

AFRICAN INDABA

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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

Dear Reader,

I spent most of October in the wilderness of the foothills of the Canadian Rockies near Calgary and, together with outfitter Gordon Burton, indulged in some exhilarating days of unadulterated hunting. Thus this issue of African Indaba reaches you with some delay.

Prior to leaving for Canada, I attended two symposia/workshops. At the Saasveld Campus of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, near George, I talked as representative of the [International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation \(CIC\)](#) and presented a paper titled "Sustainable Hunting Tourism from the Perspective of an International Hunter", complemented by Gary van den Berg's (CIC Delegation South Africa Chairman) presentation "Game Farming for Tourism". A few days earlier, I represented PHASA, the [CIC](#) and [Conservation Force](#) in Windhoek at the two-day workshop for "The Development of Best Practices for the Hunting Industry in Southern Africa" organized by the Namibian Directorate for Wildlife Conservation, [CAMP-FIRE](#), [IUCN/SASUSG](#), and [ResourceAfrica](#). Representatives from hunting associations and communities, Directors of Wildlife, Conservation Departments and Conservation NGOs discussed a range of important issues and worked on solutions. The outcomes were rather encouraging and African Indaba will report in greater detail in the first issue 2008. One outcome is certain already now: there was a lot of good will to cooperate and tackle the issues at SADC level.

After the weeks in Alberta, African realities caught up with me quickly. I am indebted to Fred Nelson for contributing to the debate about the Tanzania fee issue – a topic which still seems to be far from resolved. Some of the open questions are also raised in the [Selous Monitoring Report](#) (page 19), clearly indicating that the concerns expressed by Fred Nelson and also in my Tanzania article in the [September African Indaba](#) issue are receiving international attention. If Tanzania does not present a solution, the World Heritage Status of this [110 year old game reserve](#) could be in danger. The moratorium on lion hunting in Botswana, announced by the DWNP (page 8) in a brief communiqué, caught the hunting community by surprise and we will have to see what the future holds.

Readers should also pay close attention to Peter Flack's report about the proposed changes in the [Rowland Ward Scoring system](#) (note the logos of supporting associations) – African Indaba explored the trophy scoring topic extensively in the issues [No 3](#) and [3a](#) of this year. The action taken by Rowland Ward must be commended, especially regarding to the scoring method of the African Buffalo. Even more encouraging is the

fact, that **Rowland Ward invites all hunters to comment on the proposed changes prior to instituting them.** Please take the opportunity to express your views. You can do this by simply emailing either Jane Halse at janehalse@rowlandward.com or by dropping a line to me at gerhard@muskwa.co.za. Don't miss this opportunity – unique in the hunting world – to participate in shaping the future of record keeping at Rowland Ward's.

Have you walked the line? This is the question which Robert Brown poses in his article on page 4 – I was so intrigued by Brown's thoughts, which appeared in the quarterly Fair Chase Magazine of the [Boone & Crockett Club](#) that I asked for permission to publish it. Look at the article with your African conditions in mind and ask yourself where YOU are standing!

Last not least – the end of 2007 is approaching and I hope that you will have some time to reflect about hunting and conservation in Africa – perhaps with a god book, like [Anno Hecker's "That's Africa"](#).

Have a peaceful festive season and good hunting in 2008

With best personal regards
Gerhard R Damm

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

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The Tanzanian Hunting Crisis: Some Historical Context and Implications for the Future

By Fred Nelson

The current debate over the Tanzanian government's recent move to raise hunting block fees by up to 500% was lucidly summarized by Gerhard Damm in the [previous edition of African Indaba](#). Particularly salient was the characterization of these changes as eventual "implosion" resulting from years of tension over tourist hunting's management within the country. Two key points need to be made about the current crisis. The first is that, as Damm implies, major changes in the management of hunting in Tanzania have been inevitable for years, and that regardless of the short-term outcome of the current debate over block fees, such changes remain unavoidable. That is not an editorial opinion but a forecast based on political economic trends and realities in Tanzania. The second point is that the current crisis provides an important opportunity for renewed collaboration among different public and private interests in wildlife management with the collective aim of addressing the outstanding reform issues. While change in the hunting industry may be inevitable, the block fee crisis serves as a reminder that change can come in many different forms. Regardless of differing opinions on tourist hunting in Tanzania, few interests are served by the ad hoc nature of the recent block fee changes, and unnecessary costs will be borne by both public and private sector bodies if a more coordinated approach to reform cannot be developed. But in order to better understand hunting's future in Tanzania, it is useful to look into the past for a bit of context to the current situation.

Tanzania's tourist hunting industry has had a long and frequently turbulent history. In 1973 all hunting was banned and when it was re-opened in 1978 the industry had effectively been nationalized under the auspices of the parastatal Tanzania Wildlife Corporation (TAWICO). A decade later, hunting was once again opened up to private outfitters and oversight placed with the Wildlife Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism. By this time, though, Tanzania was deep into the economic crisis of the 1980's. As public management capacity in the wildlife sector collapsed- civil servant wages in Tanzania declined by 90% in real terms from about 1970 to 1990- poaching increased dramatically.

In 1988, when private concessions were reintroduced under Wildlife Division administration, hunting generated about US\$4.6 million in total revenue.¹ It was at this time, in line with broader increases in foreign aid following Tanzania's 1986 Structural Adjustment Agreement with the International Monetary Fund that began liberalization of the economy, that donors initiated major forms of support to the wildlife sector. In 1987 the German government began sixteen years of continuous support through the [Selous Conservation Program](#). USAID began funding a wildlife sector review and policy development program in 1990, partnering with the Wildlife Division and implemented by the African Wildlife Foundation and World Wildlife Fund. Underlying these initiatives was the interest on the part of national

policy-makers to develop economically productive and sustainable wildlife management practices, complemented by the international interest in linking conservation and development in Tanzania.

In 1995, a Ministerial task force convened through the USAID-funded policy review issued a two-volume report which provided the basis for the [1998 Wildlife Policy of Tanzania](#). This policy called for, among other things, decentralizing wildlife management outside protected areas to local communities, and improving the economic returns from wildlife at both local and national levels.

In 1995, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, as a part of these same planning processes, released a *Policy and Management Plan for Tourist Hunting*. This document called for enabling local communities to capture greater benefits from hunting, and for introducing a competitive concession allocation system- i.e. open tenders or public auctions.

It is now a well-documented part of the story of hunting in Tanzania that the implementation of these proposed reforms has been highly uneven. The creation of community-managed Wildlife Management Areas, one of the centerpieces of the policy, only began recently with the gazettelement of the first such areas in March, 2006. The management of hunting concessions was never reformed, and remains based on administration discretion with little transparency to the process.

A less well-documented part of this history is that, following the release of the 1995 tourist hunting policy and management plan, strong organized resistance from the hunting industry emerged to the proposal for introducing a competitive concession allocation system. A 1998 report submitted by the Tanzania Hunting Operators Association (TAHOA) argued forcefully against the proposed reforms.¹ The TAHOA chairman stated that public and auction systems are "condemned by every sane hunting operator, Safari Club International, conservation organizations, etc." [Safari Club International](#) did indeed help oppose the proposed changes in the way hunting concessions were allocated, writing to the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism that a tender and auction system would lead to hunting concessions "being taken and mined by businessmen, who seek short term gains at the expense of conservation and local enterprise."¹ This local and international private sector resistance played an important role in maintaining the previous system and warding off the intended policy reforms.

The enduring lack of a competitive and transparent concession allocation system lies at the heart of today's crisis over hunting fees. Tanzania has become increasingly isolated within the southern African region by virtue of its continuing to allocate hunting concessions solely through administrative discretion. The result is the loss of millions of dollars in annual revenue from the wildlife sector, part of which has long been captured by private operators engaging in the widespread sub-leasing of hunting blocks.¹ This year's dramatic rise in fees, announced in the July Parliamentary budget session, was an effort to address this long-standing loss of revenue.

The hunting fees crisis is only part of a much broader public debate occurring in Tanzania about the economic man-

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The Tanzanian Hunting Crisis by Fred Nelson

agement of the country's natural resources. Policy-makers and politicians increasingly note the incongruity in Tanzania's status as one of the economically poorest but most resource-rich countries in Africa. The past two years have witnessed a surge in commentary in Parliament and in the national media regarding the way that resources such as minerals, fisheries, forests, and wildlife are used. For example, a widely publicized report produced earlier this year by [TRAFFIC](#) in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism reports that over 95% of timber trade in Tanzania is carried out illegally, resulting in an annual loss to government coffers of an estimated US\$58 million.¹

It is the public discourse over these broader economic and fiscal issues that make substantial reform of Tanzania's hunting industry inevitable, sooner or later. The government continues to face tremendous pressure to deliver social services like health, education, and infrastructure, and increasing its revenue receipts is an integral component of this challenge. The fiscal concerns that led to the block fee hikes this year are not going to go away.

Situated in this context, the imperative to develop a competitive, transparent, and economically efficient hunting concession allocation system stands out as a priority for all interests. While policy-makers face pressure to increase revenue from the wildlife sector, the present tactic of arbitrarily increasing the fees administratively is clearly not an ideal solution. The retroactive fee increase after the beginning of the hunting season is extremely undesirable from the private sector perspective. While the commercial hunting community in Tanzania has long argued in favor of the present system of administratively priced hunting concessions- hence their long-standing opposition to market-based tender and auction systems- this year's crisis should make it apparent that administrative control over prices can be highly disadvantageous to private sector interests as well.

More importantly, as others have pointed out, administrative determination of such prices is inherently inefficient as it may over-price some concessions and continue to under-price others. Looking to the future then, government, private sector, and conservation interests all stand to benefit from a renewed effort to implement the hunting system reforms that were abandoned a decade ago. Government will be able to maximize revenue from its valuable wildlife resource, which it can never achieve by administratively determining prices. The private sector will have a predictable and transparent way of competing for hunting concessions, which will support the best outfitters. Conservation will benefit from the increased revenues for management and wildlife's increased market value, as has been the case in hunting industries throughout southern Africa. It is these many benefits that lead a recent TRAFFIC review of hunting in southern Africa to include adoption of open and competitive hunting concession allocation systems as a key part of its recommended best practices for hunting in the region.¹ The question for Tanzania remains: is collaboration among different interests possible in order to lay out a more sustainable hunting management system that will help avoid

future crises resulting from these chronic problems?

Footnotes:

¹ Barnett, R. and C. Patterson. 2006. *Sport Hunting in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region: An Overview*. Johannesburg: TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa.

² Tanzania Hunting Operators Association. 1998. *A National and Global Perspective on the Tourist Hunting Industry in Tanzania: The Past, the Present, the Future*. Dar es Salaam: TAHOA.

³Letter from Lance Norris, President, Safari Club International, to Hon. Zakia Meghji, Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, and appended to TAHOA 1998 report.

⁴ Baldus, R.D. and A.E. Cauldwell. 2004. Tourist hunting and its role in development of wildlife management areas in Tanzania. Paper presented to the Sixth International Game Ranching Symposium, Paris, July 6th-9th, 2004. ([Part 1](#) - [Part 2](#) - [Part 3](#))

⁵Milledge, S.A.H., I.K. Gelvas, and A. Ahrends. 2007. *Forestry, Governance and National Development: Lessons Learned from a Logging Boom in Southern Tanzania*. Dar es Salaam: TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa/Tanzania Development Partners Group/Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

⁶ Barnett and Patterson, *op cit*.

The Kidunda Dam: A Never Ending Story

By Ludwig Siegel

One of the most wildlife-rich areas in East Africa on the border of Tanzania's famous Selous Game Reserve is again under threat by a dam project promoted by the World Bank. The Kidunda dam threatens a wetland area of a very high degree of biodiversity, which provides habitat for a variety of rare and endangered species like the African wild dog. The dam will not only destroy parts of the riverine habitats of the Selous' border river Mgeta, but also a communal Wildlife Management Area (WMA) called Gonabis.

Under the German-sponsored Selous Conservation Programme this WMA has developed into a flagship of community based natural resources management in Tanzania.

