



FOR THE
**sustainable
use of wildlife**



Conseil International de la Chasse et de la Conservation du Gibier
Internationaler Rat zur Erhaltung des Wildes und der Jagd
International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation

AFRICAN INDABA

Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

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February 2011

A Plea to the Professional Hunter and Field Scientist Alike

Invited Guest Editorial by Natasha Illum Berg

I am a hunter, one of a long line of hunters and conservationists. I have been in Tanzania for twenty years now, and I have hunted it for as many years as I have been here. Hunting is my first, is my last love.

But I see things which make me want to speak.

I see a world mostly against hunting. I see us becoming increasingly unsuccessful in making ourselves accepted and heard in a majorly urbanized world. I am not talking about the islands of natural hunters around the world, or countries that still largely accept hunting (that we each year migrate to, to look for clients.) I am talking about the place where history is taking us.

The other day I saw a review in the New York Times (the most read newspaper in the world). It was about some films on Nat Geo Wild. The reviewer warned that children must not watch this film about lions hunting, as a lot of blood was shown. Fear for where we are going, and sadness filled me. Surely nobody wants a world that will end with vegetarian lions? When did the sight of a lion killing become anything but majestic? A lion killing is harsh maybe, but surely something of the most beautiful and true, in its natural force and grace that nature can produce.

But the general public should not be ignored, for it is an indication of the direction we are moving in.

Then I spoke to a renowned lion researcher here in Tanzania a few days later, who casually told me that he was not welcome to speak at the TAHOA meetings, and had not been allowed since 2006. "Why?" I as a professional hunter want the information, and I should hope all hunters do. How can new hunters otherwise be at peace, when all they want to do is to be hunters and not destructors? I don't know the man and maybe I would agree with nothing he has to say whatsoever, when I hear the whole story behind, why he has been so excommunicated, I am not raising the flag for

certain individuals here. I am asking this, however: Can we afford such an incredibly undiplomatic and arrogant attitude like that anymore? I for one do not think so, and I am happy to say that openly.

So often have I spoken against the anti-hunting opinions of the uninformed masses, who hate hunters, though they happily wear a pair of Gucci shoes, made from leather of animals that have never seen day-light. For 15 years I have written articles, spoken and written books on the subject, and I will continue to do so. But some things they say are right and then I feel ashamed and like a liar when I speak to them and I know I am not the only hunter to feel this way. Many hunters and hunting companies are NOT doing enough to live by the ethical standards that we promised the

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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 Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC www.cic-wildlife.org

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The South African Conservation Success Story

tion really was associated with how well we could manage to keep wild nature with us.

This launched the movement that we have come to know as conservation. A movement that has swept the world, a movement that has played itself out in virtually every continent and in virtually every country. We now believe that the measure of our progress is how well we do for wildlife, not how much we take."

The important concluding section is narrated by Dr. David Mabunda, CEO of the 22 South African National Parks. Amongst the many important points he makes is the following: "Parks and preserves cannot and have not in Africa in themselves maintained the biomass and variety of wildlife that is possible in combination with a strong game ranching industry. Furthermore, most game ranching and hunting takes place in the arid or semi-arid regions of South Africa, land that is unsuitable for crop growing and will revert, at best, to sheep and goats and the inevitable erosion and desertification that will follow."

The documentary sets out the facts relating to the conservation of wildlife, or lack thereof, that has characterized South Africa over the last 360 years. It has no agenda, no bias. The object is to provide the viewer with the factual foundation he or she may need to make wise and informed decisions regarding our wildlife and their conservation in the belief that, if they do, wildlife will be with us, our children and grandchildren and so on, and provide marvelous opportunities for all of us in perpetuity.

To this end, copies of the documentary will be made available to politicians and school principals, free of charge. Various organizations participating in the Johannesburg premiere will host local premieres around the country from March 2011 and CIC has kindly offered to host the European premiere at their General Assembly in St. Petersburg in May 2011. The DVD will be on sale at the various local premieres, in National Parks, at selected outlets, as well as via Rowland Ward (www.rowlandward.com), after 23 February 2010. A book on the documentary, including the DVD, will be on sale in the above outlets from April next year. Proceeds from the sales will help fund future distribution of the DVD.

