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Conseil International de la Chasse et de la Conservation du Gibier
Internationaler Rat zur Erhaltung des Wildes und der Jagd
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A Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader

A few weeks ago, during a dinner on occasion of the visit of CIC President Bernard Lozé and CIC Director General Tamás Marghescu to South Africa, Peter Flack presented the guests with the fresh-from-the-press companion book to his DVD *"The South African Conservation Success Story"*. The impressive visual sequences of the DVD were matched, and in some instances even surpassed by the book. I am particularly impressed with David Mabunda's article *"The Future of Wildlife and Conservation"*. David, the CEO of South African National Parks, made some extremely important observations. Right in his first sentence he says that *"despite the benefits hunting and wildlife ranching have brought to South Africa, the future of wildlife and its conservation in this country may well be at crossroads"* and he paints two possible scenarios which could emerge from the *status quo*.

The *status quo* being that South Africa does not have *"a land and wildlife conservation model that [enfranchises] large numbers of previously disenfranchised people"*, that new entrants to South African game ranching have brought with them methods from the domestic livestock industry, and that a significant rise in "canned" and "put & take" killings has tarnished the image of hunting in South Africa. Breeding methods have raised concern and controversy resulting in David's words that *"game ranching has been accused of doing nothing to biodiversity conservation while at the same time demeaning the lives of [wild] animals and recreational hunting itself,"* and he asks the questions *"were the lines are to be drawn between a hunter and a shooter, and a game rancher and a farmer"*.

Pointedly, David then questions *"is South Africa's quiet conservation revolution still on track? Is it a business model with conservation as a by-product or is it a conservation model which also provides economic benefits to the stakeholders?"* He concludes that *"important choices have to be made for the future!"*

Two different scenarios emerge from David's observations: a worst case, where cause and effect will drastically reduce the land under wildlife and reverse all the successes of the past 5 or 6 decades. The more optimistic scenario is likened to a three-legged stool where the public and private sectors, and the dynamism of the markets combine as driving forces for conservation: wildlife and habitat will flourish.

Glancing through the recent issues of a particular South African specialist magazine and looking into some specific South African game breeding websites shows a possible third scenario, apparently economically viable, but possibly with less than desirable conservation outcomes.

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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

Rhino Announcement Of Minister Molewa

Extracts from a [statement](#) by Minister Edna Molewa on the ongoing scourge of rhino poaching

The South Africa Government is investigating further actions to fight a poaching crisis that has killed 279 rhinoceroses this year (169 of them in the Kruger National Park), Mrs. Edna Molewa, the South African Minister for Water and Environmental Affairs said on August 29th.

The Minister announced her intention to engage with the various provincial Environment MECs to look at the possibility of placing a moratorium on the hunting of rhinoceros. Currently, the provincial conservation authorities issues permits for the sport hunting of rhino and the abuse of the system by unscrupulous individuals is an unfortunate challenge we are facing, said Mrs. Molewa. She stated however that a clear consultation process as prescribed in the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act will be followed. The Minister further announced that she recently approved amendments of the regulations covering the legal hunting of white rhinoceros which now prescribe amongst other regulations that (a) provincial conservation officials must supervise rhino hunts and while attending these hunts the identity of the hunter must be verified, (b) the official must provide the Department of Environmental Affairs with the permit number, the information on the back of the permit and the microchip numbers and (c) the official must take DNA samples after the hunt.

The Minister further announced that a dehorning possibility impact study has been initiated and will be concluded within the next three months. The Terms of Reference for the two other studies, i.e. the feasibility study to determine the viability of legalizing trade in rhino horn in South Africa; and the global competitive market research assessment study, have been advertised and at time of press the closing date for proposals had lapsed. Mrs. Molewa reiterated that her department will continue to work with all our communities, provinces, game parks authorities, counterparts at sub-regional and regional levels and internationally including through CITES structures.

