

AFRICAN INDABA

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e-Newsletter

March 2004

Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

1 Editor's Comments

Dear Reader,

The first two months of the year 2004 went well. Sustainable use – and with it regulated trophy hunting – was on the agenda of international and regional conferences and meetings. You can read about it and about the significant progress in the articles of this issue of **African Indaba**.

CIC's Kai Uwe Wollscheid paraphrased it correctly ***"On the level of international conventions on species conservation, the importance of sustainable hunting and regulated forms of hunting tourism are not questioned at all. On the contrary: hunting plays a significant role in the regional and local implementation of these conventions."***

Of most significant importance are the outcomes of the February Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kuala Lumpur. The adoption of the "Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Use of Biodiversity" is a milestone in conservation history. Responsible hunters around the world should take due note of these far-reaching decisions, since it will affect all – both on local and international levels. Cooperative efforts of national and international hunting organizations with research scientists, international conservation bodies like IUCN, NGOs will now have to produce tangible strategies. The principles must be transformed into action on the ground!

This is an open window of opportunity, where hunters and hunting organizations can prove that the claim "hunter-conservationist" is not an idle one.

The challenge, however, does not go out only to the members of the world-wide hunting community. The challenge is also extended to the national wildlife services – like the Kenya Wildlife Service – to explore the chances and risks which these principles and guidelines offer the embattled biodiversity of the African continent. Southern Africa has many success stories to learn from. Kenya's Laikipia Wildlife Forum is one example, where good practices of the past could lead to even better ones, if the authorities adopt the CBD principles. I suggest that conservation common-sense based on hard facts should finally be permitted to replace emotional protectionism and *"conservation-by-the-media"*.

In view of the hotly debated issues of wildlife and its sustainable use in Zimbabwe, the stakeholders (and those who are not stakeholders, but talk incessantly nonetheless) would be well advised to approach the search for solutions pragmatically. I dare to say that there is probably nobody who can present a blueprint for the future on his own and that considerable good will and co-operative spirit from all parties is needed to reach a universally acceptable solution for the of conservation of Zimbabwe's natural resources AND to satisfy the legitimate needs and aspirations of all Zimbabweans. Sustainable trophy hunting is a cornerstone of

wildlife management in Zimbabwe and the worldwide hunting community must contribute towards future solutions.

The discussions about elephant numbers in Southern Africa and what to do with the rapidly multiplying pachyderms have gained momentum. Although certain government circles in Africa still seem to buckle under the influence of veiled and open threats uttered by the international animal rights conflict industry, more and more impartial voices call for active management solutions. "Conservation neo-colonialism" by an emotional minority from the northern hemisphere must not be permitted. Julius Nyerere's words, *"the conservation of wildlife and wild places calls for specialist knowledge, trained manpower and money, and we look to other nations to cooperate in this important task – the success or failure of which not only affects the continent of Africa but the rest of the world"* did not mean that a few green ideologues should dictate African wildlife policy. Africa needs aid in form of solid science, adaptive management plans and this aid must factor in Africa's people.

Last not least I would like to highlight the article "Sustainable Lion Hunting", which deals with Dr Craig Packer and Karyl Whitman's work in Tanzania. The paper shows a broad range of possibilities where the hunting community can cooperate with science, have good hunting opportunities and assist in conservation! Hunting for mature trophies is more challenging, rewarding and makes more conservation sense – and I dare to say that it is also more acceptable to non-hunters.

We must not forget that **the Basis for Hunting is Conservation**. Read the box on page 11 to refresh your memory!

Sincerely,
Gerhard R Damm, Editor

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

2 Tourism and development: the win-win performance

Press Release International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC

"The characteristics of hunting tourism are comparable to those of ecotourism" – this was one of the main outcomes of a discussion forum at the international conference *Tourism and Development: the Win-Win Performance* at the occasion of the fair "Tourismforum International" in Hannover, Germany.

The GTZ (German Technical Cooperation) invited representatives of the [CIC \(International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation\)](#), the German Federal Office for Nature Conservation, WWF Germany, the tourism research sector as well as experts from different GTZ projects dealing with hunting and rural development to a conference under the title *Hunting Tourism – A Red Rag?*, on February 8 in Hannover, to discuss the possibilities that regulated and sustainable forms of hunting tourism can offer to achieve the objectives of nature conservation and development.

"On the level of international conventions on species conservation and nature, the importance of sustainable hunting and regulated forms of hunting tourism are not questioned at all. On the contrary: hunting plays a significant role in the regional and local implementation of these conventions", emphasized Kai-Uwe Wollscheid, CIC's CEO in his speech and showed examples among the worldwide activities of the CIC with the United Nations and the respective Conventions.

There was a broad consensus that regulated hunting tourism can play an important role in nature conservation and the development of African, Asian, etc. countries. Markus Radday from WWF Germany stressed that the WWF accepts hunting tourism, provided that hunting promotes the relevant objectives of sustainability. Within the context of potential natural resource use options, trophy hunting as part of wildlife management has a relatively low importance. Nevertheless, hunting tourism has the potential to contribute to a disproportionately high degree towards rural development, especially in marginal areas, without other land use options, such as animal husbandry or agriculture. In this context WWF moves away from the preservationist concept in nature conservation.

The importance of this concept can be seen in the Selous Game Reserve, the biggest uninhabited protected area in Africa, where conservation of the protected area and the fight against poaching would be impossible without the substantial income from hunting tourism. Ludwig Siege, former head of the [Selous Conservation Programme](#) of the GTZ, outlined that protected areas, such as the Selous, can be financed on the long-term only, if the resources of the area contribute to the financing: hunting offers considerable prospects in this context!

The presentations also made clear that it is essential to develop standards for sustainable hunting tourism on the long term. There are many cases, where serious control and regulation problems exist locally. Corruption, bad monitoring of populations and a lack of transparency in the argumentation have been listed as difficulties. In the Eurasian region there is special need for action in this field.

Together with all participants, CIC will vigorously work to elaborate proposals for a sustainable future of hunting tourism.

3 IUCN welcomes adoption of sustainable use principles by CBD

Editor's Comment: *The adoption of the principles and guidelines for sustainable use at the **Convention on Biodiversity (CBD)** meeting in Kuala Lumpur this past February – and in particular the success in having the original version adopted - is an important victory for proven conservation and adaptive management strategies. It reaffirms the position of well regulated hunting in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, especially in developing countries.*

The [IUCN Sustainable Use Specialist Group \(SUSG\)](#) had been working on this document for more than 2 years and was generally satisfied with the draft by the May 2003 Addis Ababa meeting. Unfortunately, however, during the September Montreal preparatory session of the 7th CoP a last minute amendment was put forward by Australia with the text saying that "**consumptive use of 'threatened species' is only acceptable as a last resort...**". The text was briefly debated and then amended at a time when many delegates were involved in ad hoc groups and had no expectation of the issue arising for voting. The danger that the February 2004 meeting of CBD would adopt this "amended" document was real. The Australian "amendment" actually put into question that the conservation programs of many species listed by the IUCN as "threatened" are based precisely on sustainable consumptive use, and that in CITES consumptive use of "threatened" species is allowed where it is shown to be beneficial.

African Indaba wants to thank all delegates who fought for the adoption of the use-friendly text. Our thanks go in particular to the delegate of the only participating hunting organization, Kai-Uwe Wollscheid, Director General of the [International Council for Game and Wildlife Management](#) (see also CIC article on page 6 of this issue), but also to all other delegates who recognized the importance of consumptive sustainable use. It is now up to all hunting organizations to cooperate and coordinate practical steps on a global and national level with the relevant IUCN groups.

The following text has been taken from the [IUCN](#) webpage

For the first time broad guidance on how species may be used while ensuring their conservation was provided to governments, managers and consumers with the adoption of the [Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Use of Biodiversity](#) at the 7th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity which closed on 20th February 2004 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

"In many countries of the world, there is a complete or substantial dependence on harvested plants and animals by millions of people, often among the poorest, for their livelihoods," said Dr Stephen Edwards of the IUCN delegation at the CBD COP. "These Principles and Guidelines could serve as an important tool for fostering development – and conservation," he added.

"By adopting this guiding instrument, IUCN believes that the Parties to the CBD will now be in a position to play a leading role in fostering sustainable use of biological diversity and, as a result, also taking a significant step forward in achieving one of the Millennium Development Goals, that ensures environmental sustainability by integrating the principles of sustainable development

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4 News from Africa

Namibia

Namibia has not yet decided whether or not to submit proposals to the 13th CoP of CITES, regarding the sale of ivory stocks. Dr Pauline Lindeque said a decision would only be made following the results of the one-off ivory sale that Namibia expects to conduct later this year. No date had been set for the auction as yet. The next CITES meeting is scheduled in Bangkok from October 2 to 14. Member countries have until May 5 to submit proposals.

Tanzania

Four men were arrested in Dar es Salaam after they were found with 73 elephant tusks in January. The regional police commissioner said officers had not yet determined neither the weight, the probable value of the haul, nor the origin of the ivory.

Kenya

Isiolo residents have opposed the use of their grazing land for a wildlife conservation project. They said the project proposed by the privately-owned Lewa Wildlife Conservancy as the Sera community wildlife project would deprive them of pasture land. Representatives of the residents asked the area MP to explain how Lewa acquired the land. The Sera project, funded by Fauna and Flora International, involves the setting up of various community-based wildlife projects. The claimants said all locations were settlement areas used by herdsman for grazing during drought seasons.

Kenya

End of January a herdsman was mauled to death by a lion he had attempted to kill to save his cattle. His two colleagues were injured as they tried to kill the lion with spears. The lion pounced on the man, injuring him on the hands and head. He died on his way to the hospital. The lion was later tracked down by residents and killed. An eye witness told the lion had attacked livestock 3 times in 3 consecutive days killing 3 cows. A week before, a charcoal burner was trampled to death by a rogue elephant at of Narok. KWS rangers killed the jumbo after a 3-day search.

Uganda

30 poachers from Queen Elizabeth National Park have surrendered to Uganda Wildlife Authorities (UWA). This was the third batch of poachers to surrender since last May. UWA said the poachers surrendered following a massive campaign launched last year to educate the public on the benefits of national parks. UWA further stated that 20% of the gate collections have been ploughed back into communities neighboring the park.

