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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

Trophy Scoring and the African Buffalo

Editorial by Gerhard R Damm

Regular readers of African Indaba may remember the articles of Kevin Robertson and Winston Taylor in last year's number 3 issue of African Indaba. Craig Boddington also discussed measuring systems favoring the shooting of pre-prime bulls and disturbing herd structure with a selection of highly experienced African professional hunters in his now well-distributed DVD "Boddington on Buffalo 2". Tanzanian PH Rainer Josch took up the topic in his recent DVD "Mountain Buffalo" (see review in this issue). Rowland Ward's initiative regarding a revision of the scoring system for African Buffalo got the attention of buffalo hunters everywhere and many positive comments and suggestions have been received.

The question certainly is not "who has the better scoring system" but rather "how can we modify the present scoring methods so that the buffalo herds in Africa maintain a healthy population structure, allowing us and future generations of hunters to sustainably harvest mature trophy buffalo bulls". As a second objective we need to create scientifically meaningful statistical evidence concerning this harvest.

Photo 1: Mature bull with solid boss (Spread 36"; Boss 14" - observe the relatively narrow boss gap

In order to achieve the objective Rowland Ward works closely together with the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and a number of highly qualified scientists in the field. The general consensus so far points towards harvesting bulls which have passed their prime and are not "needed" as breeding bulls in the herds anymore, respectively have been ejected from the herd. These bulls – usually over ten years of age – have not only passed on their genes, but are also harder to hunt. Moreover the trophy of such a bull sports usually a fully hardened boss with only a small gap between the horn bases. The CIC, Rowland Ward and many other international hunting associations consider that giving more weight to a well developed boss will encourage hunters to hunt older bulls. I don't want to omit, however, that average boss width varies considerably in regional phenotypes and hunters should also assess the gap between the left and right boss.

I was rather astonished to read in SCI's Safari Times about a "*comparison of the SCI method with one of its competitors*" [sic] and furthermore that an evaluation of the trophies in the SCI record book has shown that the trophy quality resp. boss measurements did not show any significant variation over the past decades. It is more than peculiar that one tries to prove the correctness of a scoring system by simply creating average statistical values from within this very system. That you shouldn't do this is one of the first lessons students hear when they read Statistics.

Kevin Robertson commented recently again the current

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high ranking bulls in the SCI book – (in particular nos 1, 3, 10 and 17). None of these bulls had a hard boss – so he pointedly asked "I am not too sure how you measure something which is not there". Robertson and a good number of other buffalo experts suggest that none of these bulls is older than 7 years, and they have been killed long before having had a chance to breed.

Photo 2: After boiling and cleaning the skull of a young bull; cartilage dissolved and the boss gap is several inches wide (Spread 36" Boss 13+"

Photo 3: Self-explaining – on the left the bull of photo 1, on the right the youngster of photo 2

Photo 4: Mature bulls with hard boss and narrow gap and others who would have needed a few more years to be real trophies

Once on the wall, these younger bulls make of course magnificent displays – since the soft boss, which virtually dissolves during the boiling process, can be masterfully reconstructed to resemble a fully hardened one. Maybe some hunters have the trophies scored once they are reconstructed? I once again repeat that we need to reconsider the scoring methods for the African Buffalo – Rowland Ward has taken the initiative a year ago and the process, albeit not finished, has created the much needed awareness and public debate. This at least is one positive outcome and I am sure that at the end of this debate we will have a scoring method which does justice to the population dynamics of the African Buffalo.

South African taxidermist Rodney Kretzschmar sent me a series of photographs which underline Robertson's point – I have reproduced four here with Rodney's kind permission.

The trophy scoring issue is, however, not limited to the African Buffalo – this was the clear outcome of the workshops and meetings during the General Assembly of the CIC in Marrakech end of April. Since I have been appointed as coordinator of the CIC Commission Exhibitions and Trophies at that meeting, I will tackle the task with this vision in mind:

An innovative approach to trophy hunting, trophy evaluation and trophy monitoring will concentrate on scientifically viable trophy measurements focusing on methods which provide on one hand comprehensive and species-specific biological data and on the other hand the means to intelligently use and interpret these data to serve regionally and globally as key wildlife management tool, as indicator of sustainable trophy hunting practices and as a bridge for cooperation with the IUCN Sustainable Use Specialist and Species Specialist Groups.

I said in my presentation in Marrakech that existing systems should not be changed for the sake of change, but also highlighted that every system needs to adapt to changing circumstances in order to remain relevant. Changes need to be based on one side on significant new knowledge about game, game populations, game genetics, zoogeography and the sociobiological importance of horns and antlers in terms of geometry, morphology etc, and on the other side on changing societal perceptions of hunting. Much of today's knowledge as well as scientific statistical evaluation methods based on state-of-the-art information technology were not available 30 or 40 years ago.

Many researchers have highlighted the influence that selective hunting may have on the population dynamics of game and non-game species. Yet it is common knowledge that data sourced from hunts are inherently biased. Hunters typically select a non-random subset of a game population usually based on anthropocentric perceptions nurtured by trophy scoring methods, thus making hunting the contrary of a random process. There is another constraint inherent with the trophies in the existing record books – in many cases only a relatively small percentage of the trophies taken are scored resp. are eventually entered. This may have consequences for the correct interpretation of hunting and trophy data. We therefore also need to adopt corrective measures for bias introduced in this way, and we need to encourage all hunters to have all their trophies scored.

Change within an existing scoring method does not mean that comparability with past trophy data will disappear. Intelligent database design will assist in safeguarding continuity. It also does not mean that we will have to use complicated formulas in field assessment – a mature trophy will always catch your eye; don't worry about points and ranking whilst hunting – savor the moment, enjoy the hunt, and go for these old bulls!

2008 CIC Markhor Award

CIC Press Release

A community of 29 Tanzanian villages and the Niassa Game Reserve in Mozambique received the "Markhor Award" from the CIC at the 9th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Bonn.

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) has selected two conservation bodies from Tanzania and Mozambique for the "Markhor Award" 2008. The award ceremony took place on May 27th, 2008, during the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Bonn. The recipients are the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor and the Niassa Game Reserve. The latter is Mozambique's largest conservation area, funded mainly through sustainable hunting tourism. The Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor with its community of 29 villages links this reserve with Tanzania's Selous Game Reserve. The corridor is intended to secure genetic exchange and migratory movements of elephants, antelopes, African wild dogs and other wild animals between the two reserves. Here, too, hunting tourism will be the principal source of income for the villages. In this way transboundary conservation of biodiversity is achieved in an area of more than 120.000 km2.

Dieter Schramm, President of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) presented the CIC Markhor Award to Gilberto Vincente, Mozambique, and David Ngalla, Tanzania, appreciating their work in the implementation of this unique transboundary cooperation in wildlife conservation in Africa and emphasized that peace underlies conservation. "In many African countries, sustainable hunting and hunting tourism have increased populations of wildlife and secured species diversity. Hunting bans have achieved the opposite."

He called upon African governments to use revenue from hunting tourism to benefit the local people who live side by side with wildlife, and to reinvest in game conservation."

The CIC Markhor Award for Outstanding Conservation Performance was presented to Gilberto Vincente, Mozambique, and David Ngalla, Tanzania, for their work in the establishment of the Niassa Wildlife Corridor

Ursula Heinen, Parliamentary Secretary of State in the Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, noted during the award ceremony at the Ministry in Bonn the importance of sustainable use, which forms the second pillar of the Biodiversity Convention.

Dr. Sigurd Lehman-Tolkmitt, Head of the German CIC Delegation, thanked Tanzania and Mozambique for their outstanding conservation efforts. He pointed out that the CIC feels strongly connected to conservation efforts in Tanzania and Mozambique and highlighted the importance of hunting principles that are guided by the sustainable use of natural resource.

In his key-note address, Robert Hepworth, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), emphasized the efforts of the local communities of the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor and the Niassa Game Reserve in the conservation of nature including migratory species through transboundary cooperation: "Not unlike the Markhor project in Pakistan, both use hunting and sustainable use of wildlife for their own benefit and for the alleviation of poverty and so create strong incentives to conserve nature."

Robert Hepworth, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species

Hepworth indicated that choosing to name the award after the rare wild goat of the Torghar Mountains in Pakistan, the Sulaiman Markhor, bears significance. Hepworth said that the Sulaiman Markhor has become associated with a highly successful community-based conservation project. This project builds on the high trophy value of the Markhors "snake horns", and the small CITES export quota established since 1997. Foreign hunters pay close to 70,000 dollars per trophy now. The resultant revenue flows into rural development initiatives such as health care, education and water management creating a strong incentive for local people to protect the Markhor. The result in terms of population numbers has been astounding: In 1985 less than 100 Markhor were all that was left in the Torghar area. Then the Torghar Conservation Program was initiated. In 2005,

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2008 CIC Markhor Award

the markhor population size in the same area was estimated to have risen to over 2500 animals. A 25-fold increase in numbers in twenty years – what an achievement! The Convention on Biological Diversity refers to the Torghar project in Pakistan as the single best example of "best practices" of sustainable use. Hepworth continued saying "thus I welcome the initiative of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) to use the Markhor as its flagship species for its new award to honor conservation projects that are community-based and that successfully use hunting as a tool for rural development."

