectors of the hunting industry in Africa do not contribute adequately towards the financial needs of the wildlife areas being used. Demonstrable sustainable benefits to the communities that hold the land rights where much of the safari hunting occurs are often lacking. Violation of the laws occur, and the practice of subleasing hunting blocks to short-timers with no long-term interest in the safari area is widespread. The net effect is a loss of national revenue to the country.

External controls are in the process of being established partly as a result of these problems and decisions of conservation authorities in Europe or America influence safari hunting in Africa substantially. Two examples:

- The German CITES-Authority proved in a court of law that the Convention authorizes the Authority to examine each and every import of any classified CITES trophy individually. Was the killing of this particular animal supportive to the survival of the species or was it negative? As a result elephant trophies from Southern Tanzania are allowed in and those from Longido in Northern Tanzania not.
- US law (Lacey Act) gives the competent authority the right to prosecute owners and impound trophies if their hunting violated laws in the country from which they originate.

Some controls are effective, others are not. Nevertheless we can anticipate that controls will have a tendency to multiply in future. Where they are not yet effective, stronger action can be expected, and this may have adverse effects on the safari hunting industry. In the next years the world will watch whether safari hunting in Africa is in line with national and international legislation and whether it takes place under generally accepted ethical standards.

The German CITES office has studied safari hunting for several years together with other stakeholders, including conservation groups and the German Hunters Association. The group finally came up with a set of conditions under which trophy hunting of game animals including endangered species by can be beneficial to wildlife populations and under which it is not. The positive conditions include sustainability of off-takes, reinvestment of revenue into wildlife areas and conservation, revenue sharing with indigenous local people and their communities, ethical standards etc. The direction is clear: Trophies from safari hunting which have not been bagged under these conditions could be banned from import into the European Union in future. It is, therefore, high time for the trophy exporting countries and the safari outfitters operating in Africa to get their houses in order.

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Crash Landing on the first day

By sunset on the day of arrival, we had pitched camp and settled in. The following morning, Joe Holmes, Pedro Vaz Pinto, Peter Vosloo and Pierre van Heerden took off on the first reconnaissance flights in two microlights. They flew down the inside bank of the Luando River. About 50km from camp Vosloo and Van Heerden heard a mayday call and turned to see Holmes executing a crash landing into a rare glade in the forest, barely clearing the tree tops. Already flying low level, he had not much time as his engine failed and Joe had to draw on all his experience to effect a safe landing. Vosloo and Van Heerden circled above and via radio contact established that they were fit and able to walk back to camp. Amazingly, most of this incident was recorded on camera by Pierre. When Peter Vosloo returned to camp and reported the accident, a bag of water bottles and food was prepared for an air drop. He immediately returned and carefully selecting a suitable site he throttled back as much as possible and dropped the bag. He might as well have dropped a bomb! It hit a tree stump and exploded.

When Vosloo returned and announced chapter 2 of the bad start to our expedition it was fortunately still late morning. I immediately prepared to leave with Pierre and two porters with food and water. By sunset, as we were passing through a village, Joe and Pedro appeared in the distance coming through the forest! After an hour of rest and sustenance we started back north arriving back in camp at about midnight.

The Search

The loss of the microlight on the first day and worse still, many of our water bottles, was to cost us dearly. The Governor's earlier bush telegraph resulted in a constant flow of visitors from the various villages all reporting recent sightings or the finding of spoor of the Palanca Negra. Our practice was to split up into small groups and march from the main camp back towards the villages to find evidence in the form of spoor, dung and hopefully the animal itself.

On four separate such marches that I undertook I encountered women coming or going to one particular area. Their purpose? Salt! It looks like ordinary grey sand and on the tip of the tongue, is very salty indeed.

This has been an annual pilgrimage since time immemorial and here is an interesting point: All the spoor we encountered and all the enquiries as to the whereabouts of the Palanca Negra indicated that they were heading for the same area. Was this also the Sable's annual pilgrimage? Could the minerals be the reason for the extraordinary horns on the Palanca Negra? I'm a layman when it comes to biology but my instincts are strong when I think about it. I'd love a scientist to investigate this point!

To reach this salt area requires up to two days marching depending on your starting point. One has to cross a dry stretch and access to water requires detailed knowledge of the area. As luck would have it, my best opportunity of tracking these animals down

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10 Safari Hunting Certification

Certification provides only one answer to solve some of these problems, but it does provide direction to the international safari hunting industry and guidance for the prospective tourist safari hunters. It is a well-established concept in the forestry industry, where approval is granted for forest products extracted on a sustainable basis. A similar concept could provide the safari hunting industry with a means to establish minimum common benchmarks that will not only consolidate the international acceptance of safari hunting, but also assist in opening new and exciting hunting areas. It is a process whereby very diverse groups, like professional hunters, hunting operators, game ranchers, governments, wildlife departments, conservation groups, international hunting organizations, etc. will meet and establish regulative mechanisms on safari hunting in a cooperative decision-making process. The authors suggest that a normative set of standards for hunting practices must be defined for:

- Sustainable quotas
- Fair chase
- Sustainable management of the hunting areas
- Socially beneficial community support

It would be best, if the initiative would come from within the hunting world. One organization to spearhead this process and host workshops to elaborate standards could be the International Council for Game & Wildlife Conservation (CIC). CIC worked successfully inside international Conventions like CITES and CBD, and is a respected member of IUCN and some specialist groups.

