

AFRICAN INDABA

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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

Some Thoughts for 2008

When you receive this first issue of the sixth volume of African Indaba we are already in the middle of the convention circuit in the United States followed by the European countries from February onwards. At these conventions and shows you will most likely come across those who offer safaris for African Buffalo. You will remember that we raised the issue (and the plight) of the African Buffalo in African Indaba Vol. 5, Nr 3 with two articles – one by Dr. Kevin Robertson and another by Winston Taylor. We raised it again in the November issue (Vol. 5, Nr 6), when we published Peter Flack's article about the proposed changes in the Rowland Ward measuring system, with special emphasis on the African Buffalo. In the meantime I was privileged to receive "Boddington on Buffalo 2" – the new CD of Craig Boddington – together with some encouraging words from Craig. I have watched it twice – especially the second part of Craig's CD, where he interviews some seasoned buffalo outfitters. They confirm what African Indaba raised with the Robertson/Taylor articles in April last year. *"We are killing bulls which have not yet or are just reaching breeding age"*. They all concluded that something has to be done about this. Craig wrote in a personal email to me some months ago *"I am also very concerned about the future of buffalo hunting! [We] have taped interviews with Harry Selby, Richard Harland, Paul Grobelaar, Barrie Duckworth, Johan Calitz, Kevin Robertson, Ian Nyschens, all delivering the constant message that we must change our mindset no matter what the records books say, hunt older bulls, and redefine our concept of what makes a trophy buffalo."* I couldn't agree more!

Quite a few hunters – professional and amateur – responded to the invitation to comment on the proposed Rowland Ward changes and virtually all encouraged Rowland Ward to continue on this path.

Now you can do your share at the conventions – don't look for high-scoring young bulls, don't shop for forty inchers. Ask to hunt the wily old Dagga Boys, those with a mighty and hard boss, worn down horn tips and lots of experience to evade the stalking hunter. They are worthy trophies; tracking them in the vast thornveld will provide unforgettable hunting adventures and catching up with one of them will make you a better hunter. Craig Boddington said in his commendable CD *"it is up to you and me to ensure the future of buffalo hunting"* (order your copy of "Boddington on Buffalo 2" at [Rowland Ward](#)).

Kai-Uwe Denker, the well known professional hunter and author, explores at the same topic from a different angle, but his conclusions go into the same direction. After I heard Kai-Uwe

speak at the inauguration of the Rowland Ward premises in November last year (see next page), I read his book "Along the Hunter's Path" over the holiday period. I was captivated, elated, sad, felt a kindred spirit (see review on page 18). You may not agree to all what Kai-Uwe says, but here is an honest man, a real hunter, who speaks his mind.

Finally, news came in relating to the 2008 trophy fees in Tanzania. I cannot share the enthusiasm expressed by some, since the proposed fee structure does not solve the underlying problems which were discussed in last year's September and November issues at length. It is quite interesting to note that the negotiations (see page 19) actually resulted in further increases (over and above those proposed in July 2007) for the visiting hunter, whereas the block fees for the operators were reduced.

I hope for 2008 that hunting in the wild and beautiful places of Africa and elsewhere on the globe regale us with dew fresh sunrises, breathtaking heat and finger-numbing cold, romantic sunsets, star-studded night skies, low-burning camp fires to share with friends old and new, good stalks and purposeful tracking, the honest exhaustion after a day's hunt and a few exhilarating moments when an old and mature animal joins the hunter in nature's everlasting dance of life and death.

Sincerely,
Gerhard R Damm
Editor & Publisher

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For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

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Hunting – The Good and the Bad

Kai-Uwe Denker

Editor's Note: Renowned Namibian professional hunter and outfitter Kai-Uwe Denker spoke at the cocktail on occasion of Rowland Ward's move into new premises in Johannesburg before an illustrious assembly of hunter-conservationists. We reproduce this speech with slight editorial changes with the kind permission of the author (see also the book review "Along a Hunter's Path" on page 18).

I vividly recall the moment when I, for the first time, heard about Rowland Ward. It was now thirty-four years ago and I was twelve at the time. I had been able to creep up into very close range of a big old springbok ram and bring the animal down with my .22 rifle. The trophy of that big old male to me seemed to be a world record. My father was on an overseas trip at the time and my mother, just as proud as I on the achievements of her boy, phoned my uncle who came over from the neighboring farm to measure my trophy. It turned out that the springbok was not exactly the new world record. With an air of importance my uncle mentioned, however that it would make the Rowland Ward record book. Ever since, Rowland Ward has been a yardstick to me, and in spite of all attempts by other institutions, Rowland Ward to me remained the one name that embodies fine traditions and sportsmanship in African hunting.

I do not want to raise my index finger and point out: "this is good and that is bad", I would like to offer some general thoughts on hunting and what I feel could be worthwhile thoughts to consider and pose some questions. In doing this, I would like to concentrate on and make reference to Namibia, as this is the country I know best.

A friend had a little meerkat. When his domestic circumstances changed, he gave the cute little animal to us. At first the little meerkat was the darling not only of my children but also to my wife and me; sitting around the campfire with us in upright position to warm his belly, scratching for insects and destroying small little snakes and scorpions around the camp.

After a while however, the animal turned aggressive and being a female itself, took a particular dislike to women, biting my wife and daughters. We considered possible solutions but could not find a proper home for her, neither could we release the tame animal into the wild. So we kept it with us, but when it severely attacked and bit my 10-year old daughter, I, in my momentary anger - fearful of the possible transmitting of diseases - decided to do the right thing. I took a hoe and killed the poor little animal.

Now is this trait - to be mentally tough enough to grit one's teeth and kill an animal when necessary - a characteristic of a hunter?

There are accounts of the last bear killed in Germany. A hunter took it upon himself to solve a problem and kill the stock raiding animal. At that time seen he was seen as a hero who protected a community. Nowadays, in contrast, hunters at large are seen as the guilty party for the extinction of bears and

wolves in large parts of Europe, the eradication of elephants in many parts of Africa, etc.

On the other hand, you will be aware that in the moment a kudu dies, a big tear will dissolve from its eye and run down its face. Is it acceptable to kill so marvelous an animal like a kudu?

Some of you might think that this is sissy-stuff, but I think that if you do not from time to time cleanse your soul, you won't be able to argue and defend your case with real depth.

Many of you will know the feeling - especially when you feel really and truly hurt and disappointed by people - that water silently gathers in your eyes and without a sound, a tear will run down. I fancy that in a way this is the same feeling which runs through a kudu when he realizes that he has lost his life.

Is it acceptable to kill an animal?

These are no small matters. But once you really have hunted, have respected an animal, if you have been part of nature, when you stand next to a beautiful kudu bull you have just slain, emotions will be released from your innermost which tell you: 'yes, it is acceptable to hunt. Life and death and hunting are part of nature.

How do we define ourselves, how do we, as hunters, survive in times of growing environmental awareness?

It won't come as a surprise to the guests of Rowland Ward, if I claim that real hunters are the most environmental aware and conservation orientated of all people. But who are those real hunters and what is that - real hunting?

I think that there is a big necessity for hunters to take a leading role as conservationists - not claiming to be conservationists and interpret this in a way that it pleases ourselves, but real conservationists according to accepted international criteria of this term.

I think we all are aware of the ever shrinking habitat for wild animals in Africa and more important, the disappearance of wild places and the real wilderness. I also think that everyone of us has a love for the African wilderness.

The Namib Desert and the Namibian escarpment are one of the few expanses of really wild country still to be found in Southern Africa - and even on the African continent. Here you might come onto landscapes and stretches of country, so breathtakingly beautiful, so lonely and forlorn, that a hunter's innermost will rejoice.

Rugged mountain-ranges, bizarre rocky outcrops and rock-strewn plains stretch away into infinity. These harsh, seemingly unfriendly terrains are succeeded by rows of red sand dunes with razor sharp ridges. All the landscape may appear bleak and heat-shimmering during most of the day, but in late afternoon the harshness melts into incredible beauty, when the shadows creep up from the mountain gorges and the soft light paints the arid country in bluish and reddish colors with hues of pink, yellow and light blue.

Many a person at first may have thought that this is a colorless, empty country devoid of game.

Many a hunter may have felt that there is too little game and that there are not enough species to entertain a visiting sportsman. But now, in late afternoon or early morning, even the most superficial of persons must realize, that this is a very spe-

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For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

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Hunting: The Good and the Bad

cial, wild place, worthwhile to sit down and forget oneself for a moment and admire the greatness of nature.

A lone old gemsbok bull might leave the scant shade of a few dry thornbushes and slowly move out onto the barren desert plains - a solitary, lone animal amidst a vast nothingness, but a scene of immense grandeur.

With the first rains, huge herds of springbok might start to migrate from somewhere and appear in a location where for months on end not a single animal was to be seen; to fill some desert plains with magnificent life.

Is this a set-up for a hunter or can in our hectic times nobody endure loneliness, admire old rhythms of wandering game and accept that at times you won't be able to find an animal to shoot?

Amongst those migrating springbok you will find absolutely exceptional trophies - trophies of a very desirable game species like they are to be found nowhere else.

Can we respect this, can we bring ourselves to accept that to experience something special, to really and truly have hunted, you have to travel to some faraway place and sit down for a moment to take in the atmosphere of a unique surrounding?

I tell you that going for a big old springbok ram in the Namib desert is one of the most extraordinarily beautiful hunts to be found anywhere and to sit next to a campfire in this immense vastness will let you realize, that killing many species is not what hunting is all about.

I think that the really bad things in hunting are stimulated by two things. Firstly by the money involved. Money often brings out bad things in humans and perhaps little can be done about it, except to try and overshadow the bad with the good.

Secondly, I think that the ownership of game, as it is often interpreted, is doing harm. Please understand me correctly. I am the very last person who would even consider touching the right of the landowner to utilize and take possession of the game on his property. But please consider this: according to the law in many lands, wild animals are "*res nullius*". Directly translated this means: wild animals are "assets without a master".

In our times of restrictions and regulations and insurances the latter seems to me a particularly desirable thing: to be free and without master. According to these laws - and Germany is but one example - wild animals are assets without master. Their utilization is incumbent to those on whose property they happen to be at any given point in time.

I suggest that one cannot own a wild animal. We often take away the animals' dignity by the way we treat wild game, which we believe to be in our possession.

Just think about "Put & Take" and "Canned" shooting practices. Both have their origin in a misunderstood "ownership" of game. In my understanding a hunter will not have the desire to own a wild animal until and unless he has decided to hunt it according to the unwritten rules of fair chase and thus take actual possession of its meat and its trophy. This may be a dicey matter and I will leave it there - but I consider it necessary to look into this.

There is a very fine little poem, in fact perhaps the finest poem I know, by F.I.J. van Rensburg, titled Kudu (Koedoe).

Hy stol

en 'n volle dag se lig skommel soos spiëls op sy glansbruin huid tot ewewig.

Hy gaan

en 'n hele bosveld dag se soepel stol flikker soos water van hom weg.

Van Rensburg must have had a keen understanding of the bushveld and valuable moments, indeed.