Uganda – Rwanda – DR Congo

Today 56 more mountain gorillas are roaming the Virunga Volcanoes than in 1989. This is a 17% increase over the 1989 population of 324 individuals. It is particularly notable, because it occurred in the midst of intense political instability and the Rwandan genocide. Historically, the Virunga mountain gorillas have been threatened by poaching, loss of habitat from population pressures, civil unrest and spread of disease. But, conservation efforts initiated by [the International Gorilla Conservation Program \(IGCP\)](#), a coalition of the African Wildlife Foundation, Fauna and Flora International and WWF have been successful. Through a variety of methods, including transboundary collaboration, ranger-based monitoring, community development, anti-poaching activities and habitat conservation, IGCP and its conservation partners

Elephant Symposium Announcement

The Elephant Management & Owners Association (EMOA) in conjunction with North West Parks Board will be holding an elephant symposium on 13th to 17th September 2004 at Sun City, Pilanesberg Game Reserve, South Africa to celebrate the 10th anniversary of EMOA.

The theme for presentations is “**Elephants in fenced-in areas**”. Submissions for oral presentations and posters on all aspects of elephant conservation, management and research are invited. Contact Dr. Marion Garai, EMOA, phone/fax +27-(0)14-755-3355, email mgarai@esnet.co.za for details.

5 Bongo return to Kenya

Quite a number of media in Africa and overseas reported about the Kenya Bongo Repatriation project. Kenya Wildlife Service wants to undo past mistakes, since the demise of the Bongo from the slopes of Mount Kenya was certainly not caused by trophy hunting – as some commentators of the Nairobi based East African seem to believe, respectively want the readers to believe.

Dina Cappelletto of the Houston Chronicle gets the facts right in a recent article. Unabated poaching, rampant illegal logging brought the Bongo population to its knees and most importantly destroyed the essential habitat. In recent years the release of captured problem lions from other areas gave the few surviving Bongo the coup-de-grace – another of many badly conceived and worse executed ideas of the Kenya Wildlife Service and its ally the International Fund for Animal Welfare. The reader will not be astonished to learn that the very same lions which made good meals of the rare antelope had to be quickly culled thereafter.

Notwithstanding the past mistakes, the Bongo repatriation, spearheaded by Don Hunt and the [Rare Species Conservation Fund \(RSCF\)](#) can only be applauded. Dr. Richard Estes, chair of the IUCN specialist group, is one of the RSCF board members and his credentials as a staunch supporter of modern conservation concepts with the inclusion of sustainable use are beyond doubt. The 1998 IUCN Antelope Database is proof of that. Let us hope that the initiators of the project will have a good influence on the Kenya Wildlife Service. KWS certainly needs to improve its record.

Within the project, the cost of which reach the staggering amount of US\$7 million, 18 antelope from 13 American zoos headed now back to their ancestral home range. After a 22 hour journey from Jacksonville, Florida the Bongo herd finally reached their destination at the Mt Kenya forest. 20 more of the rare antelope are destined to follow the pathfinders in 2005 and the plan is to have a total of 60 Bongo repatriated.

The 18 animals have been released into holding bomas and specially constructed enclosures at Mt Kenya Game Ranch under the watchful eye of the scientists. Once successful breeding patterns have been established the third or fourth generation off-spring of the founder population will eventually be set free in the Aberdares – one of the 172 UNESCO World Heritage Sites important to global biodiversity.

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3 IUCN welcomes adoption of sustainable use

into country policies and programs to reverse loss of environmental resources', which is central to sustainable development," commented Kai-Uwe Wollscheid, CEO of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Management (CIC).

The idea that benefits derived from the use of a species can provide the incentive to invest in conserving it was first formally articulated in the World Conservation Strategy jointly published by IUCN, UNEP and WWF in 1980. The basic concept grew out of an array of natural resource management activities in North America, Australia, Southern Africa and Southeast Asia where there was need to provide incentives for people to invest in the conservation of species – especially where there were conflicts between people and species, such as alligators, crocodiles, polar bears, large cats and elephants. Concurrently, Parties to the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#) (CITES) began incorporating ideas on sustainable use in decisions governing an array of listed species in trade, such as farming and game ranching of crocodiles, alligators, caimans and gharial.

Nevertheless, a fairly large part of the conservation community, especially from developed countries, opposed the concept arguing that not enough was known about the impact of use on wild populations and questioned whether local people had the knowledge needed to manage wild populations. They also expressed concerns whether governments would have the capacity to control wildlife use systems.

In response to the call from its worldwide membership to prepare guidelines to determine if a use of a wild species was sustainable or not, IUCN established, in 1990, its Sustainable Use of Wildlife Program and a Sustainable Use Specialist Group under the Species Survival Commission. Together, with the program designing and helping to set up pilot demonstration projects in several regions of the world and later developing a network of specialists in sustainable use and natural resource management, they worked to prepare the Guidelines that were called for.

These experiences delivered valuable lessons about the important roles the social sciences and economics played, alongside biology, in developing sustainable use activities; the importance of capacity building and skills development; the significance of monitoring and the capacity to adapt to changes in societal or environmental conditions; and that all guidance to promote sustainability of uses of wild species had to be framed in the local context.

The growing body of knowledge, experience and documented successes influenced the framers of the CBD and sustainable use was recognized as one of the three underlying goals of the Convention when it was adopted in 1992. At the same time, based on the lessons learned from a growing number of demonstration projects and the growing body of scholarship from the technical network, IUCN's focus shifted to supporting and elaborating the technical network and the preparation of a broad set of principles that accommodated the social, biological and governmental variability amongst the world's nations. In 2000, Principles of Sustainable Use were adopted by IUCN members at their 2nd World Conservation Congress.

Not long afterward, the CBD Secretariat, with the support of several Parties, embarked on a process to develop more detailed Principles that are applicable to uses of all components of biodi-

versity. Three regional workshops were held to address dryland resources and wildlife utilization (Africa), forest biodiversity (Asia), and marine and freshwater fisheries (Latin America and the Caribbean). In May 2003 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the outcomes of the regional meetings were synthesized and a practical set of 14 principles and guidelines were created and presented at this COP7, where the document received overwhelming support from the Parties.

Interestingly, Parties saw the potential benefit the Principles could bring to other sectors and have called on the CBD subsidiary body to look at the applicability of these Principles to agrobiodiversity, with specific respect to domestic species, breeds and varieties. Others highlighted that the cross-cutting nature of the guidelines could be helpful in making the multiple programs of work under the Convention more coherent.

"The important challenge now will be to turn to the task of developing and testing means to measure the sustainability of uses in practical terms," says Dr Edwards. Here, IUCN's Sustainable Use Specialist Group (SUSG) will play a leading role by bringing in its experience into this process and advising governments and resource managers on how to address the set of the Principles. Furthermore, IUCN-SUSG will promote wide-range testing of the principles the network, aiming at preparing case studies, drawing the experiences from different regions. Such testing needs to go hand in hand with the development of indicators that provide governments, resource managers and other stakeholders with appropriate means to monitor implementation and effectiveness. Only by assessing the sustainability of the different practical approaches, adaptations to changing conditions will be possible.

What does this mean for the further development and practical implementation of the CBD? "Contrary to what may be believed at first view, these guidelines are not inflexible legal prescriptions," said Dr Edwards. "Rather, taken together, they provide an instrument by which governments, policy makers, resource managers and all involved stakeholders can further sustainability of uses of biodiversity components," he concluded.

For more information contact:

Dr Steve Edwards, Senior Adviser, IUCN, - The World Conservation Union, e-mail: steve.edwards@iucn.org
Kai Wollscheid, CEO, International Council for Game and Wildlife Management, e-mail: k.wollscheid@cic-wildlife.org

African Indaba eNewsletter

Editor & Publisher: Gerhard R Damm, Postal Address: PO Box 411, Rivonia 2128, RSA, Email: gerhard@muskwa.co.za

P +27-(0)11-883-2299,

Fax +27-(0)11-784-2074

WEB: www.africanindaba.netfirms.com

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6 Botswana HAS an elephant problem

BOPA reported on February 12th that Environment, Wildlife and Tourism Minister P. Venson told Parliament that 41 problem animal control officers were deployed in the Bobirwa district to protect the environment, crops and property from destruction by elephants. Venson responded to questions what meaningful steps she intended taking to assist communities to stave off the devastating effects of an increasing elephant population. She was also questioned as to how long Botswana should continue to endure destructions by elephants.

Venson said she was aware that elephant numbers had increased. That had over-stretched her ministry's capacity to deal with the problem effectively and expeditiously. Venson said her ministry had developed a draft elephant management plan, which contains a number of strategies to deal with this problem. These include the removal of elephants from agricultural zones through trans-location. Venson said Botswana had offered Angola 300 elephants and Mozambique 500 and the former had already received the first 16.

Removal through lethal means was another option because it was less costly and easier in terms of logistics, but it would "certainly attract a lot of bad publicity for the country" according to the minister. Therefore, it was not her preferred option. Venson said other strategies included construction of fences to separate elephants from communities. The proposed trans-frontier conservation areas would also help to disperse wild animals over a wider range.

"I can only beg that we accommodate this part of our economy for a little while longer. I expect that the removal strategies I have outlined will address [the] problem ...," she said.