The dam project was originally conceived by Japanese and French consultants with the aim to improve the water supply of the capital Dar es Salaam. In the early 1990ies it was taken up by the World Bank. Since then the Tanzanian wildlife authorities, with the assistance of the Selous Conservation Programme, have struggled, and up to now succeeded, in looking for alternative solutions and prevent the inundation of this unique wildlife habitat.

The new proposal will also affect villages directly. Resettlement is inevitable. The EIA report prepared by Norconsult is not very clear in terms of addressing mitigation measures and alternatives.

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I've Walked the Line... Have You?

By Robert D. Brown

First Published in the summer 2007 Issue of "Fair Chase – The Official Publication of the [Boone and Crockett Club](#)"

...the essence of hunting is to pit our senses, instincts, knowledge, and experiences against those of a wild animal. We no longer hunt because we have to, but we continue hunting to remind us of who we are and where we came from ... (Jose Ortega y Gasset)

Editor's Note: Robert Brown made some important and very relevant statements in the following article; most of what he said from a North American deer hunting context applies also to hunting in Africa.

The diverse organizations and individuals who built the success story the North American Conservation Model used concepts which could be applied – in suitably adapted form – in many African countries. On the other hand, South Africa and Namibia have shown that an approach towards the critical issues of conservation of wild game and habitats, based on the two country's different historical, social and cultural background, can also make conservation sense.

The principal difference between the North American Model and the model used by the two Southern African countries is the inclusion of the private sector as owners and custodians of wild game in the subcontinent. Peter Flack described the result in an article published in the very first edition of African Indaba as "Conservation Revolution". Private ownership of land and game brought an inevitable consequence: the existence of high fences in these countries. Game populations proliferated and continue to expand and the ownership rights guaranteed by high fences played arguably the most important role. Scientific wildlife management formed part and parcel of the deal. Sadly, we also have to admit that human manipulation of game to obtain color variations as well as put & take shooting and, in its most perverse form canned shooting, soon enough raised their ugly heads due to the economic incentives involved.

Nevertheless, most of the large and fenced ranches in Southern Africa can offer the discerning visiting hunter a true fair chase experience. African Indaba has often enough stressed that visiting hunters should insist that hunted game animals are naturally interacting members of wild sustainable populations within ecologically functional systems that meet the spatial and temporal requirements of the species' populations and that such game must not have been translocated to the area where they are hunted for the sole purpose of being killed. Hunting behind a fence in Southern Africa can be as Fair Chase as hunting in North

America's wilderness, quite in the sense of Ortega y Gasset, whom Robert Brown quoted.

From an African aspect I suggest that the reader looks at the diagrams below and maybe adds to, or substitutes, some of Brown's criteria. Think of the following: shooting at a waterhole, shooting from a vehicle, using a high-tech bow from a blind at a bait station or waterhole (with distance markers and funnels to boot), color-variation breeding, shooting at night, selective breeding of game to the exclusion of other species, etc, etc! The lines in the sand are to be drawn in Africa too and maybe Robert Brown's article assists the readers to draw their own lines as responsible hunters.

African Indaba is indebted to Julie T Hoek, Editor of "Fair Chase" the official publication of the Boone and Crockett Club, for the kind permission given to reproduce this important article in this issue of African Indaba. For more information about the Boone & Crockett Club and the Club's stand on ethical hunting and fair chase visit the B&C Website at <http://www.boone-crockett.org/>

Though we may not realize it, many of us who hunt big game are approaching a line in the sand. No one will tell us where that line is, and we may not even know it when we cross it. In fact, there may not be any obvious consequences for us when we cross the line. Likewise, the game we hunt is approaching a similar line, with the same vagaries, lack of clarity, and lack of obvious consequences the hunters face. But the long-term consequences of crossing these lines will be significant indeed.

The lines I am referring to are the ones you cross from being a hunter to being a shooter, and when big game change from being wildlife to being domesticated livestock. We are now somewhere on the continuum between the Native American, dressed in buckskins and wielding his spear, stalking wily deer, elk, moose, or bear and the modern farmer or rancher who dispatches a docile, farm-raised sheep with his .22 before preparing it for dinner. Technology has allowed the hunter to gain more and more advantage over his prey, from seemingly innocuous things like camouflage clothing and high-powered rifles to telescopic sights, listening devices, range finders, Doe-in-Heat and other scents, and Deer Suckers and other lures.

In the Wal-Mart in Kerrville, Texas, near my former Hill Country deer lease, I purchased a Feeder Repeater made by Moultrie Feeders. The front of the package depicts two trophy-size whitetails and states, "We make the call, you make the shot," and "Sounds like an automatic deer feeder." Yes, that's right, for \$4.95 you can buy a battery-powered gizmo that fits in the palm of your hand and makes the sound of a deer feeder going off. You don't even have to buy the corn! On the back of the package, quotes are taken from a Wildlife Society Bulletin article by Dr. Scott Henke titled, "Do white-tailed deer react to the dinner bell?" (WSB 25:2:291-195). The quotes include, "A recent study from Texas demonstrated that with a little training

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deer would arrive at a timed feeder when it goes off," and "Deer can easily be trained to show up at a particular time and place," and "Some deer respond from the sound alone and will run to the sound."

Most hunters I know feel that this device clearly crosses the line. But where in that continuum are we, and where should we be? I'd argue that Native American hunters were not necessarily ethical by modern standards. They drove buffalo over cliffs to kill them, set baited traps, and set fires to drive game. In other continents jungle dwellers used poisoned arrows. None of that would pass the Boone and Crockett Club's Records or Ethics Committees. But these people had to hunt to survive or they would perish — we don't.

A lot has been written on the topic of why we hunt. Not long ago, a member of The Wildlife Society sent out an e-mail to officers asking us to list the benefits of hunting in a modern society. For me the answers were easy:

1. Hunting is an important means of controlling wildlife populations, to prevent overpopulation and possibly irreversible damage to habitat.
2. Hunting is a family-oriented activity, with most hunters learning from their fathers, brothers, or spouses.
3. Hunting requires the hunter to know and appreciate nature — the biology and habits of the game animals and the importance of good wildlife and habitat management.
4. Hunting is a healthy outdoor activity, requiring physical fitness, shooting skills, and outdoor awareness.
5. Hunting helps maintain a heritage and tradition of living off the land, environmental ethics, and an appreciation of skills needed to survive in a pre-electronic world.

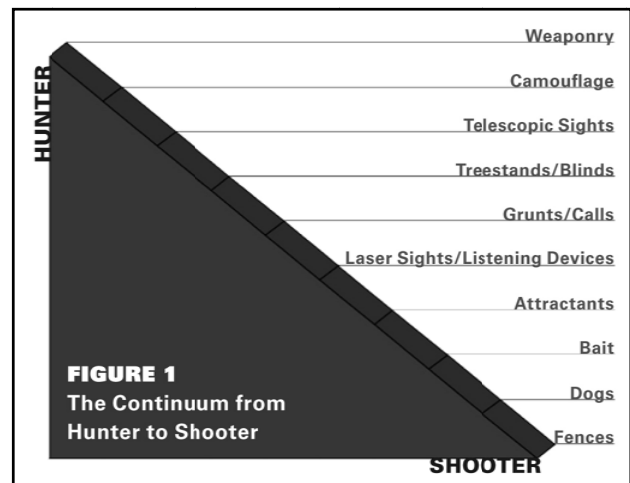
I received only one response (which was from another TWS officer and Professional B&C Club member): "Don't forget that game meat is a healthy food, and many of us enjoy eating it!" So we can easily justify hunting as an activity in our culture, but why do "we," that is, you and I, go hunting?

Around the country there have been numerous university and game-agency studies over the years about why some people hunt, and why others do not. In general, people hunt to be in nature, to be with their friends and families, to pass on a heritage to their children, and because they like game meat. A fairly small minority of hunters are trophy hunters. Those who do not hunt, for the most part, simply have other things to do and have never been introduced to hunting. Some say they don't like the idea of killing, or don't like guns, and a few say hunting is too expensive or they don't have a place to go. A surprising number of non-hunters say they would like to go hunting if they had the chance.

One of my favorite quotes about hunters is from Aldo Leopold, the father of wildlife management in this country. He

said, "A man may not care for golf and still be human, but the man who does not like to see, hunt, photograph, or otherwise outwit birds or animals is hardly normal. He is super civilized, and I for one do not know how to deal with him." He also said, "Poets sing and hunters scale the mountain for one and the same reason — the thrill to beauty."

In 1942 the Portuguese philosopher, Jose Ortega y Gasset wrote a book titled, *Meditations on Hunting*. In it the author states that the essence of hunting is to pit our senses, instincts, knowledge, and experiences against those of a wild animal. He said that we no longer hunt because we have to, but we continue hunting to remind us of who we are and where we came from. He said the greater the confrontation, the greater the satisfaction from the hunt. That is, a true hunter must know the biology and behavior of the game, must be in good physical shape, must practice marksmanship, must have good eyesight and hearing (although those can be remedied nowadays), and have experience in the game's habitat to test his or her instincts to stalk or at least not be seen or heard.



But look at what is happening to hunting as an activity these days. In Figure 1, I depict the evolution of a hunter to a "shooter." I use the term shooter to describe the person who uses no more skill or instincts than that farmer killing his sheep for dinner. Most of us would not say it is wrong to use a high-powered rifle to take most game, although some find more challenge in using muzzleloaders or archery equipment. Most would not say camouflage clothes, face paint, tree stands, or telescopic sights are inappropriate. We use grunts or whistles to call deer and elk, but what about professionally-made, recorded calls? What about the fancy listening devices we see advertised in hunting magazines, or laser range-finders, or laser sights? The [Boone and Crockett Club](#) clearly states that game cannot be entered into the Record Book if the animals have been taken with electronic devices. But what about the ethics of using these devices to take the non-trophies most of us hunt? And let's not forget the scents, like doe urine, and baits, like Deer Suckers,

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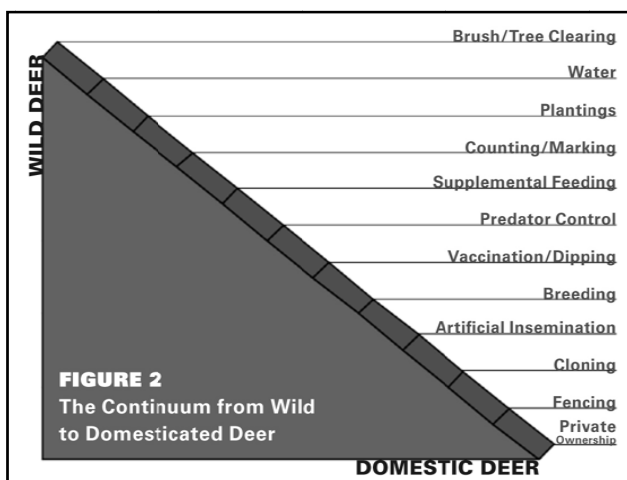
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that can be put out, and of course the ubiquitous corn feeders, where they are legally allowed. Are we crossing a line where we are just shooting an animal and not hunting it?

Believe it or not, I'm not trying to be judgmental here. I've done many of these things myself, where they were legal. And I know that in some terrain, controlling the population of deer, for instance, would be nearly impossible if it were not for the use of bait. I recall a meeting of the South East Deer Study Group many years ago, which I attended as I left Mississippi State University as their Wildlife and Fisheries Department Head to go to Texas A&M University, to take a similar position there. At those annual meetings, there is an evening "Shootin' from the Hip" session, where controversial topics are debated. The Mississippi deer biologists were browbeating the Texas biologists because Texas allows hunting deer over bait. The Texans, however, countered that the Mississippians were unethical because they allowed the use of dogs. Ethics are what your culture allows them to be.