Perhaps not all of you may have seen the Namib desert, but I think all South African hunters understand the meaning of the word 'bushveld' - the maze of tangled bush, the umbrella thorns, the call of the red-billed hornbill at midday, and the moments when a big old kudu bull steps into a clearance in its peculiar, slow rocking gait, carrying his head low and those magnificent horns swinging back beyond his shoulders, the long beard on his throat blown by a slight breeze. There, the grand old bull pauses for a moment and scent the air - a picture of boundless harmony and beauty!

But are we really able to do justice to this shy and elusive animal, are we really able to sit down and admire the wild surroundings into which he fits so well? Do we really appreciate the tangled bushveld with its play of light and shadow, the rugged mountain ranges with its chaos of huge boulders, of sticks and stones, of gnarled commiphora trees into which the kudu can disappear like a ghost? Are we able to stalk humbly and silently through these great surroundings and wait for the moment, when a kudu bull makes his appearance? Are we able to make do with the fact that at times we won't be able to find a suitable trophy bull? Can we be satisfied by just feeling his presence, finding his spoor and see a grey shadow and glinting pair of horns disappear amongst the dusty thornbush? Or do we have to fill our time with action by shooting other coincidental species until we eventually collect a kudu trophy?

Are we not even taking away the class of the kudu and the atmosphere of a bushveld-day, if we artificially crowd the bushveld with animals?

It is said that the elephant embodies the spirit of the African wilderness, that no place is really wild without the presence of elephants. But what have we done to the African wilderness? We tamed and managed it, opened it up with roads to provide easy access and allow trophy hunters to effortlessly and conveniently collect their elephant trophies.

And how do we treat the animal that is said to embody the spirit of the African wilderness? Are we doing justice to the great wanderers and pursue him in a fair chase through his wild environment, or do we only see him as an instrument to feed our egos?

To merely kill an elephant is the easiest thing. But to really feel the rhythm of a great elephant hunt - the slow, purposeful, concentrated selection of a good track, speeding up into a great pace once on the trail, your feet marching mechanically, your body winding its way automatically through the thornbush

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Hunting: The Good and the Bad

thickets, your mind detached and wandering his own ways, and all that underneath a great African sky, in a vast lonely landscape - that is another matter altogether.

And yes, it is a thrill to eventually sneak up into an awe-inspiringly close distance to a grey giant and kill him in style with a clean brainshot.

In Bushmanland in northeastern Namibia, amidst a stark landscape of black bush and giant Baobab trees, there is /Aotcha pan - a dry soda lake with a very small desert spring amongst the rocks at its edge. Here elephant bulls come down to the water to stand for long periods and wait for enough water to trickle into a little depression amongst the rocks. Recently I surprised a big old elephant bull at this water hole. A magnificent, big tusker, which had thrown caution to the wind and advanced into the open to quench his thirst at midday of a hot September day. I approached the bull from above with some security of the rocks between us. The bull, feeling that he was taken unawares, for a moment stood tall in a threatening display in front of the backdrop of the heat-shimmering saltpan - tattered ears outstretched and mighty tusks piercing the air, only the tip of his trunk twitching from side to side in uncertainty as whether to charge or to run: all of Africa holding its breath for a few seconds.

For me, this was the greatest picture to be witnessed by a hunter. It provided encouragement to do something to conserve what is left of this wilderness and to make hunting acceptable to be true, honest and respectful.

I have tried to portray some situations which one encounters every now and then while hunting, in order to try and stress the fact, that hunting to a large extent is about special moments in the wilds, about experiencing beautiful wild habitats and about living an age-old life in harmony with nature.

To return to the theme "hunting in general, the good and the bad": I make a living from trophy hunting, but I feel very uneasy about the direction into which hunting is moving.

My own country, until recently a relatively unknown, forgotten place of unique, harsh beauty; a place somehow comparable to Kenya's famous Northern Frontier Districts, is suddenly changing in a rapid pace due to the incentives brought about by the so-called hunting industry.

It makes me sad to realize that big springbok trophy animals, hardy survivors in a harsh desert environment, are captured and loaded onto trucks to be transported to neighboring countries to there be killed by trophy collectors.

I am ashamed that in the bushveld landscape of my country Kafue lechwe are offered amongst twenty-six species to visiting sportsmen.

On the other side, the "West of Khaudum Area", which a mere fifteen years ago was an extraordinary beautiful, remote stretch of elephant country, is reduced to less than half its size due to growing population pressure.

The African wilderness is being ground down between Africa's population explosion and the European urge to own, to manage and to manipulate.

I think we hunters should stand up and claim our rightful place as true conservationists of a threatened asset to all man-

kind - unspoiled nature.

With all the money involved in hunting nowadays, the good and the bad seem inextricably entangled with each other. The good seems to be unable to overshadow the bad. The bad throws a very unfavorable light on hunting in general.

If we are unable to uphold valuable old traditions, hunting seems doomed. It appears to me that the situation in hunting has developed into a direction, that if someone is not stepping forward to create new incentives and lead by example, all our efforts will be in vain. With interest I have taken notice of the forming of the Rowland Ward Guild of Field Sportsmen. Perhaps from there a new direction for hunting can arise, one which is based on old traditions through the honorable connotations the name Rowland Ward implies, and Rowland Ward's acceptance of the challenges of a new time.

I think the friends and admirers of Rowland Ward stand ready to support new developments while keeping up the old traditions - because hunting is about much more than killing animals, it is about the freedom of an original life, about the setting sun and the dust in the wake of wandering game.

Recreational Hunting: Governance, Equity and Conservation Benefits

Dr. Lee Foote

Reprinted with kind permission from IUCN SSC Sustainable Use Specialist Group Newsletter "Sustainable" December 2007

The IUCN SUSG workshop met at The Society for Conservation Biology's Annual Meeting, Port Elizabeth, SA in August. Chairs included Drs. Lee Foote (Chair, NASUSG), Holly Dublin (Chair, SSC) and Jon Hutton (Chair, SUSG). Seven global experts addressed recreational hunting, and held panel discussions with 60 participants.

Abstracts

Recreational Trophy Hunting: What do we Know and What Should We Do?

Gerhard Damm (CIC International Council for Game & Wildlife Conservation <http://www.cic-wildlife.org>).

Trophy hunting must provide social, economic and ecological benefits for conservation. Hunting tourism and ecotourism overlap goals with hunting tourism more effective for species recovery and habitat conservation. International efforts must establish principles, guidelines, criteria and indicators of efficacy for examining benefits of trophy hunting. Goals for record-keeping, best practices and poverty alleviation are linked.

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Recreational Hunting: Governance, Equity and Conservation Benefits

Incentives for Conservation through Sustainable Use

Dr. Nigel Leader-Williams (Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, UK).

Though troubling to some conservationists, responsible use is an important alternative for local empowerment. Non-existent legal avenues to wildlife-use encourages poaching and agricultural habitat conversion for income production. "Sustainable use" remains confusing to many. In the United Kingdom, shooting and hunting encourages landowners to conserve habitat outside protected areas.

The Dilemma of Reintroducing Sport Hunting in Kenya

Dr. Ali Kaka (Executive Director, East African Wildlife Society, Kenya).

In 1977 Kenya outlawed sport hunting and gave government strict resource management control. Poaching promptly increased substantially. Animal welfare activism influences government to maintain the ban on sport and subsistence hunting. Racial separations and inequalities reduce public acceptability of outfitted hunting under the perception that white people benefit from hunting while black community dwellers remain poor and unempowered to participate.

Relationships Between Private Sector & Local Communities in Natural Resource Management: Pitfalls and Perils

David Erickson (Formerly Robin Hurt Safaris, Currently CIC)

Sport hunting in Africa is a powerful conservation tool. Tripartite arrangement of government, communities and private sector are common success components. Friction can develop between communities and private sectors without recognition of pitfalls including miscommunication, perceived injustices and unmanaged expectations. Seventeen phenomena that weaken working relations between communities and private sector participants were listed. Resource stewardship and community participation help manage these problems.

Conservation Hunting in Mozambique's Western District

Ms. Anabela Rodrigues (General Manager, Niassa Reserve, Mozambique)

Niassa reserve in Mozambique is a model of wildland management integrating sustainable hunting and conservation. Quota setting, trophy fees, CITES restrictions and trophy quality are problematic decisions established outside of Niassa. Gross revenue since 2004 exceeded \$2.6 million (US) mostly from daily use rates. Employment is increasing and hunting is compatible with conventional tourism in the reserve.

Bringing Yukon's People and Wildlife Together

Graham Van Tighem (Executive Director, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Board)

Yukon has a very low human population and a wealth of wildlife. Successful wildlife management has worked where native people, white residents and government have participated in all decisions. Yukon's 18 outfitting operations have had minimal oversight, however governance changes have received local

input thereby improving harvests and quota setting. Ongoing needs include guide training, employment, and financial incentives for local participation.

Renewing a Culture of Wildlife Utilization through the Namibia Communal Area Conservancy Program

Chris Weaver (World Wildlife Fund, Namibia).

Namibia supports an active communal area system encompassing more than 118,000 km² on over 50 conservancies where wildlife is used for community benefits including: enhanced local governance, improved hunting products, community income, and wildlife resource conservation. Namibia is rapidly becoming a model of devolution of wildlife income to rural communities.

Lee Foote is SUSG Chair for North America.
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For the complete Newsletter "Sustainable" December 2007 go to <http://iucn.org/themes/ssc/susg/sustainable/index.htm>

Namibia's Conservancies and Wildlife Benefit From Trophy Hunting

Maxi Louis the coordinator of the Namibian Association for Community-Based Natural Resource Management Support Organizations (NASCO) stated that the income made by communal conservancies has increased from N\$600 000 in 1998 to over N\$26 million at the end of 2006.

Louis said the main sources of income were ecotourism joint ventures and trophy hunting, "A remarkable increase of income has been evident from the boosted number of trophy hunting agreements," she said. By the end of 2006 communal conservancies managed more than 118 704 square kilometers of communal land, representing about 40 per cent of all communal land. The number of people living in registered conservancies has reached 220 620. By the end of last year, there were 50 registered conservancies while an additional 20 were in the process of registering. Wildlife populations in the communal areas had increased drastically over the last 20 years and much of this increase was thanks to a reduction of poaching.

(Source: The Namibian, Windhoek)

"Ultimately conservation is about people. If you don't have sustainable development around these (wildlife) parks, then people will have no interest in them, and the parks will not survive."

Nelson Mandela, during his speech given when opening the extension of Marakele National Park in South Africa, 1999.

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2008 Huntinamibia – All You Need to Know About Hunting in Namibia

Reviewed by Gerhard R Damm

This annual publication by Venture Publications, Windhoek, Namibia (www.huntinamibia.com) again surpasses all expectations. It provides detailed information for the first-timer as well as for the experienced Namibia hunter – with maps, concise information about Namibia's indigenous species and their natural distribution, a Namibia Fact File and essential information about all aspects of hunting in this beautiful country, as well as a list of all hunting professionals (including postal address and email address) registered with the Namibian Professional Hunters' Association NAPHA. All this is spiced up with some well-told hunting stories and beautiful photographs

I particularly liked the message of Hon Leon Jooste, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. Jooste is certainly correct saying that hunting in Namibia provides the visiting hunter with *"a true wilderness experience in an unspoilt environment with some remarkable outfitters"*. He continues saying that the much anticipated Parks and Wildlife Management Bill is in its final draft and should be promulgated in 2008 and that the National Concession Policy has been adopted by the Namibian Cabinet. This later policy deals with all forms of concessions on state land in Namibia and will facilitate the final granting of trophy hunting concessions, some of them in the most sought after wilderness areas Africa has to offer today. Jooste also praises NAPHA as solid partner of his Ministry and as a consistent promoter of ethical hunting practices with a brilliant code of conduct.