Editor's Comment: *African Indaba* has reported about the looming elephant disaster repeatedly in 2003. Minister Venson's efforts are noted, but in view of the estimated pachyderm population in Botswana (estimates vary between 120 000 and 140 000 – see also *African Elephant Database*) the relocation offers (and the 16 elephant removed so far) are less than the proverbial drop on a hot stone and none of the other strategies the honorable minister mentions will work either. **Culling – or what the Minister terms "removal through lethal means" is the only viable option. It is time that this harsh truth is hammered home!**

7 Firearms Control Act South Africa

Media statement by the SAPS divisional commissioner crime prevention Wilson Makhubela regarding the implementation of the firearms control act 2000, act 60 of 2000, Pretoria 2004-01-27

Recently some media reports were published on the implementation of the Firearms Control Act, 2000, Act no.60 of 2000. Some of these reports are incomplete and may confuse firearm owners. The correct information is as follows:

- Although the Firearms Control Act, 2000 has been approved, only certain sections of the Act have been implemented;
- Firearms Control Regulations are currently being finalized

- and it is expected that they will be approved soon;
- It is expected that the outstanding sections of the Firearms Control Act 2000, will be implemented soon after approval of the Regulations. No specific date can be given in this regard.
- All firearm license applications are currently considered in terms of the Arms and Ammunition Act, Act no.75 of 1969 and licenses are issued in terms of this Act;
- All firearm licenses issued in terms of the Arms and Ammunition Act, 1969, are still valid.
- The Firearms Control Act, 2000 requires that all existing firearm licenses must be renewed in terms of this Act. The renewal of existing firearm licenses will take place over a period of five years. The renewal process will only start after the approval of the Regulations and during the implementation of the Firearms Control Act. No person can currently apply for renewal of their firearm licenses. The perception that firearm licenses must be renewed before March 2004 is incorrect.
- During June 2003, the sections in the Firearms Control Act and Regulations pertaining to accreditation were promulgated.

The SAPS is currently busy with a process to accredit institutions and organizations such as: hunting associations, sport shooting organizations, collectors associations, museums, shooting ranges, persons who provide training in the use of firearms, public collectors of firearms, persons who provide firearms for use in theatrical, film or television productions, game hunters (professional hunters), persons who conduct business in hunting, persons who use firearms for any other business purpose, institutions (legal entities) that possess firearms, institutions that are registered with the Central Firearms Register.

Accreditation of organizations and institutions and the renewal of firearm licenses by individual persons are two different processes that must not be confused. Individual firearm owners and security companies registered with SIRA (Security Industry Regulatory Authority), firearm dealers, firearm manufacturers and gunsmiths do not apply for accreditation. Persons who will apply for a firearm license in terms of the Firearms Control Act, 2000, will have to undergo training in the use of firearms at an accredited training institution. After successful completion of the training, the institution will issue the person with a training certificate which is a prerequisite to obtain a competency certificate. A competency certificate is issued by the South African Police Service Central Firearms Control Register. The competency certificate will be valid for five years. As soon as the South African Police Service starts with the renewal of firearm licenses in terms of the Firearms Control Act, 2000, we will communicate extensively on the requirements for renewal and include information, such as who must apply for renewal, where the applicant must apply and during which period they must apply. Detailed information will be made available through the electronic and printed media as well as through posters. Information will also be available on the SAPS website at www.saps.gov.za. The Central Firearms Control Register has established a firearms call centre for all enquiries related to firearm licence applications and information on the firearms legislation.

The firearms call centre number during office hours is (012) 353-6111 and the fax number is (012) 353-6036. Enquiries: Snr. Supt Andrew Lesch, Communication and Liaison Services, 082 779 8710, firearms@saps.org.za

8 International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) is a politically independent advisory body, internationally active on a non-profit basis. With worldwide renowned scientific capacity the CIC assists governments, resource managers and environmental organizations to maintain natural resources by sustainable use. The work of the CIC's local Delegations in over 80 countries is supported by Commissions and Working Groups specialized in particular fields from certain species (i.e. migratory birds to big game, tropical game to traditional hunting methods) to environmental issues as well as support to the last remaining indigenous hunters, fishers, gatherers and their habitat, but also cultural inheritance e.g. hunting in art..

Membership is made up of Member States (mostly represented by the Ministry responsible for wildlife management), universities and wildlife research institutions, organizations engaged in hunting as well as individuals. The CIC has gained global recognition as a unique and valuable advisor through its scientific expertise on nature and wildlife conservation issues and in this respect works closely together with United Nations organizations like UNEP as well as environmental conventions such as CITES, CBD, etc..

Missions/Objectives

The CIC and all of its components endeavour to advocate at all national and international bodies concerned with management of wild-living resources especially the following, by demanding:

- recognition of the global environment as a common concern to all of us,
- respect for all forms of life in their ecosystems,
- conservation of nature, mainly the fauna, in the interest of the present and future generations by preventive and precautionary measures,
- avoidance of the loss of biological diversity, especially through the protection of endangered species,
- sustainable use of natural resources as an important tool for social and economic benefits and therefore as an incentive for their conservation,
- harvesting of game through selective taking while respecting the natural ecosystems,
- improvement of wildlife management and land-use,
- promotion of scientific research, education as well as information supporting our cause to the public,

The acronym **CIC** is derived from the French *Conseil International de la Chasse et de la Conservation du Gibier*. CIC was founded in 1929 at the estate of Count Karolyi in Palarikovo (formerly Austrian-Hungarian Empire and now located in Slovakia) by a small circle of likeminded persons from 28 countries that recognized the urgent need to join hands across borders in order to safeguard wildlife for future generations and to promote ethical hunting. The CIC pledges to undertake everything in its capacity in order to ensure that these objectives are met that these principles become the basis for all its worldwide interventions and activities

Commissions of the CIC

- [Exhibitions and Trophies](#)
- [Falconry and Bird of Prey Conservation](#)
- [Holarctic Big Game](#)
- [Hunting in Art, History and Museums](#)
- [Migratory Birds](#)
- [Small Game](#)
- [Traditional Hunting](#)
- [Tropical Game](#)
- [Sustainable Use](#)
- [Wildlife Photography](#)

The Commissions of the CIC - within their areas of specialization - address technical issues and develop recommendations addressed to governments, international or national organizations, or personalities outside the CIC. These texts are the expression of the overall policies of the CIC. The Commissions meet at the General Assemblies as well as organize international symposia and workshops related to their areas of interest. Any member of the CIC specifically interested in the subject can inscribe as a member of one or more Commission(s) of his choice.

Working Groups

- [Agri-Environmental Measures](#)
- [Bowhunting](#)
- [Hunting and Gastronomy](#)
- [Hunting Dogs](#)
- [Young Opinion](#)

Of particular interest is the working group **Young Opinion**. On the occasion of CIC's General Assembly in May 2000, interested young CIC members from different nations met to discuss the future of young hunters. The topics ranged from how young hunters can contribute to the conservation of game and hunting to how they can represent their opinion lastingly in a society, which frequently disapproves of hunting. The participants had a strong wish for an intense exchange of opinions and information concerning the topics hunting ethics, hunting politics, hunting methods and hunting traditions. It became clear that an appropriate structure should ensure effective young hunting politics. As a result of this meeting "CIC-Young Opinion" (CIC-YO), which automatically includes all CIC members under the age of 35, was created.

CIC Young Opinion tries to mobilize all young hunters of the CIC. By now CIC-YO has active members in Spain, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Italy, Germany, Switzerland and France. CIC-YO introduced itself and its structure at the General Assembly of the CIC in Slovenia. Following that, several projects have been started.

The basis for effective young hunting politics has been laid. CIC-YO has become the voice of "young" opinions inside the CIC and wants to support international contacts between passionate and young hunters. The members of CIC YO are aware of their responsibility for the future of game and hunting. If you are interested in the work of CIC-Young opinion, please visit the [CIC-YO](#) website or contact@cic-yo.com.

Editor's Note: The effective work of CIC and its Director General have left their mark – most recently at the 7th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) – see the relevant article on page 2 of this issue!

9 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and Hunting

By Gerhard R Damm

[IUCN - The World Conservation Union](#), through its [Species Survival Commission \(SSC\)](#) has for four decades been assessing the conservation status of species, subspecies, varieties and even selected subpopulations on a global scale in order to highlight taxa threatened with extinction, and therefore promote their conservation. The SSC remains firmly committed to providing the world with the most objective, scientifically-based information on the current status of globally threatened biodiversity. The taxa assessed for the IUCN Red List are the bearers of genetic diversity and the building blocks of ecosystems, and information on their conservation status and distribution provides the foundation for making informed decisions about preserving biodiversity at local to global levels.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species provides taxonomic, conservation status and distribution information on taxa that have been evaluated using the [IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria](#). This system is designed to determine the relative risk of extinction, and the main purpose of the IUCN Red List is to catalogue and highlight those taxa that are facing a higher risk of global extinction (i.e. those listed as **Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable**). The IUCN Red List also includes

information on taxa that are categorized as **Extinct** or **Extinct in the Wild**; on taxa that cannot be evaluated because of insufficient information (i.e. are **Data Deficient**); and on taxa that are either close to meeting the threatened thresholds or that would be threatened were it not for an ongoing taxon-specific conservation programme (i.e. Near Threatened).

The list of threatened taxa is maintained in a searchable database by the [SSC Red List Programme](#) as part of the [SSC's Species Information Service \(SIS\)](#). The only taxonomic groups, which have been comprehensively assessed, are the birds and mammals.

The table on this page shows the changes in status and the total number of species over the past 3 years. Of direct importance for hunters are mammals and birds, where the variation in status and numbers changed little over the period.

Analysis for Game Species in Africa

In the hunting world, the two major data sources for African game species, Rowland Ward's and Safari Club International, list a total number of 198 trophy categories for African game (SCI - inclusive of game ranched species). The IUCN Red List classifies the status of these species in [categories and criteria](#).

One species only, viz. the Scimitar Horned Oryx (*Oryx dammah*) is listed as **extinct in the wild (EW)**. Several thousand of this species are held in zoos and game ranches (Texas & South Africa). The species can be hunted only on these game ranches. The important captive held populations could eventually be used to re-introduce the species to its original range in Northern Africa.

