The Lion’s Share? On The Economic Benefits Of Trophy Hunting

Editorial by Gerhard R Damm¹

Dr Cameron K. Murray of Economists at Large Pty Ltd from Melbourne, Australia is the lead author of the report "The lion’s share? On the economic benefits of trophy hunting". This report was commissioned by Humane Society International (HSI). HSI hails the report with the article "New report reveals big game hunting makes minimal contribution to African economies and jobs - Trophy hunters’ inflated claims debunked; trophy hunting ‘insignificant’ to economy". The report concludes that hunting brings in just 0.78 percent or less of the overall tourism spending and has only a marginal impact on employment in Botswana, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, providing approximately 0.76 percent or less of overall tourism jobs. The total economic contribution of is at most an estimated 0.03 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), the HSI report said.

Let us for a start compare two similar sized areas - one in South Africa (Sabi Sands Game Reserve SSGR of 68,000 ha with an 50km unfenced boundary to Kruger National Park) and one in Zimbabwe (Savé Valley Conservancy's 65,000 ha Sango Ranch).

About 42 commercial lodges operate in SSGR (a quick search on the internet confirms this). The daily capacity in visitor beds is about 780 guests. Several private lodges are also located in the reserve. Boreholes provide an abundance of water throughout the year and hold wildlife in the area. The entire Sabi Sands is used exclusively for photographic safaris - consumptive use, for example to provide meat rations from the abundant impala herds, or hunting is not permitted.

¹ This editorial draws heavily on comments and suggestions supplied by a number of wildlife conservation experts from African countries and around the world.

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
In addition to the tourists, there are constantly about 1,400 to 1,500 lodge employees present in the reserve, plus the SSGR workers maintaining the SSGR infrastructure. There is also considerable daily traffic from outside to deliver supplies to the lodges. The high end lodges offer amenities like air conditioning, wine cellars, luxury spas, gyms, individual splash pools and so on. During full occupancy (Christmas, Easter and other school holidays) round about 120 vehicles may be busy on morning and evening game drives. Light pollution at night (spot-lighting), time limits of 10 to 15 minutes per vehicle at 'special' sightings (leopards, wild dogs, lions, etc), constant radio traffic to exchange sighting locations, speeding with game drive vehicles to reach sightings, and off-road driving are common occurrences.

The privately owned Sango Ranch in Savé Valley Conservancy (SVC) operates on a combination of hunting, falconry and photographic safari basis. Sango accommodates 8 visitors in the main lodge and 8 in the tented camp. Through the initiative of the SVC landowners, wildlife numbers have grown exponentially. The SVC now holds more than 4,000 buffalo, 1,600 elephants, over 160 black and white rhinos, abundant lion and leopard populations plus a wide variety of autochthonous antelope species in healthy numbers. Artificial water points are kept to a minimum. Annual quotas for hunting as well as for meat provisions for staff and surrounding communities are significantly below the annual population growth rates. Quotas are established with the aid of aerial surveys and scientific ground surveys. Hunting - both daily rates and fees for hunted animals - provides an important contribution to the Sango Ranch budget. Game capture of overabundant species and relocation to depleted areas outside the conservancy are usually done on a pro-bono basis and add cost instead of providing income.

It is obvious that the annual revenue from wildlife tourism of the lodges in the Sabi Sands is vastly greater than the combined tourist and hunting revenue of Sango Ranch. The ecological footprint of several scores of visitors and hunters on Sango is minimal. In contrast, the abundance of lodges in Sabi Sands, the dense network of roads and tracks, the high annual number of visitors (ca.100,000 per year, based on 40% occupancy) and the presence of probably around 60 game viewing vehicles (based on average occupancy) leave a broad and lasting ecological footprint.

Despite the vastly diverging revenue, the use model applied on Sango is highly important for conservation of this out-of-the-way land and its entire flora and fauna. It is also of paramount significance for the communities living on the borders of Sango Ranch - for employment and family income, meat supplies, empowerment through conservation education, and so on.

Whilst Sango Ranch is in a remote part of Zimbabwe, the highly accessible Victoria Falls area receives 150,000+ tourists a year. Not 10 km away is Zambezi National Park visited by only a tiny fraction of these tourists; the park barely generates sufficient income to cover operating expenses. The distance of Kazuma National Park to Victoria Falls is ca. 100 km; hardly any tourists visit this park. Similarly, very few photo-tourists come to the Hwange CAMPFIRE communal area; income from tourists is minuscule compared to the income from selling hunting rights. Regulated hunting takes place in the Matetsi Safari Area on the doorstep of the Victoria Falls Tourist Mecca. Matetsi generates sufficient income from hunting to cover its operating expenses. One of the hunting blocks was converted to a photographic only block some years ago; despite significant investments it is still struggling to find its feet.

In Namibia many conservancies engage in hunting AND photographic tourism. Peer reviewed research shows that if trophy hunting were to cease, photo tourism operations would no longer be economically viable. Naidoo et. al. (2016) analyzed 77 CBNRM registered conservancies in Namibia; without hunting revenue only 16% of the conservancies would survive economically. The impact would

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be increased vulnerability of some 50,000 km² of wildlife habitat. Without photo tourism revenue, 59% of conservancies remain viable.

A win-win solution - not only in Namibia - would be the combination of consumptive (extractive) and non-consumptive (non-extractive) tourism under strict interaction protocols. Adequate importance needs to be placed on an ecologically acceptable foot print of all safari operations, rather than the either/or proposition forwarded by animal rights extremists.

Hunting revenue remains a sustainable way to fund public agencies like Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife and the Wildlife Department in Tanzania. This is also valid for Namibia, Mozambique and Zambia; the agencies cover the lion’s share of their operating budget from hunting fees. Consequently hunting helps conserving the wildlife enjoyed by photo tourists and hunters alike. Hunting also provides most and efficient community engagement in the greatest number of remote areas of Africa, where tourists do not venture!

Most hunting safari operators field anti-poaching units within their hunting concessions costing them millions of dollars annually. Zambeze Delta Safaris in Mozambique and the Dande Anti-Poaching Unit in Zimbabwe, as well as the safari operators in Tanzania are standout examples3.

Another little-known Africa conservation success story is the relationship between safari hunting of mountain nyala, local communities and the conservation of Afro-montane forests in Ethiopia. The mountain nyala is one of the most highly prized big game species in Africa, and safari hunting plays a vital role in the conservation and management of the species and its habitat in rather remote areas not frequented by the average tourist. Even where the habitat had been altered by settlement and agriculture over the years hunting operators remained and assisted in regenerating the endemic heather and mountain forests which are essential for mountain nyala. Murulle Foundation4 initiated potential mountain nyala habitat surveys and developed triple-bottom line conservation programs. Community benefits and ownership all but eliminated poaching. Large populations of mountain nyala are now found outside of national parks in the hunting concessions of the Bale, Arsi and Harrar mountains.

Hunting areas in east and southern Africa are usually situated in marginal areas with monotonous landscapes, drab vegetation, and low wildlife carrying capacity. They are viable for hunting, but simply not suitable for nature based tourism. Landscapes with diversified natural scenery and abundant game herds are not typically found in hunting areas - such draw-card reserves have long since been converted into exclusive photo safari concessions. This is rarely admitted by those who oppose hunting.

If nature based tourism were a viable business in hunting areas, it is likely someone would be engaged in it. The fact that there is no engagement of the “eco-tourism” sector says everything. Most of Botswana’s former hunting concessions fell into this category. Photo safari operators failed appallingly taken over most hunting blocks after hunting was closed in 2014. The cost of this failure fell upon local communities, who were deprived of their livelihood.

Murray’s report falls abysmally short looking at the entire picture when it comes to the wildlife-based economies of the countries he surveyed. He compares the economic contribution of hunting with

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4 Murulle Foundation was co-founded by Dr. Paul Evangelista of Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory (NREL) and Jason Roussos, professional hunter and operator of Ethiopian Rift Valley Safaris. The Foundation works to build an enduring coexistence of local people and threatened ecosystems. See also the documentary Custodians of Wilderness: Ethiopia (2017) from The Conservation Imperative on Vimeo.
the economic contribution of tourism\textsuperscript{5}. This approach is full of serious methodological flaws and Murray's macro-scale-based conclusions are grossly and probably intentionally misleading, since he omits important micro-scale dynamics and fails to look at the important local impact of hunting-generated revenue.

Murray interprets legitimate WTTC figures in a worryingly manipulative manner. As to be expected, his conclusions fully reflect the line of thought of his contactors from Humane Society International, an organization with a stated anti-hunting agenda. Murray's report has so many glaring shortcomings that it cannot be viewed as comprehensive, objective or credible, and its conclusions cannot be accepted as valid.

The relevant comparison basis should be the proportionate revenue from hunting and from other tourism flowing to local landowners and land custodians, wildlife managers and communities. It is this funding which conserves land and wildlife! Taking total tourism as the comparison is quite ridiculous\textsuperscript{6}. Moreover Murray fails to recognize that high-end eco-tourism is only feasible in a limited range of areas. It requires proximity to transport routes, scenic landscapes, iconic wildlife at sufficient densities, political stability, absence of disease risks, infrastructure, capital, training, etc. Murray is silent on the limitations of eco-tourism and does not offer any solutions as how to generate benefits and incentives for conservation in the vast African wildlife areas where tourism is not practicable.

It is problematic to get into a debate about the economics of hunting in the first place, as hunting will never make impressive economic contributions to a country at GDP level. As indicated, Murray should rather look into the changes to incomes of African communities as a welfare measure. Using the welfare economic metric will take into account the non-financial benefits accrued by many communities from hunting, including the community development work required from hunting operators under concession agreements in many countries.

Murray and HSI miss recognizing the real conservation challenge in Africa: wildlife and wild land needs to be made profitable for as many local people as possible! Rural communities cannot be expected to just be custodians; they have to be invested shareholders and beneficiaries.

Regulated and conservation-conscious hunting positively influences landowner attitudes and values towards wildlife by providing traditional community and private owners with incentives to live with wildlife and promote wildlife as a land-use. Such attitudinal changes are fundamental for keeping wildlife on the vast tracts of habitat outside Africa's national parks that will never be suitable for tourism. Murray's report fails to provide alternative suggestions how these immense tracts of land currently managed for hunting can be financed or justified as wildlife habitat in economic terms, if hunting was not permitted.

Unfortunately, it does not matter how many times Murray's flawed paper (not peer-reviewed, and unlikely to survive a standard academic peer review process) is refuted by experts. It will be quoted again and again by those on the mission supported by the paper's contractors. HSI - totally opposed to any form of hunting - misses the real context of conservation in Africa and will be spreading Murray's report to a broad general audience. I am afraid that it will be believed uncritically by most of readers.

\textsuperscript{5} Murray probably used the UN World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) approach of drawing figures from country Tourism Satellite Accounts to come up with the tourism sector's economic contribution. If this is the case, then one should bear in mind that these figures lump all tourism and travel participants (including business travel and day visits of people coming from a neighboring country to another country to purchase goods) as "tourists". Consequently, nature based tourism is only a small portion of the overall tourism and travel industry. It is very difficult to disaggregate out from the much larger contributions of business and day travelers to a country.

\textsuperscript{6} Only about 10-15% of tourists categorized via the WTTC approach are coming as nature based tourists to Namibia. Thus, the purported economic tourism contributions (while valid by the WTTC) would be heavily overstated when compared to the contributions of visiting hunters.
Saluting Dr. Wolfgang Burhenne 1924-2017
Dieter Schramm, President of Honor, CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation

Pericles said in his speech for the fallen of the Peloponnese War: *a man's tombstone is not the place where he is put to rest, but rather it is the memory in which he continues to live within our minds.*

Wolfgang Burhenne’s memory will be upheld by all the many important organizations who were privileged to count him amongst their leaders – an icon, a cornerstone, a symbolic personality, a paragon.

