



**CIC – International Council for
Game and Wildlife Conservation**



AFRICAN INDABA

Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

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Special Issue on occasion of the 57th CIC General Assembly in Dubrovnik/Croatia

The Way I see It

Editorial by Dieter Schramm, President of the CIC

In this special issue – at the occasion of the 57th CIC General Assembly “the World Forum for Sustainable Hunting” a number of CIC-initiatives and activities are presented. 11 years of serving as President of this organization should qualify me to ask you: Who is CIC? – “Ah, those are the people with the ‘CIC points’ who measure trophies”, right?

Not quite as there is definitely more to it. Certainly, three quarters of a century ago we developed the CIC measuring system for game animals. Today we are working on adapting methods and parameters of this venerable system to the requirements of 21st century conservation biology. The CIC system has not been designed to serve the ego-trip of certain people to advertise their “hunting achievements”. To reduce our activity as hunter-fisher conservationists to such a primitive level is a disfavor to all serious members of the hunting and fishing community. I will get to this subject later-on when we discuss the credibility of the hunter.

Now then, what is the true role of the CIC? Self adoration is not my motivation, but with the President's responsibility, let me explain: The CIC, with governments, associations, universities, game-biologists and private individuals as members in 84 countries is acting on behalf of the average, true hunter and fisher. The man or the woman honoring fair chase and sustainability principles by truly enjoying one of mankind's original activities: hunting and fishing. The man and the woman who realize: we are a minority of the total population and are obliged to properly explain what we are doing. Hence, we must unite ourselves and speak with one voice where the individual cannot reach, where even individual associations are simply too small: at the decision-making level of the “global conservation scene”. Mind you, for decades the hunting community had totally neglected this “conservation-conference-tourism-platform”! The anti-hunting community, however, long before we woke up, had grabbed the chance and dominated the scene - until we realized this and got our act together.... In our stormy 80 year-history we positioned ourselves:

- As global organization on the forefront of the development of policies for the Sustainable use of Biodiversity as a basis for

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

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conservation – and, subsequently, the promotion of hunting as a valuable tradition for ourselves and the future generations;

- As seeing such tradition as an obligation to use all efforts in order to ensure that nature/species conservation first of all is oriented on nature itself: an interpretation which guides our own life, the society supported by us and which gives us the logical and scientific background for all respective measures and actions.
- As a competent pro-sustainable hunting consultant for decision makers, administrative entities and international organizations on the basis of scientific know-how in specific and interdisciplinary fields;
- As neither purely private nor purely governmental: in the cooperation between governmental authority and the flexibility of private membership lies the dynamic of the CIC, which differentiates it from other so-called NGOs and makes it unique;
- The CIC also takes up the challenge not to leave the conservation of nature exclusively in the hands of those who out of political, ideological, society-critical or even one sided scientific views, e.g.
- desire to "protect" one-sidedly, at the expense of other species;
- attempt to curb personal freedom of man under the umbrella of "nature protection" leading in extremes to "expropriation" – it is not a coincidence that slogans appear like "Eco-terrorism" or: "Who protects nature and man from nature protectors".

One important aspect of the CIC's underlying philosophy must be outlined here: in all our endeavors we insist on man being an integral of our ecosystems – and not outside of nature.

I consider one of our foremost achievements that we were able to serve the betterment of people by using our common passion for wildlife to bridge over different religions, backgrounds – and to overcome frictions, separations burdening us. One of the foremost "best practice examples" is the pilot project which we initiated and manage successfully since 10 years: the "CIC – Coordination Forum Southeast and Central Europe".

It is truly astonishing how the common denominator of caring for wildlife in war-torn former Yugoslavia resulted in caring for people – by the way the motto of our 2007 General Assembly in Belgrade.

It is my distinct honor to mention a name here: Veljko Varicak, former Vice-President of the CIC, and Honorary Chairman of the above mentioned Coordination Forum. His never tiring work achieved something which neither the UN nor the EU really brought to life: a round table where representatives of civil society, in our case all hunting associations of the new Balkan Countries, are confidently working together for wildlife management across borders. Within this CIC introduced coordination-framework let me point out a classical example, which is filled with life by our friends in Bosnia Herzegovina: here, all three fractions, the Serbs, the Christians and the Moslems join forces and by now have decided to speak with one voice! A noble cause – may be not in the eyes of certain ideologically motivated activists depicting hunters and fishers as criminals waging war against animals....but in the eyes of the majority of responsible conservationists. Other CIC Coordination Forums are "under construction" – e.g. in the Mediterranean area.

Apart from this, how effective then is the CIC as the professed *Global Forum for Sustainable Hunting* on such levels where decisions concerning our future as hunter-conservationists are made, within the UN-System, IUCN, CITES, all those international conventions such as CMS and CBD with its Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines - just to name a few?

I do not want to bore you with a list of our tangible achievements, let me just quote a classical example: our work for and within IUCN. In the year 2000, at the IUCN World Congress in Aman I suffered my first shock when I realized there were 2.000 more or less professional conservationists who, with a few exceptions, made their living from "conservation" – and did not give a hoot about us, the hunters. Nonetheless, from the sideline – and as 100% volunteers, we could contribute to an IUCN Policy Decision: *"Use, if sustainable, can serve human needs on an ongoing basis while contributing to the conservation of biological diversity"*. In 2004, at the following IUCN World Conservation Congress in Bangkok – with more than 6.000 participants! The CIC, the hunting community, was by far better established; we had our proper workshops: the CIC supported the adoption of a motion of our South African friends: *Recreational Hunting, if sustainable, is considered a tool for conservation*. At the end of the day, *IUCN formally adopted the Addis Ababa Principles as policy basis!* And in 2008, again at the next IUCN Summit in Barcelona, the CIC held a daily briefing for all members of the sustainable use community and thereby served as a convener of all those supporting sustainable hunting.

The CIC, in 2004, had been instrumental in motivating the international community – all in all 194 states – to sign into action these vital Addis Ababa Principles. In essence they give us the framework for "use it or lose it" but also for our behavior as responsible users of our renewable natural resources. No doubt, as always with such wide-ranging strategic principles – the issue remains how to implement them. This is our personal challenge as a responsible user of nature, as farmer, as forester, as tourist, as sportsman, as hunter, as fisherman.

Which brings me to my second main topic: our credibility as hunters. We, as CIC, try to unite all serious forces active in promoting sustainable hunting, attempt to serve as an umbrella organization true to what our Patron, HM Juan Carlos of Spain said: "We hunters are much stronger than we believe, if we only would unite and join our forces".

However, how do you react if somebody tells you "I cannot compete in sports, I am also too old to get stars in the Army, but I can get my full satisfaction in my Hunting Club, since I can afford to gain their great "AWARDS" through my "RECORD" trophies.....". Indeed, there exist commercially oriented organizations predominantly recruiting their membership through offering the chance to take the biggest trophies in the world –and get them imported into their home country. This might be as it is - laudable if part of their revenue also goes into conservation programs, but does the end exculpate the means? Indeed, to give highly visible awards for the person bagging such "record" trophies without linking it to the strict adherence to fair chase principles is quite another matter. A system, which puts the man or the woman on the very top of the stage for having killed hundreds of "record-book-trophies"? Sorry, this is counter-productive to all levels of our CIC-work to promote ethical and

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The Way I See It

sustainable hunting, it is neither explainable to the public nor sellable to the international conservation "industry: it severely damages the credibility of the serious hunter and fisher.

I am a realist and not a preacher. Trophy hunting is important, is a vital part of sustainable hunting, when and if it serves the benefit of the local people, activates the fight against poverty, furthers rural development and last but not least serves the conservation of wild places and wild animals. We support and highly appreciate this and love and measure the trophies obtained in our hunts. But, any trophy hunting database should honor the region and the game population from where an exceptional animal originated and should also serve wildlife management tool. One of the many CIC projects, consequently, centers on devising and establishing a system for the "certification of hunting tourism".

By the same token we strictly adhere to a fundamental code of ethics. One of the CIC's tasks is enhancing the credibility of hunters and fishers. The killing of drugged, half-tame, artificially "created" monster trophies in small holding pens may be legal in some places and apparently there is a market for this kind of activity. It is also apparently legal to pluck thousands of artificially raised pheasants from the skies and let the meat go to waste. But these excesses must not be called hunting. We know how to define a true hunt, a proper Fair Chase, respected traditions and we adhere to the moral obligation that harvested game must not be wasted. The CIC can and will not liaise with parasites of hunting ("Jagd-Schmarotzer", "parasites de chasse"). My call to all of us: let's clear the decks!

Gerhard Damm's African Indaba is a wonderful and serious publication to get our message across. Thank you, Gerhard, in the name of the CIC, in the name of all serious hunters!

Professional Hunters Raise Two Million Rand For Conservation

PHASA Press Release

The Professional Hunters Association of South Africa (PHASA) raised over two million Rand (ca 200,000 Euro) at a black tie event on April 16th. The funds will all go towards the training of African students in wildlife management at the Southern African Wildlife College at Hoedspruit. It was the 4th "Wildlife Heritage Gala Dinner", again endorsed by Dr Ian Player and the Peace Parks Foundation. Funds raised by selling exclusive donations of unique hunting opportunities, wildlife art and luxury weekend retreats, donated by individuals, government agencies and corporations from the SADC region will be used for bursaries for their respective students at the Wildlife College.

The largest donations came from South Africa's North West Province. Thus far, PHASA has funded training of over 200

students at the SA Wildlife College, many of whom are now in managerial positions in their countries.



Theresa Sowry, South African Wildlife College with Herman Meyeridricks, Chair PHASA Conservation & Empowerment Fund and CEO PHASA Adri Kitshoff

"The biggest contribution we can make to conservation is to see that there are adequately trained wildlife managers in Africa, and PHASA is leading the way in conserving Africa wildlife heritage" said Paul Stones, an executive member of PHASA.

The evening was attended by numerous dignitaries including His Majesty the King of Zululand and her Royal Highness the Queen, Ms Hazel Jenkins, Premier of the Northern-Cape Province, as well as professional hunters, conservation authorities and invited guests. Coenraad Vermaak, one of the founding members of PHASA, who gave an entertaining talk on how hunting has transformed land use and wildlife populations in South Africa over the past 40 years and kept everybody chuckling when he wittily recounted some of his experiences in the field (turn to page 21 for Coenraad's speech).

Theresa Sowry of the Wildlife College thanked PHASA and bidders and stated that the Wildlife College simply could not do its training programs without the funding support of PHASA.



From left to right: His Majesty the King of Zululand, Paul Stones (PHASA), Her Royal Highness the Queen, Hermann Meyeridricks (PHASA), Coenraad Vermaak (Founder member of PHASA), Vicky Vermaak, Eduard Katzke, PHASA President, Hans Vermaak (PHASA), Marianna Louwrens (PHASA) and PHASA CEO Adri Kitshoff

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CIC Zimbabwe Recommendation GA57REC01

Dr. Rolf D. Baldus

It is a CIC tradition that General Assemblies adopt Resolutions on important international hunting and conservation issues. This year the Tropical Game Commission proposes a Resolution on Zimbabwe. It

should send a strong message worldwide that all stakeholders in Zimbabwe and the donor countries should work together in order to save Zimbabwe's wildlife, which is not only a heritage of mankind, but also an economic resource for the poverty stricken rural population and for the economic recovery of the country. Only recently the Delegation of the European Commission to Zimbabwe had published a document in which it criticises in a rather undiplomatic language the failure of the Zimbabwe Government to conserve the country's wildlife. The Delegation concludes „that a point of no-return is rapidly approaching“.

A proposal for rebuilding the Wildlife sector of Zimbabwe can be found on the Tropical Game Commission Website. (see under projects at <http://cic-sustainable-hunting-worldwide.org>).

EU: Simbabwe's Umwelt in höchster Gefahr - Jetzt muss gehandelt werden!

Dr. Rolf D. Baldus

Die CIC Tropenwildkommission hat der Generalversammlung eine Empfehlung zu Simbabwe vorgeschlagen.

Der Hintergrund dieser Resolution wird in einer Erklärung der Europäischen Kommission in Harare deutlich. Angesichts der dramatischen Wilderei und Naturzerstörung in Simbabwe hatte sich die EU Delegation zu einem ungewöhnlichen Schritt entschlossen. In einer öffentlichen Erklärung beschreibt die EU Botschaft mit offenen Worten und ohne die übliche diplomatische Zurückhaltung die katastrophale Naturzerstörung und Wilderei im Gefolge der Beschlagnahme der großen Farmen und der so genannten "Landreform". Die Lage muss dramatisch sein, denn alle Simbawwer werden aufgerufen, sich zusammenzuschließen, um den besorgniserregenden Entwicklungen zu begegnen. Nach dem Politikverständnis des greisen Diktators Mugabe kommt dies schon einem Aufruf zum Widerstand gleich.