Eight game species, resp. subspecies, are listed as **critically endangered (CR)**. Four of those concern three subspecies of Black Rhinoceros (*Diceros b. michaelis, minor and longipes*) and the Northern White Rhino (*Cerathoterium s. cottoni*). Populations of the South Central Black Rhino experience a healthy increase in South Africa, the other two subspecies as well as the Northern White Rhino have falling population trends. None of these rhino species can be hunted. South Africa may offer future limited hunting of redundant (old) specimens (see also [African Indaba Vol 1/#6](#)). The status of the Giant Sable (*Hippotragus n. varian*) is unknown at the moment, although there seems to be evidence remnant populations survive in north-central Angola. An operation financed largely by international hunting organizations and cooperating with IUCN specialist groups is presently trying to establish proof of its continued existence. For the remaining 3 species in the critically endangered category, Addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*), Hunter's Hartebeest (*Damaliscus hunteri*) and Wallia Ibex (*Capra waliae*) trophy hunting in the home ranges is closed for years and not likely to be opened. As with the Scimitar Horned Oryx, good numbers of Addax exist in zoos, with the largest number on game ranches in Texas and some smaller populations in South Africa. The Addax can be hunted on these ranches and potential exists for these populations being used for re-introduction.

Under the heading **Endangered (EN)**, the IUCN Red List 2003 classifies 10 African game species from the trophy record books. The most important of those is the African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*). Some range states with increasing and stable populations (Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Cameroon, Mozambique) permit trophy hunting for elephant under strictly controlled [CITES](#) regulations and quotas.

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Changes in numbers of species in the threatened categories (CR, EN, VU) from 2000 to 2003			
Critically Endangered (CR)			
Group	2001	2002	2003
Mammals	180	181	184
Birds	182	182	182
Reptiles	56	55	57
Amphibians	25	30	30
Fishes	156	157	162
Insects	45	46	46
Molluscs	222	222	250
Plants	1014	1046	1276
Endangered (EN)			
Group	2001	2002	2003
Mammals	340	339	337
Birds	321	326	331
Reptiles	74	79	78
Amphibians	38	37	37
Fishes	144	143	144
Insects	118	118	118
Molluscs	237	236	243
Plants	1266	1291	1634
Vulnerable (VU)			
Group	2001	2002	2003
Mammals	610	617	609
Birds	680	684	681
Reptiles	161	159	158
Amphibians	83	90	90
Fishes	452	442	444
Insects	392	393	389
Molluscs	479	481	474
Plants	3311	3377	3864

10 Kenya's Wildlife Service at Crossroads

By Gerhard R Damm

"Forty years ago, wildlife was synonymous with East Africa. Now the world looks increasingly upon Southern Africa as the successful conservation example ... Kenya, the former big game champion of the world, has been left behind. There are no discernible environmental policies and there is no agreement on what such policies ought to entail." Imre Loeffler, Chairman [East African Wildlife Society](#), February 2004

Trophy hunting is illegal since 1977 in Kenya. Some landowners however continued to receive culling permits for excess game on their properties and they could sell the venison, also to the famous Carnivore Restaurant in Nairobi. The landowner had to strictly observe that the cull was done either by him or his employees – guests could not participate. In April 2003 the former director of [KWS](#), Michael Wamithi fired a first broadside against culling and venison production, but then had other urgent personal issues to attend, since the new Kenyan government gave him the boot. His former employers, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), picked up the pieces and appointed him recently as director of their continental African interests. Outside observers had some difficulty to determine who led KWS during the transition time. At this moment, the chief of meteorological services, Evan Arthur Mukolwe, directs KWS. And the service definitely needs direction.

As was reported in the East African, KWS is organizing a national stakeholders' conference on wildlife utilization in Kenya from March 30th to April 1st 2004. The theme of the symposium is "The critical Analysis of Wildlife Utilization and Management". The announcement and call for written abstracts was made in the East African on February 1st – and the deadline for submissions was set for February 13th. This could be a coincidence, but looking at the history of the service, one could suspect that IFAW is behind it (are they by any chance funding this symposium again, like so many others in Kenya and Uganda?).

If IFAW is having any influence on the "independent panel" which will review the papers and abstracts (and reserves a right to accept or reject any papers) the most likely outcome will be that pro consumptive use papers will be thrown out. Participants of the meeting would thus be deprived of a fair chance to review all options of wildlife conservation. Maybe a closer look at sustainable consumptive use options would indeed reverse the alarming downward trend of Kenyan wildlife resources over the period since trophy hunting was prohibited!

The subjects to be discussed at the meeting look great and if an unbiased selection of discussion papers is going to be made, the outcomes heavily in favour of a combination of non-consumptive use and consumptive use of Kenya's natural resources should be a foregone conclusion:

- The current global trends and issues of wildlife utilization
- Wildlife utilization issues – the Kenya experience from 1900 to date
- Emerging issues of wildlife conservation and management
- Strategic direction for wildlife conservation and management

Dr. Laurence Frank's article in SWARA (2/ 2003) "Over there were lions" about Laikipia as well as his opinion in favour of sustainably using lion resources, and Dr. Loeffler's article "A new

game plan for wildlife conservation" ([African Indaba 3/2003](#)) and the Laikipia Wildlife Forum experience would fit into the conference topics perfectly. If the new KWS leadership is serious about a commitment towards conservation for the people, it would seem appropriate to invite the IUCN [Southern African Sustainable Use Specialist Group](#) to the symposium. These experts should be given a chance to present the experience from many similar African eco-regions as well as the CBD-adopted guidelines and principles for sustainable use of biodiversity (see page 2).

For the sake of Kenya's wildlife and its people one can only hope that the new KWS director shakes off the shackles imposed by Wamithi's IFAW friends. Kenya wildlife deserves a critical and in-depth analysis of the problems, risks and chances. KWS needs to study and apply the CBD accepted "Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Wildlife" (see page 2).

One of Africa's great founding fathers, Julius Nyerere, made this clear to the world in his 1961 Arusha Declaration on Wildlife Protection.

The Arusha Declaration on Wildlife Protection

The survival of our wildlife is a matter of grave concern to all of us in Africa. These wild creatures amid the wild places they inhabit are not only important as a source of wonder and inspiration but are an integral part of our natural resources and of our future livelihood and well being.

In accepting the trusteeship of our wildlife we solemnly declare that we will do everything in our power to make sure that our children's grandchildren will be able to enjoy this rich and precious inheritance. The conservation of wildlife and wild places calls for specialist knowledge, trained manpower and money, and we look to other nations to cooperate in this important task – the success or failure of which not only affects the continent of Africa but the rest of the world.

Julius Nyerere - 1961

11 Sleeping Sickness

The tsetse-flies, species of [Glossina](#), carry trypanosome parasites that cause human sleeping sickness ([African trypanosomiasis](#)) and animal trypanosomiasis, a scourge of African cattle that is estimated to cost farmers US\$4.5 billion a year. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, trypanosomiasis kills three million head of livestock every year. It threatens about 50 million cattle in Africa and sick animals become less productive. About 20 species of the tsetse fly are found across a third of the continent in 37 sub-Saharan countries. A 2003 report by the African Union said sleeping sickness seriously threatens development across the continent and 60 million people are at risk. More than half a million are suffering from the disease and 80% of those sufferers will perish.

Humans start with an ordinary headache at first and some joint pains and fever. Later, patients fall asleep at the strangest times, are confused, and get intense pains and convulsions. The body begins to waste away and patients are nearly unconscious most of the time, eventually slipping into coma. Finally they die.

Recent reports say that sleeping sickness is ravaging Angola, threatening 1/3 of the population. In 2003, 96 Angolans died of sleeping sickness by official count while 3115 new cases and 270 000 suspected cases were detected nationwide. Provinces such as oil-bearing Zaire and diamond-bearing Malange were hit.

Many Africans will suffer a painful death from African trypanosomiasis, because drug companies do not view it a profitable

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9 IUCN Red List of threatened species and hunting

Very limited hunting permits are also available for the Nubian Ibex (*Capra nubiana*) and for Mountain Nyala (*Tragelaphus buxtoni*) as well as for the Western Mountain Reedbuck (*Redunca fulvorufula adamauauae*), whereas for the remaining 6 species (Eastern Bongo, Ader's Duiker, West African Giant Eland, Atlas Gazelle and Rhim Gazelle) hunting is closed for years.

The **"Vulnerable (VU)"** category lists 25 game species from Africa. Most important of those from a hunting perspective is the African Lion (*Panthera leo*) which can be hunted in a number of African countries. **African Indaba** reported about this species in [Vol 1/#6](#) and has more information in this issue. The African Cheetah also falls under this heading (**African Indaba** will bring a comprehensive report about Cheetah this year). A number of other species (mainly gazelle and duiker subspecies) on the list occur only in countries where hunting is prohibited for years. Important from a hunting perspective are the following species from this category: Senegal Hartebeest (*Damaliscus l. korrigum*), Blackfaced Impala (*Aepyceros m. petersi*), Black Lechwe (*Kobus l. smithemani*) and Kafue Lechwe (*Kobus l. kafuensis*). Of those latter species, the Blackfaced Impala is game ranched and hunted in Namibia, whereas the other 3 species are hunted under strictly controlled conditions with very limited permits in Benin, Burkina Faso and Senegal, respectively Zambia.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service recognized the importance of the "hunting-dollar" for conservation in its recent proposals regarding the Endangered Species Act (see [African Indaba Vol1/#6](#)) with respect to species classified as endangered and vulnerable! The real success story of trophy hunting and of game animals in Africa however can be seen from the category **"Lower Risk (LR)"** and 3 subcategories **"conservation dependant (cd), near threatened (nt) and least concern (lc)"**. The category "cd" has 83 species resp. subspecies; "nt" includes 25, and "lc" not less than 37! A number of them – like Black Wildebeest, Bontebok, Southern White Rhino, etc. made their comeback from the brink of extinction only because trophy hunting provided a substantial economic impetus. Sustainable trophy hunting contributes much needed finance for the conservation of all species in this category.

Rod East writes in the IUCN African Antelope Database 1998 (pages 10 – 11, ISBN Number 2-8317-0477-4) *"over large regions of Africa where it is neither feasible nor appropriate to establish strictly protected national parks and equivalent reserves, sport hunting for trophies is often the only option for realizing the potentially high income value of wildlife. As well as being one of the most profitable ways of utilizing antelopes and other wildlife, trophy hunting probably has the least environmental impact.... Hence agitation against sustainable trophy hunting by animal rights groups in western countries is potentially a major threat to the future of African wildlife.... Trophy hunting operators and safari hunting organizations collectively make an enormous contribution to wildlife conservation in Africa ... Without the efforts of these people and organizations, wildlife populations would be in a much worse state than they are. There is no doubt in my mind that sustainable trophy hunting, monitored and controlled by well thought-out, comprehensive and effectively implemented regulations, will be a prime justification of and vital element in successful long-term conservation of antelope populations in Africa."*

The article **Tourism and development: the win-win performance** shows that Rod East is not alone with that opinion. The [IUCN Southern African Sustainable Use Specialist Group](#) is

another international body highlighting the significance of wise use in conservation.