The implementation of any certification requires a set of management principles and rules. These include creating a central institution and/or decentralized bodies that are able to assess, monitor and audit national hunting regulations, management of concession and hunting areas, professional hunters and outfitters, establish reliable hunting statistics, etc. and issue certification that hunting is in line with defined standards. We suggest that such standards will follow automatically as a second step, once the basic principles are agreed upon. Involvement of hunting operators and their respective organizations is highly desirable. The result would not only be transparency, but also a clear competitive edge for those safari operators who practise certified standards.

An effective and comprehensive certification program should embrace the safari hunting industry in all of its forms, be it on game ranches or on wild lands. The certification concept must also consider the many diverse forms of hunting that are traditionally exercised in different parts of the world. In some countries the baiting of predators is acceptable, while in others it is frowned upon. Similarly, hunting with hounds in a variety of forms is a traditional and recognized method of fair chase in some parts of the world, in others not. Hunting at or close to water in northern regions with an abundance of water will not raise eyebrows, but hunting antelope at water holes in a semi-desert environment where regular access to water is critical may be considered unethical. On the other hand canned shooting, hunting with the aid

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9 Our Search for the Giant Sable 1997 to 2004

came up in this area and both my water bottles had been destroyed in the attempted air drop for Joe Holmes.

One day at about midday I was hard on the heels of a group of animals with spoor that was unquestionably either Roan or Giant Sable. I came across fresh dung which I collected in sample bottles for DNA analysis. On closer examination, there were hoof scrape marks over the dung. As this is typical sable behavior, my enthusiasm and sense of anticipation made me forget my potential water problem. A little while later, I came across a patch of urine that was still wet on the surface! But thirst was becoming a problem. A few hours later I had to ask the trackers to take me to water which fortunately turned out to be only about 3km to the east. After a good drink and returning to the spoor it was evident that we were heading further and further into the dry country and towards a particular dry river bed where I knew the salt area began! The trackers repeatedly said "Salina, Salina, Palanca Negra, Salina" pointing in the direction of this river. Regrettably, due to thirst, I had to abandon the spoor and return to my fly camp which was next to a waterhole. It was indeed frustrating!

The following day I returned to main camp and was determined to come back with borrowed water bottles but it was not to be. The military helicopter was on its way and I had to concede defeat. We briefly debated my staying and walking back to Malange but the authorities were obviously reluctant to leave me there. I finally realized that having earned their goodwill, it was much more important to retain it than force my hand. It was a disappointment that will haunt me forever. The other members of the party all came across similar evidence of spoor and dung but nobody was able to get near enough to a group to see them. Although it was some of the easiest tracking I've ever done due to the soft soil and paucity of game, it was some of the most difficult visual conditions I've encountered. One cannot track and quietly sneak up on them as one does with buffalo because they will see you from a long way off in that Miombo woodland at that time of the year! It is wide open in the lower strata of the forest but rapidly closes in by about November. Conversely, as the tree canopy is usually completely covered over by mid August our visibility from the microlights was hopeless. We knew this would be the case in advance but try as we did, it was impossible to change the dates with our Angolan counterparts due to logistical limitations. However, with enough time and the requisite hunting skills, they can be found at any time of the year. Only the hunting strategy would change.

Although the trip was disappointing in that we did not see any giant sable, we have returned with excellent samples of spoor that we dug out of the ground and brought back to South Africa. I have also delivered dung samples for DNA analysis.

Some other interesting notes

Everyone we asked said that they do not hunt the giant sable. They also said that during the war troops occasionally decimated the game with machine guns, including the giant sable. The Kimbundu purportedly do not hunt the giant sable and Savimbi himself

maintained a policy of execution on the spot for anyone found shooting one. The Giant Sable is held as a totem animal. The implications of drought, migration and totem species result in a fascinating conservation pattern which is entirely natural and is another subject all by itself.

The area between the Luando and Cuanza rivers is sparsely populated by humans. The average population of the few villages I saw was between 50 and 100 people and in the area of about 100km by 60km we covered, there were no more than 10 villages. The total area is about 250Km long with an average width between the Cuanza and Luando rivers of about 30Km in the southern section and about 50kms in the northern area. The balance between humans, fauna and flora is probably as natural as it could be. The people have no access to shops and they produce all their food by hunting, fishing and growing manioc and naturally occurring plants in the forests.