Robert Mugabe selbst wird nicht genannt, doch seine Politik wird als Hauptursache für den landwirtschaftlichen und ökonomischen Kollaps des Landes und die damit zusammenhängende unkontrollierte Ausbeutung und Zerstörung der natürlichen Ressourcen des Landes bezeichnet. Da die Menschen verelenden, müssen sie die Natur übernutzen, um zu überleben. Abholzung, Erosion, Wasserknappheit und das Abschichten der einst reichen Wildbestände des Landes



ZIMBABWE TO STOP DESTRUCTION AND MISMANAGEMENT OF ITS WILDLIFE

RECOMMENDATION CICGA57.REC01

RECOGNIZING that Zimbabwe's management of its wildlife resources was amongst the best and most proactive on the African continent;

UNDERSTANDING that during the last decade Zimbabwe lost a larger part of its wildlife due to weak protection, law enforcement, Governance (see also Resolution of the CIC Tropical Game Commission in 2004);

NOTING that in Zimbabwe poaching of the both highly endangered black and white rhinos was very high in the last 3 years and that around 200 animals were lost;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Delegation of the European Union in Zimbabwe in November 2009 sounded the alarm that Zimbabwe's environment is under serious threat and a point of no-return is rapidly approaching.

The 57th CIC General Assembly in Dubrovnik, Croatia, 6 - 9 May 2010

CALLS UPON the Zimbabwean Government, in order to return to accountable and globally acceptable management and protection of its wildlife, to use the laws and policies in place to the fullest to protect the country's wildlife heritage for their country, their people and the global community.

PROPOSES immediate conservation action before a social and environmental catastrophe becomes irreversible.

ENCOURAGES donors and the private sector to seek cooperation with suitable agencies and institutions and the Government in Zimbabwe in order to strengthen wildlife conservation and revive the wildlife sector, in particular private and communal conservancies and protected areas.

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CIC Zimbabwe Resolution

werden zu einer sozialen und Umweltkatastrophe führen, wenn nicht schnellstens etwas geschieht.

Als Beispiel für die in weiten Landesteilen außer Kontrolle geratene Wilderei wird das Spitzmaulnashorn genannt, dessen Bestände in den achtziger und neunziger Jahren anwuchsen, das aber bald ganz ausgerottet sein wird. In den vergangenen 12 Jahren hat man nach Schätzungen von Experten vor Ort zwei Drittel des nationalen Wildbestandes durch Missmanagement und Wilderei verloren. Nur die privaten Hegegemeinschaften („Conservancies“) verzeichnen nach wie vor gute und steigende Zahlen. Dabei sind Simbabwes Wildtiere, die Nationalparks und Jagdgebiete von großer Bedeutung für eine wirtschaftliche Wiederbelebung des Landes. Industrie und Exportwirtschaft sind zerstört und ohne Naturtourismus ist ein Wirtschaftswachstum nicht möglich. Tourismus, Nationalparks und Jagd waren in der Vergangenheit immerhin für 10 % des Volkseinkommens verantwortlich. Die fortbestehende erzwungene Afrikanisierung wird allerdings die notwendigen Investitionen weiter erschweren. „Das Verschwinden der Wildtiere, so wie es derzeit bei den Nashörnern in Simbabwe der Fall ist, wird eine wirtschaftliche Erholung verhindern.“

Von besonderer Bedeutung sind die „Conservancies“, großflächige Zusammenschlüsse von privaten Wildfarmen, die 2 % des ganzen Landes umfassen und durch Tourismus und Jagd immer noch einen wichtigen wirtschaftlichen Beitrag für Einkommen und Beschäftigung in strukturschwachen und besonders armen Gebieten leisten. Die privaten Reservate sind auch die Reservoirs für den späteren Wiederaufbau der Wildbestände in den National Parks und in den CAMPFIRE Gebieten, in denen früher die ländliche Bevölkerung von der Trophäenjagd profitierte.

Die Regierung versucht jedoch, die letzten privaten Wildschutz- und Jagdgebiete ihren Besitzern wegzunehmen oder den Eigentümern „Partner“ aus Mugabes Umgebung aufzuzwingen. Nur ganz wenige Wildfarmen werden nicht angetastet. „Heute werden die Hegegemeinschaften zerstört, so wie es vorher mit den kommerziellen Farmen der Fall war“, stellt die EU dazu fest.

Der Punkt, von dem es keine Wiederkehr mehr gibt, ist bald erreicht“, heißt es im Bericht. „Dringend muss gehandelt werden, um nicht wieder gut zu machenden Schaden zu verhindern. Dies ist nicht nur ein Anliegen von nationaler, sondern von internationaler Bedeutung!“ Deshalb wird die Staatengemeinschaft aufgerufen, sich der Umweltproblematik in Simbabwe anzunehmen und mit der simbabwischen Regierung einen sinnvollen Dialog zu beginnen. Dies dürfte allerdings schwierig sein, da die Regierung Mugabes sich bislang jedem Dialog entzogen hat.

Allerdings gibt es Hoffnungen, die verbleibenden „Conservancies“ mit Hilfe der EU und wichtiger Staaten wie der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und den USA zu stützen. Mit einem runden Tisch will man den angestrebten Dialog zwischen Staat, den private Reservaten und allen Betroffenen auf den Weg bringen. Der „Lowveld Rhino Trust hat bereits Ende November dem Kabinett des Landes ein Arbeitspapier über die wirtschaftlichen Auswirkungen der derzeitigen Nashornwilderei

zur Beratung vorgelegt. Simbabwe sei derzeit die Nr. 1 in Afrika was den Verlust an Nashörnern durch kriminelle Aktivitäten angehe, heißt es dort. Und weiter: „Das Fehlen einer Kontrolle über das Wildern von Elefanten und Nashörnern ist von direkter und erheblicher Bedeutung für eine wirtschaftliche Erholung des Landes.“

Ein Vorschlag zum Wiederaufbau der Jagdwesens und der Wildbewirtschaftung in Simbabwe liegt seit Jahren auf dem Tisch. (siehe Projekte bei: <http://cic-sustainable-hunting-worldwide.org>) Er könnte helfen, diese Initiative der Europäischen Gemeinschaft zu verwirklichen.

Comparison of the Prices of Hunting Tourism in Southern and Eastern Africa

Vernon R. Booth

Hunting tourism has been conducted in seven eastern and southern African countries for more than 50 years and recently Uganda has re-opened hunting. This form of wildlife utilization generates significant income for community-based natural resource programs and contributes to the national economies of these countries - approximately 70% of the total cost of a Big Game Safari will enter the economy of the host country in the form of government licenses and outfitter operating expenses.

Sustainable hunting tourism, or conservation hunting as it is sometimes called, therefore is an important tool in promoting conservation and rural development across a broad spectrum of landscapes. In terms of gross revenue generation the conservation hunting industry appears to be robust with growth being recorded in South Africa and Namibia but not in the other major southern and eastern African destinations. The key instruments that generate this income are the cost of various hunting packages offered by hunting operations. Understanding the market trends is therefore essential in determining the value that wildlife brings to local, national and regional economies.

Over 100 websites representing a broad spectrum of hunting operations from Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Namibia were visited in 2008 and 2009 to gather data on the marketing strategies of this industry. This paper reviews the data gathered to establish the mean daily rate, trophy fee and hunt duration for a selection of hunting packages ranging from classic big game safaris to plains game ranch hunts. These data are then compared to determine marketing and pricing strategies for the various hunting packages across the region. From this a number of conclusions are drawn regarding the future growth of the industry.

A joint publication by: CIC – International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Budapest 2009. 128 pp. ISBN: 978-963-87791-8-2;

This brochure can be downloaded at <http://www.cic-sustainable-hunting-worldwide.org/publications.html>

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Markhor Prize Winner 2008 – Niassa National Reserve Mozambique Revisited

Vernon R Booth

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) awarded the prestigious "Markhor Award for Outstanding Conservation Performance" to *Sociedade Para a Gestão e Desenvolvimento da Reserva do Niassa* (SGDRN), in 2008. This short report highlights some of the on-going activities and achievements of SGDRN and describes some of the continuing challenges facing the Niassa National Reserve.

The Niassa National Reserve, with its vast area of intact and largely undisturbed miombo woodland, remoteness and inaccessibility, low human population density and relative political stability in Mozambique is destined to be one of Africa's premier conservation and hunting destinations. Despite enormous challenges, the management authority for this Reserve, *Sociedade Para a Gestão e Desenvolvimento da Reserva do Niassa* (SGDRN), has made significant strides since its inception in 2000 in the conservation and sustainable development of the Reserve. Encouragingly, aerial surveys since 1998 indicate that the overall herbivorous wildlife populations in the Reserve have doubled, notably the elephant population and some of the rarer species (Niassa Wildebeest, Boehm's zebra). – while over the same period revenue generation and employment opportunities from the development of tourism hunting has steadily increased and is now making significant contributions to communities and reserve management.

Niassa Reserve is undoubtedly one of the most important protected wilderness areas remaining in Africa. SGDRN was established in 2000 with a vision to "conserve the wilderness and biodiversity values of Niassa Reserve and to contribute to the economic development and welfare of the province and of the reserve's residents". To achieve this it has entered into a unique public-private partnership that brings together the government, private sector and civil society to collectively share the responsibility for the development, financing and management of national protected areas in Mozambique.

SGDRN has received essential technical and financial assistance from Fauna and Flora International (FFI) - one of the world's largest and oldest conservation organizations - that is instrumental to the progress made over the last 9 years. Funding assistance has also been provided by other donors, notably the US Fish and Wildlife Service and USAID enabling SGDRN to

carry out much of the initial baseline biodiversity and community studies in the reserve and to equip and support its conservation management, tourism development and the protection programs. More recently SGDRN has received support from the European Commission to implement a 3-year programme to develop an integrated community fishery programme that is critical for the long-term sustainable use of the fishery along the 400km-long Lugenda River. Other specific projects focus on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Environmental Education.

SGDRN has also benefited immensely from the inde-

NIASSA BY NUMBERS

- Year reserve gazetted: 1954
- Area: 42,000 square kilometres
- Biodiversity: It holds the greatest abundance of wildlife in Mozambique
- One of the largest protected areas in the Miombo Biome worldwide. Supports 17,000 elephant, 14,000 sable, 900 lion, 350 wild dog, 400+ bird species recorded
- Lugenda River (~400km) supports fishing community
- Approximately 35,000 people residing in reserve
- Two District Administrations: Mecula and Mavago
- SGDRN established in 2000 as public-private sector partnership
- Number of reserve staff: ~110
- SGDRN Budget 2008: ~1.6 million USD
- Number of hunting safaris since 2000: 285
- Estimated total investment by safari operations: US\$7.4 million

pendently funded Niassa Carnivore Project that is undertaking essential research on the impact of human activities and sport hunting on lion, and more recently is supporting Agostinho Jorge, a member of the Niassa Reserve team, who is embarking upon a MSc to determine the status of leopard in the Reserve.

SGDRN has also initiated two research projects to investigate the ecology of the buffalo population in the Reserve in collaboration with Dr Rui Branco (buffalo health and disease status) and by the Fondation Internationale pour la Gestion de la Faune (IGF) who will be investigating the a wide variety of factors including distribution, diet, predation and human impact. The early results from the satellite tracking are already beginning to provide valuable information on the buffalo in Niassa. In terms of its mandate with Government, SGDRN has negotiated several long-term contracts and short-term Memorandum of Agreements with private sector operators, and there are plans to open competitive tenders for additional concessions in 2010. Sport hunting continues to be the primary tourism activity in the

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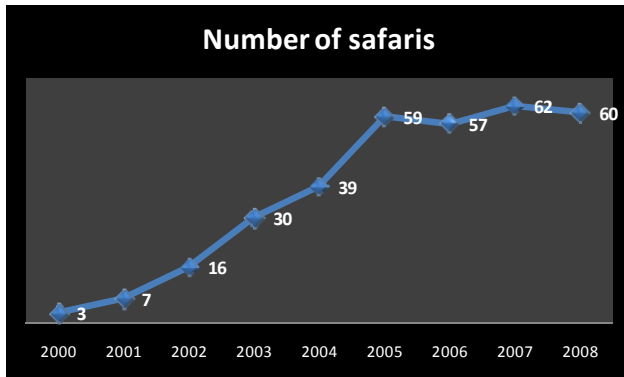
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Niassa National Reserve Mozambique Revisited

Reserve. Gradually the Niassa Reserve has build up a reputation as being one of the premier hunting destinations in southern Africa and all indicators suggest that this industry has grown steadily but future growth is hampered by the availability of key species that fall under CITES, notably elephant and leopard.



Careful attention is given to trophy monitoring and performance of the hunting operations to ensure the sustainable management of the key trophies (lion, leopard, buffalo and elephant) as well as the major antelope (sable, hartebeest, waterbuck).

Though Niassa National Reserve does not produce world record trophies, it does provide the discerning hunter with world class hunting opportunities in one of the last remaining wilderness areas in Africa. Elephant trophies remain some of the best in the region, with an average of 66lbs, and the magical "100lb" trophy a distinct possibility.



All hunting operations are visited each year to inspect and monitor the age and size trophies.

Though remote and relatively inaccessible, Niassa Reserve remains vulnerable to the ever present threat of professional wildlife poachers and from wildlife traders and commercial timber merchants who engage with local community members as their suppliers. More recently the Reserve has had to deal with a fresh challenge from illegal miners who have invaded the Reserve seeking semi-precious stones which has placed a se-

vere burden on the law enforcement capacity of the Reserve

The immediate long term threat to the conservation objectives and values of the Reserve is from the expanding human settlements as a result of in migration and population growth, and the uncontrolled fishing along the Lugenda and Rovuma rivers – the life blood of the Reserve. The solutions to these complex problems and strategies to address them require the active support of government and communities as well as the support of the international conservation fraternity.