Wolfgang, my friend, allow me to address you as a fellow hunter and friend!

**Dr. Wolfgang Burhenne, Chairman of IUCN Commission on Environmental Policy, Law and Administration** – that impressive designation daunted me at the time when I first met you in the 1980s. I was equally impressed that you, as a globally known environmentalist openly acknowledged and unashamedly affirmed your life-long hunting passion, since already then numerous opponents of sustainable use in general and hunting in particular, argued their case in the world’s conservation NGOs. Yet you announced your hunting passion again and again!

I recall one of our first conversations; grabbing my suit lapels you opened it with one of your signature introductions: *“Horch mal her”* (now, listen to me!) you said *“the international conservation movement needs funding. And there is a huge untapped resource for genuine conservation: the passionate global hunting community. As a true hunter, I know this, as a hunter I promote this…. do you agree?”* I did, and I was fascinated.

You saw the hunter-conservationists of the CIC as the ideal body to support your views and endeavors for global conservation of landscapes, habitats and all the creatures large and small. The CIC, according to your vision, could and should play a significant instrument in the orchestra of global conservation! You believed in the CIC as the umbrella organization to promote wildlife conservation through legal hunting! Hence big applause greeted you when you decided to join the CIC!

It did not take long that you became a Legal Advisor of the CIC – together with two other famous wildlife law experts, Dr. Rudolf Gürtler of Austria and Maître Jean-Loudevic Hartmann of Switzerland.

Another one of your signature openers, especially when addressing me, at that time the president of the CIC, was: “**Dieter, so geht das nicht!” (Dieter, this is not the way it is done).** During our almost daily phone calls, at a time when the CIC started to become a global player, this standard phrase helped preventing the new CIC President and Executive Committee from stepping into legal pitfalls and administrative traps! “**Dieter so geht das nicht!”** and then you came forward with proposals of how to make things work.

Wolfgang, you assisted the CIC in many ways – from obtaining a quasi-diplomatic status in Hungary, where the CIC Headquarters moved in 1999; to crafting the CIC statutes in 2001 as a modern management tool to replace a structure, which you called *antediluvian*; supporting the move of the CIC.
legal seat from Paris to Vienna – as you always put it – away from the French law of a bowling club to the level of international state law. As a consequence, the 2004 Austrian Government Decree recognized the CIC as working in the public interest.

“Horch mal her”, you said as you eyed me sharply over your horn-rimmed glasses: “I am not your political advisor, I advise the CIC and it’s my duty to challenge you: Is what you intend to do in the interest of the CIC? Will it create personal rivalries? Are you sure that your arguments will convince the CIC leaders and members?

My good friend Wolfgang, in your delightful home you introduced us to your charming wife Françoise, your partner in conservation. I valued your generous hospitality and the many fascinating and constructive CIC discussions with both of you. Françoise supported your strong believe that the CIC has the obligation to promote sustainable use as one cornerstone of conservation: at international level, within the UN System, at the conferences of parties of multilateral agreements and environmental conventions, and of course at IUCN.

You were the staunch supporter and the sounding board for Kai Wollscheid, the internationally recognized former CIC Director General, when he represented the CIC at UN entities, the European Commission, national governments and many international non-governmental organizations. You strongly supported Kai’s initiative to establish a close collaboration on inter alia the improvement of wildlife policy and law, particularly in Central Asia with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation. You tirelessly supported the CIC Executive Committee in its work, yet you did not spare us criticism where warranted. You fought together with us to convince some of our friends that did not yet believe in the relevance of CIC’s political role.

You supported and diligently advised Kai in the development of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and helped refining the document language. In 2004 the AAPGs were adopted by the Convention on Biodiversity. The joint development of the Council of Europe’s Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity, and its adoption within the Bern Convention in 2007, was another great achievement of this team consisting of a legal fox with an analytical mind, a dynamic CIC Director General and experts from IUCN and FACE.

Alas, Wolfgang Burhenne, without you the CIC would have never had an impact in IUCN. We would never have succeeded to establishing CIC as a globally recognized body of expertise in the field of sustainable use through ethical hunting. Remember, my friend, when you took my sleeve at the 2004 IUCN World Conservation Congress in Bangkok and whispered in my ear: “follow my advice and we shall get recreational hunting established as an accepted conservation tool!” I did, and we succeeded.

Your carefully structured advice helped the CIC establishing the CIC Markhor Award for Outstanding Conservation Performance at the Convention on Biological Diversity and you organized the first award ceremony together with the CBD Secretariat and the German Federal Ministry for Agriculture and Consumer Protection during CBD COP-9 in 2008.

But, my dear friend and fellow-hunter Wolfgang, you could also be very adamant in locking horns, albeit with a twinkle in the eyes ... remember what happened at the IUCN Conference 2000 in Amman? You were a prominent promoter of the Earth Charter – an important document about how conservation of the World’s natural resources should be handled. When I vigorously opposed this document, because it had clauses adverse to sustainable hunting such as “you may not cause any pain when killing an animal”, you took me by the shoulders and proclaimed with your best authoritative and stern legal voice: “Horch mal her, Dieter ... this document is endorsed by former General Secretary Gorbachev and Queen Noor of Jordan...” And wherever I showed up in Amman you pointed at me: “Look at him, this is the guy, who is against our Earth Charter”!

We discussed this issue then and again later – and you, Wolfgang, were a good sport. It did not influence our friendship and our fights for common causes. To the contrary, you called me the “CIC
President who lays the foundation for the future of this organization”. When I protested, saying too much honey gave me a stomach ache, you, dear friend smiled: “Horch mal her, Dieter, don’t worry, you get enough trashing as it stands …!”

Together we climbed the Austrian Alps to hunt chamois, when I was invited by Emil and Tina Underberg, the co-initiators of the Fund for Environmental Studies in the Alpine Region (FUST). You insisted to accompany me, then well in the 9th decade of your life. When I was worried that you could handle the steep mountains you answered “Dieter, horch mal her, there is no problem, I have engineered two special retractable mountain sticks!

Back to the CIC statutes. When they required modernization you stepped in again as Honorary Legal Advisor of the CIC, now past ninety years of age. Instead of enjoying your newly built home in the Achensee Mountains and your beloved chamois hunting, your acute sense of duty prevailed. You again joined the team, and wore us all down in the discussions; chewing on the wording in all three official languages of the CIC: French, English and German. This sense of duty, and your finely tuned command of the three languages deserves our utmost respect!

Another of your CIC legacies, dear Wolfgang, was your insistence to align ourselves with the many great conservation organizations in North America. In our last telephone call towards the end of 2016 you complimented our American CIC Vice President Dr. Kaush Arha for his success in building a strong CIC representation in the USA.

"Wolfgang, horch mal her: ... we are proud and determined to upholding your legacy of a life-long hunter-conservationist! Smile, my dear friend Wolfgang! You are and will be always with us and we are and will be always with you!"

Rest in Peace!

Read more about Dr. Burhenne in African Indaba, Volume 13-5 - October 2015 (Portrait Of The Amazing Life Of An Outstanding Conservationist – Wolfgang E. Burhenne)

In Memoriam of Dr. Graham Child (1936-2016)
Rolf D. Baldus

Dr. Graham Child passed away on December 2nd in South Africa. In his young days, Graham held a good number of positions in conservation in his home country, Zimbabwe, and in Botswana. Later in life he served two terms as IUCN regional councilor and worked as a consultant advising governments and conservation agencies around the world. He was a member of the South African CIC delegation.

However, his name will always be most connected with his 15 years of duty as Director of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management of Rhodesia and later Zimbabwe.

Together with colleagues and staff he developed this department into one of the finest conservation agencies not only in Africa, but in the world. Graham combined the leadership with management skills, and being a man of vision, forethought and of impeccable integrity, and guided it through politically turbulent years.

I first met Graham, when working in Zimbabwe in 1981 as FAO-consultant on self-help
organizations. I was most impressed to see how Graham and the wildlife policy makers around him had developed a thriving wildlife industry, based on the principle of sustainable use, and aiming to conserve wildlife whilst promote rural economies. Multiple land use with ownership rights for wildlife created an alternative to less environmentally friendly agriculture and livestock husbandry.

Graham oversaw the promulgation of the innovative 1975 Wildlife Act, which sparked the expansion of wildlife use on large commercial farms. This Act also laid the foundations for communal wildlife management which later developed into CAMPFIRE, a program that influenced wildlife management not only in Africa, but around the world. Graham’s name will always be closely connected with these successes.

In 1982, I bought one of the Department’s auction hunts and hunted in the Zambezi Valley. The Department’s scouts, who were seconded to accompany me, were professional and behaved with integrity. I saw how wildlife areas in Africa could thrive, when they are run by an efficient and non-corrupt agency under the strong and impartial leadership Graham provided.

But with the winds of change blowing through Zimbabwe, the Mugabe government eased people such as Graham, and other fine professional conservationists, out of their offices. It must have been heart breaking for him to see the downfall of “his” department and consequently wildlife under the Mugabe regime.

Ten years ago, it seemed for a short time that the era of the Zimbabwe dictator Mugabe was coming to an end. It seemed that the time had come to consider how the wildlife sector in a new Zimbabwe could be rebuilt. On behalf of some committed German conservationists, I asked Graham to prepare a concept note for an action program to rebuild the wildlife sector, and to propose supporting activities for donors and the private sector. These proposals were never implemented for known reasons. They are, however, just as valid today as they were then. Perhaps one day they will guide future policy makers and conservationists trying to rebuild Zimbabwe’s wildlife sector. I wish to end this obituary therefore with a few paragraphs from this study:

„Zimbabwe was one of the leading countries in wildlife conservation and management. The sector earned over US$ 300 million per year through conservation generated by protected areas belonging to the state, rural community-run wildlife management areas and private game ranches and reserves. Sadly most of this has been destroyed or severely damaged within a few years of political lawlessness and corruption ...

Wildlife [has] a great ability to recover within a relatively short period of time, provided the natural habitats remain intact, and sound protection and wise management can be reintroduced. The formerly thriving wildlife sector can be restored, but to achieve this, [Zimbabwe] will need the assistance of bilateral and international donors and “hands-on” conservation NGOs.

The future political decision-makers of Zimbabwe as well as donor institutions must not overlook the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife once a new start is possible. [Wildlife] conservation is not a luxury that may be taken up at a later stage after the most urgent tasks of rehabilitation have been achieved. Zimbabwe’s wildlife heritage is the draw card of the country’s tourist industry, which is a sector that can quickly be turned [around]. For the recovery of the wildlife sector, it must be incorporated in economic development and poverty reduction strategies from the [start].

Many tracts of land formerly devoted to wildlife are now occupied or resettled. Appropriate action is needed fast or the remaining wildlife in these areas will be lost forever. Past experience shows that these areas are unsuited to conventional agriculture, and that wildlife production is the most appropriate form of land use."

Many of the principles outlined above are captured in the conclusions of the current EU-funded review of the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Authority.

Such was the vision of Graham Child, one of Africa’s premier wildlife conservationists.
CIC U.S. Delegation Grows Exponentially In 2016
Gerhard R Damm

The year 2016 was a year of exponential growth for the U.S. Delegation of the International Council for Game & Wildlife Conservation (CIC). CIC is a globally respected hunter-conservation organization dedicated to promoting sustainable hunting to conserve wildlife and wild lands, support communities, and preserve the hunting heritage across the globe. CIC’s unique membership structure includes nation states, corporations, and individuals. The CIC U.S. Delegation is a 501(c)(3) organization with an independent board and officers and is an affiliate of the CIC headquartered in Budapest, Hungary.


Rick Capozza, President of the U.S. Delegation of the CIC commented on this positive development: “American hunters and hunting conservation organizations do the most to promote hunting based on sustainable wildlife management systems that benefit local communities and indigenous peoples in several African, Asian and other overseas nations. A collective voice of U.S. hunters and hunting organizations is a powerful force for sustainable wildlife use around the globe. The U.S. Delegation of the CIC is dedicated to facilitate and promote the collective voice of American hunters globally.”