Conclusion

Access to the Luando area is going to be very difficult for a long time to come due to the lack of infrastructure and the presence of landmines. The Luando Reserve was proclaimed decades ago and therefore all that is required is the political will to take positive steps immediately. The government does not have the financial or human resources, but negotiations with a privately funded organization should result in a management contract.

Pedro Vaz Pinto has started, in a small way, to resuscitate an ancient custom, in the Cangandala area, known as "Pastor das Palancas" which loosely translates as "The Shepherds of the Giant Sable". There is a self appointed group of "shepherds" in a particular village near where we camped for a night in 2002. They assumed their shepherding responsibilities generations ago. Once back in South Africa, I arranged for a dozen uniforms with epaulettes and chest badges for them. In addition we brought 4 mountain bikes with a good supply of spare parts on this trip. The uniforms and other ancillary equipment were formally handed over to the shepherds via the resident soba together with a small but meaningful stipend of \$200 a month for the village for the next 8 months. The shepherds have been put in charge of the still cameras which we had fixed to trees around a number of lumps of salt to attract the Palanca Negra. The cameras are connected to beams which when broken, trigger a snap shot. The settings are such that only game of a certain size will be photographed. The first visit by Pedro back to the cameras took place at the end of November 2004 with negative results.

My final thought is that I would like to go back once more without any time limitation and try again. Whether that suits the powers that be in Angola remains to be seen. They were very charming and accommodating during the 2004 trip and I trust we left a favorable impression. After all one's intention is to at once satisfy one's curiosity as well as to assist in the well being of the local communities and the habitat including the Palanca Negra.

A selection of photos of the expedition can be found at <http://www.bateleurs.co.za/photo.asp?CatId=13>

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10 Safari Hunting Certification

of helicopters, etc are unacceptable throughout the hunting world. A broad based dialogue must address these issues.

Certification is not without problems. The concept has attracted criticism in the timber industry, partly because much of the process is led by NGOs fundamentally opposed to cutting trees, partly because it can be costly and time consuming. Hunters should learn from this and spearhead the initiative towards hunting certification. Independence and decisions based on objective and verifiable criteria are critical for credibility. Without doubt, an initial outside funding is necessary for take-off, but the final objective must be cost recovery to guarantee sustainability.

It is premature to discuss the practical certification process and effective control mechanisms now, since principle and process are necessarily subject to a broad-based dialogue.

Sustainable safari hunting has done a lot of good for nature conservation in the past however, the future of hunting will depend not so much on its demonstrable past contributions, but on how hunting is perceived by the global non-hunting public and how hunting contributes to social development in Africa. It is up to us hunters to think outside of the box, initiate some soul searching for ourselves and enter into discussion and dialogue with the objective to find solutions.

11 News from Africa

Angola

About 235 people have died from an Marburg virus outbreak in the hospital of Uige, 300km north of Luanda, bringing the total nation-wide death toll to over 250 in less than 6 months. The outbreak has spread to 7 of Angola's 18 provinces. The Marburg virus, a severe form of hemorrhagic fever in the same family as Ebola spreads on contact with body fluids such as blood, urine, excrement, vomit and saliva.

Cameroon

In March the government of Cameroon has warned people against eating monkey meat after discovering that 2 chimpanzees and 2 gorillas in the Da Game Reserve had died of anthrax, following medical tests in Germany. This is the first time that anthrax has been detected in gorillas and chimpanzees.

DR Congo

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) reports on plummeting populations of forest elephants from 7500 in the mid-1990s to less than 2000 today in eastern DR Congo. An investigation by the Congolese Institute for Conservation of Nature estimates 17 tons of ivory was smuggled out of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve during the last 6 months of 2004 to Uganda. Congo's police, fractious army units, village chiefs and local businessmen are involved in the poaching. The elephant meat is sold in the villages.

Ethiopia

While hunting with PH Jason Roussos of Ethiopian Rift Valley Safaris in the Odo Bulu controlled hunting concession located in the Bale Mountains, Claas Kleyboldt from Germany took a Moun-

12 Ethiopia – A Hunter's Perspective

By Peter Flack

I really like Ethiopia. Over the last 10 years, I have hunted there on three occasions for a month at a time and have booked to go back again next year. I have hunted in the Omo Valley in the south west, north to the Sala River, east to the Kubsa and Kaka Mountains, and further east to the Munessa Forest, Bale Mountains and Danakil Desert. During this time, I have regularly contributed both financially and otherwise to conservation NGOs and efforts in the country. I am not, however, an expert on the country but more of an interested and sympathetic spectator and these are my impressions of hunting and conservation there.

Ethiopia intrigues me. It is the third most heavily populated country in Africa – 70 million people in total – and therein lays one of the biggest problems for both hunting and conservation. But more about that later.

Ethiopians speak mainly Amharic, with 268, or is it 284 letters, in its alphabet - a language spoken nowhere else. Ethiopia follows a Julian calendar which has 13 months. According to this, the year is 1997, although it will become 1998 on 11 September. Their clock is also different to ours and midday, which almost everywhere else in the world is 12:00 p.m., is 6:00a.m. there.