For further information or enquiries please contact:

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

The publication and distribution of African Indaba is supported by the International Council for Wildlife Conservation CIC

Reflexionen zur Situation des Atlashirsches (*Cervus elaphus barbarus*) in Nordafrika

Joachim A. Wadsack, Kommission Tropenwild des CIC

Von den Unterarten des Rotwildes (*Cervus elaphus*) kommt nur eine endemisch in Nordafrika vor. Es ist die Unterart *C. e. barbarus*. Die Länge vom Kopf-Rumpf beträgt 190 cm, mit einer die Schulterhöhe 130 bis 140 cm bei den Hirschen. Die Alttiere sind kleiner. Bei den weiblichen Tieren beträgt das Gewicht bis zu 70 kg und bis 200 kg bei den Hirschen. Das Geweih erreicht eine Länge von 80 bis 90 cm. Das Winterfell ist dunkel graubraun, mit langen und wolligen Haaren. Das Sommerfell ist rötlichbraun und dünn. Die weiblichen Tiere haben mehr oder weniger sichtbare, in Längslinien angeordnete, elfenbeinfarbene Flecken. Die Jungtiere sind stark gefleckt und wiegen ca. 17 kg bei der Geburt.

Die Geweihe der starken Hirsche haben 16 -18 Enden mit einem Geweihgewicht bis zu 3,5 kg. Die Hirsche werfen im Februar – März ab. Die neue Geweihbildung ist im zum Juli abgeschlossen. Der Atlas Hirsch lebt den Wäldern in den winterfeuchten subhumiden Subtropen Nordafrikas. Diese sind gekennzeichnet durch Winterregen und einer mediterranen Vegetation wie Korkeiche (*Quercus suber*), der Kermeseiche (*Quercus coccifera*), der Steineiche (*Quercus ilex*), Aleppokiefer (*Pinus halepensis*), Pistazie (*Pistacia lentiscus*) Erdbeerstrauch (*Arbutus unedo*) und einer weiteren Vielzahl von Pflanzen der mediterranen Macchie.

Geschichte

Der Atlashirsch war über ganz Nordafrika verteilt und wurde im Laufe der Zeit auf ein kleines Vorkommen im algerisch-tunesischen Grenzgebiet um Tabarka – Ain Draham im Nordwesten Tunesiens zurückgedrängt. Bedingt war dies durch die Waldrodungen, die exzessive Jagd und die Klimaveränderungen seit der Römerzeit. In der Neuzeit spielten wachsende Bevölkerung, Waldbrände und die Wilderei eine Rolle. Das Rotwild ist im ganzen Verbreitungsgebiet geschützt. Dies steht oft aber nur auf dem Papier. Ein wirksames Management fehlt vielerorts. Die besten Voraussetzungen für eine Ausbreitung dieser Wildart sind in Tunesien gegeben.

Ausgangssituation in den Maghrebländern

Algerien: In Algerien gab es Bemühungen zur Rettung des Atlashirsches. 1960 wurde der Bestand auf 200 Tiere geschätzt. Durch die Unruhen in den 90iger Jahren wechselten viele Tiere von Algerien nach Tunesien in die an der Grenze liegende Schutzgebiete. Durch die unsichere Lage in Algerien, vor allem in den ländlichen Wald- und Berggebieten, ist es kaum möglich, eine genaue Auskunft über den Bestand an Atlashirschen in Algerien zu bekommen. Heute soll sich der Bestand bei 100 Tieren bewegen.

Marokko: In Marokko wurde der Atlashirsch schon vor 2000 Jahren ausgerottet. Während eines Symposiums des CIC

in Fes 1983 wurde auf Anfrage des Marokkanischen Landwirtschaftsministeriums beschlossen, Atlashirsche aus Tunesien nach Marokko zu verbringen und dort wieder einzubürgern. Voraussetzung war, die zu dieser Zeit in Marokko vorhandenen spanischen Hirsche zu entfernen. Dies ist inzwischen vollzogen. 1989 wurden die ersten 7 Atlashirsche von Tunesien eingeführt. Später folgten weitere 6 Tiere. Im Rahmen der deutschen Entwicklungshilfe wurde im Nationalpark Tazekka ein 500 ha großes Reservat für Atlashirsche eingerichtet. Der jetzige Bestand in Marokko beträgt mehr als 120 Atlashirsche im Nationalpark Tazekka und in einem Gatter in der Nähe von Ain Leuh. Vorgesehen ist, dass die Atlashirsche später in der Macchie und den Eichenwäldern im Mittleren Atlas und im Rif ausgesetzt werden.

Tunesien: In den 60er Jahren wurde die Gesamtpopulation in den Wäldern im Nordwesten Tunesien und Nordosten Algerien auf ca. 200 Tiere geschätzt. Tunesien hat eine konsequente Politik des Schutzes des Atlashirsches umgesetzt. 3 Reservate und der Nationalpark El Feidja wurden eingerichtet. Die Wilderei konnte begrenzt werden. Durch all diese Schutzmaßnahmen hat sich der Bestand auf mehr als 2000 Tiere vergrößert. Das Vorkommen ist heute auf gesamten Nordwesten Tunesien verteilt.

Vorschlag zum weiteren Vorgehen

Die Gefahr des Aussterbens dieser Wildart ist im Moment gebannt. Allerdings müsste ein wirksames Management jetzt dafür sorgen, dass sich die Anzahl der Tiere weiter erhöht. In Algerien und Marokko sind die Zahlen noch relativ gering. Es müssten Großgatter von mindestens jeweils 400 ha geschaffen werden, damit sich die Bestände weiter entwickeln können. Marokko hat inzwischen auch einen Vorschlag des CIC umgesetzt, die Bestände des spanischen Rotwildes zu eliminieren. Damit kann es keine genetische Vermischung der beiden Unterarten mehr geben.

Für alle drei Länder sollte jetzt ein mittelfristiger Management- und Aktionsplan erstellt werden. Sinnvoll dafür wäre eine kurze Studie, die den aktuellen Sachstand beschreibt und vor dem Hintergrund international anerkannter Konzepte zum Management von Rotwild erste Vorschläge macht. Danach könnte ein 2 -3 tägiger Planungsworkshop der drei Länder unter Beteiligung des CIC stattfinden. Nach Möglichkeit sollten auch internationale und Entwicklungshilfeorganisationen eingebunden werden, wie etwa die FAO, GTZ, IUCN etc. sowie die Internationale Wildtierstiftung (IGF).

Der Management- und Aktionsplan könnte alle Aspekte eines nachhaltigen Wildtiermanagement in den Lebensräumen des Atlashirsches im Maghreb umfassen. Dazu gehören weitere Einbürgerungen in Algerien, die Entwicklung von Tourismus in den ländlichen Gebieten als Einnahmequelle, Schutzmaßnahmen, um Wildschäden zu reduzieren und Wildereibekämpfung. Die Einnahmen aus dem Tourismus können in Schutz und Hege investiert werden sowie der lokalen Bevölkerung zugute kommen. Mit einer besseren Kontrolle der illegalen Entnahme kann mit einem kurzfristig steigenden Bestand gerechnet werden.

Es wird vorgeschlagen, dass der internationale CIC in

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Reflexionen zur Situation des Atlashirsches in Nordafrika

Zusammenarbeit mit den Forstverwaltungen der drei Länder und nationalen und internationalen Fachleuten zunächst die Studie durchführen lässt. Es wäre wünschenswert, wenn sich auch nationale CIC-Delegationen von Mittelmeer-Ländern, die den Staaten des Maghreb besonders nahe stehen, engagieren könnten.

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Summary: Reflections on the Situation of the Barbary Deer (*Cervus elaphus barbarus*) in North Africa

Joachim A. Wadsack, CIC Tropical Wildlife Commission

Of the many species of red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) only one endemic type can be found in North Africa, i.e. the subspecies *C. e. barbarus*. It was once distributed all over North Africa, but was eventually pushed back into a small population in the Algerian-Tunisian border area as a result of deforestation, excessive hunting and the climate change since the Roman times. In modern times population growth, forest fires and poaching have further decreased numbers. The deer is protected in its entire habitat, but this is not always respected. Most areas are lacking an effective wildlife management.

Algeria only has around 100 animals today. In **Morocco** the Barbary Deer already died out around 2000 years ago. Late last century 13 animals were introduced from Tunisia into a reserve, which was established in the National Park Tazekka with help of the German Development Cooperation. Currently there are more than 120 animals. The non-indigenous Spanish red deer has meanwhile been removed from the country. **Tunisia:** In the 1960's, the total population of Barbary Deer was estimated to consist of about 200 animals. Due to a consistent protection policy and the creation of four protected areas the population has increased to more than 2,000 animals that are spread out all over the northwest of the country. The best pre-conditions for a population growth exist in Tunisia.

A management and action plan is now overdue and a short study would be useful as a first step. It should describe the current status and make management suggestions on the basis of internationally acknowledged concepts of red deer management. A planning workshop with participants from the three countries and with active participation of CIC could follow. If possible, international and development aid organizations should take part as well, such as the FAO, GTZ, IUCN etc, as well as the International Game Foundation (IGF). Furthermore it would be desirable, if national CIC Delegations from Mediterranean countries with close ties to the Maghreb states could engage themselves too.

The Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor in Tanzania: Biodiversity Conservation from the Grassroots

Practical Experiences and Lessons from Integrating Local Communities into Trans-boundary Natural Resources Management - A joint CIC-FAO publication

Dr. Rolf D. Baldus and Rudolf Hahn

In Southern Africa cross-border conservation initiatives traditionally have started from the top with the signing of protocols by the heads of state. However, trans-boundary conservation activities ultimately take place at local level and more often than not the local level administration and managers, and in particular local communities most dependent on natural resources have been neglected in the planning and implementation process. Since there is growing consensus that conservation of biodiversity, natural resources and wildlife depends on the cooperation and involvement of communities living at the resource base, their level of participation and ownership are also key for the development of successful cross-border conservation.

How local communities can be successfully integrated into trans-boundary conservation and natural resources management in practical terms is illustrated with this case study about the development of the Selous – Niassa Wildlife Corridor. The Corridor is still "work in progress" and far from being finalized. However, CIC and FAO found the experienced gathered so far of interest for other African countries and therefore decided to present them in a small publication as part of cooperation programme.

The protection of the corridor is essential for the conservation of the Selous - Niassa Miombo woodland ecosystem, which extends from southern Tanzania into neighbouring northern Mozambique. With an area of more than 150.000 km² it constitutes one of the largest trans-boundary natural dry forest ecoregions in Africa with global importance for biodiversity conservation. For its continued existence two core conservation areas are significant: The Selous Game Reserve in Tanzania, a World Heritage Site and with the size of 50,000 km² and one of the largest protected areas in Africa; and the Niassa National Reserve of 42,400 km², located in northern Mozambique. The Selous – Niassa Wildlife Corridor, entirely located in Tanzania, provides with a total size of approximately 9,000 km² a significant biological link between the two reserves. Starting at the most southern border of the Selous Reserve this corridor stretches over 160 km southwards until reaching the Niassa Reserve at Ruvuma River, the border between Tanzania and Mozambique. This link on landscape level creates one of the world's largest protected elephant ranges, also hosting large buffalo, sable antelope and half of the world's remaining wild dog population. The entire area supports a great number of globally threatened animal and plant species cited in the IUCN Red List and CITES,

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The Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor in Tanzania

including species not yet described in science.

After the Selous Game Reserve had lost almost two thirds of its elephant population during the 90ties due to poaching the Government of Tanzania recognised the limitations of its "fines and fences" conservation approach and started to embrace local communities in conservation activities. Efforts were made to devolve management responsibilities over wildlife to local communities and enabling them to establish a new category of protected area, known as Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), on their village land. In 1991 the northern part of the corridor had become a pilot area for this new strategy and over the years two WMAs were established as a bufferzone for the southern Selous Game Reserve. On request of the local communities this approach has been developed further to a contiguous network of 5 WMAs forming today the Selous – Niassa Wildlife Corridor. They are in the ownership and under the responsibility of 29 villages. Also cross-border cooperation in conservation and natural resources management between Tanzania and Mozambique has progressed. Initiated ten years ago it has grown gradually from an informal local level based initiative to a formal cooperation agreement on regional level.

With a Community Based Natural Resources Management approach practised in the communal WMAs the local communities have been integrated in the development of the corridor and trans-boundary natural resources management. Since cross-border cooperation started from the grassroots, the involvement of the community and local level in the planning and implementation of natural resources management activities resulted in high participation, buy-in and ownership of the trans-boundary conservation process. This motivation is also attributed to the local importance of natural resources and the prospects of direct benefits and empowerment. While this development process has required time to build trust and new partnerships and had to be complemented with local capacity building and alternative income generating activities from natural resources, first results on the ground already have demonstrated that the bottom-up approach applied can be a successful and effective way for biodiversity conservation across political boundaries. However, the development of the corridor is still in progress and as it is part of real life conservation work one or other challenges might have to be faced in the future.