SCI President-elect Paul Babaz has been named to the board of directors of the U.S. Delegation. Babaz stated in a SCI Press Release that he is looking forward to leveraging the strength of SCI’s membership in his new role. “The overall contribution of hunting tourism in eight African nations is an estimated $426 million annually. More than 18,000 hunter tourists visit Africa every year. SCI and CIC are committed to work with all public and private stakeholders to improve and preserve hunting as a wildlife management tool in Africa and across the globe,” Babaz said.

Nick Pinizzotto, President and CEO of the National Deer Alliance (NDA), also expressed satisfaction in a NDA Press Release and stated that “it is an honor to be [part of] the CIC, and I look forward to doing my share to help the organization achieve its goals. Deer are by far the most popular game animal pursued in North America, and [NDA] looks forward to providing that perspective as it relates to the overall work of the Council.”

WESSA: How To Enhance Value Of Legal Rhino Horn
Gerhard R Damm

The Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) thinks out of box to enhance funding for the rhino anti-poaching battle: rhino-horn-infused wine, rhino horn massages, additional hunts with the original rhino horn trophy replaced by a mouldings are just some of the suggestions WESSA has come up with in its innovative action to grow the legal value of rhino horn in South Africa.
Already in March 2015 WESSA said in a submission to the Department of Environmental Affairs “the promotion of alternative income sources from rhinos can offset the costs incurred in stocking and managing them. WESSA suggested at that time that the society intends to show that by allowing an increased (genuine, sustainable) hunting industry (but without permitting the export of trophy horns or other rhino body parts), as well as other non-exportable uses of rhino products. We hold that increasing the sustainable utilization by hunting can deliver significant economic benefits to rhino stock holders, will generate significant indirect, local economic returns (principally through tourism related jobs and services); and which can be effectively regulated”.

If the present initiative is successful, WESSA environmental governance manager Morgan Griffiths submits, the various actions could provide crucial funding for anti-poaching work and rhino conservation. Under the present scenario the rapidly increasing cost of rhino protection has little or no incentive for public and private protected areas and game reserves to maintain or even increase their rhino populations.

The government recently reported a slight decline in rhino poaching, but Griffiths said that anti-poaching cost are unsustainable and urgent innovative thinking is needed. “The government budget for this work is diminishing and international money is propping it up, but there are also signs of donor fatigue. So how do we protect the conservation estate and the jobs it supports?” Griffiths said.

One important WESSA suggestion focuses on trophy hunting. “We should encourage additional hunts, generating legal, taxable value, with the money going into conservation enforcement instead of the black market. In terms of this model, the horn would be destroyed to ensure it was not laundered into the illegal market”, Griffiths said.

“Instead of taking the horn home as a trophy the hunter would receive an artificial horn moulded of the original horn, and taxidermists can use this replica horn in a shoulder or full mount to take home. “Alternatively, photographs and 3D printing could be used,” Griffiths said. “It will take a change in mindset – but so did tag-and-release fishing.”

WESSA’s two other suggestions could be marketed as high-end novelty products for spas or reserves, he said. “Instead of hot rock massage why not rhino horn massage? “A limited number of registered horns could be made available to certain spas,” Griffiths said. “Likewise certain reserves could be licensed to produce and sell rhino-horn-infused wine, whisky or tea.”

Due process needs to ensure no unintended loopholes for criminals were created, Griffiths added. “In the end, the best place for a rhino horn is on the animal itself, but we have to find ways to achieve this end”, he said

On its Rhino-Page WESSA says that "every day we are learning more about the current rhino situation and thus, whilst being proactive, we need to be flexible and innovative in our selection of interventions. We also need to continue to work with a number of other credible and like-minded organisations to prevent duplication and to achieve maximum conservation benefit."

**WESSA (Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa) has a remarkable history of almost 90 years and a proud track record of enabling individuals and organizations to use natural resources sustainably and effectively, through our strategic partnerships. We are driven by the key focus areas of our work, which are aimed at the conservation of life-supporting ecosystems such as water and biodiversity.**

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7 WESSA opposed the DEA line-of-thought to propose legal trade at the recent CITES CoP 17 already in March 2015, but made alternative proposals - read the full text of the original submission [HERE](#)
The Fair Chase Guild – What Is It?
Peter Flack

I attended an historic meeting on Tuesday 18 October 2016. Or at least in time to come, I hope people will look back and say it was an historic meeting. Fittingly, it was held under canvass at the HQ of SA Hunters and chaired by its President, Gerhard Verdoorn. Present were ten other people - including the CEO, Conservation Manager and Manager Hunting Affairs of SA Hunters - most of whom had walked the long road over the past year leading to the establishment of The Fair Chase Guild, which was formally announced at the SA Hunters Congress on Friday 4 November 2016.

“Oh, yet another hunting body,” I hear you say through your yawn. “We have dozens of those. They are all the same.” Really? Without wanting to be rude, do you know what fair chase hunting is? It is the hunting by fair chase rules of wild animals in their natural habitats on a sustainable, legal and unashamedly ethical basis.

Does your hunting association have as its main aim the promotion of fair chase hunting pursuant to a three year public relations strategic plan implemented by one of the top PR firms in the country? Is your association prepared to put R1.5 million per annum behind this initiative? Or does your hunting association only defend hunting on a reactive basis as and when hunting is attacked and then only weeks or months after such attack and in media read or watched only by hunters?

And can I hear you say, “What difference is PR going to make? PR is all about spin doctors and trying to make crooks look like Mother Theresa!” Is that so?

To begin with, the Fair Chase Guild PR campaign involves:

1. During the hot summer months monthly meetings with members of the media at which short presentations will be made on some aspect of fair chase hunting. The presentations will be provided to them in written form to do with as they wish.
2. Monthly visits during the cool winter months with members of the media to shooting ranges, game ranches and hunts to demonstrate the practical application of fair chase hunting.
3. A weekly clipping service showing every article in every publication, which deals with hunting and conservation.
4. The publication of an article on fair chase hunting at least twice a month in some media outlet other than hunting magazines, which may or may not deal with articles previously published in the media. The Guild wants to move away from just preaching to the converted.
5. The development of promotional material demonstrating the benefits of fair chase hunting to be distributed to non fair chase hunters.

The aim of The Fair Chase Guild is not only to become the “Go to” organization for the media when they wish to discuss hunting related issues but also to encourage hunters to join and discover, to the extent they have not already done so, the pleasures of hunting according to fair chase rules. To be part of an association of like-minded people who share common values and aims. To be able to look anyone in the face and proudly explain and promote what The Fair Chase Guild stands for and does. To know that if any member contravenes the rules of fair chase hunting and is found guilty of such conduct by his peers, he will be disciplined by them and possibly expelled from the Guild – depending on the severity of the breach - without recourse to litigation.

The aim of the Fair Chase Guild’s PR programs is also to help explain the benefits of fair chase hunting to the uninitiated who may or may not hunt themselves and especially to those who are undecided about or even partially opposed to some kinds of hunting.
The Fair Chase Guild has three initial subsidiary aims, the conservation of our wildlife and wildlife habitats, the education of young people into the benefits of fair chase hunting and the development of a data base of game ranchers who offer fair chase hunts and abide by the rules of fair chase hunting so that we can recommend them to local and international hunters. And while it is not a specific aim, as part of its public relations programs, the Guild will obviously look to support the initiatives of others that promote fair chase hunting. Similarly, the Guild will support those programs that conserve our wildlife and wildlife habitats and oppose those that do not without duplicating the efforts of SA Hunters in this regard.

So, who can join? Anyone.

Do you have to already be a fair chase hunter to join? While this would obviously be an advantage, it is not a prerequisite provided you sign the Guild’s Rules and Regulations and Indemnity and abide by them in the future.

Do you have to be a member of a hunting or conservation association? No, but every member of The Fair Chase Guild, to the extent he is not already so, must become a member of SA Hunters.

Well, how do I become a member? Very simple. Send us a one page email or letter telling us about yourself and why you would like to become a member and one or more of our Founder Members will call you back, discuss your application and then notify you whether your membership application has been approved or not. Alternatively, approach two or more Founder Members and ask them to propose and second you, respectively, for membership and then leave it to them to make the necessary arrangements. Remember, however, that the granting or refusal of membership is in the sole discretion of the Founder Members.

Can I become a Founder Member? Yes, by becoming a member in good standing of The Fair Chase Guild on or before 31 October 2017.

Who is behind the formation of The Fair Chase Guild and how is it to be financed? Good question. Always “Follow the money!” The idea behind The Fair Chase Guild arose after the Cecil decade when every hunting association seemed to be caught unawares by the worldwide condemnation and, for the most part, acted like a bunch of rabbits caught in the headlights.

A small group consisting of Koos Barnard, Fred Camphor, Derek Carstens, Gerhard Damm, Peter Flack, Neels Geldenhuys, Lizanne Nel, Danie Terblanche, Johan van de Giessen and Gerhard Verdoorn met at SA Hunters to see whether there was another way to deal with this and other similar issues. All were tired of being painted with the same brush as people involved in canned killings, the domestication of wildlife to produce exaggerated horn lengths and unnatural color variants and other aberrant, illegal and/or unethical behavior which reflected negatively on fair chase hunters. All were keen to do something about this and most at the meeting represented numerous other hunters of a similar persuasion. And so the idea of The Fair Chase Guild was born.

It was soon realized, however, that the operations of the Guild would be expensive. So, how to finance it? Many of the Founder Members were also prepared to become Founder Sponsors and commit R1 000.00 per month each to this end for the next three years. Having said this, membership is open to all, the minimum contribution being R800.00 per annum or the amount of the SA Hunters annual membership fee from time to time.

Sponsorship will be offered to corporate members and people will be invited to become Patrons of The Fair Chase Guild. Large Bore Patrons will contribute a one off payment of R100 000.00, Medium Bore Patrons R50 000.00 and Small Bore Patrons R25 000.00.

Should any of the affairs of the Guild need to be decided by a vote, then every member will have one vote for each rand he has paid directly to the affairs of the Guild. In this regard, the Guild will share certain services with SA Hunters for which it will pay, including banking services, although the financial affairs of the Guild will be separate from those of SA Hunters and under its own direct control.
The Fair Chase Guild is looking to establish links to and relationships with other like-minded people and organizations within and outside Africa. The Guild is looking to build a membership base of at least 300 Founder Members, Founder Sponsors and Patrons in the first year of its operation. Failure to do so will result in the Guild ceasing to operate as, clearly, the absence of 300 people who believe sufficiently in the benefits of fair chase hunting, will mean that this is neither a sustainable or viable movement and none of us want to limp along like the fifth wheel on the SA Hunters wagon.

For more about Peter Flack, his books, articles, DVDs, blog and SHAC, see his website www.peterflack.co.za

Open Letter To Ambassador Xin Shunkang Of The People’s Republic Of China To Namibia
Dr. Chris Brown, CEO, Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE) 8

Chris Brown, the NEC CEO wrote a letter to the Chinese Ambassador in Namibia dated 21st December, 2016. The letter reflects the opinion of NEC members and supporters 9

Dear Ambassador Xin Shunkang,

During the past few weeks, several Chinese nationals have been apprehended and charged with wildlife crimes, including illegal possession of rhino horn, ivory and pangolin skins and scales. Your embassy is on record stating that “it will not allow a few of its nationals who have been arrested in connection with poaching to tarnish its country’s image”. While we recognize that not all Chinese nationals are involved in wildlife crimes, Namibia’s environmental community believes that the situation regarding Chinese nationals committing wildlife crimes in Namibia is far more serious and broad-based than you have acknowledged. The fact is, unless effective action is taken now to halt wildlife crime, your country will get an increasingly bad name. And you and your country are best placed to address the problem.