High fences, for instance (Fig. 2), can be an advantage to the hunter, if they channelize the game. But they are more often used as a means of controlling the population of game and the quality of the habitat. I tend to "sit on the fence" on this issue, as I've seen both good and bad use of high fences. But fencing is part of what I deem the transformation of wild animals into domesticated animals. The Laplanders have domesticated reindeer to the point of milking them and harnessing them to sleds. New Zealanders farm red deer for meat and antlers, and Asians have domesticated water buffalo as draft animals. What goes into the process of domestication, and are we not on that slippery slope with the ways we are managing our deer? In Figure 2 you see the general trend. Whether it is sheep, cattle, goats, or deer, we first provide better habitat by clearings and plantings, and if that's not enough, we provide supplemental feed. We control predators so we'll have more lambs and calves, and perhaps more fawns. We certainly want to count our "herd" and mark them or perhaps use infrared trail cameras to identify the trophy deer.



We can dip and vaccinate our calves and lambs, and also our deer if we catch them, or we can put anti-worming agents in the feed.

Breeding has gotten completely out of hand. For decades we've heard of moving Michigan and Wisconsin deer to Southern states to breed, but in recent years artificial insemination of whitetails has become commonplace in some areas, and now Texas A&M University has a private company cloning white-tails. That's right — cloning! Skin cells from the ear of one superior buck have been grown in test tubes, and dozens of clones (not just identical twins, but actual clones) have been produced, which will be sold for princely sums to "shooters" to "harvest."

There is obviously a lot of money in this business. A breeding buck in Texas recently sold for \$650,000. The well-to-do that are into this activity are the ones pushing for private ownership of deer and other games species to protect their investments in these "superior animals." But what are these deer superior to?

These bucks didn't have to forage for their own food, they didn't have to learn to avoid predators, they didn't have to fight other bucks for breeding rights, and they won't have to learn to avoid hunters. They may still be skittish, much like skittish cattle, but they are not wild animals. Neither are the fenced, fed, bred and trained-to-the-feeder deer we see more commonly.

Again quoting Aldo Leopold, "The recreational value of a head of game is inverse to the artificiality of its origin, and hence in a broad way to the intensiveness of the system of game management that produced it."

My argument is that each hunter needs to individually draw our line in the sand as to what is an ethical hunt, and what is legitimate wild game. We need to consider if we are still in this for the beauty of nature and the thrill of the hunt, or are we compromising our ethics and our values for the sake of a big trophy head on the wall. Surveys have shown that most of the public approves of hunting, but only for harvesting the meat and controlling the wild population. The non-hunting public strongly disapproves of trophy hunting. What would the non-hunting public think if they understood where we were going with hunting "technology" and feeding and breeding our "wild game?"

Aldo Leopold said, "The ethics of sportsmanship is not a fixed code, but must be formulated and practiced by the individual, with no referee but the Almighty." Here's where I'll disagree with Aldo. I'd argue that if we don't set some standards soon, the public may decide for us.

Dr. Robert Brown is dean of the College of Natural Resources at North Carolina State University and past president of [The Wildlife Society](#). He is a Professional Member of the [Boone and Crockett Club](#).

Sahelo-Saharan Interest Group (SSIG)

By John Newby, CEO, Sahara Conservation Fund

The Sahelo-Saharan Interest Group (SSIG) is an informal network of individuals and institutions with a common interest in the conservation of the wildlife of the Sahara and bordering Sahelian grasslands. Organized by the Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF), SSIG brings together people from many disciplines, including the zoo community, research establishments, government wildlife departments and NGOs. Membership is open to all and the group stays in contact via a dedicated listserver. Contact ssig@saharaconservation.org to subscribe

SSIG was established following the landmark meeting organized by the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) in Djerba in 1998 to adopt an action plan for endangered Sahelo-Saharan antelopes. The group first met in 2000 at Marwell Zoo in England. Since then, SSIG has held meetings in Almería, Spain (2001), Bratislava, Slovakia (2002), Agadir, Morocco (2003), Souss, Tunisia (2004), Obterre, France (2005), and Douz, Tunisia (2006). This year, SSIG met at Hanover Zoo in Germany, where some 60 participants from 16 countries heard presentations on a broad range of Sahelo-Saharan conservation issues. The proceedings of previous meetings can be found at www.saharaconservation.org/web/ssig_meeting_reports.php.

Although captive-breeding and reintroduction are increasingly *de rigueur* in many countries, in situ conservation remains a very high priority and the meeting was excited to learn of the progress being made in Niger to establish a new desert protected area centered on the Termit massif. A veritable Noah's Ark for Sahelo-Saharan species, Termit is part of an ambitious initiative funded by SCF, CMS, the French government (FFEM) and the European Union to establish trans-boundary protection of addax and other species between Chad and Niger.

SSIG members are also deeply involved in reintroduction work and presentations were heard on efforts underway in Senegal and Tunisia to reintroduce addax, scimitar-horned oryx and dorcas gazelle. Several presentations were made on the Tunisia initiative, including a framework speech by Mr. Lahcen El Kabiri, Assistant Secretary General of the Convention on Migratory Species. With support from several dozen zoos in Europe and the United States and under the coordination of Tunisia's *Direction Générale des Forêts*, addax and oryx from the Bou Hedma National Park have just been translocated to a number of new protected areas in the south of the country. Later this year, they will be joined by new animals from the endangered species breeding programs in Europe and the States to boost the genetic founder stock.

Since its inception, SSIG has funded and participated in surveys across North Africa to assess and monitor the conservation status of Sahelo-Saharan wildlife. Such work not only brings to light the peril faced by many species but provides an objective basis for conservation priority setting, as well as updating the IUCN Red Data List. The attached table shows current Red Data listings for a number of Sahelo-Saharan species, together with comments by SCF based on recent fieldwork. It is

sad to say but the conservation world is in general ignorant of the crisis facing Sahelo-Saharan wildlife. The region has already lost the scimitar-horned oryx and with numbers in the wild down to low hundreds, may well soon lose both the addax and the dama gazelle. In this regard, the SSIG meeting was heightened to hear of recent addax sightings in Niger and Mauritania. Reports on survey work in Mauritania, Algeria and Morocco underlined the critical situation facing other species, too, including the dorcas gazelle, slender-horned gazelle and the Saharan cheetah. Reports on SSIG and SCF-funded survey work can be downloaded from SCF's website at www.saharaconservation.org/web/scf_technical_reports.php.

For the past 3 years, the meeting has also been attended by representatives from the North East Africa regional sub-group of IUCN's Antelope Specialist Group. This is particularly useful for networking and information-sharing across the entire North African region. Reports on conservation work in favor of the endangered Dibatag and Tora hartebeest were presented.

As a forum for cooperation, SSIG is also increasingly attracting conservation players from the Middle East. This year, presentations on houbara bustard conservation in Morocco by the Emirates Center for Wildlife Propagation (ECWP) and conservation developments at Al Ain Zoo (United Arab Emirates) were very well received. SCF and Al Ain Zoo are discussing a broad range of captive-breeding and reintroduction initiatives based on the North African collections at the zoo and elsewhere. Initial analysis, certainly indicates the possible presence of genetic lines not yet represented in managed breeding programs. The work at ECWP to breed and release houbara bustards for falconry, as well as protecting locally threatened species like the Cuvier's and dorcas gazelles, are an interesting model that could well be applicable elsewhere in the search for ways of balancing the need for protection and sustainable use.

This year's two-day meeting (May 31 – June 1) was co-chaired by Dr. Tim Woodfine (Marwell Conservation) and Dr. Tim Wachter (Zoological Society of London). The closing ceremony was lead by SCF Chair, Dr. Steven Monfort, at which he committed SCF to maintaining the unique role that SSIG plays as a forum for people to meet, network, share information and build strong partnerships for Sahelo-Saharan conservation.

PHASA on Trophy Scoring

PHASA resolved in an Executive Committee meeting on March 15, 2007 to support a measuring system that encourages the taking of older trophy animals. This decision was the result from a discussion of Dr. Kevin Robertson's proposals regarding the scoring method for cape buffalo, where Robertson proposes to establish a scoring method favoring the taking of solid-bossed 10-year and older bulls.

Robertson's proposals are explained in detail in the special Trophy Hunting issue of [African Indaba Vol.5, No. 3a](#).

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

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Botswana: Lion Hunting Suspended Again

By Gerhard R Damm

With the following short notice lion hunting in Botswana for the 2008 season was closed again: *The Department of Wildlife and National Parks would like to inform the public that it is concerned by the number of lions killed in defense of livestock in certain areas of the country. As a precautionary measure, the Department has taken a decision not to issue any lion hunting quota until further notice. The Department further wishes to assure the public that appropriate measures are being put in place to reverse the current trends.*

This removal of the lion quota (in 2007 the quota was ONE mature male lion per concession) fails to consider the results of the IUCN Eastern/Southern African Lion Workshop in Randburg/South Africa in early 2006. Restrictions, if at all, should have been applied area-specific as an incentive/retribution tool to foster sound lion management and to decrease hostility of local herdsmen against predators. As instituted now, it will certainly lead to a revenue loss for communities and to substantial financial implications for the safari hunting industry, lion being one of their draw cards besides elephant. It also shows a lack of confidence in the safari operators of Botswana. It will result in increased human/lion conflict adjacent to WMAs, possibly with the opposite result as envisaged by DWNP, since livestock owners may be resorting to indiscriminately killing lion and, if poison is used, subsequently other non-target predators. It may possibly also have disastrous consequences on lion demography, since key pride females will be indiscriminately eliminated.

I suggest that there is only route out of this obvious dilemma: The Botswana Wildlife Management Association (BWMA), as representative of the hunting safari operators in Botswana, must enter into a reasoned dialogue with government and DWNP to build a basis of mutual trust. One building stone in this dialogue would be the establishment of a clear and committed Code of Ethics for trophy hunting lion and in fact of all other huntable species. Once established and subscribed by professional hunters and safari operators, the essence of the Code must be practiced and perpetrators must be brought to book – swiftly and without favor – by joint actions of BWMA and DWNP. Additionally, BWMA should refine and expand its existing database on hunting trophies based on state-of-the-art technologies. This will assist in establishing a climate of trust and good will.

International and national hunting associations, the Southern African sustainable Use Specialist Group, and government officials from the majority of SADC states recently met in Windhoek on invitation of the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism to discuss the development of best practices for the hunting industry in Southern Africa. In his opening speech at this Workshop the Namibian Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism made it clear that *"the over-commercialization of hunting could potentially breed greed and lead to over-exploitation of the resource."* He further said, *"it is*

crucial that we prevent unwelcome practices such as canned hunting and short-term management techniques where operators offer the entire portfolio of species (often of marginal quality) during a single hunt instead of luring the same client back for follow-up hunts to find high-quality trophies. [Trophy hunting] is not about making money on the short term at the expense of conservation. It is about a superior product offered in a sustainable manner at a quality-related price to a deserving client." Officials from Botswana and BWMA participated in this workshop and clearly showed commitment towards achieving solutions.



The Kingdom of Morocco, His Excellency The Prime Minister, and the Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification host the

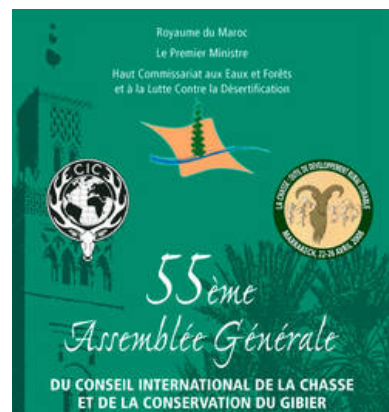
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Mountain Nyala Populations: Defining the Facts and Unknowns

By Paul Evangelista

The mountain nyala is considered by many as a keystone species for the Ethiopian highlands. It is endemic to Ethiopia and is listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The mountain nyala's range and estimated total population has been the subject of several recent debates and disagreements among researchers, wildlife managers and policy makers. Despite the recent attention, only a few survey efforts have been conducted to estimate the total population of the mountain nyala. Most of these do not consider the full range of the species, despite recent reports that outline new areas and the active management plans being implemented by the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Department (EWCD) and Oromia regional natural resource managers (Evangelista 2006b).