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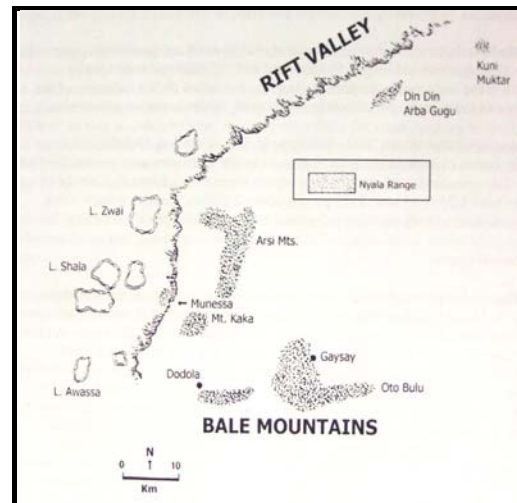
Ethiopia's Mountain Nyala

Dr. Ludwig Siege

Ionides called it the mountain bushbuck, when he hunted the animal in 1942 in his quest for the rarest African trophies. Buxton, who in 1908 brought home to England the first specimens, was not aware that he had actually collected a new species of spiral horned antelope. Lydekker of the South Kensington Museum in London, who examined Buxton's specimens, noticed it and called it at first spotted kudu, but named it some years later the mountain nyala, a name which stuck up to now, despite some attempts to come up with a more fitting name.

Recent DNA analysis shows that among the *Tragelaphidae*, the spiral-horned antelopes, the mountain nyala is only remotely related to the southern nyala, despite the apparent resemblance of the males. It is actually closer to bushbuck and sitatunga than to the other members of the Genus.

The mountain nyala is found only in some mountain ranges east of the Ethiopian rift valley. It lives on high altitudes and requires specialized habitat.



**Map Source: Malcolm, J.; Evangelista, P. H. (2005)
The Range and Status of the Mountain Nyala, Manuscript**

Its habitat is shrinking due to human pressure, with the possible exception of the areas around Bale and Dodola. The mountain nyala is rated as endangered by IUCN, due to its limited range and the human encroachment that is the main threat to the species.

Due to successful conservation measures mountain nyala can nowadays easily be observed in and close to the northern part of Bale Mountains National Park. Around headquarters at Dinsho there is a fenced enclave of one square km that contains an incredible density of at least 120 nyala. This is possible only because the fence is jumped by the nyala to feed outside on farm land, where the people seem to tolerate them. Close to Dinsho outside headquarters nyala densities are also very high and the visitor to Bale can be sure to observe them from the

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Ethiopia's Mountain Nyala

main road in the mornings and afternoons.



Mountain Nyala Bull

Ethiopia offers hunting to foreign sport hunters. Since the 1970ies the wildlife of the country has experienced serious and partly disastrous declines, but there are also some recent success-stories, like the substantial increase in numbers of walla ibex and Swayne's hartebeest, but also of mountain nyala.

The country harbors a number of interesting huntable species, true endemics like the Menelik's bushbuck, which is found in the same habitat as the mountain nyala, and "hunting" endemics (species that can only be hunted in Ethiopia, even though they exist elsewhere) like the Beisa oryx, Soemmering's gazelle, Salt's dikdik, white-eared kob, Nile lechwe.



Mountain Nyala Female and Calf

But the main attraction is the mountain nyala. As most of the hunting concentrates on this species, its status has become a bone of contention among conservationists and administrators. Paul Evangelista estimates the numbers to be above 4,000. (Evangelista, P., P. Swartzinski and R. Waltermire. 2007 "A

profile of the mountain nyala *Tragelaphus buxtoni*" in African Indaba, 5(2). Others estimate less, but the Evangelista-research seems to be the most thorough one.

The hunting quota for mountain nyala is presently in the range of 35 to 40 per year, which means around 1 % of the population. This is very conservative given the propensity of the mountain nyala to sustain high densities when properly protected. However, poaching is a problem and accounts certainly for much more nyala killed than through sport hunting.



Mountain Nyala Bull and Female

The price of a safari is in the range of 75,000 US\$ minimum, and success is not guaranteed, as nyala are notoriously shy where persecuted. The trophy fee has recently been increased by the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority from 5000 \$ to 15,000 \$, which makes it by far the most expensive African antelope.

The mountain nyala is not under immediate threat of extinction, but close monitoring of habitats and numbers is necessary to avoid irretrievable damage to habitat and populations. Hunting can provide the incentive for better protection and habitat restoration, but mechanisms have to be in place to make sure that the funds generated are actually used in the nyala ranges, especially by the communities where this magnificent animal lives.

Deutsche Zusammenfassung:

Der äthiopische Bergnyala ist auf Grund seines begrenzten Lebensraums und dem hohen Bevoelkerungsdruck auf sein Habitat einer der seltensten Antilopen Afrikas. Wissenschaftler schätzen, dass ca noch 4,000 Bergnyalas in den hochgelegenen Regionen östlich des ostafrikanischen Grabenbruchs vorkommen. In einigen Gebieten gibt es aber ausgesprochen hohe Nyala-Dichten, bis zu 120 Tiere pro Quadratkilometer. In begrenztem Umfang wird Trophäenjagd durchgeführt. Die jährliche Quote beträgt 35 bis 40, die Jagd ist einer der teuersten Antilopenjagden.

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A Practical Summary of Experiences after Three Decades of Community-based Wildlife Conservation in Africa

A New CIC/FAO Publication

Executive Summary: This paper sums up the practical experiences collected during the past three decades with CBC in Southern and Eastern Africa. The picture from the field is not consistent. Successful cases exist as well as unsuccessful ones. Their causes and determinants are identified, and key reasons for success or failure are discussed with emphasis on the role of governance, bottom-up versus top-down approaches, the need for governments to devolve power to the communities, the role of governments, donors and non-government organizations in the initiation and implementation of CBC such as training, facilitating and development of a legal framework, and particularly those areas where these players do not have a role. Common criticisms leveled at CBC programs are evaluated and discussed in detail. Some of these have merit, while others are mere sour grapes or purposeful attempts to derail CBC. Some proponents of CBC advocate a return to the old "fences and fines" approach, which was responsible for some of the greatest losses of wildlife on the African continent. A return to these outdated forms of conservation would further this loss, yet under CBC schemes many wildlife areas have enjoyed greater protection and populations increased, while at the same time the development of communities has been promoted and steps towards an escape from poverty and self-determination have been achieved. Although failures do exist, the concept of CBC has been widely successful and continues to present the only viable option to combine wildlife and biodiversity conservation with rural development and poverty reduction in the vast unprotected areas of Africa where much wildlife still currently roams free. Four case studies compiled by different authors present the particularly relevant cases of Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe and the longest existing study of traditional cooperation, a case from Zambia.

Dr. Baldus, R. D. (2009): A Practical Summary of Experiences after Three Decades of Community-based Wildlife Conservation in Africa "What are the Lessons Learnt?"

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What CoP15 Means for Wildlife Conservation

Eugène Lapointe

COP15 will be remembered for many of the high-profile listing proposals that failed to achieve the required two-thirds majority. But it would be wrong to conclude that little was achieved in Doha. Underlying the voting outcomes was a greater tendency by Parties to assert their sovereign rights and to acknowledge the limits of trade bans as a conservation tool. If maintained, this trend towards greater pragmatism will make CITES stronger and more trusted as an international conservation instrument.

CITES continues to struggle under the politicization of elephant conservation, but emotions have at least quelled to the point where discussions on downlisting proposals from Tanzania and Zambia were able to focus largely on management issues. A majority of Parties were accepting of the benefits of the sustainable utilization of ivory as a conservation tool, which is a measure of progress. On the other side of this equation is a growing recognition that banning the use of elephants has cultivated an environment for poaching which, when coupled with inadequate law enforcement and corruption, has undermined elephant conservation in parts of Central Africa.

Africa remains divided on the issue, but the countries with significant elephant populations are mostly united on the need to use their abundant elephant resources in a carefully controlled and sustainable manner. At CITES at least, it seems that the day has passed when Africans were viewed as selfless and virtuous only if they pursued prohibitions and trade bans. The benefits of the sustainable use approach in Southern Africa now reach beyond the greater number of elephants roaming freely in range states and into the political arena where the benefits of resource utilization are clearly demonstrable. The message for economic and social development could not be clearer: Africa must be allowed to utilize its resources in a sustainable manner.

In the oceans, CITES is still defining its role. Parties appear willing to consider certain species for listings but reluctant

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"CITES CoP15 has highlighted the challenges facing this convention as one of the many existing agreements for managing commercially important species sustainably," says Sue Mainka, Head of IUCN's delegation to CITES. "However, the decisions taken at CoP15 should stimulate further evolution of CITES including development of tools and mechanisms needed to support efforts to achieve sustainable management of natural resources. Those resources are fundamental elements of our economy and people."

Pia Drzewinski, media relations officer of IUCN, Thursday, March 25

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What CoP15 Means for Wildlife Conservation

to become involved in commercial fishery management. This reluctance is wise because CITES does not have the capability, expertise or structure to become a fisheries body. But it is also doubtful whether its listings will have any discernible benefit on fish stocks, particularly since CITES cannot bring about reductions in bycatch or illegal fishing. The administrative and bureaucratic burdens that accompany listings, on the other hand, will inevitably put fishermen out of work.

One of the imperfections of CITES is the difficulty of achieving a downlisting once a species has recovered. Part of this comes down to philosophical reluctance, a belief held by some that without continued CITES protection a species will be over-exploited. But whatever the driver, COP15 demonstrated with its decisions on the American bobcat and elephants in Tanzania and Zambia that even when biological data clearly supports a downlisting, it is unlikely to happen. In the case of species hidden from view by the oceans in which they live, biological information is naturally much more limited and commonly based on projections and models that are created from limited data points. While this should be a sufficiently low threshold to persuade Parties not to list fish species in the first place, it would certainly be used by some Parties to prevent future downlistings. A listing of a fish species is therefore the closest thing CITES can come to a permanent listing.

The European Union and the United States make proposals to each COP. That some of these proposals originate from lobbying by animal rights groups is no secret. One of the problems is that the science behind proposals driven by lobbyists is often less robust than is required for a listing, as was most clearly the case with the polar bear, red coral and spiny dogfish at COP15. Lobbyist-driven proposals bring at least two negative consequences to CITES. In terms of wildlife conservation, they present distractions, diverting attention away from less charismatic species that may merit CITES attention. Second, they politicize the process, leading the media to judge the functionality of the institution as a whole according to the number of listings that are agreed or rejected. Inevitably, this leads to the casting of countries as heroes or villains, and these characterizations are stoked by the lobbyists themselves. CITES would work better if proposals originated from range states as a result of a systematic scientific process and appropriate consultations with other Parties, as was originally intended. This will require developed nations to exercise greater restraint on future proposals and focus on less ingratiating initiatives.

Finally, we would like to thank Qatar for hosting COP15 and doing so in such a professional, friendly and well-organized way. The smoothness of arrangements in the meetings and around the conference facilities has surely contributed to the constructive nature of the discussions themselves. It has been our pleasure to spend some time getting to know Qatar, its people and its customs. We could not have hoped for anything more from our hosts.

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100 Pounder Elephant taken in Botswana

Tharia Unwin, Johan Calitz Safaris

A Mexican hunter, accompanied by professional hunter Willy McDonald took a magnificent elephant bull in the African Field Sports concession NG41, managed and hunted by Johan Calitz Hunting Safaris (Pty) Ltd (www.johancalitzsafaris.co.za). The party hunted from Joverega hunting camp at the start of the 2010 elephant season in early April. On Monday, 12 April 2010, as luck would have it, the hunting party's vehicle got stuck and just after they got driving again, after several failed attempts they had a brief glimpse of two elephant bulls, a young askari and a big old bull. The hunters immediately knew the Old Man was a keeper and followed the elephant on foot in hot pursuit. Not long after, this magnificent giant and its young companion loomed out of the thick scrub and the Mexican hunter took it with a 458 Lott.

This is the biggest elephant taken since the re-opening of elephant hunting in Botswana in 1996.



The official measurements, confirmed by Debbie Peake from Mochaba in Maun, are as follows:

Left tusk:

Weight: 104 lbs; Length: 77.3 inch; Circumference: 21.7 inch

Right tusk:

Weight: 99 lbs; Length: 77.4 inch; Circumference: 21.1 inch

Although the news of this magnificent elephant is overshadowing everything else that has happened during the first week of the hunting season, it must be mentioned that this was not the only great tusker taken by Johan Calitz Safaris: PH Terry Palmer and his Spanish client, took two tuskers with ivory of 90/77lbs and 86/86lbs tusker in NG32 and Garth Robinson's Mexican client a bull of 86/86lbs in NG34 – all in all a great kick-off to the 2010 hunting season

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Milestones in the Efforts to Save the Giant sable and the Role Played by Donors

Jeremy Anderson, Richard Estes, Joe Holmes, Peter Morkel, John Frederick Walker* and Pierre van Heerden

*Author of "A Certain Curve of Horn – The Hundred-Year Quest for the Giant Sable Antelope of Angola".

Editor's Note: In African Indaba Vol. 7 No. 4 we published an article by Peter Flack on Giant Sable; we now received this paper from Anderson et al. The first version was already published on our Website with African Indaba 8/2. The authors made some changes based on additional information received. We publish the updated article in full length in this edition of African Indaba.

Peter Flack's article in the July/August 2009 issue of African Indaba presents an interesting account of the discovery of the Giant Sable and makes a strong case for greater inputs by the Angolan Government. His article however understated the role played by Pedro vaz Pinto in the progress made so far. We can only assume that this was a result of a lack of information and we feel that a response is required with the facts as we have experienced them. We have all been involved in the project, some over many years, and most of us in a volunteer capacity. We present the recent milestones in the efforts to find and then conserve the Giant sable, so as to inform readers on the progress so far and to illustrate why we all believe that what has been achieved over the last five years, has been largely due to the efforts of vaz Pinto with help from a number of sources, including hunting organizations.