Until the arrival of Chinese nationals in significant numbers in Namibia, commercial wildlife crime was extremely low. As Chinese nationals moved into all regions of Namibia, setting up businesses, networks, acquiring mineral prospecting licenses and offering payment for wildlife products, the incidence of poaching, illegal wildlife capture, collection, killing and export has increased exponentially. Chinese nationals have been involved in, and/or are the commercial drivers behind:

8 You can download the NEC brochure HERE
• the escalating poaching of rhinos and elephants in Namibia and the illegal export of rhino horn and ivory,
• the capture, trade and export of pangolins,
• the import of Chinese monofilament nets in industrial quantities via Zambia to the northeast of Namibia, which are destroying the fisheries of the Zambezi, Chobe, Kwando and Okavango Rivers,
• the unsustainable commercialization of fisheries in these north-eastern rivers and wetland systems for export to cities and towns in neighbouring countries,
• the capture and killing of Carmine Bee-eaters at their breeding colonies by means of nets,
• the rise in bush-meat poaching wherever Chinese nationals are working on road construction and other infrastructure, including tortoises, monitor lizards, pythons and any other form of wild meat, including from protected and endangered species,
• the illegal collection of shellfish on the Namibian coast,
• the illegal transit through Namibia and attempted export of poached abalone from Cape waters through Namibian ports.

We are also aware of long-standing interests by some Chinese nationals to start a shark fin industry in Namibia, a practice that has caused widespread damage to shark populations in many parts of the world, including in South Africa. And more recently, Chinese nationals have proposed to capture marine mammals and seabirds for the Asian aquarium market. The Namibian scientific and environmental communities have strongly rejected this proposal on sound conservation and ethical grounds, as has the Namibian public.

We are concerned by an apparent total disregard by some Chinese nationals for Namibia’s wildlife, conservation, and animal welfare laws and values. Namibians are proud of their environmental heritage, their rich wildlife resources and the institutional mechanisms that are in place to sustainably manage them. Namibia as a nation has worked hard to protect and nurture these natural assets. Namibia’s wildlife management provides an international example for good conservation and sustainable use. We have not made these investments so that some Chinese nationals, or anyone else, can pillage them.

The illegal commercial interests of some Chinese nationals towards Namibia’s protected wildlife has exploited the vulnerability of poor Namibians and divided societies. It undermines local ownership of natural resources and the empowerment of communities to managing their wildlife wisely, for long-term communal benefits. It undermines Namibia’s globally acclaimed Community-based Conservancy programme, and it does considerable damage to Namibia’s international conservation and sustainable development reputation.

The recent announcement by the Chinese business community that it is contributing N$30,000 to counter rhino poaching, while acknowledging that Namibians are deeply concerned about the situation caused by some Chinese nationals, totally fails to understand the economic scale of the problem. Indeed, it is an insult to the environmental sector in Namibia and to Namibia’s environment. An initial very conservative estimate of the extent of the losses to Namibia’s wildlife and ecosystems caused by Chinese nationals is about N$811 million. And this does not include the significant additional resources that Namibia’s government, donors, communities, private sector, and NGOs have had to commit to combat escalating wildlife crimes. These funds should rather have been spent on more productive activities such as continuing to develop the wildlife and tourism sectors to improve the lives and livelihoods of rural communities.

We do not claim to fully understand the relationship between Chinese nationals and the Chinese state. It appears that Chinese nationals are not at liberty to obtain passports and travel independently around the world, bringing their personal capital and starting businesses in their own
names in whatever country would have them, independent of the Chinese state. As such, Chinese nationals in Namibia appear to be part of a state supported system. So, as the highest ranking Chinese official in Namibia, we would expect all Chinese nationals in Namibia to fall under your authority. As such, we now call on you to put an immediate stop to the illegal wildlife crimes perpetrated, encouraged, funded, incentivized or otherwise committed and supported, by some Chinese nationals in Namibia. Further, we call on the Chinese government to make good, by investing in Namibia’s environment sector in a transparent and internationally recognized manner, and in proportion to the damage caused, to help rebuild Namibia’s wildlife populations, ecosystems, management systems and reputation.

This letter does not represent only the views of the 40 environmental organisations listed below, but also represents the views of countless members of the Namibian public and our international friends. The sentiments expressed in social media over the past months, from across a broad spectrum of Namibian society, and their outrage at the leading role that Chinese nationals play in wildlife crime have surely been noted by you and members of your embassy. You will also be aware of the sentiments expressed by our President, by the Minister of Environment and Tourism, and by the Namibian Police Inspector General as reported in the local media.

The time for inaction is over. China has a policy of non-intervention and yet these actions by some Chinese nationals, and the apparent inaction of your embassy to address the problem, are direct and indirect interventions that have disastrous impacts on our policy and legal framework, on our environmental culture and ethics, on our natural heritage and on our national conservation and development programmes. They also have huge negative impacts on our people and their livelihoods, and on our international reputation.

In late 2014 the out-going US President Barack Obama, in an interview with the New York Times, accused China of being a “free rider” for the last 30 years in not taking on more of its international obligations. In the last couple of years, particularly under the leadership of your President Xi Jinping, China has taken a decidedly more active leadership role in global issues. It is time to extend that leadership to natural resources and in particular, to wildlife conservation.

Indeed, the Chinese philosopher Zhuangzi, almost 2,000 years ago, may have been amongst the first to advocate for ecological sustainability within a philosophy of coexistence between man and nature. If China is to live up to its stated aims of having positive interactions between peoples and countries then this, for us in Namibia, is a critical issue.

We support our government’s policy of attracting foreign investment to stimulate growth, employment and development. And we counter all forms of xenophobia and profiling. However, we expect foreign investors and their nationals to abide by Namibia’s laws, and to embrace Namibia’s cultures, ethics, and values. Too many Chinese nationals have abused Namibia’s environmental laws, and this is causing growing resentment and anger amongst Namibians. By their criminal actions, some Chinese nationals have drawn attention to themselves and their nationality through their blatant disregard of Namibia’s legal and environmental values. We are also concerned at how little action the Chinese embassy in Namibia appears to be taking to address the problem.

We as concerned Namibian Environmental NGOs and businesses, who it should be stated, are pro-sustainable use, stand ready to work with a China that willingly takes on greater responsibility and leadership in addressing the illegal trade in wildlife and, in particular, commits to putting an immediate stop to all wildlife crimes in Namibia by its Chinese nationals.
Al Jazeera’s Investigative Unit Exposes People And Powers Behind Illegal Rhino Horn Trade

Gerhard R Damm

In a six-month long investigation, an Al Jazeera team penetrated a network of dealers, agents and traffickers who profit from the multi-million dollar trade in rhino horn. In a piece of undercover journalism of the finest order, investigators filmed the documentary, ‘Al Jazeera Investigates – The Poachers Pipeline’, and aired it on 13th November 2016 in the week that two major international events took place - a public hearing of the Wildlife Justice Commission WJC in The Hague before a Panel of Experts10 and the 3rd International Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade in Hanoi. Al Jazeera shows that the poachers are the bottom end of a five-tiered criminal chain extending from the kill in Africa to the consumer in Asia.

According to the channel, South African State Security Minister David Mahlobo has allegedly been hanging out with Guan Jiang Guang, a Chinese “businessman”, massage parlor owner and purportedly a rhino horn trafficker. The video also shows a Chinese restaurant owner saying that “there are many weirdos in South Africa who are obsessed with animal protection. That’s dangerous and troublesome.”

In front of the undercover investigator, Guan openly bragged about bribing South African justice and immigration officials. “He came to my massage parlor every week, or at least twice a month,” Guan says in the video “I know him well… [He was] a guest at my home”. Mahlobo, however, denies the claims. Mahlobo is also the man who allegedly said, without proof, that the ex-Public Protector, Thuli Madonsela, was a spy for the CIA. In Al Jazeera's documentary Nigel Morgan, chairman of Focus Africa Foundation, alleges similar statements of Mahlobo as reasons to terminate his company’s contract of an overseas funded anti-poaching operation in the Kruger NP. Morgan's operation had successfully caught Chinese rhino horn smugglers who were then bizarrely released to disappear. Mahlobo is now considering suing Al Jazeera and several publications over reports of his alleged link to a rhino poaching syndicate.

Jeff Radebe, a senior adviser to President Zuma, told journalists on November 16th 2016 that "Cabinet noted the allegations in a documentary against Minister of State Security David Mahlobo," and that "The South African Police Services are investigating the allegations." The Hawks, confirmed investigations were underway into the alleged links between Mahlobo and Guan. The Democratic Alliance (DA) has called on President Jacob Zuma to place Mahlobo on special leave pending a full and proper investigation into his relationship with Guan.

In a second meeting with the undercover investigators, Guan also boasted that he had an “untouchable” connection at Beijing Capital International Airport who has “absolutely no problem” smuggling rhino horn into China. Weeks later, the AJ investigator met Guan’s contact in China’s Fujian Province. In a parked car the contact showed him a 2.25 kg rhino horn.

10 The independent panel of legal experts determined the government of Viet Nam fails to comply with international conventions the country has signed by allowing illegal wildlife trafficking networks to operate with near impunity within its borders. The panel called on Viet Nam to take stronger measures to enforce the relevant laws and dismantle wildlife trafficking networks operating in the country. It also recommended Viet Nam create an interdisciplinary police task force to deal with root causes such as corruption and to bring perpetrators of wildlife trafficking to justice. According to Tom Milliken, rhino expert at Traffic International and author of a recent report on the illegal wildlife trade, who testified at the hearing, “Viet Nam is [driving] the trade in rhino horn Source: Mongabay

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
On January 19th 2017 The Citizen reported that Guan had disappeared without a trace, despite an ongoing investigation and the affirmation of Hawks spokesperson Brigadier Mulaudzi last year that they are currently collecting more data to build a strong case before handing it over to the NPA.

Mulaudzi also said that Guan’s Mbombela Spa is a suspected brothel. In the same article The Citizen quotes Francois Beukman, chair of the parliamentary portfolio committee on police, that the police would be quizzed on the matter when it appeared before the committee. “The [Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation] DPCI is coming to the portfolio committee on Wednesday, 1 March 2017, to brief us on ... [high]-profile cases, so we will request them to give us a detailed briefing on this matter...” said Beukman.

The AJ investigators also reported that members of a high-level delegation, accompanying Chinese President Xi Jinping to South Africa in 2015, bought rhino horn and “a lot of” ivory. The delegates had diplomatic immunity, which ordinarily prevents customs officials from searching luggage. A spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy stated that “public officials are prohibited from purchasing [of] any endangered wild species or wildlife product. [Officials] that are involved are subject to severe punishment according to law and regulations.”

The documentary also examines evidence of high-ranking Vietnamese officials, including Le Huy Hoang, Viet Nam’s ambassador to South Africa, have visited or have ties to a game farm in North West that is owned by prominent Vietnamese businessman and alleged rhino horn kingpin, Michael Chu.

Al Jazeera cooperated with the Wildlife Justice Commission (WJC) in The Netherlands and obtained exclusive footage shot secretly Nhi Khe, the village where the horns of an estimated six hundred rhinos have ended up in illicit shops. Despite WJC handing a massive dossier of evidence to the Vietnamese Government on over fifty dealers in the village selling horn, ivory, tiger skins and lion bones, no official action has been taken to close down the trade. The recent wildlife conference location in Hanoi is only twenty miles from this village.

Involvement in the rhino horn trade also extends to North Korea’s SA embassy. In December 2015 the Department for International Relations had asked a senior diplomat to leave after he and a taekwondo master were arrested in Mozambique with 4.5kg of rhino horn and ca. $100 000 in cash.

South African Hunting and Game Conservation Association (SAHGCA) CEO Fred Camphor called for an urgent investigation led by an independent judicial commissioner into allegations that Minister Mahlobo and other government officials are associated with individuals involved in international wildlife trafficking, bribery and corruption. Camphor said a vast amount of donor funding, time and expertise had been invested through private sector initiatives to stop rhino poaching and the allegations of ministerial involvement with individuals involved in rhino horn crime syndicates flew in the face of game rangers that risked their lives every single day in the war against rhino poaching.

