



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
Международный Совет по Охоте и Охране Животного Мира

AFRICAN INDABA
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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

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A Word from the CIC President

Dear African Indaba Readers!

Since the last issue was sent out in September 2011 many of you may have been wondering what happened to African Indaba. I must confess that I am partly to blame for the newsletter becoming dormant. I had convinced its editor and publisher, Gerhard Damm, to stand for election as president of CIC's Division for Applied Sciences. After taking office in May 2011, Gerhard had an extremely busy schedule. At the same time he was one of the leading persons involved in preparing for the CIC General Assembly in South Africa, which took place last May. Not to mention his tremendous workload in compiling the soon-to-be-published two-volume *CIC Caprinae Atlas of the World*. The readers of African Indaba are used to high-quality content – and his new obligations just did not allow Gerhard enough time for African Indaba.

However, we are all conscious that the free-of-charge electronic African Indaba newsletter had developed into an important source of information on conservation, management, and hunting of wildlife in Africa. The large worldwide readership, which presently includes around 12,000 addresses from over 130 countries, is proof enough. It is a proud fact that during its 10 years of existence African Indaba had earned itself a reputation as a precise, objective, and non-commercial information tool. The newsletter is read not only by hunters, but also by wildlife researchers, students, members of a broad spectrum of conservation NGOs, and government agencies, amongst others. Many enquiries by readers demonstrate that there is a continuing demand to keep African Indaba alive and vibrant.

The main thanks for the past achievements must be given to Gerhard Damm. He conceptualized African Indaba in 2003 and provided a large share of his time on a completely honorary basis for its six-times-a-year publication in the past. Gerhard has agreed to continue, provided that he finds more support and that the workload can be better shared. I am very happy, therefore, that we have now found a competent editorial team which has agreed to take on the task. Apart from Gerhard Damm, the team is made up of:

- Dr. Rolf D. Baldus, from Germany, who had already supported Gerhard as a contributing author in the past; Rolf was head of the former CIC Tropical Game Commission and is now my advisor on communication. He has many years of on-the-ground experience with African wildlife and protected areas and has a reputation as an author of popular and scientific papers and books;
- Vernon Booth from Zimbabwe, a recently appointed CIC expert. Vernon has worked with wildlife throughout his long professional career and featured as author and co-author of many peer reviewed publications; he has many years of practical hands-on experience in African wildlife and conservation management.
- Peter Flack, a CIC member from South Africa, also known as a frequent African Indaba contributor, and highly competent author on books about hunting and conservation in Africa. Peter usually describes himself as a lawyer, businessman, conservationist, author and hunter ... although not necessarily in this particular order;
- Dr. Ali Kaka from Kenya, where he serves as Regional Director east and southern Africa of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Dr. Kaka assists me in the CIC as special advisor on Africa. Previously Ali held high profile engagements in the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, the East African Wildlife Society, and the Kenya Wildlife Service.

In addition, there will also be a number of highly reputed contributors, who will regularly provide articles and information on an *ad-hoc* basis. You will find out the names of this select group in the next few issues. The entire team works on an honorary basis. The editorial team also invites readers to contribute to future issues of African Indaba. From now on African Indaba will appear as the official CIC medium on African affairs. The CIC Executive Committee considers the special focus on African wildlife matters to be of particular importance.

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources. African Indaba is the official CIC Newsletter on African affairs, with editorial independence. For more information about the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC go to www.cic-wildlife.org

Africa is a continent with unique and rich landscapes and wildlife. This exceptional richness is part of the heritage of mankind and must be conserved for future generations. Africa provides many case studies on how wildlife can be managed soundly and for the benefit of both people AND wildlife. On the other hand, the emotionally-influenced utopian dreams of some, which are at least partially put into practice in certain African countries, have resulted in abysmal failures for wildlife and nature conservation – and at the same time for the people resident in those areas.

Hunting is a direct form of sustainable wildlife use when practiced with sound management and regulated by good governance. Hunting-tourism has been and continues to be a strong tool for conservation in the developing world. This is particularly obvious in Africa and Central Asia. Countries which have banned hunting tend to have some of the worst wildlife conservation track records. Nevertheless there are still some who are contemplating, for example, a ban on lion hunting. Such a ban however would be detrimental to the survival of the African lion.

On the other hand, photographic tourism is, as we all know, by no means non-consumptive, but a generally acceptable form of use. However, looking at these two forms of sustainable use, one must ask, which one leaves the smaller ecological footprint? I dare say that of the two hunting tourism will certainly take first place.

Conservation programs should be developed within the region and tailored to the local context. They must not be unduly constrained by emotions and well-meaning opinions from New York, Berlin, Sydney, or London. Theoretically, wildlife conservation can be pursued with or without local people but experience has shown that better conservation outcomes are achieved by involving them.

The incentive-driven conservation approach of Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) is a good example of how to overcome Hardin's *Tragedy of the Commons* effect. The late Elinor Ostrom, 2009 Nobel Prize Laureate, highlighted the importance of stimulating the self-interest of participatory groups, and all CIC Markhor Award winners (read the article on the 2012 Markhor Award Winner in this issue of African Indaba) show exemplary conservation successes achieved by applying incentive-driven conservation methods and a combination of extractive (e.g. hunting) and non-extractive (e.g. photo tourism) use forms. The outcomes benefit wildlife and ecology, further the economic underpinning of conservation, and contribute in appropriate ways, including economic, to the well-being of those communities, indigenous, rural and local, that live side by side with wildlife.

This leads me to the recently adopted and published IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) *Guiding Principles on Trophy Hunting*, which demonstrates the potential of proper wildlife use (see the comment by Rolf Baldus and the article of Rich Harris and Rosie Cooney in this issue). The IUCN SSC guidelines elaborate how hunting should be organized in order to be sustainable and supportive of rural livelihoods and conservation at the same time.