Determining the population and range of the mountain nyala has always been a challenge for researchers and wildlife managers. The earliest, and perhaps most intensive, study of the mountain nyala was conducted by Leslie Brown in the 1960s (Brown 1966, 1969a, 1969b). Brown was the first to identify the broad range of the species, exploring many remote regions that have not been surveyed since. He estimated the total mountain nyala population to be between 7,000 and 8,000 with a potential maximum of 12,500. In the mid-1980s, Chris Hillman included the mountain nyala in his detailed research of flora and fauna within Bale Mountains National Park (BMNP), concluding that the population within the park was around 1,500 and the total population probably ranged between 2,000 and 4,000 (Hillman 1988). Several mountain nyala surveys were conducted in BMNP in the mid-1990s (Woldegebriel 1996, Stephens *et al.* 2001); however, these efforts did not include the southern escarpment of the park or any areas beyond the park's boundaries. In 1998, Rod East (1999) compiled what little information was available on the mountain nyala for the African Antelope Database and assessed the total population at 2,650. More recently, there have been several new attempts to quantify mountain nyala populations. Refera and Bekele (2004) conducted direct counts of mountain nyala in 2000 and 2001 in a 13.1 km² study area within BMNP. They reported that approximately 700 mountain nyala inhabited their study site. Despite only surveying less than 1% of the park's total area, they concluded that their study site encompassed 95% of the total mountain nyala population which they estimated to be less than 1,000 (Refera and Bekele 2004). In 2002, James Malcolm spent two months compiling information on mountain nyala through a series of brief visits to a few known populations and interviewing various stakeholders (Malcolm and Evangelista 2004). As an added author to his report, my contributions were limited to assessments of the Arsi Mountains, while my work on the eastern slopes of the Bale Mountains was largely overlooked. Malcolm included three of the nine CHAs in his estimates (although he visited only two). His total population estimate was 1,980, but it failed to include a vast majority of the mountain nyala's range.

I recently attempted to clarify misconceptions regarding the mountain nyala in a report to the IUCN Antelope Specialist Group (Evangelista 2006a), a report to the EWCD (Evangelista 2006b), and an online article available in African Indaba (Evangelista *et al.* 2007). My objective was not to highlight the short-comings of previous research efforts but to provide current and significant information that would support wildlife managers, conservationists and policymakers while facilitating new research efforts. The information presented in my reports is based on seven years of mountain nyala study and data collection working closely with the EWCD, Oromia regional wildlife managers, local communities and professional hunters. Most of the content within my recent reports is common knowledge among my colleagues in Ethiopia; yet the international science and conservation communities continue to overlook significant information on the distribution of the mountain nyala and fail to conduct adequate investigations in the field or of the literature.

Within the last few months, the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species posted an assessment of mountain nyala by Claudio Sillero-Zubiri (2007), who is well known for his work with canids. Sillero-Zubiri estimates the total mountain nyala population to be between 1,500 and 2,000 animals relying largely on the reports of J. Malcolm. Although Sillero-Zubiri briefly acknowledges my estimate of 4,000 mountain nyala, he neglects to acknowledge (1) several newly reported populations, (2) regional population surveys conducted by EWCD every two years and (3) five of nine Controlled Hunting Areas (CHA). His assessment relies on selected pieces of information from cited works while overlooking a large proportion of significant information contained in the same literature sources. As a result, Sillero-Zubiri makes several misleading claims that do not accurately reflect regional or total populations and fail to include a significant proportion of the mountain nyala's range. For example, he reports 550 mountain nyala in Gaysay (located adjacent to BMNP headquarters) citing Refera and Bekele's (2004) observations in 2001 and 2002. However, Refera and Bekele reported

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

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News from Africa

Angola

Pedro vaz Pinto's camera traps caught the giant sable herd twice on film in July and August, both times after 5pm. Most animals could be identified, including pure ones and hybrids. No male was photographed. Reason for concern arises from identifying new hybrid calves. Pedro's crew planted a second video camera with infrared night vision. At a newly discovered salt lick they found tracks of a solitary *Hippotragus*. The site is now equipped with two cameras.

Congo DR

The U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development grant \$496,000 to support the park rangers and endangered wildlife of the Virunga National Park in eastern DRC. This area is home to scores of unique species, including the mountain gorilla, which have declined due to the region's ongoing armed conflict, poaching, demographic pressures and habitat disturbance.

European Union

The European Commission confirmed that there is no prohibition under EU legislation to transport firearms and ammunition in airplane baggage holds. Commission Regulation 68/2004, which lays down some common basic standards on aviation security, only prohibits firearms and ammunition in the cabin and in security restricted areas. Furthermore, there are no specific EU rules regarding labeling, documentation, packaging etc. for the air transport of firearms/ammunition - a passenger wishing to check-in luggage containing them will be subject to *national* rules which may differ across the EU (Source FACE Diary 11/07)

France

Negotiations on the Paris Agreement on the conservation of gorillas and their habitats (the Gorilla Agreement) under the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) were held in October in the Museum of Natural History, Paris. 9 gorilla Range States together with donor States, UN bodies, intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations, and scientific institutions attended. Delegates agreed upon general conservation measures, implementation and financing, administrative details and an action plan. The Gorilla Agreement was signed by ministers from the Central African Republic, and Republic of Congo. CMS Executive Secretary, Robert Hepworth emphasized the legally-binding nature of the agreement. He also invited all participants to sign the Paris Gorilla Declaration on the Conclusion of an Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats.

www.cms.int/bodies/meetings/regional/gorillas/gorilla_meeting.htm

Namibia/USA

John Jackson of [Conservation Force](#) did it again; after filing petitions for hunters whose leopard trophies had been seized by the US authorities due to the Namibian tags not conforming to the prescribed pattern, these hunters recently were informed that the US authorities had reconsidered the seizures and that the trophies could now be collected.

South Africa

SA Express Airways has implemented a R100 "Han-

dling Fee" for firearms as of 01 August 2007 applicable for passengers travelling out of Richards Bay Airport to O R Tambo International Airport on the services of S A Express. The payment must be made in cash as the Security Company providing the service does not have access to automated credit facilities. The license is checked against the firearm being transported and a manual receipt is issued.

South Africa

A 2006 report by the National Agricultural Marketing Council to investigate opportunities and problems in the industry notes: "Wildlife ranching has been the fastest-growing agricultural activity in SA in the past three decades." The report identifies recreational hunting as the biggest single contributor of income to the SA wildlife industry. The industry already supports almost 100 000 jobs. An investment upsurge has resulted in a doubling of the number of fenced game farms in the past decade. A study at Northwest University's Institute for Tourism & Leisure Studies reveals that recreational hunters spend an average R11 622 each year on animals hunted and a further R4 130 on secondary expenditure such as accommodation, meat processing and rifles

South Africa

[WWF South Africa](#) has announced the appointment of Dr Morné du Plessis as CEO. Dr du Plessis has headed the Percy FitzPatrick Institute (PFIAO) at UCT since 1996. Dr du Plessis completed his PhD on the "Behavioral Ecology of the Red-billed Woodhoopoe in South Africa" at the PFIAO in 1989. In 1992 he took up a contract position at the PFIAO moved as Biodiversity Research Coordinator to the Natal Parks Board in 1994. Dr Rob Little, who has acted as CEO will resume his duties as WWF's Director of Conservation.

Sweden

The [International Union of Game Biologists \(IUGB\)](#) held the bi-annual meeting in Uppsala in August. Hunters were well represented through the [International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC](#) and the [Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation in the EU \(FACE\)](#). Some of the topics which were discussed: The "Chasse Libre" and CAMNARES projects of Cameroon, community hunting projects in Burkina Faso, how international and national pressure groups influence wildlife management and by extension trophy hunting, human dimensions of wildlife management and hunting statistics.

The next Congress will be hosted by Russia, and the delegates elected Viktor Melnikov as IUGB president.

Tanzania

The Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism rejected the Tanzanian hunting industry's proposal that the proposed fee increases be substantially lowered before they are implemented in 2008 and reiterated his previous position that the fee increases will apply this year, to all hunts conducted in 2007. TAHOA (Tanzania Hunting Operators Association) is presently polling its members to decide whether to take the matter to court. It is unclear where this leaves clients who went on safaris to Tanzania this year. Should the new fees stay in place, some of the larger safari operators will probably absorb the added costs. Smaller companies, however, and subcontracting PH's may pass on increased costs to their clients.

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The Harvest of Wild Raptors by Falconers: A Practical Exercise in Sustainable Use to Encourage Conservation

By Dr. A. Lombard, Member of the Advisory Committee, International Association for Falconry; Secretary, [South African Falconry Association](#).

Traditionally, falconers have relied on the procurement of wild raptors to supply their needs for hunting birds. Indeed, this situation has persisted until developments in breeding technology allowing the ready availability of captive bred birds over the past thirty years. The development of this technology was sparked by the dramatic crash in peregrine falcon populations, primarily in the northern hemisphere, linked to the use of organochlorine pesticides. The epidemiology of the peregrine population decline was initially, poorly understood and, erroneously, over-harvesting by falconers to supply a presumed lucrative and illegal black market in the Middle East was deemed to be the cause. This was not the case and little evidence was ever produced to support the allegation.

Falconers have been in the forefront of the effort to restore the population of peregrines and other raptors decimated by pesticides. Most dramatic were the efforts of the Peregrine Fund in North America, started by falconers and using falconry birds as the initial brood stock. Here thousands of captive bred falcons were released back to the wild in an effort which has proved so successful that the North American Falconers are once again, permitted a wild harvest. This effort was mirrored, but less lauded, in other parts of the world. These efforts would include the restoration of the Northern Goshawk in Britain where it was extinct and attempts to re-establish the population of tree-nesting peregrine falcons in Germany and Poland.

Falconers were the first in Britain to notice the dramatic decline in the breeding successes of wild peregrines and this is recorded in articles in "The Falconer", journal of the British Falconry Club, in the late 50s. At that time, falconers were granted licenses to take wild peregrines by special dispensation. The falconers in Britain took an ethical decision to relinquish their wild harvest and not take up their permits until normal breeding was restored. Evidence exists to show that the population of Peregrine Falcons in Britain is currently better than ever in the past. Similarly the Northern Goshawk is again considered to be a threat to pheasant stocks and is being shot by gamekeepers. Despite the evidence, falconers in Britain, unlike their counterparts in diverse countries such as the USA, Ireland Germany and, indeed, South Africa are not permitted a wild take, principally through fear of a "green" outcry. Privileges once lost are seldom recovered.

One could possibly consider hawks to be among the oldest domesticated animals, along with dogs and horses, although they continued to breed in the wild. The Saker Falcon has been used by falconers for well over 2 thousand years, making this one of the oldest relationships between man and wild

animal. In the Middle East, Sakers have been trapped, traditionally, when south-bound on their autumn migration. They are then used by Arabic Falconers to hunt through the winter and are released in spring to travel north with the migration once again. These traditions have been altered with the oil wealth of recent history. Sakers may now be retained through the summer in air-conditioned mews. On the other hand, captive breeding has given the modern Arab falconer the choice of exotic and hybrid falcons which are more exciting than the wild-taken Sakers. A dramatic decline in Saker Falcons has been noted in recent years. Once again, falconers find themselves in the forefront of the list of suspected causes. Some blame may be apportioned to possible over-harvesting and disturbance in the central Asian breeding grounds. While not attempting to defend the excesses of modern Arab falconers, I believe that it serious disservice if facile explanations were accepted to placate "green" critics and other very real potential causes for this decline were to remain uninvestigated. The serious impact of the environmental degradation of the Saker breeding grounds, the loss of their quarry base in these breeding grounds, as well as the impact of electrocutions by hazardous power-lines through the flat and treeless expanses of central Asia, all needs urgent consideration.

With this background of international concerns, the falconry fraternity in South Africa also faces criticism of their wild harvest. There are about 150 active falconers in South Africa, who will fly one or, occasionally two birds at a time. Our wild harvest is limited, annually, to a total of some 30 birds of a variety of species. The criticism would appear to be based on two grounds:

1. Aesthetics. There is a perception that, because raptors are special and admirable creatures, they should not be subject to the same conservation considerations as other forms of life. While falconers will hardly quibble with the respect or reverence afforded the birds of prey, we would deny that special ethical consideration differentiates them from other forms of life. A limited and sustainable harvest is acceptable, particularly as we do not seek to kill these creatures and our intervention probably allows more to live.
2. Conservation Considerations. There is a pervading belief that all raptors and, following the DDT scare, particularly the peregrine falcon are rare and endangered to the extent that any sort of harvest may turn the tide and tip their populations toward extinction. As apex predators it is prudent to be concerned about their conservation status and monitor their populations. While it is certainly true that some species of raptors are in danger of extinction, this does not apply to those raptors that are popular falconry birds. Indeed agricultural practices which have resulted in a burgeoning population of pigeons and doves have produced a dramatically increased food supply for these birds.