The two recipients of the CIC Markhor award have shown dedication and stamina, putting them successfully to use to conserve wildlife in Tanzania and Mozambique. "Not unlike the Markhor project in Pakistan, both use hunting and sustainable use of wildlife for their own benefit and for the alleviation of poverty and so create strong incentives to conserve nature", Hepworth said. The 29 villages aim to use hunting tourism as a way to sustain their livelihoods and at the same time conserve elephants, Roosevelt's sable antelopes, lions and many other wildlife species in their own interest. The Niassa Reserve uses sustainable hunting tourism in a similar fashion in order to finance management and conservation. Together both projects facilitate transboundary conservation and cooperation. The engagement of Germany has been vital not only during the CBD COP9 in Bonn, but also in the Niassa Game Reserve, where Germany's support is very much facilitating the implementation of this large-scale initiative. Hepworth concluded saying that the initiative of local people in driving this vision from the bottom-up has been the key to success. Such efforts with a strong emphasis on transparency and best practices as defined in the recent European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity, which was co-authored by CIC, deserve international attention.

Ana Paula Samo Gudo Chichava, Minister for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs, Mozambique

The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ahmed Djoghlaf, characterized the CIC in his message as a leading organization in conservation of biodiversity and appreciated the newly created award: "The sustainable use of renewable biological resources is one of best ways to ensure the continued conservation of biological diversity. (...) The CIC Markhor Award for Outstanding Conservation Performance Through Sustainable Use is a unique award, in that it recognizes and celebrates the efforts of personalities, institutions and conservation projects who and which link the conservation of biodiversity and human livelihoods through the application of the principles of sustainable use including hunting."

European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity

Dr. Scott Brainerd

At its annual meeting this past autumn, the Standing Committee of the Convention for the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979) adopted Recommendation No. 128 on the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity. This nonbinding document encourages Parties and Observers to apply its principles in the elaboration and implementation of their policies. Further, it provides guidelines for competent national authorities and relevant stakeholders relative to hunting and its use as a tool in management of biodiversity. The Standing Committee stressed the need to ensure that hunting and hunting tourism in Europe are practiced in a sustainable manner, by avoiding negative impacts on biodiversity while making a positive contribution to the conservation of species and habitats.

Work on the Charter was initiated through a Recommendation from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in 2004, which advocated that a European charter on hunting and biodiversity be created, which would act as a guide for establishing common principles and good practices for hunting and hunting tourism in Europe.

The Charter is the product of a Working Group that was established in November 2005 with experts from Bern Convention Parties, as well as representatives from non-governmental organizations with an interest in hunting and conservation of biodiversity. The Working Group was to address hunting as a consumptive and recreational form of utilization and management of species of birds and terrestrial mammals in Europe. The Charter thus represents a collective effort of governments, hunters and environmental organizations to discuss and facilitate sustainable hunting in a biodiversity conservation context. In this regard, my job has been to draft this document with input from all Parties and Observers, and achieve consensus on its content.

The Charter has three main goals: 1) It presents a set of principles and guidelines to ensure the sustainability of wild resource utilization in Europe, especially through hunting; 2) It

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European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity

recommends guidelines for sustainable hunting tourism in Europe to implement those principles; 3) It also recommends best practices for European hunters with regard to conduct, proficiency, safety and ethics.

With these primary goals in mind, the Charter seeks to provide guidelines for sustainable hunting practices within the context of the conservation of biodiversity. It encourages hunter involvement in monitoring, research and biodiversity restoration, and promotes cooperation between stakeholders in biodiversity management (landowners, conservationists, government agencies, hunter's organizations). It also seeks to ensure the sustainability of hunting tourism and promotes forms of hunting tourism that provide local communities with economic incentives to conserve wildlife and biodiversity. The Charter also recommends a code of conduct for tour operators and European hunters that engage their services. Furthermore, the Charter encourages hunter education and information measures that promote safe and sound hunting practices as well as measures which increase proficiency in the use of firearms and traps. It emphasizes the need for hunters to be knowledgeable about wildlife (including non-game) species and their requirements, as well as the basic principles regarding biodiversity conservation.

So what is the "added value" of the Charter? First of all, it cements hunting as a legitimate and important tool in the management of biological diversity under the auspices of the Bern Convention. Aspects include sustainable hunting, hunting tourism, and standards for European hunters within the context of the three pillars of sustainability (Ecological, Economic, and Socio-cultural). It integrates relevant EU and international policy regarding hunting, biodiversity and eco-tourism. It also applies central principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity as specified in the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and the Malawi Principles for the Ecosystem Approach. We have attempted to do this equitably, with 12 principles and 47 guidelines aimed at biodiversity regulators and managers, as well as 59 guidelines for hunters and hunting tour operators. The Charter address both governments and stakeholders equitably with regard to common principles and good practices for the consumptive, sustainable use of wildlife in Europe in ways that promote conservation of biodiversity. The CIC and other NGO's have a central role to play in facilitating this process at all levels. By actively supporting and applying Charter principles and guidelines for sustainable hunting and hunting tourism, "added value" can be achieved for local communities, wildlife resources and their habitats and ultimately, the hunting community.

Exotic Wildlife Association – Sahara Conservation Fund: A Not-So-Exotic Relationship

Source: SCF Website (www.saharaconservation.org)

Last year SCF's Director John Newby attended the annual members meeting of the Exotic Wildlife Association (EWA) in Kerrville, Texas. Newby gave keynote speeches on the Sahara Conservation Fund and its work in Africa, stressing the vital role that private collections of threatened wildlife can play in conservation work overseas. With critically endangered species like the addax and dama gazelle, or with species that are now extinct in the wild, such as the scimitar-horned oryx, this is particularly significant. Some of the biggest, privately managed herds of addax and oryx in the world are owned by EWA members.

Before and after the meeting SCF's delegation visited a number of Texan wildlife ranches. Throughout the visit, they were accompanied by Larry Johnson, owner of Safari Enterprises, a wildlife transport company, and major donor to SCF's oryx and addax reintroduction project in Tunisia. Larry is also Chair of EWA's Conservation Committee and was instrumental in obtaining EWA support for the signing of a collaborative agreement with SCF. EWA is keen to play an active role in the conservation of Sahelo-Saharan antelopes and is currently looking into the feasibility with SCF of sending scimitar-horned oryx to Senegal as a contribution to that country's arid land antelope restoration program. Later in 2007 representatives from EWA and SCF met in Dakar with officials from Senegal's *Direction des Parcs Nationaux* (DPN) and subsequently travelled to the Guembeul Nature Reserve. Guembeul covers some 720 hectares of Acacia woodland and is completely fenced. Established in 1982, the reserve has played a major role in Senegal's plans

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Exotic Wildlife Association – Sahara Conservation Fund

to restore its now impoverished Sahelo-Saharan fauna. Although scimitar-horned oryx, dorcas and dama gazelles are extinct in the country, efforts are underway to see them returned to the wild. As Guembeul's Conservator, Dr. Youm Babacar, explained, the reserve acts as a breeding centre and staging post for reintroductions. Since 2002, animals have been moved from Guembeul to the Sahelian grasslands of Ferlo, where the 600 hectare Katané reserve provides space and natural vegetation for healthy growth and acclimation under semi-wild conditions. The reserve currently holds some 30 oryx provided by the Israeli Wildlife Authority and the Zoo at Vincennes in France. Also present are a number of mhorr dama gazelles, provided by the *Parque de Rescate de la Fauna Sahariana* at Almeria in Spain. Almeria has also recently provided dorcas gazelles to Senegal.

SCF and EWA are working to support Senegal's efforts and are interested in shipping 10-12 oryx to Guembeul and Katané to strengthen and diversify the current genetic stock. If all goes well and there is need, further shipments could follow. As part of SCF and EWA's long term vision, assistance to expand the current protected areas is a top priority. In spite of the inevitable population growth and pressure from razing, Ferlo still harbors some fine habitat, with relict populations of both the ostrich and the red-fronted gazelle present.

SCF's mission is the conservation of the wildlife of the Sahara and its bordering Sahelian grasslands. For more information go to www.saharaconservation.org.

EWA is North America's oldest organization of non-native wildlife breeders and managers and a leader of animal-owner rights and for-profit species conservation. For more information go to www.exoticwildlifeassociation.com/

Benefits for People and Wildlife: Sustainable Use in Operation

CIC Press Release

The European Sustainable Use Specialist Group (ESUSG) joined the CIC and the European Council for the Conservation of Fungi (ECCF) in co-sponsoring a side event on 22 May in Bonn, Germany, during the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD CoP9).

Under the heading "Benefits for People & Wildlife: Sustainable Use in Operation" the event presented four current initiatives in which the Addis Ababa and Malawi Principles are being implemented at international, national and local levels, and asked how such processes could be accelerated and spread more widely to benefit biodiversity and people.

Presentations showcased the following initiatives:

a) The Bern Convention's European Charter on Hunting & Biodiversity that merges the mentioned principles to guide governments and hunters was presented by Carolina Lasen Diaz;
b) Prof. Robert Kenward gave insights into a 2007 research case study showing that millions European citizens are spending billions of Euros on hunting, angling, bird-watching and gathering fungi and plant materials and linking governance factors to conservation benefits;
c) Dr. Beatrice Senn-Irlet presented a long term Swiss study which demonstrates that mushroom picking and disturbance of the forest floor at various levels of intensity have a very limited impact, thus pointing the way to more widespread enjoyment of a resource that could motivate conservation of biodiversity woodlands;
d) and Sardar Naseer Tareen gave updates from the Torghar Project in Pakistan whose design is based on the principles of sustainable use, local tribe involvement and conservation biology where populations of Sulaiman Markhor (*Capra falconeri jerdoni*) have increased after more than 20 years from critical levels to stable populations thanks to sustainable hunting tourism and community conservation efforts.

The session was co-chaired by Robin SHARP, Chair Emeritus, European SUSG of IUCN/SSC and Kai-Uwe WOLLSCHEID, Director General, CIC.