Ethiopia is a landlocked, high, 9000 foot plateau, ruled by Tigreans, but also includes low lying savannah and desert as well as Arabic and Bantu peoples predominantly around the edges of the plateau. It is also home to some of the most interesting and sought after game animals in Africa.

The mountain nyala, introduced to the western world by Major Buxton in 1908, ranks along with bongo and Lord Derby's eland as one of the top three trophy animals in Africa. Other indigenous animals include Swayne's hartebeest, walia (cousin of the Nubian ibex), the wild ass, Rothschild's giraffe, Grevy's zebra and Simien fox (now renamed Ethiopian wolf by many NGOs to assist in their fund raising efforts as it was found difficult to raise money for the conservation of a fox or a jackal, its former name), all endangered animals whose fates are presided over by the Ethiopian Wildlife Department ("EWD") with, at best, benign neglect and, at worst, a criminal refusal to do anything meaningful to preserve or conserve these magnificent animals.

Other game includes incredible animals such as Nile lechwe, Nile buffalo, Nile, Abyssinian and Menelik's bushbucks, white-eared kob, Abyssinian kudu, lesser kudu, giant forest hog, northern gerenuk, tiang, Beisa oryx, Soemmerring's gazelle and many varieties of dik dik, to name but a few.

This is just one of the factors that make hunting and conservation in Ethiopia so intriguing to someone from Southern Africa. Gone are the ubiquitous impala and wildebeest, to be replaced by animals which, although they seem familiar, are different, interesting and exotic.

Hunting is limited in Ethiopia. There are a total of four outfitters and 15 professional hunters, presided over by Nassos Rous-

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11 News from Africa

tain Nyala that green scored 102 7/8 (Right Horn 40 4/8 and 10 5/8 & Left Horn 41 and 10 6/8) which places it at number 2 in the current SCI record book. This would be the biggest taken since Nassos Roussos' number one Mountain Nyala taken in the Arussi Mountains in September of 1984.

Kenya

The Sitatunga population at King'wal swamps has fallen from 300 at 58 in two years. The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and Nandi county council was blamed for not stopping poachers.

Kenya

Kenya Wildlife Service demands Sh9.6 million from its former director Mukolwe. Mukolwe in turn sued KWS and the State for Sh1.6 billion for breach of contract. Mukolwe was sacked after a scandal on the recruitment of game wardens.

Namibia

After the resignation of Frank Heger as NAPHA president, members at a Special General Meeting of NAPHA, held on 4th April 2005 elected Danie Strauss as Heger's successor. The new NAPHA president pledged to do everything in his power to ensure that NAPHA remains recognized as a well-managed and structured association within Namibia.

Russian Federation/Zimbabwe

In February workshop in Moscow on co-management and community-based natural resource management (CBNRM). Reports on CAMPFIRE in Zimbabwe have been received by Russian representatives with big interest. Dr Valery Neronov, IEE Moscow, said "it will be advantageous to organize a testing project on perspectives of CAMPFIRE implementation in Russian conditions". His idea was supported by Brian Child (Chair SASUSG).

South Africa

South African National Parks (SANParks) reaches out widely for a broad mandate on managing the country's elephant populations. The emphasis is on "people and parks", and to communities living on the borders of parks. In the absence of scientific certainty, decisions are being based on political, economic and social dynamics value judgments. Legislation ensured that SANParks consulted widely with interested parties before submitting recommendations to the minister in April 2005. Local communities have an understanding that is not always accepted within scientific paradigms. None of the communities have an ethical problem with culling, but they insist on knowing how it would be done and who would benefit. Giving the meat from culls to local communities would not suffice. There are between 1.2 and 1.5 million people living on the borders of KNP, and they want to benefit directly. Communities are sympathetic to expand habitats for wildlife, but this had to be linked to poverty alleviation.

South Africa

KNP grossed R1.63 million for the live sale of 12 white rhinos in March. The highest price was paid for one female with a heifer calf with R200,000. The average price for 3 adult bulls came to R150,000, far lower than the record price of R300,000. Rhino prices have been steadily declining over the past years

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12 Ethiopia – A Hunter's Perspective

sos, one of the doyens of African hunting. According to professional hunters in the country, on paper, the framework and guidelines which govern hunting are thorough and well thought out. One of them said to me, "I truly believe that Ethiopia has one of the better systems in Africa." My impression is that these hunting laws and regulations are strictly enforced and, with both a national and regional game guard along on a safari, no-one so much as tries to buck the system. In addition, quotas for hunted game are conservative, adjusted regularly and hunters pay in advance for licences and there is no refund if the game is not taken.