1. Richard and Runi Estes undertook research on Giant Sable behavior and ecology in 1969 and 1970. Estes estimated between 1,000 and 2,000 in Luando Special Reserve and at least 100 in Cangandala National Park.
2. With the April 1974 coup in Portugal and the increased involvement of South Africa in Angola's civil war, UNITA gained control of the area encompassing Luando Special Reserve and the main population of Giant Sable. Any formal protection came to an end.
3. Estes made a return visit to Cangandala NP in 1982 and there were still at least 100 animals in the park and it was still managed by a competent warden. By this time Luando Reserve was inaccessible to outsiders, due to the civil war, and the status of the Giant Sable population there was unknown. Pictures of a herd of bachelor males that that Estes took in that 1982 visit were the last published photos of Giant Sable until 2005. Nothing for 23 years!
4. Despite assurances by UNITA that they were not targeting Giant Sable, it would be naïve to assume that animals were not being hunted for meat. Giant Sable populations in both areas crashed over this period of civil war and there is no doubt that the reason was over-hunting for meat.
5. In 1998, a grant of US\$10,000 was donated by CIC to the Kissama Foundation to help support a survey for the Giant Sable. Dr. Nicolas Franco, president of the CIC, Werner

Trense, CIC Secretary-General and Mr. Chisholm Wallace of the Shikar Club visited Angola as official guests of His Excellency President José Eduardo dos Santos. During this visit the President was awarded the CIC Gold Medal for his policy on species conservation. In 2001 Wouter van Hoven of the University of Pretoria made a trip to Angola whilst stocking animals into Quiçama National Park (Kissama). He attempted to make a search of the Giant Sable, but, as the civil war was still in progress, all that could be accomplished at that time was a short helicopter tour over Cangandala and the Malanje region. No signs of Giant Sable were seen. Pierre van Heerden accompanied van Hoven as cameraman. SCI's now defunct African Chapter contributed R20,000. At that time vaz Pinto was ecologist of the Kissama Foundation and should have been on the helicopter but was obliged to remain behind due to lack of space.

6. Shortly after this trip, the war ended, and in 2002 the Kissama Foundation organized a more ambitious visit to the area. This included several flights with a military MI-8 transport helicopter over Luando reserve. This was followed by a short ground visit to Cangandala using two Unimogs for transport. Present in this expedition, led by van Hoven, were Richard Estes, John Walker, Brendan O'Keeffe and Pierre van Heerden. By then, vaz Pinto was the deputy managing director of the Kissama Foundation, and although he was involved in organizing some of the logistics, he did not participate in the field visit. In this visit to Cangandala, sable spoor and dung were found and a sighting was made of what was claimed to be a Giant Sable. Several members of the party have expressed strong doubts that the animal "sighted" was indeed one. The sighting was made by someone who had never been in the bush in Africa. It was of a single "red antelope". Bushbuck and duiker in Malanje region have a reddish hue – both occur singly and are much commoner in Cangandala than Giant Sable. Surprisingly, the spoor at the sighting was not checked.
7. By this time vaz Pinto had serious concerns about the approaches to determine the presence of any Giant Sable. He also worried that there was no clear strategy for the conservation of the species. He concluded that concrete proof that some Giant Sable had survived the civil war was still needed and that this could only be provided by photographic evidence. He decided on a survey in Cangandala to be done on foot, by a small team of observers. This would have to be done outside his normal work responsibilities.
8. In 2003 vaz Pinto became affiliated to the Research Centre of the Catholic University of Angola as researcher. In the same year the University launched the Palanca Project (The Giant Sable Project, renamed in 2005 as The Giant Sable Conservation Project). Vaz Pinto was then appointed project coordinator, and the project created a specific bank account within the University. This account is still in use today. The first sponsors for the project were Angola LNG (Natural Gas Project) and the UNDP country office. It wasn't easy to fundraise in Angola at the time, but under vaz Pinto's leadership the project proved to be reliable, trustworthy and effective in managing donor funds. This has been the foundation for consistent growth and increased

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

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- support received ever since. The new approach was mainly an Angolan initiative, but was done in close consultation with Estes, Huntley and Anderson, who shared their experience and provided ideas for the best strategy to follow.
9. In this first year, vaz Pinto accomplished less than he had hoped for, adding little to the previous trips to Cangandala and Luando. On a 2-week expedition to Cangandala, he and his team walked several hundred kilometers but saw little game: mostly duiker and bushbuck, roan only once and no Giant Sable. To make matters worse, they found lots of poaching sign in the park. He sent some dung samples to Cape Town University for DNA analyses, but the results were disappointing: one roan, one waterbuck and a few other undetermined samples. By then, it was considered doubtful whether the dung samples alone would give a reliable result. The Giant Sable population – if there was one – was obviously much smaller than had been hoped for, and the surviving animals were under enormous pressure from poaching. The conditions on the ground were difficult, with no roads or access during the rains, armed poachers camped in the park and there were no park staff at all. It seemed unlikely that vaz Pinto or the team would actually see any Giant Sable, let alone obtain photographic evidence. Another approach was clearly needed and the possibility of carrying out a dedicated aerial survey of Luando was considered to be the next option. As there is no AV-GAS in Angola, this meant using a turbine powered aircraft, which the project could not afford, or to use a microlite with a Rotax engine running on petrol.
 10. At the end of 2003 Anderson made contact with "The Bateleurs", a Johannesburg based NGO whose members volunteered use of their aircraft for conservation work. His proposal was to bring a couple of pilots and their microlites to Luando, and over a two week period, carry out an intensive survey of the most promising areas in the Luando Reserve.
 11. The "mission request" to the Bateleurs was made in February 2004 and was immediately approved. Joe Holmes who ran their microlite Squadron and vaz Pinto began planning the survey for the coming dry season. Apart from the logistics of getting the microlites and fuel to Luando, the most critical aspect was getting approval from the authorities to be able to fly over the area and between the town of Malanje and Luando. With no road access to Luando the logistics were a serious headache and vaz Pinto sorted these out to make this expedition possible.
 12. He also got Governmental support and endorsement and then approached the Angolan army, whose participation was decisive. The Air Force joined the project, donating drums of gasoline and making an Antonov transport plane available to move microlites, camp gear and the team from Luanda to Malanje airport. They had earlier helped provided a MI-8 chopper for the necessary trips to take team and equipment down to Luando Reserve. In April vaz Pinto make a quick survey over the reserve in a MI-8, but as in previous visits he drew a blank. It was the wrong season and the MI-8, the only chopper available, is unsuitable for spotting wildlife. This *recce* was however in establishing

contacts with local authorities and to choose the Capunda village as a base. Capunda had an old abandoned airfield. Vaz Pinto had to make sure that it was cleared of scrub and grass before the survey took place. In planning process vaz Pinto was in regular dialogue with the Angolan civil authorities, the Angolan army, the Bateleurs and Anderson. The initial team for the survey consisted of vaz Pinto, Andersen and Holmes and Vosloo from the Bateleurs. They were joined by Michael Eustace from the African Parks who were offering to become involved in conservation efforts in Angola and in Cangandala and Luando in particular. In June Brendan O'Keeffe and Pierre van Heerden joined too. O'Keeffe had secured grants from both The Shikar Club in the UK and the Dallas Safari Club. These grants covered the costs of food and some of the camping gear and related expenses. He also brought four "TrailMaster" cameras donated by Dallas Safari Club. He also made the contact with the company Angolan Casa Militar in SA, who arranged the transportation of the South African members of the party and the microlites from Johannesburg to Luanda in the cargo hold of a Ilyushin-76. This survey had an early setback as Holmes' microlite had engine failure at low level about 40 km from Capunda. With a combination of flying skill, and great luck in finding a 30 meter wide clearing in the woodlands, Holmes and vaz Pinto were shaken not stirred. The microlite was a total write-off in Holmes' Kamikaze attack on a termite mound. The survey produced mixed results; no sable were seen, but it did obtain indirect evidence of Giant Sable, such as spoor, dung and anecdotal witness accounts of very recent sightings. Dung samples were collected, which O'Keeffe took back to SA. These would be later sent for analyses in Germany. General Hanga of the Angolan Air Force and General Treguedo of the Army championed the Military's support of the project.



Generals Treguedo and Hanga conferring with Richard Estes during the 2009 expedition

13. The following month (October) vaz Pinto initiated what he termed the "Shepherds Program" in Cangandala. He hired 12 men from local communities and the fund provided them with a basic wage and uniforms provided by O'Keeffe's donors. Estes then transferred the donor funds raised by Bill

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and Anne Dodgson of the Utah Chapter of SCI to the Wildlife & Environment Society of Southern Africa (WESSA). The Society opened an account specifically for these funds and made the monthly payments for the Shepherds' wages.

14. By the end of 2004, vaz Pinto had secured the much broader local support that was needed, since otherwise it would have been impossible to implement all activities. This included travelling in the bush under extremely difficult conditions, 4x4 running costs, maintenance, consumables, etc.
15. The project was now managing grants from PAPS (People & Parks) and the UNDP country office to cover the salaries of the shepherds. It also had contributions from Angola LNG Project for general expenses, plus a lot of support in kind from several organizations (foreign and national) based in Luanda. Also, and on his request, a few new trap cameras (TM-1550) had been donated by Pedro's friends and supplemented the ones originally provided by O'Keeffe.



Bull from the 2009 Giant Sable Capture Operation

16. In December 2004 there was the first breakthrough, when Brendan O'Keeffe announced that Prof. Pitra in Germany had obtained results from the dung samples from Luando (together with some samples vaz Pinto had sent from Cangandala). Seven of the samples were of *Hippotragus niger*. This was great news, Prof. Pitra, identified also some samples from Luando from roan (no surprise here), BUT, what rang a warning bell was that he also identified two samples as being from wildebeest and one from buffalo! This was a worry as obviously the wildebeest and buffalo identifications were incorrect. So how certain could one be certain of the others? Wildebeest don't occur anywhere within 500 km of Luando, and a buffalo pat could never be mistaken for *Hippotragus* pellets! This led to a few tense e-mails between vaz Pinto and Prof Pitra. Prof Pitra insisted the results were correct and it was impossible for his lab to be responsible for contamination, but he later accepted that they had possibly been contaminated on the way. This raised some awkward questions, and vaz Pinto wasn't happy about announcing the survival of the Giant Sable until these questions had been properly answered.

Vaz Pinto subsequently installed the new cameras at natural licks in Cangandala. This was not a simple process and he first had to find salinas on foot in flat country with limited visibility. Each month, generally over weekends, he made the long return trip from Luanda to Cangandala to check with the "Shepherds", service and change the film in the cameras and look for new salinas. This at last brought success, one of the cameras obtained the first photo records of Giant Sable in Cangandala. The shots show part of a breeding herd, with adult cows and juveniles clearly identifiable. Over the months vaz Pinto was gradually able to compile a dossier of photos of individuals. It soon became apparent that there was no mature bull with the herd. When vaz Pinto sent photographs of a sable cow and asked what we thought it soon became apparent to some that the cow looked like a Roan x Giant Sable hybrid. This presented a serious problem and some of the consultative group recommended killing the roan bull as precautionary measure. For several reasons, this could not be done. Careful examination showed that there was more than one hybrid. Te age classification showed that the first Roan x Giant Sable hybrid calves were born in 2002 and that in 2004 the entire calf crop consisted of hybrids. Since 2006, only Roan X Giant Sable hybrids calves had been born in Cangandala.

17. The results showed the following: the last pure Giant Sable calves had been born in 2005, indicating that the last adult bull had disappeared after the 2004 breeding season. What was a relief though that none of the hybrid cows showed any signs of having produced calves. This suggests that they are infertile.

Sable and Roan x Sable hybrids calves less than one year old recorded between 2002 and 2008 in Cangandala National Park							
Year of birth	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Sable calves	1	4	0	5	0	0	0
Hybrid calves	2	0	4	1	2	2	1

18. The level of monitoring was increased in 2006 with the acquisition of several digital video cameras. With the "Shepherds" receiving basic field ranger training, the level of poaching decreased and although no weapons could be supplied to them, they were able to retain weapons (AK 47's) captured from poachers. During the course of the year the MoU was signed between the Government and the Giant Sable Conservation Project. Then at last, four young bulls were photographed for the first time. That year, in recognition of his efforts to save the Giant Sable, vaz Pinto received the Whitley Award in the UK.
19. By early 2007 the four young bulls were down to three. It was logically hoped that one of these would save the day and take over the breeding herd. On 25 Dec 2007, two of these bulls were photographed for the last time by a camera trap at a *salina*. They had obviously all left Cangandala, or had been killed. However, as visits by these bulls to the *salinas* were very infrequent, their certain loss could only be concluded some months later.

