

## **Botswana Hunting Ban Causes Job Losses In 2014**

**Joseph Kgamanyane** (edited for space)

According to a report prepared by the Ngamiland trusts, they have already lost money amounting to P7 million in the last 12 months because of the hunting ban. They also explained that close to 200 jobs have been lost, and there are fears that more retrenchments could come. The Mababe Zokotsama Community Development Trust saw income drop from P3.5 million to P500 000 and shedding around 30 jobs; Sankoyo Tshwaragano Management Trust income dropped from P3.5 million to P1.8 million, with 35 job losses; Okavango Kopano Mokoro Community Trust's income fell from P4.8 million to P2.5 million and about 40 people lost their jobs. The report also indicates that trusts in other regions of Seronga/Gudigwa, Phuduhudu and Xaixai experienced about 80 jobs lost.

Ngamiland CBNRM forum submitted their concerns to the Ministry of Environment Wildlife and Tourism in May 2013 and top of the list was the issue of hunting ban. [In] 2013 MEWT issued a ban on hunting of wildlife in all controlled hunting areas in Botswana which was effective from early January 2014. The Ministry's decision came after research surveys conducted by Mike Chase of Elephants without Borders, whose findings indicated that the country is experiencing a decline in wild animal species.

MEWT explained that the cause of the decline was likely due to a combination of factors such as anthropogenic impacts, including illegal offtake and habitat fragmentation or loss. Ngamiland CBNRM submitted that the forum appreciates that some wildlife species are indeed declining, however they pointed out that the same report concluded that wildlife species like elephants and buffalo are increasing. The forum members complained that the two species are a threat to the agriculture sector in the Northern part of Botswana (as elephants destroy crops while Buffalos transmit Foot and Mouth Disease to cattle). The forum recommended that the hunting ban should exempt Elephants and Buffalos.

The Ngamiland district is reported as the cornerstone of CBNRM with more than 20 legally registered community organizations or trusts. 8 of these CBOs leased wildlife management areas and derived benefits from the use of natural resources within their areas. CBNRM is a development approach that supports natural resources conservation and management while ensuring that the rural communities do benefit from the natural resources.

## **US Authorities Approve Import Of Namibian Black Rhino Trophies**

**Gerhard R Damm**

Based on extensive assessments of the conservation and management programs of black rhinos in Namibia, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has found that the import of two sport-hunted black rhinoceros trophies from Namibia will benefit conservation of the species. Under the Endangered Species Act, the Service authorizes imports for sport-hunted trophies of rhinos only when hunting in the country of origin is well-regulated, sustainable and benefits conservation of the species in question. The black rhino hunts associated with the imports of two sport-hunted trophies are consistent with the conservation strategy of Namibia, a country whose rhino population is steadily increasing, and will generate a combined total of \$550,000 for wildlife conservation, anti-poaching efforts and community development programs in Namibia.

"U.S. citizens make up a disproportionately large share of foreign hunters who book trophy hunts in Africa," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director Dan Ashe. "That gives us a powerful tool

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](http://www.cic-wildlife.org)

to support countries that are managing wildlife populations in a sustainable manner and incentivize others to strengthen their conservation and management programs.” Ashe also said that “the future of Africa’s wildlife is threatened by poaching and illegal wildlife trade, not [by] responsible, scientifically managed sport hunting”, and that the Service remains committed to combating wildlife crimes while supporting activities that empower and encourage local communities to be a part of the solution<sup>1</sup>.” Namibia’s Black Rhinoceros Conservation Strategy concentrates on maximizing population growth rates through biological management and range expansion, with an overall goal of increasing Namibia’s black rhino population by at least five percent per year. Under this strategy, the black rhino population more than doubled between 2001 and 2012. Local communities are an integral part of this strategy and receive direct benefits from the presence of black rhinos, thereby providing a disincentive to poaching. Annually, the management plan for black rhinos allows the harvest of 5 males, a decision that has also been supported by CITES. Although these rhinos may still be physically capable of reproducing, they are presumed to be genetically well-represented in the population and their removal may provide the opportunity for younger, less dominant males to reproduce, leading to a possible population increase. Click [here](#) for more information on the decision to authorize the import of two sport-hunted black rhinoceros trophies hunted in Namibia.

[Dallas Safari Club](#) (DSC) auctioned one permit for \$350,000 in early 2014, says the federal approval is vindication for biologists in Africa who prescribed the hunt as way to grow rhino populations.. Conservation Force has in the meantime transferred 100% of the auction proceeds including accrued interest to Namibia to be used for rhino conservation, habitat and anti-poaching initiatives. The second permit was approved for another American hunter, who paid \$200,000 directly to the Namibian government.

<sup>1</sup>In North America, trophy game hunting has led to the restoration of the white-tailed deer, elk, moose and a number of other species. As the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other international wildlife management and conservation organizations recognize, well-managed wildlife programs that include limited, sustainable sport hunting can and have provided significant long-term benefits to the populations of many species. By law, the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service cannot and will not allow trophies of certain protected species into the United States that were hunted in any nation whose conservation program fails to meet high standards for transparency, scientific management and effectiveness.

## **New Paper: Identification Of Policies For A Sustainable Legal Trade In Rhinoceros Horn Based On Population Projection And Socioeconomic Models**

**Enrico Di Minin, Jussi Laitila, Federico Montesino-Pouzols, Nigel Leader-Williams, Rob Slotow, Peter S. Goodman, Anthony J. Conway, and Atte Moilanen**

**Abstract:** Between 1990 and 2007, 15 southern white (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) and black (*Diceros bicornis*) rhinoceroses on average were killed illegally every year in South Africa. Since 2007 illegal killing of southern white rhinoceros for their horn has escalated to >950 individuals/year in 2013. We conducted an ecological–economic analysis to determine whether a legal trade in southern white rhinoceros horn could facilitate rhinoceros protection. Generalized linear models were used to examine the socioeconomic drivers of poaching, based on data collected from 1990 to 2013, and to project the total number of rhinoceroses likely to be illegally killed from 2014 to 2023. Rhinoceros population dynamics were then modelled under 8 different policy scenarios that could be implemented to control poaching. We also estimated the economic costs and benefits of each

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