Zambia Lion Project: Wish List for 2008

Dr. Paula White

The results from the lion trophies (left and right teeth to test the aging methods) sampled by the Zambia Lion Project for the 2007 season are interesting:

Tooth X-Rays

For each individual tooth an x-ray was made and assigned to an age category of either sub-adult, full adult, or old adult. Left and right teeth from the same lions were compared. In every comparison, the lefts were aged the same as the rights. That means that it does not matter whether the left or right tooth is provided for x-ray aging – The results will be the same. That is good news, and means that from now on only one tooth need be provided.

Subsequently the age category was compared to the lion's photograph. The process of working on quantifying visual characteristics as seen in the photos with the x-rays is ongoing, but in general, x-ray age was consistent with the photos – i.e., lions with smooth, clean faces tended to be younger (tooth pulp cavity larger), and lions with dull, broad, scarred faces were older (tooth pulp cavity very small).

Tooth Cementum Ring Counts

The teeth were then sent to the lab to count the rings. The goal here was to age each lion in years, similar to counting the rings of a tree. However, the results were very different from the x-ray comparison. In fact, in almost every case, left and right teeth from the same lions gave different ages. For example, a left tooth might give an age of 4 years, while a right tooth from the same lion might give an age of 5 or 6 years. Unfortunately, this means that tooth ring counts are not going to provide the exact ages of lions as was hoped for. There is still good news from these results, however, because these differences have now been documented scientifically – thanks to the efforts of the hunting community in Zambia and their help in obtaining samples. Unfortunately, there is no way to know which (if either) of the teeth is giving a correct age. That is disappointing, but the fact that the method does not work is important and highly valuable information.

Wish List 2008

There remains some skepticism that Zambian lions – in particular the 'mohawk' maned ones – are indeed old males. Because we cannot count on tooth rings to verify lion age, it is imperative that we get MORE PHOTOS of each lion taken as trophies during the 2008 season. So, in addition to the profile trophy shot and mane view that has been provided, pictures of the lion's teeth to show wear & color, and their faces/heads/ears to show scars, nicks, and other 'wear & tear' typically associated with age are essential. Some of the outfitters in Zambia have provided excellent photos of the bony backbones, baggy bodies, etc. In general, any feature that is used to determine that a given trophy was 'old' should be photographed!

It is appreciated that things get very hectic once a lion is shot, and the field staff may have many other things to take care of quickly. Therefore, it will probably be easiest to photograph the teeth after the lion is skinned out. That way the tongue can be removed, the teeth rinsed of blood and dirt, and the jaw held open to show the front and back teeth color and wear. Don't worry how grisly the pictures appear – a freshly skinned skull is fine. It is tooth detail that is important. Please be aware that the cleaning process for export removes a lot of the teeth's natural color. Therefore it is best to photograph teeth BEFORE soaking or boiling the skull. Otherwise, the teeth will look whiter – and younger – than they really are.

Although these results mentioned above were unexpected, the goal for Zambian lion hunting has not changed: it is to establish some standards by which potential trophies can be visually assessed prior to being harvested, in order that older lions are selected. By photographing tooth wear and color and other indicators of age like facial scars, and comparing them to tooth x-rays, we can provide evidence that Zambia's trophy lions are of harvestable age regardless of (in some instances) their mane development.

Finally, a note on the genetic work. A new laboratory will soon be completing the analysis of the dried hide samples that have been providing and results will be available early in 2009.

In summary: For each lion trophy taken in Zambia during the 2008 season, Outfitters should provide the following:

- 1st small tooth in upper jaw behind the canine from either the left or right side
- Small piece of dried hide
- Photographs of the trophy lion showing profile, mane, nose
- Photographs of trophy lion teeth/skull showing tooth color & wear
- Any other trophy photos that indicate advanced age (face scars, etc.)
- Confidential Information about hunt: Date, GMA, location, PH, client name

My sincerest thanks to those safari companies, outfitters and hunters who lend their continued cooperation and support.

Dr. Paula A. White, Director, Zambia Lion Project
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Addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*)

This is an edited and abbreviated version of "Newby, J. (in press). Addax nasomaculatus. In: Kingdon, J.S. & Hoffmann, M. (Eds). The Mammals of Africa. Vol. 6. Pigs, Deer, Giraffe, Bovids, and Hippos. Academic Press, Amsterdam", prepared for the readers of African Indaba with the kind permission of John Newby. The full text can be downloaded at www.saharaconservation.org/pictures/uploaded/files/MOA%20Addax%20Chapter.pdf

Addax nasomaculatus (de Blainville, 1816)
English Addax; French Addax; German Mendesantilope or Addax)

Record horn lengths from the native range are 43 inch (Darfur, Sudan 1934) and 42 inch (Chad, 1965); from introduced populations 40 5/8 inch (Texas 1989) and 35 inch (South Africa, 1992); Source: Rowland Ward, 27th Edition.

Taxonomy

Monotypic genus and species first described as the Addax of Africa by Pliny in his Natural History. The possibility of two subspecies, *A. n. nasomaculatus* and *A. n. Addax* was put to rest by Ellerman & Morrison-Scott (1951) and Setzer (1956) following examination of original and current specimens. The Addax probably takes its name from the vernacular Arabic *'agas* or *'adas*. The specific name *nasomaculatus* - meaning 'spotted nosed' – refers to the contrasting white patches on the otherwise darker head.

Description

A predominantly white, stocky-bodied, medium-sized antelope inhabiting the sand seas and gravel plains of the Sahara. Head light grey or beige, with contrasting white patches in front of the eyes, linked across the bridge of the muzzle. Small white patches behind the eyes. Nose beige, lips and chin white. Crown and forehead are sporting a prominent, wig-like tuft of dark brown hair. Ears white with a long basal tuft of pale hairs. With the exception of the throat and chest, which are beige, overall body color is bright matte white. During the hot season (Apr-Oct), pelage is short, but in the colder months (Nov-Mar) it lengthens on the neck, chest, shoulders, back and flanks, becoming greyer. Adults of both sexes develop a beige fringe of variable length on the lower neck. Legs white with beige patches on the knees. Hooves are broad and splayed. Tail short and white, sporting a sparse tuft of dark terminal hairs. Other than slight differences in size, weight and horn development in adults, sexes essentially similar. Both sexes bear corkscrew shaped horns, which grow upwards and outwards, reaching over one meter in length. The horns of the adult male are stockier than those of the female, often having two to two-and-a-half turns to the female's one-and-a-half to two. Horns are heavily annulated over the first two-thirds of their length in both sexes. Over time, and with violent sparring, the horns of the male may become lost, damaged or blunted.

Distribution

Addax are endemic to the Sahelo-Saharan region of Africa west of the Nile Valley. As with other ungulates of the Sahelo-Saharan fauna, the Addax has undergone an unprecedented reduction in its geographical range over the past century, and although the issue's gravity is only just being seriously considered by the international conservation community, authors in the 1930s had already raised the alarm, identifying excessive offtake and motorized hunting as the prime cause of the Addax's decline. Although already long extinct in Morocco, Tunisia (1932) and Egypt (ca. 1900), and extremely rare in Libya and Algeria, Addax were still present in fair numbers in Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Chad up until the late 1960s and early 1970s. Today, Addax are confined to two to three sparsely inhabited areas of E Niger and W Chad.

Habitat

Addaxes are the most desert-loving large ungulates, frequenting areas of extreme temperature (range –5 to +60°C) and aridity (less than 100 mm annually). With the exception of truly mountainous areas, Addax have been recorded from all major Saharan habitat types, ranging from gravelly and sandy plains, to dune fields, sandy basins and depressions, pans and wadi systems. Local distribution is heavily influenced by presence of suitable pasture and shade during the hottest months or when attracted by rainfall and any resulting pastures.

Abundance

Probably less than 300 animals surviving in the wild, dis-

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Addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*)

tributed unevenly along a narrow, 600 km long band lying between Termit/Tin Toumma in Niger and the Bodélé Depression in Chad. The main population is in Niger, probably numbering around 200 head.

To the wild population can be added over 250 captive-bred Addax held under semi-wild conditions in Morocco and Tunisia pending full release in the coming years. In comparison with the situation in the wild, *ex-situ* presence and status is healthy, with over 600 Addax in Europe, North America, Japan and Australia in managed breeding programs. At least 1,000 more individuals are held in private collections and ranches in the United States and the Middle East.

Adaptations

The Addax displays a large number of morphological, physiological and behavioral adaptations to life in a hot, dry environment, including pale coloration to reflect radiant heat, pelage length and density to assist with thermoregulation, barrel-bodied shape to reduce surface area/volume ratio, and large, splayed and spongy hooves for moving in a hot and sandy environment.

They have a highly efficient moisture extraction and retention system. Addax have a high tolerance to thermal stress, low metabolic rate, high switch-on point for sweating, and the presence of an efficient blood temperature cooling system in the nasal sinuses. Behavioral adaptations include feeding during cooler hours and at night, and sheltering and resting during the heat of the day. Seasonal distribution and frequentation of traditional sites are often influenced by presence of shade.

Foraging and Food

The Addax is a grazer with a diet based almost exclusively on the small number of plants prospering in the desert. Staples include the grasses and prickly succulents, their distribution and quality often defining the Addax's local presence. Addax may remain for weeks or months in areas of good grazing. As plants dry out, or begin to green after a period of drought, Addax will clamber on to tussocks, pawing away sand and dead vegetation to reach new or remaining green shoots and leaves. As temperatures in the open desert rise (shade temperatures during the hot season regularly exceed 45°C), or the quality of vegetation diminishes, Addax will move towards the sub-desert steppes or mountainous areas where surface rainfall run-off or subterranean seepage allow the growth of vegetation and the maintenance of sparse trees and shrubs. The succulent, but bitter, wild melon is especially sought.