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One of the cows arrives from the field to be transferred to the boma during the 2009 capture operation

20. In 2008, Pedro planned a dry season capture operation in the to radio-collar members of the herd so that it would later be easy to locate the animals. He raised the funds for the operation and contracted a well known Namibian game capture operator to bring in his helicopter and capture crew. Two days before the capture was scheduled to start, Estes and Walker had arrived in Angola and Morkel and Anderson were en route to Angola when the Namibian capture operator phoned vaz Pinto and told him that, after entering Angola, he had changed his mind and turned around to return to Namibia. " *&\$ it !!!". This was a major setback as it had wasted a lot of money and effort and more importantly set the program back another year. Morkel tried hard to dart an animal on foot, but was unable to get close enough.
21. In November 2008, when conditions were better for tracking and the flush of leaves had improved conditions for stalking, Morkel again tried to dart an animal from the Cangandala herd on foot. Despite getting four good sightings, this was unsuccessful. At the same time, the German Aid Agency GTZ funded Anderson and Morkel to do a report on Cangandala. The resulting report emphasized the dire situation for the survival of the Cangandala herd and recommended that the best course of action was to resort to an *in situ* intensive breeding operation. It was recommended that a large sable- and roan-proof breeding enclosure be built, and that all the Cangandala Giant Sable cows be captured and put into this enclosure and an adult bull be brought in from Luando. This proposal was accepted. Vaz Pinto and his colleagues raised funds to purchase game fence materials from Namibia and to pay for another capture operation.
22. As soon as it was dry enough to get a vehicle into the site selected for the enclosure, the 400ha breeding enclosure was constructed. When this was completed a smaller plastic holding boma was constructed within the enclosure. At the same time a ground search for the presence of Giant Sable in Luando started. An area of fresh spoor and reported recent sightings was located, but no actual sightings were made. However, DNA from dung samples showed that the animals were Giant Sable. This 2009 capture operation was led by vaz Pinto and the keys to success were the active collaboration of the Angolan Army and Air Force, arranged again by Generals Hanga and Treguedo and the support given by Pete Morkel and Barney O'Hara and his Hughes-500 chopper. The Angolan Government provided the Mil-8 helicopter. The lion's share of the funding for the operation came from the Association of Oil industry companies operating in Block 15 (Sonangol, Esso, BP and associates). The following companies all donated \$20,000 or more ESSO Angola, Statoil, ExxonMobil Foundation, Tusk Trust and US Fish and Wildlife Service). The unsung stalwarts of the operation were the volunteers who managed the logistics and made sure that people we fed and that the vehicles operated. These included Sendi and Ninda Baptista, Henriette König and the Brock family Werner, Wolfram and Eddie who have helped Pedro from the beginning and through the bleakest times when results were hard to come by. Great credit is also due to General Hanga and General Treguedo, who both in their official and private capacities provided always vital support to the project.
23. The operation started in the last week of July and the breeding herd in Cangandala was located within the first hour. One of the hybrid cows was immobilized, fitting with a radio-transmitter collar and released. She would to act as a "Judas goat" and enable the capture team to rapidly locate the breeding herd and catch the Giant Sable cows one by one. The following day, the capture team flew down to Luando, more than 100 km away, and managed to locate and collar an adult bull, so that when the transport Mi-8 Helicopter arrived, the bull could be located rapidly and recaptured early in the day while it was relatively cool. Over the next few days several more bulls were seen, and eight were caught, marked and released. The smallest horns measured were 49 inch long, all the rest were over 50 inch.
24. Because of the logistic problems of getting a vehicle to the darting sites, it was decided flying the animals from the field suspended from the helicopter. This technique had been successfully used by Morkel and O'Hara on a number of species. On August 3rd the first two cows were caught and flown to the boma site. The following day two more cows were caught and flown to a site 3 km from the boma where they were then taken by pickup to the boma. Most animals were in the boma within half an hour of being darted.
25. The breeding bull was captured in Luando Reserve on August 5th, flown to the nearest village and then airlifted the 100 km to Cangandala in an Angolan Air Force Mi-8 transport chopper. He was then moved into the boma and rapidly settled down with the cows which were immediately submissive towards him.
26. The entire operation went like clockwork and no Giant Sable was lost. Once all the animals had been caught, the Minister of Environment visited Cangandala and saw them prior to their release. When the crowds had left and things had calmed down, the boma was opened and the animals left to find their way out in their own time. Within 20 minutes

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the bull, followed by the cows, had quietly walked out of the boma. That evening, Pedro vaz Pinto brought out a bottle of Madeira Vintage 1905, four years before Varian described the Giant Sable. Our prolific author, John Frederick Walker, who is also a wine writer, was for once lost for words.

Today, seven months later, all these Giant Sable are alive and well. By now the bull should have done his duty and the long wait for the first calves is nearly over. The threats to the survival of the Giant Sable have not gone away however. The two threats of greatest concern are poaching in Luando and the possibility of theft of sable for sale elsewhere. The first concern is obvious, but the second, less apparent is a very real possibility. When a 46 inch Zambian sable bull can be sold on auction for around \$500,000 in South Africa – what would be the value of a Giant Sable bull with 60 plus inch horns? Already there have been approaches by some South African nationals to obtain a breeding Giant Sable bull from Angola. Should that ever happen, it is inevitable that it would be used to breed with cows from western Zambia. There have been recent publications suggesting that the western Zambian sable have similar facial markings are Giant Sable and that they are in fact just outlying Giant Sable. Sadly too, western Zambian sable have already been sold for Giant Sable by some dishonest dealers to gullible buyers in the USA and the Middle East.

There still is a long way to go before the status of the Giant Sable is secure. The first priorities are that the breeding enclosure must be increased in size, and the Government must come to the party and provide resources to increase the level of protection in Luando. Cangandala must also be fenced and this will allow extra bulls to be brought in.

Had it not been for Pedro vaz Pinto and the generosity of the many donors and the Angolan based volunteers to the project, we doubt that the progress in conserving the iconic Palanca Negra would be where it is today.



Pedro vaz Pinto with the first Giant Sable bull to be caught alive – ever!

To be read in conjunction with RECOMMENDATION CIGGA57.REC02 on page 24

The Luando Reserve in 1969 and 1970

Richard D. Estes

From September 1969 to September 1970, my wife Runi and I lived in the village of Quimbango, close to the middle of the 9600 sq. km. Luando Integral Reserve of the Giant Sable. The warden, J. A. Alves, lived in Quimbango and maintained one of several shops owned by Portuguese merchants who traded with the African population. Over 16,000 people, mostly of the Songo tribe, shared the reserve with the giant sable and other wildlife. Their staple diet was manioc, cultivation of which entailed cutting down the best miombo woodland in which sable spent the rainy season from October-May. Five years earlier, to combat the growing insurgency, the colonial government had forced all Angolans to resettle in villages along the main roads. Some 500 Luando settlements were grouped into 61 villages (Alves, pers. comm). However, the Luando residents continued to cultivate the fields they had established near their former homes, often in temporary shelters. Bushpigs were a major pest, against which farmers constructed log fences around their plots. Alves tolerated some trapping and snaring of small game, but hunting of sable risked incurring a \$3500 fine. Besides, only a few policemen had guns; the Songo were armed only with spears, bows and arrows, and had plenty of protein in their diet from fishes that teemed the Luando, Cuanza and tributary streams.

Quimbango was the best place to live, as two habituated sable herds had home ranges within 10-20 km of our bau-pic house built by the locals within months of our arrival. Our main study herd, numbering 53 head until the rains began in October, could usually be found in wooded habitat interspersed with drainage-line grassland (anharas) criss-crossed by motorcar tracks (picadas) established for convenient viewing from a vehicle. This herd soon split in two, of which 29 stayed in a home range of 12 sq km, 23 in one herd (A). The rest moved several km into thicker woodland where they joined other sable to form a herd of 30 females and young (Herd B). In December this herd moved 10 km west of our study area into high woodland where it remained until after the rains stopped in May. Alves claimed these herds followed the same regime year after year.

The composition of 74 sable we saw regularly comprised 23 adult females and 5 territorial males, 2 subadult females, 2 females and 6 males 2-3 years old, 5 female and 9 males 1-2 years old, and 6 female, 3 male and 6 unsexed young of the year. The subadult males were seen singly or in bachelor herds of up to five-head. We had occasional contact with seven other herds.

The study herds ranged 1-2 km a day and typically stayed in the same area for a week or more before moving a km or two to another grazing area. They remained in the woodland during the rains. Here the grass was relatively short and the soil was well-drained, whereas the anharas were waterlogged with black cotton soil that was impassable for vehicles except on compacted tire tracks. The grasses and shrubs growing on the large termite mounds were heavily utilized. Regular visits to salt

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The Luando Reserve in 1969 and 1970

licks, mostly at the bases of termite mounds, were evidence of mineral shortages in the leached miombo soils. The sable only emerged onto the open grassland after the rains ended, and spent much time in the open after the fires of June and July brought up new grass and a variety of forbs and dicots. We concluded that sable were dependent on annual fires to provide green pastures in the long dry season. The sable was the dominant bovid, ahead of the roan, but second in abundance to the warthog.

Sr. Alves, whose knowledge of the reserve was much greater than ours, estimated the Luando sable population as 1000-2000. But it was a guess, not based on quantitative evidence. The estimated 100 or so sable in Cangandala NP, which we visited a few times in 1969-70, represented counts of known herds by the warden and was more accurate. That was still the estimate when I visited the park in 1982, when I saw some 20 sable.

The Hunting Community's Role in the Conservation of the Giant Sable Antelope

John Frederick Walker

From the time of its recognition as a valid sub-species of sable in 1916, the hunting community has had a keen interest in this magnificent antelope, found only in the central highlands of Angola. Its backward-sweeping horns, which reach 60 inches or more in adult bulls, along with its rarity, made it a highly desirable trophy animal. Frank Varian, the British railway engineer who supplied skins and horns to the Natural History Museum in London, and for whom the sub-species was named (*Hippotragus niger variani*), was concerned that unregulated hunting would doom this emblematic creature. He prevailed on the Portuguese colonial authorities in 1922 to declare the giant sable "royal game," requiring special permission to hunt.

Museum collectors were among the few that were given licenses, and the scarce specimens collected in the 1920s and 30s for natural history museums have not only impressed generations of visitors, but played an important role in recent genetic research on the sub-species. Restricting the numbers that could be hunted, along with the creation of the Luando Strict Nature Reserve and later Cangandala National Park, encompassing the giant sable's known habitats, afforded it some protection up to the outbreak of the Angolan civil war (1975-2002).

Although never numerous—its total population probably never exceeded 2,500, even at its peak—habitat loss rather than hunting pressure was thought to be the greatest threat to the giant sable prior to the civil war, according to biologist Richard Estes. Sadly, it now seems evident that poaching during and after the war has also been a factor in the declining population of giant sable, along with ever-increasing loss of habitat.

Conservationists became concerned at the lack of evi-

dence, particularly photographic, of the giant sable's survival, and for good reason. Most of the large mammals in Angola had been shot for food during the war, and it was feared that the giant sable may have been another casualty of the conflict.

Hunting groups, and even individual hunters, were among the first to contribute to the effort to determine if there were any herds left. These groups included the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC, Safari Club International, Dallas Safari Club, and The Shikar Club. Several are mentioned and their specific contributions detailed in Dr. Jeremy Anderson's "Milestones" report (see pp 14 to 18).

Hunters knew that the outlook for the giant sable was grim, and as a consequence it might never be possible for it to be a game animal again. But like others concerned for the fate of the national animal of Angola, they hoped it wasn't too late to save it from extinction. They and others who helped fund efforts to find, photograph, and conserve this iconic antelope were proved right, and as a result, the giant sable may now have a chance at survival.

Today, hunters, biologists, conservationists, all Angolans, and indeed everyone who cares about African wildlife, can only applaud the great success of the 2009 Cangandala capture operation led by Angolan biologist Pedro Vaz Pinto. It was the culmination of his six years of effort to develop a viable strategy to conserve the giant sable in its own habitat—and it paid off. Those of us who care about the giant sable need to make sure Vaz Pinto's captive breeding program gets the support it needs, so that this magnificent animal can endure.

That goal would be a trophy we can all pursue.

Quo Vadis, South Africa?

Dr. Rolf D Baldus

South Africa has a rich history in wildlife conservation, having brought many species back from the brink of extinction with its unique wildlife ranching model. Studies show direct wildlife expenditure is in excess of R7 billion (nearly \$1 billion) per annum, with substantial job creation. However, there is growing concern amongst South African game ranchers that some leading politicians in government circles and parts of the administration not only disregard the great biodiversity and economic achievements of the wildlife sector, but are actively trying to destabilize it. Last year the responsible minister compared game ranching with golf and remarked that they were only the hobby of rich whites. There are statements by government officials that game ranching is not a recognized land use and the land would be better used for growing "mielies (corn) and potatoes". As such the land should therefore be expropriated for rural development. Such threats came as a shock to game ranchers and their staff and will endanger the credibility of South Africa as a reliable investment partner worldwide. At the same time, they show a lack of knowledge as most of these lands are not suitable for any sustainable form of agriculture or protein production in a viable commercial manner other than the rearing of wildlife.

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

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CALL FOR SUPPORT FOR GIANT SABLE IN ANGOLA

RECOMMENDATION CICGA57.REC02

RECOGNIZING that the Giant Sable (*Hippotragus niger variati*) is listed on Appendix 1 of CITES;

REMEMBERING the joint initiative of the Angolan Government and the CIC in 1998 to save the Giant Sable from extinction;

RECALLING the longstanding contributions of the CIC, *inter alia* its Recommendation "Conservation of the Giant Sable Antelope in Angola", adopted by the 52nd CIC General Assembly in Abu Dhabi in 2005, and other hunting organizations like the *Shikar Club* and the *Dallas Safari Club* to the conservation of the Giant Sable in Angola;

APPRECIATING the conservation efforts of the Angolan Government, Angolan scientists and field workers and of the local population in Cangandala and Luando as well as international wildlife experts and NGOs from South Africa, Europe and the United States;

RECOGNIZING that the presence of a small but viable number of wild roaming Giant Sable (*Hippotragus niger variati*) has been confirmed in direct field observations;

RECOGNIZING further that the recent captures of mature bulls and cows and their *in situ* management will contribute to safeguarding the future of this majestic animal;

RECALLING that the CIC supports the *in situ* conservation and management of endemic species within their natural environment;

CONCERNED that commercial breeders' interest from outside Angola in genetic material (e.g. semen, embryos, etc.) of the Giant Sable could potentially lead to illegal translocation of live animals and/or genetic material.