There are complaints, however, that the EWD does not have the necessary expertise, experience, equipment, personnel or structures to administer such a complex system. When you add to these problems the pervasive corruption and mind numbing bureaucracy prevalent in government, it is clear that the EWD is not helping to expand hunting or conservation in the country. And, when it does do something, it is often to abdicate its responsibilities to one or more NGOs. As Paul Theroux pointed out in his book, *Dark Star Safari*, many experts are coming to realize that, other than swan around the country in their expensive, new 4x4s, these NGOs often achieve little or nothing other than give governments an excuse for not doing what they themselves should do.

It is instructive that Roussos's company, Ethiopian Rift Valley Safaris, which has a 35 year lease over part of the Omo Valley, 15 years of which are left to run, in a recent aerial survey, was found to have far more game than the neighbouring Omo and Mago National Parks.

In the same area, a quick check of the record books will show that trophy quality continues to improve – a sure sign that the conservation of game is good and that hunting pressure is light. To the extent that there is any pressure, it comes from the hundreds of Hamar and Bume tribesmen who are allowed to illegally invade the hunting concession with their thousands of cattle, sheep and goats which, in turn, convert vast areas of the Omo Valley into a dust bowl denuded of everything other than a few dik dik and lots of cow dung.

This is a common fact of life in Ethiopia - the game is in the hunting areas and the parks are home to people, cattle, sheep and goats. On a six hour drive through Mago National Park, which most people visit only to see the Mursi people – the women of whom still wear elaborate discs through their lips – I counted a grand total of 15 dik diks, nine warthogs and three hartebeests.

In Bale National Park, it is easy to be misled by the many mountain nyala seen on the main road through the park and around park head quarters. The reality, away from this small oasis, is the same as Mago – people, cattle, sheep and goats and no game. To compound matters, there is strong evidence to suggest that much of the livestock belongs to the park officials and employees.

On the website of African Parks, which has taken over the management of Nech Sar National Park, they note the current

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13 Professional Hunters for a Changing Africa

A new book by Terry Cacek – reviewed by Gerhard R Damm

Terry Cacek's life centers on hunting and natural resource management. With a PhD in wildlife management, the experience of several seasons as professional hunter in Africa and a number of safaris as paying client under his belt, Cacek has earned his spurs to write this book about non-traditional PHs in Africa. Only an American could have written such a provocative text in the first place – no white (as in skin color) professional hunter of African origin would ever dare to be so outspoken for fear of getting accidentally shot by some of his colleagues. This concerns in particular the second part of the book, where Cacek tells the stories of a number of black professional hunters. Cacek did not choose the book title accidentally – he makes a convincing case that the safari hunting industry must actually embrace ethnical change in order to survive. Africans must be brought into the industry as professional hunters, operations directors, shareholders and independent outfitters. Cacek's thesis requires the involvement of the African governments, the safari companies, the white professional hunters and last not least – and rather significantly in its weight, the client hunters from overseas.

Moreover the author breaks a lance for those "clients hunting for the right reasons" in contrast to those "hunting for the wrong reasons" – those who enjoy the total safari experience and those who contract severe cases of "trophymania". In this issue of **African Indaba** we want to kick-start a discussion about the right and wrong reasons and Cacek's book is a relevant source of information for those who have an interest in the future of safari hunting in Africa, those who contemplate their first safari, and most likely will also give some food for thought for those who have experienced a few African safaris already. Another must read on **African Indaba's** recommended book list.

228 pages, hard cover with color dust cover, published by Llumina Press, PO Box 772246, Coral Springs, Florida, 33077-2246, www.Llumina.com, ISBN Number 1-932560-46-7, Price in the USA \$33.95 (author's email: terry_cacek@nps.gov)

PHASA South African Hunting Guide 2005

PHASA has again published a comprehensive hunting guide for South Africa. On 66 pages the traveling hunter will be able to get a complete overview about country, game animals, hunting outfitters, climate, legislation, etc. Many new color photos complete the guide. It features articles about bowhunting, wingshooting, community work & education, the PHASA Wildlife Conservation Fund, an Outfitters' Directory, a list of PHASA members and more of interest to visitors. This is a must for every hunter who contemplates hunting in South Africa. You can order the free guide directly at:

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12 Ethiopia – A Hunter's Perspective

problems they are facing. Other than the removal of illegal settlers, which is the government's problem, they complain about over-fishing on Lake Chamo, illegal cutting of timber and that the following game species have become extinct in the park, namely, lion, elephant, buffalo, Grevy's zebra, African wild dog, cheetah, Beisa oryx, lesser kudu, gerenuk, eland and Rothschild's giraffe.

After my third visit to Ethiopia I could not help myself. I wrote a very polite letter to the EWD, merely pointing out the positive effects that hunting has had on game populations in societies as diverse as the U.S.A. and South Africa and how this has been achieved. So much of Ethiopian wildlife could benefit from such an approach. For example, how much do you think someone would pay at an auction for a walia licence? The EWD is notoriously short of resources and uses this as an excuse to explain its snail like progress in taking decisions. I estimate that over 250000 U.S. Dollars would be generated by such an auction which would go a long way to prevent the poaching of Africa's only indigenous goat species, particularly if the proceeds were shared with the local community. I am still waiting for a reply to my letter.