The Peregrine falcon, in South Africa, is listed as endangered as a result of the devastating reduction in population numbers, globally, some 40 years ago. While they were probably less affected in Southern Africa, than elsewhere and there are now more peregrines in South Africa than ever previously.

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The Harvest of Wild Raptors by A Lombard

This is well documented and can be readily observed as not only are the traditional cliff nesting sites occupied, but they are also to be found nesting on high-rise buildings in cities and on the walls of quarries.

A similar population increase has occurred with Black Sparrowhawks which use exotic Gum and Pine plantations for nesting and this is particularly noticeable in the Western Cape where there has been a significant extension of the range of these magnificent birds.

Habitat change with exotic trees and an increase in the prey supply has similarly benefited African Goshawks and Rufous-Chested Sparrowhawks.

South African Falconers have bred Peregrine falcons for many years and, indeed produce a surplus which is released to the wild. Black Sparrowhawks, Rufous-Chested Sparrowhawks, Gabar Goshawks, African Goshawks, Red-necked falcons, Lanner falcons and Jackal Buzzards have all been bred in captivity.

Never-the-less, in most provinces, falconers are still permitted a limited wild harvest of suitable raptors which is entirely sustainable. Falconers are very jealous of this significant privilege which has positive benefits. These include:

1. The wild harvest encourages falconers to be active participants in the conservation effort and contribute in a variety of ways to the conservation of raptors and also to the conservation of gamebirds and to the preservation of the environment.
2. The accessibility of wild birds for falconry keeps the sport within the reach of younger and less affluent falconers as captive bred birds are not inexpensive and we would risk seeing this activity becoming the preserve of the wealthy to the detriment of both the sport and the conservation effort
3. Controls which are applied to members by falconry clubs to ensure that good standards of husbandry and good ethical standards are maintained become more difficult if birds are privately owned.

There are also a number of negative effects which would result from the loss of this wild harvest.

1. Captive breeding encourages the trading in birds of prey and this is an area which we have striven to limit and discourage for obvious reason.
2. Loss of the wild harvest would not only reduce the incentive for falconers to contribute to the conservation effort but would also actively inhibit them as it has in other countries where the wild take is prohibited. For example, activity by falconers at nest sites in this situation would lay them open to accusations of nest-robbing and laundering of birds through breeding operations.
3. The use of exotic and hybrid raptors for falconry in South Africa is very limited and of negligible impact on the environment. Experience elsewhere in the world has shown that the use of these birds dramatically increases when the wild harvest is not permitted.
4. If all falconry birds were to be captive bred there would have to be a large increase in the number of breeding birds held in breeding pens. What is seldom appreciated is that the ultimate fate of a falconry bird is release back to the

wild. For example, Lanner falcons are normally trapped as "passage" or immature birds; they are flown for one or two seasons and released. We see the wild harvest, in essence, as the borrowing of birds from nature and their ultimate release, in fine hunting condition, is a highly satisfactory outcome.

Experience in the captive breeding of raptors is laudable and availability of captive-bred birds is an asset to the falconry community in South Africa. While the threat of the loss of our wild harvest persists, captive breeding is here to stay. None-the-less, the principle of a sustainable harvest of wild creatures is widely accepted in Nature Conservation and is enshrined the principles of the Convention on Biodiversity. I would plead with reasonable people who are concerned with the conservation of our wildlife to look with sympathy on the falconers' limited wild harvest and, in so doing, encourage the continuance of our art and the conservation of South Africa's raptors. For more information, please visit our website at www.safalconry.co.za.

Team Revised American Airlines Firearm Policy

[Dallas Safari Club](#), [Conservation Force](#), [CIC](#), [National Rifle Association](#), [SCI](#) and Congressman Pete Sessions Join Forces (DSC Staff Report)

When DSC member Buddy Campbell was informed by the American Airlines Advantage™ desk of their soon to be implemented policy of prohibiting firearms as checked baggage to/from Europe and Asia he hoped his late evening call to the DSC offices would trigger a nationwide response – it did – an international one. Campbell informed DSC Executive Director, Gray Thornton, of the policy Thursday evening, four days prior to the September 24, 2007 policy effective date.

Thornton then called AA pilot and DSC Board Member, Jerry Mumfrey, to confirm and contacted our partners at the NRA and Conservation Force to advise them of this possible prohibition. He then contacted our partners at the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) in Europe to inquire if the European Union (EU) had indeed initiated new restrictions as was inferred by American Airlines personnel. Mumfrey confirmed after speaking with the Manager of Hazardous Cargo that the AA policy was in fact true and advised Thornton early the next morning. Thornton then called John Jackson of Conservation Force to work with the NRA and The Hunting Report. On Sunday, Thornton was back in the office communicating with Conservation Force, CIC, Don Causey of The Hunting Report, Lone Star Outdoor News, NRA, SCI and Congressman Pete Sessions to coordinate efforts and to call all our collective resources into action. The CIC reported back that contrary to some AA personnel comments there were no new EU restrictions for traveling with firearms.

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Team to Revise American Airlines Firearm Policy

On September 26th Congressman Sessions turned Longworth House Office Building office into a Command Center where the DSC delegation of Gray Thornton, Ben Carter, Lance Phillips, John Jackson and Marty Markl worked with Congressman Sessions, NRA and Transportation Industry lobbyists and Congressman Sessions' staff on the issue. Congressman Sessions contacted AA Senior Management to advise them of our concerns and the devastating effort such a policy would have on international hunting travel. At the same time, NRA headquarters staff and lobbyists were on a conference call with AA management. We learned from senior level AA executives that the issue (as CIC had confirmed days before) was not the EU but rather "onerous restrictions imposed on American Airlines by the UK." Congressman Sessions informed AA management with our team in his office of the effects their restrictions would have on the international sporting community. American Airlines also heard internally from grass roots efforts by DSC member AA staff that the client affected was typically their Advantage™ Gold and Platinum members – their best and most loyal customers. AA executives confirmed to us that they too were not pleased with the policy.

By the next morning American Airlines released news on a revised policy allowing firearm transport to Europe and Asia while maintaining the prohibition on transport to the United Kingdom until baggage and labeling restriction imposed by the UK Government could be addressed. American's revised policy statement is listed below:

American Airlines Statement Regarding Transportation of Firearms to the United Kingdom

American Airlines recently implemented a policy, effective for tickets purchased on or after Sept. 24, 2007, that it would no longer allow the transportation of civilian firearms in checked luggage to Europe and Asia, as a result of onerous restrictions in the United Kingdom. After hearing from our customers and interested parties, including the National Rifle Association (NRA), American has determined that it can modify its policy to allow legally declared firearms to be transported on nonstop flights to other destinations in Europe outside of the UK, and to our Asian destinations. We regret that, at this time, as a result of UK policies we cannot allow civilian transport of firearms into the UK. We look forward to working with the NRA and other industry groups in an attempt to resolve those issues in the hopes of allowing civilian firearms to be transported to the UK on American Airlines in the near future.

However, as of September 30, 2007 the previous September 24th prohibition is still noted on AA website. DSC will continue to work with our partners and American Airlines to resolve this issue. We wish to congratulate and thank our industry friends and partners for their individual and joint efforts to affect the eventual change. Dallas Safari Club especially thanks and wishes to recognize DSC Life Member, Congressman Pete Sessions, for his leadership and support in this and other efforts supporting our industry, heritage and organization.

Ben F. Carter Designated New DSC Executive Director

PR [Dallas Safari Club](#), Dallas, Texas USA – October 1, 2007

After a thorough nationwide and international search, aided by the efforts of Pearson Partners International, Dallas Safari Club has announced the hiring of Ben F. Carter as Deputy Director, a transitional position prior to taking the helm of staff operations as Executive Director April 1, 2008. Carter, a Texas native, accomplished international hunter as well as Past President of Dallas Safari Club will report to Gray Thornton, the Club's Executive Director, during a six month transition period. Thornton, as announced in March of 2007, will remain in his capacity through March 31, 2008 to ensure a smooth leadership change and to lead the Club's January 2008 convention efforts.

"Ben brings a very impressive background to this position. He has a Bachelor of Business Administration from University of Texas, with a major in Marketing. He has been a successful independent business owner for over 20 years after working for Burroughs Corporation just out of college. A lifelong hunter, Ben has taken 25 of the 29 North American species of which 20 are record book size; he has taken the Grand Slam of North American Sheep and an African elephant. Ben has hunted extensively in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Russia and New Zealand and has been on three safaris in Africa", Bill Swisher the Club's President stated when making the announcement.

Swisher added that "Ben has served in almost every volunteer management position and committee in Dallas Safari Club. Besides being President in 2003, and convention chair in 2002, Ben has served the club as chairman of our Summer Blast Sporting Clay events, Auction Committee, Grants Committee, Administrative Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Nominating Committee and has worked extensively with our youth programs as chair of the shotgun skills team"

"Dallas Safari Club has become an industry leader because of our unique culture, mission focus and dedication to member, donor and exhibitor service. Ben understands this culture, believes in it and is uniquely qualified to not only maintain the Club's present success and growth but to take our organization to the next level" stated Gray Thornton.

He continued saying that "I've worked closely with Ben in the past and I look forward to working with Ben in his new Deputy Director capacity to ensure that we maintain our program excellence and focus on our conservation, education and ethical hunting advocacy mission. DSC hired the right man and I will be proud to address him as the Club's next Executive Director."

Carter resigned from his current Dallas Safari Club and Dallas Ecological Foundation Board positions September 29 and will join the Club's staff October 1, 2007.

For more information on Dallas Safari Club, call Gray Thornton at +972-980-9800 or email gray@biggame.org.

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

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

By¹ L. Chris Weaver, Theunis Petersen, Richard Diggle, and Anton Esterhuizen

Abstract

Namibia has a long and established history of wildlife utilization. The central freehold farmlands have accommodated different and growing forms of recreational hunting and game production since the late 1960's, when visionary conservationists devolved rights to game to private land-owners. This policy change revolutionized Namibia wildlife management, turning game into a valuable and marketable commodity, precipitating a robust recovery of freehold farm game populations. The 1990 independence of Namibia inspired the devolution of similar wildlife utilization rights to communal area residents, who previously had been alienated from wildlife resources by colonial policies that forbid community use of wildlife. In 1996, the Government of Namibia approved legislation that authorized communities who formed communal conservancies to acquire conditional use rights over wildlife. Since passage of this legislation, communities have seized and embraced these rights with amazing speed, resulting with the formation of a national communal conservancy movement of unprecedented scale.

The communal conservancy program is an incentive-based wildlife conservation effort that seeks to provide rural communities with the rights, responsibilities, knowledge, and skills to promote wildlife and tourism as competitive and legitimate land-uses. The first four communal conservancies were registered in 1998, thereby initiating what is an unparalleled conservation/rural development movement across Namibia's communal lands. By mid-2007, a total of 50 communal conservancies had formed, covering approximately 11.8 million hectares and engaging close to 230,000 community members. This represents 14.42% of the country's landmass and 12.21% of its population.

A catalyst to the conservancy movement has been the ability of participating communities to engage in and benefit from a range of wildlife utilization options. A number of recreational hunting options (i.e., trophy, own-use, and premium hunting), complemented by other utilization options (i.e., game cropping, live game sales, meat for traditional authorities), are being rapidly deployed by conservancies to generate substantial, tangible community benefits (i.e. cash income, employment, and meat). In a relatively short period of time, local currency values of conservancy sustainable use benefits have risen by more than tenfold, increasing from N\$860,960 (US\$164,988) in 1998 to N\$8,945,754 (US\$1,329,235) for 2006.