The IUCN guidelines correctly put hunting within a socio-economic context. But this also presents some pitfalls: hunting or photographic tourism are appropriate and

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economically viable use-forms on agriculturally marginal lands; however, other use-forms, for example the exploitation of rare metals and fossil energy, and the harnessing of rivers for hydro-energy, may very well create higher economic value. However, when we evaluate the complex range of ecosystem services provided by the areas used for hunting and photographic tourism, even these latter use forms may take second place. Expressing ecosystem services in monetary terms in addition to the socio-economic benefits of hunting may well provide additional and solid justification for setting aside land for wildlife in Africa and Central Asia.

The 59th General Assembly of the CIC in Cape Town has already focused on this central issue. In the meantime our expert groups have engaged in two key-activities:

- to coordinate the interrelated fields of wildlife conservation, food security, cultural aspects and animal-human health interrelations within a *Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management* under the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- to calculate and demonstrate with the help of standardized toolkits the wide-ranging contribution of sustainable wildlife management to the *Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity* within the *Green Economy Initiative* of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

Together with a broad coalition of partners, the CIC teams will be involved in both initiatives. We will ensure that apart from the clearly visible conservation and socio-economic benefits which sustainable hunting generates, the highly significant, but hidden, monetary values of ecosystem services provided by economically viable hunting and conservation areas are receiving their due attention.

Finally, I wish to congratulate our friends from Namibia, the 2012 recipients of the CIC Markhor Award, for this well-deserved recognition of their successful conservation programs. We celebrated their illustrious precursors from the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor in Tanzania and Mozambique in the year 2008 in Bonn, Germany, and the Society for Torghar Environmental Protection (STEP) from Pakistan in 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. The third CIC Markhor Award Winner will be celebrated by the participants of the 11th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Hyderabad, India. Our Namibian friends have worked hard for many years and they richly deserve this global stage.

Bernard Lozé
President
International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation

Namibian Conservation Wins Markhor Award for its Communal Conservancy Program

Steve Felton, NACSO/WWF, Namibia

On October 18 the 2012 Markhor Award for Outstanding Conservation Performance will be awarded to the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) and the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO). Through the Markhor Award, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) honors conservation projects that link human livelihoods with the conservation of biodiversity.

Conservation means using resources so that they will be available for future generations, and in Namibia this is happening through the CBNRM Program: Community Based Natural Resource Management.

Rich in wildlife and stretching over a wide geographical area, Namibia's desert, savannah and riverine areas are as biologically diverse as they are fragile. It was the Namibian post-independence government's visionary approach to the sustainable utilization of natural resources that created the conditions in which rural Namibians could benefit from wildlife whilst conserving the environment. Legislation in 1996 led to the establishment of the first communal conservancies.



Photo 1: Meat for distribution in Torra Conservancy

The partnership that followed, between the Ministry of Environment & Tourism, support NGOs under the umbrella of NACSO, and rural communities themselves, has created conditions in which conservation has been able to prosper.

The two Namibian ladies collecting the award on behalf of their organizations have a remarkable story to tell. As Minister of Environment and Tourism, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has managed the growth of Namibian communal conservancies from 50 when she became Minister in 2008 to 76 today, covering almost a fifth of Namibia’s land area. Maxi Louis, through NACSO, has provided consistent and solid support to CBNRM, allowing conservancies and the program to grow.

Communal conservancies are self-governing entities which enjoy the same rights over wildlife and tourism as private farms, and they are democratic. Conservancy members vote for a committee, and collectively earn money from trophy hunting and game sales, as well as from joint ventures with lodge operators on conservancy land.

In giving the Award to the MET and NACSO for the Namibia Communal Conservancy Movement, the CIC noted that the introduction of communal conservancies in Namibia, and their growth, had “initiated a paradigm shift in community attitudes towards wildlife.” In the 1980’s wildlife populations were threatened with local extinction. A severe drought exacerbated a decline in numbers caused by rampant poaching – both by the South African armed forces occupying Namibia, and by locals who saw little value in wildlife that ate their crops and livestock.

Now, in contrast, wildlife is seen as a growing asset by rural communities. Communal conservancies derive a direct income from trophy hunting, with 42 concessions run by professional hunters, and they sell excess game to commercial farms. In addition, meat from hunting is distributed to conservancy members. It is important to understand hunting in the context of conservation. Conservancies and the MET work closely together to monitor wildlife numbers, which have been increasing since the CBNRM policy began – thus ensuring viable and sustainable harvests of game.

A cornerstone of conservancy management is the employment of game guards. A typical conservancy will have six or more guards who routinely patrol conservancy areas and keep in contact with local farmers. Everybody knows who is who, and strangers looking for poaching opportunities are quickly spotted.



Photo 2: An MET ranger and community game guard on the Caprivi game count



Photo 3: Minister Nandi Ndaitwah (left) and Maxi Louis share a moment at Namibia’s Tourism Expo



Photo 4: The CIC Markhor Award

With increasing wildlife numbers there are more opportunities for tourism. Conservancies make joint venture agreement with tour operators, who invest capital in lodges and campsites. The result is more income to conservancies and greater job opportunities.

It’s a concept that was exemplified in Pakistan, where the name ‘Markhor’ comes from a mountain goat species. Once threatened with extinction, the population has multiplied 25 times in recent years because of benefits derived from the sustainable use of the species. It’s a paradox that awards like the Markhor help the public to understand that benefits from the hunting of wildlife have improved the lives of community members by placing a value on wildlife, which local people now want to conserve.