The Transvaal Museum wrote three letters to the EWD requesting permission to be allowed to collect one specimen each of certain animals for their museum. They offered to pay for the privilege. It took nearly a year before they received a reply – a curt refusal.

Wildlife was originally managed in a separate ministry but was then down graded to an organisation. Now it is a mere department in the Ministry of Agriculture. This is a clear indication of the lack of importance the government attaches to the country's wild life and its conservation. One senior official of a conservation NGO puts it this way, "When it comes to general conservation in Ethiopia, in particular in regard to protected areas such as National Parks and Wildlife Reserves, the EWD and Regional Wildlife Departments are failing miserably. There is not a single national park that is not overrun by humans and livestock. The infrastructure of these parks is appalling and law enforcement is non-existent. It's a real tragedy."

Personally I find this surprising as Ethiopia can readily see the successful effects of sustainable utilization on its doorstep in Tanzania. So why does it virtually ignore its own fantastic wildlife assets? Two reasons, I think. Firstly, the Ethiopians are an extremely proud nation and suffer more than most from the, "not invented here" syndrome. As one highly experienced, hands on, Ethiopian conservationist puts it, "They would rather see a species become extinct than be seen to copy another country's successful approach to its conservation." Tough words I know but I have experienced the same attitude at first hand from Ethiopian bureaucrats.

Secondly, imagine a large company where the CEO, Board of Directors, all senior and most middle managers and supervisors have been systematically removed over a 20 year period. Would you invest in the company? Would you accept a job in the com-

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pany? Would you expect it to do anything other than fail at what it attempted, at least until it replaced the lost leadership and management with qualified people? Of course not. But that is exactly what happened to Ethiopia as a country under the corrupt, brutal, Stalinist regime of Mengistu Haile Mariam, now Mr Mugabe’s guest in Harare. He and his cohorts forced children to inform on their parents, friends on one another, and killed or forced out of the country many of the intelligentsia. It is not for nothing that Mr. Zenawi and members of his cabinet went to business school shortly after coming to power

But all is not doom and gloom on the Ethiopian hunting and conservation front. African Parks, under the visionary leadership of Paul von Vlissingen, has been allowed to negotiate a long lease of Nech Sar National Park near Arba Minch in the south west of the country. ERVS, assisted by the regional government and a loose group of individual hunters, was given limited permission, after extensive research, to open hunting in Gambella for Nile lechwe and white-eared kob, animals that no-one has been able to hunt legally for 33 years. Only the outbreak of inter-tribal violence has stopped these hunts and the start of the reconstruction of Gambella National Park which has existed in name only for many years.

It is a sad fact of life that Africa often seems to specialize only in procreation, recreation and destruction. The people of Gambella Province seem to have taken the destruction aspect a step further and effectively destroyed the reconstruction of their own park before it even began.

The EWD does seem more amenable and receptive to open hunting in regions if a sound case can be made, albeit moving incredibly slowly in the process. For example, the process to open hunting for Nile lechwe and white eared kob in Gambella took nearly five years to effect and, instead of leading the process, all the hard work was done by the regional government and private individuals.

In conclusion, there is much that can be done to advance the conservation of wildlife in Ethiopia by using hunting as a tool. Until the government, however, ascribes a higher priority to the wonderful flora and fauna that exists in the country, the selfsame flora and fauna will continue to decline across the board and become extinct(as it already has in Nech Sar National Park), other than in the few areas where the strictly controlled hunting concessions exist.

South Africa

The 2nd phase to drop fences between the Kruger National Park and Mozambique begins in May with the removal of 3 more sections of the eastern boundary fence. The core park of 35,000km² will unite a patchwork of existing national reserves in South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Private and community-owned reserves and conservancies will eventually increase the area to 100,000km². KNP has committed itself to a three-year US\$20m game translocation program, while the World Bank and other international development agencies are helping with the relocation of affected communities and funding of infrastructure

14 Goals and Objectives of African Parks

From: <http://www.africanparks-conservation.com>

African Parks is a non-profit company, registered in the Netherlands. Its primary objective is the long-term integrity of some of Africa’s national parks by forming public-private partnerships with governments (via a locally established company) to manage and finance their national parks. Once these areas are properly restored and managed, they have the ability to contribute to the formal economic development of a region for the benefit of its people. African Parks offers credible innovation in park management by combining the technical expertise of experienced conservationists with the management expertise and financial resources of international businessmen.

African Parks’ approach is based on the division of roles for various stakeholders. To date, the public sector has had sole responsibility for the management and funding of national parks, apart from the land ownership and regulatory tasks. Donors have typically concentrated on providing technical assistance and financial support while the private sector has been restricted to commercial tourism. The innovative African Parks model allocates the park management to the private sector through contractual arrangements. The private partner also acts as a (co)funder and catalyst for social development and for the development of tourism infrastructure. The public sector remains landowner and regulator, while donors continue a co-funding role.