The rapid acquisition of wildlife benefits has created strong and increasing awareness in conservancy members of the value of wildlife, precipitating widespread changes in community attitudes towards wildlife. Previously largely valued as

illegally obtained meat for the pot and viewed as competition with livelihoods, wildlife is now regarded as highly-valued commercial assets. As a result, poaching in communal conservancies is less socially acceptable and has declined markedly. In contrast, conservancies have developed wildlife-friendly land-use plans, introduced wildlife management and monitoring systems, and integrated wildlife as part of their long-term livelihood strategies. The response has been impressive, with wildlife numbers expanding and rebounding across the country, old wildlife migration routes being revitalized, and upward spiraling benefits accruing to increasing numbers of participating conservancies.

Recovering game populations, combined with the devolution of wildlife use rights to conservancies, has inspired a rapid growth in community operated hunting ventures. By 2007, a total of 22 community-run trophy hunting concessions were operating across 28 conservancies. In addition, communities were harvesting surplus game species (own-use) in 32 conservancies, and offering a new form of recreational hunting (Premium Hunting) in four conservancies.

Community hunting experiences have proven complementary hunting experiences to those which have been traditionally offered on Namibia freehold farms, where hunting takes place on freehold farmlands, but is predominantly for plains game species. In contrast, communal conservancies encompass vast tracts of unfenced wild and scenic lands, where, amongst others, recovering big game populations of elephant, buffalo, lion, and black rhino are found. The hunting experience is memorable and the trophy quality superb, with 28 different game species being available in communal conservancies. Market demand for these hunts is high and increasing as the hunting community's awareness of these opportunities heightens. The growing availability of community concessions is contributing to Namibia's reputation as a destination of choice for international hunting clientele.

The development of communal hunting concessions and other assorted sustainable use options is being facilitated by a number of best practice mechanisms that empower local communities, promote good governance of hunting operations, ensure sustainable harvests, and optimize economic returns. Some of the fundamental tools include the introduction of conservancy wildlife management and monitoring systems, development and application of quota setting procedures, marketing of hunting concessions through transparent and competitive tender processes, institution of "win-win" hunting concession contracts, application of human/animal conflict mitigation mechanisms, and routine data collection and analysis of databases to promote adaptive management.

The conservancy movement has rapidly spread due to its ability to generate meaningful benefits to community residents. Aside from wildlife utilization benefits, conservancies are also receiving substantial benefits from photographic tourism, sale of natural plant products, and a range of small enterprises. However, the program is not without its detractors, as with any change there will be potential "winners" and "losers" as changes evolve. Obvious "winners" include conservancy members, pro-

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Renewing a Culture of Wildlife Utilization ... by Chris Weaver et al

ponents of the hunting industry (safari operators and clients), the photographic tourism industry (lodge and tour operators), and government, who accrues increased tax revenues and reduced costs to implement conservation activities. On-the-other hand, some potential "losers" may be large holders of livestock who lose access to grazing, traditional authorities who feel threatened by the increasing power of conservancies, and those safari operators who find it difficult to adapt to working with communities or are not accepted by communities due to past distrusting.

Finally, though progress in the conservancy movement has been impressive, there are still a number of challenges and hurdles conservancies must overcome to ensure long-term sustainability of their current status of empowerment. Conservancies must be given not only rights over game, but authority to enforce their management plans. Conservancies must develop their own capacity to implement and coordinate their use zones, so conflicts are minimized and returns optimized. Burgeoning numbers of wildlife are leading to increasing incidents of human/animal conflict, and improved mechanisms need to be put in place to reduce the costs of conflict and damage to the affected individuals. Drought is a reality in Namibia's desert environment, and conservancies must have strategies to minimize the impacts of drought on their wildlife populations. Better means of allocating collective group incomes to conservancy committees to individual members must be achieved. And possibly most important, conservancies need to do a better job of returning tangible benefits to individual conservancy members.

Flare-Horned Markhor Import Permit Granted By USF&WS

By John J Jackson III, [Conservation Force](#)

Editor's Note: John Jackson has done it again – his submissions on behalf of the hunter finally made the USF&WS reverse an earlier decision and grant the import of a markhor trophy from Pakistan. The readers may want to know why *African Indaba* prints this *Asian/US* news – well, to show that John Jackson can do it and most likely will do it again soon in Africa. His efforts already are well under way for the Black Faced Impala and Cheetah in Namibia as well as for elephant in Cameroon, Zambia and Mozambique. Notable past successes of [Conservation Force](#) to obtain import permits for the US: elephant from South Africa, Namibia, Tanzania, Cameroon (1995 and 1997), leopard from Mozambique, etc.

The USF&WS has just recognized and rewarded the world-class markhor program in Pakistan by issuing the first markhor trophy import permit in 15 years. The permit was is-

sued on October 11 and received by Conservation Force, which handled it, on October 20, 2007. The proud hunter is Wayne Lau, who took the male flare-horned markhor (*Capra falconeri falconeri*) from the Gaharet Markhor Conservancy in Pakistan in March, 2006.

It is a male flare-horned markhor, not the straight-horned subspecies that the USF&WS lists as "endangered". It is the first markhor of any kind to be imported into the United States since all markhor were listed on Appendix I of CITES at COP8 in Kyoto, Japan in 1992, 15 years ago. It is also the first new U.S. import of any game trophy listed on Appendix I of CITES since 1996 when the USF&WS began permitting import of Botswana elephant hunting trophies – 11 years ago.

The hunter, Wayne Lau, explains that the permit is the culmination of more than two years of planning and hard work with Conservation Force. "I purposefully selected the markhor and made the hunt first for the conservation of the species and secondarily for the satisfaction of the hunt. Somebody had to do it. This is another instance where hunting is an indispensable tool for the conservation of a species. This initiative with Conservation Force has added the missing element so badly needed for the program to work and grow: U.S. hunters are the most important market, but have been unwilling to hunt unless they could bring their trophies home. We've now laid the groundwork for others to follow; for licensed, regulated hunting to fulfill its role as a true force for conservation in a case in which the need is exceptionally great."

Phil Ripepi, President of the [Conklin Foundation](#), a leading sportsmen's conservation organization, expressed great elation. "The markhor is the logo of the Conklin Foundation, so we could not be more pleased. The markhor conservation program in Pakistan is cited by the Convention on Biodiversity as the example of 'best practices' in its *Addis Ababa Guidelines and Principles for Sustainable Use*. It is one of the greatest game animals in the world. With import permits, hunting can finally perform its proven role."

Dennis Campbell, President of [Grand Slam/OVIS](#), another prominent sportsmen's conservation organization is equally elated. "Grand Slam/OVIS and the Conklin Foundation have both supported Conservation Force's efforts since CITES COP12 when the CITES Parties increased the markhor hunting quota from 6 to 12 to expand the successful Torgar Project in Pakistan to other tribal areas in full recognition of the conservation success. The real beneficiaries of the USF&WS are the markhor themselves as well as the local Gaharet people who will ultimately determine the fate of the markhor. Who wants a cow that you can't milk?"

"We are so proud of the role that Conservation Force has played in completing this part of the conservation circle for markhor," said John J. Jackson III, the attorney for Conservation Force that filed and processed the permit application through appeal and approval. "It's been a long, hard road. One of our founding board members, Dr. Bart O'Gara, helped conceptualize the markhor conservation strategy in the 80s when he was with the U.S. Extension Service. I've been working on it since 1992

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Flare-Horned Markhor Import Permit Granted by USF&WS

when it was listed on Appendix I. No one envisioned it would stop trophy importation. Later, CITES adopted a quota to facilitate trophy trade." Jackson went on to state, "Credit is due to the USF&WS for their wisdom in granting the permit in the reconsideration/appeal process. In effect, they are rewarding all those instrumental in conserving the markhor for their strategy and work, and for setting a positive example for others. Credit is especially due Shikar Safari Club for its years of direct support of the program in Pakistan, including funding the formal education of some of the top wildlife leaders in Pakistan. No one has invested more over the years. WWF and the IUCN have also played pivotal advisory roles that may now come to fruition."

The hunt itself has recently been described by Wayne Lau in *Chasing the Hunter's Dream* by Jeffrey and Sherol Engol and James Swan (Harper Collins, 2007) which is available at Amazon.com and through all other major booksellers.

For more information, contact John J. Jackson III at jjw-no@att.net or by phone at 504-837-1233.

Ten Years of "Conservation Force" Success Story

By Gerhard R Damm

Dieter Schramm, president of the [International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation \(CIC\)](#) sent a congratulating message to John J Jackson III to recognize the 10th anniversary of [Conservation Force](#). Schramm highlighted Jackson's courage and determination in championing hunting and conservation causes around the world as being truly beyond and above the call of any duty and expressed the high estimation and regard the entire CIC executive and membership hold for John Jackson and also for his wife Chrissie, who as an indefatigable team, established a world-renowned trademark for hunting advocacy.

Storms and disasters – like Katrina a couple of years ago, when the Jackson's home and office in New Orleans were practically destroyed – did make an impact, but the Jackson's continued their work for the global hunting community as if nothing had happened.

In its 10th year Conservation Force celebrates two notable successes – the granting of a markhor import permit from Pakistan (see previous article) as well as the release of several leopard hunting trophies from Namibia held by US authorities.

Interested readers can download the full story in the November Conservation Bulletin at: www.huntingreport.com/conservation_force_pdf/Conservation_Bulletin_November_2007.pdf

John and Chrissie are found on all fronts, be it at the CITES or IUCN conferences, at meetings of conservation and/or hunting associations, in the courts defending the rights of hunter-conservationists or in the government offices. African Indaba joins in the circle of congratulants and we wish John and Chrissie continued strength and determination!

"That's Africa" by Anno Hecker

"A somewhat different hunting book" reviewed by Gerhard Damm

Anno Hecker arrived in Africa in 1955 to manage the planting of a 2600ha tree plantation in the Southern Highlands of Tanganyika, on behalf of an Austrian. Alas, the property was not acquired by his boss and Anno's job fell through. He had, however, drunk from African waters and returning to Germany was unthinkable. So he applied for a job with the tsetse department as control officer. He worked there and as an honorary game warden until he became the first German project leader and instructor at the Game Warden Training Centre, College of African Wildlife Management in Mweka.

After his return to Germany in 1970 he served as a forester and game warden in the state forest in Eifel, Rhineland. Now retired, Anno lives in Germany with his wife. He has a son and two daughters. His daughter Kathrina is a well-known taxidermist (Nico van Rooyen Taxidermy) in South Africa.

For a long time Anno Hecker resisted requests from both family and friends to publish some of his African experiences. Luckily for all of us, he relented and now we can read his fascinating story of what the African wilderness, its people and game were like in the golden days of safari hunting in ["That's Africa"](#). Anno's stories are not the run-of-the mill stalking and shooting pieces, and he includes many of interesting or frustrating incidents experienced whilst on safari. That's what makes the book so eminently readable. The text is complemented with a real treasure cove of black and white photos – one depicting Anno with his last buffalo which sports an unbelievable boss, some show Anno's famous safari clients, some great elephant bulls, but also many from the lives of villagers in the bush and on safari. The historical value of these photos is immense.

One of Anno Hecker's most treasured mementos are the words of an old, illiterate tracker from the Luwegu River in the Selous, uttered in the 1980s, when a friend wounded an elephant. The hunter asked the Maasai PH whether he would allow Anno to finish off the wounded bull which had gone into the thick stuff. The Maasai readily handed over his .458 for the coup-de-grâce. As Anno was about to enter the thicket, Mfupa, the withered old tracker, offered to guide him, yet Anno wanted to go alone after this last elephant of his life. Whereupon Mfupa, with a respectful look in his eyes, remarked in Kiswahili, "Ah! This one is still one of the old hunters from very long ago."

"A day with Mr Hecker is equal to a whole year in Africa," said Christopher Borthen, editor of British Stalking magazine and some years ago at the Dortmund "Jagd und Hund" Muhichia Ndolanga of TAWICO exclaimed, upon seeing Anno approach his stand, "this man knows more about big game and African hunting than anybody else at the whole exhibition."