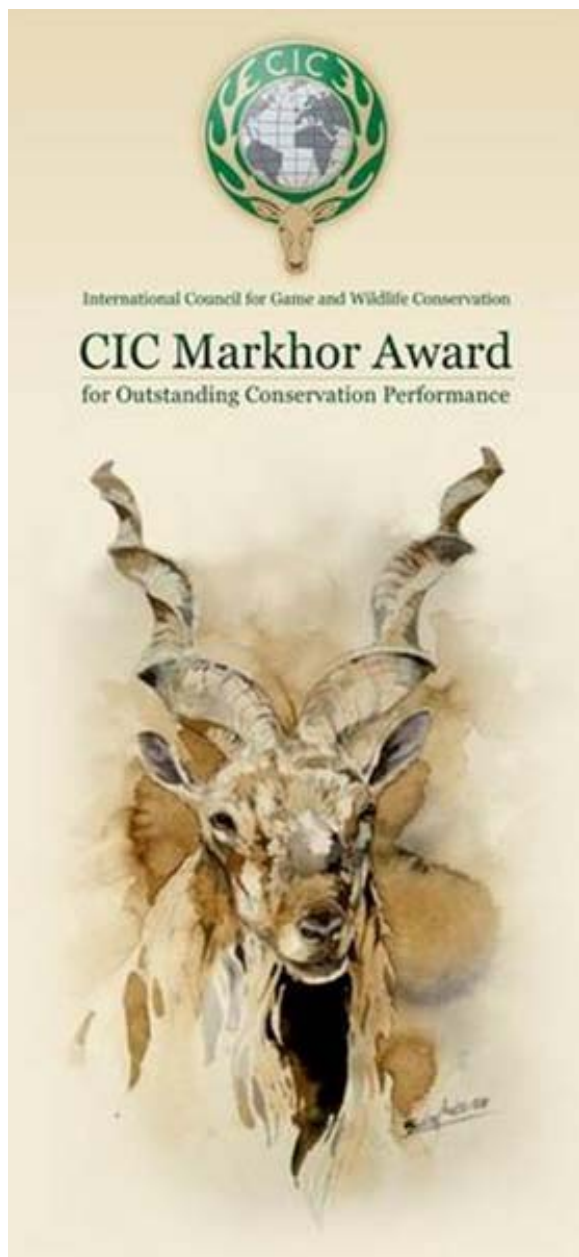
The work of the MET and NACSO in supporting the Namibian communal conservancy movement has led to a widespread and sustained growth of wildlife populations in Namibia, where communal conservancies have grown from four, in 1998, to 76 in 2012.

In Namibia, communal conservancies are required by the MET to have a sustainable game management plan based upon annual game counts.

The north west count, taking in the vast expanses of Kunene Region, is the largest road based game count in the world. In Caprivi Region, which is a mosaic of forests, floodplain, and riverine areas, the game count is done on foot, with over 800 kilometers walked in a few weeks. By spotting wildlife from the same paths and tracks, at the same time every year, reasonably accurate estimates of wildlife numbers can be drawn up.

Under sustainable use management, wildlife numbers have steadily increased. In the north-west, for example, Hartmann's Mountain Zebra numbers have grown from an estimated 1,000 in 1982 to around 27,000 today, and the population of the desert-adapted elephant has grown from about 150 to 750 in the same period. Lions in Kunene have expanded in range and number, and Namibia is the only country in Africa with an increasing giraffe population.

Minister Nandi Ndaitwah and Maxi Louis will be able to point to these successes when they receive the prize in India, on behalf of the communal conservancy program. Both ladies would, no doubt, place the credit elsewhere – and it is indeed a grass roots Namibian story of rural Namibians exercising good governance and control over wildlife, improving their livelihoods and benefitting biodiversity.



History of the CIC Markhor Award

Gerhard R. Damm

The CIC Markhor Award celebrates outstanding conservation performance by individuals, private or public institutions, enterprises, or projects that link conservation of biodiversity to human livelihood through the principles of sustainable use, in particular hunting, as part of wildlife and ecosystem management.

Rolf D. Baldus conceived of this award whilst president of the former CIC Tropical Game Commission. The search for a name that would do the concept justice soon led to the exemplary Pakistani success in the conservation of mountain ungulates. Spearheaded by communities in the provinces of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Balochistan, and in close cooperation with WWF-Pakistan and IUCN-Pakistan, a number of different projects resulted in an astonishing recovery of markhor subspecies such as the Astore Markhor (*Capra falconeri falconeri*), the Kashmir Markhor (*Capra falconeri cashmiriensis*), and the Suleiman Markhor (*Capra falconeri jerdoni*). The efforts also benefited other mountain ungulates and even predators like the snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*).

The well-known German wildlife artist Bodo Meier created an impressive Suleiman Markhor head as logo and the Spanish taxidermist and artist Ramon Garoz from Los Yébenes, a village close to Toledo, sculpted an impressive 44 cm-tall Suleiman Markhor head in bronze.

The Markhor Award and Bronze is presented biennially at the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD CoP). The first award ceremony took place at CBD CoP 9 in Bonn in 2008 and the CIC Markhor Award was presented jointly to the Niassa National Reserve, Mozambique, and to the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor which links the Niassa Reserve with Tanzania's Selous Game Reserve. In 2010, the award ceremony took place during the CBD CoP 10 in Nagoya, Japan. Members of the Society for Torghar Environmental Protection (STEP) celebrated their deserved recognition enthusiastically on the main stage of the conference venue. And now in 2012, at the 11th Conference of the Parties in Hyderabad, India, the CIC Markhor Award goes back to Africa

and recognizes the achievements of the Namibia Communal Conservancy Movement represented by Namibia Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) and Namibia Association of CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO).