Since the Addax very rarely has access to free water, its diet must provide both food and moisture. With adequate grazing, they are able to survive for long periods, possibly years, without drinking. Under conditions of poor grazing and high temperatures, however, they lose condition and eventually succumb. On occasions when it is available, Addax will drink large quantities of water.

Social and Reproductive Behavior

Addax are nomadic, wandering over large areas in search of grazing. Movement and duration of stay within any one locality is dictated by quality of grazing, and in the hotter months, to a certain extent by shade. They generally live in small herds of up to 15 animals, composed of males and females of all ages. The larger groups observed in the past, sometimes numbering several hundred, were probably the result of many smaller herds congregating seasonally and temporarily in areas of exceptional grazing. Herds are generally led by an adult cow. During the rut, the alpha male interacts aggressively with challengers, engaging in long bouts of horn wrestling, and chasing off younger males. Shortly before parturition, the female moves away from the herd and the young are born in a shallow scrape, often in the shelter of vegetation.

Reproduction and Population Structure

Frequency of births and resulting calving periods depend on pasture condition. Under good conditions Addax can breed throughout the year. In times of severe drought or periods of poor grazing, reproduction is disturbed and females may either abort, abandon young calves, or not calve at all until pasture improves. In general Addax have one young per year, usually calving during the cooler months. Gestation last between 34.5 and 38.5 weeks and a single calf weighing between about 5.0 and 8.6 kg is born. Calves are weaned after 6-10 months and reach sexual maturity between 24 and 30 months

Predators, Parasites and Diseases

A healthy adult Addax has no natural predators. Young calves are harassed and taken by Golden Jackal. Other potential predators, before their almost total extirpation in the Sahara,

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Some of the world's last wild addax spotted by SCF's project team in Niger, May, 2007 (Photo: Thomas Rabeil/SCF)

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Addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*)

included Cheetah, Striped Hyaena and African Wild Dog. Diseases in the wild are little known, although they are reported to be susceptible to rinderpest

Conservation

IUCN – Critically Endangered (CR A1cd). CITES – Appendix I. CMS – Appendix I. The plight of the Addax has been largely overlooked by the conservation community and wild Addax are all down to highly fragmented populations of less than a 500 individuals at best. With the notable exceptions of a CMS project, funded by the French government (FFEM), and the establishment in 2004 of the Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF), direct support for conservation to the region is extremely limited.

The decline and extermination of the Addax, along with the other large ungulates of the Sahara and Sahel, can be attributed primarily to a murderous combination of the motor vehicle, the modern rifle and man's cupidity. The further impacts of civil war, severe droughts, and the extension of pastoralism into desert lands, thanks to the increase in wells, have also taken a heavy toll on wildlife. During the recent past, a new and potentially disastrous threat from hunters from the Gulf States has also emerged.

Establishment of protected areas for the Addax and other Sahelo-Saharan species, and designating the Addax as a strictly protected species in all range states, has been a case of too little too late. Although massive reserves, such as the Ahaggar (4,400,000 ha) and Tasilli (1,140,000 ha) in Algeria, the Aïr/Ténéré (7,736,000 ha) in Niger, the Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim (7,795,000 ha) in Chad, and the newly established Wadi Howar N.P. in Sudan do afford some protection, they are underresourced or no longer harbor Addax.

In the short term, the only way of saving the Addax from extinction in the wild is to multiply efforts on the ground to protect it and its remaining critical habitat. Continued support for gazetted reserves in Chad and Niger, together with the establishment of new protected areas, especially along the Mali/Mauritania frontier (Majabat), Niger (Termit) and Chad (Bodélé, Egueï), will only succeed if combined with programs to create incentives for the local people to protect wildlife wherever it is found. International efforts and diplomacy are needed to ensure that foreign hunters behave responsibly, respect local and international laws, and contribute to wildlife conservation and restoration programs.

In Morocco and Tunisia, reintroduction schemes are beginning to bear fruit and these are providing valuable lessons and experience needed for reintroduction and local captive-breeding initiatives in countries where Addax are still extant. Luckily, a number of zoos in Europe and the United States are maintaining genetically robust stocks of Addax ready for reintroduction. Like all reintroductions, however, efforts will come to nothing unless the root causes for the Addax's extinction are addressed beforehand

Review of Options for Managing the Impacts of Locally Overabundant African Elephants

D. Balfour, H.T. Dublin, J. Fennessy, D. Gibson, L. Niskanen and I.J. Whyte

IUCN, through its African Elephant Specialist Group, published a new report on how to control locally overabundant populations of African elephants. These guidelines were compiled by a task force convened by the IUCN Species Survival Commission's (SSC) African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG). This task force comprised the following AfESG experts: Dr David Balfour, Dr Holly T Dublin, Dr Deborah Gibson, Mr Leo Niskanen and Dr Ian Whyte.

The report looks at the pros and cons of a range of options to manage elephants, including moving them to other natural habitats, increasing the area of land available to elephants, contraception and culling. Until now, there has been no comprehensive review available to African elephant-range states explaining the options for managing wild populations of elephants. This report looks at past examples of what has worked, what hasn't, and provides a summary of the main technical considerations.

Holly Dublin, Chair of IUCN's African Elephant Specialist Group and the Species Survival Commission, says: *'Some of the most important decisions in wildlife management in Africa revolve around elephants, but a lot of the information is not readily accessible to conservation authorities. Much of it is scattered in diverse reports and scientific papers or as part of the body of unwritten expert knowledge.'*

The report has been distributed to the Governments and Conservation Authorities of the African Elephant Range States. You can download the PDF file of the full report at: http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sgs/afesg/tools/pdfs/rvw_omiloae_en.pdf#page=48

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With a population of 50 million in 2020, Kenya is doomed!

Iregi Mwenja

Editor's Note: Mr. Iregi Mwenja is one of the eight U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USF&W) MENTOR Fellows from East Africa studying a post-graduate course on Illegal exploitation of bushmeat in the Center of African Wildlife Management, Mweka/Tanzania. He is a leading wildlife biologist with eight years field experience in East Africa.

Mr. Mwenja wrote this editorial about human overpopulation in his native country, Kenya, and the effects on ecosystems and wildlife conservation. It was not published, even though the paper it was sent to had published his previous editorials. African Indaba is proud to have received Mr. Mwenja's authorization to publish his article.

Seldom are we reminded that human overpopulation in this planet is largely to blame for the current rapid deterioration of our environment and the depletion of our natural resource base. We lay the blame on global warming, Ozone layer depletion etc but shy away from pining down the root cause and the real culprit - Homo sapiens. Unfortunately, Kenya's economy (and that of many third world countries) is entirely dependent on our beleaguered natural resources, a fact we cannot run away from.

Seldom have we been reminded that we have surpassed the "carrying capacity" of our environment and that is why desertification, drought, flooding, disease outbreaks and famine have become a permanent phenomenon in this country's annual calendar.

The single greatest threat to the biological resources of this country is the current uncontrolled proliferation of the human species and the resulting poverty. In a natural resource based economy like ours, if the people are poor, environmental degradation will continue no matter what legislations we put in place.

Meanwhile, we will continue begging for foreign aid when the cheapest and surest way to save ourselves is to maintain human population at "carrying capacity" and living in harmony with our environment.

Our biological resources are of considerable economic and intrinsic values. Agriculture, fisheries and forests account for most subsistence survival, economic output, employment and export earnings. Tourism is Kenya's largest foreign exchange earner and is largely based on the presence of wildlife and seashores. Agriculture and tourism are the backbone of the economy and deterioration of the environment diminishes the agriculture and tourism potential of our economy. Soon, the resilience of our environment that is currently overstretched will give in. It will not be able to sustainably provide for the large population - meaning that we could be multiplying our way to self-destruction!

Kenya's biological resources are considered to be internationally important as areas rich in biodiversity and endemism. Kenya has a network of 56 national parks and reserves stretching from the coast to the peak of Mt. Kenya encompassing 6.7% of Kenya. It is estimated that 10% of the wildlife live in parks, 15% in reserves and 75% in non-protected areas.

But Kenya is the only country in East and Southern Africa that still retains the old-fashioned conservation policies propagated 5 decades ago, the socio-economic changes that taken place in the last 45 years notwithstanding. Current conservation policies and laws do not take into considerations the realities of demography and that's why they have failed. Sustainable consumptive use is still illegal despite its potential in securing the few remaining pristine wildlife habitat found on private land.

We lack a comprehensive land use policy, have outdated Environment, Forest, Fisheries and Wildlife legislations (the amendment of the Act and the Policy review were hijacked by a few NGOs) and unregulated urban development. Consequently, agriculture, industrial and urban development are poorly regulated thereby undermining the very ecosystems that generate Kenya's economic base.

The population of Kenya will be 50 million in 2020. Currently 80% of Kenyans -24 million people live in high potential land that covers 20% of the country land area. This is among the highest population densities in the world and the consequence on resource use is immense, forcing migration into forests and wildlife habitats. But our population growth is still among the highest in the world

By 2020, the population in high potential areas will be 40 million and the already over-exploited natural resources will not have expanded. We are still fighting 'Shamba' system responsible for re-establishment of forests and provision of food for the extra mouth and wildlife husbandry that would protect the 75% wildlife outside protected areas.

Consumptive and non-consumptive sustainable utilization of wildlife and forests products by communities living with wildlife and near forests is still not recognized in law when we are always reminded that the wildlife in non-protected areas holds the key to the future of wildlife in Kenya. These communities are sitting on a gold mine yet they are some of the poorest in Kenya, their poverty mostly resulting from human-wildlife conflict.

The ugly face of human-wildlife conflict: The poor suffer most and they seek attention by killing endangered wildlife which easily draws attention to their plight.