A book, no true hunter should miss. You can obtain your copy (182 pages with many photographs) from [Rowland Ward Publications](#) at a price of US\$ 40 or Rand 285. For ordering details go to: <http://www.rowlandward.com/product.aspx?id=471>

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Human-Carnivore Conflict in Niassa National Reserve

Sociedade para a Gestão e Desenvolvimento da Reserva do Niassa, Moçambique

By Colleen Begg, Keith Begg, & Oscar Muemedei

In the September issue African Indaba published an abbreviated version of this report. Due to an oversight by the editor, permission for publication has not been obtained prior to publication. For this error African Indaba wants to express sincere apologies to the authors. On the authors' request we would like all readers to note the following acknowledgements in conjunction with the report:

"This report was prepared for [SGDRN \(Sociedade para a Gestão e Desenvolvimento da Reserva do Niassa\)](#) the management authority of Niassa National Reserve as part of the Niassa Carnivore Project. The authors are indebted to SGDRN for ongoing logistical support and we thank the following sponsors: Fauna & Flora International (Patrick Ward & Matt Rice); Fair Play Foundation, Safari Club International - Flint Chapter (Marc Somers); Zambezi-Kavira Conservation Foundation (Westley Logan, Derek Littleton & Don Price); Kambako Safaris (Jumbo Moore); Concerto Nominees Ltd (Gary Tullis, Howard Hunter); Londo Lodge (P.J and Evelijn), Luwire (Jamie Wilson & Derek Littleton); Gonzalo Banus, Bob Gerber, Eveline Stalling, Phillip Lowell and Stuart Godin."

USF&WS: Alert over the Import of Hunting Trophies

Two of the new internal CITES regulations of the USF&WS are causing immediate shipping problems for hunting trophies. The first is that "trophies" no longer include utilitarian items manufactured from the game animal, such as jewelry, clothing, elephant hair bracelets and leopard floating bone pendants. It appears that import is prohibited for Appendix 1, but also the export permit for Appendix II and III items from the hunted animal may be treated as "contraband" if the CITES export permit has it coded as an "H" for hunting trophy instead of "P" for personal item. Second, the export permit will be treated as invalid and the imports as contraband if they are not properly signed and stamped by a designated CITES export official in the appropriate blank. The forms used by some countries don't even have that blank space.

More in the next issue of African Indaba. In the meantime please contact John J Jackson III, email jjw-no@att.net should you require assistance.

Zambia: A Country Report

[The Hunting Report](#) just published a 62-page, 8 x 5-inch, soft-cover book - *Zambia: A Country Report which sells at \$ 40.00*. According to the publishers it covers in great detail how hunting actually works in this country to intelligently book a safari there. The booklet contains a list of the government trophy fees, explains area transfer and safari license fees, as well as the different safari types and the animals which can be taken with each safari type. The author discusses every single hunting concession with accurate information on what animals actually occur in the various areas and what the upside and downside of each area is. The names and contact details of the companies that actually control the blocks are also provided.

Zambia: A Country Report also has information about all of the major game ranching operations in this southern African country. Although much of this information may change rapidly, the publishers promise that the booklet, as a print-on-demand book, will be kept up-to-date for a modest additional fee of \$10. For more details, please go to [The Hunting Report website](#), www.huntingreport.com.

2nd African Wildlife Heritage Dinner 2008

The [Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa](#) will hold the 2nd African Wildlife Heritage Dinner at the Intercontinental Sandton Sun and Towers in Johannesburg on April 4th 2008 as part of PHASA's long term strategy to raise funds for the training and specialized education of people from all South African population groups for careers in wildlife management and conservation and to demonstrate to the public, media and Government the contribution that hunting can make in securing South Africa's wildlife heritage.

The PHASA Executive Committee made this decision after the success of the first gala dinner in May 2007, which raised about Rand 704,000 for training bursaries for black students in wildlife management at the [South African Wildlife College \(SAWC\)](#), owned by [WWF-SA](#) and underwritten by the [Peace Parks Foundation](#). This year's event was endorsed by Dr Ian Player, the doyen of conservation in South Africa. He held the audience captive with his moving account of his experiences in conservation and the value to the human spirit that wilderness areas provide. He also spoke about the role hunting has played in saving the white rhino.

Once again, funds will be raised at the 2008 gala dinner by auctioning artwork, holiday destinations, jewelry, and hunting packages. For more information contact PHASA at Phone: +27-12-667-2048 or email info@phasa.co.za

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News from Africa

Uganda

The [Uganda Wildlife Authority](#) has given a safari operator the approval to hunt 5 leopard for 2007 and 10 leopard for 2008. The first legal leopard hunt to take place in Uganda since 1979 will most likely take place in October.

USA

Booking Agent Bob Kern, founder of the US-based Hunting Consortium, has been indicted under the Lacey Act in Federal District Court in Houston for allegedly helping a group of US hunters import trophies into the US taken illegally in Russia. The US hunters in that party included Mike Simpson, a former president of SCI; Dan Duncan, a wealthy Texan; and Tom Riley, the former Executive Director of SCI and former US Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Agent. Central to the case against Kern is an allegation that the hunters shot animals from a helicopter. Kern's spokesman said that Kern is innocent of the charges and plans to fight them. This case first broke into the open several weeks ago when Duncan's attorney admitted to a reporter from the Houston Chronicle that his client indeed shot animals from a helicopter on that trip. Source: The Hunting Report

Zimbabwe

British Airways has cancelled its service from London to Harare. BA was the last European airline to fly to Zimbabwe. The only practical way to reach the country by air is through South Africa.

Zimbabwe

The US State Department seems to believe that much hunting revenue is flowing into the pockets of individuals close to Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe thus undermining the current Targeted Sanctions Program. Information received from sources in the US says that those possible measures would include sanctions that would make it illegal for Americans to spend money on hunting in Zimbabwe. Any such measures could threaten the conservation infrastructure of the country and create permanent damage to one of the most advanced conservation programs in the world which has been created with USAID program funding. It would most likely also withdraw the economic basis from conservation areas like those in the famous Save conservancy, which have been extremely successful in preserving the country's wild heritage against overwhelming odds.

Zimbabwe

A Russian Hunter with PH Thys DeVries has taken a huge elephant bull in the Tsholotsho South area. The tusks weigh 101 pounds and 95 pounds respectively and measure 78 respectively 82 inches with 21-inch bases (Source [The Hunting Report](#))

Zimbabwe

Operators in the lucrative wildlife conservancy industry have been urged to embrace Government's land reform and resettlement program if they are to continue to safely operate in the sector reported the Herald in September. Vice-President Msika pointed out that it was imperative for conservancy operators to respect the land reform program.

Zimbabwe: HHK Safaris

By Gerhard R Damm

In the "News from Africa" Column of the September/October issue of African Indaba, we featured the following news item, which we took from an internet source in Zimbabwe. Unfortunately we omitted to verify the source; neither did we check with [HHK Safaris](#).

"Almost a ton of elephant tusks and rhino horns were impounded by police in Chiredzi end of June as the van taking the loot to Buffalo Range aerodrome overturned, spilling its contents after hitting a stray donkey as it entered the farming town. The two men, who were in the car, are in Chiredzi Hospital under police guard. The pair, both employees of HHK Safaris, implicated a South African national of British descent, a Gerrard Harvey, who was believed to be waiting for the cargo in South Africa. A Cessna 172 aircraft meant to fly the loot was also impounded at Buffalo Range aerodrome at the weekend. The pilot of the plane was under police custody."

Graham Hingeston, Managing Director of HHK Safaris contacted me immediately after publication and made the following statement:

- "1) No truck carrying ivory or rhino horn overturned anywhere in Zimbabwe let alone in Chiredzi and let alone being driven by employees of HHK Safaris. The incident simply did not occur.*
- 2) No aircraft has been impounded at Buffalo Range Airport and a simple check of the airport logs will verify that no plane fitting the description even landed there over that period. Buffalo Range is a fully manned airport with customs and immigration officials as well as security. So even if there were a truck full of ivory and rhino horn how do they expect to load a ton of it through all of that onto a C172 which is capable at most of taking possibly 200kg of anything. The story is so clearly a fabrication that I am surprised it was not questioned by you.*
- 3) The original article was not published by a recognized publication here in Zimbabwe but on an internet site, our lawyers despite numerous attempts to locate the author (who was writing under an assumed name) have proven fruitless. This is the problem with the internet someone with whatever agenda can write something about you or your company and you have no recourse because they are essentially invisible.*
- 4) HHK Safaris has no operations in the Lowveld or anywhere in that area; we simply do not operate there.*

I would appreciate it if you would please print a retraction; this story has been a complete fabrication. I have no idea what the agenda is of the writer, in doing this but clearly they would have achieved their goals by getting publications like yours to pick up the story and run with it."

African Indaba wants to express sincere apologies to HHK Safaris and Graham Hingeston for having fallen into that trap and we will make all efforts necessary to verify future news items from Zimbabwe.

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The [Lacey Act](#): Implications for US Hunters

By John J Jackson III, [Conservation Force](#)

The most serious way for hunters who travel to get into trouble with the law is to violate the [Lacey Act](#). If you import a trophy or attempt to import a trophy that has been taken in violation of the law of another state, foreign country or tribal area, you have violated the Lacey Act. It may be treated as a civil offense, a misdemeanor or a felony, depending on what are your perceived intent and the cost of the hunt. A mere attempt is enough to commit the offense. Aiding and abetting another hunter is also enough to be an offense. How can you avoid prosecution?

First, avoid any and all wildlife law violations of the state or country where you are hunting. A simple misdemeanor out-of-state or out-of-the-country can be converted into a federal felony when the trophy crosses state or country lines. It is double jeopardy to be prosecuted and/or fined for violation of state/foreign law where an underlying offense occurred and for violation of the federal Lacey Act. Second, it's best not to bring a trophy home when in doubt. No trophy is worth it. The Lacey Act is a really tough law that can ruin you, your family and your life, so you have to protect yourself. Be on your toes, but when in doubt, *don't bring it back!*

The Lacey Act does not "kick in" until the trophy (any part of an illegally-taken animal including the meat) is imported, or you attempt to import it or assist someone else in the importation of an illegally taken animal. Protect yourself from escalating the out-of-state or out-of-country misdemeanor into a federal felony by never importing a trophy when in doubt and without total assurance that it was taken legally. The importation or the interstate transportation is the essence of the offense.

Selous Game Reserve: Report of the Reactive Monitoring Mission (World Heritage Committee)

Editor's Note: In connection with the future of hunting in Tanzania and the present turmoil around the government imposed hunting lease and license fee increase (see also [Gerhard Damm's article](#) in African Indaba Vol 5/5 as well as Fred Nelson's article in this issue), this report about [the 110 year old Selous Game Reserve](#), now a World Heritage Site, is of interest, especially since the report specifically mentions hunting and the lack of information about the financial and conservation implications (see also Recommendation 9 in this abstract).

Executive Summary

The [2007 Selous Game Reserve reactive monitoring mission](#) was carried out in response to the 2006 World Heritage Committee decision (Annex A) and the 2006 WH State of Conservation report (Annex B) which highlighted the following issues in relation to the status of the Selous WH site: (a) approval and implementation of the Selous Management Plan; (b) changes to the revenue retention scheme; (c) the status of wildlife populations; (d) mineral and hydrocarbon exploration and extraction; (e) implementation of the Tanzanian Wildlife Policy; and (f) development of dams.

During the mission, issues related to the development of tourism were seen to be influencing the state of conservation of the Selous and are therefore included in the mission report. The observations and recommendations of the Mission Team in relation to each of these issues are set out in Section 3 of this report. The Mission Team notes that the Selous Game Reserve is at a critical stage of its development. The significant financial resources that were available during the period 1994 to 2004 as a result of the Revenue Retention Scheme have disappeared at a time when there are major new challenges facing the Selous Management Team. The recently approved General Management Plan (GMP) is a useful tool but without the financial and human resources to implement the GMP there is a risk that the management capacity of the Selous will be reduced, leading, among other things, to renewed poaching. The rapid development of the photographic tourism sector in the northern Selous is placing increased demands on the infrastructure and staff of the Selous at a time when its budgets are being reduced. Finally the Selous Game Reserve is a unique World Heritage site because a vast majority of its area, wildlife and financial resources are linked to the hunting of its wildlife but there is very limited information available about these activities. The Mission Team is concerned that this lack of information about the hunting activities in the Selous does not allow for a full analysis of the state of conservation issues and an understanding of the challenges faced by this site.