In an article published in the Daily Maverick on November 16th 2016, Judith February, a governance specialist, columnist and lawyer, stated "it has long been suggested that the illegal rhino poaching in South Africa is happening on such a large and sophisticated scale that there may well be people of influence and power either benefiting from it or turning a blind eye to it. It is for this reason that the allegations against Mahlobo must be investigated urgently. Allegedly, it’s Mahlobo’s wife who has dealings with Guan but it would be rather curious (to say the least) for the Minister of State Security to have no knowledge of his wife’s business dealings”.

In this over two decades old report Lt. Col. Pieter Lategan stated that "a legal market in rhino horn will certainly depend on the ability of marketers and law enforcement officers to distinguish between legally and illegally obtained rhino horn. The use of isotopic analysis as a control mechanism for and before a legal trade must be supported. The research and the acquisition of a database is costly but absolutely necessary. A market-oriented study of the rhino trade in Asian countries must be carried out. This, with all due respect, should be done by a properly qualified analyst and not be a well-known
scientist. We have had enough contrasting reports and still do not know what happened to the 336,000 kilos of rhino horn that disappeared between 1970 and 1990."

African Indaba readers who are interested in Lategan’s 1994 report “The Role of the Endangered Species Protection Unit (ESPU) of the South African Police in Combating Rhinoceros Poaching and the Smuggling of Rhino Horn” may request the report from the African Indaba Publisher.

News From And About Africa
Compiled by Gerhard R Damm

Africa - Ivory
Carbon-14 measurements on 231 elephant ivory specimens from 14 large ivory seizures (≥0.5 ton) made between 2002 and 2014 show that most ivory (ca. 90%) was derived from animals that had died less than 3 years before their ivory was confiscated. More details HERE

Africa - Giraffe
In the past 30 years, giraffe numbers have plummeted by 40 percent from around 157,000 individuals in 1985 to 97,500 in 2015. With this decline, the world’s tallest animal is under severe pressure in some of its core ranges across East, Central and West Africa.” More details HERE

Botswana
Survival International has given its “Racist of the Year” award for 2016 to President Ian Khama. President Khama allegedly said that Kalahari Bushmen live “lives of backwardness, a primitive life of deprivation and a primeval life of a bygone era” calling into question the legitimacy of the Bushmen’s existence and suggesting that they are lower down the evolutionary ladder than other people. General Khama’s government has continually denied the Bushmen access to their ancestral lands. Most of them still live in poverty in government eviction camps despite a 2006 High Court ruling which said they had the right to their land. They are accused of “poaching” when they hunt to feed their families, despite the country’s highest court ruling that this was equivalent to condemning them to death.

China
When boiled, donkey skin produces a rubbery, gelatin-like substance, known as ejiao, believed to cure coughs, relieve insomnia and revitalize blood. CTM manufacturers are now focusing on Africa’s donkey populations. Niger exported 80,000 donkeys to China in 2016, Burkina Faso’s donkey traders sold 18,000 animals to international buyers in the first quarter of 2016, and in Kenya, a special donkey abattoir was opened in Naivasha. Niger now banned donkey exports, and Burkina Faso implemented similar regulations. More details HERE.

China
The State Council of China announced on December 30th that it was introducing a phased ban of all processing and sales of ivory throughout 2017. The decision by China follows growing international

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11 Lategan states in his report that in this period probably 60,000 rhinos were poached in Africa - he estimates total weight of horn from these rhinos at 336,000 kg
12 From Proceedings of a Symposium on Rhinos as Game Ranch Animals, Onderstepoort, 8th and 9th January 1994. See also a 2014 article by De Wet Potgieter "The Good, the bad and the ugly - South Africa’s Role in rhino poaching crisis")
and domestic pressure. In a first step, a designated group of legal ivory processing factories and businesses will be forced to close by March 31 2017. Under the new rules, people who already own ivory products can keep them or give them as gifts, and owners can sell them at supervised auctions after getting official approval. More details [HERE](#).

**Hong Kong - Ivory**

The city’s Executive Council approved a three-step plan to phase out the local ivory trade by 2022. Hong Kong will introduce an immediate ban on the import and export of hunting trophies and certain ivory carvings. Within three months of Hong Kong will also ban the import and export of Asian ivory acquired before 1975 and African ivory before 1976. In a final step all possession of ivory for commercial purposes will be banned on Dec. 31, 2021.

**Hong Kong - Hippo Ivory**

Records of CITES show that between 2004 and 2014 Hong Kong reported importing almost 60 tons of teeth from wild hippos for commercial purposes—nearly half from Uganda. Under CITES a regulated legal trade in hippo ivory is allowed, and trade figures show that the source countries are now predominantly Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Malawi. IUCN classifies hippos as vulnerable because threats of illegal, unregulated trade in their teeth, demand for their meat, and habitat loss

**Namibia**

The Namibian Government issued a permit for a white rhino bull to the Lamprecht family of Hunters Namibia Safari for a bona fide international hunter from China for a hunt on 12 November on their private farm in eastern Namibia under the supervision of a senior conservationist from the ministry of environment.

Professional Hunter Jofie Lamprecht said “Namibia’s white rhino population is thriving and their sustainable use is the only way that rhino owners can generate revenue to cover the very high costs of owning these wonderful creatures currently, and that the Constitution of Namibia formally enshrines ‘the sustainable utilization of our natural living resources’ – that is the right to hunt.”

**Senegal**

The Sahelo-Saharan Interest Group (SSIG) will be in Saint-Louis (Senegal) from May 4 to May 6. A dynamic 2-day meeting will be followed by a visit to the Guembeul National Reserve. Transfers between Dakar and Saint Louis (before and after the meeting on May 3 and May 7, respectively) as well as the hotel reservations will be coordinated by SSIG. For more detailed information about the conference, click [HERE](#).

**Southern African Development Community (SADC)**

The Head of European Union (EU) Delegation to Botswana Alexander Baum said in November that the EU is in the process of finalizing a Euro 35.5 million regional program on wildlife conservation for SADC as part of the response to the poaching crisis.

The EU is currently providing technical assistance for the establishment of the Wildlife Enforcement Network of Southern Africa (WENSA) and the implementation of the recently approved SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching (LEAP) strategy. More details [HERE](#).

**South Africa**

Nedbank, one of South Africa’s leading commercial banks, has announced that they will no longer “finance any activity constituting captive breeding of mammalian predator species for hunting

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(also known as 'canned shooting, especially lions) or the exotic pet trade". The move came after the bank's management “attended a number of workshops and engaged with interested and impacted stakeholders”, most notably the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT).

The canned shooting providers were already dealt a major blow, when the US Fish and Wildlife Services announced in October that lion trophies may only be imported if evidence is provided that the hunts benefit the long-term survival of the species in the wild (Source: News24 - see also PHASA Newsflash dated December 6th, 2016)

South Africa

The South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association (SAH&GCA) has welcomed recommendations by IUCN that call for better management and regulation of selective and intensive breeding of large wild animals for commercial purposes. The IUCN motion refers to current trends in the breeding practices of wildlife for commercial purposes to produce animals with specific traits.

The Association is also still waiting for a clarification from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) following the addition of twelve wildlife species to the list of tame and domesticated animals regulated under the Animal Improvement Act (No. 62 of 1998). More information HERE

South Africa

The rewilding of the 332,000ha iSimangaliso Wetland Park and World Heritage Site in KwaZulu-Natal, arguably the most diverse park in Africa, is well under way with major ecosystems restoration and the introduction of historically occurring species. All key terrestrial animals occur, including lion, cheetah, wild dog, hyena, rhino, tsessebe, and oribi. Marine life includes protected whale and shark populations, coelacanths, turtles, as well as a myriad of species on the coral reefs. The economic impact of the park creates over 7,000 permanent tourism jobs and other benefits to local communities and contributes about 7% of KwaZulu-Natal’s tourism gross domestic product.

South Africa

The Professional Hunters Association of South Africa (PHASA) is “profoundly disappointed” in the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) decision to extend the zero quota for the hunting of leopard to 2017. According to PHASA there is currently no reliable scientific evidence to substantiate the zero quota for a second consecutive year. DEA’s statistics show a legal offtake of only 42, 37 and 36 leopards during the 2013, 2014 and 2015 season, far less than the approved quotas. The country’s leopard populations is very conservatively estimated at 5 000 leopards and the annual legal harvest is therefore less than 1%. However, there are concerns that illegal offtake and poaching for cultural and religious ceremonies exceed legal harvests. Source PHASA PR of 20th January 2017

South Africa

Game ranchers have a responsibility to ensure that game meat taken from their farms, whether carcasses from hunts or animals harvested (culled) for their meat is free of possibly harmful residues and safe for the consumer. For example the immobilizer M99 was never intended to be used on animals for human consumption. The half-life of M99 in some game species seems to be about 240 hours or 10 days. For safety sake a withdrawal period of two months (6x the half-life) should be implemented from the time an animal was darted until it may be used for human consumption.

However, veterinarians who immobilize and/or tranquilize game animals often use a cocktail of drugs, making [a withdrawal period] more difficult to advise on. Source: SA Hunters

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South Africa
On 4 November 2016 the South African Government (Chief Director: Animal Production and Health, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) invited public comment on the proposed Game Meat regulations in terms of section 12 of the Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act No. 40 of 2000). All South African hunting and game ranching associations as well as industry interest group (WRSA, PHASA, CHASA, HAWASA and SA Hunters, etc) jointly rejected the proposed regulation in totality because of lack of scientific base and glaring impracticality.

The interest groups consider the draft of the Department wrong and flawed. They jointly submitted comments and amendments based on the science, research and practical tested facts supported by the South African wildlife industry, major retailers, representative organizations and other stakeholders. Source: Industry Letter with Attachments to DAFF dated 29th November 2016.

Tanzania - USFWS
In October Conservation Force released a new report on the enhancement (benefits) for lion generated by licensed, regulated hunting in Tanzania. That report, along with over 2,700 pages of back-up information and a binder of other documents, was sent to USFWS.

Tanzania
Conservation Force reported that the Tanzanian hunting industry was losing its U.S. client base and as a consequence operators are being forced to return concessions or hunting blocks. This may lead to a massive loss of wildlife habitat, anti-poaching services by the safari operators, and community benefits.

Tanzania
27 Tanzanian safari operators maintain year-round anti-poaching operations and deploy anti-poaching units addressing the concession's specific poaching threat. All anti-poaching units of six to eight members contain at least one government game scout because only the scouts have the mandate to arrest poachers.

Operators fund their anti-poaching primarily from hunting revenue and secondarily from hunter contributions. From 2013 to 2015, the 27 operators spent $6.7 million on anti-poaching and road opening and paid over $28 million in government fees which fund the Tanzania Wildlife Division's operating budget and ca. 80% of the ordinary government anti-poaching program. (Source Conservation Force Tanzania Hunting Operator Enhancement Report)

Zambia - USFWS
Zambia submitted lion data to USFWS together with an extensive non-detriment finding for lion including the conservative lion quota as well as the adoption of age restrictions to achieve a positive enhancement finding of the USFWS.

Zambia
Through the help of COMACO (Community Markets for Conservation) and its Government partners, Zambian rural communities have allocated over 1.2 million hectares as community conservation areas. Using community defined regulations, enforced by traditional chiefs with local penalties for violators, communities are slowly turning around an ill-fated future of land degradation and loss of natural treasures. Read more HERE
Zimbabwe
The High Court in Bulawayo has thrown out charges against Theodor Bronkhorst, who allegedly assisted American dentist Walter Palmer to kill Zimbabwe’s most famous lion. Bronkhorst’s lawyer said there was no full trial but the [High Court] judge had decided that the charges – as they were brought at the time – were not properly constituted.