Diethelm Metzger, president of NAPHA says in his message that Namibia has the right product, affordable prices and economic and political stability. He also stresses another point, which I hold of extreme importance for all visiting hunters: *Harvesting the trophy animal is just the cherry on the top ... and that more emphasis should be placed on the adventure and experience that leads to the trophy.*

Some other highlights are:

- Rare Species from the North-East
- Namibia – The Land of Leopards
- Hunting Fish
- Trophy Medal System of NAPHA

If you have not hunted Namibia yet – 2008 should be your year, and the booklet will give you a treasure trove of information about the country and its hunting opportunities. I bet that you'll be dreaming of the country which Deputy Minister Jooste describes as *Rugged, Natural, Soulful and Liberating!*

For a copy of Huntinamibia 2008 contact: Namibian Professional Hunters' Association (NAPHA), P.O. Box 11291 Windhoek, Namibia, email: napha@mweb.com.na, web: www.napha.com.na, phone: +264 (61) 234455

Giant Sable Follow-Up Report

Pedro vaz Pinto

Camera traps on one site took 333 photos of a sable herd on October 22nd, between 05h40 and 06h48! These photos provided new details and allowed better identification of individuals. The photos confirmed the hybridization problem. In total 10 animals were identified, of which half are mature pure females, with the remaining 5 being hybrids. This included two individuals never recorded before, one of which is a very young calf. It is interesting to observe the behavior, as only one of the adult females used the Salina with 4 young hybrids, while the remaining 4 mature females and the newborn watched from a distance. There was no sign of the 4 young pure males, nor the hybrid bull and a few more pure adult females. The herd may have split into several groups, considered normal seasonal social behavior.



Photo Credit: Pedro Vaz Pinto, Luanda/Angola (October 2007)

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News from Africa

Africa/China

In 1993, China's State Council banned the rhino and tiger trades. It stipulated:

- The prohibition of the import and export of anything that includes rhino horn and tiger bone.
- The prohibition of the selling, purchasing, transportation, and shipping of rhino horn and tiger bone.
- The prohibition of using rhino horn and tiger bone in medicine. It also encouraged research on the substitutions for of rhino horn and tiger bone, as well as the criminal prosecution of anyone breaking these new regulations.

In 2001, China's Ministry of Public Security issued a 'Notice on the cracking down of smuggling and the illegal trade of tiger Bone and Other Products' to emphasize enforcement of the illicit trade of wildlife products in China.

Botswana

Ivory tusk weights in Botswana just get better and better. They are doing so despite the fact that our elephant quota has increased from 33 to 270 since 1996. A total of 254 elephant trophies were taken on the sport hunting quota in 2007, with an average combined tusk weight of 48.76 kgs (108 lbs), showing an increase of over one kg (2.2 lbs) on the 2006 average. The majority of these tusks fall into the 40-plus kilogram category, so the chances of finding a good trophy in this range are still very good. Johan Calitz Hunting Safaris and Holbrow Hunting Safaris each had three trophies in the top 10, with Greg Butler Safaris sharing No. 1 with Calitz Safaris. These were magnificent 180-pound elephants. Bird Safaris followed with two in the top 10 (Source: BWMA)

Botswana

The "First People of the Kgalagadi" (FPK) representing largely the marginalized indigenous peoples commonly known as the Baswara or Khoisan are threatening to take government to court over alleged ill treatment and denial of basic services such as water and hunting rights. They argue that government is refusing to issue hunting licenses despite the court judgment that the Baswara should be allowed hunting rights.

Botswana

A pack of 18 African Wild Dogs have been translocated from the Marakele National Park in Limpopo to the Northern Tuli Game Reserve, a 72 000-hectare reserve in eastern Botswana, to establish a viable population in an area earmarked for inclusion into the Limpopo-Shashe Transfrontier Conservation Area which straddles the international borders of Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe

Botswana

Lion hunting appears to be firmly closed for the 2008 season. The sport hunting quota for lion in Botswana has been extremely conservative. Preliminary data indicates that the trophy size of lions harvested by hunters since 2005 has gone up. BWMA will continue meeting with key stakeholders to assess whether the moratorium on lion hunting is a long or short term

suspension (Source: BWMA).

Kenya

The Kenya Community Based Tourism Organization published "Ecotourism and Community Benefits", painting a gloomy picture of the reality of the much-hyped notion current throughout the world and replayed in the media, travel literature and international conferences - that ecotourism in Kenya and elsewhere provides a win-win solution that is both beneficial to poor land owners and supportive of the conservation of wildlife and the environment. The authors of the report demonstrate that communities in Kenya have reaped minimal gain from ecotourism ventures. Instead, they have ended up enmeshed in exploitative partnerships with various private investors. This is especially true for communities who entered into agreements with investors who claim to operate as not-for-profit businesses. The report alleges that the contractual agreements generally lack clear-cut criteria on how to share revenues. In particular, the monetary value of the major community assets, the land and its natural treasures is usually either undervalued or not taken into consideration at all. Some of the legal agreements are constructed to make it virtually impossible for communities to disengage.

Mozambique

Agencia de Informacao de Mocambique reported in November (and this issue was taken up by several hunting related websites!) that "Mozambique has stockpiles of over 6,000 tonnes of ivory, much of it seized from poachers across the country. The ivory was seized over several years in Maputo, Manica, Tete, Niassa and Cabo Delgado provinces". Somebody must have had problems with the Zeros, since experts consulted by African Indaba estimate the total weight of ivory in Mozambique

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African Indaba eNewsletter

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

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

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

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News from Africa

Government possession to be more in the region of 60 tons.

Namibia

The San people of the communal N?a Jaqna Conservancy east of Grootfontein are against Government plans to use a large part of the area for small-scale farming and have objected strongly indicating that they do not need the farms, and that they fear the farms may benefit people other than the local San, that cattle destroy waterholes and make them useless for watering game, while fencing off land would interfere with the natural movement of wildlife. The N?a Jaqna Conservancy was gazetted in 2003. Its conservancy status ought to protect it from any other uses which could interfere with the residents' chosen form of land use, namely game hunting and tourism. Assisted by several NGOs, MET and a private wildlife trust, the conservancy started reintroducing wild game into the area last year, developing water points for game and training local community game guards. In February this year, the conservancy committee sent a position paper to Government, clearly stating that the community was against the small-scale farm plans. In 2006 a ten-year contract was signed for trophy-hunting rights with a nearby wildlife trust and the conservancy has already received its first income. In terms of the agreement, over the next five years one conservancy member will be sent to the USA to market the conservancy's hunting quota to ensure that the conservancy has the capacity to market its own resources after the expiry of the existing contract. The Namibia Economic Policy Research Union (NEPRU) completed a study in 2005 that identified wildlife and tourism as the most advantageous land-use options in N?a Jaqna.

Namibia

During NDP 2, the wildlife sector generated about N\$8.9 million from conservancies through trophy hunting, wildlife capture and the sale of game meat for local consumption and exports. Community-managed conservancies registered an income of about N\$28 million from hunting and tourism, and also recorded a reduction in poaching and other illegal activities. 50 community-managed conservancies were registered, with one association in the Bwabwata National Park. About 30 new community conservancies have been formed, and the initial allocation for protected areas, which previously covered about 13.8 percent of the land area, has been increased to 17 percent with the inclusion of the Sperrgebiet and the new National Park in Kunene. NDP 3, like the previous development plans, envisages the promotion of sustainable usage of wildlife in communal and commercial areas.

South Africa

Prices for White Rhino continue to soar at game auctions in South Africa. Game & Hunt reported in Volume 13/12 the following auction results: Two White Rhino at R324,000 ea (average price), five female White Rhino at R213,000 (average – highest price paid at R280,000, one 4 1/2 year old White Rhino bull at R300,000.

South Africa

Marthinus van Schalkwyk, The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, has announced that the definition for large predators has been changed to *temporarily exclude* lions pending

the outcome of the South African Predator Breeders Association court case against the Minister. "In a spirit of cooperative governance and in ensuring that all views and opinions from all affected parties are heard, we felt it necessary to engage in this thorough consultative process with these stakeholders before the implementation phase of the regulations could begin" said van Schalkwyk. "We have now ensured that possible gaps and loop holes are closed and agreed upon by all to ensure that we present to the industry water tight regulations."

The implementation of restrictions on the shooting of captive-bred lion has now again been delayed. There is widespread opposition to captive lion shooting in South Africa. PHASA (Professional Hunters Association of South Africa) is an outspoken opponent of the activity, blaming it for an increase in anti-hunting sentiment not just in South Africa but around the world.

African Indaba suggests that the international hunting associations encourage PHASA and the Minister to continue the fight to ban canned lion shooting once and forever.

Uganda

Rangers from the Uganda Wildlife Authorities shot and killed two suspected poachers at Rwenzori National Park. Statements conflicted as to whether the two men killed were indeed poachers and community members complained that UWA rangers rather kill people than protect them from wild animals.

United Arab Emirates

The Arabian Oryx Conservation Strategy was developed at a workshop held in Abu Dhabi in August 2007. The workshop consisted of three parts: (1) an Arabian Oryx Status Review; (2) Problem analysis, and (3) Development of the strategy to develop a regional conservation program for the restoration of Arabian Oryx in their natural habitats that ensures its survival and carry out successful reintroduction programs in the north and south of its historic range. Those interested in finding out more about the strategy can contact Khaldoun Kiwan, Head of Terrestrial Protected Areas, Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi (kkiwan@ead.ae).

Zambia

The ecological balance at Lochinvar National Park, home of the Kafue Lechwe, is threatened by an invasive shrub from Mexico. *Mimosa pigra*, a thorny shrub, is about to displace indigenous flora in the small park, which forms part of the Kafue Flats floodplain, a protected wetland under the RAMSAR convention and haven for more than 400 bird species.

Zimbabwe

3 black rhinoceros were killed in Imire game park by poachers armed with AK47 rifles. One of the killed rhino cows was two weeks away from giving birth. John Travers, owner of the reserve said all animals had had their horns sawn off by wildlife veterinarians to deter poachers. Middle of November, a female black rhino and its calf were poached and the horns removed at Sinamatela in Hwange Game Park. Earlier in 2007, 4 black rhinos were slaughtered at Tetford Farm in Mazowe on two occasions. Just before end November, 2 poachers shot and killed 2 dehorned black rhino at Ruware Ranch in Chiredzi. The horn stumps were recovered by rangers.

