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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi Is Committed to the Professional Hunting Industry of South Africa

Extracts from the Address of Her Excellency, SA Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi to PHASA Delegates

The hunting industry makes a valuable contribution to the economy of our country and according to a report compiled by the Department, based on information provided by the provincial conservation authorities, the revenue generated directly through hunting, during 2009, amounts to R650 million. Owing to the forward and backward linkages of the hunting industry, the impact of the industry, both direct and indirect, is far larger than the aforementioned amount. I was informed that the study conducted by the North West University in 2007, indicated that the total contribution of your industry amounted to approximately R7.7 billion and this is quite significant.

I further value your active participation in government initiatives and processes. To mention but a few; your involvement in the Wildlife Forum; participation in the Round Table that my Department convened in May 2010, and the Minister's Rhino Summit in October 2010; the NGO Summit of two weeks ago, and in particular, in the legislative development processes. Your contribution to skills development and job creation within the environmental sector deserves to be mentioned. I am not sure how many other organizations can say that they have donated more than R2 million this year for the training of previously disadvantaged conservationists! I would urge you to continue with these initiatives, but to also focus on other initiatives to transform not only the hunting industry, but also the broader wildlife industry. Continued collaboration and cooperation between the Department and the industry can facilitate the development of such initiatives.

Acknowledging that you have concerns with regards to government processes that may impact on your industry, please allow me a few minutes to reflect on the progress made in terms of a number of issues:

1. The Hunting Norms and Standards is in the process of being finalized and I should mention that due to the amendment to the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, that now provides the Minister with the

mandate to make regulations relating to the hunting industry; the final Norms and Standards will not include regulatory provisions.

2. The Department has just initiated the process to amend the Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) Regulations as well as the Threatened or Protected Species lists. Where until now a permit has been required to carry out any restricted activity involving a listed threatened or protected species, I am positive that the upcoming amendment process will provide for much more effective implementation of the regulations, as we will now be able to exempt a person from many of the impractical provisions.
3. Although a complete proposal has not been developed yet, discussions are taking place to identify and explore possible areas for self-administration. I understand that this is an important aspect for the industry.

New government initiatives that have been given effect to during the past year include:

1. The development of a National Strategy for the Safety and Security of Rhinoceros populations in South Africa, which was necessitated by the increase in rhino poaching and illegal international trade in rhino horn. The purpose of the strategy is to reduce the effect of rhino poaching, ensure the successful prosecution of offenders and to improve the

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Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs Rejoice Mabudafhasi

management of rhino horn stock piles. Here, I want to commend PHASA for their contribution of R 377 000.00 to rhino conservation.

2. Linked to the development of the rhino strategy is the establishment of an interim National Wildlife Crime Reaction Unit to respond to wildlife crimes, and in particular to rhino poaching and the illegal rhino horn trade.
3. The establishment of a Biodiversity Special Investigations Unit within the Biodiversity and Conservation branch of the Department.

Having mentioned progress in existing initiatives and the development of new initiatives, I want to acknowledge that there certainly are areas where the cooperation between government and industry can improve. We furthermore also need to collaborate with other departments and organizations, especially the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in terms of its legislation that effect the wildlife and hunting industry; and the Department of Tourism in terms of marketing.

It is reassuring to know that PHASA does not condone unethical hunting, and that your organization has a Code of Conduct through which you discipline members who participate in unacceptable hunting practices. Lastly, I would like to request PHASA to continue to communicate and collaborate with government, to communicate government initiatives to your members, and to participate in these initiatives. It is only through continued communication and participation that we will be able to together improve and expand our hunting industry.

Editor's Note: In the following we provide additional information from the joint press release issued by the Ministry of Water and Environmental Affairs and PHASA:

PHASA, founded in 1978, is a voluntary, non-profit and non-racial association with more than 1100 members who are bound by its constitution and code of conduct. The organization is part of an extensive global network of international hunting and conservation bodies allowing it to remain at the forefront of international development affecting its industry. PHASA members pledged their full support to PHASA's direction to self administer, improve and expand its impact on conservation, social upliftment, empowerment and economic development. PHASA's annual 3-day Convention and Annual General Meeting was attended by 160 delegates, including presidents and dignitaries from international organizations. PHASA is being acknowledged as the national body in South Africa for the professional hunting industry and is currently the largest organization of its kind world-wide. PHASA president Eduard Katzke confirmed PHASA's approach for the industry to be the primary footprint in terms of socio economic development, specifically in South Africa's rural areas, and furthermore creating foreign direct investment and influx of foreign currency. "To ensure the sustainability of the industry, we are committed to responsible utilization of our natural resources for life and livelihoods. This is being achieved by means of effective management and direct investments", Katzke said.

Dr. David Mabunda, CEO of SANPARKS, stressed at the association's gala banquet on Wednesday night, that in the mid 1900's, wildlife was under extreme threat. Statistics indicate that South Africa has 60% more wildlife biomass now than at the

turn of the century. Privately owned land devoted to wildlife is roughly three times more than National and Provincial Parks and the number of game animals on privately owned game farms is approximately twice of that present in the country's Parks. This is a direct impact of responsible, ethical hunting practices and the demand it has created over the past few decades.

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

Gerhard R Damm

The slaughter of rhinos continues virtually unabated – there is hardly a day when we don't read or hear about new gruesome discoveries. What can be done to prevent that South Africa, once the cradle of rebirth of the rhino, eventually becomes its final graveyard?