The 57th CIC General Assembly in Dubrovnik, Croatia, 6 - 9 May 2010

1. **CALLS** all international hunting organizations to support the ongoing projects of capture, radio-collaring, adaptive management of captive and free roaming *Hippotragus niger variati*, safeguarding the habitat and providing just compensation for the local rural communities by cooperating with the Angolan authorities and project managers in establishing the necessary administrative, monitoring and communication structures and financial base.

2. **ENCOURAGES** national and international development agencies and multilateral agreements to support the Angolan Government in conserving the Giant Sable

Under CIC Patronage: Sustainable Leopard Hunting in Botswana

Introduction by Ing. Nikolaus Graf Draskovich MBA, Austrian CIC Delegation

A number of CIC members have supported in their private capacity a leopard research project in Botswana. I have asked CIC to take patronage for this project as it fits perfectly into CIC's principles concerning game and wildlife management. This has led to an agreement of cooperation. CIC's patronage does not include any financial obligation nor any liability in connection with the project. The patronage should enable the partners to exchange data and promote the project and its results. The advantage of this patronage for the project promoters will be in international recognition and scientific support by a worldwide respected NGO, the benefits for CIC will be in supporting a project perfectly fitting into its principles and into the ongoing process of developing a certification system for sustainable hunting tourism.

Sustainable Leopard Hunting Initiative

Anthony P. Johnson, Director, Lesegolame Game Ranch

I am a committee member of the Botswana Wildlife Producers Association "BWPA" and am responsible for overseeing the development and execution of our Sustainable Leopard Hunting Initiative.

The Botswana Department of Wild Life and National Parks (DWNP) traditionally issued 22 leopard hunting permits to game ranches on an ad-hoc basis. The BWPA was concerned that this approach was ecologically unsound and also resulted in an unfair system of allocation

BWPA therefore contracted Dr Paul Funston of Tswane University, Pretoria as consultant zoologist to advise on a sound alternative method of allocation. In 2008 he recommended that we adopt an age related system similar to the one being used in the Niassa Province of Mozambique for sustainable lion hunting. The system works like this:

1. Game ranches are grouped in geographic areas/regions.
2. The total quota of 22 is then divided amongst the regions according to the overall area of the region and a rough leopard density factor.
3. Individual ranches are allocated 'shares' according to the area of the ranch - 5000 Ha per share.
4. Shares are randomly selected for the allocated number of leopards pertaining to that region.

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

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5. Only adult males may be hunted and a points system is applied that penalizes ranches that shoot females and sub-adult males.
6. The points system rewards for adult males shot and is calculated in such a way that compliance leads to increased quota and non-compliance leads to reduced quota and penalties applied to the individual ranch that did not comply
7. The system also allows for ranches to decline using their allocated license if they do not want to hunt a leopard.
8. The system is also self regulating in so much as less adult leopards will be shot when their numbers decline and more as they increase. This obviates the necessity of expensive and time consuming monitoring of leopard numbers as a basis for hunting quotas.

The recommendations were submitted to DWNP and adopted by them for the 2009 hunting season. The results demonstrated the effectiveness of the system, which resulted in 3 regions getting reduced quota for 2010 and one an increase. This effectively reduced the number of licenses issued by DWNP to 17. We hope that compliance in 2010 will result in an increase in quota for 2011.

It is essential that research into the effects of hunting adult males is done by monitoring potential repercussions at population levels, shifts in territorial behavior, etc. and demonstrate where the system needs fine tuning and or adaptations. We are seeking funding for such research. This is the first time that a biological approach has been adopted on a national scale and is highly significant to the future of hunting in Botswana.

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Memories

Coenraad Vermaak

Speech given at the 2010 PHASA African Wildlife Heritage Gala Banquet

Editor's Note: The PHASA African Wildlife Heritage Gala Banquet was again a roaring success with the accompanying auction resulting in a record total of over 2 million Rand. Money which PHASA will commit again to conservation education and bursaries for students from all over Southern Africa at the Southern African Wildlife College near the Kruger Park's Orpen Gate. Coenraad Vermaak – one of the Grand Old Men of African Hunting – was the featured guest speaker.

I had a vision – many, many years ago – when Bill Daly, Don Lindsay and Tim Ivins each still sported a glorious full mane of dense dark hair. As is now very evident, it was a long, long time ago that I had this vision. As a youngster I had a vision that one day I would be a professional hunter or a "PH" as we are called. I set about this career earnestly in 1968. But as the years rolled by, I started to doubt that "PH" really stood for Professional Hunter:

I soon discovered that "PH" actually stood for "permanently homeless"; when clients were scarce I decided it stood for "probably hopeless"; and that meant that "PH" stood for "permanently hungry"; and if that was the case, "PH" stood for "Potential Hobo".

I am going to share with you a little bit about how it was in those early days when I started hunting professionally and how it is today - and some memories of which I have a book full. In those early days safari life was very different to what it is today. Significantly different in fact:

- We did not have an apparatus called a GPS. We had to make do with what we had – the sun, stars, a compass and instinct.
- There were no satellite telephones – we used a temperamental VHF radio or a runner.
- We did not have range finder binoculars – we had to estimate distance correctly, the first time!
- Green hunting or dart hunting – would have been a joke, as in my opinion, it should be today. It contributes little to conservation, is woefully abused and plays right into the hands of the animal rightists.
- In those early days, we hunted wild lions with trackers – these days some so-called PH's simply open a can.
- In those days, we shot birds – not wings. I don't know where the term "wingshooting" came from. Imagine saying at lunch time "let's go out this afternoon and shoot a few wings for the pot".
- In those days, there were no Toyota Landcruisers – we had to make do with what we had Landrovers.

I see some raised eyebrows! With apologies to Landi owners and those trusty work horses! But on a serious note, there were

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other big differences: Compared with today, there was very little game on private land. Hunting was cheap and if you were invited, it was free. Largely as a result of the demand created by hunting, there are at least 9600 game ranches in South Africa today. And as a result, of the total 28 million hectares set aside for conservation, only 36% comprises provincial and state owned protected areas. 64% is privately owned.

The North West Institute for tourism and leisure studies confirmed a 2008 study revealing that hunting alone generated revenue of R4.4 billion, excluding live game sales, taxidermy, eco-tourism and meat sales. Including these, the total was around R8 billion and counting, as the wildlife industry and all its facets blossomed. We have more game now than we did 150 years ago. Just one example: It is a little known fact that there are over 20 000 Buffalo on private land today.

In the 1960's Billy Daly and I started what was to become one of the first game ranches in South Africa on my farm Vermaakskraal in Northern Natal. We paid R10 each for Springbok, Wildebeest cost R18. Today they cost over R2000. Zebra cost R30. Today they cost R6000. Impala were free. All we had to do was fetch them from the Natal Parks Board at Mkuze where they were caught at night with a spotlight. An Impala today will cost over R1000.

And when my neighbors saw our first White Rhino, which cost R150 delivered, they all said "daardie ou is mal in sy kop!" Today a Rhino will cost around R400 000. Later, those same neighbors all joined together to form one of the first wildlife conservancies. Those were the pioneering days of which I have wonderful memories.

Now, just a few interesting values from 1968 (42 years ago): For purposes of marketing trophy hunting in South Africa my first overseas brochure advertised a rate of R50 per day for hunters and R15 per day for non-hunters. The trophy fee for a Nyala bull was R50. And my client paid R500 for the first White Rhino I hunted. Ten years later, when it took \$1.34 to buy one SA Rand, my daily rate was R250. Some trophy fees were: Impala R45, Kudu R250, Gemsbok, Waterbuck & Eland cost R350. Buffalo were R400, Leopard R750, Lion R1,000 and White Rhino R2,000. So that's how it was.

Let's see how it is today: These days, (and again I refer to overseas clients hunting in South Africa) daily rates for a plains game hunt are around R3500. And for a Big Five hunt approximately R14 000 per day. Trophy fees today are more or less the following: Lion (not the canned variety) half a million rand +, White Rhino R650,000, Leopard R75,000, Nyala R18,000, Kudu R12,000, Blesbok R3,500, Gemsbok R11,000

In 1976 Kenya closed hunting. "Een man se dood is 'n ander man se brood". Not only did some of the PH's from there head south, but the focus for hunting clients became South Africa. The industry here blossomed then erupted. That was good, but there were also some threatening negatives and consequently a hand full of concerned PH's founded PHASA in 1978. Today PHASA has well over 1,000 members. Over 8,000 overseas hunters visit South Africa annually and figures for 2008 reveal that over 57,000 trophies of some 40+ different species, were exported (that's in one season!). So it's indisputable; give

wildlife a value and it will stay ... and here I am preaching to the converted like we all too often do.

The biggest difference for me between then and now is the advent of what I refer to as the "jet age" so-called safari of 7 or 10 days which has regrettably replaced those care free and leisurely safaris of not less than 3 to 4 weeks when the record books were irrelevant and there was time to smell the roses along the way and savor the great outdoors, accumulating a treasure trove or precious memories along the way.

I know it's all relative, but listen to this: In 1971, when it took three days to drive from Francistown to Maun, where you needed 4-wheel- drive to get to the Old Rylie's Bar in main street, Bill Daly and I went on our own private safari to Botswana. It cost R450 to hunt in two massive concessions which we had to ourselves, including 4 Buffalo, 2 Tsessebe, 4 Wildebeest, 12 Impala, 1 Gemsbok, 2 Zebra and 2 Lechwe; elephant bull licenses sold at R150.

In 1982, Tim Ivins and I hunted the Zambezi valley. It cost 3,000 Rand to hunt 1 Elephant, 4 Buffalo, 2 Duiker, 1 Bushbuck, 1 Kudu, 6 Impala, 2 Grysbok, 2 Warthog and 4 Baboons – and it took R1.20 to buy 1 Zimbabwe dollar!

I have often said that although we PH's are in the hunting business, it is true to say that our real business is the memory business because that is what we really do – we make memories for our hunter friends and their families from around the world. That's really what it's all about; memories and stories.

Allow me to share a story with you. I have been told that I am quite a good story-teller. But if that's true then I must warn you that this evening, I am somewhat removed from my usual story-telling habitat. Because I am accustomed to telling stories late at night around a little camp fire, under a twinkling universe, in some remote corner of Africa, with a good cigar clutched in one hand and a suitably stimulating jug of good cheer, which greatly enhances eloquence, in the other. I don't guarantee that, having abstained all evening and dressed as I am, and standing where I am, my story will be as effective.

Let me tell you about Bob & Sharon from America who over a period of twenty years hunted fourteen different safaris with me in three different countries. Our first meeting was on the first day of their first safari on a dirt airstrip close to a small village where they arrived by private charter. My old tracker Henry and I had been doing some last minute shopping. The shopping included a lot of groceries which we put in the back of the truck and two bottles of KWV brandy and a packet of eggs, which I put on the front passenger seat. We could hear the plane approaching, so we rushed back to the airstrip where I very inconveniently drove into a deep hole bringing the vehicle to a abrupt dead stop. The eggs and brandy bottles were propelled onto the dashboard, and smashed to smithereens. As you can imagine we had to do a cleanup job with great alacrity. After doing the best we could, the inside of the vehicle still smelt like a bar. So, I used a can of deodorant from my bag to try and improve this. Well, it only made it worse. The car now smelt like a brothel in downtown Calcutta during the monsoon season.

The three of us were soon on our way to camp crammed in the front of the old Landy. It was mid winter and cold. So the windows were closed. Out of the corner of my eye I noticed Sha-

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ron, sniffing the air and nudging her husband. I saw him give that knowing nod and I could image him saying to himself, "what the hell are we letting ourselves in for". Having settled in camp, my explanation was accepted with good humor and the old Landy was christened "the Whorehouse"! We went hunting in the Whorehouse all day everyday!!

Bob was a very effervescent, humorous sort of fellow with an extravagant smile and a twinkle in his eye - a clear indication of mischief. Sharon, was a very large, ominous and stern looking lady with a bit of a moustache and quite a fierce demeanor. Her favorite color was purple. She wore purple everyday. A color that I feared from then on.

My staff and I only discovered four days into that first safari that Bob was totally bald and that he wore a permanent hair-piece on his splendid shining.

On that morning while driving through some thick bush a low overhanging branch snatched off his hat and his hair-piece, which were left dangling in mid air. Well, you could have sworn I had dropped a live snake in the back of that vehicle. My three Zulu trackers, seeing this white man from across the big water loose his entire scalp without shedding a drop of blood, instantly ejected themselves with great agility from the moving vehicle and took off running. It was a splendid performance. They simply could not believe what had happened. We all had a good laugh. The hair-piece was donated to Henry and became a treasured possession and Bob stayed bald from that day on. Like most of our hunting clients, Bob and Sharon became very close friends of Vicky and mine.