There is one singular and important conclusion to draw. Every individual hunter, every safari outfitter as well as the national and international hunting organizations have the important duty and obligation to cooperate with research scientists, IUCN specialist groups, government agencies and conservation NGOs to form a strong coalition for conservation and the sustainable consumptive use of natural resources for the benefit of wildlife AND the people of Africa. This message must be spread around!

It is difficult for the non-hunter to understand why tourist hunters are willing to pay substantial amounts for the privilege to hunt (kill) game in Africa. However, neither this issue nor moral objections against hunting can form the departure point for objective discussion. Experience shows that animal rights organizations used specifically these 2 points to derail every sensible effort. Wise use of natural resources is the way to the long term conservation of these resources; tourist trophy hunting in Africa is one of many use options, but certainly not the least important one. **African Indaba** will publish comprehensive statistical information about African game animals, their distribution, IUCN Red List status, CITES status, etc. on the [African Indaba Website](#) in April.

Red List Data & introductory text are sourced from the IUCN web pages

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11 Sleeping Sickness

venture and Africans are poor. Developing and marketing drugs usually center on the problems of the people who can pay!

Doctors do not enjoy administering the 50-year-old arsenic-based drug Melarsoprol to sleeping sickness patients. Not only does it cause them pain - it is so toxic that it kills 10% of the patients. There is another drug, Eflornithine, but the manufacturer stopped making it in 1995, because it was not profitable although Eflornithine's ability to rescue people from the later stages of sleeping sickness is so impressive that it became known as the resurrection drug. The drug continues to be produced in the rich north, however, because it proved to be a useful ingredient in hair-removing creams.

Medicine sans Frontière led a successful campaign to get the production of Eflornithine for sleeping sickness re-started. In 2001, manufacture began again with an undertaking to continue for 5 years and to hand over the technical know-how to generic drug manufacturers.

In January 2004, the International Glossina Genomics Initiative was launched to break new ground. The objective is genomic and bioinformatics analyses to help researchers better understand the interaction of the pathogen with its fly and human hosts and its transmission to humans. The project unites scientists from more than a dozen sleeping-sickness labs and genome centers.

African Conservation Organizations

[WWF-South Africa](#), Private Bag X2, Die Boord 7613, RSA,
[TRAFFIC East & Southern Africa](#), Private Bag X11, Parkview 2122, RSA,
[Namibia Nature Foundation](#), PO Box 245, Windhoek, Namibia,
[Kalahari Conservation Society](#), PO Box 859, Gaborone, Botswana,
[East African Wildlife Society](#), PO Box 20110, 00200 Nairobi, Kenya,
[The Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa WESSA](#), PO Box 394, Howick 3290, RSA,
[Endangered Wildlife Trust](#), Private Bag X11, Parkview 2122, RSA,
[African Wildlife Foundation \(AWF\) Zambezi Center](#), PO Box CT 570, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

12 Game Sales 2003 in South Africa

The "Sentrum vir Wildlewe Ekonomie", Potchefstroom, RSA (Professor Theuns Eloff) published again comprehensive statistics for the 2003 auction game sales in South Africa. **African Indaba** made a comparative analysis of the figures with regard to previous years as well as exchange rate implications. The latter is of importance, since the game rancher and hunting safari operator receives a good part of the annual income on dollar based sales of hunting to overseas trophy hunters.

When we look at the development of Game Sales over the period from 1991 to 2003, we note for the first time in the period under review, that the total Rand value of game sales dropped by 2.6% from the record year 2002 to 2003 from 105 million Rand to 102 million Rand. This Rand value drop followed five years of substantial growth with over 30% on average. In Dollar terms, however – due to the significantly increased exterior value of the Rand – the 2003 game turnover went from 10 million Dollars to almost 14 million Dollars – an increase of 35%!

This development is similar when we look at the average price paid for individual species. Just a few examples: Bontebok prices increased in Rand terms by 36.8%, but in Dollar terms by 90.2%; Buffalo showed only a moderate raise in Rand, but had to absorb virtually the entire revaluation of the Rand against the Dollar with a year to year change of 34%. The White Rhino changed hands with a 23% reduced Rand price, but still at 7% higher in Dollars.

What does that mean for the game farmer and hunting operator – in 2003 the trophy prices for tourist hunters did not increase materially in US-Dollar terms, but the Rand income from hunts sold was reduced by almost 30%! Average game prices dropped in Rand by 2,6% and increased in Dollars by 35%. With the effects of a crippling drought during the second half of 2003 and a general cost increase of 10% in Rand terms – the livelihood of game ranchers and safari operators was seriously affected.

Comparing the provinces with each other, Limpopo stands lonely on the top with a total share of 38% of the national value of game sales thus cementing this province's leading position. KwaZulu-Natal – helped along by the famous annual Ezemvelo game auction - is a distant second with 17 million Rand and 17% of the total, followed by the Free State with 15 million and 14%. The last place went to Mpumalanga with just under 1% and 0.76 million Rand sales value.

Interested readers can download the complete analysis as MS-Excel file from the [African Indaba Website](#)

... it is a pleasure to hunt something that you want very much over a long period of time, being outwitted and out-manoeuvred, and failing at the end of each day, but having the hunt and knowing every time you are out that, sooner or later, your luck will change and that you get the chance you are seeking. But it is not pleasant to have a time limit by which you must get your kudu, or perhaps never get it, nor even see one. It is not the way hunting should be ... The way to hunt is for as long as you live against as long as there is such and such an animal ... and you feel a fool and you are a fool to do it any other way.

Ernest Hemingway in "The Green Hills of Africa" (Ch 1, p 19)

13 African Lion Research Projects

The lion articles in the November/December issue of **African Indaba** have created considerable reader interest. Therefore we will periodically bring information about ongoing lion research projects. For space reasons we have to distribute this information over the next three issues.

If you are interested in knowing more about these and other research projects please contact the [African Lion Working Group](#) (Mr. Sarel van der Merwe, Chairperson, email mwnatura@mweb.co.za or sarel@civic.mangaung.co.za)

The effects of sport hunting on an African lion population

- Principal researcher: Karyl Whitman.
- Supervisor: Prof Craig Packer
- Study area: Maswa Game Reserve, Tanzania.
- Date started: 1996
- Duration: 4 years
- Academic institution: [University of Minnesota](#).
- Affiliated institutions: Wildlife Conservation Society, Big Game Special Projects Foundation (Minnesota), Bell Museum of Natural History, Dayton-Wilkie Fund, Graduate School of Minnesota, Global Wildlife Trust, Friedkin Conservation Fund, Serengeti Lion Project.
- Summary: Lions are economically important to the hunting industry. A high risk of infanticide associated with the removal of resident males, combined with a high demand, make lions particularly vulnerable to over-exploitation. Currently only a few scientific studies have examined the extent to which sport hunting affects lion populations. This study will model the effects of different harvesting strategies on a simulated population, monitor a hunted population over time, and provide a quantitative analysis of the impact of regulated harvesting on the reproductive potential and social behavior of the lion.
- Publications as a result of this study: Whitman, K., Starfield, A.M., Quadling, H.S., & Packer, C. 2004. [Sustainable trophy hunting of African lions](#). *Nature* (02395).

An investigation into the effects of trophy hunting on the social behaviour, population structure, and distribution of lion (*Panthera leo*) in the mid-Zambezi Valley, Zimbabwe

- Principal researcher: Norman Monks.
- Supervisor: Dr Tim Lynam, Dr Moyo.
- Study area: Mid-Zambezi Valley, Zimbabwe.
- Date started: 2000
- Duration: 3 years
- Academic institution: Tropical Resources Ecology, Programme, University of Zimbabwe.
- Summary: The mid-Zambezi Valley in the north of Zimbabwe of some 10,500 sq. km is used primarily as safari hunting area. Only in Mana Pools National Park (2,196 sq. km) is hunting not undertaken. The project will look at the effects that sport hunting of lion is having on the lion population. Social behaviour, population structure, and distribution, will be some aspects looked at in the light of hunting pressure.

14 Laikipia Wildlife Forum shows the way for Kenya

By Gerhard R Damm

"I am confident that there is no commercial poaching within Laikipia, so why are the communities, the ranches and group ranches told how they have to manage their wildlife or rather not manage their wildlife by the authority [editor's note: KWS] which is entrusted to do so and which is clearly heavily influenced by the preservationists?" Gilfrid Powys Chairman, [Laikipia Wildlife Forum](#)

An estimated 60-70% of wildlife in Kenya is found outside protected areas, making conservation of wildlife in communal and private lands vital to the sustainability of Kenya's wildlife resource base. For 25 years wildlife population trends have been monitored throughout Kenya by the Department of Range Surveys and Remote Sensing (DRSRS). The results of these monitoring surveys show an alarming decline of large mammals throughout the country. Wildlife is under pressure as a result of population growth and land sub-division. Human-wildlife conflict is an increasingly volatile issue as land-use changes become incompatible with wildlife populations. The Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) seeks to balance these changes through the primary objectives of: maintenance of ecosystem integrity and processes, establishment and development of community conservation projects in wildlife dispersal landscapes, and the development of wildlife enterprises. LWF manages a pilot wildlife utilization scheme in a manner that has served as a model for the rest of the country with demonstrable success.