Is legalized trade the answer? Such an approach certainly has its merits, since it would deal with a considerable stockpile of privately and government owned rhino horn. Without an outlet, such stocks do not only become the target of criminal elements (like at Thaba Manzi Game Lodge near Bela Bela just a couple of weeks ago), but also incur prohibitively high costs. The destruction of horn stocks is a too simplistic solution, and as wasteful as Kenya's ivory burning ceremony years ago.

Yet, legalizing even very restricted trade channels will also have consequences which need to be thoroughly analyzed. Legalization of rhino horn trade in whatever form can only be tabled at and decided by the Conference of the Parties of CITES. The next full CITES meeting takes place in 2013. The South African CITES Delegation must submit a comprehensive proposal to the 16th CoP, and the voting members of must accept such a proposal with a two thirds majority. The bitter divisions across the African continent caused by the elephant ivory debate during previous CITES conferences leave but little hope for a trade acceptance. Whatever decision is made in 2013 – for the rhinos, it may be too little and too late. The well meaning proponents of legalized trade in rhino horn argue that the release of existing stocks will drive down prices and will make organized poaching unprofitable. It is, however, conceivable that legalization and the wider accessibility of products containing rhino horn may drive up demand. Rhino horn is used as ingredient of traditional medicines, not only in China, but practically throughout East and Southeast Asia (please read also the articles on pages 14 to 18 Frequently Asked Questions: Rhino Dehorning by Faan Coetzee of the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Rhino Security Project and Richard Ellis' book extract "Rhino Horn: Facts and Myths" for further details).

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The War on Rhinos: More Thoughts on Horn Trade and TCM

Teams of Chinese and western resource economists really will have to dig deep to evaluate and understand the market dynamics before any informed decision can be made. And this evaluation is not a simple exercise in western marketing science. The thousands of years of practicing Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) add factors of yet unknown complexity.

To put matters into perspective, I made a purely hypothetical calculation. The 2007 population of the People's Republic of China numbered ca 1.321 billion. Let us assume that a mere 0.1% (one tenth of a percent) has the desire and means to consume rhino horn as part of their use of TCM products. This means that ca 1.3 million Chinese could be potential consumers of products containing rhino horn. If the consumed medicine contain only 1 gram of rhino horn and a product containing one gram of processed rhino horn is consumed once a week, the calculation for the yearly requirement of rhino horn would be

$$\frac{1.3 \text{ million people} \times 1 \text{ gram} \times 52 \text{ weeks}}{= 67.6 \text{ million grams or } 67,600 \text{ kg or } 67.6 \text{ tons}}$$

I have made no assumptions regarding the average weight of a rhino horn (primary plus secondary horn), but one can probably say that horn material from more than 15,000 rhino per year is needed to sustainably supply this hypothetical market. Neither the rhino horn stocks in private and official custody, nor the horn of all presently living rhino will be able to meet such a market demand and even resorting to the controversial intensive breeding of rhinos will not bring relief for many years to come. The resource economists should urgently analyze this!

Primarily, we must focus on national law enforcement, quick convictions and severe punishment of rhino poachers. Law enforcement actions and sentences in courts of law in South Africa need to set highly visible examples. It appears that we are now seeing some progress. President Jacob Zuma is calling for INTERPOL involvement and Defense Minister Lindiwe Sisulu, following a call from SANParks considers using SADF units and unmanned drones to target rhino poachers. As reported by News 24, the minister said "initially we might just paint [the poacher] red and arrest him, but as time goes on we will take more drastic measures," although she did not elaborate on what these measures might be.

CITES, ICPO-INTERPOL, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization have signed a Letter of Understanding during the International Tiger Forum in November 2010 in St. Petersburg to bring into effect the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime. China and Viet Nam were amongst the countries who endorsed the St. Petersburg Declaration, which included *inter alia* halting poaching and illegal trade of tigers and tiger products. South African diplomats could use this development for the establishment of an International Rhino Forum and the CIC General Assembly in St. Petersburg in May 2011 could provide the international platform for this event. The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Council and the "Save Our Species" initiative (www.SOSpecies.org) may be an appropriate source for funding a really decisive attack of those who threaten the last remaining rhinos of the world.

In the Far East the focus must be on science to evaluate

the potential or non-existent medical properties of medicines containing rhino horn, and whether there are any ethically acceptable substitutions like the horn of water buffalo, as has been suggested by some. There must also be a strong educational focus. The Chinese population needs to be informed of plight of the remaining rhino populations in a comprehensive media campaign (that the Chinese people are insensitive for conservation issues is a wide spread but nonetheless untrue myth).

The somewhat dated western-lead efforts by Hoffmann-LaRoche and the Zoological Society of London concentrated on proving that there are no curative powers in rhino horn. One is tempted to suggest that most TCM practioners never heard of the studies and results, and if they did, they probably did not put much faith in studies based on western medicine. It is indispensable that the Chinese Government and the Chinese Society of Traditional Chinese Medicine urgently commission their own public studies into the medical properties at Chinese universities under the leadership of Chinese scientists. The involvement of international scientific capacities in such studies will be a bonus, but the initiative and leadership must come from China in order to produce a result credible to the practioners and users of TCM.

Report From Angola

Pedro vaz Pinto

Cangandala NP

Years of hard work and recent months of expectations finally paid off when, in July 27th (precisely one year since we caught the first giant sable bull in Luando), we were shown by the proud herd in the sanctuary, a little calf! The first pure calf in years to be born in Cangandala NP, and reason for renewed hope. It is a motivating milestone, and living proof that we are on the right track. A nice young male In truth what we need right now are female calves to maximize future breeding, but he was nevertheless much welcomed.



As the dry season progressed, and in spite being joined by the little one and its mother (the dominant female, Neusa nº10), the group got grew more relaxed, and we managed to get

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