Incidentally, Kenya has many well-funded international conservation NGOs most of which are concerned more with animal welfare and rights rather than the people who live with and protect those wildlife. Their contribution to the wildlife utilization debate has always been one-sided as they always mobilize their resources to demonize utilization as the way forward for wildlife and forest management. Yet habitat for wildlife is not expanding but shrinking with expanding human population.

Conservation areas are becoming isolated islands. The resulting compression of wildlife in conservation areas has severe ramifications on ecosystems, species composition and genetic diversity. The loss of species and habitat has reached alarming levels in Kenya. Only 1.7% of the area is forested while

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With a Population of 50 Million in 2020, Kenya is Doomed

15 mammalian species are in the Red list (IUCN) of threatened species.

When conservation and development are not in harmony, the environment loses out. As long as our economy continue to relay directly on our natural resources and the population continues to skyrocket resulting in rising poverty levels; as long as most of us continue with our conspiracy of silence; our future and that of our children is the great country is doomed!

Iregi Mwenja can be contacted at: iregim@yahoo.com

South Africa Imposes National Moratorium on Rhino Horn

Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (Extract from the budget vote speech by Marthinus van Schalkwyk, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, National Council of Provinces, 5 June 2008)

Chairperson, although we have tremendous successes in protecting and expanding our conservation areas, over the past two years there has been a dramatic increase in the illegal trade of rhino horn and in the hunting of white rhino. Both Black and White rhino are listed as threatened or protected species and permits are required to perform a restricted activity. The Black rhino is listed on Appendix I of CITES and the White rhino on Appendix II. This means that the trade in rhino and its products is regulated internationally to ensure sustainable utilization of the species. This indiscriminate illegal trade in rhino is directly linked to organized crime and the fact that approximately 27 white rhino were poached in the Kruger National Park during the last two years as well as a definite increase in incidents in other parts of the country. SANParks has therefore stepped up the protection of high value herbivores such as rhino, buffalo and elephant in our Parks.

During the course of investigating rhino horn deals, it has been established that prospective hunters applied for permits to hunt rhino in various provinces. Permits for these hunts were subsequently issued. On closer investigation it was determined that some of these hunts never took place and the relevant authorities were never informed. This allowed the permit holder to legally export illegally obtained individual horn as hunting trophies. This occurred as a result of all rhino hunts not being supervised by the relevant permit issuing authorities. In some provinces, rhino are still on exemption permits, meaning that the landowner does not require an individual permit for the hunting of the rhino and therefore does not need to inform the provincial authority of such a hunt.

I would like to inform members of the NCOP that all environment MEC's have approved DEAT's proposal for a national moratorium on the trade in individual rhino horn to give Provincial and SANParks enforcement officers a chance to ensure that approaches and protocols for dealing with the trade in rhino horn are consistent and comply with biodiversity conservation requirements. This will assist to curb the increase in the illegal trade in rhino horns and will hopefully discourage the poaching of rhino in South Africa.

Chairperson, there can be no question that without enforcement of compliance, environmental legislation is worth no more than the paper on which it's written. In this regard our Deputy Minister will introduce the National Environmental Laws Amendment Bill in the NCOP in two weeks time. This Bill proposes brief, yet critical amendments that will ensure more effective enforcement of national environmental legislation.

PHASA advised the members of the Association in an electronic newsletter in June of the Interim measures for implementation by all provinces until a policy for the management of rhino and its products is in place (extract – for full text consult PHASA):

- It is recommended that all rhino and horn occurring on private and state land must, where practically possible, be micro chipped with one microchip in the body of the rhino and one microchip in each of the horns (TOPS requirement).
- All horns must be measured and photographed. The drill shavings from the horns must be collected and stored by the relevant Conservation Authority, in a container, which must be sealed. Each container's information must be entered into a register.
- Rhino horn originating from natural mortalities, and which is not micro chipped, must be micro chipped by the permit issuing authority. Such mortalities must be reported to the authority within fourteen days.
- The above information must be kept in a provincial database and any changes resulting from translocation, export out of a province, natural mortalities, hunting etc. must be reflected in such database. DEAT must keep a national database.
- All rhino hunts must be strictly controlled by means of a TOPS permit and no rhino may be hunted on a TOPS standing permit or game farm hunting permit.
- All applications for hunting of rhino must be sent to the Directorate Regulation and Monitoring Services at DEAT for recommendation. This will enable DEAT to ensure that a hunter does not hunt more than one animal.
- Rhino hunts may only take place, subject to a permit being issued in the name of the hunter, and the hunt being supervised by an official from the province concerned.
- Only one rhino per hunter per year may be hunted for trophy purposes.
- No hunter will be allowed to export the horns of a rhino hunted as a trophy in personal baggage and horn may not be separated from the trophy immediately after the hunt.
- Until such time as a national policy on the management of rhino and rhino horn has being promulgated, trade in individual rhino horn must be forbidden. Only horns that are exported as part of a hunting trophy may be exported with the necessary permits.

News From Africa

Angola

In his May report, Pedro vaz Pinto mentioned having obtained a few photos taken in dark nights of the Giant Sable On one occasion a small group of three individuals, in which were one of the young 3 year-old pure males and their "sister", with a third animal in the background almost surely being one of the remaining young male "brothers". Vaz Pinto assumes that a giant sable bull was still present in 2004 in Cangandala, and the herd had then 5 newborns, 4 males and one female. They are all now 3 year-olds and may play a central role in saving this population. A young lonely hybrid female was recorded some ten days later.

Vaz Pinto also said that his research group is also about to start activities in Luando, which will include very soon a series of low altitude flights over the reserve. Final arrangements for another expedition into the reserve are also under way.

DR Congo

IUCN reported that Africa's northern white rhino is on the brink of extinction. The northern white sub-species is confined to the remote, lawless region of northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) Garamba National Park and numbers of northern white rhinos have now dwindled from just 30 in April 2003 to merely four as of August 2006. "Worryingly, recent fieldwork has so far failed to find any presence of these four remaining rhinos," wrote Martin Brooks, who leads the IUCN's African Rhino Specialist Group. "Unless animals are found during the intensive surveys that are planned under the direction of the African Parks Foundation, the sub-species may be doomed to extinction."

IUCN also reported much better news for the southern white rhino. Numbers have increased to 17,480 last year from 14,540 in 2005. The smaller African black rhino also increased in number, from 3,730 to 4,180, however the animal remains listed as critically endangered by the IUCN.

Mozambique

The CITES Management Authority of Mozambique has informed the CITES Secretariat that the following crocodile and leopard skin tags for the year 2007 were stolen from Maputo in February 2008. If any skin with one of the above-mentioned tag numbers is presented for import or export, it should be seized and the CITES Management Authority of Mozambique and the Secretariat should be informed.

– 60 red tags numbered from CITES MZ PAR 07-01 to CITES MZ PAR 07-60;

– 900 yellow tags numbered from CITES MZ NIL 07-001 to CITES MZ NIL 07-900; and

– 2,000 yellow tags numbered from CITES MZ NIL 07-0001 (AAANT) to CITES MZ NIL 07-2000 (AAANT).

Namibia

In early May two communal area conservancies in the Kavango region signed the Khaudum Concession Agreement that will pave the way for the development of tourism facilities in the Khaudum National Park. These are the first agreements following the approval of the national policy on wildlife and tourism concession on State land by Cabinet in July last year. The 20-year concession agreement entails the establishment of accommodation facilities, conducting guided game drives, walks and sight-seeing, sale of crafts and products and meals and beverages. The two conservancies form the Khaudum north complex. Khaudum was proclaimed in 1989 and is described as one of the country's most rugged and remotest national parks, with accommodation limited to camping at Sikerette and Khaudum camps. The two conservancies have a joint hunting concession through which they jointly earned N$252000 from trophy hunting. The concession covers tourism, trophy hunting and harvesting of valuable plant materials such as medicinal plants, thatching grass and plant and animal species for bio-prospecting.

Oman

The Depositary Government of the CITES Convention (the Government of the Swiss Confederation) has informed the CITES Secretariat that Oman deposited its instrument of accession to CITES on 19 March 2008. The Convention will enter into force for Oman on 17 June 2008, making it the 173rd Party to CITES.

Uganda

A team of experts from the US and the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) is to conduct a census of crocodiles in Kidepo and Murchison Falls national parks. UWA plans to license two companies to work with the local communities to set up two crocodile farms.

USA/Russia

Bob Kern, founder of The Hunting Consortium, was found not guilty of a Lacey Act violation in a Houston Federal District Court with respect to a hunt which his company had arranged for some US hunters in the Russian Far East in 2002. The Russian deputy chief inspector of wildlife in office at that time traveled to Houston to testify that the hunt was sanctioned and operated in conjunction with wildlife authorities in the region where the hunt took place and was perfectly legal as far as Russian authorities were concerned. Kern testified that he did not arrange this hunt as a meat hunt, nor did he intend that the hunt be conducted using a helicopter as a shooting platform. Seems the local hunting operator changed how the hunt was to be conducted after the hunters arrived in camp.

South Africa

It is estimated that there are currently 1,600 lions in the Kruger National Park, give or take 225 animals, and they are nearly all in tiptop condition. This is the result of a lion population survey carried out during the winter months of 2005 and 2006. The survey is the first to study the park's entire lion population, as previous lion counts had targeted only certain areas of Kruger. The research was led by Dr Paul Funston from the Tshwane University of Technology and Dr Sam Ferreira from the Conservation Ecology Research Unit at the University of Pretoria and part of their equipment was funded by Conservation Force.