Area	Verified Poaching Incidents				Arrests	
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2010	2011
Eastern Cape	1	3	4	9	2	7
Free State	0	2	3	2	0	0
Gauteng	0	7	15	7	14	10
Kruger NP	36	50	146	169	65	67
KwaZulu-Natal	14	28	38	21	2	25
Limpopo	23	16	52	45	12	36
Mpumalanga	2	6	17	10	45	16
Northern Cape	0	0	1	0	0	0
North West	7	10	57	12	15	2
Western Cape	0	0	0	4	0	2
Total	83	122	333	279	155	165

PHASA Requests Minister To Improve The Current Mechanisms To Combat Rhino Poaching

PHASA Press Release August 2011)

The Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa (PHASA) has taken note of the Minister's proposal to consider a moratorium on the hunting of rhinoceros. PHASA is a voluntary, non-profit organisation, acknowledged by Government as the mouthpiece for the legitimate professional hunting industry in South Africa. PHASA reiterates its willingness to assist Government in addressing any issue in relation to the protection of South Africa's wildlife.

PHASA is extremely concerned about the rhino poaching situation in South Africa. However, there is no evidence to support a conclusion that a moratorium on hunting will stop the illegal supply of rhino horn. PHASA cautions that a moratorium could, in fact, have the effect of increasing rhino poaching as it would make the illicit trade in rhino horns even more profitable for poachers. A moratorium could further adversely impact those working hardest to protect rhino, being private rhino owners.

Minister Molewa mentioned in her statement earlier this week that "Illegal hunting and the abuse of the permit system may be the main threats that could impact on the survival of rhinos in the wild in the near future".

PHASA points out that rhinos which are kept in national parks, are most threatened by poaching. A moratorium on rhino hunting would not serve to protect these rhinos as it is, in any event, illegal to hunt rhinos in national parks.

PHASA has repeatedly requested Government to improve the administration of the mechanisms in place to protect rhinos as such an improvement would significantly enhance the protection of rhinos. These administrative improvements should include improvements to law enforcement, policing and prosecuting of wildlife related contraventions. South Africa has only a handful of prosecutors who are trained to prosecute wildlife transgressions. Training of more prosecutors, police and magistrates to enforce wildlife protection laws is accordingly essential.

As PHASA has previously stated, it strongly condemns any illegal activities, any breach of local or international laws and/or any conduct designed to circumvent such laws. A moratorium on rhino hunting would possibly not assist in ensuring that laws are not circumvented and that rhinos are protected.

Stop Press - Latest News

Tanzania

According to the Daily News, of 7th September 2011 (*article has been shortened here*) the Tanzanian Government has allocated 60 hunting blocks to professional hunting firms for the period between 2013 and 2018. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism said in a statement that 51 blocks or 85 per cent will be owned by local firms and nine or 15 per cent by foreign companies. There are 159 hunting blocks in the country. However, it said that there are 13 companies owning more than one hunting block. Some are reportedly holding up to five blocks depending on the applications, while 14 other hunting blocks were not allocated after the applicants failed to meet conditions. It explained that through the Wildlife Act, the Wildlife Department has continued to co-ordinate consumptive utilization and control of non-consumptive utilization. Initially the hunting business was managed by hunting firms, many of them were foreign companies but complaints led to enactment of the Wildlife Act, to address controversial issues. Between 2008 and January 2011, re-assessment of the hunting blocks including biodiversity, size of grazing land and availability of water and accessibility of the area was carried out by the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI). The bid committee interviewed all 108 applicants countrywide, verified possession of recommended equipment. Priority was given to companies with impressive tax paying record, support to anti-poaching, improvement of the infrastructure, honoring of corporate social responsibility and promotion of the country in US and European tourism markets.

South Africa

The prestigious weekly Financial Mail published two very informative articles by Richard Slater-Jones about the South African rhino situation analyzing in detail the various problem areas and looking at proposals for solutions. One article is titled "**The Economics of Rhino Poaching**" (<http://www.fm.co.za/Article.aspx?id=152888>) and the second article by the same author together with Sharda Naidoo carries the headline "**Dilemma about Horns**" (<http://www.fm.co.za/Article.aspx?id=152898>). If you want to participate in the rhino debate and stay informed these articles are a must read!

South Africa

In related news about rhino a number of websites and printed media carried information about some game have resorted to injecting rhino horns with a parasiticide which target tick infestation on rhinos. A bright pink dye is injected at the same time. The drug is highly toxic to human beings and causes vomiting, disruption of the nervous system, severe nausea and convulsions, if ingested even in a small quantity, but according to various statements it is not lethal. The presence of the pink dye does not change the horns' appearance as it does not seep through to its surface, but this pink dye can be detected by X-ray scanners at airports.

For more on this story see <http://news.google.com/news/story?ncl=http://www.fm.co.za/Article.aspx%3Fid%3D152898&hl=en&geo=us>

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