IUCN SSC Guiding Principles on Trophy Hunting Released

Rolf D Baldus

The Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has adopted guiding principles on trophy hunting. The intention is that IUCN members, governments and others will use these guidelines widely for policy and management decisions related to trophy hunting, for instance in the design of new trophy hunting programs or review of existing ones. A similar directive was published several years ago by the Sheep Specialist Group of IUCN.

The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) is a science-based network of more than 7,500 volunteer experts from almost every country in the world, all working together towards conserving biodiversity. The majority of members are deployed in more than 120 Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities, and Task Forces.

The IUCN has long recognized that the wise and sustainable use of wildlife can be consistent with conservation, and in fact contribute to it, because the social and economic benefits derived from sustainable use can provide incentives for people to conserve species and their habitats. These new IUCN guidelines can therefore build on existing IUCN policies. Trophy hunting is seen as a tool for creating incentives for the conservation of species and their habitats and for the equitable sharing of the benefits associated with the use of natural resources. Species which are rare or threatened may be included in trophy hunting as part of site-specific conservation strategies.

Interestingly enough, in the annex to their document the IUCN SSC picks out two successful examples of sustainable trophy hunting – the Namibian conservancies and the Torghar Markhor hunting project – both of which are winners of the prestigious CIC Markhor Award.

The CIC will assist IUCN SSC in the translation of the Trophy Hunting Guiding Principles into languages like French, German, Russian, and Spanish.

Full text of the IUCN SSC Guiding Principles on Trophy Hunting

Download at:

https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/iucn_ssc_guiding_principles_on_trophy_hunting_ver1_09aug2012.pdf

The SSC Guiding Principles on Trophy Hunting as a Tool for Conservation Incentives

Rich Harris* and Rosie Cooney**

*Deputy Chair, IUCN/SSC Caprinae Specialist Group

**Chair, IUCN CEESP/SSC Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group

Hunting of wild animals with particular “trophy” characteristics takes place in many countries, involves many taxa, and has variable conservation consequences. The IUCN Species Survival Commission has developed the following set of guiding principles that articulates what IUCN/SSC views as the key characteristics of a trophy-hunting program that make it likely to deliver positive benefits for conservation. They are intended to differentiate hunting that generates tangible incentives for conservation, from hunting which may simply be sustainable but does not necessarily produce such direct benefits. They primarily apply to species where sport hunting of a few (“trophy”) individuals can generate a large amount of benefits to conservation with limited impacts on population dynamics or genetic variability. The new draft includes an annex providing two examples that illustrate positive benefits for conservation arising from trophy hunting, and there is scope to include further positive and negative examples in this annex in the future.

These guiding principles arose from discussion around Caprinae (wild sheep and goats). Caprinae are among the taxa most prized by many trophy hunters for the magnificence of their horns, yet some species exist only in low numbers. Accordingly in 2009, SSC Chair Simon Stuart began discussions with Marco Festa-Bianchet, chair of the SSC Caprinae Specialist Group (CSG) about whether the SSC could become more engaged in assuring the conservation effectiveness of this form of hunting, noting that CSG had, in 2000, produced a position statement (<http://pages.usherbrooke.ca/mfesta/thunt.htm>).

One of us (RH) became interested in the possibility that SSC involvement could be particularly helpful in central Asia (including China), having worked there for many years with local biologists and managers in and around trophy-hunting areas, and where most systems had yet to realize their full potential to link wildlife conservation with local people’s livelihoods. Initial ideas centered on the potential that SSC might, in the future, provide some sort of public endorsement of programs that met biological and social criteria, thus providing backing for successful programs facing scrutiny or criticism, while also providing an incentive to improve for programs not yet incorporating generally agreed-upon elements.

With the help of SSC leadership, seed funding was obtained in 2010 from the Wild Sheep Foundation (in association with Grand Slam/OVIS), the Conklin Foundation, and Safari Club International, to initiate conversations with range-state wildlife managers about their trophy-hunting programs. We elected to prioritize working with the People’s Republic of China, where a trophy-hunting program focused on

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Caprinae had been operating since 1986, but where public concern had prompted its suspension in 2006. In October 2011 in Cambridge, UK, SSC organized a workshop with senior officials from China's State Forestry Administration, which oversees the various provinces' trophy-hunting programs. We shared our thoughts about how hunting has succeeded in motivating funding and support for habitat conservation in various places throughout the world, and how local participation has so often been shown to be crucial in programs' success. Our Chinese colleagues shared information about their programs, and the difficulties they faced. It was pointed out that despite the existence of various documents detailing best practices in trophy hunting (such as the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity), and despite IUCN's existing policies on sustainable use, SSC had no stand-alone statement regarding trophy hunting. From the SSC side it was agreed that a reasonable next step was to produce such a document, and further that it should be general enough to cover all terrestrial species where high-value, low-volume hunting was intended to produce tangible conservation incentives. Richard Harris took the lead in producing this document, with Rosie Cooney joining the core writing team soon after her appointment as SULi Chair in December 2011.

The guiding principles have benefited from several rounds of review within the SSC, both from members of taxonomic specialist groups focused on taxa subject to trophy hunting, and from members of SULi, many of whom have been involved in trophy-hunting programs. Unsurprisingly for a topic that can elicit strong emotions, various views were expressed during the process, and we have found it challenging to produce text that is general enough to cover a myriad of situations while specific enough to differentiate programs that truly create the desired incentives from those that do not. However, after many rounds of review the Guiding Principles were adopted by the SSC Steering Committee in August 2012.

Our hope is that these guiding principles will help and prompt range states, hunting groups, and other NGOs to work together more productively to ensure that trophy hunting can continue to produce incentives for conservation where it is currently doing so, and improve its ability to do so where that potential has not yet been achieved.