Twenty years later - towards the end of a safari together with a day or two to spare and with no hunting pressure we were able to enjoy some leisure time attending to "un-smelt" roses. Our evening camp-fires burnt considerably longer. The last night it was a very jolly affair. In fact, it was a dazzling performance which increased in volume and exuberance as Bob and I settled down with a tippie and a noggin, to successfully solve certain important problems. As the night progressed we congratulated ourselves, over and over, on being such fine examples to the human race, of the brave up-standing, righteous soles, of sober habits, that we definitely were. Sharon got a little grumpy and bored with our repetitiveness, excused herself and went to bed.

We had reached that stage of the proceedings, when our powers of control over personal equilibrium had diminished considerably, when Bob politely suggested that we needed more wood for the fire. Not trusting myself to a successful journey to the wood pile and back, I announced to Bob, that it was definitely his turn to fetch wood. There was a long silence. He had that customary naughty look on his face. After careful consideration and mumbling to himself, he removed both his boots and socks and threw them into the fire. Saying, "There's my contribution" and obviously issuing a challenge. So I removed mine and threw them into the fire. Next, Bob took off his shirt and threw that into the fire. And ... I did the same. Then he reached for the nearest chair and threw that into the fire. Pretty soon, tables, glasses, bottles, kettles, crockery, plastic dishes, all followed. Now we had a huge, fowl smelling bonfire, belching black smoke and

shooting guyfox all over, as each new item was added. Of course we thought that this was hilarious. And became more and more rowdy.

Finally, when there was nothing left to burn, Bob took off his trousers and underpants and threw them into the fire. I thought "well what the hell" and followed suit. So now we were butt-naked, yodeling and bellowing with laughter, and giving ourselves a thundering applause, as we admired our handy-work.

That's when the explosion took place. Bob had forgotten about the handful of 375 cartridges that were in his trouser pocket. Flames, sparks, smoke and ash were detonated into the sky. We got one hell of a fright. But, that was nothing compared to what was to immediately follow. The explosion had woken the fearsome Sharon. We saw the light come on in her tent and heard the zip opening.

I shall never forget her appearing like a demon from a nightmare - a very large demon. She was wearing a long bright purple robe. Her face looked like thunder and I am sure there was fire in his eyes and snakes in her long dangling hair. She approached menacingly with arms bowed and fists clenched. There Bob and I were, butt naked, covered in ash, feeling just like 2 little rabbits caught in the headlights. I new immediately that instead of our anticipated procession of triumph there was going to be a gnashing of teeth.

No longer were we the indestructible, unconquerable, saber rattling, illustrious warriors of 5 minutes ago. Because all the wrath and indignation of the fearsome Sharon was upon us. We were not sure whether to flee or choose spontaneous combustion. Or even mutual extermination. Because there was no escape. And it was freezing cold. Fortunately for us, violence was avoided. She sent us off to bed with a promise of severe retribution in the morning - which duly arrived.

We did not know was that she had taken 2 instamatic photos of us standing there butt naked. She presented these to us and growled "this is what you damned fools looked like last night!". Bob studied the photographs and said meekly "..... but darling, I didn't know that it was quite that cold!" And I did not know whether to deny everything, go blind, deaf and dumb or start singing "Glory halleluia". Bob ducked just in time to avoid a flat hand clobbering him behind the ear.

It was one of those gorgeous bacon and egg like African mornings. We had champagne with our breakfast. We toasted the great outdoors. The beautiful animals we hunted. Sunsets. We toasted ourselves and our friends. And our memories, a whole kaleidoscope of rich memories, and of course, we toasted our dazzling performance of the previous night. We toasted future safaris and we toasted life itself. It was a melancholy but very happy morning. Bob and Sharon flew home that same night.

Shortly thereafter they both died in a horrendous car accident.

Life goes on but memories stay. That's what it's all about - friends and memories. So treasure your memories. Always!!

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Ssesse Island Sitatunga

Peter Flack

Chris Kinsey, a highly experienced American hunter and a new Spiral Horned Antelope Club (SHAC) member, sent me the attached photos. At first glance, they are of the wonderful, 24 ½ inch (Rowland Ward minimum – 22 inches) Ssesse Island sitatunga, which he shot in April of this year. If you look more closely, however, you will note a number of unusual features. There is a growth beneath each ear not too dissimilar to the scent glands found on antelope such as southern mountain reedbuck. There is also a dark patch of bare skin extending from the corner of each eye and the coat is marked by a number of faint longitudinal stripes running parallel to the ribs, spots over the rump and, what looks for all the world, like a thick harness running at right angles to the lower ribs. When compared to the Ssesse Island sitatunga which I shot on the same island, the two animals appear to be visually distinct, as mine had none of the markings referred to above. The Kinsey sitatunga, however, was shot in the rain forest bordering the main swamp while mine was shot in the swamp itself. Does this mean that there are two different types of Ssesse Island sitatunga?

As far as I am aware, although I could be wrong, none of the Kinsey sitatunga features appear on any of the other five or six Ssesse Island sitatunga which have been shot over the last ten months since the hunting for this, the rarest of all sitatunga sub-species, was opened by the Uganda Wildlife Authority in the middle of last year. In questioning taxidermists, professional hunters and experienced amateur hunters, a number of possible reasons for the growths and bare patches have been given, for example, disease, age, poisoning, birth or genetic defects and so on. One experienced hunter who has hunted in Uganda, although not for sitatunga, on seeing a photograph of the Kinsey sitatunga, said that it looked like a cross between a Nile bush-buck and the normal East African sitatunga on the mainland, something which had crossed my mind but which I had not expressed out loud until I heard him echo my own thoughts.

Both Chris and I have sent tissue samples of our sitatunga to Professor Terry Robinson, head of genetics at Stellenbosch University but, at present, he is unable to shed any light on our questions as there are insufficient data to make the necessary comparisons. Hence my request to all hunters, and SHAC members in particular, to send their sitatunga tissue samples to Terry.

Editor's Note: Peter Flack's article must be seen in conjunction with the photos of his sitatunga and the sitatunga taken by Chris Kinsley. Turn to page 25 and compare the two full body photos – the spot and stripes are obvious on the Kinsey sitatunga (photo 4), but absent on Flack's animal (photo 5); the close up photos No 1 to 3, and photo 7 are showing the extensive area of the lachrymal pit and the growth under both ears of the Kinsey sitatunga.

Please contact the Spiral Horned Antelope Club and Peter Flack if you can contribute to solving this riddle.



The Executive Committee of the CIC has decided in its meeting during the General Assembly in Dubrovnik that trophies of European game which have been measured by an official CIC measurer can be entered into the Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game. A respective agreement between the CIC and Rowland Ward has been negotiated.

Your path to register your CIC hunting trophies for the 2010 edition of Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game starts here

- For all trophies of roe deer (*Capreolus* subspecies, including the Siberian roe *C. pygargus* and the now officially CIC recognized Andalusian Roe), fallow deer (*Dama dama*), red deer (*Cervus elaphus* subspecies including the regional subspecies from the Iberian peninsula and Scotland), chamois (*Rupicapra* subspecies, also including the Cantabrian, Pyrenean and Eastern European subspecies), Alpine ibex (*Capra ibex*), European mouflon (*Ovis aries musimon*), moose (*Alces alces* subspecies, i.e. the European and Siberian moose), wild European reindeer (*Rangifer* subspecies), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) and other European game, which have been shot in their original European range, have been officially scored according to the CIC Formulae and have at least achieved bronze medal level or higher;
- Complete the top part of the official Rowland Ward registration form (www.rowlandward.com/imageGallery/EntryForm.pdf). The measurement details will be taken from your CIC score sheet;
- Get a copy of your original CIC Certificate and score sheet for the particular hunting trophy (which must include details for the individual parameters, i. e. length and circumference measurements for main beams and tines). It must be noted whether the game was free ranging or whether it originated from a fenced area. We recommend including the estimated age.
- Fax or email the documents to Jane Halse: Fax: +27-11-646 9103, Email: janehalse@rowlandward.com
- **Deadline: 30 June 2010**
- Cost per registration: Euro 20.00 (payment may be made by credit card)
- Your accepted trophies will be included in the 2010 edition of the globally distributed Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game 28th Edition.

Rowland Ward and CIC reserve the right not to include trophies. CIC recommends that members who want to have their trophies of African game entered into the "Records of Big Game" use the Rowland Ward measurement formula.



Kinsey Ssesse Island Sitatunga Photo 1



Kinsey Ssesse Island Sitatunga Photo 2



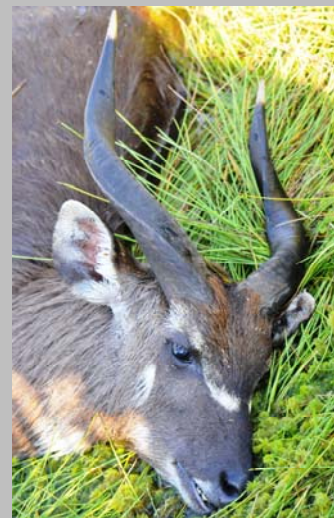
Kinsey Ssesse Island Sitatunga Photo 3



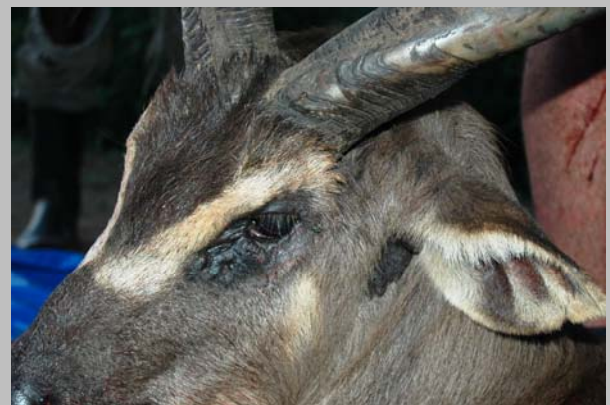
Kinsey Ssesse Island Sitatunga Photo 4



Flack Ssesse Island Sitatunga Photo 5



Flack Ssesse Island Sitatunga Photo 6



Kinsey Ssesse Island Sitatunga Photo 7



CIC's Edmond Blanc Prize 2010 Goes to the Grafenwöhr Federal Forestry Enterprise in Bavaria, Germany

Rolf D. Baldus

This year the Edmond Blanc Prize of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation will be awarded to the Grafenwöhr Federal Forestry and Military Training Area in Bavaria, Germany. "We award the Federal Forestry Enterprise for its exemplary achievements in the intensively used Grafenwöhr military training area in conserving the habitats of numerous valuable animal and plant species, especially through hunting measures. Their management of red deer, Germany's largest game species, which is guided by biological, ecological and economic principles, is outstanding. And at the same time German hunting traditions, a cultural heritage which is well worth to be preserved, are practiced", said Dr. Nicolás Franco, President of the international Jury. In this context, the high number of the red deer has a very important ecological function for the conservation of this especially valuable open landscape. The Forestry Enterprise had been proposed by the German CIC Delegation.

The Edmond Blanc Diplomas will go to the „Fritzöe Estate" in Norway and to "The Palosaari Wildlife Management and Education Estate" in Pyhäjoki, Finland.

The awards will be handed over at the General Assembly of the CIC coming May in Dubrovnik/Croatia.

The Federal Forestry Enterprise at Grafenwöhr celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2010, the "International Year of Biodiversity". The enterprise is responsible for the management of natural resources – land, forests and wildlife – in the Grafenwöhr military base, an area of 23,000 hectares, which is used intensively for training by the US army.

The different objectives of safeguarding the military use, sustainable forestry, biodiversity and wildlife conservation have to be attained simultaneously. These complex objectives have been achieved with remarkable success, as shown by audits, evaluations and ongoing scientific research on red deer. In the last two decades the area has regenerated an outstanding indigenous fauna and flora with many species, which have become extinct or endangered in other parts of Germany. "This could be achieved only, because the US forces demonstrate an extraordinary understanding for the conservation of nature and wildlife in the Grafenwöhr training area and we enjoy an excellent cooperation," said Forstdirektor Ulrich Maushake, the head of the Federal Forest Office.

Hunting is practiced to manage, conserve and use wildlife on a sustainable basis, to promote biodiversity and at the same time to contribute to the revenues of the whole enterprise. Every year around 1,500 red deer are harvested. Trophy stags are shot by paying guests. It is an important concern of the Federal Forest Office to facilitate the participation of US army personnel and civil employees. This group of people under the guidance of foresters bags every year more than a hundred stags of all categories.



Col. Mills/US Army and FD Ulrich Maushake at the annual exhibition of harvested red deer trophies from Grafenwöhr

Hunting, in particular of red deer, is organized in a way that disturbance is minimized, a natural age and sex structure of game is achieved and the spatial distribution is improved. As a consequence red deer are diurnally active and graze the open grasslands. Damage to trees in the forest has been reduced greatly and is at a negligible level, even though the red deer now occur at very high densities. At the same time the deer helps to keep the grass steppe open, which is an ecological and military objective. In this way the deer serve as 'landscape architects'. The red deer numbers seem to have reached an optimum although rather vigorous hunting is needed to keep the population at that level.

The enterprise's staffs do not see a contradiction between professional and scientifically based hunting strategies and traditional German hunting culture. During hunting therefore the typical German traditions are maintained.

Perhaps more important, the experience of the Federal Forest Enterprise at Grafenwöhr has proven that hunting can be an important instrument of biodiversity conservation and that professional and nature-friendly hunting strategies allow high densities of larger hoofed animals aiding conservation and biodiversity objectives.

Complete details and supporting documentation can be downloaded at:

http://www.wildlife-baldus.com/download/Rotwildprojekt_CIC.pdf

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