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

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Rolf Baldus' Book – "30 Years on the Tracks of the Big Five"

Reviewed by Gerhard Damm

Dr. Rolf D. Baldus, President of the CIC Tropical Game Commission, is no stranger to African Indaba readers ever since the first issue in January 2003. Baldus also authored many popular and scientific articles and papers on wildlife conservation and sustainable hunting in Africa. German speaking readers can now discover a new Baldus – the capable raconteur of hunting stories.

"Dreissig Jahre auf den Fahrten der Big Five" (30 Years on the Tracks of the Big Five) is the title of his book, now hot of the press this very month of January.

Rolf Baldus reminisces on many a safari in different countries, mainly Eastern Africa, and he sure has some good hunting stories to tell. The fact that Baldus – with few exceptions – hunted on his own and without the assistance of a professional hunter sets this book apart from contemporary hunting literature. Local traditional hunters and game scouts were his tutors on his self-guided safaris. Although the young Baldus had passed the German "hunter's exam" at the tender age of 17 after a one-year training course, he was soon to realize that this perfectionist German procedure hardly prepared him for African style hunting. That he survived his first safaris was more by good fortune and certainly not due to skill or prudence.

We know that hunting clients are temporary guests; they rarely see behind the scenes. Not so Baldus. From 1987 to 2005 – with a four-year interruption – he lived and worked in Tanzania's game conservation. This gave him hands on experience as manager and game warden in the largest game reserve and some of the most pristine wilderness areas of Africa. These experiences are the main focus of Baldus' book. Most of his stories don't talk about selective hunting for record book trophies, but of the everyday chores in a game warden's life: man-eating crocodiles, village meat hunts for buffalo, crop protection from marauding elephants, immobilizing elephant in the middle of the wilderness under a research program in connection with a wildlife corridor. In one his most gripping stories, Baldus recounts the hunt for Osama, the notorious man eating lion which had already killed about 34 people along the Rufiji River.

Readers will discover a totally new Baldus – not the serious scientist, not the passionate advocate of innovative approaches in wildlife conservation and community wildlife management – they will find a witty raconteur of hunting tales. This book reveals Baldus as a man with a good sense of humour combined with a profound knowledge of wildlife, people and hunting. This is a book not only for hunters, and all hunters should consider buying it as a present for those friends who watch too many African animal documentaries on TV.

Those who don't speak German, I am afraid, will have to wait for the English version.

Dreissig Jahre auf den Fahrten der Big Five by Rolf Baldus
272 pages, published by Kosmos Verlag, Stuttgart, Germany

Price: Euro 24.90; from bookshops or hqmedia GmbH
P O B 221112, 80501 München, Germany, email: jahrtop@hqmedia.de

Conservation Partners: Dallas Safari Club and Sports Afield

Dallas Safari Club Press Release

Wildlife conservation, education and ethical hunting will benefit from a strong new partnership between *Sports Afield*, the premier big game hunting adventure magazine, and Dallas Safari Club, a premier international hunting organization.

Starting in January 2009, DSC's annual convention in Dallas, Texas, will be renamed *Dallas Safari Club with Sports Afield Presents the 2009 Convention & Hunting Expo*. Already one of the world's greatest international hunting conventions with more than 800 exhibits, the Dallas show is expected to grow exponentially as a result of the combined marketing efforts of both groups.

"Dallas Safari Club is a leading force in wildlife conservation, youth education and the promotion of ethical hunting worldwide," said DSC Executive Director, Gray Thornton. "This partnership will help us to take those efforts to the next level and will take our convention, already known worldwide as one of the finest hunting and sporting celebrations of its kind, to new heights" Thornton added.

"We are particularly excited about the growth possibilities surrounding the convention as a result of this partnership," said *Sports Afield* publisher Ludo Wurfain. "We expect the *Dallas Safari Club with Sports Afield Convention and Hunting Expo* to become *the* must-attend event for serious hunters as well as for every major player in the hunting industry."

Sports Afield's considerable reach will bring additional national exposure to DSC and its important conservation and education programs. Starting with the April/May 2008 issue, a special section in *Sports Afield* will carry international hunting and conservation news from DSC staffers and volunteers who have their finger on the pulse of the most important developments in the hunting world.

Dallas Safari Club has become an international industry leader and innovator. An active and progressive organization for the uncompromising hunter, the Club's mission is to conserve wildlife and wilderness lands; to educate youth and the general public and to promote and protect the rights and interests of hunters worldwide. Since forming in 1972, the Club has contributed millions of dollars to programs benefiting wildlife, habitat, people and the sporting community.

Sports Afield, the premier hunting adventure magazine, was founded in 1887. A high-end hunting and firearms magazine with an emphasis on North American and African big-game hunting and fine sporting firearms and equipment, it serves serious hunters who pursue big game around the world.

For more information, contact:

Gray Thornton, Executive Director, Dallas Safari Club: 972-980-9800 - www.biggame.org
Ludo Wurfain, Publisher, Sports Afield: 714-894-9080

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Successful PHASA AGM 2007

Gerhard R Damm

Outfitters and professional hunters organized in the Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa (PHASA) met for their annual convention and AGM at the Birchwood Hotel and Conference Center in November. The impressive guest list included representatives of Conservation Force, Safari Club International, Dallas Safari Club, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, the Namibian Professional Hunters' Association (NAPHA), the Safari Operators Association of Zimbabwe (SOAZ), the Game Rangers Association (GRAA), Rowland Ward, Wildlife Ranching South Africa, SA Leopard Forum, as well as representatives from the South African Police Services (SAPS), provincial nature conservation agencies and the National Department for Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT).

During the first two days of intensive discussions, workshopping and networking the delegates listened to a variety of presentations. Gary van den Berg, the newly elected chairman of the southern African delegation of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC highlighted the crucial role of positive advocacy for the Southern African Conservation Model in order to establish sustainable hunting tourism as credible conservation contribution in the eyes of the public. In his role as representative of Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA). Van den Berg also insisted that wildlife ranchers, outfitters and professional hunters need to join forces by promoting to conduct hunts only with members of the PHASA and WRSA in order to exert better control over the quality of the hunting experience. This would be well in line with CIC's Sustainable Hunting Tourism Project – an ambitious global initiative which will help making hunting tourism more sustainable, transparent and enable the hunting tourism industry to adopt mechanisms well established by the tourism industry already to better presenting the economic and conservation value of sustainable hunting tourism.

Director Bothma of SAPS spoke about the implications of the Firearms Control Act and praised outgoing PHASA President Stewart Dorrington for the constructive dialogue which finally had led to important changes in the Act and to duly recognizing the needs of professional hunters and outfitters in the country. With the restructuring of PHASA all pre-conditions are now in place to considerably streamline the licensing process for industry members organized under PHASA's umbrella.

Warwick Davies-Mostert called on the industry representatives to continue lending assistance to the SA leopard Forum. The sustainable use of leopard in South Africa along agreed CITES norms needs to result in a positive conservation contribution for the species.

Magdel Boshoff of DEAT went into great detail explaining the regulations for Threatened and Protected Species which will come into effect on February 1st, 2008. She invited PHASA to continue the practical dialogue and requested professional hunters, outfitters and game ranchers to study the TOPS regulations carefully. Boshoff also mentioned that darting of game is only permitted on the basis of valid veterinary or management

reasons and that strict regulations apply. Boshoff admitted that the new regulations would possibly have an effect on marketing darting safaris and requested PHASA members to adhere to the new regulations.

One of the highlights of the second day was the eagerly awaited speech of the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Marthinus Van Schalkwyk. Van Schalkwyk said that game farming and hunting contribute significantly to the South African economy as key role players in sustainable utilization. He continued to praise PHASA to have taken on the responsibility as important partner in the Department's approach to conservation and tourism and highlighted the positive outcomes from regular and structured dialogue between DEAT and PHASA. *"I am fully committed to strengthening and improving the relationship between our department and this sector... Game farming and hunting contribute significantly to conservation, tourism development, job creation and sustainable development in rural areas and the sector is an important foreign currency earner and contributor to the gross national product,"* the minister said. With regards to the earlier mentioned TOPS regulations the minister insisted that the new regulations will address illegal and/or unethical practices. South African law and international commitments of the country must be respected, and those who disregard the law will do so at their own peril.

Inconsistent provincial conservation legislation and problems in permitting and licensing in the provinces remains a concern to PHASA and many of its members. The minister recognized the need for a national regulatory framework. *"I am aware of the capacity challenges faced by some of the provinces with regard to permitting and licensing"* said the minister and promised to take the matter to the MECs. Regarding transformation, the minister said DEAT is engaging the industry to develop a Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) Score Card. *"There are so many opportunities for BEE partnerships with communities living on communal land adjacent to game farms, with communities who have had suitable land restituted to them, and also with Small Micro-Medium Enterprises.* Professional Hunting will only truly be embraced by all South African communities when these communities develop a mutually beneficial relationship with outfitters and professional hunters," said Mr van Schalkwyk. The minister concluded *"I am very optimistic about the future of professional hunting and the great potential to further nurture and promote its economic and conservation worth".*

During the concluding gala dinner on Wednesday night Peter Butland, the new PHASA president called on all PHASA members and hunters in general to unite in tackling problems and finding solutions for conservation and said that his vision as PHASA president is that hunters will be able to say "we are proud to be hunters. Butland also introduced Eduard Katzke and Robbie Stretton as new Executive Committee members. In the awards ceremony, Dr Ian Player (in absentia) was honored with the PHASA Wildlife Utilization Award, Gray Thornton, the outgoing Executive Director of Dallas Safari Club received the Coenraad Vermaak Award for his exceptional dedication and commitment in distinguished services to PHASA over 16 years, Abraham Matsila of Limpopo Province was proclaimed the Nature

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Successful PHASA AGM 2007

Conservation Officer of the Year. Professional hunter Graham Sales, who hunts for John Abraham's Madubula Safaris, received the coveted "Uncle Stevie Award" for the best trophy taken by a visiting hunter – Graham's client scored with a super South African Springbuck during a safari in the immense Rooipoort Nature Reserve. The trophy measured 17 inch on the longest horn.

Cecil Corringham's name was drawn from a lottery box containing the names of all contributors to the PHASA Conservation & Empowerment Fund and he found himself the proud owner of a Krieghoff Double Rifle, fully donated by long-time PHASA supporter Krieghoff GmbH from Germany. Cecil, the new owner of Life Form Taxidermy is great contributor and supporter of the fund and he immediately decided to re-donate the beautiful rifle to PHASA for auction. Auctioneer Roy Hayes let his hammer fall at 60,000 Rand!

Shane Mahoney from St John, Newfoundland – member of the board of directors of Conservation Force and expert of the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, a globally celebrated conservation speaker – presented the key note address at the gala dinner. Mahoney's address centered on the crucial role hunting has played in wildlife conservation around the world. To illustrate the gifts such conservation achievements have made to all members of human society he described a spectacular engagement between rutting caribou bulls witnessed on the barrens of Newfoundland. Mahoney pointed out that this observation of wild nature, as similar experiences around the world, do not occur by accident, but rather are made possible because conservationists make great efforts to coordinate science, policy and hunting laws in diverse jurisdictions. A central point in Mahoney's speech was that wildlife does not exist by accident and that simply leaving it alone to re-establish some biblical paradise is not what conserves it for future generations; rather it is in developing programs that give wildlife and the lands they occupy value. Only in this manner can land use practices be brought in line with wildlife production and conservation.