For more information on Peter Flack, his books, DVDs and articles go to www.peterflack.co.za

Première Thursday 17th March 2011

Time: 18.30h for 19.00

**Il Grande Cinema, Monte Casino, Fourways,
Johannesburg**

The War on Rhinos: More Thoughts on Horn Trade and Traditional Oriental Medicine

In the last African Indaba (Vol. 8, No. 6) I wrote an article under this headline. Michael Eustace, a valued reader and subscriber for many years corresponded with me after he had received the issue and sent me the email printed below. Readers may recall that Michael Eustace is also an author of some articles previously printed in African Indaba. His last article appeared in Vol. 8, No. 1 and was titled "Rhino Poaching: Legalizing Horn Trade May Be the Answer".

Michael and I had an animated and friendly discussion on the stoep of my Johannesburg home about the topic. Whilst we did not find a solution which would eliminate rhino poaching, we certainly agreed that the "the invisible hand of the market" indeed could play a major role and all aspects of Michael's proposals merit thorough evaluation and discussion.

Here is Michael Eustace's email dated 15th December 2010:

I am one of "the well-meaning proponents of legalized trade in rhino horn" but am not keen on the theory of flooding the market with horn from stocks in order to bring down the price and thus make poaching unprofitable. Increasing the supply of horn will probably mean that speculators will enter the market and buy up the horn for later sale at higher prices. If that happens then the expected outcome of reducing poaching will not happen.

Reducing prices will increase demand. At the moment about 400 horns are sold into the market p.a. at a wholesale price of about \$20,000 per Kg. Supply and demand are brought into balance at that price.

Put another way the "Chinese" have better things to do with their money at a price above \$20,000. Reduce the price and demand will increase. Increase the price and demand will fall. South Africa can supply 400 horns p.a. from natural deaths alone without the need to kill one rhino. We can increase this to 800 horns p.a. by drawing down on stocks, without the need to kill one rhino.

Our stocks are sufficient to supply 400 horns p.a. for 10 years by which time our rhino population will have doubled, if we can stop poaching. We can then continue to supply 800 horns from natural deaths alone from a population of 40,000 rhino. 800 horns would generate \$64 million p.a. for parks and conservation of rhino. At the moment 400 horns are generating \$32 million p.a. for criminals and nothing for conservation.

Parks in SA own 80% of the rhino. Parks are undervalued by society and are in need of generating more profit in order to

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The War on Rhinos

make them sustainable. Selling rhino horn is potentially a major source of profit for parks. We need to maximize that source and not minimize it by, inter alia, scorning the logic for Chinese demand. The potential rhino horn trade needs high prices in order to fund parks as well as to limit demand to manageable levels.

But, you will argue that high prices will mean a continuation of poaching. Quite correct, unless you have a legal trade that enters into partnership with "Chinese" state pharmaceutical companies in order to control the market. If the Chinese state is invested in the legal trade they will be more robust at closing down the illegal trade. Illegal goods typically trade at a discount of 30% and SA will have a lot more money to police poaching which will increase the risks to the illegal trade. Lower prices and increased risk will mean a decline in poaching. We may not be able to eliminate poaching entirely but we might reduce it to, say, 100 rhino p.a.

For 50 years De Beers used to control the diamond market through their Central Selling Organization. It was very successful until the Russians and Australians decided to go their own way. The CSO is a perfected model that would be ideal to regulate and control the rhino horn trade and maximize the profitability. SA has 95% of the continents rhino and large stocks and is perfectly positioned to control the market.

The current ban on trade has been devastating for the rhino. A carefully structured legal trade would seem to me to be a much better plan.

Saving the Rhino Through Sacrifice



A very interesting article by Brendan Borrell which appeared on December 9th on Bloomberg Businessweek. Download the full article at http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/10_51/b4208068688480.htm



Endorsed by Dr. Ian Player

**INTERCONTINENTAL SANDTON SUN AND TOWERS, JOHANNESBURG
15TH April 2011
Maroela Room
Contact PHASA for**

PHASA, with the financial backing from the PHASA Conservation and Empowerment Fund and with the support of the Peace Parks Foundation and the SA Wildlife College is holding the 3rd gala fundraising evening to raise internationally recognized bursaries for select students from all ethnic groups, to study Wildlife Management at the Southern African Wildlife College at Hoedspruit. This college is administered and funded jointly by WWF-SA and the Peace Parks Foundation and trains wildlife managers from all Southern African countries.

**For a list of exciting auction items and tickets contact Marianna at Tel: 012 667 2048
E-mail: info@phasa.co.za**



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