South Africa

South African Police Services of the Mtubatuba area, assisted by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife staff, have arrested six people following the shooting of a white rhino bull on the western

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News from Africa

shore of Lake St Lucia in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park on 6 May 2008. The carcass of the rhino was found in open grassland. The scene of the incident was thoroughly examined by SAPS and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife investigators who found several cartridge cases and also recovered several spent bullet heads from the carcass. These items have been for forensic testing. The accused appeared in the Mtubatuba Magistrate's Court on Monday 19 May 2008 and the case has been remanded to 26 May 2008 for bail applications. In the course of making the arrests, the SAPS officers recovered an R1 rifle and several rounds of live ammunition, which have also been sent in for forensic testing.

South Africa

The Italian Ambassador in South Africa, 57 year old Alessandro Cevese succumbed to injuries suffered during fatal accident whilst hunting. He was flung from his hunting vehicle on to some rocks.

Tanzania

Sh5 million award have been put out by the Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources for information leading to the arrest of suspects who killed a top game reserve officer. The Kingupira Selous game reserve officer, Mr Pasiansi Masonda, was shot dead in May by a gang believed to be involved in poaching. According to information from the ministry, he was living alone in the game reserve at the time of the incident. MTNR also said that "anyone helping the ministry arrest people involved in illegal hunting will be awarded ten percent of the hunting fee charged on the animal killed".

Tanzania

Lake Natron is the only significant breeding site for Lesser Flamingos in Eastern Africa. The surrounding cross border ecosystem is critical in sustaining the livelihoods of the local communities. The proposed soda ash project of Tata Chemicals Ltd could seriously affect the breeding of this near threatened species - thus wiping out 75% of the global Lesser Flamingo population. The livelihoods and health of the local communities are also at risk. The Lake Natron Consultative Group, a growing coalition of (now 33) environmental and conservation institutions is spearheading advocacy to save Lake Natron. *The Hindustan Times* newspaper of Mumbai said now that the Lake Natron soda ash project as originally envisaged has been withdrawn. Surprisingly, Tata says it will not take another step until the Integrated Management Plan for the RAMSAR site is completed and approved. TCL Managing Director, Homi Khusrokhan said "The Company is not in a position to take a view with regard to resumption 'until it has a chance to examine the final approved RAMSAR Management Plan currently under preparation for Lake Natron." *The Hindustan Times* story titled *'Green Groups halt Tata Plant in Tanzania'* also quoted Khusrokhan, saying, "…the original Environment and Social Impact Assessment….. should be treated as withdrawn".

Tanzania

Dr. Tim Davenport of the Wildlife Conservation Society's Africa program has been awarded the prestigious 2008 Parker/Gentry Award for Conservation Biology by The Field Museum in Chicago. The prize recognizes Davenport's "outstanding achievements in conserving the unique biota of the southern highlands of Tanzania and other endangered habitats of eastern Africa." Davenport works with Tanzanian biologists and local community members to protect threatened wildlife and plants in Mt. Rungwe and surrounding montane forests in the East African country. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) says his work has been instrumental in the establishment of Kitulo National Park in Tanzania.

Tanzania

On way from Arusha to Loliondo in Northern Tanzania a single engine small aircraft of the Tanzania Wildlife Division with three senior staff members on board crashed on July 3rd in bad weather into a mountain near Monduli. There were no survivors.

Zambia

The Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources has accepted the intention of African Parks Ltd to partner with the communities and ZAWA to manage the Chikuni Community Partnership Park. A team by African Parks was sent to Zambia to develop the financial plan to determine the financial viability of the project.

It was proposed that the Partnership to be formed would manage the Chikuni Community Partnership Park and the remaining Bangweulu Game Management Area to develop a year-round tourism product, including the wetland areas and the higher miombo woodlands in order to be able to finance the management of the vast area. The Chikuni Community Partnership Park will exclude consumptive utilization, as stipulated in the document "An Interpretation of the Zambia Wildlife Authority Rules and Procedures", Paragraph 12: "In Bangweulu GMA no hunting shall be conducted in that part of Chikuni area encompassing the Chimbwe Plain and part of the North margins of the Mandamata Woodland, Northward to Lukulu River." Hunting will take place in the remaining Bangweulu Game Management Area.

Zambia/South Africa

As part of a tri-nation relocation agreement between the Zambian Wildlife Authority (ZAWA), the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the South African National Parks (SANParks), five black rhinos were flown to Zambia in May. In terms of the agreement, 12 desert species of black rhino (*Diceros bicornis bicornis*) from Namibia have been sent to South Africa. South Africa is sending seven south-central black rhino (*Diceros bicornis minor*) to Zambia this year, including the five that left in May. Another five from the Eastern Cape will go to Zambia next year. Four of the rhinos that were translocated on Wednesday come from the Kruger Park and one from Marakele National Park. The two bulls and three cows will be settled in North Luangwa National Park in Zambia, with support from the Frankfurt Zoological Society in Germany.

"This translocation shows that we are definitely committed to regional conservation and are certainly not xenophobic when it comes to creating more habitat for Africa's endangered species," said the Kruger's managing executive, Dr Bandile Mkhize

CIC Edmond Blanc Awards 2008

CIC Press Release

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) annually awards outstanding efforts in wildlife conservation and game management that are based on the principles of sustainable use of wildlife. This year the Edmond Blanc Prize had two winners, the hunting association "La Perdrix" (Morocco) and the "Moscow Association of Hunters and Fishers" (Russian Federation). The "National Game Management Database" (Hungary) and the "Amministrazione Provinciale of Arezzo" (Italy) received Edmond Blanc Diploma.

Edmond Blanc Prize Winners

As in previous years, the prestigious Edmond Blanc Prizes were awarded during the Closing Session of the 55th CIC General Assembly, held on 25 April in Marrakech, Morocco. The jury, chaired by Dr. Nicolas Franco, honoured the hunting association "La Perdrix" for efforts in game conservation.

The Association was established in 1978. Since 1982 it leases from the state an area of 6 000 hectares of Mediterranean forest. Before the association obtained this lease, the area had been over-exploited by hunters and poachers coming from the big cities nearby. The Association developed a rigorous game management system, focusing mainly on Barbary Partridge and Wild Boar. Improvements included establishing watering points, as well as the management of forest plots and carnivore populations. Thanks to strict hunting regulations, partridge as well as wild boar populations have increased significantly. The local communities in the surrounding area are also benefiting: the association employs six full-time gamekeepers and annually provides 1,500-2,000 days of temporary employment for the local people.

The other Edmond-Blanc-Prize Winner was the "Moscow Association of Hunters and Fishers".

The Association was incorporated in 1944 and is one of the largest public associations of the fraternity of Russian hunters and fishers. The association manages thousands of hectares of hunting terrain, using its own resources and at its own expense. With over 116,000 members, the Association employs 570 professionals and is an active participant of the program "Study of the Population of Migratory Birds and Trends in Russia".

Edmond Blanc Diploma Winners

The National Game Management Database (Hungary) is located at the Institute of Wildlife Conservation of the Szt. István University in Gödöllő. The Database provides a plethora of game management data for regional spatial planning and for strategic decision-making such as the quota system. The database in connection with the principles of adaptive wildlife management has benefitted both the hunters and the public, and assisted in improving the acceptance of the sustainable use of wildlife resources.

The Amministrazione Provinciale of Arezzo has succeeded in introducing an optimal selective management approach for Bovides and Cervides based on the principles of the CIC. This lead to excellent results in biological species' diversity and helped that the various cinegetic use options and hunting methods exist side by side without problems.

New Landmark Satellite Report to Africa's Environment Ministers

Africa's rapidly changing environmental landscape, from the disappearance of glaciers in Uganda's Rwenzori Mountains to the loss of Cape Town's unique 'fynbos' vegetation, was presented in June to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). A nearly 400-page atlas, compiled on behalf of the ministers by the UN Environment Program (UNEP), underlines how development choices, population growth, climate change and, in some cases, conflicts are shaping and impacting the natural and nature-based assets of the region.

Africa: Atlas of Our Changing Environment features over 300 satellite images taken in every country in Africa in over 100 locations. The 'before' and 'after' photographs, some of which span a 35-year period, offer striking snapshots of local environmental transformation across the continent. In addition to well-publicized changes, such as Mount Kilimanjaro's shrinking glaciers, the drying up of Lake Chad and falling water levels in Lake Victoria, the Atlas presents, for the first time, satellite images of new or lesser known environmental changes and challenges including:

- Disappearing glaciers in Uganda's Rwenzori Mountains, which decreased by 50 per cent between 1987 and 2003.
- The widening corridors of deforestation that have accompanied expanding roads in the northern Democratic Republic of the Congo since 1975. New roads threaten to bring even greater traffic to this biologically rich rainforest and further fuel the bushmeat trade.
- The disappearance of a large portion of Madagascar's South Malagasy spiny forest between 1973 and 2003 as a result of farming and fuelwood gathering.
- The northern edge of Cape Town, which has seen much of its native 'fynbos' vegetation replaced with farms and suburban development since 1978. 'Fynbos' make up 80 per cent of the plant varieties in the Cape Floristic Region, an area with over 6,000 plant species which are found nowhere else in the world and are an economic asset for tourism.
- The loss of trees and shrubs in the fragile environment of the Jebel Marra foothills in western Sudan as a result of population growth due in part to an influx of refugees fleeing drought and conflict in neighboring Northern Darfur.
- The dramatic expansion of Senegalese capital Dakar over the past half century from a small urban centre at the tip of the Cap Vert Peninsula to a metropolitan area with 2.5 million people spread over the entire peninsula.

The Atlas, compiled in cooperation with researchers and organizations in Africa and elsewhere, offers a sobering assessment of thirty-six years of environmental change, including: "The swell of grey-colored cities over a once-green countryside; protected areas shrinking as farms encroach upon their boundaries; the tracks of road networks through forests; pollutants that drift over borders of neighboring countries; the erosion of deltas; refugee settlements scattered across the continent causing further pressure on the environment; and shrinking mountain glaciers".