IUCN Introduces Green List

Gerhard R Damm

In September, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) presented delegates to the World Conservation Congress in Jeju, South Korea, with the concept of an IUCN Green List, complementing the IUCN Red List that tracks endangered species.

While the IUCN Red List warns about imperiled species across the globe, the Green List will highlight not just survival of a species, but abundance. The list will include species that are identified as fully conserved; that is, exist in ecologically significant numbers, interacting fully with other species in their ecosystems. The Green List is intended to "incentivize conservation action and encourage investment in programs and policies that enhance and measure conservation success," said Dr. Simon Stuart, Chair of IUCN's Species Survival Commission. The Green List will probably appear only some years from now, since scientists need first to establish the listing criteria.

The Jeju delegates approved the IUCN Green List concept, and also approved motions to set up a Red List of Ecosystems and Green List of Protected Areas. The Green List will highlight some of the world's most successful protected areas, while the Red List will shine a light on ecosystems most in need of conservation and better management efforts.

Is this the Future of Cape Buffalo Hunting?

Rolf D. Baldus

Harry looked at the buffalo through the glasses. "There's a damned good bull in that herd," he said. "Better than the one you've got by six inches at least. I'd think we'd best go and collect him." I didn't say anything. I just prayed inside me and hoped we would not have to crawl too far in order to scare me to death. I don't know what there is about buffalo that frightens me so. Lions and leopards and rhinos excite me but don't frighten me. But that buff is so big and mean, and ugly, and hard to stop, and vindictive and cruel and surly and ornery. He looks like he hates you personally. He looks like you owe him money. He looks like he is hunting you. I had looked at a couple of thousands of him by now, at close ranges, and I had killed one of him, and I was scarer than ever. He makes me sick in the stomach, and he makes my hands sweat, and he dries out my throat and my lips.

All hunters know this passage from Robert Ruark's *Horn of the Hunter*. It describes better than anything else why we hunt buffalo and cannot give it up, even if charged or, on occasion, worse.

Artificial Breeding of Buffaloes on the Increase.

How different is the incident described by Robert Ruark from the adventure of hunting artificially bred buffaloes, which are advertised by some South African Game ranches. Advertisements, advertorials, and auction results clearly demonstrate that some South

African breeders and game ranchers have started to produce bulls with horns that regularly measure 45+ inches. Such trophies have always been difficult to find in wild Cape buffaloes. And so all successful methods based on the breeding of cattle and other livestock, including the latest technologies, are now being applied to buffalo breeding. At the Thaba Tholo auction (September 11, 2012) in Thabazimbi (Limpopo Province, South Africa) a nine-year buffalo breeding-bull named *Senatta* was sold for 18 million Rand (approximately 2.142 million USD); at an auction in Swartruggens (North West Province, South Africa), a buyer forked out 20 million Rand (2.38 million USD) for a buffalo cow and her heifer in April 2012. Photos of big-bossered, large horned buffalo bulls for sale (like "Horison", a 5-year-old bull with a 51 3/8 inch spread and two conspicuous red ear tags) dominate the advertisements in some South African media. One advertisement for an auction on October 27, 2012 even mentions "*the largest buffalo gene pool exchange in the world*".

The breeding of such buffaloes does not serve any conservation purpose. Rather, it is producing animals that will be killed solely because they possess large horns. The process reduces a formerly wild animal to a domesticated one and brings with it many dangers for biological diversity – and for the future of our beloved sport of hunting.

Pecunia non Olet?

A friend of mine in the South African wildlife-breeders industry said to me: "*What do you want to do? There's a market demand for such bred buffs. And we breeders and game ranchers just follow the demand.*" Well, he is right insofar that money does not stink. "*Pecunia non olet*," said Emperor Vespasian, after imposing a urine tax. However, there are demands, like those for child pornography or heroin, which must not be satisfied, according to law or the general consent of society.

Accordingly, we must either have the artificial manipulation of wildlife banned by law or, if that is not possible, proscribed by ethical hunters who follow the rules of fair chase. We must face the fact that the manipulation of formerly wild animals is increasing in many parts of the world; and that many people who call themselves hunters are losing their natural feeling that killing such animals has nothing to do with hunting, especially when it happens within a confined area, which is normally the case.

CIC Recommendation: Wildlife and Commercially-bred Formerly Wild Animals

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Management (CIC), which is actively engaged in the conservation of our biological diversity, has recently repeated its condemnation of such malpractices. It has confirmed its support for fair-chase hunting and urged all hunters and hunting associations to oppose such unethical, manipulative practices.

In its recommendation on *Wildlife and Commercially-Bred Formerly Wild Animals*, the CIC expressed its concern that such exploitation and manipulation of formerly wild animals, if uncontrolled, may have detrimental effects on biodiversity and unwanted consequences for the genetic integrity of animals that live in the wild. In particular the following is feared:

- uncontrollable impacts on natural evolutionary processes, including changes in behavior, breeding patterns and reproductive cycles;
- genetic pollution of naturally occurring taxa;
- loss or irreversible alteration of evolutionary significant local wildlife populations;
- uncontainable expansion of exotic wildlife species outside their natural habitats;
- elevated risk of zoonotic disease outbreaks;
- unpredictable impacts on habitats and ecosystems.

