Editorial: Global Summit – Hunters United Against Wildlife Crime
Bernard Lozé, President of the CIC

Wildlife crime continues to capture the international headlines. Poaching and illegal wildlife trade have always been problems, yet with the apparent involvement of international crime syndicates a true crisis has developed!

If no drastic actions are taken against the poaching pandemic where it occurs and the trafficking of wildlife parts starting at the origin and following the illicit trade routes all the way to the consumer the survival of many species, not only enigmatic ones like the elephant and the rhino, is seriously threatened. This all is evident not only from the media and the research reports circulating, but also from the outcome of the various high-level summits which have taken place on the subject, culminating in the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade in February.

To date, the focus of these meetings has been mainly on the actions which can be taken at the international level, mainly that of governments and to a lesser extent that of international organizations. Local initiatives and grass-root projects have been mentioned, without getting the weight they deserve, however.

Yet, the illegal killings take place at the local level. It stands to reason, therefore, that the full involvement and support of the local people who live with their wildlife assets, is more than essential. The same applies to the involvement of the private sector, which drives many, if not all successful conservation initiatives in Africa and

"We wish all participants of the 61st CIC General Assembly a wonderful time in Milan.
You will meet the African Indaba Team at the Assembly. Please do not hesitate to contact us, if you want to discuss African Indaba matters.
The photo shows the African Indaba Secretary at the GA-reception desk with whom you can make the appointments with the editors."
Indeed, the world. Governmental and international institutions alone will fail to induce and control efficient action in the areas where the wildlife occurs and poaching and trafficking are rampant.

At least 30 million hunters around the world so far have been sidelined completely and none of the high-level conferences even acknowledged the resources of this group. Hunters are managing and conserving wildlife on a day to day basis. They are in the places where wildlife roams, including most endangered species. IUCN and others have repeatedly acknowledged that legal, well-regulated and sustainable hunting is an important component of wildlife conservation, with a proven track record. Hunters have demonstrated with their actions on the ground that they are a reliable partner in the global efforts to contain wildlife crime. In many cases, the mere presence of hunters alone acts as a powerful detriment to poaching; the hunting infrastructure in developing countries assists local residents to earn legitimate economic benefits instead of having to fall for the lure of short term illicit gains with the high risk of falling foul of the law; last not least, a desirable cooperation between hunting and eco-tourism enterprises can further reduce the criminal temptations of the syndicates and their middle men.

At the historic and first of its kind World Summit Against Wildlife Crime, which will take place during the 2014 General Assembly of the CIC in Milan, Italy on 24th April 2014, hunters will showcase their past involvement in the struggle against wildlife crime and show new ways how conservationists of all creeds and colors can work together to get results. The Summit is organized as an urgent response by hunters all over the world, who are concerned by the new dimensions which wildlife crime is taking, including an increase in the prevalence of organized crime.

This summit will demonstrate the potential of mobilizing the hunters in the world to strengthen the global fight against wildlife criminals. It will also serve to highlight what more the hunting community is capable of contributing to this fight.

The current face of wildlife crime requires an overhaul of the present wildlife management processes. Hunters and hunt operators, national and international hunting organizations constitute a powerful force in the world’s fight against wildlife crime. In an alliance with governments, conservation NGOs and all people of good will hunters can serve as a strong and efficient force to substantially support enforcement efforts against wildlife crime. It is worthwhile again to point out

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and sustainable use of Africa’s wild natural resources. African Indaba is the official CIC Newsletter on African affairs, with editorial independence. For more information about the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC go to www.cic-wildlife.org
that the fight against wildlife crime will be won or lost at the local level – right there, where hunters are. This Global Summit represents a clarion call for the global hunting community to join together and partner with all interest groups committed to arresting and reversing the present crisis. We hunters love wildlife and we want to see it not only survive, but prosper within habitats of natural beauty.

The Global Summit will, for the first time, bring hunters together with an international group of government officials, wildlife conservation leaders and law enforcement professionals to discuss a range of bi-lateral and multi-lateral actions. Hunters are committed to take immediate and measureable action and to halt the current wildlife crime crisis.

The CIC welcomes all participants and is looking forward to positive discussions at the Summit and to sharing the outcomes of the event. Readers of African Indaba will find the results in the next issue.

Finally, I like to thank the editors of African Indaba that they have made wildlife crime and illegal wildlife trafficking the focus of this year’s General Assembly edition. The profound articles and the well-researched news offer excellent background information. The new African Indaba website will facilitate spreading important conservation news on Africa, and the facelift with the eye-catching design by Aliz Ertler gives African Indaba a better exposure. African Indaba with its wide readership in more than 130 countries has developed into a professional journal. We are proud that it is the official CIC Newsletter on wildlife conservation and hunting in Africa.

For further details on the CIC Milan Summit, please consult the official website of the event: http://www.cicmilan2014.com/Summit.html. The CIC is looking forward to positive discussions at the summit and to sharing the outcomes of the event.

Tanzania: The Selous Revisited
Rolf D. Baldus

In February 2014 I paid a short private visit to the Selous Game Reserve in southern Tanzania. After having worked for 13 years with the Selous and the Wildlife Division between 1987 and 2006 I thought it was high time again to see for myself how things were on the ground.

The reserve is in dire straits once again. The main indicator is the present low number of around 13,000 elephants. As compared to 70,000 elephants when I left Tanzania at the end of 2005 this means a reduction of about 80%, or around 7,000 elephants per year. This is the highest rate of poaching ever recorded in the Selous ecosystem. The poaching crisis was and continues to be absolutely serious. The high rate of elephant loss is difficult to believe and to understand, but can probably be explained by the fact that poaching must have been common inside and outside the reserve for quite some time. Elephants are one of the major attractions for the photographic as well as hunting tourism in the Selous. The attractiveness of the reserve for tourists as well as hunters is clearly at stake.

The aerial census - irrespective of the absolute figure of remaining elephants - has obviously shown a realistic picture of the situation. Whether we have presently 13,000 elephants or a few thousand more is ultimately irrelevant. What is important is the trend, not an absolute figure, which can always be contested. The need for immediate action cannot be overlooked any longer. Fortunately the German government will come with a major support package of around eight million Euro next year. However, in the meantime emergency assistance is indispensable to get scouts back on patrols day and night.
It can be expected that there will be political pressure again to stop elephant hunting due to the greatly reduced numbers. This was the same in the late 1980s in a similar situation. Once again I would regard such a hunting ban, even if it was only for elephant, as wrong. They are one of the major reasons why sportsmen go there. Many come and do not find a suitable elephant but hunt other game while they are there.

The Selous is dependent upon the income from hunting, especially now, as the "retention scheme" is in place again, by which the reserve can retain 50% of all income for management and conservation. The abolition of this scheme was one of the major reasons for the downturn of management, which led to the present crisis. Instead of banning elephant hunting altogether, the Wildlife Division together with scientists have to evaluate the minimum tusk-weights and -lengths of huntable elephants. Thus the take-off can be controlled.

I am not without optimism. The government, including the president, is determined to act. A major German project is in the pipeline. The former Chief Warden has been called back, and the "retention scheme" is back in place. I can see a small light at the end of the tunnel. Between 1988 and 2006 Selous elephants recovered from less than 30,000 to around 70,000. This was accomplished by the Tanzanian Game Department working efficiently together with foreign partners, notably from Germany. What has been achieved once can be repeated.

Post script: Since the article was written the US Fish and Wildlife Service has announced a suspension on imports of elephant trophies from Tanzania (and Zimbabwe) taken in 2014 into the Unites States.

Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) Anti-Poaching Training
Ruben de Kock, African Field Ranger Training Services Division

The need for Field Rangers on the ground and ground cover units to be trained to the highest level possible is being addressed in training interventions at the Southern African Wildlife College. The Field Ranger has evolved over the years from little more than a glorified “farmworker” to a professional Law Enforcement officer. The requirement was set by the Protected Area
Managers and Section Rangers of Parks across Africa. This requirement is being addressed by Field Ranger Trainers everywhere and has given Nature Conservation some of the best Field Rangers ever......

Training (Selection)

Although a tough selection process has been in place in the Kruger National Park for over 14 years it has been streamlined and tweaked to the point of perfection. Selections now include Voice Analysis and background checks that dig deeper than just the cursory questions regarding connections with poaching or the criminal element. A selection process has always been preceded by a medical test whereas the current process requires a full legal background check on possible trainees. The exclusion of “possible insurgents” into the Field Ranger Corps is thus facilitated and such possibilities negated entirely or in greater part.

Training (Basic Field Ranger Course)

The Field Ranger course has been honed and all time spent during the course applied to the basic requirements of the Field Ranger to be operative as a Law Enforcement officer. The need to “legalize” the Field Ranger through the firearms training as well as the presentation of accredited training is addressed. The course also allows for 20% of the training time in actual circumstances of operations. This might seem little but allows the process to be concluded while practical training without deployment still continues. The course prepares the Field Ranger for most eventualities and also for the advancement of the training presented. This training leads to Advanced Field Ranger training where the Field Rangers, having received the foundational training, are now focused on skills required to survive the illegal actions contemplated against them by poachers.

Training (Advanced Field Ranger)

The Advanced Field Ranger training prepares the Field Ranger more practically for the combat that can be expected in operations. Here attention is given to shooting ability, movement techniques, field craft and observation skills. The Field Ranger now gets exposed more field and operational time and has to endure actual deployments. This step in the training serves to connect the Basic Field Ranger course with what follows.