Hunting has proven to be one of the most powerful instruments to achieve this end, said Mahoney. He then described briefly the North America Conservation Model as a rare continental approach to wildlife conservation, and one that was launched and maintained to this day by hunters primarily. Indeed seventy-five percent of all wildlife programs carried out by government wildlife agencies in the United States are paid for by the small percentage of the population who hunt and fish. While these facts are historically accurate and open to examination by anyone, Mahoney emphasized the point that the vast majority of North American citizens remain completely unaware of this history, and that the wildlife they all enjoy would not exist in its present diversity and abundance except for the efforts hunter-conservationists have made.

Mahoney's key observations, that the world's public seems to almost unconsciously accept the myth that wildlife exists by accident, and that they remain incredibly ignorant of

hunting's conservation role, led to the important conclusion of the presentation; namely, that hunters are doing far too little, if anything at all, to educate the general public as to how conservation really works.

Mahoney criticized that emphasis and focus are given to only the oppositional forces in the public such as anti-hunting advocates as short sighted and doomed to failure in the long run. For hunters, the strategically most important public sentiment is that which exists in support of legal, sustainable use practices. Hunters need to lift their eyes off their opponents and begin to pay attention to their supporters, who presently are the majority in many societies, said Mahoney, and stated that "should this balance ever shift against hunting, then political forces will engender its demise".

Mahoney's address concluded with an appeal to PHASA members to help establish a worldwide effort to reach out to that public which remains supportive of hunting, and with the observation that it is our responsibility as hunters to bring the message of conservation through sustainable use to all members of society.

The Gala Dinner ended as usual with a boisterous auction under the able direction of Roy Hayes. Roy's strong hand and personal approach resulted in another record breaking event which contributed close to half a million Rand to PHASA's coffers.



Abraham Matsila
Nature Conservation Officer
2007



Coenraad Vermaak and
Gray Thornton



Shane Mahoney



Graham Sales
Uncle Stevie Award 2007

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

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Why We Hunt

Randall L. Eaton, Ph.D.

We hunt because we love it, but why do we love it so? As an inherited instinct, hunting is deeply rooted in human nature. Around the world in all cultures the urge to hunt awakens in boys. They use rocks, make weapons or sneak an air gun out of the house to kill a bird or small mammal. In many cases the predatory instinct appears spontaneously without previous experience or coaching, and in the civilized world boys often hunt despite attempts to suppress their instinct.

The fundamental instinct to hunt may link up with the spiritual. An analogy is falling in love, in which *Eros*, the sexual instinct, connects with *Agape* or spiritual love, a vertical convergence of lower with higher. Initiation on the path of love changes our life irreversibly. Henceforth, we shall know the meaning of authentic love experienced with the totality of our being.

Hunting is how we fall in love with nature. The basic instinct links up with the spiritual, and the result is that we become married to nature. Among outdoor pursuits, hunting and fishing connect us most profoundly with animals and nature. As Robert Bly said in his best-selling book, *Iron John*, only hunting expands us sideways, "into the glory of oaks, mountains, glaciers, horses, lions, grasses, waterfalls, deer."

Hunting is a basic aspect of a boy's initiation into manhood. It teaches him the intelligence, beauty and power of nature. The young man also learns at a deep emotional level his inseparable relationship with nature as well as his responsibility to fiercely defend it.

Essentially, hunting is a spiritual experience precisely because it submerges us in nature, and that experience teaches us that we are participants in something far greater than ourselves. Ortega y Gasset, the Spanish philosopher, described the hunter as the alert man. He could not have said it better. When we hunt we experience extreme alertness to the point of an altered state of consciousness. For the hunter everything is alive, and he is one with the animal and its environment.

Though the hunter may appear from the outside to be a staunch egotist dominating nature, on the inside he is exactly the opposite. He identifies with the animal as his kin, and he feels, as Ortega said, tied through the earth to it. The conscious and deliberate humbling of the hunter to the level of the animal is virtually a religious rite.

While the hunt is exhilarating and unsurpassed in intrinsic rewards and emotional satisfactions, no hunter revels in the death of the animal. Hunters know from first-hand experience that "life lives on lives," as mythologist Joseph Campbell said. The hunter participates directly in the most fundamental processes of life, which is why the food chain is for him a love chain. And that is why hunters have been and still are, by far, the foremost conservationists of wildlife and wild places, to the benefit of everyone.

The power of the hunter's mystical bond with the wild animal is measured by his unparalleled achievements in environmental conservation. For example, the 700,000 members of Ducks Unlimited have conserved over 12,000,000 acres of wetlands to the benefit of the entire living community of North Amer-

ica. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has conserved over four million acres and successfully reestablished elk in the northeast and midwest U.S. There are more wild turkeys and deer in the U.S. than at any time in history. While other environmentalists are waging rear-guard actions, the hunting community is on the offensive.

Today, as for countless millennia, proper initiation to hunting engenders respect for all life, responsibility to society, even social authority, and spiritual empowerment. It develops authentic self-esteem, self-control, patience and personal knowledge of our place in the food chain. According to Dr. Don T. Jacobs, author of *Teaching Virtues Across the Curriculum*, "hunting is the ideal way to teach universal virtues," including humility, generosity, courage and fortitude. As I said in *The Sacred Hunt*, "Hunting teaches a person to think with his heart instead of his head. That is the secret of hunting."

Consequently, the most successful programs ever conducted for delinquent boys have focused on hunting. The taking of a life that sustains us is a transformative experience. It's not a video game. Hunting is good medicine for bad kids because it is good medicine for all kids.

Hunting is a model for living. When we hunt, we discover that we are more than the ego. That our life consists of our ego in a mutually interdependent and transcendent relationship with nature. We keep returning to the field because for us hunting is a dynamic ritual that honors the animals and the earth on which we depend both physically and spiritually.

While interviewing Felix Ike, a Western Shoshone elder, I asked him, "What kind of country would this be if the majority of men in it had been properly initiated into hunting?" He replied, "It would be a totally different world."

In a world imperiled by egoism and disrespect for nature, hunting is morally good for men and women, boys and girls. Hunters understand the meaning in Lao Tzu's statement,

The Earth is perfect,
You cannot improve it.
If you try to change it,
You will ruin it.
If you try to hold it,
You will lose it.

Some aboriginal peoples believe that the Creator made us perfect, too, and that He made us to be hunters, dependent on nature and close to the earth. Like Narcissus, civilized humanity has fallen in love with itself and turned its back on its hunting companions and its animal kin. Beware the teaching of the ages summarized in this admonition from Loren Eiseley, "Do not forget your brethren, nor the green wood from which you sprang. To do so is to invite disaster."

We are the tribe of wild men and women whose hearts hold the promise for recovery of proper relationship to the animals and earth. If we should lose hunting a far greater disaster will befall nature, society and the human spirit.

Randall L. Eaton may be contacted at rea-ton@eoni.com (Web: www.randalleaton.com)

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Conservation and Sustainable Use: A Handbook of Techniques

Reviewed by Robin Sharp (IUCN SSC Sustainable Use Specialist Group Newsletter "Sustainable" December 2007)

As the opening sentence tells us, this is designed as a handbook on how to do conservation of species that are hunted or harvested. It also covers research into these species, which should normally be the prelude to effective conservation. It is not about the whole of conservation or the whole of sustainable use. Nonetheless it fills an important gap and assembles a great deal of valuable information of interest to readers of Sustainable. Indeed it should be compulsory reading for everyone doing conservation research and projects 'away from home'.

One of the merits of the book is its clarity. The introduction explains that in the case of the species concerned sustainable use is the objective of conservation actions. While biological sustainability is fundamental the authors make clear that social and financial sustainability are also necessary conditions of success. Five steps are described as necessary to achieving sustainable use: objective setting, data collection and analysis, understanding of the factors affecting sustainability, intervention and maintenance. The following chapters broadly follow this logic. They cover surveying exploited species, understanding natural resource users' incentives (i.e. the people context), assessing current sustainability of use, developing predictive models, choosing management interventions and implementing management for long-term sustainability.

Each chapter goes through its topic methodically and ends with a list of useful website addresses and literature. There are plenty of boxes with case studies and they cover a wide range of species including marine creatures, birds and plants as well as mammals. Chapter 3 on resource users' incentives is very much to the point and contains some pithy advice under the heading of 'ethical issues' all addressed in the second person. "Tell the truth", "Don't do anything illegal", "Try to give something back" are among the preachy but wise counsels offered to the budding conservationist. There are good descriptions of Participatory Rural Appraisal and other techniques for discovering the value of wildlife to local people. Even more valuable are the last two chapters on methods of intervention such as achieving sustainable use or alternatives to it and on long term sustainability, where the point is hammered home that leaving local capacity and commitment behind is the only really satisfactory outcome of short-term intervention.

Even though this is a handbook, readers will want to know where the authors are coming from (N.B. There are no potted biographies, which is a pity.) The case study examples given of interventions they really like are Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO) in Zambia's Luangwa Valley and high end tourism at Malaune, Madagascar, which they characterize as economically successful enterprises to support both conservation and development goals. Landscape level intervention is

also favored. Their section 7.7, "A last word", reads very much like the CBD's Addis Ababa Principles for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, to which regrettably they don't refer, though other sacred texts such as the IUCN Policy Statement and Incentive-Driven Conservation (Hutton & Leader-Williams) get a passing mention. There will however be a cheer for the sentence "Generally the precautionary principle is best left in international conventions and simply borne in mind when developing site specific management objectives." In a future edition the editor may like to note that many of the index references are one page out.

Conservation and Sustainable Use: A Handbook of Techniques. E.J. Milner-Gulland and J. Marcus Rowcliffe. Oxford UP, pp 310, £27.50 paperback, 2007

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For the complete Newsletter "Sustainable" December 2007 go to <http://iucn.org/themes/ssc/susg/sustainable/index.htm>

Saving Saharan Wildlife

John Newby (Sahara Conservation Fund, scf@saharaconservation.org)

Most people see the Sahara as an exotic, barren wasteland. It is in fact full of life, with numerous plants and animals exquisitely adapted to a hot, waterless environment. In what many are calling a "silent extinction", the large bird and mammal fauna of the Sahara is facing an unprecedented conservation crisis (see table at the end of the article).

The Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF) was established in 2004 with a mission to conserve the wildlife of the Sahara and bordering Sahelian grasslands. SCF's vision is of a Sahara that is well-conserved and well-managed, where ecological processes function naturally, and plants and animals exist in healthy numbers across their historical range; a Sahara that benefits all its inhabitants and where support for its conservation comes from stakeholders across all sectors of society.

The number one threat to Saharan wildlife is over-hunting. Decades of poaching and unsustainable use have brought many species to the brink of extinction. The scimitar-horned oryx is already gone and others are sure to follow if nothing is done. It is vital to get conservation staff and resources on the ground and to find ways of creating positive incentives to conserve.

