



For the
sustainable
use of wildlife



Conseil International de la Chasse et de la Conservation du Gibier
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Dear Reader,

The northeastern corner of Africa is one focal areas of this issue: Peter Flack's first hand report from a recent trip to Ethiopia (Article 2) makes grim reading and Fred Pearce's account on the agribusiness boom in Ethiopia does not provide comfort either (Article 10). The emerging nation of South Sudan faces serious challenges (Article 6). Tanzania's President Kikwete has now signaled that instead of the controversial Trans-Serengeti Highway, some unpaved roads will connect villages to the national road network and a southern bypass of the park is envisaged (News from Africa). Northern white rhinos, a distinct species and not a subspecies according to newest research may have received a new life-line (Article 5).

Mike Norton-Griffiths of Kenya produced a spellbinding account of the machinations of IFAW and allied non-governmental organizations in Kenya (Article 11). It's a lengthy piece, but well worth-while reading. When will the Kenyans finally take their conservation destiny into their own hands and stop being stooges bending to the utopian, emotional and unrealistic view of some arm-chair do-gooders from North America and Europe?

South Africa has a number of issues to solve. Still figuring highest on the agenda is the ongoing rhino poaching crisis. The country lost at least 193 rhino to poaching in the first 6 months of 2011 leading to 123 arrests with 6 convictions (2010: 165 arrests and four convictions). Whilst the arrest rate appears increasing, the conviction rate is appalling! A new threat looms for leopards with their spotted coats being in high demand for ceremonial purposes by members of a church (Article 12) Worrying news came from SANParks with the projected hotel developments in the southern part of Kruger National Park. I understand that KNP must be run as a profitable business venture, especially in view of ever diminishing government subsidies and should not depend on taxpayer handouts. Hotels are one potential solution but come with an enormous ecological footprint and high capital and running costs. Strictly regulated conservation hunting operations, if conducted in restricted wilderness/remote zones of suitable parks, would probably far surpass the monetary profits of hotels, have negligible ecological footprints and most of all would be sustainable through the years without incurring any significant

capital expenditure. David Mabunda, CEO of SANParks said not so long ago that "SANParks needs to find sustainable methods to fund the operations and protection of the entire national parks system and hence SANParks views responsible tourism as a conservation strategy." Maybe it is time to evaluate conservation hunting as one more option. SANParks could produce sustainable NET PROFITS in the region of 40 to 50 million Rand annually from very limited and strictly controlled hunting without compromising the SANParks Conservation Strategy. The National Treasury could apply the subsidies paid to SANParks in the past to service delivery on many fronts. My proposal will be challenged with all kind of moralistic assertions that hunting simply cannot take place in National Park; but those who argue against should please consider that successful and sustainable conservation strategies rest on THREE pillars: Ecology, Economy and Social Politics.

Sincerely
Gerhard R Damm

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WARNING! Rhino Thieves: CIC Warns Museums And Owners Of Rhino Hunting Trophies

CIC Press Release

Rhino thieves are on the road. Internationally active gangs steal rhino trophies from hunting and natural history museums - cases are reported from Germany, Great Britain, Italy and South Africa. The stolen horns are obviously smuggled to Southeast Asia, where the horn is used for medical purposes, although there is no scientific evidence of their medical effectiveness. The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) has warned all hunting and private museums with rhino trophies. Also Africa-hunters who possess such trophies should be careful. Precautions against theft are advised. Legal owners are warned against offers to purchase trophies. All rhinos are on Appendix I of CITES, and the horn trade is banned internationally and will be prosecuted. Taxidermists should also be warned and should alert their national authorities, if the casting of horns and demand of fibre glass copies are ordered. This could be for the preparation of illegal sales.

Sustainable hunting has greatly contributed to the population increase of the once almost extinct white rhino in southern Africa to over 20,000 animals. Even individual black rhinos may be hunted in South Africa and Namibia under CITES permits, since the hunting revenues are used for species conservation. "Controlled hunting has played a significant role in the conservation of rhinos and this must continue," said CIC President Bernard Lozé during the CIC General Assembly in St. Petersburg in May, at which increasing rhino poaching was discussed. In view of the current enormous increase of poaching, possibilities of a monitored and regulated trade by CITES should be analysed.

News From Africa

Congo DR

A survey of Kahuzi-Biega National Park in the Congo DR turned up 181 Grauer's gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla graueri*, also known as the eastern lowland gorilla), up from 168 in 2004 and 130 in 2000. The number may actually be higher — the researchers were only able to assess the highland areas of the park due to guerrilla activity. Grauer's gorilla, which can weigh up to 500 pounds, is one of four recognized gorilla sub-species, which also include mountain gorillas, western lowland gorillas, and Cross River gorillas. Grauer's gorilla is listed as "Endangered" on the IUCN's Red List and lives exclusively in the eastern DR Congo.. Its population is estimated around 4,000. Hall et al. (1998) identified 11 populations across its 90,000 km² range and estimated the total population to be approximately 16,900 individuals. The gorillas found in the

Kahuzi-Biega National Park lowland area and the Kasese region represented 86% of the subspecies' total population in 1998. The mountain and lowland populations of Kahuzi-Biega are not in reproductive contact. Newman's Own Foundation has awarded the Wildlife Conservation Society a \$150,000 grant to help eco-guards re-establish control of the lowland sector of Kahuzi-Biega.

Kenya

Residents of Narok South District claim that zebras and elephants from Maasai Mara GR have destroyed 150 acres of maize plantation. They said Kenya Wildlife Service is doing little to deter wild animals.

Kenya

Wildlife in the Masai Mara has shrunk by over 70% in the last 30 years and the drop is continuing according to the Journal of Zoology. The number of cattle grazing illegally in the reserve has increased by more than 1,100% per cent.

Kenya

A poacher died in Tsavo East national park in June after eating meat from an elephant that was killed using poisoned arrows. The poachers roasted and ate some meat and, after a few hours, started experiencing severe abdominal pains; one of them died later.

Namibia

Deputy Prime Minister Hausiku warned that cross-border rhino poaching could reverse the big success made in rhino protection in southern Africa. "Rhino poaching is a cause for concern for all the range states and it needs all our attention and focus to address it," said Hausiku when he opened a meeting of SADC ministers in Windhoek in May. He said the region was successful in bringing rhino species back from the brink of extinction, but poaching may reverse this success.

Rwanda

The government in partnership with the African Parks is pumping a \$10m investment to restore Akagera National Park biodiversity, improve its financial viability and increase tourism receipts. The park management trains rangers in counter defense and offensive, rescue tactics and enemy engagement skills to safeguard Park and its territorial boundaries.

South Africa

A bitter debate is raging on the proposed upmarket hotels with conference facilities in Kruger National Park at Malelane and Skukuza. Apparently the hotel developments are planned to achieve financial self-sufficiency for SANParks and to partially off-set the cut-backs of subsidies and government grants.

South Africa

The latest rhino poaching figures are showing a decline in the KNP but an increase in both Private and Provincial reserves with a YTD figure of 182 animals killed in 2011 (as per 21st June). A survey by the Rhino Management Group (RMG) and sponsored by WWF-SA is attempting to assess the number and distribution of

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