Training (Extended Clandestine Patrols)

During this phase of training the Field Ranger is specialized as a Clandestine Operator. The need to collect information from the field is paramount and the task of the Clandestine Operator is
to collect such information. His task is to be invisible in the field. Infiltration and exfiltration goes undetected and the poacher is now being observed and studied from a position of strength. The Clandestine Operator guides aircraft, ground cover units and the operation that unfolds from a position where the poacher cannot escape. The training includes ground to air control, small team tactics and tactical communications that allow the Clandestine Operator to be effective once the track is found. With secrecy shrouding the deployment phases internal collusion with poachers is nullified and corrupt elements are exposed. The operational successes achieved through the application of Clandestine Operators are numerous and the impact their deployments have had immediate.

**Additional Training**

The training of a Field Ranger does not stop at the Clandestine Operator course. There are several training interventions which are applied so as to make the Field Ranger safer during operations. The courses include First Aid, at the advanced level, handgun training, tracking training as well as legal training including the EMI (Environmental Management Inspector) training. All Field Rangers belonging to Provincial and Governmental organizations are qualified as EMI’s so as to expand their legal powers on the ground. This serves to bolster the Field Ranger’s confidence as a Law Enforcement officer and allows the Field Ranger to act in the situations which arise in the field. The legal powers of Field Rangers are numerous in the Protected Area and more cases going to court are successful in the prosecution of poachers.

**Conclusion**

The Field Ranger has been advanced and professionalized through effective training and development. The threat is constantly monitored and acted upon where training is concerned. The need for dedicated individuals has never been higher and the training never more applicable as now. The ability of Field Ranger Trainers to adapt will ensure the survival of the Field Ranger in combat situations during operations. These adaptations must be aligned with the operational need and the available specialized equipment. Field Rangers are the front line and they deserve the best in terms of development and support.

**Note:** The Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) is a long-standing CIC member

**Poaching in Africa: Facts, Causes and Solutions**

Rolf D. Baldus

The poaching of elephants and rhinos has turned into a major international topic. Tens of thousands of elephants have already been killed. The crisis has even made its way into politics: The UN Security Council, Barack Obama, the Clintons and the Windsors addressed poaching and illegal wildlife trade. Elephant summits were convened in Gaborone, London and Tokyo. Bilateral and international aid organizations are developing projects. In lockstep the United Nations, the African
Development Bank, and Interpol are crafting action plans. The usual suspects from Hollywood and glamour have also jumped the train, because of the obvious publicity. Successes are not yet in sight.

The previous cycle of commercial trophy poaching in Africa ran from the late 70s to late 80s. Effective reforms of wildlife management and protection, international agreements and aid projects improved the situation. Thereafter, national efforts in Africa fell dormant again. At the same time the demand for ivory and rhino horn from China and Vietnam increased enormously. All regions of Africa that still are home to game animals are affected. The manifestations of the current crisis are manifold. The poachers are looking for meat, ivory, rhinoceros horn and animal parts for medicinal purposes.

The poachers come from many sectors of society. There are villagers who put out snares, or head out meat hunting with an inherited antique muzzleloader. This vision is often romanticized in the Europe. However, in reality even this kind of hunting is nowadays purely commercial. Commercial poaching applies in any case to the slaughter of elephants and rhinos. Here, too, the poachers themselves often come from local villages. The intermediate trade and export is run by organized crime. In countries with desolate government administration the military and police also poach regularly. Even the rangers themselves are often involved, especially if the discipline is lost. In civil war zones poaching takes place on all sides. In Central Africa, the horsemen bands from the Sudan-Somalia region are a big problem. Poaching can also be interwoven with other forms of crime, such as cattle theft, robbery, drugs, or even trade in human body parts.

The causes are also complex. Poaching provides income, and given the widespread poverty and unemployment it is easy to find sufficient manpower for this industry. The theory that increasing wealth reduces poaching has not been empirically confirmed. Higher purchasing power often only increases the demand. Bad Governance is nearly everywhere a decisive factor.

The chronic under funding of game management and protection in Africa is a major reason for the misery. Wildlife Agencies and National Parks have high financial requirements that are not even remotely met by the state. Ninety percent of all protected areas are not able to finance themselves. Because of the lack in government funding they often become "paper parks", i.e. protected areas that exist only on paper. In an irresponsible manner some conservation organizations continue to create national parks that can only run financial deficits. At the same time they force out sustainable and lucrative hunting tourism for purely ideological reasons. Unable to learn from the unsuccessful example set by Kenya, Botswana has recently prohibited hunting. Animal rights activists and the media have praised it. The losers are the local people, who are denied a source of income and thus an incentive to protect wildlife. Hunting bans have proven to be counterproductive. Ultimately the wildlife pays the bill.

Basically, there are two opposing ideologies. One relies solely on protection. In a policy of "fines and fences" wild animals and the corresponding natural areas are "defended" against illegal use (and often against legal use), similar to the way forts were once used to protect against attacking foes. The appropriate term "fortress conservation" was coined for this. The wildlife of Africa is considered a heritage of humanity and should therefore be subsidized and preserved. It is believed that the local population can be prevented from utilizing game and poaching through education. Experience shows that this approach has essentially failed. The other position wants to conserve the wildlife by a mix of protection sustainable use and underlines that this in accordance with the "Convention on Biological Diversity".

Wild game is considered a “public good” almost everywhere and therefore subject to the “tragedy of the commons”: Everyone tries to consume the free resource, because otherwise others will do it. The result is overuse, lack of sustainability and finally extinction.
The solutions to poaching are just as complex as the causes. Anyone who promises a standard formula for success is either a simpleton or a liar. By sending in emergency "green helmets" it is perhaps possible to stop or reduce poaching for a few months. That may even be useful if all else fails. However, the structures of conservation must be improved simultaneously: management and infrastructure of protected areas, finance, leadership, accountability of administrations etc. This all takes time.

Lasting solutions are therefore only attainable in the long term. They require simultaneous action on both sides of the chain of supply and demand. The issue must be addressed both internationally and nationally, in Africa as well as in the consumer countries, and in the wealthy countries that can afford to help. Completely stopping all illegal hunting can never be achieved. It can only be reduced to the extent that game stocks grow faster than they are being decimated.

Only international cooperation can combat illegal trade on a global level. Transnational police cooperation in Africa is very important. The Washington Convention (CITES) plays an important role in the regulation of international trade in endangered species, but should not be abused for meaningless, purely ideologically justified prohibitions on use.

On the national level appropriate legislation and effective law enforcement are essential, as well as functioning authorities. Without effective rangers in wildlife areas (boots on the ground) there can be no success in combating illegal use. They must be trained, equipped and well guided. Widespread corruption promotes poaching decisively. Reducing corruption is particularly difficult, but indispensable. Deregulating game as state property and transferring ownership and/or use to the private sector and civil society can help.

Without adequate funding one can write off the national parks, wildlife conservation, and poaching prevention in Africa. It is illusory to believe that long term funding can come from external sources such as government subsidies, private donations, or international aid. Sustainable financing must come from the resources themselves, at least partly. The principle of protection through use (Use it or Lose it) is essential. Practical experience shows that this is the only way to finance wildlife conservation in Africa in the long run. Particularly, hunting tourism generates high yields and is sustainable if it is properly regulated. Trophy hunting therefore can reduce poaching.

Successful wildlife conservation requires the involvement of the local population. The local people must at least be involved in the decision making process. Above all, however, they should receive material advantages from the game. Well-intentioned conservation can be counterproductive if it prohibits sustainable wildlife utilization by the local inhabitants. CITES must therefore consider the impact of regulations on the lives of local people in the future. Pure animal protection concepts are often nothing more than modern forms of neo-colonialism, as they seek to impose ideological concepts from the rich nations on local rural people. It is an illusion to believe that excluding the local people from wildlife and conducting vigorous law enforcement simultaneously will save the game.

Poaching will be with us as long as there are wild animals in Africa. However, there are strategies that have been proven successful in preventing poaching. The question is whether the political will exists to implement them.
Poverty, Poaching and Trafficking: What are the links?
Professor Rosaleen Duffy and Dr Freya A. V. St John

Editor’s Note (G. Damm): This report has been produced by Evidence on Demand with the assistance of the UK Department for International Development (DFID) contracted through the Climate, Environment, Infrastructure and Livelihoods Professional Evidence and Applied Knowledge Services (CEIL PEAKS) program, jointly managed by HTSPE Limited and IMC Worldwide Limited. Download the full report HERE.

Our rapid review of the academic and grey literature revealed that the links between poverty, poaching and trafficking are under-researched and poorly understood. Yet, the assumption that poaching occurs because of poverty is omnipresent, with little ‘hard evidence’ to support the claim. Despite this, we are confident that the links are there, based on the evidence that we gathered. However, our understandings are hampered by a series of factors: trafficking and poaching are overwhelmingly framed as an issue of conservation/biodiversity loss rather than of poverty and development; it is difficult to collect clear and detailed data on poaching precisely because of its illicit nature; and many of the cases we examined are also linked in with conflict zones, making research even more challenging. Nevertheless, our key findings are as follows:

1. Poaching in Sub Saharan African was produced via the historical legacy of colonialism
2. Poverty is directly and indirectly linked to poaching and trafficking of ivory and rhino horn from Sub-Saharan Africa
3. There are different types of poachers, and they require different policy responses
4. Poaching and trafficking of ivory and rhino horn are ultimately driven by wealth and not by poverty per se.
5. We need a much better understanding of the relationships between poverty and individual poacher motivation
6. The evidence base for claims around poverty as a driver of ivory and rhino poaching is thin, but that does not mean that poverty is not an important factor
7. There are direct links between conflict zones, illegal killing of wildlife, trafficking and poverty.
8. Trafficking can increase poverty

We then summarize the main policy responses, identifying their strengths and weaknesses. These include:

1. Changing people’s behavior via negative incentives (e.g. monitoring compliance with rules and penalizing detected rule breakers), positive incentives and distractions.
2. The development of tourism as a route to poverty reduction.
3. Legalization of the ivory and rhino horn trade at the international level, including arguments around its potential impact on community based natural resource management schemes.