On 8 November 2011, the CIC Council, therefore:

1. **Expressed** its full commitment to further develop and promote principles, criteria and indicators for sustainable fair-chase hunting;
2. **Opposed** artificial and unnatural manipulations of wildlife, including the enhancement or alteration of a species' genetic characteristics (e.g. pelage color, body size, horn or antler size) in particular through
 - a) the intentional crossbreeding of species, subspecies, or evolutionary significant local phenotypes;
 - b) the use of domestic livestock breeding methods, like flow cytometry or genetic testing, germplasm and semen production or trading, artificial insemination, embryo transfer, castration, growth hormone treatments, controlled or unnatural breeding programs, and cloning.
3. **Excludes** all "trophies" of animals so manipulated from being scored with the copyrighted CIC Trophy Evaluation Methods;

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Full Text of the CIC Recommendation
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English
http://www.cic-wildlife.org/uploads/media/Rec_on_Wildlife_manipulation_EN.pdf

Français
http://www.cic-wildlife.org/uploads/media/Rec_on_Wildlife_manipulation_FR.pdf

Deutsch
http://www.cic-wildlife.org/uploads/media/Rec_on_Wildlife_manipulation_DE.pdf

4. **Encourages** all governments to develop enforceable policies and establish relevant guidelines in their national wildlife conservation models;
5. **Offers** assistance to national governmental agencies to develop policies and establish guidelines;
6. **Urges** all CIC members to abstain from hunting manipulated animals;
7. **Invites** all national and international hunting organizations and associations to adopt similar guidelines and policies.

One of the buffalo breeding/hunting advertorials ended by saying: "*Ethical hunting should be promoted and practiced at all costs.*" I agree. However, killing buffalo and other wildlife that has been artificially manipulated with the objective of producing big trophies is unethical.

Such practices and the killing of such animals by people who pretend that this is hunting, will ruin the reputation of hunting in the short run and destroy fair chase hunting in the long run. Ruark and many renowned big-game hunters of the past would turn in their graves if they could see how their successors have turned the *mbogo* of Africa's savannas and *miombo* forests into some kind of Frankenstein creature. Anyhow, the recent buffalo price explosion looks more like a cleverly devised pyramid system, benefiting a few, and eventually ruining those who join the bandwagon late.

This text is a modified version of an article which appeared first in the African Hunting Gazette, Vol. 17, Issue 4

Book Review: Glen Martin's *Game Changer, Animal Rights and the Fate of Africa's Wildlife*

Johannes Siege

Glen Martin takes us on a journey through today's African wildlife politics. The reader meets with eminent conservationists such as Ian Parker, now retired in Australia; with active wildlife researchers and animal rights activists as well as local people in still wild places, whose encounters and relationship with wildlife should be at the core of any conservation effort. Highly engaging and colorful in style, Martin paints a picture of animal rights-based conservation policies, which neglect the livelihoods of local people.

Central focus of his book is the excitingly displayed evidence that the priority of animal rights over wildlife management just achieves the opposite of what is intended – it has fatal results for the very existence and future of the African fauna. In this respect the animal rights activists are the "game changers". They dominate public debate and media on issues of sustainable wildlife management. They block the rational and science-based discussion of management decisions about, for example, reducing wildlife numbers that exceed the carrying capacity of their ecosystems or come into conflict with humans. According to Martin, in Kenya animal-rights organizations such as the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) have changed the game effectively to the detriment of human beings and wildlife, because they mistake "loving animals for saving wildlife". These NGOs bank on this popular confusion, and collect million dollar donations from people in the urbanized environments of industrialized countries. Martin finds evidence for this all over Africa, but specifically in Kenya, which, after the hunting ban was imposed in 1977, has lost 70% of its wildlife. Nevertheless, Kenya's wildlife policy is still dominated by animal-rights groups from Europe and America, who, for the selfish benefit of their NGOs and dollar donations, block any progress for the rightful landowners and local people towards benefiting from the sustainable use of the wildlife. For the animal rightist, wildlife does not have an economic value and should not have any. But according to Martin and the majority of conservationists whom he meets on his journey through Africa, progress depends on putting an economic value to game. For the people living with wild animals and whose farming activities compete with game, such value provides incentives to protect animals and space for management options, if for example the lion's trophy value is higher than the value of the cattle it feeds on.

But Africa also provides examples of where the game has not yet fundamentally changed in favor of animal rightists, and to the detriment of humans and wildlife. For Martin these examples are mainly in Namibia and South Africa. In these countries wildlife and suitable ecosystems have increased dramatically since they have become valuable to the landowner and local people. The value is based on a variety of options of sustainable use such as photo tourism, trophy hunting, eco-tourism, meat production, and allowing for problem-animal control.

However, as Martin points out, with animal rights-based environmentalism being in the ascendancy, and with progressing urbanization, even these countries are not immune to the "game changers". Let's hope with Glen Martin that those who just love animals do not in the end win the game against those who try to save them.

Glen Martin: *Game Changer, Animal Rights and the Fate of Africa's Wildlife*, University of California Press, Berkeley, 2012

Save Valley Conservancy: Myth versus Truth - the Facts

Lisa Jane Campbell and Willy Pabst

Editor's Note (RDB): *The Save Valley Conservancy (3,200 km²) in southeastern Zimbabwe is an association of over 20 private properties which has more or less survived the forceful land-appropriation in Zimbabwe, despite losing a third of its area, so far, to the Government. The conservancy is a cooperative private partnership for wildlife and natural resource conservation. The major income earner is sustainable hunting tourism. Photographic tourism does not play a significant role anymore due to the political crisis and the previous turmoil in the country. Contrary to the general situation of wildlife elsewhere in Zimbabwe the conservancy still holds viable game populations, including 140 rhinos. However, major efforts by the owners are needed to protect this wildlife against professional poachers. The ranches employ their own game scouts and a special force for rhino protection. Last August it became known that so-called "black farmers" – mainly ministers, politicians and VIPs - would be awarded large tracts of the conservancy for hunting purposes. In addition, hunting licenses for the private properties were given to 25 party heavyweights. The local press has reported widely on the incidents.*

Several owners leapt once again to defend their properties and engaged in a major political negotiation process. This culminated in the ZANU-PF Politbureau under President Mugabe condemning the illegal move and ordering that hunting licenses should instead be given to the lawful owners. Conservancies are not subject to land reform or indigenization in the normal form but should seek "community participation" as the official statement put it. Nevertheless the respective Minister and some interested parties in the administration have ignored this directive and have persisted with the appropriation. It remains to be seen how the saga continues.