For desert dwellers, the continued existence of healthy populations of wild plants and animals is an integral part of their finely-balanced livelihoods. Desert species are highly productive on otherwise marginal rangelands. Restoring healthy wildlife populations has major ecological benefits and contributes to the diversification and strengthening of pastoral economies. Wildlife also plays a key role in combating desertification through main-

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For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

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 Saving Saharan Wildlife

taining productive grasslands.

The addax is one of the most highly adapted creatures on earth. It is also one of the rarest with under 300 left in the wild, SCF is focusing efforts on protecting the remaining herds in Chad and Niger. SCF also works to reintroduce animals bred in captivity. Efforts are currently focused on Tunisia, where addax and oryx antelopes bred in country have been transferred to desert protected areas. New animals from zoos in Europe and the States will be added to ensure that the best possible genetic founder stock is available. Reintroduction is a lengthy and expensive undertaking, underlining the need to save species in the wild whenever possible. In recent years, SCF has funded or been associated with survey work in Algeria, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger and Tunisia.

Conservation status of key Saharan birds and mammals.

SPECIES IUCN	RED DATA LIST 2006	SCF COMMENTS OBSERVATIONS
Scimitar-horned Oryx	Extinct in the wild	Last known animals in the 1990s (Chad, Niger)
Addax	Critically Endangered	Less than 300 in 1-2 populations (Niger, Chad)
Dama Gazelle	Critically Endangered	Less than 300 in 3-4 isolated pop. (Niger, Chad, Mali)
Slender-horned Gazelle	Endangered	Limited to sand seas of North Africa. Exact status unknown.
Cuvier's Gazelle	Vulnerable	Limited to North African uplands. Exact status poorly known.
Dorcas Gazelle	Vulnerable	Highly threatened throughout by uncontrolled hunting.
Cheetah	Vulnerable	Saharan pop. extremely rare and endangered.
Striped Hyena	Lower Risk	Sahelo-Saharan pop. highly endangered by persecution.
Fennec	Data Deficient	Sahelo-Saharan populations appear satisfactory.
Pale Fox	Data Deficient	Sahelian pop. extremely vulnerable to poisoning.
Rüppell's Fox	Data Deficient	Research required to assess status.
Ostrich	Least Concern	Sahelo-Saharan pop. virtually extinct in the wild.
Lappet-faced Vulture	Vulnerable	Threatened by persecution. Virtually extinct in North Africa.
Nubian Bustard	Near Threatened	Impact of intensive hunting unknown and needing research.
Sudan Bustard	Least Concern	Sahelian pop. highly vulnerable from over-hunting.
Spurred Tortoise	Vulnerable	Very few known healthy Sahelian populations.

Sustainable Hunting: Revised Principles, Criteria and Indicators

IUCN SSC Sustainable Use Specialist Group Newsletter "Sustainable" December 2007

Editor's Note: The Principles, Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Hunting have evolved in Austria. Yet the work is very useful for practioners in Africa and elsewhere, since most of the work can easily be adapted to the prevailing circumstances. It is suggested that wildlife researchers and hunting managers in Africa take a close look at the new edition and cooperate in devising ways to use it as a blueprint for local evaluation of hunting and sustainable utilization.

Following release of the first edition in 2001, a testing phase of several years and broad international response, the Principles, Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Hunting developed in Austria have recently been revised and extended. At the recent ESUSG workshop on 'Using wild resources across Europe: values and governance' in Vienna the English language edition of the book was introduced to IUCN experts.

Closing a gap in sustainability concepts

Initially, development of the Austrian assessment framework responded to a gap that existed in approaches to define, guide and measure sustainable use. Respective concepts and tools, such as guidelines, standards, criteria and indicators, already existed for various forms of use, including forestry, agriculture, or fishery, but not for hunting and wildlife management. Superior objectives and principles of sustainable use of wild animals are laid down in international conventions and resolutions (e.g. CBD, IUCN policy statement from Amman), but making them become effective requires practical tools for assessment, monitoring and adaptive management.

Self-assessment tool for hunters

Therefore, in the course of a participatory process involving a large number of stakeholders and experts the Institute of Wildlife Ecology (University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna), the Umweltbundesamt (Environment Agency Austria) and WWN-Technical Consulting Bureau Martin Forstner have developed and now advanced a transparent and operational assessment framework of Principles, Criteria and measurable Indicators of Sustainable Hunting. It is designed as a self-evaluation tool that is to be applied voluntarily and that allows hunters to self-examine the degree of sustainability of their own practice of hunting. Its application shall:

- support the analysis of individual strengths and weaknesses;
- facilitate identification of needs for action;

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Sustainable Hunting: Principles, Criteria, Indicators

- provide decision-support for the definition of action to optimize hunting sustainability;
- allow measuring effectiveness of management actions and progress in implementing sustainability requirements (monitoring, adaptive management);
- foster questioning of one's own hunting-related actions (awareness-raising);
- contribute to a better common understanding of 'sustainable hunting', both among hunters themselves and among hunters and the society-at-large; and
- allow hunters to demonstrate the sustainability of their activities more objectively.

Operational measurement

Altogether, 13 principles, 24 criteria and 51 sub-criteria with indications and scores that cover ecological, economic and socio-cultural aspects of sustainable hunting have been defined. Operational measurement of indicators is based on performance scales with a band width of 2 to 5 assessment levels that are each assigned point scores. Criteria and indicators are endowed with detailed explanations that provide practical guidance on their purpose and application, which makes the book a practice manual not only for hunters and wildlife managers, but also for nature conservationists, wildlife ecologists, planners dealing with wildlife and land use matters, and members of authorities. The prevailing scale of the assessment is the hunting management unit. Based on the broad diversity of wildlife habitat types to be found in Austria, the set of principles and many criteria can be made standard practice, whereas the indicators are suited especially to Central European countries where hunting ground systems (which tie the right to hunt to land ownership) prevail. However, by modifying certain criteria and sub-criteria, the assessment set can in principle be adjusted to other natural environments and different hunting systems as well.

Since 2001, the Austrian assessment framework has triggered a number of other European approaches to the governance of sustainable hunting. A landmark was the publishing of the IUCN-ESUSG WISPER Guidelines on Sustainable Hunting in Europe in 2006.

Further reading

The revised English language edition is available for free download via an interactive internet platform (which also offers a guided electronic self-evaluation):

<http://www.biodiv.at/chm/jagd/english/REP-0115.pdf>

It has been published as: Forstner, M.; Reimoser, F.; Lexer, W.; Heckl, F. & Hackl, J. (2006): Sustainable Hunting. Principles, Criteria and Indicators. Revised and extended edition. Report REP 0115. Umweltbundesamt, Vienna.

The German language print version can be ordered and purchased at: avBUCH, Sturzgasse, 1A, A-1141 Vienna. Phone: ++43 - 1 - 982 33 44-285; Fax: ++43 - 1 - 982 33 44-459; <https://www.avbuch.at/index2004.php?PID=168,0,0>

2007 NAPHA AGM

Gerhard R Damm

The 2006 NAPHA Annual General Meeting was officially opened by the Deputy Director of Parks and Wildlife, Mr. C Sipoko. Sipoko mentioned the remarkable recovery of wildlife in the country and thanked the NAPHA as one important partner of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) in the conservation of Namibia's environment.

"Trophy hunting is a prime source for the country" said Sipoko, and he continued that MET "recognizes the significant contribution of NAPHA in the field of social upliftment. Today 148 fully trained and qualified black professional hunters are operating in Namibia!"

Sipeko announced that the long awaited policy guidelines have now formally approved the trophy hunting concessions in the north of the country in game parks and on state land and that appropriate practical mechanisms will be worked out to ensure a good 2008 hunting season. Last not least, Sipeko called on the US government to allow the import of hunting trophies of the Black-faced Impala, one of Namibia's signature game species, into the US.



Almut Kronsbein, CEO of NAPHA, welcomes delegates

"Trophy hunting in Namibia is a significant contributor to the country's economy, with about eight per cent of the annual gross domestic product (GDP)", said Diethelm Metzger, president of the Namibia Professional Hunting Association (NAPHA) in his address. He mentioned that "the hunting of about 25 000 wild animals organized by professional outfitters and hunters in 2005 brought a turnover of N\$316 million and surpassed income from the entire small livestock sector the same year, which was N\$285 million". He also said "trophy hunting is an important section of the tourism industry and grew an average of 12.5 per cent annually since 1996 – a remarkable achievement, especially since there was little or no financial support to trophy hunting from Government."

With this growth rate organized hunting outperformed every other sector. During his speech, Metzger said that for each trophy hunter visiting Namibia, five to six jobs were created in

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For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

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this labor-intensive section of the tourism industry. Critically, Metzger added, that there is urgent need for real economic data on sustainable hunting tourism – a field where the present work of the CIC offers great symbiotic opportunities.

In general, Metzger drew a positive balance of 2007 – Namibia is well positioned in the global hunting market, attracting more and more foreign hunters to a land of exceeding natural beauty, and a rich variety of game roaming freely in breathtakingly wild nature. He also called on and encouraged MET and the Namibian Government to utilize the capacity within NAPHA to jointly develop a solid basis for the self regulation of sustainable hunting tourism in the country.

"The good reputation built over the past decade must not be put at risk by unethical practices" concluded Metzger. He challenged all NAPHA members to uphold the principles of fair chase and of traditional values in hunting in order to continue to be successful.

The NAPHA Annual General Meeting was attended not only by a strong show of members from all over Namibia, but also by guests from the neighboring countries Zimbabwe and South Africa and representatives of international hunting associations like Dallas Safari Club Executive Director Gray Thornton and his designated successor, Ben Carter, Safari Club International Vice President Joseph Hosmer, CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation Tropical Game Commission Vice President Gerhard Damm, Richard Flack, Director of Rowland Ward, and of course by the never-tiring and globally present hunting advocate and Conservation Force Chairman John J Jackson III and his wife Chrissie of.

John Jackson was honored with the *NAPHA Conservationist of the Year Award* and the laudation mentioned: "Jackson has been serving Namibia since 1989. He won the lawsuit that established the US importation of Namibia's elephant trophies and started the *Black-faced Impala* and *Cheetah Initiatives*. He serves on both the *Predator* and *Black-faced Impala Committees*, filed Namibia's *Petition* to downlist the cheetah, helped to devise Namibia's *National Cheetah Management Strategy* and the *Cheetah Enhancement Fund*. He has done the same with the black-faced impala."



Ben Carter and Gray Thornton (from the left – both Dallas Safari Club) and Gerhard Damm (right - CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation) congratulate John J Jackson III and Chrissie Jackson

The various NAPHA subcommittees reported about their work. It was mentioned that 183 leopard and 135 cheetah had been reported hunted by 11th October from the annual quota of 250 and 150 respectively. The black-faced impala management plan was submitted and approved by MET and is awaiting approval by the Cabinet. The Big Game Committee reported about the rising attraction of Namibia as hunting destination, citing as reasons the open and remote concession areas with pristine wilderness and the excellent trophy quality. The Concession Liaison Committee noted the excellent cooperation between MET, NGOs, NAPHA and the Conservancies Management Committees and the creation of a reliable database regarding wildlife resources. Of importance is also that NAPHA enjoys an excellent working relationship with WWF. From a statistical point it was interesting to see that in 2006 Germany still leads the table with 1905 visiting hunters, but the United States are a close second with 1516; however, the European contingent of visiting hunters is still massive with 4,500 clients (incl. Germany). The deliberations of the NAPHA delegates in the two-day session culminated in the adoption of a new NAPHA Constitution.