The ultimate goal is to establish well-functioning national parks, which are self-sustainable economically and ecologically. The benefits for governments of this approach include well-managed parks with stable operating environments and stable wildlife populations, which then attract visitors. It also relieves governments of a financial burden allowing funds to be re-allocated and provides a credible and accountable vehicle for donor investment. However, as tourism income will never cover all the parks’ costs, other revenue streams must be sought.

African Parks started with an initial donation of US\$25 million from Dutch businessman Paul van Vlissingen. Now that its success is being proven, other parties, organizations and individuals are being sought to take over financing some of Africa’s national parks. AP is currently operating in 3 countries – Zambia (*Liuwa Plain National Park*), Malawi (*Majete Wildlife Reserve*) and Ethiopia (*Nechisar National Park*). The agreements with the respective governments are for 20–30 years and AP has, during that period, total management control over the parks (incl. all biological, landscape, commercial and community activity, the licensing and leasing of sustainable utilization and business concession rights). The businesses developed are designed and operated to benefit the economy of local communities through employment and training. The goals and objectives of AP are largely the same across the three parks and fall into four categories – *ecological, social, tourism and financial*.

Objective 1 (ecological) – to restore, manage and maintain the

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12 Goals and Objectives of African Parks

natural resources of the parks to ensure long-term ecological and financial sustainability. This may include development of a tourist product to generate a sustainable income

Objective 2 (social) – to contribute to the uplifting, development and stability of the local communities

Objective 3 (tourism) – to develop the potential of the parks as significant tourist destinations in their respective areas

Objective 4 (financial) – to ensure the permanent, long-term financial sustainability of the parks.

Notable achievements to date in meeting these objectives in Zambia and Malawi (we only started operating in Ethiopia this month – February 2005), include:

Environmental Improvement – The natural environments of both parks have improved significantly. Wildlife numbers had been reduced to low levels. Now illegal wildlife utilization has been brought under control in Liuwa Plain and Majete and the natural environments of both are recovering from years of neglect. The ecological and social environments are now able to sustain larger numbers of wildlife.

Activities including the translocation of animals, fencing and infrastructure improvements have been carried out by African Parks. In total, 750 head of game have been translocated into Majete, including black rhino, sable and buffalo.

Employment and Training – African Parks has recruited new game scouts from villages in and around the parks. African Parks is now the largest employer in western Zambia after the government and the largest employer in the Lower Shire River in Malawi.

A vital component of the training is a knowledge of and respect for the traditional mechanisms for the conservation of wildlife that have been practiced in the areas.

Environmental Education – Wildlife Education Programs bring awareness about the need to protect wildlife and the sustainable use of natural resources to local schools and communities.

Community Benefits – The true benefits to communities come through their ability to exploit the employment, business and social opportunities of a well-managed national park.

Liuwa Plain National Park is a good example of the innovative approach to community participation. The traditional leadership of the Barotse Royal Establishment (BRE) is officially recognized and supported as the management agreement was signed by the national government of Zambia, African Parks and BRE as equal partners. BRE is a shareholder in African Parks Zambia and has a seat on the board. Thus the local community has the power to hold the management agency to account and AP is bringing community participation into national parks in a way that has never been achieved before.

This innovative approach adds positively to the mosaic of models that national and regional authorities can use in managing their protected areas. It is a stated principle of African Parks to encourage others to use and adapt this approach, methods and models. All relevant information is published on the web. AP do not exert intellectual rights, copyright or patents over their work.

15 CIC Literary Prize for Fiona Capstick

CIC – Press Release

Princess Maria zu Stolberg-Wernigerode of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) announced in March 2005 that the CIC Literary Prize has been awarded to South African writer, Fiona Claire Capstick, for her book *The Diana Files: the Huntress - Traveler through History*, published in South Africa by the prestigious Rowland Ward Publications of Johannesburg. The CIC Literary Committee made its announcement during the 52nd Annual General Assembly, held in Abu Dhabi. The Assembly, attended by delegates from around the world, including government representatives as well as envoys of the United Nations Organization, was opened by H.H. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, the Minister of Education.

The Diana Files - an ambitious, illustrated international overview of the role of women as hunters from prehistoric times to the new millennium - exhibits the prime quality sought after by the CIC Literary Committee in that it appeals to a broad public, communicating the joy of the natural world in many cultures and the value of hunting in the conservation of the world's wildlife heritage. The special role of women in this most ancient of human activities is of particular interest.

The CIC Literary Prize is the ultimate accolade in the world of publications devoted to the natural world and hunting and, in this case, it is a double honor for South Africa.

Fiona Capstick will be presented with the CIC Literary Award at a function of the CIC South Africa Delegation in June this year.