Conservancy members published the following text to explain the facts to the public in Zimbabwe.

Myth: *The Save Valley Conservancy (SVC) is made up of the last vestige of white "Rhodesians" in Zimbabwe*

Truth: The Save Valley Conservancy was founded in 1992, twelve years after independence.

- A founding partner is the Government controlled Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (ARDA),
- All properties that have changed hands since the early 1990s received Government's "Certificate of no present Interest", i.e. Government expressly did not exercise its right to purchase the properties.
- Bikita Rural District Council became a full member in 2002.
- Two thirds of all members have indigenous partners in some form.
- SVC can accurately say, and prove, that the conservancy is 32% indigenized at present.
- SVC is made up of international investors, local investors, on-the-ground investors, government, and some local communities. The Conservancy was created in 1992 with the involvement of:
 - the Government of Zimbabwe
 - the National Parks and Wildlife Authority
 - the Beit Trust
 - WWF
 - the Department of Veterinary Services.

Myth: *The Parks and Wildlife Act of 1975 was a "colonial" tool used to benefit only white people*

Truth: The Act introduced the concept of landholders, irrespective of race, obtaining wildlife-utilization rights as a consequence of taking responsibility for the conservation of animals on their land. After independence this Act was recognized and accepted by the Zimbabwe Government. The Act is considered one of the most modern and progressive of its kind and the idea has since been adopted in other countries. Dr. Rowan B. Martin said in September 2012: *"Zimbabwe has led the way in southern Africa by adopting liberal and farsighted policies, and giving effect to these policies through enlightened legislation and innovative institutional reforms that have enabled all Zimbabweans to benefit from wildlife as a land use without racial discrimination. It is an insult to those pioneering Ministers such as Victoria Chitepo and Herbert Murerwa to cast their efforts in such a poor light as some have done."*

Myth: *Conservancies are an invention from the "Rhodesia days"*

Truth: Conservancies, including the Save Valley Conservancy, were founded in the early 1990s, i.e. some eleven or twelve years after independence. Conservancies were registered with and approved by the Zimbabwe Government in the 1990s. All properties that changed hands at that time were offered to Government first; Government issued "Certificates of no present Interest", declaring that it had no interest in the land and its proposed use. Conservancies did not exist prior to 1980.

Myth: *Wildlife belongs to the state or the people*

Truth: Incorrect. Wildlife enjoys the legal status of "Res Nullius", meaning wildlife belongs to nobody. User rights accrue legally to those exercising control over wildlife areas. In a fenced area the legal occupier enjoys user rights of wildlife. This applies to conservancies. [Editors' Note: *This is a fundamental principle of the Parks and Wild Life Act, 1975, as amended in 1982 – the primary reason why Zimbabwe's conservation program was successful.*]

Myth: *Zimbabwe has a wildlife based land reform policy*

Truth: No such policy has ever been approved by Cabinet or Parliament; it does not exist in legal terms.

Myth: *Twenty-five-year leases for SVC or wildlife properties are legal and binding.*

Truth: No original leases have ever been presented to anyone. The copies, dated from 2007, that were seen show signatures from the Minister of Environment and the Director General of National Parks. The Minister of Lands and many other members of Cabinet as well as legal advisors have made it clear that the leases are illegal, the signatures without authority, and doubt exists that these documents are available in the original.

Myth: *The Wildlife Industry is poorly indigenized:*

Truth: Government records show that 28% of Zimbabwe's total area is designated for wildlife.

- 93% of all wildlife areas are in indigenous hands. The wildlife estate covers an area about 47,000 km² (18,000 sq. mi.), 12.5% of the total land area of the country. The wildlife industry is the single most indigenized industry in Zimbabwe.
- Conservancies comprise only 7% of wildlife areas outside of the Parks and Wildlife Estate.
- Of this 7%, about one third is in indigenous hands, and over 50% is owned by foreign investors covered by Investment Protection Treaties.
- Therefore less than 5% of privately owned wildlife areas in Zimbabwe are not directly in indigenous hands or control.

Myth: *The SVC has refused to engage on the issue of indigenization*

Truth: The SVC has long held the view that indigenization should take the form of community involvement and benefit and to this end formed the Save Valley Conservancy Community Trust, incorporating five neighboring Rural District Councils. This was achieved between 1996 and 1998, pre-dating the current indigenization act by some years.

For years the SVC has engaged with the Ministry of Environment and the National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority. Over three years, between 2006 and 2009, professionally prepared plans to bring increased benefit to neighboring communities, as well as to increase indigenous shareholding in the Save Valley Conservancy, were presented. Requested documentation was supplied by the Conservancy to the Ministry on many occasions without any formal or directional feedback from either Ministry of Environment or National Parks.

At the beginning of 2011 a steering committee comprised of would-be investors and members of the SVC was formed to guide the legal, accounting, and business processes that would be necessary to ensure smooth transactions. This process ran aground in July 2011 when the "would-be investors" stated they had no intention of investing but wanted "cash on the table". Despite this the SVC and its members are still seeking to implement a viable indigenization plan incorporating communities. The door to genuine indigenous investment remains open today as in the past. Plans would have been implemented long ago had the authorities involved engaged with the procedure.

