

remaining elephants are under threat from South Sudanese Armed groups (SPLA), LRA and criminal gangs. The power struggle between President Salva Kiir and forces loyal to Riek Machar also had devastating humanitarian consequences and is further reducing the options of sustainable wildlife tourism.

Zambia

Zambian Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) reported the suspected poisoning of 2 male elephants, found dead outside Mosi-Oa-Tunya NP. ZAWA officers extracted material to confirm the cause and exactly what herbicides were used. In previous cases, Carbofuran, a toxic chemical to poison water bodies was used. In 2013 poisoning was recorded from North Luangwa where the total number of poached elephants stood at 49, and 300 vultures that were found at the Elephant carcasses.

Zimbabwe

The African Wildlife Conservation Fund reports a very successful African wild dog denning season in the Zimbabwean lowveld, with never-before-recorded packs located and photographed in Gonarezhou National Park.

Rhino Poaching Kingpin Hugo Ras And Accomplices Arrested

Gerhard R Damm

HAWKS head Lieutenant General Anwa Dramat told MPs in the South African Parliament on September 19th that a suspected rhino poaching kingpin could be nabbed soon, however without going into details.

On September 19th the HAWKS announced that 10 people were arrested in four South African provinces in connection with rhino poaching and related crimes. The environmental affairs and home affairs departments, police detectives, crime intelligence, the Forensic Science Laboratory, the National Prosecuting Authority, the Veterinary Council of SA, and Protea Coin Security were involved in the operation.

Alleged rhino poaching kingpin **Hugo Ras**, a former professional hunter and hunting safari operator, who was believed to have managed the syndicate's activities for nearly five years, was arrested in the Pretoria North Magistrate's Court while appearing on a separate rhino poaching case; the nine others were arrested simultaneously in Polokwane in Limpopo, Ficksburg in the Free State, Potchefstroom in North West, and in Montana, Mamelodi and Kameeldrift in Gauteng.

Some of the arrested are repeat offenders. The police apprehended Hugo's brother-in-law, **Abraham Smit**, who allegedly has been on the run for more than 3 years and is wanted by Interpol and FBI; **Anton Ras** (brother of Hugo), HAWKS Warrant Officer **Willie Oosthuizen**, **Christoffel Scheepers**, **Joseph Wilkinson**, an attorney from Pretoria, **Trudie Ras** (Hugo's wife), **Jacobus (Bonnie) Steyn**, a pilot from Ficksburg, **Willem van Jaarsveld** and **Mandla Magagula**. They face 318 charges, including poaching of rhino, selling of rhino horn, racketeering, theft, fraud, and malicious damage to property, money laundering, intimidation, and the illegal possession of firearms.



The Accused in Court

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

Hugo Ras and several other suspects were ordered to remain in custody until a hearing on October 8th. During the hearing it appeared as if Hugo Ras, Oosthuizen, Magagula and Scheepers may apply for bail when they appear again in November. Syndicate suspect Joseph Wilkinson will appear before the Palm Ridge Magistrates' Court on October 9th to apply for leave to appeal. Anton Ras' lawyer said that his client was very ill and will be awaiting medical results before going ahead with bail application. Abraham Smit, Trudie Ras, Bonnie Steyn and Willem van Jaarsveld were denied bail by Pretoria Chief Magistrate Desmond Nair on October 3rd after Magistrate Desmond Nair said the state had "massive evidence", the suspects may interfere with witnesses, adding that the suspects could be flight risks.

The group was allegedly involved in killing 22 rhino and mutilating two others between 2008 and 2012. The state has said it has over 150 witnesses who will lead evidence that the group can be linked to a total of 84 rhino horns that were poached or stolen as well as proving links to international trafficking markets including Vietnam and China.

"We have been circling around them for some time, in collaboration with other role players, to enable us to root out their activities," Lieutenant General Anwa Dramat said.

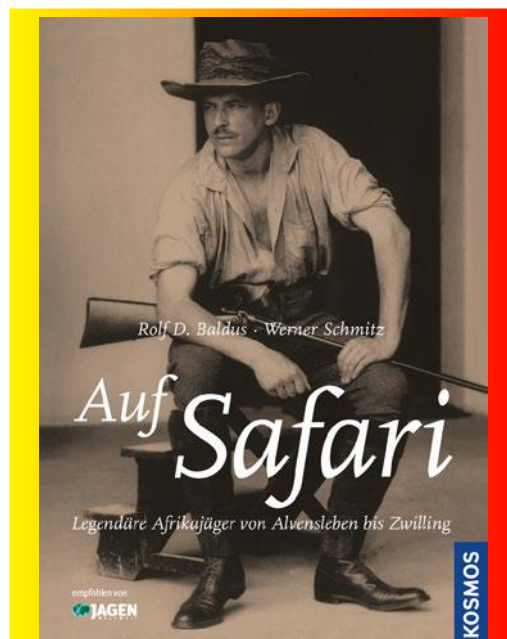
Book Review: On Safari – With Africa's German-speaking Hunters, From Alvensleben To Zwilling By Rolf D. Baldus and Werner Schmitz

Gerhard R Damm

Finally a book on the lives and adventures of some famous and not-so-famous German, Austrian and Swiss hunters edited by Rolf D. Baldus and Werner Schmitz with contributions from a dozen authors, including Fiona Capstick and African Hunting Gazette editor Brooke Chilvers-Lubin and an array of excellent period black and white photos.

Germany's colonial adventure in Africa lasted only a few decades starting with the 1894 Congo-Conference in Berlin during the "Scramble for Africa" and ending in 1918 with the Armistice in Europe. Rolf Baldus and Werner Schmitz collected information for more than five years and researched and identified over 200 hunting figures from Germany, Austria and Switzerland, who had penned down their adventures, or were mentioned by other authors. The two editors, with the help of 12 co-authors compiled 23 full-length stories. The book also contains the first comprehensive list of biographies and bibliographies of German-speaking 203 Africa hunters and huntresses, although probably many a manuscript has been lost in the bush or eaten by termites, as Baldus stated.

The stories represent a colorful mix of motives,



Auf Safari – Legendäre Afrikajäger von Alvensleben bis Zwilling (On Safari – Legendary Africa Hunters from Alvensleben to Zwilling)

Hardcover, 352 pages and 200 black & white photos, edited by Rolf D. Baldus and Werner Schmitz. ISBN: 978-3-440-14007-9. KOSMOS, Stuttgart 2014.

Price 34.99 € (Euros), plus shipping.

Orders: rolfbaldus@t-online.de

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