Zimbabwe - USFWS
USFWS has not yet acted on lion or elephant permit applications from Zimbabwe. But Zimbabwe authorities and FWS met multiple times during the CITES Conference in early October 2016. Zimbabwe agreed providing details from the new Elephant Management Plan. Conservation Force has contracted with an elephant expert to prepare prioritized action items from the Action Plan.

Zimbabwe - USFWS
The CAMPFIRE Program review was mandated by the Zimbabwe government and is funded by the European Union. “We are [funding] an evaluation based on a broad consultation of a wide range of stakeholders, which, we hope, will lead to some recommendations to be validated CBNRM stakeholder conference in early 2017,” said EU Ambassador van Damme, adding that the “EU is prepared to help the Government to comply with the new regulations, thereby ensuring a constant flow of trophy hunting revenues which can be shared with the communities and reinvested in conservation and the fight against poaching and wildlife trafficking”.

Zimbabwe - USFWS
Zimbabwe will submit an updated non-detriment finding for lion to USFWS. USFWS implied that they may be making an enhancement finding for Zimbabwe similar to the one made for South Africa. Conservation Force has submitted hundreds of pages of information showing the benefits of well-managed lion hunting in Zimbabwe, including several reports from hunting operators detailing their anti-poaching and community support, with data supporting a positive enhancement finding, and Zimbabwe’s lion quota reduction, adoption of age restrictions and new lion hunting regulations.

Abstracts Of Recently Published Wildlife Papers
Compiled by Gerhard R Damm


**Abstract:** Terrestrial mammals are experiencing a massive collapse in their population sizes and geographical ranges around the world, but many of the drivers, patterns and consequences of this decline remain poorly understood. Here we provide an analysis showing that bushmeat hunting for mostly food and medicinal products is driving a global crisis whereby 301 terrestrial mammal species are threatened with extinction. Nearly all of these threatened species occur in developing countries where major coexisting threats include deforestation, agricultural expansion, human encroachment and competition with livestock. The unrelenting decline of mammals suggests many vital ecological and socio-economic services that these species provide will be lost, potentially changing ecosystems irrevocably. We discuss options and current obstacles to achieving effective conservation, alongside consequences of failure to stem such anthropogenic mammalian extirpation. We propose a
multipronged conservation strategy to help save threatened mammals from immediate extinction and avoid a collapse of food security for hundreds of millions of people.


**Abstract:** Megafaunal extinctions and a lack of suitable remote sensing technology impede our understanding of both the ecological legacy and current impacts of large mammal herbivores in the Earth system. To address this, we reconstructed the form and intensity of herbivory pressure across sub-Saharan Africa ~1000 years ago. Specifically, we modeled and mapped species-level biomass for 92 large mammal herbivores using census data, species distributions, and environmental covariates. Trait-based classifications of these species into herbivore functional types, and analyses of their biomass surfaces, reveal four ecologically distinct continental-scale herbivory regimes, characterized by internally similar forms and intensities of herbivory pressure. Associations between herbivory regimes, fire prevalence, soil nutrient status, and rainfall provide important insights into African ecology and pave the way for integrating herbivores into global-scale studies.


**Abstract:** Trophy hunting has potential to support conservation financing and contribute towards rural development. We conducted a systematic review of the Zimbabwean trophy hunting perspective spanning from pre-1890 to 2015, by examining the following: (1) evolution of legal instruments, administration, and governance of trophy hunting, (2) significance of trophy hunting in conservation financing and rural development, and (3) key challenges, emerging issues in trophy hunting industry, and future interventions. Our review shows that (i) there has been a constant evolution in the policies related to trophy hunting and conservation in Zimbabwe as driven by local and international needs; (ii) trophy hunting providing incentives for wildlife conservation (e.g., law enforcement and habitat protection) and rural communities’ development. Emerging issues that may affect trophy hunting include illegal hunting, inadequate monitoring systems, and hunting bans. We conclude that trophy hunting is still relevant in wildlife conservation and rural communities’ development especially in developing economies where conservation financing is inadequate due to fiscal constraints. We recommend the promotion of net conservation benefits for positive conservation efforts and use of wildlife conservation credits for the opportunity costs associated with reducing trophy hunting off-take levels and promoting non-consumptive wildlife use options.


**Abstract:** The selective nature of trophy hunting may cause changes in desirable phenotypic traits in harvested species. A decline in trophy size [may] reduce hunting destination competitiveness thus compromising the sustainability of trophy hunting as a conservation tool. We explored the trophy quality and trends in harvesting patterns of Cape buffalo, African elephant, greater kudu and sable in Matetsi Safari Area, Zimbabwe. We used long-term data on horn and tusk size, age, quota size allocation and offtake levels of selected species. To analyze the effect of year, area and age on trophy size, quota size and offtake levels, we used linear mixed models. One sample t-test was used to compare observed trophy size with SCI minimum score. Trophy sizes for Cape buffalo and African elephant were below the SCI minimums. Greater kudu trophy sizes were within the minimum score threshold whereas

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
sable trophy sizes were above the SCI minimums between 2004 and 2015. Age at harvest for buffalo, kudu and sable increased whilst that of elephant remained constant between 2004 and 2015. Quota size allocated for buffalo and the corresponding offtake levels declined over time. Offtake levels of elephant and kudu declined whilst the quota size did not change between 2004 and 2015. The quota size for sable increased whilst the offtake levels fluctuated without changing for the period 2004±2015. The trophy size and harvesting patterns in these species pose a conservation and management dilemma on the sustainability of trophy hunting in this area. We recommend: (1) temporal and spatial rotational resting of hunting areas to create refuge to improve trophy quality and maintenance of genetic diversity, and (2) introduction of variable trophy fee pricing system based on trophy size.


Abstract: African swine fever (ASF) has been reported in South Africa since the early 20th century. The disease has been controlled and confined to northern South Africa over the past 80 years by means of a well-defined boundary line, with strict control measures and movement restrictions north of this line. In 2012, the first outbreak of ASF outside the ASF control zone since 1996 occurred. The objective of this study was to evaluate the current relevance of the ASF control line as a demarcation line between endemic ASF (north) areas and ASF-free (south) area and to determine whether there was a need to realign its trajectory, given the recent outbreaks of ASF, global climate changes and urban development since the line’s inception. A study of ASF determinants was conducted in an area 20 km north and 20 km south of the ASF control line, in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West and Gauteng provinces between May 2008 and September 2012. The study confirmed that warthogs, warthog burrows and the soft tick reservoir, Ornithodoros moubata, are present south of the ASF control line, but no virus or viral DNA was detected in these ticks. There appears to be an increasing trend in the diurnal maximum temperature and a decrease in humidity along the line, but the impact of these changes is uncertain. No discernible changes in minimum temperatures and average rainfall along the disease control line were observed between 1992 and 2014. Even though the reservoirs were found south of the ASF boundary line, the study concluded that there was no need to realign the trajectory of the ASF disease control line, with the exception of Limpopo Province. However, the provincial surveillance programs for the reservoir, vector and ASF virus south of this line needs to be maintained and intensified as changing farming practices may favor the spread of ASF virus beyond the control line.


Abstract: Responsive Management has produced a new article detailing hunters’ contributions to wildlife conservation in the United States. The article provides an in-depth look at the sources of funding from hunters and how these funds are spent, from wildlife management and species recovery to the work of federal and state fish and wildlife agencies and nonprofit organizations. The article discusses various sources of funding, including the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 (commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act); the Federal Duck Stamp (a required purchase for any duck hunter in the U.S.); licenses, tags, and permits purchased by hunters in each state; and membership dues and donations from nonprofit organizations like Ducks Unlimited and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, which are largely supported by hunters. The article then breaks down how the funding from hunters is spent, including Pittman-Robertson revenue apportionment, the many ways in which nonprofit organizations contribute to conservation in the U.S., and how hunters’ contributions...
manifest in the work of fish and wildlife agencies. A summary of fish and wildlife agency resources and assets compiled by senior staff at the Arizona Game and Fish Department makes clear the importance of hunter dollars on the state agency level alone. Also covered are examples of various wildlife species that have rebounded thanks to management efforts supported through funding from hunters.

**Market-Based Incentives and Private Ownership of Wildlife to Remedy Shortfalls in Government Funding for Conservation.**


**Abstract:** In some parts of the world, proprietorship, price incentives, and devolved responsibility for management, accompanied by effective regulation, have increased wildlife and protected habitats, particularly for iconic and valuable species. Elsewhere, market incentives are constrained by policies and laws, and in some places virtually prohibited. In Australia and New Zealand, micro economic reform has enhanced innovation and improved outcomes in many areas of the economy, but economic liberalism and competition are rarely applied to the management of wildlife. This policy perspective examines if commercial value and markets could attract private sector investment to compensate for Government under spend on biodiversity conservation. It proposes trials in which landholders, community groups, and investors would have a form of wildlife ownership by leasing animals on land outside protected areas. They would be able to acquire threatened species from locally overabundant populations, breed them, innovate, and assist further colonization/range expansion while making a profit from the increase. The role of government would be to regulate, as is appropriate in a mixed economy, rather than be the (sole) owner and manager of wildlife. Wide application of the trials would not answer all biodiversity-loss problems, but it could assist in the restoration of degraded habitat and connectivity.

**Extreme Wildlife Declines and Concurrent Increase in Livestock Numbers in Kenya: What Are the Causes?**


**Abstract:** There is growing evidence of escalating wildlife losses worldwide. Extreme wildlife losses have recently been documented for large parts of Africa, including western, Central and Eastern Africa. Here, we report extreme declines in wildlife and contemporaneous increase in livestock numbers in Kenya rangelands between 1977 and 2016. Our analysis uses systematic aerial monitoring survey data collected in rangelands that collectively cover 88% of Kenya’s land surface. Our results show that wildlife numbers declined on average by 68% between 1977 and 2016. The magnitude of decline varied among species but was most extreme (72–88%) and now severely threatens the population viability and persistence of warthog, lesser kudu, Thomson’s gazelle, eland, oryx, topi, hartebeest, impala, Grevy’s zebra and waterbuck in Kenya’s rangelands. The declines were widespread and occurred in most of the 21 rangeland counties. Likewise to wildlife, cattle numbers decreased (25.2%) but numbers of sheep and goats (76.3%), camels (13.1%) and donkeys (6.7%) evidently increased in the same period. As a result, livestock biomass was 8.1 times greater than that of wildlife in 2011–2013 compared to 3.5 times in 1977–1980. Most of Kenya’s wildlife (ca. 30%) occurred in Narok County alone. The proportion of the total “national” wildlife population found in each county increased between 1977 and 2016 substantially only in Taita Taveta and Laikipia but marginally in Garissa and Wajir counties, largely reflecting greater wildlife losses elsewhere. The declines raise very grave concerns about the future of wildlife, the effectiveness of wildlife conservation policies, strategies and practices in Kenya. Causes of the wildlife declines include exponential human population growth, increasing livestock numbers, declining rainfall and a striking rise in temperatures but the fundamental cause seems to be policy, institutional and market failures. Accordingly, we thoroughly evaluate wildlife conservation policy in Kenya. We suggest policy, institutional and management interventions likely to succeed in reducing the
declines and restoring rangeland health, most notably through strengthening and investing in community and private wildlife conservancies in the rangelands.