At the evening gala, NAPHA members and their guests participated in a lively auction which netted the association the record amount of 233,000 Namibian dollars and after all the hard work during the day – the members and their wives enjoyed some hours of good entertainment, food and dancing at the Windhoek Country Club.

Kenya's Conservation Crisis: Set To Continue?

Mike Norton-Griffiths

1977 was an important year for conservation in Kenya for it was then that sport hunting and all other consumptive utilization of wildlife were banned. It was also the year when the Kenya Rangeland Ecological Monitoring Unit (KREMU) began to monitor the numbers and distribution of livestock and wildlife throughout the 500,000 km² of Kenya's arid and semi-arid rangelands. So, perhaps uniquely, a major change in conservation policy coincided with a new capacity to monitor its effect and impact.

The monitoring results have been deeply disturbing, and by the mid '90s a number of warnings were being issued about a major decline in wildlife right across Kenya's rangelands, even in the most heavily used tourist areas. More recent analyses show that the rates of wildlife loss continue unchecked. Since 1977, Kenya has lost 60%- 70% of all its large wildlife.

The economic driving force behind these losses are the differential returns from agricultural, livestock and wildlife production. For most landowners, returns from agriculture are vastly greater than are those from livestock, while wildlife returns are so meager as to be uncompetitive with either. Furthermore, returns from wildlife, however small, are found only on 5% (23,000 km²) of the 500,000 km² of rangelands where wildlife are found.

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Kenya's Conservation Crisis: Set to Continue?

No returns are made from wildlife anywhere else on Kenya's rangelands so to the great majority of landowners wildlife is simply a cost that the Government expects them to bear.

Everything is loaded against landowners making economic returns from wildlife. The tourism cartels divert the great majority of revenues to the service side of the industry while the continuing ban on all consumptive utilization of wildlife further restricts landowners' opportunities to generate revenues, especially away from the areas where tourists go. And all this is exacerbated by the deeply corrupt and technically incompetent Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS); by the conservation NGOs who concentrate too much on topical single issues rather than on the economics of wildlife production; and by community institutions who too often serve the interests of local elites rather than those of their ordinary members.

If Kenya wishes to maintain significant wildlife populations outside the protected areas then the returns to wildlife production must become financially and economically competitive against those from agriculture and livestock. Much can certainly be achieved by diverting a greater proportion of wildlife revenues to pastoral landowners, from both the Public (revenue sharing) and the Private (tourism cartels) sectors; by engaging landowners more directly in the tourism industry (transport, accommodation and other value added activities); by implementing fair and transparent compensation schemes for losses suffered from wildlife; and by expanding the areas visited by wildlife tourists without harming the areas where they currently go.

However, two substantial policy changes are also required. First, to devolve wildlife user rights, and perhaps even ownership rights, from the State to landowners so that wildlife become fully marketable commodities as they are elsewhere in Africa.

Second, to relax the current restrictions on income generating opportunities and open up the whole range of utilization and value added activities: including live sales between landowners, and with the Public sector; ranching for local and overseas trade; culling locally abundant populations; value added activities of tanning and making trophies and curios; and, of course, the most valuable activity of all – sport hunting.

In the face of such a manifestly catastrophic failure in conservation policy the first effort to improve matters came on the initiative of a group of Kenyan MPs mainly from the pastoral areas, and in December 2004 the Kenyan Parliament passed an important amendment to the Wildlife Act. This amendment sought to make the KWS answerable to its Board of Trustees rather than to Government; to provide for greater participation on the Board by the landowners who actually produce wildlife; and to address the issue of compensation for the loss of life and damage to property by wildlife. This amendment came from the floor of the house, it went through all the required procedures, debates and public consultations, including with the Attorney General's Office, and was properly voted on by the parliamentarians. Yet, following the deliberately misleading lobbying of the President by two anti-hunting American NGOs, the Humane Society and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), the President of Kenya refused to sign the amended Wildlife Act

into law. Clearly, these two, hugely wealthy, overseas NGOs had more influence on the President than did Kenya's own parliamentarians.

More recently, and after much prodding and badgering, the Government has at last instituted a national review of wildlife policy. A review team has been appointed, experts contracted, a Steering Committee set up, Universities are holding workshops, and views are being sought from one and all throughout the country in a series of two national and 12 regional seminars. But once again IFAW has managed to hijack this entire process, in this case by literally shipping in paid, rent-a-mob crowds, and have reduced it all to an endlessly sterile shouting match about the reintroduction of sport hunting.

All IFAW cares about is that sport hunting and other consumptive utilization of wildlife is not reintroduced to Kenya, and whether this leads to further losses of wildlife and to the perpetuation of rural poverty is completely irrelevant to them: because their underlying purpose is not to help Kenya but to be able to raise more money in North America and Europe on the basis of their "Kenya success".

IFAW simply ignore the stark economic realities behind the tragic loss of wildlife and in turn offer no alternative suggestions of any kind as to how wildlife can be made more profitable to landowners so that it becomes in their best interest to conserve and invest in it. Kenya's attitude towards wildlife utilization has always been based on tolerance and it has been left to the individual landowner to decide whether or not to hunt on his land. This tolerance is now in danger of being replaced by an alien belief system.

No one has any objection to IFAW's opinions, but to achieve their objectives IFAW is willing to subvert the representative democratic process in Kenya. It is bad enough that the conservation NGOs and their donors sat back supinely for years without ever challenging the Government's conservation policies, but IFAW and their ilk are taking things to new and dangerous levels.

IFAW represents at the most a million members, mainly in north America and Europe. Why should they determine Kenyan wildlife policy rather than Kenya's own elected parliamentarians?

Such power without accountability, transparency and responsibility is a dangerous and heady mix. It is almost inevitable that IFAW will indeed succeed in perverting and derailing the course of the current wildlife policy review, and as a direct result

Kenya will suffer further significant and irrevocable conservation losses. If IFAW were really interested in conserving wildlife in Kenya rather than simply maintaining an entrenched and minority position then it should be prepared to put its money where its mouth is. IFAW has an annual income of tens of millions of dollars a year and is perfectly able to establish a Trust Fund to meet the costs of Kenya's pastoral landowners to maintain wildlife on their land. The sums involved are not trivial -- and are orders of magnitude larger than simply hijacking a policy review process or "chatting up" a President.

If IFAW decline to take such an action then they should be held directly accountable by the Government of Kenya and be made to compensate Kenya for their unconstitutional imposition of inappropriate policies.

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

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Kai-Uwe Denker's "Along the Hunter's Path"

Reviewed by Gerhard R Damm

When I received Kai-Uwe Denker's book, I thought first "oh well, another professional hunter who writes down his daring exploits", but after I had listened to his speech at the Rowland Ward inauguration (see pages 2-4), I realized that this man lives hunting, that he is deeply concerned about the direction some so-called hunting activities are taking, and most of all that he recognized that the time has come to stand up and be counted. A couple of weeks later, during the year-end holidays, I had time to delve into the book and it kept me spell bound from the first to the last page.

"Along the Hunter's Path" is not an easy book to read, especially for somebody like me, who is probably just as passionate about hunting as Denker. You need to pause, reflect; you remember your own actions, your own hunting experiences. Denker forces you from the start to self-evaluate, but he also achieves to reinforce your dedication to nature conservation, to the intrinsic beauty of stark landscapes, to the thrill and adrenalin-pumping moments of the chase and the soul-searching moments after the quarry is down.

Denker is well known as uncompromising, dedicated hunter – and one of a select group who do not bent the rules, who do not or rarely fail their self-set high standards. He is not shy to be confrontational; he does not seek the convenience of political correctness to suit the *Zeitgeist*. Denker does not want, he does not need, to please.

Page after fascinating page he gives such an honest record of the lone and far places in his starkly beautiful Namibia that few readers will be able to withstand a yearning to hunt and explore this country. Denker writes with a passion, with simple honesty, weaving hunting stories and the history of the places and the people along his *hunter's path* into an intricate pattern of mounting tension few of his writing peers can match.

He does that most brilliantly and in a deeply personal way in the chapter about Bernhard Tsao, an intriguing tale from the "West of Khaudum", Denker's hunting grounds in the late nineties. His interactions with the people of Samagai-Gai, the bushman trackers and with the feared Bernhard Tsao – all this whilst guiding his first overseas elephant hunter in the Khaudum concession – play out towards an almost classical tragic ending.

There are pages in Denker's book, where I feel uncomfortable, where his passions are running out of control, but at least he is honest about it, he doesn't offer excuses. The mad running after game, forgetting the world (and his client) in the adrenalin rush of the chase don't appeal to me, although I do not argue an occasional necessity. With his rigid stance about hunting equipment, however, I draw the line between personal preferences and choices. I have no problem with Denker or anybody using iron sights, but a hunter using a telescopic sight or a range finder is not necessarily a bad hunter. It's how we use our modern equipment, not that we use it. Otherwise we would be still chasing game with hand held pieces of flint. Since the Palaeo-

lithic, hunting weapons and techniques have evolved and continue to evolve. How we use them is a different story.

Denker softens his stance in the concluding chapters when he talks about trophy hunting and the obvious and subtle nuances which differentiate a trophy hunter from a subsistence hunter, although he contradicts himself on occasion in the characterization of the "noble savage". Nevertheless, I can and will subscribe to Denker's admiration for an outstanding trophy animal, his yearning to make this trophy his own and to his justification of trophy hunting.

Last not least, the many photos in this book don't only make good illustrations, they help the reader to understand Denker's way of thinking – and the photos are excellent!

This is a book was written by a real hunter for real hunters. It was also written for those who are still searching for answers. It will not offer easy access to these answers, but it will hopefully offer some intellectual challenges, make readers contemplate why we are hunting and help them exploring the ethical and moral aspects of hunting.

Isn't it all about what Jose Ortega y Gasset said more than half a century ago: *We don't hunt to kill, but we kill to have hunted!*

What others had to say about Kai-Uwe Denker's book:

"This is not a coffee-table book; it is a book to be read and savored and passed down to those you want to inflame with a passion for hunting. I recommend this book like no other I have read in some time." - Don Causey, *Hunting Report*

"It is a big book interspersed with the largest collection of top-quality, page-size color photographs that I have seen in any book. The majority are of life animals, San Bushman, or scenes of the countryside in which he hunted – a lot of them scenically breathtaking." - Brian Marsh, *Man Magnum*

"Probably one of the most significant Africa books of the last decades. Along the Hunter's Path is in my view the book on African hunting par excellence, the creed of a thoroughly passionate professional hunter." - Anno Hecker

"Along the Hunter's Path is like a breath of fresh air. This publication with its compelling text and magnificent photographs comes highly recommended." - African Outfitter

Along the Hunter's Path by Kai-Uwe Denker

The thoughts and experiences of a thoroughly passionate professional hunter as he hunts in Namibia, Mozambique, Cameroon and Tanzania. The original version of this book was published in German under the title "Entlang des Jäger's Pfad"

506 pages, 162 pages of stunning color photos, size 21 x 15 cm, published by Opportuniti Communications Namibia, ISBN 99916-68-45-4

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Tanzania: New Fees and Changes in the Wildlife Division

Gerhard R Damm

In September 2007 African Indaba published an article "Tanzania: Facts and Rumors - Is there an alternative to Use it AND Lose it?" Finally, towards end November and then again middle of December some information came out of Tanzania in this regard. The appointment of Erasmus Tarimo as new Director of Wildlife and successor to Emmanuel Severre, who had survived already a dismissal in 2006, and who has now been transferred to the Mweka Wildlife College was one part of the news. The other eagerly awaited news was the publication of a compromise solution regarding the 2007/2008 concession and trophy fees. Whether this "compromise" is final remains to be seen.