Based on the observations included in Section 3 below, the specific recommendations of the Mission Team are as follows:

Recommendations

- (R1) The Mission Team recommends that copies of routine monitoring and evaluation reports on the implementation of the Selous GMP should be made available to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
- (R2) The Mission Team recommends that independent evaluations of the progress towards implementation of the Selous GMP be carried out on a regular basis starting in 2008.
- (R3) The Mission Team recommends that Government of Tanzania, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and the international donor community establish mechanisms, including renewing the Revenue Retention Scheme, to ensure that the Selous Game Reserve management team has the resources required to maintain the integrity of this important World Heritage site.
- (R4) The Mission Team recommends that a full analysis of the

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Selous Game Reserve: Report of the Reactive Monitor Mission

2006 Aerial Census of the Selous ecosystem be carried out by an independent team of experts and that the results of the analysis be forwarded to the WH Committee via the World Heritage Centre and IUCN.

(R5) The Mission Team recommends that the World Heritage Centre and IUCN forward information to the Selous management team on their agreements with international companies concerning mineral exploration and extraction in WH sites.

(R6) The Mission Team recommends that the WH Committee request clarification from the Government of Tanzania concerning the potential for dams that would have a negative impact on the integrity of the WH site.

(R7) The Mission Team recommends that a strategic tourism plan be developed for the Selous that includes an analysis of the carrying capacity of the existing (and proposed) blocks designated for photographic tourism.

(R8) The Mission Team recommends that the infrastructure required to support the growing tourism sector in the northern Selous Game Reserve be developed in advance of any further allocation of camp/lodge sites.

(R9) The Mission Team recommends that a further reactive monitoring mission focused on the management and operation of the hunting activities in the Selous be implemented as soon as possible. This sector has responsibility for most of the area and wildlife of the Selous, as well as providing the vast majority of the revenues of the reserve, but the current mission has had only limited opportunity to interact with this important sector.

You can download the entire report at

http://wildlife-baldus.com/download/Selous_UNESCO_monitoring_mission_2007.pdf

National Geographic

"The irony is that many species might not survive at all were it not for hunters trying to kill them..... hunters have become essential partners in wildlife management".

This and much more about the positive role of hunters for conservation is explained in a very well-illustrated and documented 27-page article, entitled "*Hunters, for Love of the Land*", by Robert M. POOLE in the November issue of *National Geographic* magazine. Strongly recommended reading, also and in particular for non-hunters.

The article can be found online at:

<http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/2007/11/hunters/poole-text.html>

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Mountain Nyala Populations: Defining the Facts ...

that the minimum number of observed mountain nyala, based on four separate surveys, was 682 and the maximum was 732. In a second example, Sillero-Zubiri reports that mountain nyala no longer occur in Kuni-Muktar Wildlife Sanctuary, despite several recent reports that confirm their existence. In 2001 and 2002, a research team that included EWCD biologists conducted four surveys of Kuni-Muktar confirming the persistence of mountain nyala (Malcolm and Evangelista 2004). I investigated Kuni-Muktar in 2005 and not only found mountain nyala inhabiting the forests but also toured an ambitious reforestation program to create more habitats (Evangelista 2006a, 2006b; Evangelista *et al.* 2007). The Ministry of Agriculture and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) had planted tree seedlings on over 1,000 ha at the time of my visit, and the project was scheduled to continue through 2007. In another example, Sillero-Zubiri reports 500 mountain nyala in the hunting blocks east of Bale citing Malcolm, yet Malcolm has never investigated these areas. I first surveyed two of the three CHAs in 2000 and 2001 (prior to becoming CHAs) and have continuously worked in these areas since. Collectively, the three CHAs are likely to hold about 1,500 animals (supported by EWCD surveys) and cover only half of the mountain nyala's range on the Bale Mountain's eastern slopes (Evangelista 2006b, Evangelista *et al.* 2007). Finally, Sillero-Zubiri reports that mountain nyala in Arsi have been hunted out and CHAs have moved to Bale. Most wildlife managers in Ethiopia would agree that the Arsi Mountains, largely comprised of the Galama Mountains, have the most threatened populations of mountain nyala. However, the dramatic decline of mountain nyala populations was not the result of the species being hunted out by sport hunters; it was a result of uncontrolled burning of heathlands, competition from livestock grazing, cultivation, fuel-wood collection and rampant poaching by local communities (Malcolm and Evangelista 2004, Evangelista *et al.* 2007). Controlled hunting was closed in Ethiopia from 1991 to 1995; between 1996 and 1998, only seven mountain nyala were harvested by sport hunters in the Galama Mountains. In response to decreasing wildlife populations, the owner of the hunting concession voluntarily ceased all hunting activities from 1998 to 2001, but continued to pay concession fees and staff his camp with scouts in an effort to curb destructive land-use activities. The Galama CHA (as well as Mount Kaka) was abandoned by 2001, yet wildlife populations and available habitat continue to decline sharply.

Overall, Sillero-Zubiri's assessment of the mountain nyala contains a number of inaccuracies and ignores significant information sources. Despite the number of recent reports outlining mountain nyala distribution, his assessment does not account for nearly half of the species' known range. The report suggests that sport hunting is a major cause for mountain nyala decline, yet my assessments, as well as those by EWCD, suggest that current hunting policies have effectively reduced habitat loss and poaching in most areas while providing vital revenues to local communities and wildlife management agencies. It should also be noted that of the top 20 mountain nyala entries in the Safari Club International record book, 11 have been taken

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Proposed Changes to Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game

By Peter Flack

Request for Reader Feedback

At the 54th General Assembly of the [International Council for Game and Wildlife \(CIC\)](#), in Belgrade during April this year, two morning sessions were devoted to the topic of Trophies, Trophy Hunting and Trophy Recording. Representatives from many of the 82 member countries comprising CIC contributed to the well attended presentations and debates, including Rowland Ward. A committee was elected to take the debate further and to produce recommendations for consideration by CIC. Rowland Ward is also represented on this committee.

In addition to important topics, such as a record book's role as a research tool for both conservationists and hunters and as an indicator of good or bad conservation practices, one of the other issues which received attention was the importance of ensuring that trophy recording encouraged the hunting of old, male animals, which were out of the breeding cycle, having long since passed on their genes. Specific attention was directed at the measurement system adopted for buffalo as some measurement systems have encouraged the shooting of young, immature animals. Other species such as oryx and eland, amongst others, were also mentioned.

At the time, Rowland Ward was already in the process of formally re-examining its Records of Big Game which, in the field of trophy record keeping, has an unequaled, 117 year old history. Although this process is and has been an ongoing one throughout its history, particular interest has been paid over the last four months to the issues raised at the CIC meetings.

The following views are offered by the Board of Directors of Rowland Ward for consideration by hunters, conservationists and other interested parties, for inclusion in the next edition of [Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game](#) due out in 2010, namely, that:

1. No female animals are recorded in future in the Records of Big Game;
2. The minimums for all recorded animals will include the longest horn or greatest outside spread as well as a composite measurement which will be derived from a combination of the outside spread or longest horn, as the case may be, and the width of the biggest boss or the circumference of the longest horn, as the case may be, multiplied by two;
3. The animals are still ranked by the longest horn or greatest outside spread but the relevant composite measurement will be set out next to it; and
4. Persons submitting entries for consideration will be required to sign a statement as to how the horns were obtained and, in the case of hunted game, that the hunt was conducted in accordance with the Code of

Conduct of Rowland Ward's Guild of Field Sportsmen – members of the Guild being exempt as they will already have signed such a statement as a pre-condition of membership. The wording of the Code is also being re-examined.

The purpose behind Clause 1 is self evident. The purpose behind Clause 2 is to encourage the shooting of old, hard bossed buffalo bulls and other bovine species where, as they become older, the horns are usually worn down and become shorter, the sweep or curl of the horns drop, the tip to tip measurement becomes wider and the bosses become hard and wider. In this regard, consideration has also been given to include the tip to tip measurement in the composite measurement but, at this stage, for the sake of simplicity, it has not been included. Most of the above applies to the antelope species except, of course, they do not have bosses and the tip to tip measurement is not indicative of age. Consideration has also been given to increasing the value of the boss or circumference of the longest horn, as the case may be, by multiplying this measurement by three instead of two but it was felt that this was excessive.

Clause 3 has been included so that people examining Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game will, by comparing the horn length with the composite measurement, be able to determine whether the animal was younger or older. It is hoped that this will continue a century's old tradition, established by the already high minimum lengths, of encouraging hunters to select older animals.

Clause 4 has followed from the thinking that led to the establishment of [Rowland Ward's Guild of Field Sportsmen](#). While there have been extremely few cases where Rowland Ward has had occasion to doubt the ethics or legality of how a particular entry was obtained, there is a feeling that hunters must increasingly be like Caesar's wife – beyond reproach. Those who are should have no difficulty in signing the simple statement which can be down loaded from Rowland Ward's website or obtained from its offices in due course.

The reason behind the retention of the longest horn and outside spread measurement systems is to ensure, firstly, that Rowland Ward remains true to its past and traditions. Secondly, Rowland Ward believes that its existing systems, with their high minimums, already go a long way towards ensuring the goals set out above. The composite measurement system is also difficult to estimate for anyone judging trophies and is, and Rowland Ward believes should be, a secondary but worthwhile and important consideration when deciding on which animal to shoot.

In embarking on the most extensive re-evaluation in its history, [Rowland Ward](#) is using the services of a number of experts and is also consulting with organizations such as [CIC](#), the [Dallas Safari Club](#) and the [Foundation for North American Wild Sheep](#) who have expressed an interest in working with Rowland Ward on this key initiative. Any other hunting and conservation bodies which have a similar interest are more than welcome to contribute and Rowland Ward looks forward to hearing from you.

Lastly, Winston Churchill is reported to have said, when

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Proposed Changes to Rowland Ward's RoBG

accused of changing his mind, that "I reserve the right to change my mind in perfect harmony with changing circumstances."

While Rowland Ward will not depart from its motto "Authentic hunting and shooting traditions", it nevertheless shares these sentiments and, in the interests of remaining the main source of recorded information on the world's game animals, while serving the interests of hunter and conservationists alike, it was felt necessary to consider making the changes set out above.

Rowland Ward appreciates the opinion of experienced Professional Hunters/Outfitters and Sporthunters from around the World. Your views are indispensable in the decision making process. Take a view minutes and send your comments by email

Please mail your feedback/comments on these issues to:

Jane Halse

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or

Gerhard Damm

gerhard@muskwa.co.za

This initiative is supported by these organizations



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Mountain Nyala Populations: Defining the Facts ...

since 2000 (out of more than 100 entries; SCI 2007). Furthermore, there is no consideration for the work of EWCD, Oromia Rural Lands and Natural Resource Development or BMNP staff, which have conducted the only systematic population surveys outside BMNP since Leslie Brown. It would seem that any assessment of a wildlife species, especially one for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, should include reports or communications from wildlife managers within the host country. I recognize that wildlife assessments for IUCN must often be conducted with few resources and little time; however, the assessor still bears the responsibility of conducting a thorough investigation and resisting premature conclusions. The vast majority of wildlife managers, researchers and conservationists support IUCN's mission; however, obvious errors in wildlife assessments will ultimately tarnish the organization's credibility and disrupt cooperative efforts among stakeholders.

In the case of the mountain nyala assessment, a significant proportion of available information has not been included and the work of wildlife managers overlooked. I suspect that most of the wildlife managers in Ethiopia would not only appreciate the opportunity to contribute information to efforts aimed at fostering wildlife conservation but could also provide more concise and accurate information than what has been provided by Sillero-Zubiri's sources.

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