Finally, we offer a series of short case studies that indicate these complex linkages via an analysis of particular examples.
Kaush Arha

Editor’s Note (G. Damm): Dr. Kaush Arha is a lawyer, diplomat, academic and conservationist. He is Vice-Chairman of the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) Group, board director for the Frankfurt Zoological Society-US and vice president of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC.

Poaching for wildlife parts and meat for domestic consumption is an ongoing phenomenon in Africa, much of it small-scale poaching for domestic consumption in poor communities. However, in the past few years, Africa has witnessed an exponential escalation in poaching, spurred by international demand for elephant ivory and rhino horn. This has corresponded in a striking shift in terms of the focus of poaching (elephant tusks and rhino horns, rather than a range of species including game), numbers poached (herds of up to 400 elephants killed in one day), and tools (poachers using helicopters and high-tech surveillance equipment and weaponry). In Tanzania, the government has taken various measures to combat illegal wildlife trade; these include increasing ranger patrols and launching a special anti-poaching initiative titled ‘Operation Tokomeza’.

Tanzania has signed an agreement with the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to curb the current wave of poaching. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in Dar es Salaam last week by Tanzanian Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism Lazaro Nyalandu, ICCF Vice Chairman Dr. Kaush Arha, and UNDP Acting Resident Representative Philippe Poinsot. The two organizations promised to encourage global commitments to assist the country in the fight against illegal take and trafficking of wildlife.

Nyalandu said that the government has decided to seek support of international organizations so that they can convince the world to stop purchasing illegal ivory and other wildlife products. “Our aim is to ensure that the illegal business comes to an end…we want to save the elephants which are the most hunted,” noted the Minister, adding that poaching of wildlife resources, particularly of elephant tusks, has increased tremendously.

He said with the international community’s intervention Tanzania is sure to win the fight, thus removing the current threat to elephants’ survival. He also cautioned the public that the government will take stern legal measures against anyone found possessing or wearing any illegally trafficked wildlife products.

The Government of Tanzania through the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT) Lazaro Nyalandu announced that it will convene a conference to combat wildlife crime and advance wildlife conservation: A Call for Action in collaboration with the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) of the United States of America and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). This conference is part of the government’s anti-poaching initiatives -- it will be attended by key national and international stakeholders in conservation of wildlife and is scheduled to take place on May 9 and 10 2014 in Dar es Salaam. The participants will share expertise, create consensus, and develop recommendations for an immediate, continuing, and sustainable plan of action for the government. “The summit will focus on synthesizing a set of recommendations and action plans,” Nyalandu elaborated.

ICCF Vice Chairman Dr. Kaush Arha stated that the summit offers a platform for Tanzania as a nation to demonstrate its collective national commitment to fight wildlife poaching and
smuggling—a commitment which will be sure to encourage additional needed resources from international partners. “The world is already providing support to Tanzania in its efforts against poaching and smuggling of wildlife resources," he said, adding that the entire world is now focusing on how to back Tanzanian’s dramatic efforts in curbing such illegal activities, especially the killing of elephants, which are increasing daily.

Acting UNDP Country Resident Representative Philippe Poinsot said that UNDP is committed to provide full support to Tanzania through various measures. “We will scale up the efforts and call for action against such illegal activities at the international level," he promised.

**Stanford Students Help Protect Endangered Species in Africa**

Gerhard Damm (compiled from a report in *Stanford News dated 1 April 2014*).

Editor’s Note (G. Damm): The comprehensive Stanford Report (March 2014) highlights some success stories, like the role of hunting in the resurgence of white rhino in South Africa, as well as the Community conservancies in Namibia, saying that “for the most part, [they are] functioning successfully. Significant wildlife recoveries have been observed and numbers of elephants and black rhinos have tripled since 1970s. According to WWF, the vigilance of conservancy members and other efforts have made rhino poaching almost non-existent in Namibia. The economic benefits generated in the community conservancies provide the backbone for the success” and with respect to Tanzania that “WMAs have produced some positive results”, but it stops short of mentioning under the heading “Community Participation - Economic Benefit” that trophy hunting has been a major driver for the economic success in areas which are commonly described as being “unattractive for the ‘normal’ tourist”.

African Indaba will make sure that the authors of the report will receive relevant information on how hunting contributes to the key criteria for successful community-based conservation models: (1) community participation; (2) economic benefit; (3) damage compensation; and (4) transparency and accountability. In this connection, it may well be worthwhile to replace the phrase “community-based sustainable wildlife protection” as used in the report with “community-based sustainable wildlife conservation” – for the simple reason that economic benefits – especially in all these parts of Africa, which are unappealing to the average tourist for a variety of reasons – need the incorporation regulated sustainable use. Incentive-Driven-Conservation as advocated by the CIC will create a win-win situation for rural communities and wildlife.

A winter quarter student practicum led by David J. Hayes, a visiting distinguished lecturer at the Stanford Law School, who has been chosen by President Obama to serve as vice chair of an advisory council on saving endangered wildlife produced recommendations that will help the Obama administration implement a new approach. The 69-page document covers a range of issues, from the history of wildlife trafficking to legal tools to combat it. The problem is serious. Armed gangs, organized by sophisticated criminal syndicates, slaughtered more than 30,000 elephants and 1,000 rhinos in Africa last year alone, according to Hayes and his students in an interdisciplinary Law and Policy Lab practicum titled *Wildlife Trafficking: Stopping the Scourge*. As Hayes described it, the president’s National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking lays out a comprehensive plan to stop the killings that are destabilizing governments, financing terrorists and threatening the existence of some of the world’s most iconic wildlife species.
Examples of their recommendations include tightening up the U.S. ban on the commercial ivory trade, increasing the fines and penalties under U.S. law for wildlife trafficking, and using money-laundering enforcement tools to target traffickers. Other suggestions call for stepping up global collaborations and establishing an "African hub" to oversee anti-trafficking efforts.

Hayes said the students – who came from diverse graduate and professional programs, though mostly law – offered up incisive analytical and historical analyses that helped frame the recommendations in the strongest possible terms. "We learned in the late 1980s and early 1990s," he said, "that when the world steps in and says, 'Stop the killing,' that people actually do listen, loopholes are closed and laws are enforced. Well, here we are again."

One answer is to offer alternative economic incentives to African communities in lieu of wildlife trafficking. The challenge is three-fold, Hayes said. One, the endangered animal killings in Africa must be stopped and other activities – such as tourism – be encouraged as economic incentives. Two, the criminal syndicates must be discouraged from pursuing wildlife trafficking profits in Asia and the West. Finally, consumer demand in Asia and the West for these products must be restrained. As for the next step, the advisory council is scheduled to hold a June meeting and then another meeting in October to coordinate with the White House on the implementation of the new strategy, which was announced in February.

Germany’s Research Project to Determine Age and Provenance of Elephant Ivory – Project Status
Prof. Dr. Dietrich Jelden, Head CITES Management Authority, Germany

In 2010 the German Federal Government initiated via its Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) a research and development project on age and provenance of ivory to whose objectives the CIC assisted readily and in a highly collaborative manner. To this date the project has been rather successful. This article sums up the results so far and the present application spectrum. Owners of ivory within the European Union who want to contribute samples (preferably from Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Uganda) with known origin and/or known age are kindly invited to contact the BfN: CITESMA@bfn.de

Poaching of African elephants and illicit trade in ivory has accelerated in some African sub regions during the recent years significantly and trafficking in illegal ivory today can be considered being professionalized as never seen before. Well-organized and heavy-armed criminal bands or paramilitary troops do not only endanger elephant populations but also constitute a threat to regional stability, territorial integrity and sustainable social and economic developments within several African countries. International law enforcement, cross-border cooperation and effective forensic methods to uncover the structures and pathways of ivory smuggling and to differentiate illegal from legal ivory in trade are more badly needed than ever before.

African elephants can still be found in 37 range states in Sub-Saharan Africa, but certain populations, mostly in West and Central Africa, hardly exceed a few hundred individuals, highly threatened by increased poaching. At the last continent wide assessment in 2007, the African elephant population was calculated to be at least 472,000 individuals, possibly exceeding 690,000. Following a period of relative stability in the 1990s, a major surge in the illegal ivory trade began since 2009. There had also been a shift in the dynamic of the illegal trade, from many small shipments to an increasing number of very large-scale seizures, as well as a shift in illegal trade
routes with the involvement of organized crime. From recent information provided by the IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group one has to assume that the yearly death toll of nowadays more than 30,000 elephants passed a continental-wide threshold of sustainability in 2010 and that several populations in Africa are faced now with a serious extinction risk.

Exact methods for the determination of age and geographical origin are essential to meet the unsolved problem of ivory smuggling and can help to avoid the intermixing of legal and illegal ivory, if decisions for a restricted legal trade will be taken in future. Long-term preservation of the constantly declining elephant population of Western and Central Africa will only be possible with a control mechanism that helps to identify the age and geographical provenance of confiscated ivory. Therefore, the African Elephant Action Plan by the African Elephant range states (CITES CoP15 inf. 68) highlights the need for improved law enforcement and management by identifying the origin of seized ivory by using relevant analytic techniques (Activity 1.4.3. of Objective 1).

At present no supporting instrument that meets court standards is available for the CITES members. Therefore, the development of a very exact method for age determination and the set-up of a database for the identification of the origin of ivory will help to better focus enforcement and conservation measures on an international level. The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation responded to this need and initiated the mentioned project, in co-operation with its executing partners, the WWF Germany and two German Universities (University of Regensburg, University of Mainz). The project was funded by the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and started in July 2010 and has two parts, i.e. the determination of the origin and the determination of the age of ivory.