Myth: *The SVC is closed to black investors*

Truth: If that were so, why would ARDA have become a founding partner of the SVC and Bikita a later partner? SVC welcomes business investment (and always has), irrespective of race or nationality. The SVC Constitution, recognized by National Parks, provides for responsible land and wildlife management. All members and investors are committed to work within the boundaries of the balanced and non-racial SVC constitution.

Myth: *The SVC is part of a Government- or President-approved land redistribution policy. The forced deployment of shareholders onto the SVC is part of a national indigenization policy.*

Truth: Various senior members of Cabinet – notably the Minister of Lands and the Office of the President – have made it clear that Conservancies

- are not subject to Fast Track Agrarian Land Reform;
- should engage with their neighbors in community participation;
- will honor foreign investments, which are subject to Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (BIPPA).

Neither the President, the Vice President, nor the Prime Minister have given approval to the attempts of some 25 individuals from the Masvingo Province to gain access to the wildlife assets of the SVC, by using leases issued in the name of a policy (the Wildlife Based Reform Policy) that has no legal existence in Zimbabwe. Genuine attempts by the SVC, to create and implement a viable plan that will benefit communities, have run aground on the ambitions of a few apparently self-nominated individuals who enjoy the support of the Ministry of Environment and the directorate of National Parks. If these "enforced partners" prevail, it will be at the expense of our employees, the local communities, and local as well as overseas investors.

Myth: *There is only one property – German-owned – to which BIPPAs can be applied.*

Truth: South African, Italian, and Dutch BIPPAs are applicable and the American investment is guaranteed by the *International Law of Cross Border Investment*, which Zimbabwe acknowledges as a member of the United Nations.

Myth: *Sustainable agriculture is possible within the SVC.*

Truth: Since 2000, about 2,000 people have been forced to move to the SVC, an area designated as part of region V (unsuitable for sustainable agriculture). These people are slowly starving to death and their only possible survival lies in obtaining annual food aid. Thus, political expedience in Masvingo endangers the lives of thousands.

Myth: *Members of the SVC needed no investment because the bush and animals were just there. Wild animals require no ongoing investments*

Truth: SVC Members and investors expressly invested some 40 million USD in:

- expensive wildlife re-stocking exercises, bringing many species back to the SVC including elephant, rhino, lion, giraffe, sable, nyala and numerous others;
- white rhinos, which were brought in under an endowment policy by the Save Valley Conservancy Trust;
- infrastructure, camps and lodges, water points, kilometers of water pipes, pumps, high electrified game fences, a radio system, vehicles and workshops, staff housing, and so on.

Note: The Conservancy took a one million USD loan from the International Finance Corporation with the approval of the Government of Zimbabwe. The loan was underwritten and paid back by members. Some 40% of the annual overheads are spent on managing, evaluating, monitoring, and sustaining the precarious balance of fauna and flora. A substantial portion of the workforce is trained towards these specific needs.

In addition, investment has been necessary over the last two decades to maintain, service, and improve the assets created. At present the expense of running these wildlife areas exceeds income by a factor of over 30%. Who better to attest to this than National Parks and Wildlife Authority themselves?

Myth: *The wildlife industry is a very lucrative one in which shareholders are reaping huge dividends for little financial input.*

Truth: Summarizing the above financial numbers, it becomes clear that running a current wildlife operation costs from 10 to 13 USD per hectare per year. The income generated, as per audited financial statements which are available for inspection, does not exceed 7 to 8 USD per hectare per year. To a great extent this is caused by the general environment in the country, which presently discourages tourism. The myth is probably generated by publicity about expensive elephant or lion hunts costing between 50,000 and 70,000 USD per hunt. Whilst these individual numbers can be achieved for some hunts, hunting occurs in only a few months of the year, yet expenses for staff and upkeep need to cover the entire 12-month period.

The ongoing costs of wildlife management added to the costs of maintaining properties in a condition suitable for safari tourists are substantial. The current lack of non-hunting tourists visiting Zimbabwe means that SVC members have to rely solely on income from hunting and are under considerable pressure to cover increasing operating costs. Any money earned is invested straight back into the wildlife venture. In addition, levies and statutory costs such as rural district rates, SVC levies, ZTA levies, SOAZ levies, and so on, eat up a significant portion of the income. Members foot a considerable social cost, receiving and accommodating as far as possible a continual flow of requests from local government, police, national government, and surrounding local communities for donations, contributions, and assistance.

This is why it is vital to bring back non-consumptive tourism so that conservancies and National Parks can achieve financial independence. The myth of wildlife in the SVC being very lucrative is exactly that: a myth. Those willing to evaluate the financial statements would understand the truth soon enough.

Myth: *Provincial politicians are committed to wildlife conservation.*

Truth: From the late 1990s about one third of the Save Valley Conservancy was subject to enforced resettlement on instructions from the office of the Governor of Masvingo. During the course of this process over 160 km of expensive double fencing was destroyed or stolen; some 80,000 snares constructed from the fence material were confiscated; at least some 15,000 wild animals destroyed.

On July 6, 2011, after six months of discussions with the SVC, members of the Indigenization Committee formed by Governor Maluleke stated to his and other's applause: "*We are not interested in wildlife; we do not want to learn about the business. We want cash!*"

Savuli, a property within the SVC, was forcibly occupied by Mrs. Mahofa despite two High Court orders not to do so. Mrs. Mahofa is engaged in illegal hunting and a serious bush-meat poaching exercise.

Four hundred rhino poaching incidents occurred in the last decade in Zimbabwe, but very little has been done. Arrested poachers have been released, court records are lost, and in one case a records room burned down. Very few rhino poachers are behind bars. Only corrupt political involvement can create this legally unacceptable environment. This is a huge embarrassment to Zimbabwe's international conservation reputation.