On the Laikipia plateau in central Kenya ethnically diverse communities including the Mukogodo Maasai and Samburu have joined in 1992 together in the LWF partnership with the settlers and ranchers to create a conservation and wildlife haven that spans two million acres (800,000 hectares) of wild savannah. Their common interest is the management, conservation and economic benefit from wildlife resources. Today, LWF unites under its umbrella different interest groups in the district who are involved in wildlife, including ranchers, pastoralists from the group ranches, representatives from the small farming communities, the government, the Kenya Wildlife Service (i. e. the highly competent Nanyuki KWS team, lead by Senior Warden Kimani) and NGO's. The mission statement of LWF states accordingly *"Conserving the integrity of the Laikipia ecosystem by creatively managing the natural resources, thereby improving the livelihoods of its people."*

LWF's objectives are being realized through its five operational program areas: Community Conservation, Wildlife Management, Tourism, Education and Security. As a result Laikipia is an exception as the one district in Kenya which continues to record increasing or stable wildlife populations, in contrast to the declining trend throughout the country. Wildlife population densities in the Laikipia region now rank second to the internationally renowned Maasai Mara ecosystem in Kenya. The Ewaso ecosystem is home to the second largest population of elephant in Kenya (5 400) and hosts the highest populations of endangered species such as rhino (over half Kenya's total population), Grevy's zebra, and reticulated giraffe in the country, as well as the only viable population of Jackson's hartebeest and an expanding population of wild dog. In effect, the continued activities of the LWF in conserving Laikipia will contribute to it being one of the most im-

portant areas for biodiversity in Kenya in 10 to 20 years.

The Mpala Research Centre in Laikipia under its director Dr Nick Georgiadis has been created as a research and training facility with a mandate to identify and explore the key environmental components of this landscape and to seek ways of resolving conflicts. In a recent article - [Wildlife Utilization](#) (click to access the complete article - published on the website of Laikipia, Dr. Georgiadis makes a compelling case for the Laikipia model.

He casts scorn over Kenya's *"conservation-by-media-frenzy that serves only to deepen divisions, and offers no solutions"* saying that dissent and uncertainty about how best to conserve wildlife has paralyzed Kenya's wildlife policy. Since Kenya's wildlife continues on a slow glide to oblivion, the only solution in Dr Georgiadis' opinion is a more inclusive conservation policy than has been tried so far and all too often shown to fail. **African Indaba** cannot but agree with Dr. Georgiadis' assessment that Kenya's sanctioned killing of wildlife (consumptive use) attracts excessive media attention because laws and policies regulating to wildlife management have been reinterpreted and reversed by professionals, redesigned by enthusiasts to their own preference, and the facts revised by journalists compelled to sell newsprint - or themselves.

He passes judgment on the proponents of animal welfare, saying that universal preservation is simply not an option in our far from perfect world, and stipulates that until their agenda goes beyond prohibition, with realistic and viable alternatives to consumption, they cannot expect to be taken seriously. In continuation I want to quote verbatim from Dr. Georgiadis' article:

"Importantly, we do see wildlife persisting in a few patches that not only lack formal protection, but are nowhere near a park or reserve. These areas are interesting in that they are privately or communally owned, and - don't tell anyone! - their wildlife has been consumptively managed. Perhaps the clearest illustration that consumptive management can work was provided recently, in the form of Kenya's first mass wildlife translocation. At the request of KWS, a thousand zebras, impalas and giraffes were taken (by Lewa Wildlife Conservancy) from a non-protected area (Laikipia) to restore a national park (Meru), that was depleted by poaching in the 1980's. The animals came from ranches in Laikipia that have wildlife to spare, despite a consumptive management pro-

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The Basis for Hunting is Conservation

- Hunters harvest species which permit sustainable use
- Hunters strive for wildlife and habitat equilibrium
- Hunters accept responsibility for non-game animals
- Hunters are actively engaged in the conservation and the protection of species

Hunters Observe a Code of Ethics

- Hunters respect the rules of fair chase
- Hunters respect and obey all laws
- Hunters set high ethical parameters and strive for excellence in the field
- Hunters ensure humane wildlife harvesting practices
- Hunters constantly hone their skills

Hunters & Hunting Project a Positive Image

- Hunters are reliable and competent partners to the public and conservation organizations
- Hunters respect the needs and requirements of others for enjoyment of nature
- Hunters cooperate with indigenous communities supporting their right to the sustainable use of nature
- Hunters inform the public and the media of their objectives, about problems, solutions and achievements

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4 News from Africa

are assisting the mountain gorillas' comeback.

The Virunga gorilla census was conducted in 2003 by 6 teams with 100 members traversing the entire Virunga gorilla habitat range. Combined with the 2002 Bwindi census results – which established the Bwindi population at approximately 320 - this census indicates that the world population of mountain gorillas is now at least 700. Look for specific information on mountain gorillas at [IGCP's website](#).

Angola

Large numbers of animals came close to extinction during the Angolan civil war. The once abundant wildlife is still under severe threat, poaching is common, laws are not enforced and there are just a few areas where animals are secure. "Angola may lose all of its once rich biodiversity if urgent action is not taken to preserve the protected areas and the endangered species. First, I was worried about the loss as a result of the war, and now as a result of the peace," said Tamar Ron, UN Development Programme advisor to the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Environment.

One of the few protected areas is a 10,400 hectare fenced area in the one-million hectare [Kissama](#) nature reserve, south of Luanda. It is home to elephant, giraffe, kudu and eland. "Kissama suffered from the worst type of poaching. At some stage you had poaching even by the military - we have records of animals being slaughtered from helicopters, with bazookas and tanks. They would eat one out of ten and kill the others for fun - that's more or less the only way you can wipe out entire herds of animals," said Pedro Vaz Pinto, conservation manager of Kissama Foundation. The large concentrations of eland, forest buffalo and roan antelope were virtually destroyed. Elephant and other animals in the rest of the park are still being poached for meat and ivory, which is sold on the informal market.

Zimbabwe

Headman Sibanda of Nyala Safaris in the Deka Safari Area has threatened to take Environment and Tourism minister Francis Nhema to court over the allocation of a hunting concession to a new farmer without going to tender. The lawsuit follows allegations that Nhema granted concessions in Parks and Wildlife areas around Deka, Gwayi Valley, Hwange, Victoria Falls and Binga to Zanu PF officials. The safari operator wants the award of the concession to Mabel Dete of Asitroc Investments reversed and the whole process done through an open tender system. The lawyers of Sibanda have written to Minister Nhema, "We are instructed that Treasury Regulations were flouted when Asitroc Investments was granted the concession as it was never put to tender. In the circumstances our client challenges the validity of the contract and should you be unable to agree with us on that point we have instructions to bring an application to court".

Cameroon

Environmental experts met in Yaounde in January to explore ways for a legal framework to regulate access and benefit sharing in the use of products of biodiversity in the country. The workshop was jointly organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MINEF) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The concept of "Access and Benefit Sharing" (ABS) comes from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) ratified by Cameroon in 1994. ABS implies the putting in place of regulatory mechanisms

for managing the use and exploitation of genetic resources as provided for by the convention. CBD has 3 main objectives, namely: biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and access and benefit sharing.

South Africa

Four German visitors were convicted in January on charges of possessing 211 stag beetles among a collection of 842 insects they gathered for sale to international insect collectors. In the USA collectors are prepared to pay between \$5000 and \$11000 for a large specimen of the rare beetle making it one of the most expensive insects in the world. The stag beetle of the genus *Colophon* is only found in SA. The prosecution of the four Germans is the first in SA to target insect-collectors. What has made SA and Western Cape in particular the main target for illegal trafficking and destruction of the environment is its richness in natural habitat and species. Its unique biodiversity supports one of the world's richest natural plant kingdoms.

The Environmental Crime Investigation unit in Western Cape has a staff of 5 investigators. It has successfully prosecuted nearly 120 cases since it was formed in November 2001. The unit splits its tasks into fauna and flora.

South Africa

A prominent figure in the private industry blames recent incidents involving tourist guides on government, saying that guides operating vehicle safaris in national parks are not qualified to deal with dangerous game animals. Other private stakeholders as well as SANParks disagree, saying that the people who set the initial standards for guides now consider them inadequate. The government passed legislation in 2000 to standardize the industry. Guides are required to pass uniform qualification criteria and to be registered with DEAT. Government appointed the [Tourism Hospitality and Sports Education and Training Authority](#) (THETA) to evaluate field guides according to specified criteria.

The national registrar of tourist guides stated that "the new legislation enhances the quality of a guide's qualifications and is aimed at creating equal employment opportunities in the industry. Grant Hinde of the [Field Guides Association of South Africa](#) (FGASA), a privately-operated professional body, however, believes the THETA qualifications have no credibility in the industry. Bureaucratic inadequacies have also created a backlog in issuing certificates. Hinde said that privately employed guides used the FGASA qualifications as industry benchmark. Others disagree with Hinde, saying that FGASA is a non-statutory body and cannot dictate to the industry. Mike Pieterse, head ranger at a private game lodge, believes the new legislation rids the industry of the inequalities of the past. "With standardization, government has provided individuals who previously had no access to the industry with the opportunity of sharing their knowledge with the industry and tourists," he said.

South Africa

Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Valli Moosa says he is "absolutely embarrassed" about a leopard that had to be put down after being injured in a trap on his family's farm in the Western Cape. According to reports, the leopard was caught in a gin trap set by workers to catch what they thought was a caracal killing sheep. However, when the trap was inspected the following morning, workers discovered a leopard caught by a foreleg, and so severely injured it had to be euthanized by a vet. Leopards are

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protected in the Western Cape, and may not be hunted or caught without special permit. The use of gin traps is discouraged by Cape Nature Conservation (CNC). According to CNC's Dr Kas Hamman they should only be used "in absolutely extreme cases".

South Africa

Elephants for Africa Forever (EFAF) have applied at the Tzaneen magistrate for a license to train 24 wild-caught elephants for elephant back safaris. A license has to be obtained and renewed annually before conservation officials will grant permits for capturing the elephants.

EFAF plans to capture elephants aged between 8 and 14 years from areas where there is overpopulation or during culling operations. EFAF has drawn up a manual and charter for the treatment of elephants-in-training that were the subject of a workshop in 2004 to define national policy on elephant training.