The second part was completed in 2012, whereas the first part of the project has been extended last year until December 2016, among others because sufficient samples from important range states such as Zambia, Namibia, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda are still missing to make the new enforcement tool a highly efficient mean in the fight against illegal ivory trade.

1. The Determination of the Geographical Origin of Ivory

Forensics can play an important role in the investigation of wildlife crime through identification and profiling of ivory (CITES, 2012). Stable isotope analysis is a technique that is based on the fact that stable isotope signatures in animal tissues reflect those of local food webs and geology. Therefore it can be used for tracing the origin or migration of wildlife. In an attempt to elaborate the predictive ability of stable isotope signatures in ivory, WWF Germany, in co-operation with the University of Mainz, Germany, had been contracted by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) to develop a methodology with which the determination of the geographical origin can be tested.

More than 600 ivory samples from 24 African and six Asian elephant range states were provided between 2009 and 2013 by government authorities in African elephant range states, European museums and many trophy hunters who had been strongly lobbied and motivated to assist by the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC). A large part of the samples (360 pcs.) comes from Botswana, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa. The methodology applied to determine the geographical origin of ivory is based on measuring five different stable isotope ratios (Carbon δ13C, Nitrogen δ15N, Oxygenδ18O, Hydrogen δ2H, Sulphurδ34S).

The results achieved so far indicate that the combinations of several isotopic parameters have great potential to provide predictable and complementary markers for estimating the origin of seized elephant ivory. The database for ivory, which in the near future will be made publicly available via the internet (www.ivoryid.org), shall be used as a reference to predict the provenance of ivory of unknown origin. With this new approach it is also possible to distinguish between ivory
from elephant populations listed in CITES Appendix I and Appendix II. The reference database was cross-validated and test runs were carried out with ivory seized in Germany and in Sri Lanka last year. It was also possible to identify alleged poaching hot spots at country level. With this approach wildlife authorities will in future be in a better position to direct law enforcement efforts more specifically and distinguish legally derived ivory from illegally sourced ivory along the production and marketing chain.

2. **The Determination of the Age of Ivory**

The purpose of this part of the project is to develop a new method for the determination of age, based on isotope analysis. Additional to existing methods such as using the radiocarbon test (14C/C) the new method will combine it with the analysis of a variety of nuclides (90Sr/Ca, 228Th, 232Th and others). Even a very precise dating method like 14C dating shows certain limitations. Though the content of 14C can be determined precisely consuming low amounts of material dating is not unambiguous at certain periods of time. This is due to the shape of the so called „bomb curves“. With such a conventional method the results can be ambiguous, with the year of death not clearly defined (e.g. 1962 and 1980 for the same sample). However when combining this method with the determination of strontium (90Sr) and thorium the results will be far more accurate. 90Sr is produced at the nuclear fission and was distributed during the global nuclear fallout within the food chains in the sixties of the last century. As alkaline earth element 90Sr behave very similar to calcium and is therefore transferred to calcium containing tissues like ivory. 90Sr can be determined until presence due to its long half life time of about 29 years. The reason is that due to nuclear testing a significantly increased value of 90Sr/Ca is typical for a death between 1960 and 1970. Lower values indicate a death before 1960 or after 1980. A value below the detection limit indicates a death before 1955. By combining the analyses with other nuclides such as thorium (228/232Th) the time of death of an elephant can be determined with a high degree of certainty which makes the method very precise and extremely reliable. The University of Regensburg had been successfully contracted by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) to develop such a precise methodology for the determination of the age of ivory which had been as well tested successfully by analyzing samples from confiscated ivory shipments.

3. **Recent Developments of the Research Project Since 2013**

Since the 16th Conference of the Parties to CITES in March 2013 where the German delegation did promote the findings of the project during a side-event (CoP 16 Inf. 19 - http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/16/inf/index.php ) a couple of new developments have been undertaken to further the objectives of the project, such as heavy lobbying however without much success yet for additional ivory samples from the so-called gap-countries Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Uganda and Namibia. Furthermore collaboration with UNODC was established to draft a manual which shall assist Parties in the future to undertake properly collection of samples and to identify respective forensic laboratories to undertake tests. In addition Interpol had asked the FANC for assistance to test on age and spatial origin samples from two major raw ivory confiscations, i.e. one in Sri Lanka in early 2013 and another one in Togo at the beginning of 2014.

The results from the Sri Lanka confiscation revealed interesting data in so far that most of the ivory tested wasn’t from freshly killed elephants and that among others a large proportion originated from the Mozambique/Tanzania border region. The Togo samples are still undergoing testing. Finally with the support by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and with the involvement of several laboratories in North America, Africa, Europe and Asia the development of a standardized testing method by using one and the same samples was recently initiated which should allow in future testing of ivory under the same calibrated methods around the globe. Read more HERE
In Africa, All Conservation Is Local

New York Times

Editor’s Note (G. Damm): Murithi Mutiga, an editor at the Nation Media Group in Kenya, wrote for the NY Times and we bring some extracts from this article. You can read the full article HERE.

Kenya recently endorsed anti-trafficking laws that contain some of the harshest penalties in the world, and President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda has told game park rangers tracking illegal hunters to shoot to kill. [But] the authorities must look beyond the law-and-order approach against poachers and invest in winning the support of local communities, which could be their greatest allies against wildlife-trafficking syndicates. Wild animals may hold a special place in our global heritage, but all too often they threaten the livelihood of the farmers and herders who live near nature reserves and game parks. Elephants routinely trample precious crops, and carnivores sometimes ravage whole herds of livestock.

Poachers have astutely tapped into this reserve of local grievances — made worse by high rates of poverty and unemployment — and struck up partnerships with people in communities around game parks. One of them, David Erupe, a 27-year-old reformed poacher interviewed for a documentary on the Kenyan TV channel NTV, summarize his motivations for joining the business: “I was jobless. Our family had nothing. A friend lured me into it. He said if we killed an elephant, we could sell its tusks. I did that and got money. So I decided that would be my full-time job.”

African countries have much to learn from Nepal (see box this page). [Whilst] most Kenyans support conservation efforts, in a country where arable land is exceedingly scarce and about a tenth of the land area is reserved for national parks and reserves, the Nepalese laws give special rights to communities living around major national parks. They form what are known as buffer-zone management committees that play an integral role in conservation. The groups receive royalties of 30 percent to 50 percent of the proceeds from park entry fees. To guard against misappropriation, a system of collective decision making allows villagers to direct those funds to selected projects. Once a year, the local population has a 10-day window in which they can enter parks to harvest grass, reeds and other construction materials. The result is a local community that sees the park as a treasure to be guarded against those that could undermine its long-term survival.

Nepal: A Full Year Without Poaching

On World Wildlife Day Nepal celebrated 365 days with zero poaching. No rhinos, tigers, or elephants were killed. According to John Scanlon, CITES secretary-general, Nepal’s success is the result of “strong and committed leadership, excellent national collaboration among enforcement entities and with parks agencies, very effective engagement with local communities, and targeted intelligence-led enforcement actions leading to arrests of key players at the top of the criminal chain.” More than 700 criminals were arrested for wildlife-related crimes this past year, including many kingpins. Notes Shubash Lohani from WWF “active enforcement by the crime investigation bureau of Nepal's police has been crucial to breaking down the presence of illegal wildlife trafficking networks.” A joint operation in October 2013 by the Nepalese army and the special police led to the dismantling of a rhino poaching network and the arrest of Kathmandu-based kingpin Buddha Bahadur Praja. In December 2013 INTERPOL issued a Red Notice for another notorious rhino poacher, Rajkumar Praja wanted for killing 15 rhinos in Chitwan NP. Praja was sentenced in absentia to 15 years in prison.

Nepalese laws give special rights to communities living around major national parks. They form what are known as buffer-zone management committees that play an integral role in conservation. The groups receive royalties of 30 percent to 50 percent of the proceeds from park entry fees. To guard against misappropriation, a system of collective decision making allows villagers to direct those funds to selected projects. Once a year, the local population has a 10-day window in which they can enter parks to harvest grass, reeds and other construction materials. The result is a local community that sees the park as a treasure to be guarded against those that could undermine its long-term survival.
authorities should take a more sophisticated approach in winning local support for conservation initiatives.

In his memoirs, “Dreams From My Father,” Barack Obama records the mixed feelings of many Kenyans on this issue. When, as a young man on his first visit to Kenya, he suggested to his half-sister Auma that they should make a trip to a national park she was decidedly unenthusiastic, and her retort summed up a view of the tourism industry in Africa that’s rarely voiced outside the continent: “Why should all that land be set aside for tourists when it can be used for farming? These wazungus [white people] care more about one dead elephant than they do for a hundred black children.” Auma’s viewpoint sums up the position of Kenyans who want to preserve their heritage but also chafe at an approach that does not take sufficient account of the plight of local communities.

The Nepalese authorities certainly use drones and armed rangers to hunt down poachers. But they often patrol side by side with villagers who are regarded as frontline stakeholders in the tourism and conservation effort. [This] combination of community engagement with the more martial approaches adopted by governments can improve the chances of preserving the majestic treasure contained in parks such as the Masai Mara National Park, which Mr. Obama, when he finally persuaded his sister to accompany him on safari, called “as beautiful a land as I’d ever seen.”