**Abstract:** Large predators are in decline globally with growing concerns over the impacts of human activity on conservation status and range of many populations. The role of trophy hunting in the conservation or decline of predators is hotly debated, though opposing views are often poorly supported by empirical evidence. Nevertheless an understanding of effects of trophy hunting on populations and behaviour is critical to the conservation of large carnivore populations. The impacts of trophy hunting on African lion population demographics, social structure and spatial behavior were investigated in Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe, from 1999 to 2012, a period characterized by different trophy hunting intensities. Adult males were primarily targeted by trophy hunters, but survival of all age and sex classes were lowest when male lion off-takes were highest. Reduction in hunting quotas over the study period resulted in a 62% increase in the total population and a 200% increase in adult male density. Adult sex ratios were highly skewed towards females when hunting was intense. Intensity of hunting affected male and female home-range size, which declined in periods of low hunting corresponding to increases in adult males and male coalitions. Trophy hunting on the park boundary exerted a measurable edge effect with lower survival for animals of all age and sex classes living on the park boundary compared to those distant from it. This study provides evidence for negative impacts of uncontrolled trophy hunting on lion population and behavior. However, limited, well regulated quotas may be compatible with large carnivore conservation.

**Combined Buffalo And Elephant Courses Of The Southern African Wildlife College**

Dr. Kevin "Doctari" Robertson, [Southern African Wildlife College](http://www.sawc.org.za), Sustainable Use & Field Guiding Unit

On request from our training partner, The SA Hunters & Game Conservation Association, the SAWC buffalo and elephant course has been combined. The six participants arrive on a Thursday afternoon to get settled in the tented camp on the SAWC’s shooting range and unpack before the a game drive to acquaints them with the SAWC’s 4,000 ha core training area where the ‘out in the veld’ aspect of the course takes place.

Friday morning is classroom time. An early 7:00 start allows enough time to go through the elephant and buffalo hunting theories which includes detailed aspects of these species, their ecology, reproduction, sexing, ageing, trophy assessment, shot placement and hunting techniques. Friday afternoon is used to search for elephants and buffaloes so that practical examples of the morning lectures can be demonstrated. Saturday morning is spent on the shooting range. Each participant shoots his own rifle under ‘veld conditions’ – i.e. off shooting sticks, from the ‘sitting with your elbows on your knees’ position, and standing. Rifle fit, function, feeding and reliability is scrutinized carefully – and it is not uncommon to uncover a lurking problem or three! Our life-size, life-like elephant targets are shot first. Each target represents a different scenario – head up, head down and side-on. This is where participants put into practice what they have learned about the various ‘head position angles’ associated with elephant hunting. The target design and construction makes a shot placed into the
correct area change color. This allows the PH to see if the shot was correctly placed or not. If no ‘color’ is seen, participants need to shoot again to be sure.

While the elephant and buffalo targets are exchanged, the course participants once again spend time in the veld. All bull elephants encountered are approached to experience this technique. Buffalo are also ‘stalked’, hunted and shot at with the laser-equipped .753 Lindeque. The buffalo course gets tackled on Sunday morning. This involves engaging eight different targets on four separate ‘hunts’. Shots are taken from ‘off sticks’, freehand and from the ‘sitting on the ground’ position. There are even some simulated ‘shoot under pressure’ shots, guaranteed to get the adrenalin pumping in even the most seasoned of dangerous game hunters. The course concludes with the handing out of ‘attendance certificates’ and participants depart at around noon.

This article was first published in “The Buzzard” (Quarter 4, 2016), the newsletter of the Sustainable Use and Field Guiding business unit of the Southern African Wildlife College (Contact details: Private Bag X3015, Hoedspruit, 1380, South Africa. Tel: +27 (15) 793-7300 Fax: +27 (15) 793-7314 e-mail: info@sawc.org.za/krobertson@sawc.org.za website www.wildlifecollege.org.za

Accurate Buffalo Trophy Assessment
Dr. Kevin "Doctari" Robertson, Southern African Wildlife College, Sustainable Use & Field Guiding Unit

Being able to accurately assess the greatest outside spread of a mature bull buffalo’s horns is an essential skill all aspirant Professional Hunters need to acquire. There is a good reason for this. Along with a 100 pound per side elephant, and a 60 inch kudu, a 40 inch or larger, ‘greatest outside spread’ buffalo has long been the Holy Grail of ‘record book-besotted’ trophy hunters – so being able to recognize what a ‘40 inch buffalo’ looks like is imperative.

Sustainable utilization is a concept essential for the conservation of Africa’s wildlife, simply because it provides the economic engine which drives such activities. And it is thanks to this now well-accepted concept that perceptions surrounding the trophy record books are changing. To be ‘sustainable’ in every sense of the word, the offtake of a small percentage of any wildlife population for hunting purposes must be conducted in such a fashion that these activities are financially, ecologically and genetically sustainable.

To be brutally honest – in these modern-day times where hunting is increasingly under pressure from the numerous animal rights groups, the demise of the ‘trophy record books’ is looming. In any livestock breeding or

This impressive set of 12 year old buffalo horns has a greatest outside spread of 40 inches. The straight line ear tip to ear tip measurement of the cardboard ‘ears’ is 32 inches.

There is enough space to fit one hand’s width between the extended ear tip and the outside of the horn curve. If this can be done on both sides, it’s a good indication that the horns greatest outside spread is 40 inches. (32 + 4 + 4 = 40)
ranching situation, a farmer or rancher will put his best, highest-performing ram or bull to his carefully selected, most fertile female breeding stock, cross his fingers and hope for the best! This is known as selective breeding, the reasons for which are primarily to improve economically important performance traits. For obvious reasons, he'll also get rid of all the poorer quality males before they get the opportunity to breed.

On the contrary, in a trophy hunting situation, the hunter invariably targets the best, most impressive looking, largest-horned males in a population while ignoring the supposedly ‘inferior trophy quality’ individuals. To make matters worse, many, if not all of the biggest and best-looking males are usually hunted while they are still in their breeding prime, or in some instances even before they have had the chance or opportunity to breed.

Removing from the gene pool all the better-than-average trophy specimens before their ‘superior trophy quality’ genes have been passed on allows bulls or rams of poorer trophy quality to breed and pass their ‘inferior’ genes on. Over decades, this practice has resulted in the inevitable - the gradual reduction of the population’s trophy quality.

Buffalo are by far Africa’s most popular dangerous game trophy species. They always have been, but for the past century or longer, trophy hunters have systematically been targeting all the biggest, most impressively horned bulls – and the consequences of such actions are now becoming increasingly evident.

Thanks to the wonders of modern-day technology, aerial photography in high resolution digital format and large crystal clear computer screens it is now possible to age and assess all the sexually mature bulls within such a herd. Part of a buffalo herd photographed from the air with modern-day technology. With the quality of high resolution images it is possible to age and trophy assess all the sexually mature bulls within such a herd.

When the aerial photographs are enlarged to this size, all the sexually mature bulls are easy to identify, age and trophy-assess

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fifth year but they will only be big heavy and strong enough, with a boss sufficiently hard to withstand the rigors of “test of strength” contests for dominace and consequently breeding favors by sometime in their eighth year. Such a bull’s breeding tenure lasts on average about three years. Bulls considered past their breeding prime are consequently those twelve years of age or older.

The buffalo bull aging process was discussed in a previous article. To recap briefly, by measuring the crown heights of the lower jaws two, first molar teeth, the buffalo’s age in years can be established. This information, when compared to other easily visible signs like boss development, horn tip sharpness, the extent of neck and shoulder muscling and the condition of the ears makes the live age estimation of mature buffalo bulls easy. With practice it is now possible to age live bulls to within a year. In some cases it is possible to get to within a couple of months.

To ensure genetic sustainability, along with age, the only other estimation required is that of the greatest outside horn spread – and this too is easy to estimate accurately when one realizes that the straight line, ear tip to ear tip measurement on a mature buffalo bull when its ears are ‘pricked’ and alert, is between 32 and 33 inches. The width of a man’s hand is roughly four inches. This means that a buffalo bull with an outside horn spread that extends a hand’s width past the erect and extended ear tips on both sides will measure 40 inches (32 + 4 + 4 = 40)

As previously mentioned, a bull with a 40 inch spread or better has long been considered a real ‘trophy’. But if the truth be told, such bulls in most safari hunting areas are these days few and far between. In some such areas only 4 % of mature buffalo bulls now fit into this trophy size category. The vast majority of bulls now fall into the category of having a 36 inch spread or less.

So where does this put things from the perspective of genetic sustainability? This question was the driving force behind the recently formulated Greater Kruger National Park Hunting Protocol (excluding the Kruger National Park where hunting is not permitted). The protocol now states:

The following categories of Buffalo may be hunted:

- ‘Classic buffalo bull’ - Unlimited spread, minimum age 12 years.
- Management buffalo bull – sub 36” (Rowland Ward) spread, minimum age 7 years, not a scrum cap or broken horn bull.
- Cows of 12 years or older, without dependant calves may also be hunted.

What this essentially means is that bulls with 40 inch or larger spreads can still be hunted – but only those 12 years old or older – in other words only after they have been afforded every opportunity to have led a full reproductive life.

The offering of discounted and younger,
management bulls is an attempt to ‘right the wrongs of the past’. By removing such bulls from the gene pools before they get the chance to breed, and by allowing superior ‘trophy quality’ bulls every opportunity to pass their genes on, it is hoped that with time the trends of declining trophy quality in some buffalo populations can be reversed. Only time will tell if this will happen, but what is encouraging is that the will and the technology is now out there to make sure it does.

See also "Remote Identification And Measuring Of Buffalo" by the same author in African Indaba e-Newsletter Volume 14 Number 4&5, pp 31-33.

Why Do Hunters Choose Not To Shoot?
Cathleen O’Grady ARS Technica

Hunting animals, like deer, is often important to keeping their population at a reasonable size. In areas where natural predators are few or nonexistent, the only way to control populations of certain species is through human hunting.

Human hunters behave differently from natural predators though. For instance, natural predators aren’t interested in trophy hunting, so they don’t target animals that would look good on their walls. Natural predators also aren’t reluctant to kill the young, whereas human hunters tend to avoid this. And human hunters may make other decisions about what to kill based on factors we don’t really understand.

To understand how these factors might influence prey populations, a group of researchers in Norway, Germany, and the Netherlands published a paper that tries to predict hunter behavior. The peculiarities of human hunting create a distinctive evolutionary pressure. Populations of animals that are hunted by humans are different from those that are hunted by natural predators. Features that are prized as trophies (like large antlers) disappear from the population quickly. And the population may continue growing, precisely because mothers with young are often left undisturbed.

So although hunting can play a role in maintaining ecosystems, we need to understand how human hunters behave. This makes it possible to predict their choices and how those choices will change the population of hunted animals. In turn, this makes it possible to direct conservation policy in a way that ensures the sustainability of the hunted population.

The researchers consider a hypothetical situation in which a hunter is confronted with a deer and has to choose whether to shoot that deer or wait for another one. Many factors are involved in that decision. Obviously, the hunter’s perception of the quality of the animal plays a role. Where deer sightings are rare and the hunter knows they might not see another one, they might be more inclined to shoot a sure thing rather than wait for a better-quality animal. Depending on the region, there might be other constraints, like quotas, the time left in the hunting season, and the competition pressure from other hunters.

The researchers treat all of these factors as an economic problem and plug them into equations that predict how a hunter will respond to different situations. The model predicts that the more competition from other hunters, the fewer days left in the season, and the lower the probability of seeing an animal all increase the likelihood that a hunter will fire rather than wait.

So far, this matches up with common sense, but it’s also entirely hypothetical. People often march cheerfully in a different direction from what models predict, so checking the predictions against real-world data is important. Luckily, hunters in Norway are required by law to report how many hunters went out in a group, how long they hunted, how many deer they saw, and how many they shot. Gathering this data from 256 locations over 10 years provided a solid data set for real-world testing.
The researchers used this data to calculate the probability of a male deer being shot by a hunter in various scenarios. As predicted by the theoretical model, the probability was higher when competition with other hunters was an issue, when days remaining in the season were few, and when there was a lower probability of seeing a deer in the first place.

This recent work doesn't tackle all questions about individual choices. This research looks at Norway, but other locations may have widely varying pressures—for instance, a region may have no quotas (unlike Norway), or a region may be full of hunters who are pressured to bring home food from a hunt. Hunters who come from different social groups behave differently, too: this data showed a difference between weekend and weekday behavior, suggesting that local hunters who hunt during the week behave differently from non-residents who come in on weekends. Figuring out how different social groups behave would help policymakers to make more accurate predictions.