16 American Booking Agent Caught Red-Handed

The Kruger Park Times reported in Vol.2/1 on April 2005 that a US booking agent advertised "3 big-maned lions on bait directly out of Kruger Park" and that in "2004 two clients shot monster lions with {our best lion hunting PHJ}". African Indaba is in possession of this advert.

KPT had approached the SA professional hunter and was told that he was unaware that his name had been used in the advert. The booking agent admitted in writing (email is in possession of African Indaba) that he had acted without the knowledge of the South African PH and that he had not met him nor been in the area. The agent further wrote "the adding of Kruger and fictitious trophies on the hunt came as natural attachment to give flavor to the whole advertising thing".

African Indaba considers this action by the American booking agent highly unscrupulous and unethical. It is hoped that the authorities and PHASA take appropriate steps to stop this sort of behavior.

17 Community in Tanzania to Harvest Problem Crocodiles

By Dr Rolf D Baldus

When Tanzania's quota for Nile crocodiles from the wild was increased from 1.100 to 1.600 animals per year (including 100 for sport hunting) by the CITES Conference of Parties in 2000, it was agreed that rural communities should be more involved and also have a greater share of the benefits. The Tanzanian Ministry divides the quota into small portions and allocates it to individuals and companies who have applied and must meet some requirements like owning a minimum of a .22 rifle or a shotgun as required by the present Wildlife Act, owning equipment and having a US\$5,000 bank deposit. The quota is not tendered. The quota fee per animal is US\$50. The 2005 quota has recently been advertised. Culling licenses are granted only to Tanzanian citizens.

The only community involvement into the hunting of crocodiles so far is a village-run Wildlife Management Area (WMA) called Jukumu and formed by 22 villages with the aim to conserve and use wildlife on their land. It has been in existence for 15 years, but is not a WMA according to the law yet due to the lengthy bureaucratic procedures of registration. This 500 km² WMA is located in the northern buffer zone of the Selous Game Reserve (50.000 km²) between the rivers Ruvu and Mgeta. Like in many other areas with crocodiles in the country, people pay a heavy toll. Records show that from 1999 to February 2004 crocodiles have killed a minimum of 28 people and injured 57 others in the Jukumu area. Furthermore they killed 53 livestock and injured 41. In one village alone 11 people were taken within a year.

Jukumu applied for quotas and was allocated 40 crocodiles in 2001 and 2002 for which they had to pay the usual upfront non-refundable license fee of US\$50 per animal. The hunting was done mainly at daytime by the village game scouts under the guidance and supervision of the Government's Community Wildlife Officer. 35 crocodiles were actually hunted. The average length of the reptilians was around 320cm, with several over 360cm and the largest measuring 460cm. After receiving training, the village games scouts prepared and cured the skins themselves. 23 skins could be sold locally for export and earned an average of US\$150 to US\$200 per skin. The money went to the Jukumu society and was used for the conservation of the area and for local community projects.

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18 Economic Empowerment Act in South Africa

By Gerhard R Damm

In Volume 3/1 we published the speech of Minister van Schalkwyk at the 2004 PHASA convention. In his words to the Professional Hunters, the minister asked for transformation of the industry, saying that "...if we are to harness the potential of professional hunting to uplift communities through tourism, then the sector must rapidly and genuinely incorporate all communities as owners, managers, service providers and as customers. It is encouraging to note that PHASA has itself identified transformation and empowerment as issues of concern. There are so many opportunities for BEE partnerships with communities living on communal land adjacent to game farms, with communities who have had suitable land restituted to them, and also with SMME's and entrepreneurs especially in tourism."

In this connection, the Black Economic Empowerment Act which became law in January 2004 and the BEE Codes of Good Practice, published for public comment in December 2004, are of importance for South African Hunting Safari Operators and Game Ranchers

Now the business community has relative clarity on what will qualify as "black economic empowerment" and how BEE "scorecards" are going to work. This applies in particular to recognition and measurement of equity ownership and will help to ensure a uniform approach to the black equity ownership. The "ownership indicator" of a BEE scorecard is divided into voting rights, economic interest and bonus points. To determine the BEE status of an enterprise accredited "BEE rating agencies" verify, assess and validate BEE information of entities.

The ownership target is 25% in respect of economic interest and 25% plus one vote in respect of voting rights. Compliance with these targets will earn the company the full 20 points in the ownership indicator part of the scorecard. There are two further bonus points to be earned – one for exceeding the targets and one for the involvement of new entrants who are black people.

The scorecard has a separate category for black women voting rights and specific points can be earned for their participation in the company. The scorecard also requires a calculation of weighting points in relation to economic interest in the company and the unrestricted entitlement of black people to receive their economic interest. "Economic interest" is defined as a "member's entitlement to receive any payment which arises by virtue of an equity interest". However, if the acquisition of shares by black people is financed by a loan, such share interest will only be taken into consideration to the extent of repayments of the loan.

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