

Markus Borner Farewell Celebration

Gerhard R Damm

Cultural differences, adverse conditions and challenges that others considered impossible – none of these have discouraged Dr. Markus Borner, head of the Africa Program of the Frankfurt Zoological Society in Tanzania, from fighting to conserve biological diversity and ecosystems in Africa. He is particularly well known for his impact on the one place on earth that would indisputably not be sustainable without his long-term efforts: the tremendous wilderness of the Serengeti ecosystem. His work on re-introducing rhinos to the Serengeti has helped restore all the species to East Africa's canonical savanna wilderness. He has also played a pivotal role in preventing a proposed road from splitting the Serengeti in two," said Andrew Dobson, professor at Princeton University. "His influence extends well beyond Serengeti, to the mountains of Ethiopia, the great central forests of the Congo, and the woodlands and bushlands of Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe. It is hard to think of 10 people who have done as much for African conservation as this one very modest, yet totally dedicated, individual."



Markus Borner handing the baton over to his successor Rob Muir

After more than 30 years in Africa, Dr. Markus Borner is retiring. But not without a party! Many, many friends and colleagues from FZS, the Zoo, the media, other NGOs, partners etc. came to the "little" goodbye celebration at Frankfurt Zoo. Kwaheri and goodbye, Markus! African Indaba joins into the chorus of well-wishers!

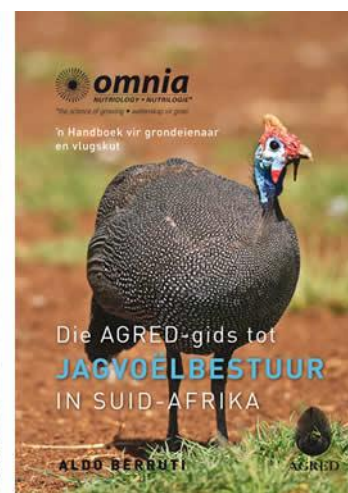
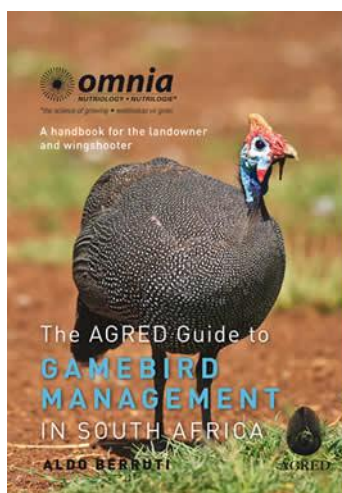
Book Review: The AGRED Guide to Gamebird Management in South Africa

Brendan O'Keeffe

Firstly, I must declare a connection with the author in that I was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of AGRED from 1991 to 2006 during which time he became our Director. Hence you might think this review would tend towards a certain bias. However, if you have an interest in nature, enjoy observing birds in wild natural systems and have an interest in conservation, you will find this book immensely interesting.

Furthermore, it lends itself to dipping into here and there for quick, short reads at bed time! To readers not familiar with African gamebirds, the contrast of wild versus reared populations is fascinating. The variety of species and therefore the variety of shooting is irresistible!

Dr. Aldo Berruti is a well-known and respected ornithologist and a former director of BirdLife South Africa who served on the international council. He joined AGRED with no former experience in gamebird management or shooting but with a strong sense of the link between shooting and conservation. More importantly, his background in scientific research and involvement with BirdLife South Africa gave him an acute sense of the greatest threat to conservation i.e., the ignorance of mainly urban societies about the necessity for habitat management and its financial incentives and implications. Hence, he well understood the link between hunting and conservation and the perceived anathema of that concept to the vast majority of sophisticated people. On joining AGRED he and his wife Sharron assiduously set out to understand the conflict between agriculture, rural communities in Africa and wildlife and how to resolve these matters to the financial and



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The AGRED Guide to Gamebird Management in South Africa by Dr. Aldo Berruti (ISBN 978-0-620-50883-9) is available for the price of R195.00. For overseas, postage to southern Africa or Speed Services please contact agred@netdial.co.za for rates

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