Right now, models are used to estimate how hunting will affect the size of a population. Population size is an important factor for makers of conservation policy, but “there is increasing concern that hunting, and in particular strongly selective hunting, may have unexpected ecological and evolutionary consequences,” the researchers write.

An analysis like this could help to address the problem of high selectivity among hunters. For instance, by changing the duration of the hunting season or the number of competing hunters, it might be possible to influence the selectivity of the hunters. Just looking at the number of animals shot isn’t enough to inform conservation, the researchers write: “To achieve sustainability, future wildlife management should account for the predictable manner by which social constraints and underlying intuitions shape the emerging selection pattern.”


**Documentary 'TROPHY' Premiered At The 2017 Sundance Film Festival**

Review by Anthony Kaufman, [ScreenDaily](http://www.screendaily.com)

Is big-game hunting a mere excuse to kill—a murderous sport for rich people to gun down animals and display the stuffed carcasses on their walls as emblems of pride and power? Or is it, contrary to what you might think, the key to saving endangered species? This is the controversial crux of Narco Cultura director Shaul Schwarz’s sprawling, complex and beautifully lensed documentary about the tensions that exist between wild-life conservation and the global hunting industry.

**Cinematographers:** Shaul Schwarz, Christina Clusiau. **Featuring:** Philip Glass, John Hume, Michelle Otto, Christo Gomes, Joe Hosmer, Adam Roberts, Craig Packer, Tim Fallon, Richard Hume. Released by CNN and The Orchard.

Despite its simple single-word title, *Trophy* is a multidimensional look at an issue with sometimes competing and contradictory stances, pulling the viewer in myriad ways: at one point, audiences might be crying over a dead rhino; at another, they’ll be shedding a tears along with the wild-life farmer who, despite offering up his animals for slaughter, believes it’s the only way to sustain them.

For that reason, *Trophy* may be a challenging film to market—it may not go over as well with the animal-rights activists that made *Blackfish* such a hit. But acquired by The Orchard and CNN Films for North American release and already pre-sold throughout the world, it should get a significant
platform from which to engender debate, along with strong critical and film festival support to ensure a healthy ancillary life.

*Trophy* skillfully intermixes different characters and groups, all of whom have a huge stake in the hunting and trading of big-game animals. First, we meet Texan sheep breeder, Philip Glass, a devout Christian who believes God gave man dominion over the animals. In the opening scenes, he’s congratulating his young son on killing his first deer (“That’s a textbook shot, Jaspar,” he says with pride) and speaks passionately about his mission to kill and collect trophies of the “Big Five” (elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard, and rhino).

Then, there’s South African farmer John Hume, a self-described conservationist and the largest private rhino breeder in the world. Showing deep love and affection for his rhinos, Hume forcefully argues that the legalization of the trade in rhino horn is the best way to save the animals from extinction.

In addition to Glass and Hume, Schwarz, working with co-director Christina Clusiau, adds in other layers, further expanding upon the issue: there are other hunters, less sensitive and humble than Glass, who drink beers while shooting a crocodile in the head (“let’s party!”); a Zimbabwean anti-poaching officer who voices the film’s biggest irony (“We’re fighting to save something so we can kill it”); the African villagers who depend on the animals for meat; sensible conservation experts who suggest the new paradigm of conservation hunting has helped restore the big-game ecosystem; and passionate animal-rights activists who criticise the practice as murder for profit, plain and simple.

But nothing is so straightforward in Schwarz’s view. While there is no way to argue with the terrible, whimpering sound of an elephant slowly dying before your eyes, as the film vividly depicts, *Trophy* also suggests there are no easy answers to complex problems.

The film also strives to paint a sympathetic and even-handed portrait of its main characters and constituencies. While this tone may be less partisan and even dispassionate, it goes along with the documentary’s precise, polished and artful visual and essayistic style. During one stunning moment, the camera rises straight up over its subjects to reveal a wide picture of death and unquenched African earth that seems to transcend polarizing arguments: Some issues, *Trophy* powerfully conveys, are bigger and broader than they initially appear.

**Documentary: Custodians of Wilderness - Ethiopia**

Review by Gerhard R Damm

A 35-minute documentary video *Custodians of Wilderness: Ethiopia* by The Conservation Imperative and produced by Zig Macintosh of the Osprey Filming Company. The documentary features Jason Roussos of Ethiopian Rift Valley Safaris and Dr. Paul Evangelista from the Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory (NREL)13. Forest managers Genene Haile and Kemal Oumar as well as hunting safari operator Sisay Shewamene of Shield and Spear International Safaris give further insights into one of the little-known African conservation success stories. The video focuses on the relationship between the safari hunting of the endemic mountain nyala and the conservation of the Ethiopian Afro-montane forests and traces the history of that relationship. In more

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13 Both are co-founders of the [Murulle Foundation](http://www.murullefoundation.org)
southern African wildlife areas wildlife mainly exists on marginal lands. In contrast the Ethiopian highlands - to which mountain nyala is endemic - boast of high quality and highly desirable arable land. The video highlights the problems caused by agriculture caused deforestation and land degradation and offers a glimpse at the solutions like participatory forest management and community empowerment at remote conservations frontlines.

Kemal Oumar and Sisay Shewamene vividly describe the community-owned Adaba-Dodola concession bordering the western part of Bale Mountains National Park. Basis for the conservation activities in Adaba-Dodola is a combination of hunting and photo tourism. Whilst around 1 100 photo tourists generate about $4 500 for the community, the three mountain nyala hunters generate $22 500 for the local people every year.

The film also reports on the NREL spatial modeling of remote and rugged mountain nyala habitat and sheds new light on Afro-montane forest cover and forest regeneration in hunting areas through engagement of a dedicated group of volunteers and local communities.

Another example of Zig Macintosh's expertise to explain complex issues. Well worth watching!

Global Warming: Methane and Carbon Dioxide

The Washington Post reported in December 2016 on an analysis in Environmental Research Letters. For three years straight, the world’s energy-related emissions of carbon dioxide, the most important greenhouse gas, have been flat. The gas has continued to accumulate in the atmosphere, but emissions haven’t gone up, even as economies have continued to grow. However, atmospheric concentrations of methane are spiking. This second most important greenhouse gas causes much sharper short-term warming, although effects fade far more quickly than carbon dioxide.

Methane reaches the atmosphere from a complex collection of human and natural sources. It is the main component of natural gas, and can leak from drilling operations. But it also emerges from many biological processes, including the flooding of rice paddies and enteric fermentation in the stomachs of ruminant animals.

There’s still far less total methane in the atmosphere than there is carbon dioxide — but, methane packs a much stronger punch. Over a 100-year period, the emission of a given amount of methane is about 28 times as powerful, when it comes to global warming, as the emissions of an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide.

Although there may be some growth in methane emissions from global oil and gas, the new study notes that two thirds of the world’s methane releases come from the tropics, leading the researchers to single out the agricultural sector as a more likely cause — a conclusion that may prove contentious, as this remains a matter of major debate. The study authors said some of the rise is “almost certainly” coming from livestock and specifically cattle, and also pointed to rice paddies, landfills and the management of manure in agriculture.

The research thus singles out an often ignored but still major contributor to global climate change: the agricultural sector. However, it’s important to note that there remains considerable

14 The growing role of methane in anthropogenic climate change. M Saunois, R B Jackson, P Bousquet, B Poulter and J G Canadell. 2016 Environmental Research Letters, Volume 11, Number 12
15 According to the EPA, so-called “enteric fermentation” in ruminant animals contributed 26% of the U.S. total methane emissions. According to FAO, the livestock supply chain globally emits 44% of human caused methane.
scientific uncertainty when it comes to accounting for all the complex, global sources of methane, as well as the processes that withdraw it from the atmosphere once it has been emitted. The paper fully acknowledges that these have not all been adequately understood.

Because of methane’s high global warming potential and short lifetime in the atmosphere compared to CO₂, its mitigation offers the possibility to slow climate change efficiently in a shorter time horizon, the study argues.

With regard to CO₂ the New York Times said that carbon pollution doesn't cause only long-term damage. It affects everyday life. Carbon emissions cause lung diseases that kill thousands of people a year. The emissions also reduce worker productivity. And the storms and droughts associated with climate change destroy houses, offices, roads and farmland. Scientists and economists calculated that the release of each ton of CO₂ into the atmosphere costs society about $36. If anything, this number is conservative, because it was calculated before recent evidence of the accelerated effects of climate change. Importantly, however, the number allows for a cost-benefit analysis.

President Ronald Reagan started the practice in 1981 when he required federal agencies to analyze the benefits and costs of their regulations; his Democrat and Republican successors have followed his lead. Unfortunately, reducing environmental regulations to limit greenhouse gas emissions, and adopting “free market” policies will probably end the use of the social cost of carbon in U.S. federal rule makings and defy law, science and economics.

Bill McKibben stated in an opinion piece of The New Yorker on January 24th - "The reason we have environmental regulations is because, when we didn’t, the air was filthy and the water sour. Cleaning up our skies and our streams has been an enormous success in every way, including economically: any attempt to tally things like lost work days or visits to the emergency room shows that curbing pollution has huge returns on investment."

A large majority of Americans want the government to address climate change — 78 percent of registered voters support taxing emissions, regulating them or doing both, according to a Yale survey conducted after the 2016 election.

In Memory Of Our Friend Paul Olivier
Craig Doria

Our great friend and colleague, Paul Olivier, passed away tragically and suddenly at the beginning of December at the young age of 34 in Arusha, Tanzania.

To say hunting was Paul’s passion would be an understatement. He started hunting when he was ten years old, and did not stop until his life ended. He wanted more though, so after school he studied Nature Conservation at Pretoria Technikon so that he would have a strong background in conservation, as all good hunters should. Paul completed this course by working a yearlong practical component on a crocodile farm in Cahora Bassa, Mozambique, and guiding safaris in the remote Niassa province of Northern Mozambique.

Paul also successfully attended several professional hunter courses, but returned to the field as quickly as he could, living his dream of being a PH. After the year in Mozambique, he joined Tanzania Game
Tracker Safaris in 2005 and from that moment never looked back, obtaining full membership of both the Tanzania Professional Hunters Association and the African Professional Hunters Association. He was a truly ethical and successful PH.

Just as hunting was Paul's first passion, rugby was his second. He played rugby his entire life, throughout school and later in Tanzania where he was a strong member of the Arusha Rhinos Rugby Club and also of the Tanzania National Team.

Paul was one of those rare people who, when asked if something could be done, gave a quiet and calm answer of “100%”, as he wandered off to "get it sorted". It was easy to see when meeting Paul, and the longer one spent with him the clearer it became, that he was capable, brave and honorable beyond question. He had a quiet, understated confidence, and was a true and loyal friend. Paul was a good man who always gave that 100%.

There is a verse by the writer-singer Leonard Cohen that is not easy or comfortable, but then neither is the passing of a good person and friend. The words suggest a poignant blending of our human faults as well as the hope that friends and family need in times like these

The birds they sang at the break of day.
Start again I heard them say.
Don’t dwell on what has passed away
Or what is yet to be.
The wars they will be fought again.
The holy dove she will be caught again,
Bought and sold and bought again
The dove is never free.
Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That’s how the light gets in.

Rest in Peace Mr. Hundred Percent!
CIC VISION
A world that values and supports sustainable hunting for the benefit of people and nature.

CIC MISSION
To promote - across the globe - sustainable hunting to conserve wildlife and wild lands, support communities and preserve our hunting heritage.

Mastering the Future with the four Global CIC Initiatives

Combat Wildlife Crime
Promote Wildlife Conservation
Partner with International Organizations
Sustain our Global Cultural Heritage