EFAF is a partnership between Zimbabwean tourism and hunting operators and Tzaneen ZZ2 Tomato Farms. The initiator of the venture is Rory Hensman, a Zimbabwean who has trained 45 elephants in the past 15 years. 12 elephants trained by him are based at Kapama game reserve in Hoedspruit. In December 2003, one of the trained elephants gored a ranger walking alongside the elephants who had tourists on their backs. In an earlier incident at Kapama in 2002, a BBC sound technician was tusked. In both incidents, the elephants left off the attack as soon as their victims stopped screaming.

South Africa

End January 6 adult elephant were culled in Mpumalanga and 8 young calves from the herd were captured for translocation in a combined operation by Mpumalanga Parks Board, Lowhills Private Game Reserve and wildlife capture contractors Catchco Africa. The elephant were originally bought in 1991 by Johann Möller, owner of Lowhills. Möller said the elephants had turned into serial escapists and were causing heavy damage to nearby citrus and sugar cane farmers. 4 of the calves went to Knysna Elephant Park the other 4 will go to the Brits Elephant Sanctuary. Douw Grobler, a partner in Catchco Africa and former head of SANParks' capture team executed the operation.

Namibia

The SSC [African Elephant Specialist Group](#) (AfESG) held its 6th meeting in Namibia in December 2003. Significant progress was made on the listing of the African Elephant using the IUCN Red List criteria, the establishment of a task force to develop a technical document on the options for dealing with local elephant overpopulation, and a scenario planning exercise to explore possible futures for the African elephant over the next 30-50 years. Other developments included the drafting of a statement on the capture of African elephants from the wild, the updating of the AfESG's statement on elephant taxonomy and technical discussions on human-elephant conflict, illegal killing and trade. A summary of these discussions as well the numerous papers presented at the meeting will be published in [Pachyderm](#), the journal of the AfESG and the African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups.

USA

[Safari Club International](#) announced that its Board of Directors unanimously elected Thomas M. Riley to serve as Executive Director. Riley, Special Agent in Charge of the United States Fish

and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement, South-Eastern Region, will draw on more than 3 decades of leadership success at this US agency. Tom Riley, a life-long hunter, marked his career with the US Fish and Wildlife Service by innovation and coalition building. He knows how to bring states, non-governmental organizations, and international agencies together to create visionary solutions for complex challenges. The decision to hire Riley was made after an exhaustive 8month search. Riley also will be CEO of the Safari Club International Foundation. Riley assumed his new responsibilities at SCI and SCI Foundation World Headquarters in Tucson on February 9, 2004.

Namibia

On January 18 "Skybanker" became the world's first Cape Griffon vulture to be fitted with a satellite transmitter. The Cape Griffon vulture, which flies at the highest altitude of all vultures, is endemic to southern Africa. It is highly endangered. Available information says that only between 8 and 11 of these vultures are left in Namibia. There are plans to trap at least two more Cape Griffons for satellite tracking purposes. It costs US\$7 000 to cover the transmitter and the downloading process. The observations made from the tagged vultures will also pave the way for the re-introduction of 8 Cape Griffons that were translocated from South Africa in November 2003. The [Rare and Endangered Species Trust of Namibia](#) (REST) initiated the project.

Uganda

[Uganda Wildlife Authority](#) (UWA) reported that chimpanzees in western Uganda have been observed raiding illegal brewing operations and getting drunk on the brew. Once intoxicated, they become hostile and attack and at times kill human children. One notorious chimp nicknamed *Saddam* is blamed for killing at least 3 babies and maiming several others on the border of Kibale National Park. Early this year, officials of the Jane Goodall Institute in Uganda were quoted in BBC's Wildlife Magazine as saying that chimpanzees had killed 8 children and injured many others. Dr Michael Gavin was reported by the magazine as saying that the technique used by the chimps to kill or maim children mirrored the way they tear apart other prey, suggesting that the attacks were predatory in nature. "In most cases they bite off the limbs first before disemboweling them, just as they would the Red Colobus monkey, which is among their favorite prey," he said. The Goodall Institute stated that Uganda has 4 950 chimpanzees up from an earlier estimate of 3 000-4 000.

Barbara Musoke, UWA spokesperson, said that the killings had taken place over a period of 10 years and that there had been no chimp attacks at all in the past year.

Kenya

15 game rangers have been deployed to the Laikipia District to hunt and kill the lion that mauled to death a brother to Speaker Francis Ole Kaparo on February 13th. A team of wildlife animal trackers from Laikipia Predatory Research Foundation had also joined in the hunt.

The half eaten body of Kaparo was discovered in the bush. The attack comes in the wake of revelations in the East African Standard on Saturday 14, of an increase in the number of the man-eaters in the expansive Tsavo National Park.

Zimbabwe

Sokwanele - a Zimbabwean e-newsletter - circulated information about illegal hunting on the internet on February 24th. **African**

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13 Laikipia Wildlife Forum shows the way for Kenya

gram, and despite the fact that the prey community in Laikipia supports a spectacular array of predators. THIS is conservation!...Almost, anyway: amazingly enough, the donor ranchers who bear the cost of rearing wildlife on their land received nothing in return, other than the satisfaction of helping to restore a stunning landscape."

I do agree wholeheartedly with Dr. Georgiadis when he demands a competent local authority (public, private, or communal) with the will, the capacity, and the means to implement its policy. This is a prerequisite to consumptive natural resource use. Southern Africa – where wildlife has been given a value which accrues to those responsible for its conservation – serves as an example for a much needed change in Kenya's wildlife policy. In the short, but comprehensive list, which Dr. Georgiadis cites for "imparting value on or utilizing wildlife" eco-tourism features as the front runner, followed by live trading, cropping and commercial sale, before he mentions sport hunting which "yields highest returns for lowest off-take, but here the problem is the hunting profession, which has shot itself in the foot so often, its credibility has only half a leg to stand on". Unfortunately, I have to agree with Dr. Georgiadis on this last point too – with the proviso however that an ever growing number of members of the international hunting organizations as well as professional hunters have realized past errors and are now working actively within organizations like IUCN to establish "best practices for trophy hunting".

With this in mind, I suggest that Laikipia Wildlife Forum can be a crucially important role player in the formulation of sustainable wildlife policies for Kenya and beyond.

15 Sustainable Lion Hunting

By Gerhard R Damm

Karyl Whitman and Professor Craig Packer of the University of Minnesota, together with colleagues Anthony M. Starfield and Henley S. Quadling published a remarkable article in Nature "[Sustainable trophy hunting of African lions](#)" in February. The research combines on site observations of Serengeti/Ngorongoro lion and observations from hunting concessions with sophisticated computer software to model lion population data.

In their article, the scientists write that "male lions reach sexual maturity at about 2.5 yr of age and live to a maximum of about 15 yr in nature. The lion's mane reaches full size at about 4 yr, and peak reproductive success is attained by about 8 yr. African lions live in stable social groups (prides) containing an average of 6 breeding females and a coalition of 2-3 adult males. The resident coalition sires all cubs born during their tenure, but most coalitions only remain resident for about 2 yr on average — long enough to rear a single cohort of young to independence. Rather than wait for mothers with dependent offspring to rear their current brood, incoming males typically kill all cubs less than 9 months of age and evict older sub-adults when they first take over a pride."

When a hunter kills a dominant male lion, takeover battles for pride control may result in further casualties amongst the combatants in addition to the cubs killed by victorious newcomers. If male takeovers become too common, cubs are prevented from reaching adulthood resulting in an accelerated population decline.

But there is a most significant outcome in the study of Whit-

man and Packer. When the minimum age of hunted trophy males was raised, the chances of population persistence increased markedly — to the point where removing males older than 6 years of age had no substantial effect regardless of quota size. On the opposite end however, the excessive removal of younger males of 3 years or less invariably lead to population crashes at one point in time.

It seems that a responsible hunting strategy which concentrates on hunting only males of 6 years and older would in fact prevent lion prides from changing hands too frequently. As a consequence at least one group of cubs will have the chance to reach independence during the tenure of a coalition. A stable lion population in the region concerned is the result. The number of the mature male hunter-killed lion is actually not having any detrimental effect on this lion population and would in effect "produce" more mature trophy animals in the long run. Consequently the hotly discussed lion quotas, difficult to establish objectively and difficult to control, could be a thing of the past.

To improve population stability, Packer and Whitman challenge the hunters to apply hunting strategies which target nomadic males or resident pride males whose cubs have recently reached independence. This could significantly reduce infanticide and assist further in managing the lion population to optimal densities.

Another consideration deserves to be looked at: Whitman and Packer suggest that instead of selling a "guaranteed lion hunt" hunters should find back to their roots and buy hunting "opportunities" (which may be successful or not) and/or auction selected hunting opportunities in defined prime areas to maximize economic return. I suggest that this could be a source of funds for lion research and conservation.

The important and relevant conclusion is however that a lion population offers sustainable trophy harvests by following the simple harvest rule of not hunting males under 6 years of age and preferably concentrate efforts and hunting skill on even older males past the prime reproductive age. This should find the approval of all hunters, since the trophy "quality" will definitely be raised.

Whitman and Packer also delivered a most valuable tool with a simple technique for age-assessment of free ranging lion. Mane size and coloration are in their opinion no reliable indicators of age, but the extent of black pigmentation in the nose gives a fairly close indication. Lions are born with pink noses which become increasingly freckled and black the older the animals get. Noses of 5-year old males from the Serengeti are about 50% black; the scientists found out that Ngorongoro lion are about 8 years when they reach this stage.

This simple way of determining trophy eligibility – honestly applied in the field and rigorously enforced by authorities and associations alike - will radically improve the scenario for lion hunting all over Africa. Every African professional hunter worth his salt should be able to judge the age of a lion – if the nose is more than 50% black it's a shootable trophy. If not, continue hunting! Combined with the other mentioned strategies, hunters can turn out to be some very important role players in African lion conservation.

It would also fit hand in glove with the "Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity" which were recently adopted at CoP 7 of the Convention of Biodiversity in Kuala Lumpur (see separate article in this issue). Applied to the numerous

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15 Sustainable Lion Hunting

areas in Africa, where lion range and human range overlap and conflict situations (loss of live and livestock) arise, the methods suggested by Packer and Whitman will assist in resolving pastoralist-lion conflict without compromising lion conservation (Dr. Laurence Frank has – with the Laikipia Lion Project - actually a perfect scenario to field test this approach, if the Kenyan government would only allow trophy hunting).