The satellite images also highlight positive signs of management that is protecting against and even reversing environmental degradation, say the authors.

- Action on overgrazing in the Sidi Toui National Park, southeastern Tunisia has produced a dramatic rebound in the natural ecosystem. The park has seen the reintroduction of the Scimitar-horned oryx (*Oryx dammah*).
- A new management plan for the Itezhi-tezhi dam in Zambia has helped to restore the natural seasonal flooding of the Kafue flats, as shown in the 2007 satellite image.
- The expansion of wetlands resulting from a restoration project in and around Diawling National Park is helping to control flooding and improve livelihoods in Mauritania.
- New policies and improved enforcement have significantly reduced unsustainable exploitation of the forests of Mount Kenya, which is a crucial area for water catchment and hydro-power generation.
- Farmer initiatives focusing on the planting and protection of trees have led to significant land revitalization in Tahoua Province, Niger. A recent study revealed that there are now 10 to 20 times more trees across three of Niger's southern provinces than there were in the 1970s.
- A review of forest concessions in Liberia has helped protect the forest in Sapo National Park from logging as well as illegal mining and poaching.

Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director, said: "As shown throughout the Atlas, there are many places across Africa where people have taken action - where there are more trees than thirty years ago, where wetlands have sprung back, and where land degradation has been countered. These are the beacons we need to follow to ensure the survival of Africa's people and their economically important nature-based assets."

"The Atlas also however clearly demonstrates the vulnerability of people in the region to forces often outside their control, including the shrinking of glaciers in Uganda and Tanzania and impacts on water supplies linked with climate change. These underline the urgent need for the international community to deliver a new climate agreement by the climate change convention meeting in Copenhagen in 2009-one that not only delivers deep emission reductions but also accelerates the flow of funds for adaptation and the climate proofing of economies," he added.

Main Findings and Key Concerns

Between 1990 and 2004, many African countries achieved some small but promising environmental improvements, mainly in the field of water and sanitation. A few countries have expanded protected areas - currently numbering over 3,000 across the continent. However, loss of forest is a major

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New Landmark Satellite Report

concern in 35 countries, including the DR Congo, Malawi, Nigeria and Rwanda, among others. This is closely followed by biodiversity loss - which is occurring in 34 countries such as Angola, Ethiopia, Gabon and Mali.

Land degradation, similarly, is a major worry for 32 countries in Africa including Cameroon, Eritrea and Ghana. Other problems include desertification - in Burkina Faso, Chad, Kenya and Niger among others - as well as water stress, rising pollution and coping with rapid urbanization.

Africa is losing more than four million hectares of forest every year - twice the world's average deforestation rate. Meanwhile, some areas across the continent are said to be losing over 50 metric tons of soil per hectare per year. The Atlas also shows that erosion and chemical and physical damage have degraded about 65 per cent of the continent's farmlands. In addition, slash and burn agriculture, coupled with the high occurrence of lightning across Africa, is thought to be responsible for wild fires. Over 300 million people on the continent already face water scarcity, and areas experiencing water shortages in Sub-Saharan Africa are expected to increase by almost a third by 2050.

Climate change is emerging as a driving force behind many of these problems and is likely to intensify the already dramatic transformations taking place across the continent. Although Africa produces only four per cent of the world's total carbon dioxide emissions, its inhabitants are poised to suffer disproportionately. Africa's capacity to adapt to climate change is relatively low, with projected costs estimated to reach at least 5-10 per cent of GDP.

Taking advantage of the latest space technology and Earth observation science, including the 36-year legacy of the US Landsat satellite program, the Atlas serves to demonstrate the potential of satellite imagery data in monitoring ecosystems and natural resources dynamics. This in turn can provide the kind of hard, evidence-based data to support political decisions aimed at improving management of Africa's natural resources.

Africa: Atlas of Our Changing Environment

Containing non-copyrighted material available for free use with 316 satellite images from 104 locations in Africa, with 151 maps and 319 ground photographs and a series of graphs illustrating the environmental challenges. Individual satellite images, maps, graphs and photographs, can be downloaded from http://na.unep.net/AfricaAtlas or purchase your copy at www.earthprint.com. The digital version of the Atlas will also be released on Google Earth and other websites.

For More Information Please Contact Nick Nuttall, UNEP Spokesperson, Office of the Executive Director, on Tel: +254 20 762 3084; Mobile: 254 733 632 755 or when traveling +41 795 965 737; E-mail: nick.nuttall@unep.org

CITES: Trophy Importation Crisis in the US Averted for Now

John J Jackson III, Conservation Force

Editor's Note: With our many readers in the United States of America, African Indaba is pleased to bring you the latest news about the possible problems with importing CITES listed trophies from certain African States. As usual, John Jackson, Chairman of Conservation Force, recognized the problems early and started with immediate and decisive action, which did not only include his intervention with the US Fish & Wildlife Service, but also with the major trophy handling agents in the US and Africa, as well as with the Wildlife Departments in the African range states.

In late May and early June we began receiving calls and emails from San Francisco to New York that many dozens of trophy shipments were being held and the owners were being given the option of seizure or shipping their trophies back to the country of origin. Section 14 of the export permits was not satisfactorily completed. The trophies were from Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Spain, CAR, Cameroon, and Tajikistan. Hunters, brokers and trophy import agents were asking for advice on what option to take, i.e. bearing the costs and risk of reshipping or accepting seizure and petitioning for release.

If shipped back, there was a risk of loss or damage to the trophies. There was also a risk that the export and/or import permits would expire during the process. In addition to the cost of agents on both ends, there are storage charges at both ends, added insurance costs and more.

If the hunter chose seizure, then the hunter could simply forfeit his CITES-listed trophies to avoid further costs. In that case there was no assurance initially that a civil fine might not still be imposed atop of the forfeiture. Alternatively, hunters that choose seizure could file a *petition for remission* of the seized trophy or trophies on the basis that it was the fault of the exporting CITES government authority and he or she was an innocent owner. There are drawbacks to that choice. First, there is a low success rate with petitions for remission and a dearth of specialized legal counsel to competently handle such cases. The regional solicitors that decide the petitions for the respective ports seem to act as prosecutors as well as judges. Historically, they treat such trophies as "contraband" to which the owner has no protected property rights and they treat trophy trade of CITES-listed species as disfavored. Since September 2007 (published August 23, 2007 and effective in September; 72 FR 48402) CITES government authority errors for Appendix II species are correctable after the fact, post shipment, under certain limited and stringent conditions. Unfortunately, no such relief is yet available for Appendix I listed species such as most elephant and all leopard are classed. The petition for remission process

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can take years and if your trophy is returned to you, you are often required to sign a waiver of liability for its condition (sight unseen) before its return and have to agree to pay a civil fine in the amount of thousands of dollars. Violations are treated as strict liability. If you wish to seek judicial relief after exhausting the administrative petition for remission process, it is in federal court in the port of importation, which is expensive. Judicial relief is rarely undertaken. Most petitions are denied and the trophies lost.

We advised all those that contacted us to choose reshipment and to be alert to import and export permit expiration dates. There was little real choice in the case of Appendix I seizures. If the permits expired during the reshipment cycle, it would be the hunter's fault under the interpretation of the regulations and there was little likelihood the trophy could be saved regardless of which CITES Appendix.

When the scale of the problem dawned on us at Conservation Force, we sent an urgent request to the Director and Deputy Director of USF&WS for temporary relief. The response was immediate. Within days every trophy in every port was released and cleared for entry. Because the underlying problem still exists and will arise again, I've included the full final correspondence with the Service. It is the closest thing to an explanation to the public, so we are publishing it here in full.

Conservation Force's original email to Director Dale Hall & Deputy Director Ken Stansell:

We have a crisis! Dozens, if not hundreds, of shipments of trophies are being seized or turned around for re-export with attendant complications such as permit expirations.
Last August the Service adopted new internal CITES regulations. Those regulations treat export permits with imperfections as invalid. In the last month or so the Service has begun vigorously enforcing the requirement that export permits be endorsed properly.
Although the Service notified the CITES parties of its new regulations when they were adopted, the new regulations are over 100 pages in length and address a multiplicity of issues. It's a major undertaking to study and comply with them. It presents a problem in third-world countries.
This is a request that the seizures and re-exports be temporarily halted until a specific advisory can be issued to the exporting nations. After all these years, it cannot hurt to delay the implementation for a couple of months. Right now it's having a devastating impact on the entire safari industry and consequently, a negative impact on the conservation that arises from hunting-related programs - including those sanctioned by CITES through quotas and Resolution 2.11 (Revised).
Please respond as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
John J. Jackson, III
Chairman, Conservation Force

USF&WS response:

John-
I have checked into your allegations and I am not sure that I agree with either the nature or extent of your concerns. I believe you are referring to one specific requirement that CITES documents include the actual quantity of specimens exported or re-exported which must be validated or certified by the stamp or seal and signature of the inspecting authority at the time of export or re-export (50 CFR 23.23(c)(21)). This requirement, which the U.S. has been implementing for years, was reinforced at the Meeting of the Conference of the Parties last year with the recommendations in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP14) on permits and certificates, under which validation of CITES documents is now required at the time of the export or re-export, even when a physical inspection is not possible. Annex 1 of the resolution, which contains information that should be included in CITES permits and certificates, contains (in paragraph p) the validation/certification requirement for all permits and certificates.
Following the announcement of our revised CITES regulations last September, we have not only distributed a general notice to all Parties, but have been working extensively bilaterally with a number of our key importing Parties, and in this case the safari hunting industry, to ensure that there is a common understanding of the requirements of CITES. We have also established a process to track countries that fail to validate CITES documents so we can continue to work with those countries to ensure compliance.
For the past eight months through May of this year, while working to get the word out, we have NOT taken any enforcement action on shipments containing CITES specimens where the only violation detected was the lack of validation on a CITES export or re-export permit or certificate. We advised importers of the validation requirement and warned that future shipments could be subject to enforcement action. Beginning in May of this year, we moved to a secondary phase-in period which will run through August. During this time, we will refuse clearance for these shipments and allow the shipment to be returned to obtain the proper clearances, if the importer chooses. In cases where the importer does not choose to return the item, we may seize the shipment.
Recently we have had a few situations where the permit was partially validated (signed) but the actual numbers of items imported was not identified. An incomplete validation (without numbers) is a violation. However, if this is a noncommercial shipment, there are no other concerns, and the actual quantities authorized by the management authority can be verified with a physical inspection, we are in the process of advising our officers to allow these shipments to be cleared for import.
We have done exactly what you suggested. Since the Parties recently voted to increase enforcement of this requirement, we allowed for a full 12 months grace period through September of this year before we will consider seizing shipments. After eight months of warnings, we have now moved to a refuse entry post-

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ure which we will continue until that time. We believe that this phased approach is a reasonable and appropriate way to ensure compliance of CITES while recognizing the need to allow adequate time for the Parties to implement their decisions.
In closing, I hope this reply is responsive to your concerns. Thank you for communicating with the Service on these issues.