Hunting associations and hunting media first reported that the stalemate between the Tanzanian professional hunting community and the Government over the 2007 fees was resolved in late November. The agreement on the 2007 fees is said to stipulate an increase of *about* 50% on concession fees (supposedly over those valid in 2006, i. e. \$10,000) and *about* 15% on trophy fees (also supposedly over those valid in 2006). Beware, however, there is no official confirmation as yet with regards to this overdue regulation on the 2007 fees! In any case, some outfitters may still want to pass any increases on to their customers while others may not.

Just before this issue of African Indaba went to press, we received a copy of a letter which TAHOA sent to members on or about December 20th:

"This is to inform all the members that in recognition of government efforts for Conservation of Wildlife and poverty alleviation, Public & Private Sector partnership, it is recognized that the industry has to contribute significant revenue to the government. After long consultations between the public sector on one hand represented by the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism and the Wildlife Division officials on one side and the private sector represented by The Chairman of TAHOA Mr. Gerald Pasanisi, Vice Chairman Mr. Mohsin Abdallah (SHENI), The Secretary General Mr. Mohamed and other Executive Committee members the final 2008 government fees have now been confirmed. TAHOA has been given a go ahead by the Honorable Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism Hon. Professor Jumanne Maghembe to advise its members and other hunting companies to use the attached fees for marketing for the year 2008."

The table in the next column gives the official 2008 fees as published in the TAHOA letter. As a service to our readers, African Indaba has completed this list with the fees charged in 2006 and those proposed in the Wildlife Division letter dated 11th July 2007 as comparison.

We want to repeat that the **exact fees applicable for the disputed past 2007 season** have not yet been published. We also want to point out that the **2008 fees have not been**

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Tanzania Government Trophy Fees for the 2008 season compared to Government Trophy Fees valid for 2006 and to the proposed fees published in July 2007

Species	Trophy Fees in USD		
	2008	2006	Prop*. 07.07
Baboon	\$110	\$110	\$110
Buffalo	\$1 900	\$750	\$1 500
Second Buffalo	\$1 900	\$900	\$1 800
Third Buffalo	\$1 900	\$1 050	\$2 000
Bushbuck	\$600	\$425	\$500
Bushpig	\$420	\$240	\$250
Caracal	\$150	\$85	\$150
Civet Cat	\$200	\$340	\$200
Crocodile	\$1 700	\$1 050	\$1 500
Dik Dik	\$250	\$205	\$250
Duiker Abbot's	\$280	\$220	\$220
Duiker Common	\$280	\$220	\$250
Eland	\$1 700	\$1 050	\$2 000
Elephant - 15kg (33Lbs) / 1.5m	\$7 500		
Elephant - 27kg (60 Lbs)	\$12 000	\$5 000	\$15 000
Elephant - 32kg (80 Lbs) **	\$20 000		
Fox	\$250	n/a	\$250
Genet	\$250	\$220	\$250
Gerenuk	\$2 500	\$1 625	\$2 000
Grant's Gazelle	\$450	\$275	\$400
Greater Kudu	\$2 200	\$1 465	\$2 000
Grysbok	\$350	\$180	\$350
Hartebeest	\$650	\$465	\$600
Hippopotamus	\$1 500	\$1 050	\$2 500
Hyena	\$550	\$230	\$500
Impala	\$390	\$300	\$500
Jackal	\$250	\$145	\$250
Klipspringer	\$1 200	\$900	\$1 500
Leopard	\$3 500	\$2 500	\$12 000
Lesser Kudu	\$2 600	\$1 625	\$2 200
Lion	\$4 900	\$2 500	\$12 000
Oribi	\$250	\$150	\$200
Oryx	\$2 800	\$870	\$2 000
Ostrich	\$1 200	\$890	\$900
Porcupine	\$150	\$85	\$150
Puku	\$800	\$275	\$600
Ratel (Honey Badger)	\$300	\$85	\$300
Reedbuck Southern	\$450	\$350	\$400
Reedbuck Bohor	\$450	\$365	\$450
Roan	\$2 550	\$1 090	\$2 000
Sable	\$2 550	\$1 500	\$2 000
Serval Cat	\$300	\$225	\$300
Sitatunga	\$2 000	\$1 125	\$1 300
Steinbuck	\$250	\$180	\$250
Thompson's Gazelle	\$500	\$240	\$400
Topi	\$800	\$440	\$1 200
Warthog	\$450	\$400	\$400
Waterbuck	\$800	\$550	\$800
Wild Cat	\$250	\$180	\$250
Wildebeest	\$650	\$400	\$500
Zebra	\$1 200	\$740	\$1 000
Zorilla	\$150	n/a	\$150

* as published in Government Notice 11. July 2007

**note that 32 kg = 71.1 pounds (not 80 as indicated in the TAHOA list)

	2008	2006	prop. 2007*
Block fees per hunting season:	\$27,000	\$10,000	\$40,000/\$50,000
Permit Fee 10 Day Package:	\$950	\$450	\$450
Permit Fees > 10 Day Package:	\$1,250	\$600	\$600
Conservation Fee per Day/Client:	\$150	\$100	\$100
Conservation Fee per Day/Observer:	\$100	\$50	\$50
Trophy Handling 10 Day package:	\$400	\$300	\$300
Trophy Handling > 10 Day Package:	\$500	\$300	\$300

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

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published as Government Notice yet. African Indaba, therefore, cannot warrant the correctness of these figures, although they have been compiled with great care. We advise prospective hunters to double check with their outfitter, agent or with official Tanzanian agencies.

Despite of the general euphoria that the stalemate has been overcome, I am deeply skeptical. I even dare to suggest that this so-called compromise, apart from not addressing the known core problems of wildlife utilization in Tanzania, massively short-changes visiting international hunters.

The hunting clients have to shoulder the bulk of the increases, not only in trophy fees, but also in the various add-on costs levied by the Tanzanian Government. The financial burden on the shoulders of the hunting clients weighs far heavier than the increased concession fee on a safari operator.

The keen observer will note that most of the government trophy fees for plains game have gone up – and are now even higher than those proposed in July last year (see red figures in the table on the previous page). A few species have remained on the July 2007 level but are still substantially higher than 2006. Only with very few species the trophy fees have been adjusted downward from the July 2007 level – notably leopard, lion, hippo, eland, klipspringer and topi, yet they are still way over the 2006 levels.

The reasoning which influenced the fee jumping in the two large cat species remains in the dark:

	2006	2007 proposed	2008
Lion	\$ 2,500	\$12,000	\$ 4,900
Leopard	\$ 2,500	\$12,000	\$ 3,500

Today's market price for a good trophy lion certainly is well over the published 2008 trophy fee, whereas the 2008 leopard fee is more or less in line with other countries. One should rather have incentivized lion hunting and lion conservation for the State and especially for the rural communities in the Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) with a substantial trophy fee dedicated to lion conservation. The 2008 price of \$ 4,900 undervalues the lion trophy and benefits only operators who are selling lion safaris.

The visiting hunters also have to shoulder a 50% increase in daily conservation fees (100% for observers on hunting safaris) and pay substantially higher permit and trophy handling fees – none of these increases were contemplated in the order signed by Minister Maghembe in July 2007.

The safari operators will pay more than double for a concession in 2008 (\$27,000) as compared to 2006 (\$10,000), but considerably less than contemplated the July 2007 directive of \$50,000 respectively \$40,000. Those companies with the most blocks benefit most!

Irrespective of the amount, the 2008 concession price is still administratively set, does not take into account the hugely divergent natural assets and resources of the different concessions, and most importantly, still excludes any free market procedures. Revenue obtained by the Wildlife Division is still based on a "Pay-as-Used" instead of on a "Right-to-Use" system, with the major revenue streams coming from trophy fees. The "Pay-

as-Used" system means that the Government receives their income mainly from the fees paid for animals killed. Consequently the Wildlife Division is interested in a high take off. Many operators misuse this interest to obtain higher and sometimes non-sustainable quotas. This leads to overutilization. On the other side, some leading operators with prime wildlife areas are in a position to market their safaris at the very high end of the price scale. They maximize profitability with fewer yet high priced safaris where trophy fees contribute only marginally to the bottom line. At the same time, this underutilization reduces the potential revenue for the Government. A "Right-to-Hunt" system would sell the hunting rights for a block including a given quota and allow every operator to optimize the respective business structure on a economically and ecologically sustainable basis.

I also dare to say we are still miles away from the objective that well-managed, transparent sport hunting provides very tangible and quantifiable conservation and social benefits, as well as substantial and sustainable economic gain!

The readers will, therefore, forgive me for stating: This new "solution" benefits the safari operators, while hunters and conservation bear the cost!

The new Wildlife Director Erasmus Tarimo has his work cut out for him and it will not be an easy job, because the underlying problems will not go away. All what has been achieved is a temporary reprieve for the safari operators.

Mr. Tarimo, who started his career in the Wildlife Department after studies in Canada and who was chief warden of the Selous Game Reserve from 1985 to 1986 was instrumental in the negotiations and agreements with the Federal German Government which lead to the rehabilitation of the Selous. Since then Tarimo occupied several key functions in the central offices of the WD in Dar es Salaam. The other key functionaries appointed together with Mr. Tarimo are all from within the Wildlife Division. Therefore, Mr. Tarimo and his staff should be well aware of the issues and the potential solutions which were tabled by the Development Partner Group (DPG) and independent consultants.

In July 2007 the Wildlife Division of Tanzania announced an abrupt and drastic increase of the hunting price structure without giving appropriate notice. This unilateral action damaged Tanzania's reputation as preferred hunting destination and gave rise to speculations and behind-the-scene negotiations. The present "solution" does not help to rebuild trust since it seems to be again the result of biased behind-the-scene negotiations. Real reforms are nowhere in sight, and the original objective – an increase in hunting revenue for the State – has been achieved, if at all, only partially.

I do not want to forget to mention that just like in the hunting sector, where the WMA concept has been largely pushed aside, the *Wildlife Conservation (Non-Consumptive Wildlife Utilization) Regulations 2007*, which have been promulgated last year, also indicate a step backwards – instead of empowering the communities who live with the wildlife and encouraging them to manage their assets on CBNRM principles, the regulations concentrate management powers and revenue flow in the Wildlife Division.

Nevertheless, we wish Mr. Tarimo luck to tackle the huge task before him!

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