Postscript by Fred Nelson www.maliasili.org:
While most of Africa is embroiled about current debates over commercial poaching of rhino and elephants, and the links between poaching and the ivory trade and consumer markets in Asia, it is perhaps useful to pause for a moment and reflect on one aspect of the current rhino and elephant poaching crisis that is rarely being discussed – namely that the poaching crisis has not materialized at all in certain countries with lots of rhinos or elephants. Most noteworthy is the reality that Namibia, which holds Africa’s largest population of black rhinos outside of state protected areas (and the second-largest population overall, with about 1700 black rhinos), seems to have completely avoided the poaching epidemic, even as neighboring South Africa lost over 1,000 rhinos last year.
Namibia is reported to have lost a total of 3. This is all the more remarkable in that many of Namibia's rhinos live on unfenced communal lands in remote rural areas—quite unlike the rhinos subject to 24-hour surveillance which are now the only ones that can survive in much of Africa. There are a range of factors that could explain Namibia’s successful anti-poaching record in the face of the surge in poaching nearly everywhere else. The country generally scores well on annual corruption rankings (i.e. relatively low corruption compared to other African countries), which may contribute to effective protected area governance and law enforcement— but then South Africa also scores similarly well on those same corruption indices. Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of Namibia, though, is the degree to which it has spread the benefits of wildlife and tourism throughout the rural population— including both private and communal landholders. The recovery of wildlife on both private lands and ranches, which dates back to those landholders gaining rights over wildlife in the late 1960s and 1970s, and later on communal lands following the reforms of the 1990s that enable the creation of communal conservancies, is well documented. Elephant populations in Namibia have doubled in Namibia since the 1990s, rhinos have recovered both inside protected areas and on communal lands, and other species from lion to mountain zebra have increased as well.

Namibia’s experience in relation to the current poaching crisis is noteworthy in relation to recent reports from an entirely different and non-African geography— Nepal of similar success in preventing poaching. Nepal also has a large population of rhinos - more than 500, mostly in Royal Chitwan National Park - and an exceptional track record of community-based natural resource management, particularly in relation to its very successful community forestry programs and also benefit sharing initiatives around protected areas.

It seems reasonable to speculate that the exceptional performance of countries such as Namibia and Nepal in preventing poaching is linked to effective law enforcement and protected area management, but also in large part to their unique policies of providing local communities with a meaningful stake in managing, governing, and benefitting from wildlife and other natural resources (Editor’ note: see New York Times op-ed on trophy hunting Namibia). This would seem to be an extremely significant factor in the overall wildlife trade and conservation debates dominating current conservation discourse in Africa and globally. Deeper interrogation and careful analysis of why ’aberrant’ countries such as Namibia and Nepal have been able to almost entirely prevent poaching of their valuable rhinos and elephants (and tigers in the case of Nepal, whose tiger population is apparently rising), would be an invaluable contribution to current conservation policy debates.

Fair Chase and the Hunt for Survival
Eric Nuse

Editor’s Note (G. Damm): Eric Nuse is a retired Vermont Game Warden, hunter education administrator, and former Executive Director for the International Hunter Education Association. He currently serves on the boards of Orion, The Hunters’ Institute and the New England Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. He has a degree in Wildlife Management from the University of Maine. Nuse is an avid hunter, angler, conservationist, and wilderness canoeist.

It is sunset. I’ve been in a tree stand for three hours watching the proverbial grass grow. Then I hear a light crunch in the leaves. My heart instantly starts to pound. I am on full alert, “alive
man” as Barry Lopez characterizes it. I am sure a deer is coming. I am a hunter, and I fully intend to draw and shoot if a killing shot presents itself.

In contrast, as a retired game warden, I’ve killed many injured deer. It is not pleasant: my heart didn’t race; it filled with sadness and distaste at what I had to do. Now, in my stand, I am not counting on this light-stepping deer for my family’s winter food. So what is going on within me that my heart rate goes through the roof when game is afoot?

I used to think that hunters who die of heart attacks succumb because they are out of shape and have overdone it physically. I know now that it is more likely the same phenomenon that drove my heart rate into the danger zone—a deep, primal excitement of the hunt. Author Richard Nelson reported, “During a year I spent in the arctic coastal village of Wainwright, I was struck by the fact that Inupiaq men lived to hunt as much as they hunted to live.”

Hunting evolved as a necessary skill, and the resulting high-value protein was critical to the evolution of the human brain. In a recent address Shane Mahoney said, “I am a firm believer that the hunting traditions of mankind have given us art, language... technology... [and] the capacity to share. In short they have given us our humanness.” To this list, I would add planning and the ability to look into the future.

The thornier question is this: Is hunting still important to humans in the modern era? Does it still contribute to our being human? And if so, is it a good thing?

One could argue that Homo sapiens are the most destructive species ever unleashed on the world. We have so overshoot our evolutionary fitness level that our population and resource depletion are causing potentially irreversible environmental harm. Unregulated hunting was one of those harms. However, I contend that modern fair chase hunting contains a seed that could spark a transformation in our relationship to nature. I am cautiously optimistic because this love of the hunt has sparked a transformation before.

For 10,000 years, since the advent of agriculture, most humans have been increasingly alienating themselves from natural processes. This trend accelerated with the industrial revolution and the resulting rise of cities. With over 50 percent of the world’s population now living in urban areas, the divorce from nature is even greater. Couple this with digital technologies and virtual worlds, and you have a vast population that has minimal direct contact with nature and its cycles. The cycle that hunters know very well is life and death. When you see the blood flow and watch the light go out of an animal’s eye you know where your food comes from. Life eats life. According to Jim Posewitz of Orion-The Hunters’ Institute, “Hunting is one of the last ways we have to exercise our passion to belong to the earth, to be part of the natural world, to participate in the ecological drama, and to nurture the ember of wilderness within ourselves.”

Hunters face the tension between their intent to take game and the lure of overwhelming technologies that diminish the hunt. Mindful hunters have developed the concept and practices of *fair chase hunting*. The “fair” in fair chase hunting is not related to fairness to the animal. A deer killed by a hunter with a homemade long bow from 10 yards is just as dead as one scouted by a drone tricked out with a high-resolution camera and killed at 1,000 yards with a smart rifle. The fair is for the sportswoman/sportsman and the hunt.

Through a variety of laws, codes and self-imposed limits on method of take and equipment, the hunter dials back the years to when humans just barely had an edge over their prey so they could survive as a species. Some need all the help they can get, but those with greater skill have the option to limit themselves to more primitive implements. Why? It is more challenging; it usually takes more time, skill and effort, resulting in an experience that is deeply satisfying.

(Note: Not all hunters voluntarily follow the precepts of fair chase. Some are chronic law-breakers and poachers, others barely follow the law, and when opportunity presents they violate.)
Their mindset is similar to the bad old days of 120 years ago that is boosted by many “hunting” TV shows and gadget purveyors, denoting the prime value of an animal is when it is dead—for bragging, meat, horns or hide.)

So how does this fair chase hunting help the current dismal state of affairs between humans and nature? I feel that hunting is a strong and visceral tether to the natural world. Key to realigning our behavior with nature is the self-imposed restraint based on hunters’ respect and reverence for the processes that sustain life and their love of the hunt.

If the majority of people thought about their actions, from procreation to energy consumption, the way mindful hunters think about wildlife and their habitat, we could be living in a much more sustainable world. What if individuals, families, communities and nations adopted the hunters’ fair chase restraint and said “No” to our penchant for overwhelming our environment? What if we said “No” to the idea that all growth is good? What if instead of measuring our prosperity by money, we measured it by the health of our environment and what we preserve?

Does hunting make us human? It certainly did, and I posit that it still does. Genetically, our DNA is the same as that of the hunters we were 20,000 years ago. Can we rekindle the positive traits that hunting contributed to humanity? Can enough people learn the restraint of today’s ethical hunters, so that humans and all of nature will have a home 20,000 years from now?

Former PHASA President Ronnie Rowland on PHASA Lion Policy

Ronnie Rowland (edited by Gerhard R Damm)

Editor’s Note (G. Damm): Ronnie Rowland is a past president of the Professional Hunters’ Association (PHASA), recipient of the PHASA Wildlife Utilization Award in 2000 and recipient of the Coenraad Vermaak Trophy in 2005. Today Ronnie Rowland lives and hunts professionally in Namibia. Following the PHASA decision to adopt the SA predator breeders’ association stand on “hunting” of captive bred lions, Rowland wrote to the Executive Committee of PHASA in March 2014. African Indaba obtained permission to let you have Rowland’s thoughts in an authorized, edited version:

Aldo Leopold concluded in his contemplation on ethics, that ethical behavior defines itself by doing the right thing in the absence of witnesses – even if it’s legal to do the wrong thing! Ortega y Gasset, in turn, observed in his masterful essay “Meditation on Hunting”, that the essence of hunting in our modern day and age has changed its character from hunting and gathering for survival to sport hunting with the principle of fair chase at its core. This change was prompted by hunters in order to negate the emerging imbalance between hunters and hunted through the development of modern day weapons and technological aids. By doing this, hunters strive to preserve the true essence of hunting and not to transgress certain boundaries which would reduce it to merely become an act of wanton killing or execution.

To preserve the true essence of hunting in today’s world one also has to consider that animals should be naturally wild with natural inborn instincts, as opposed to those that have been linebred, domesticated and/or habituated. Both Leopold and Ortega impressed upon us to adhere to certain self-imposed principles, norms and standards should we want to safeguard our natural heritage as true hunters. At the core of this is our conscience.

Many years ago I wrote in the PHASA Newsletter that morality and prudence are two sides of the same coin. The two concepts are often confused with one another. I suggested as difference that fair chase hunting based on morality is killing with a conscience, whereas the killing of animals
based on prudence alone, entails an act of execution without a conscience. For clarity sake compare any true fair chase hunt of a wild animal with the shooting of a captive bred lion. Once we allow hunting to become amoral, i.e. without a conscience, we are transgressing the self-imposed boundary between hunters and hunted, ultimately destroying the essence of hunting. Once we allow rationality especially material gain to supersede our moral values, our world in general and hunting in particular, is doomed. Decisions based on prudence alone, will kill hunting!