Kenneth B. Stansell
Deputy Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The pertinent part of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP14) on permits and certificates that Ken Stansell refers to above states:

Annex 1: Information that should be included in CITES permits and certificates...

p) The actual quantity of specimens exported, certified by the stamp or seal and signature of the authority that carried out the inspection at the time of the exportation.

The new USF&WS internal regulations published August 23, 2007 (72 FR 48414) address the issue twice.

First, section 23.27 provides the following: "What CITES documents do I present at the port?" … "(c) *General validation or certification process.* Officials in each country inspect the shipment and validate or certify the CITES document…."

Second, at 50 CFR 23.23(c)(21) the Service lists "[w]hat information is required on…foreign CITES documents." The required information includes "validation or certification". That is described to be "the actual quantity of specimens exported or re-exported: (i) Using the same units of measurement as those on the CITES document. (ii) Validated or certified by the stamp or seal and signature of the inspected authority at the time of export…."

When the Service approved its new regulations in August 2007 it specifically addressed our concerns here at Conservation Force. "Validation (Section 23.23(c)(21): We require quantity exported or re-exported whether the shipment is physically inspected upon export or not. One commenter expressed concern that this section requires a CITES permit to be validated prior to leaving the country; otherwise it is not considered a valid permit. The commenter stated that the majority of countries do not validate their export permits and that this will become an enforcement burden to the wildlife inspectors program to either re-export the shipment for lack of validation or seize the item(s). The commenter questioned if there is a plan to notify all CITES Parties of the new requirement to lessen the burden.

We are aware of the lack of implementation of this CITES requirement by some countries, and plan to focus outreach efforts on this issue before the rule enters into effect. However, we are also aware that receipt of a CITES document without validation is not necessarily due to an export or re-exporting country having chosen not to validate, but may be because these shipments have evaded export controls. The lack of validation is quite often a violation of the exporting or re-exporting country's CITES laws and we are committed to ensuring that shipments of CITES species are legally traded."

We cannot give the Service enough praise for its prudence in this instance. They had warned the community, we had warned the community and top import services like Coppersmith, Inc. had warned the community. Together, each in our own way, we tried to prevent the crisis. Working with Carol Rutkowski of Coppersmith, Inc. we even got one important trophy exporting country to add the inspection and validation blank to its CITES export permits form.

Obviously, our best efforts failed and the USF&WS is giving hunters another chance to comply with CITES. The best assurance you can have is to see that only qualified exporting agents are selected by your hunting company or taxidermists.

In short, we have to ensure that Section 14 of the export permit is completed. Hunters have to police this themselves before shipments take place and/or ensure that qualified agents are proofing the CITES export documents before the shipment takes place.

In time, exporting CITES authorities will adopt the necessary protocol. Even then there will invariably be mistakes. The more requirements, the more opportunities or risks of mistakes and errors. Remember that returns or reshipping will not be an option in the future.

Namibia's Conservancies Deliver

Adapted from a Report by Absalom Shigwedha for THE Namibian

Namibia's 50 registered communal conservancies, which cover 14.4 per cent of the country's land surface, generated more than N$39.1 million in 2007. The Namibian Association of Community-Based Natural Resource Management Support Organization (NACSO) said N$14.35 million came from tourism joint-venture agreements, N$20.5 million was generated in cash income, while N$7 million was earned as non-cash or income to conservancies, an example being fresh meat from trophy hunting donated to conservancies. A further N$11.4 million was generated through CBRNM activities outside conservancies. 835 full-time and 6,227 part-time jobs had been created and conservancies themselves has created and funded 463 conservancy management jobs. In 2007, CBNRM had contributed approximately N$223 million to the net national income.

Conservancies still needed to improve their management and the flow of benefits to the conservancy members. Mitigating human wildlife conflicts was another major challenge facing con-

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Namibia's Conservancies Deliver

servancies.

Today, parks and protected areas cover 16.5 per cent of Namibia's land surface, commercial conservancies 6.1 per cent, while concessions and community forests cover 1.3 per cent. Together with the 14.4 per cent for communal conservancies, this gives a total of 38 per cent of Namibia under some form of conservation management.

Fifteen of the conservancies (including) the Torra and Nyae-Nyae are now financially independent, generating sustainable and annual revenues greater than incurred annual operating costs. A number of conservancies were able to produce good results with the assistance of the MET and related non-governmental organizations, including the LIFE Project of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

Environment Deputy Minister Leon Jooste commended the LIFE Project, saying it had developed and established a practical natural resource monitoring system which could easily and effectively be implemented by conservancy members. "This system allows them to visualize their data which ultimately facilitates in making informed management decisions," said Jooste. He said it had been adapted and adopted for use in parks and was being used by many other countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. Namibia, he said, had more than enough reasons to be extremely proud of what he described as arguably the most effective CRNRM program in the world today.

The event also included the launch of a 26-minute documentary DVD entitled 'By the People, For The People - Communities and Conservation in Namibia', documenting how the CBNRM program has preserved the bounty and beauty of Namibia while empowering her people and strengthen communities.

Produced by Quiet Storm Film Productions, the DVD features conservationists such as Beavan Munali of the Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRNDC), Chief Tambwe Mayuni of Mayuni conservancy in Caprivi, King Josia Shikongo Taapopi of Uukwaluudhi, Dorothy Wamunyima of Every River Has It's People of Namibia Nature Foundation, IRNDC's Garth Owen Smith, Flip Stander of the Desert Lion Project, and Parks and Wildlife Management Deputy Director Colgar Sikopo, applauding what the CBRNM program has achieved.

American Ambassador to Namibia, Dennise Mathieu, said the American people were proud that USAID had assisted Namibian communities to organize themselves as conservancies to better take care of and gain from their wildlife and other natural resources. *"After watching the video, seeing the pictures and learning from the speakers about just how much all of the partners have achieved in the lifespan of Namibian Independence, you should be proud,"* said Mathieu.

Mountain Buffalo – Wilderness Hunting in Tanzania

Review of an exciting new DVD available at Rowland Ward's

This production by Rainer Josch and his tracker Lorinyu is a film in a class of its own and could be classified a documentary. The film is not a typical hunting production and does not include large amounts of footage on animals being shot. The film is more about huge buffalo trophies being stalked on foot through difficult terrain. You'll see the magnificent mountain landscape and the rich and diverse wildlife including elephant, lion, and leopard. Rainer's own words aptly describe the contents, "*the pursuing of an animal shall only become interesting when the hunt provides a challenge to the hunter. The taking of an animal should not be too easy, the risk of an unsuccessful outcome adds mystery and personalizes the hunting experience and is therefore a prerequisite...*"

The film takes you on three awesome buffalo hunts around Mount Loosimingor in Northern Tanzania with Rainer being the narrator and guide on all three hunts. The hunts shown in the footage are two clients of Rainer, an American and a German, and the last one is of Rainer himself hunting a bull that he has seen often, but he knows his chances of bagging it are not good "*…the Cape Buffalo provides one of the biggest challenges in Africa to the modern hunter. Those who have experienced buffalo hunting know about the powerful aura that radiates from this species…*" All three are extremely difficult hunts with a great deal of opportunities to take huge trophies, some being successful and some not. This production provides the viewer with all the excitement and nerve-racking intensity of the stalk, the disappointment of failure and the joy, satisfaction and respect created by real hunting.

This movie is of the highest quality and the professional narrative makes it a truly remarkable production. It's about real hunting—the way it should be. Rainer is completely set on hunting only the older *mbogos*, the bulls that have left the breeding herds and who have already passed on their genes. He also provides a great deal of insight on his thoughts of hunting and how this type of hunting is second to none "*…there can hardly be a more pristine way in emerging yourself in nature than to hunt. Hunting is not the quarry, the gain or the trophy. Hunting is the trail, the path and a stalk. It gives me the most intense way of experiencing nature and myself, particularly on a mountain hunt for cape buffalo…It is only through such a process of elevated consciousness with great respect for the animal and an appreciation for the magnificence of creation that anyone can truly say 'I hunt'.*"

The narration gives a choice between English, Danish, French, Spanish, German to be selected when starting the movie (the section with the German client has subtitles in English).

Order your copy at Rowland Ward, P O Box 2079, Houghton 2041, South Africa, Email: sales@rowlandward.com Website: www.rowlandward.com