The authors of the Nature article are not shy to state that the practice of harvesting only males above a certain age range - thus ensuring that the “best” males breed successfully in a stable population - could possibly be extended to other trophy animals too. *“With basic information on breeding biology and social behaviour an age-threshold criterion could be calculated that would minimize the adverse effects from [hunting] killing all of the eligible males each year”* they say. Packer and Whitman hit a point which has been brought forward by professional hunting associations in Africa (i.e. PHASA and NAPHA) and by the Council for International Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) on a number of occasions and which certainly deserves intensive scrutiny and co-operation with researchers and scientists.

The international media – like “Der Spiegel” from Germany and BBC News World Edition – were quick to report on the article in Nature. I was personally very pleased to read that Dr. David Macdonald, Director of Oxford’s University’s Wildlife Conservation Research Unit, whom I criticized harshly in **African Indaba** Vol11/#6 for some remarks on the BBC News Forum, told BBC this time, referring to the work of Prof. Packer and Karyl Whitman: *“I think it’s an excellent and much needed development. You might think that [trophy hunting] is ethically attractive or ethically unattractive. What matters is that [it] is sustainable.”* Hopefully the hunters in Botswana can cooperate with Dr. Macdonald and his colleague Dr Graham Hemson on some aspects of the viability and compensatory mortality of Botswana’s lion population. We might just be able to find a broadly acceptable solution there too!

More information about lions can be found by clicking the following websites: [Lion research Center](#), [African Lion Working Group](#), [IUCN Cat Specialist Group](#), [IUCN Conservation Breeding Specialist Group](#), [Laikipia Predator Project](#), [Hwange Lion Research](#) (Wild-Cru).

Addendum:

It comes as no surprise that the Minnesota University study has also drawn criticism. The corner from which such criticism comes is obvious and IFAW Kenya (exactly there, where IFAW’s “preservation record” is demonstrably poor) was in the forefront. Kate Nicholls, who heads together with Peter Kat the so-called Okavango Lion Conservation Project, said *“It is irresponsible, poor science and has got nothing to do with conservation”*.

Well, Mrs. Nicholls, for the record I would like to draw the attention of the readers to your alarmist call – repeated by The Nation in Nairobi and The Reporter in Gabarone – that the *“AIDS virus is killing Africa’s lions”*. Now, this is irresponsible science, or should we rather call it a callous bit of self-promotion and/or fishing for funds?

Well respected lion researchers around the world know about FIV in the Serengeti for two decades and their molecular data suggest that FIV has been present in lion for thousands of years, without having any effect on survival. Kat and Nicholls saw a few

sick lion cubs which eventually died - their presumption that they died from AIDS is preposterous at least, since the probability that the cubs died of CDV, TB or simply of starvation is infinitely larger (in a year when prey is scarce, cub mortality can reach 80%!). Even if FIV were as harmful as Kat and Nicholls propagate, it would take years to kill its victims - thus it would only cause illness in adults, not cubs.

Nicholls and Kat amazingly got research clearance from the Botswana Government, but solid lion science has never been an outcome of their work; they were successful, however, in the setting up of a number of internet sites where one can join a prayer circle to help all the lions that are dying from AIDS!

Luckily, some people in Botswana seem to start looking behind the Kat/Nicholls smoke screen: The Director of Botswana Wildlife and National Parks, Joseph Matlhare, said in a recent interview with BOPA that some researchers believe that FIV comprises the immuno response of affected individuals. *“Some scientists believe the virus has been present in natural populations of cats, including lions for some time. They believe this has enabled cats to evolve immuno responses and strategies to withstand the impact of the virus.”* Matlhare told BOPA that the virus has infected lions in almost all parts of Africa adding that prevalence rate in some countries is much higher compared to that of Botswana’s lions. *“If the virus were that virulent, one would expect high levels of mortality in these places, but research has not indicated any significant rise in mortality amongst lions nor outbreaks of highly contagious lethal diseases amongst their populations”*, he said.” Matlhare called for more research work to be done for everyone to understand and appreciate the impact of FIV on lions and the entire cat family.

I suggest that Mrs Nicholls and Mr Kat are certainly not amongst the scientists and conservation biologists who are eligible for this work!

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Indaba has no possibility to check the accuracy of Sokwanele’s report, but we believe that it is in the interest of our readers that we pass on the information. We suggest that any reader who plans a hunt in Zimbabwe thoroughly checks all sources. The e-newsletter includes a list of safari operators, agents, professional hunters and Zimbabwean businessmen and/or officials who are allegedly linked to activities overexploiting wildlife resources and who are possibly affected by President Bush’s Executive Order of March 7th, 2003. Anybody who wants to read the entire story from Sokwanele’s point of view can contact the group at Sokwanele@sokwanele.com.

Kenya

Four Coast politicians have opposed a Kenya Wildlife plan to move 400 elephants from the Maasai Mara national reserve to Tsavo East. They said KWS had failed to manage the current elephant population at the park and that getting more would add to the problem. They rather called for culling to reduce the elephant number to manageable levels. KWS announced the plan to move the animals in December, but it was rejected by the Taita-Taveta district development committee. Speaking in Kilifi town, Mr

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Khamisi accused KWS of double standards in dealing with the human-wildlife conflict.

More than 1,000 farmers in Kwale District asked the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission headed by Prof Yash Pal Ghai to include a law in the new constitution to protect farmers against wild animals. The accused the government of failing to protect them from the elephants which they said had made them to leave in a state of starvation and poverty.

South Africa

The Khomani San community in the Northern Cape has laid claim to the entire Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. The community won a land restitution claim 5 years ago in which it was awarded 36 000ha near the park. 2 years ago the community was awarded another 25 000ha inside the park.

Namibia

The Namibian government announced that it will expropriate a select number of white-owned farms to accelerate its efforts at redistributing property to landless blacks. Land owners would be fairly compensated. Since 1995, the government has been spending up to 20-million Namibian dollars (US\$3.05-million) per year on its "willing seller, willing buyer" program that gives government first option on any arable land that becomes available. More than 240 000 people are still awaiting resettlement.

National Parks in Crisis?

"A Game Warden's Report" by Ron Thomson
Reviewed by John Davison

A Game Warden's Report, by the well known retired wildlife manager turned writer, Ron Thomson, is destined to be controversial, particularly in non-consumptive use protectionist circles. It will be preaching to the converted in the case of scientifically objective ecologists grappling with the challenges of species diversity management on "islands" of protected areas set amidst a sea of poverty stricken humans. This work is destined to become required reading for all persons concerned with protected area management.

Thomson believes public opinion at large urgently needs to change. Unless this happens soon, Thomson's message is that many of Southern Africa's prime protected areas are doomed to eventual de-proclamation. When elephant populations crash spectacularly, irreversible soil erosion, damage to riparian river bank forests, woodlands and local species extinction will have rendered such parks meaningless for use on current non-consumptive eco-Tourism models. The land will become more attractive to alleviate the land hunger of the rural poor!

Thomson charges national parks boards and authorities in Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe with various measures of failure to manage biodiversity. He deals in depth with elephant dispersal into new areas. Elephant in Africa are mistakenly thought to move over great distances whereas they are more likely to be far more sedentary within territories and home ranges. Hence the hype taking down the fences is more about human needs satisfaction than about expanding the existing elephant

populations' available home range. Taking down border fences will not in itself ensure instant correct stocking rates and species diversity balances in the current heartlands of elephant territories! Elephant dispersal is a slow process and Thomson points out that it took from 1905 until 1960 for dispersal into most of the Kruger from the small number which first appeared near the Letaba-Olifants river junction.

Rather than quick dispersal, expensive capture and relocation will be the vector of new elephant populations over the border from Kruger if Thomson's assumption is correct. Rather than taking down fences, these might be needed to keep the relocated herds, particularly bulls, from returning to familiar home ranges!

The author articulates a genuine panic attack caused by his reasoned thesis that the days of Africa's National Parks might be numbered! *"World society has just a few short moments of time left to resolve Africa's wildlife crisis before Africa's burgeoning human population explosion takes the option out of our hands"* Two major factors cause the problem – excessive elephant populations and rural poverty amongst the human population.

This book is Thomson's clarion call to counter the current irredeemable loss of bio-diversity in African National Parks. But above all else it promotes a brave new approach. Thomson's plea includes a call for a new dependence to be created on wildlife resources for rural people to make wildlife central to poverty alleviation. This call for a revisionist's view of poverty and wildlife should find instant favor with NEPAD thinkers. Economists, with beneficence of indigenous resources – not export of raw materials - at heart, should find it equally interesting.

The on-going failure to put wildlife into the ownership of Africa's human rural poor and to integrate it holistically into the rural economy is Thomson's second theme. He is re-emphasizing the role of human poverty in the wildlife game and postulates that all poaching is the symptom of Africa's on-going failure to resolve human poverty. The answer Thomson states is a fundamental revision of the role of wildlife in rural communities.

Today's planners and decision makers would be wise to take time out and read Thomson's new work with an open mind because here is a man who is not afraid to call a spade a "bloody shovel". He puts the case fair and square that there is no hope unless a new formula is implemented. Elephant populations must be put into a sustainable relationship with the soil and vegetative nutrient base; rural communities must be brought firmly into the mainstream, not the periphery, of protected area planning. They must be included as working partners rewarded only by the sum total of their actual input. Thomson sees this new partnership as the only long way forward for cashed strapped national park administrations. Thomson's thesis poses a huge challenge and a great opportunity for Black Empowerment companies entering wildlife partnerships today.

The message of sustainable utilization of renewable resources from the first 1980 version of the IUCN's World Conservation Strategy has not been lost on Ron Thomson – but unless conservationists act now, it will continue to be lost on post colonial governments in Africa!

A Game Warden's Report, 416 pages, soft cover, with black and white illustrations and graphics, is published by Magron Publishers and can be ordered for about R340 by e-mail at magron@ripplesoft.co.za or contact Ron Thomson [phone/fax 27-(0)12-2530521], P.O.Box 733, Hartebeespoort 0216, RSA.