As a PHASA Past President and Honorary Life Member I would like the leadership of PHASA as well as the members to take note that I do not only disagree, but also distance myself totally from the direction taken and also from the ending of the liaison with the CIC

Captive-bred lion shooting and the non-definitive positioning of PHASA regarding line breeding of mutants and recessive gene color variants of wild animals transgresses the boundaries of fair chase hunting, endangers the essence of hunting and at the same time allows the erosion of our moral foundations. In my opinion our greatest challenge is convincing the general public as well as governments that the wise and sustainable utilization of our natural wildlife through hunting is indispensable. The CIC is the only European based organization that has stood up for our cause with distinction. No other organization has a better and broader respected standing with IUCN and governments worldwide! So why did PHASA decide terminating membership in the CIC? Obviously, if the reason for the breakdown in relationships concerns the captive-bred lion issue and/or line-breeding, massive obstacles have to be overcome.

It is fair and well to comment that the lion issue was debated extensively at the last two PHASA AGMs and that a majority decision by PHASA members led to the present direction taken, i.e. to accept captive bred lion shooting as a reality. However, the lion issue had already been properly debated and thoroughly contemplated since the middle 90s resulting in a PHASA policy statement against captive bred lion shooting in the late 1990’s This position and the policy were reconfirmed again in 2006. The PHASA leadership in those days refused to accept “canned lion hunting” as a form of hunting, defining it to be the mere execution of captive bred lion, hence the phrase “captive bred lion shooting”, like in target shooting. In both cases the policy was accepted with an overwhelming majority by the members at the AGMs concerned. Question: What in actual fact has changed? None of the arguments, contemplations deliberations and facts of yesteryear, based on ethical reasoning with a moral foundation, have changed. The only thing to my mind that has changed is the leadership and the overwhelming commercialization of hunting which allows the “Dollar God” to reign supreme!

The PHASA Code of Conduct underwrites the concept of fair chase. Has anyone realized that the acceptance of captive bred lion shooting also requires a change in this Code of Conduct since fair chase hunting is in total contradiction with the acceptance of captive bred lion shooting. [I will] have no choice but to resign as an honorary life member should the principle of fair chase hunting be disregarded in favor of the lion debacle and there are many like-minded members who will also be put before this choice!

[Once] we allow hunting to become amoral we are transgressing the self-imposed boundary between man and wild animals which stops hunting to be hunting. Once we allow material gain to supersede moral values, our world in general and hunting in particular is doomed. Prudent decisions alone, e.g. captive bred lion execution and line breeding of mutants, will kill hunting!

Our only chance to safeguard hunting as a noble tradition and way of life is to convince the majority of the populace that our activities have a moral foundation. The breeding of lions in captivity as well as the line breeding of mutants and recessive genes for execution has and will never have a place in the sphere of true fair chase hunting. It has no moral base, no conscience and is purely based on materialistic considerations.
Responding to Hunting Hate Mail
Mara Nel, Maroi Conservancy, South Africa

Editor’s Note (G. Damm): After Mara Nel tweeted a photo showing her with a giraffe she had hunted in Maroi conservancy in South Africa she was subjected to a firestorm of hateful comments. But luckily there are people who think beyond emotions. On February 5th, 2014, Brian Sirimaturos blogged under the headline “The Power of a Viral Photo” … A couple of days ago, a retweet came through my Twitter app on my phone with a simple picture attached … A hunter standing over her latest kill. A giraffe … By retweeting the original post, I was now part of a firestorm of social media virality. It took off from there. So over the next few hours I monitored what was said … At first I was like, “Yeah, get her,” but then something happened. The tone got out of control. Nasty. Ugly. Threatening. People on MY SIDE broke down into sophomoric name calling and threats … Here she is getting called every name in the book, firing off replies and comments one right after another, and I get a very calm, rational reply. Also, her comment about wanting to give ‘her side.’ … OK. Let’s see about “her side.” So I connected with Mara to set up a Q&A of sorts to get her side of the story. I made an effort to let her talk and answer as she saw fit and I only asked a couple of follow-up questions when appropriate – and hopefully without much emotion.

... and Brian added at the end “I really appreciate Mara for taking the time to want to tell her side of the story. This was definitely a learning experience for me on a whole bunch of levels. Mara was very open and honest with her answers. My initial thoughts are to disable comments on this post. My experience on social media and reading comments on ANY controversial topic – any topic really – is that people don’t play nice when behind a screen. It’s always good to sometimes just shut your mouth and listen. Learn. You may not agree. You may not change your mind. But you will better understand and articulate your side even more effectively because of it.”

You can read the full transcript of the dialogue between Brian and Mara HERE. What follows is Mara’s story, written exclusively for African Indaba (edited for space):

I found my twitter account completely overrun with hate speech, death threats and hurtful comments from people all around the world after I posted a photo of myself standing next to the giraffe that I had hunted on our game farm in South Africa. Defending me and justifying the hunt was the only sensible thing to do. I wanted those people, who would have rather liked to see my head mounted on a wall, to take a moment before sending hate mail. They should at least take into account our different lives and our point of view. I can understand why people are against hunting; I don’t agree with it, but I respect the way they choose to live their lives and I will never belittle their choices because they are different from mine.

Between all the messages that were being flung my way, there was only one person who was neither supporting the way people pouring out their scorn, nor was he agreeing with me having
hunted the giraffe and tweeting the photo. For some reason Brian sounded as if he would be willing
to listen to my side of the story. Already his first message changed my entire attitude and I
immediately had a lot of respect. Later I realized that my conversation with Brian also changed my
way of responding to people who disapprove hunting.

Brian thought it would be an interesting idea sideline the “emotional part” of a subject;
emotions would be replaced by asking questions and exchanging viewpoints in a calm and rational
way. This is certainly not the usual approach of a person who does not agree with or like hunting.
Brian, a professional photographer, wanted to discuss a few questions, and he proposed to post the
dialogue on his website along with the photo, when all was said. He approached the subject along
the line “how powerful pictures can be and the story behind them”.

His straight forward questions were not one-sided like as I expected. Instead of trying to tell
me how I should feel as a hunter, he was trying to learn why I am able to kill an animal and have a
photo taken with a smile on my face. My difficulties in explaining could also be the reason why
hunters lash out at people who are against hunting when faced with questions that they have not
really thought through. Brian noted that we all go into a discussion with some pre-set emotion and
belief, but before you can make an educated decision, you have to know what you are talking about.
Brian’s aim was to learn, not to attack me or to confirm his initial assumptions. He mentioned that in
order to understand either side and the “why”, you have to approach the subject with an open mind
and check your emotions enough for a mature discussion. This approach is the one we need
between hunters and anti-hunters. Hunters need to understand why people don’t like hunting,
something no one teaches us; yet it comes with the responsibility of being a hunter and sharing the
success of a hunt on social media.

Most debates, articles and blogs that try to address this are very one-sided and state either
the very good or the very bad. The subject is controversial; some are against hunting full stop, others
are against trophy hunting only, and/or disapprove unethical hunting such as canned shooting, or
only find it wrong to hunt certain species. Hunters are just as different, some people hunt to provide
meat for the family, others travel the world to hunt and collect different animals.

I believe that Brian and I learned a lot from each other during our Q&A; some subjects we
could agree upon, like canned shooting or cruelty to animals. We realized that things are rarely black
and white; and often you have more in common on a particular subject than you initially expect.

Where does the line get drawn? Who gets to decide who the bad people are and who the
good people are, if assumptions are based on merely a single photograph? Would knowing more of a
person change the way you think of them? One thing has become very clear to me, when you do
something or live in a certain way that is different from another person, you get told exactly who
and what you are. You don’t get asked, you get told.

Hunting is an emotive subject; consensus will never be reached, but why turn to name
calling, death threats or hurtful comments? We are all different; why should anyone have less of a
right to live a chosen lifestyle? You may never agree to hunting, and what I write might not change
your mind. Others may think it’s completely ridiculous that people devote their lives to saving
animals and giving animals a voice. It does not matter where you stand, but if you have the time to
say your say, then you should also take the time to educate yourself on the subject from every
perspective.

Note: Mara Nel was born and raised on a game farm in South Africa and hunted since a very young
age. Mara obtained her professional hunters license in June 2013 and works now as a professional
hunter at Maroi Conservancy during the holidays. She is currently a 3rd year Zoology and Physiology
student.
News From and About Africa

Africa/European Union
African Swine Fever, caused by the African swine fever virus (ASFV) leads to hemorrhagic fever with high mortality rates in domestic pigs, but persistently infects its natural hosts, warthogs, bushpigs, and soft ticks of the *Ornithodoros* genus, with no disease signs. In domestic pigs and also in Eurasian wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) highly virulent strains can cause death of animals as quickly as a week after infection. The clinical symptoms of ASFV are very similar to classical swine fever, and can only be distinguished by laboratory diagnosis. The disease remained restricted to Africa until 1957, when it was reported in Portugal. A further outbreak occurred in Portugal in 1960. During the 1980s, the disease became established in the Iberian Peninsula, and sporadic outbreaks occurred in France, Belgium, and other European countries. Spain and Portugal managed to eradicate the disease by the mid-1990s. In 2007 outbreaks were observed in the Russian Federation, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, and Belarus. In August 2012, an outbreak was reported in Ukraine and in June 2013, in Belarus. In January 2014, African swine fever was confirmed in Lithuania and Poland. Hunters in areas where ASFV is known to occur are advised to exercise extreme caution.

Botswana
The controversy on the Botswana government’s fracking leases and the Gem Diamond Mining project in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) was brought into the open again by protesters when President Ian Khama visited the London Conference on Wildlife Crime in February. Although the protest principally focused on the prohibition of traditional subsistence hunting in the CKGR and the eviction of the local San groups from the area, fracking for natural gas and diamond mining apparently are key causes for the relocation of local communities. For more than a decade, the authorities in Botswana have been quietly granting licenses to South Africa’s SASOL, Australian-based Tamboran Resources, Anglo American, Tlou Energy, Kalahari Energy, Exxaro and many more to drill for Coal Bed Methane (CBM). There was no public debate, particularly about the potential threats these large scale developments pose to the environment and communities. Fracking and drilling pose another worrying threat: CBM extraction requires vast amounts of water to be pumped out of the ground, which can significantly lower the water table. Unfenced buffer zones on the borders of other bio-diversity rich – and economically important – national parks, like Chobe and Kgalagadi, are already being drilled. In fact, it appears that the government has also granted some concessions within Chobe NP. Could it be that the ban on trophy hunting (and the presence of hunters in the concession areas) may be connected with natural gas operations in the country?

CMS (Africa/Europe)
The Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) has announced the launch of the Migratory Landbirds Study Group (MLSG) at the inaugural meeting 'Migratory landbirds: research, monitoring and conservation' in Wilhelmshaven, Germany (26-28 March 2014). According to long-term datasets, African-Eurasian landbirds are affected by human-related habitat change across breeding and non-breeding grounds. Unsustainable taking and climate change are also considered threats.

Congo Basin Forest Partnership News
The main conclusions of the second meeting of the Sub Working Group on Protected Areas and Wildlife in Central Africa (SGTAPFS) from 25-27 February 2014 in Libreville, Gabon as reported by the
Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) addressed the draft guide on the creation of transboundary protected areas in Central Africa; the wildlife crime analytic toolbox; and prospects for collaboration between the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Commission des Forêts d’Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC) countries in the fight against wildlife crime. A series of recommendations were developed, which included the call to: finalize the sub-regional strategy for the sustainable wildlife use by indigenous and local communities in COMIFAC countries; and to use the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolbox. The meeting, brought together experts in wildlife and protected areas from the Wildlife and/or Protected Areas Departments of COMIFAC countries, the COMIFAC National Coordinating Bodies of the Congo and Gabon, the Central African Biodiversity Working Group (GTBAC), the General Secretariat of ECCAS, the Executive Secretariats of COMIFAC and RAPAC, and development partners such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), among others.

Kenya & China
Kenya’s wildlife authorities praised China’s contribution in the fight against rhino and elephant poaching. According to KWS Director General William Kiprono Kenya has been engaging China at the technical and political levels in the areas of conservation and has received China's support to combat wildlife poaching. "The Chinese government is supportive of Kenya's conservation efforts. They are genuine people ready to work with Kenya and who are not happy with what is going on regarding poaching of elephants and rhinos..." China has offered to improve surveillance around Kenya's national parks and game reserves alongside also assisting with capacity building to enable the KWS to deal with poachers," Kiprono told journalists in Nairobi in March. Last year, Kenyan president got an assurance from China regarding the provision of latest equipment and technology to enable security agencies to undertake their mandate effectively.

Namibia
Namibian media reported that three Chinese men were arrested at Windhoek’s Hosea Kutako International Airport in April, with 14 rhino horns and a leopard skin in their possession. The three men were on their way to Hong Kong via Johannesburg. They had left China on March 9, arrived in Zambia the following day and entered Namibia through the Wenela border post on March 12 on tourist visas. The three appeared on charges of being in possession of and exporting controlled wildlife products. The prosecutor opposed bail since the value of the items involved is estimated at N$2.3 million and that the three men pose a very high flight risk. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism’s Director of Park and Wildlife Management also attended the court proceedings, but refused to comment on either of the poaching incidents. In another incident in April, two hand-reared white rhinos have been killed on a farm close to Windhoek and were found with their horns removed. Marcia Fargnoli, Save the Rhino Trust CEO, said there is little doubt rhino poaching is on the rise in the country. The owner of Shamvura Camp, Charlie Paxton, said several aspects such as Namibia’s rugged and vast terrain, its low population density, strong NGO presence and the conservancy program have enabled the country to provide a more effective rhino protection, with good monitoring systems and control. But Fargnoli added that there is no reason to believe that international criminal syndicates would target neighboring countries but not Namibia. Namibia is certainly on their radar, she said.

South Africa
Deputy Minister of Water & Environmental Affairs, Rejoice Mabudafhasi met with her Vietnamese counterpart, Dr Bui Cach Tuyen in March, to bolster cooperation in controlling illegal wildlife trade.
The Vietnamese delegation stayed for 4 days to learn from South Africa’s experience in biodiversity conservation and management. The visit to South Africa followed the signing on 6 May 2013 of an implementation plan in terms of the MoU on cooperation in the field of Biodiversity Conservation and Protection that was signed in Hanoi, Vietnam, in December 2012. The implementation plan was developed and is being implemented in accordance with the MoU and aims at promoting cooperation between the parties in biodiversity management, conservation and protection, law enforcement and CITES compliance.

South Africa
Howard G. Buffett donated $24 million to South Africa’s national parks service to finance a 30-month high-tech campaign against rhino poaching and provide park rangers with a helicopter and other high-tech equipment, such as an aerostat balloon and land vehicles equipped with sophisticated electronic sensors, to track down poachers. The project also plans to place sensors on fencing along the border with neighboring Mozambique. Buffett also visited Tanzania. It is reported that he has promised to provide a helicopter and finance running costs for anti-poaching.

South Sudan
South Sudan created a new stand-alone Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife Conservation by presidential decree in March. South Sudan has several national parks, the world’s largest wetland known as the Sudd and the White Nile, also known locally as Bahr el Jebel, running through the entire country from the border with Uganda to the border with the Republic of the Sudan. The migration from Boma and the Sudd to Bandingilo National Park where once a year the massive herds of white eared kobs, Tiang and Mongella gazelles congregate will be the country’s number one tourism attraction once peace is restored, security of visitors assured and the red tape still in place when entering the country reduced to make visits by high spending tourists easy. For now though, even granted that the political will is there to make tourism a priority sector and to provide the legal and regulatory framework, regulate the sector and manage the wildlife resources, it will be some time to come before things will take shape.

Tanzania
Member of Parliament Athuman Mfutakamba told the Tanzanian Guardian on Sunday that the stockpile of more than 100 tons ivory at the MNRT headquarters warehouse in Dar es Salaam could generate more than 3000 jobs in ca. 200 institutions countrywide. Mfutakamba is Secretary General of the Association of Members of Parliament Activists for sustainable wildlife protection in Tanzania. The MPs also urged participatory policy implementation programs that encourage involvement of citizens in wildlife protection and conservation projects.

UNWTO (Africa)
UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and African Tourism Ministers from Ghana, Guinea, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe committed to join hands in finding a means to stop illegal wildlife trade. Participants reviewed the current situation, shared experiences, and discussed the tourism sector’s role in addressing poaching and illegal trade. Official representatives of the DR Congo, Gabon, Eritrea, Mozambique, São Tomé and Principe, Uganda and Zambia also attended the discussions. UNWTO is currently conducting a study to assess the importance of wildlife for the development of tourism in Africa, to be presented at the upcoming UNWTO Regional Commission Meeting for Africa (Luanda, Angola, 28-30 April 2014). The study will provide an overview of the economic value of wildlife
watching tourism in Africa, including data on the dimension and characteristics of wildlife watching tourism in Africa based on surveys with tourism stake holders, and will serve as the basis for an upcoming UNWTO awareness campaign on the effects of wildlife crime on tourism in Africa and the communities depending on it for their survival.

West Africa

Two US researchers concluded in a recent report that many endemic primates in the Upper Guinea forests of Liberia and Ivory Coast have been pushed to the verge of extinction. In Ivory Coast poaching is still prevalent in the country’s World Heritage Site Taï NP. The park’s primate research stations provide some protection but law enforcement is inadequate for protecting the entire park. The restrictions also pushed hunting pressure into the Konobo District of eastern Liberia. Animals poached in these cross-border forests are brought daily to the Daobly market. The researchers documented the amount of primate meat traded at this market and estimated that approximately 9,464 primates are sold at the Daobly market every year.

Zambia

President Sata appointed Jean Kapata as new Minister of Tourism and Arts to replace Sylvia Masebo. In 2012 Masebo suspended the tender process of 19 hunting concessions, dissolved the board of directors of the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) and closed lion and leopard hunting. In March 2014 the Hunting Report said that Masebo was under investigation for alleged professional misconduct and interference in ZAWA operations. Former Minister of Tourism and Arts William Harrington accused Masebo of abusing her ministerial office and breaching the Zambia Public Procurement Act as well as the Parliamentary and Ministerial Code of Conduct Act. After Masebo testified that President Sata directed her to dismiss the ZAWA management and dissolve the board, President Sata had fired Masebo on March 20.

Zimbabwe

A total of 30 poachers from Zambia gained illegal entry into Hwange and Zambezi National Parks on two separate occasions in March. Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority Public Relations Manager Caroline Washaya-Moyo said one of the poachers was shot and killed during a contact with Parks rangers while two others were injured and captured. 27 others escaped; 1 escaped into Botswana while the remained escaped into Zambia. Washaya-Moyo added that Parks rangers had alerted their counterparts of the escaped poachers. The Parks Authority recovered two heavy caliber rifles; ammunition; cell phones; 28 sacks containing clothes and food items and 37 elephant tusks.

Safari operators in Zimbabwe are expecting revenue from the animal trophy hunting season this year to rise from $65 million last year to $75 million spurred by a decline in regional competition. Safari Operators Association president Emmanuel Fundira said also that the resumption of normal activities in the Save Valley Conservancy could also help increase revenue. There has been an impasse in the conservancy after licenses of some concessions were withdrawn. "We are forecasting a growth of 10% mainly premised on the resumption of activities in the Save Conservancy where there has been an impasse for the last two years," Fundira said. More hunters were expected in Zimbabwe as neighboring countries Zambia and Botswana were facing challenges in their safari operations. Fundira also warned that the introduction of 15% Value Added Tax on all foreign receipts could hamper growth. The Government through the 2014 National Budget introduced the levy on...
accommodation and tourism service payments by foreign tourists. The Safari Operators Association has since engaged the Government to review downwards or defer levying the new tax.

**Upcoming Events**

**Sahelo-Saharan Interest Group (SSIG) Meeting, 30 April-02 May, Portugal**
The 2014 meeting of the Sahelo-Saharan Interest Group (SSIG) will be in Portugal from April 30 to May 2 hosted by the Biodeserts group at the Research Center in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources of the University of Porto (CIBIO/UP). Information and registration forms can be found [here](#).

The Congress emphasizes practical knowledge, skills and attitudes with action outcomes to assist private and communal sectors internationally, in North America, and in Colorado before, during and after the event. [Info & registration here](#).

**World Migratory Bird Day**

“Destination Flyways: Migratory Birds and Tourism” at the 2014 World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) highlights the links between migratory bird conservation, local community development and wildlife watching tourism. Properly managed, popular bird-related tourism activities such as bird watching or bird photography can serve as the foundation for a mutually beneficial relationship between people and migratory birds. For the 2014 Campaign, WMBD is partnering with the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) to highlight the Destination Flyways project. Led by UNWTO and implemented together with several partners with sound experience in the field of conservation and tourism, it will develop sustainable tourism in destinations along the world’s major migratory bird routes (flyways). By channeling tourism revenue into conservation of the sites, the project aims to safeguard the birds’ habitats, while creating resilient and green job opportunities for local communities. Destination Flyways will show how tourism around migratory birds can be a vehicle for both environmental and socio-economic sustainability, benefiting wildlife, local communities and tourists alike.

**Stop Press: Service Suspends Import of Elephant Trophies from Tanzania and Zimbabwe**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

[On April 4] the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a suspension on imports of sport-hunted African elephant trophies taken in Tanzania and Zimbabwe during calendar year 2014. Questionable management practices, a lack of effective law enforcement and weak governance have resulted in uncontrolled poaching and catastrophic population declines of African elephants in Tanzania. In Zimbabwe, available data, though limited, indicate a significant decline in the elephant
population. Anecdotal evidence, such as the widely publicized poisoning last year of 300 elephants in Hwange National Park, suggests that Zimbabwe’s elephants are also under siege.

Given the current situation on the ground in both Tanzania and Zimbabwe, the Service is unable to make positive findings required under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Endangered Species Act to allow import of elephant trophies from these countries. Additional killing of elephants in these countries, even if legal, is not sustainable and is not currently supporting conservation efforts that contribute towards the recovery of the species. The decision to suspend the import of sport-hunted trophies from Tanzania and Zimbabwe applies to elephants taken in 2014. The Service will reevaluate this suspension for calendar year 2015 or upon receipt of new information that demonstrates an improved situation for elephants in these countries.

Legal, well-regulated sport hunting, as part of a sound management program, can benefit the conservation of listed species by providing incentives to local communities to conserve the species and by putting much-needed revenue back into conservation. At this time, the Service does not have conservation concerns with African elephant sport hunting in Namibia, South Africa, or Botswana; though it should be noted that Botswana is not currently open to sport hunting. For more information, please visit www.fws.gov/international/permits/by-activity/sport-hunted-trophies.html.


After many years of work the CIC Caprinae Atlas of the World is finally finished and will be officially launched at the 61st General Assembly of the CIC on the 25th of April in Milano, Italy. The readers of African Indaba will also find three African animals described in the Atlas: the aoudad (Ammotragus lervia), Nubian ibex (Capra nubiana) and the rarest of them all, Walia ibex (Capra walie). Not many “Africans”, one might say, if considering the 96 Caprinae phenotypes described in this two volume magnum opus with over 1,100 pages, more than 1,000 color photographs from the wild and from prestigious museum collections contributed by more than 200 photographers from around the world, 130 detailed colored distribution maps expertly drawn by master cartographer Mike Shand from the University of Glasgow and two magnificent watercolor paintings of a Pamir argali and a Kashmir markhor by Bodo Meier.

Read what the first reviewers of the CIC Caprinae Atlas have to say:

Sandro Lovari, Professor of Animal Behavior, University of Siena, Italy: ... The authors undertook the difficult task to mediate between scientists’ opinions, and created a handbook useful for a working knowledge of the nomenclature of these impressive mountain monarchs .... the impressive illustrations in the Atlas are matched only by the accuracy of distribution maps ... anyone who wants to conserve and/or hunt them, anyone who is in love with the evocative, unique landscapes where they dwell should own this book.
Raul Valdez, Professor Emeritus New Mexico State University, USA: ... literally thousands of publications were reviewed and, the [authors] made excellent use of the knowledge of a host of globally recognized Caprinae experts. [They] describe the taxonomy, distribution, anatomy, conservation, population status, management, and sustainable hunting for 96 Caprinae phenotypes. This Atlas is the seminal reference for the general public and specialists such as mammalogists, systematists, museum curators, wildlife conservationists and managers, and for hunters. It is of particular value to those who are involved in montane biodiversity and sustainable, community-based conservation planning in Holarctic montane ecosystems. The CIC Atlas simply is the definitive book on Caprines!

Peter Flack, Author, Conservationist and Hunter, South Africa: .... I have followed Gerhard Damm’s progress in researching and writing this book over the seven years it has taken him to complete this truly groundbreaking work. I hope he will not mind me saying that he is a perfectionist by nature, an extremely hard worker and, in the many years I have known him, I can attest to the fact that, once he sets his mind to complete a task, he does it with a degree of thoroughness and professionalism it is hard for others to emulate. This work is an example of his dedication and I anticipate that it will not only be around for many decades to come ...

John J Jackson III, Chairman Conservation Force, USA: .... “Finally, the book of sheep, goats and other mountain ungulates that every mountain hunter needs as a reference. The Atlas is the definitive work on Caprinae ... The massive two volume set was a decade in the making and probably will never be replaced. This is not the work of just one or two men. It is the collation of the work of dozens of the foremost Caprinae experts: the ultimate reference work for the mountain species of the world ...
Marco Festa-Bianchet, PhD, Professor of Ecology, University of Sherbrooke, Canada and Chairman IUCN Caprinae Specialist Group: ... the CIC Caprinae Atlas of the World marks a milestone in the conservation activities of the CIC. This very ambitious book will interest hunters, researchers and wildlife managers. It presents a massive amount of information on mountain ungulates, including detailed descriptions of taxonomic varieties ... Its maps and photographs will be a cornerstone of much future work on the ecology, taxonomy and conservation of these species. Caprinae conservation hinges on the collaboration of conservation biologists and trophy hunters, because while unregulated harvests can have unwanted evolutionary consequences, the prestige of some Caprinae as trophies can be a powerful force in their conservation. ... This monumental work took much effort by some very able and determined people. I applaud their commitment and I am certain that this Atlas will further the conservation of mountain ungulates ...


The New Face of African Indaba
Gerhard R Damm

After humble beginnings in 2003 when I produced around 300 hard copies of the first few issues of African Indaba and my wife and son helped to put them in envelopes for snail mailing followed the first clumsy efforts of creating a website and sending the newsletter electronically to an ever growing number of subscribers around the globe. When the subscribers’ list approached 5,000, and the sending became a chore, I got an unexpected call from Andreas Jarisch from Port Elizabeth. I did not know Andreas personally, but when he mentioned that as an avid reader of African Indaba, he offers to design and run a website and use his computer wizardry to shoot the bi-monthly issues via the web to the subscribers, I jumped at the offer. Over the years, Andreas was always at hand to assist and lend a helping brain, when things got hectic. Even from his hunting camp in the Eastern Cape. John Jackson of Conservation Force assisted in defraying the costs for the free bi-monthly newsletter.

With my election to preside over the Applied Science Division of the CIC in 2011 came a period, when my CIC tasks left me little time to concentrate on regularly collecting material for African Indaba and there was sometimes a long break between issues. This was the time when Rolf Baldus, my friend and colleague from the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, and a frequent contributor to African Indaba from the time of its inception, made the proposal that the CIC adopt African Indaba as its official newsletter for Africa. It took not long to convince the CIC Executive Committee. A new team of co-editors consisting of Rolf Baldus (Germany), Vernon Booth (Zimbabwe), Ali Kaka (Kenya) and myself obtained also CIC’s commitment to uphold our editorial independence.
Aliz Ertler, CIC staffer based in Moscow, and talented artist, took over to design a new and eye-catching logo, and create a modern and user friendly website. Aliz also acts as webmaster since beginning of this year. It took us a while to finally agree on all the details, but the outcome is stunning. Thanks, Aliz and team – well done!

African Indaba is now in its 12th year of publication – and from all we hear from our subscribers – it became a household name for unbiased and factual information on African conservation and hunting issues.

My thanks go again to all those who contributed and continue to contribute to the success of this e-Newsletter and I am sure that the editorial team will remain committed to providing cutting-edge information on African wildlife matters.

Of course, my thanks go also to our more than 16,000 subscribers in 130 countries from around the globe. We rely on your assistance in making all hunters and non-hunters aware of the opportunities, problems and solutions for preserving Africa’s great natural heritage.

Send a pdf file of this African Indaba issue to your email contacts!