



AFRICAN INDABA

DEDICATED TO THE PEOPLE
AND WILDLIFE OF AFRICA
Sponsored by the CIC



Conservation Through the Sustainable Use of Wildlife
Conseil International de la Chasse et de la Conservation du Gibier
Internationaler Rat zur Erhaltung des Wildes und der Jagd
International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation
Международный Совет по Охоте и Охране Животного Мира

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CITES: Keep Calm And Let Africa Speak

CIC CITES Team & Gerhard R Damm

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, CIC, sponsored two high-level panel discussions and press conferences on 24th and 28th September during the 17th Conference of the Parties of CITES. Initially CIC planned only one press conference, but due to demand by the Africa Ministers present in the first meeting and the interest generated, a second event was scheduled.

Three African environment portfolio ministers, The Honorable Edith Edna Molewa, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs (South Africa), The Honorable Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment and Tourism (Namibia), and The Honorable Oppah Chamu Zvipane Muchinguri, Stephen Mwansa, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Tourism & Arts (Zambia), Prince Mupazvirihwo Chiwewete, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Environment Water and Climate (Zimbabwe), Shonisani Munzhedzi, Deputy Director-General: Biodiversity and Conservation of the Department of Environmental Affairs (South Africa), Willem Wijnstekers, former Secretary General of CITES and Deputy President Division Policy & Law of the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (The Netherlands) and Wilfried Pabst, owner of Sango Conservancy & Lodge within Savé Valley Conservancy (Zimbabwe) formed an impressive panel. With ingrained authority the panelists addressed the topic **“Keep Calm and Let Africa Speak”** and took questions and comments from around 100 guests and journalists from around the world in the two meetings.

The discussions and interactions with the plenum was moderated with distinction by Dr. Ali A. Kaka, Africa Regional Councilor for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The participating journalists packed the press room to hear firsthand the views of the African representatives on the proposals being submitted to and discussed at COP 17. It soon became clear that the panelists considered many of the proposals to be primarily driven either by African States with very poor conservation results or by non-African states which have little or no wildlife of relevance to the proposals up for decision by the voting delegates at CITES.



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

Clearly aggrieved at many suggestions on which they were not consulted as range nations, and/or on which their views based on successful conservation models were not taken with the seriousness they deserved the panelists did not mince words and spoke candidly.

The audience was accorded ample time to ask questions and make observations. Keen observers noted that there was widespread support for the sentiments of the panelists. Questions at some of the panelists on the status of their wildlife and on some incidents that intended to cast a shadow on the national wildlife management strategies of the participating countries were answered with resounding arguments.

In his opening remarks Dr. Ali Kaka got right to the point saying "We are talking about the sustainable use of wildlife".

Namibia's Minister Pohamba Shifeta, for example, pointed out that friendly coexistence is a myth and that there is a price communities living in close proximity with dangerous wildlife pay. Namibia boasts of community conservancies established under enlightened legislation that allows people to benefit economically from the sustainable use and conservation of wild animals. Conservation hunting in Namibia is based on sustainability, and the proceeds go to the community conservancies. Therefore the communities understand the value of wildlife. Shifeta appealed to the listeners (and implicitly also to the greater community of CITES delegates) when he concluded: "Don't be influenced by emotions! First and foremost you need to comprehend the point of view of our rural communities, who live from and with wildlife!"

Namibia's Minister also mentioned that those living on other continents should stop prescribing Africans what to do with African wildlife. "They are infringing on the sovereignty of African states", Shifeta said. Participants could sense similar indignation from the representatives of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia, as well as from private conservancy owner Wilfried Pabst. Stephen Mwansa of Zambia stressed that "wild animals are there because of our conservation efforts and that includes their consumptive use!

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“We’re being told by people outside, by people my color of skin, how to run things in Africa,” Wilfried Pabst, owner of the Sango Conservancy in Zimbabwe, said. He highlighted that the call for a ban earlier this year by some European Union parliamentarians on the importation of trophies was equivalent to banning hunting. “They have neither regard nor understanding of what they are effectively destroying. In southern Africa alone, if we ban sustainable use, we would eliminate some 55 million hectares of land under conservation and lose in the region of 20 million animals, hundreds of thousands of jobs, each man or woman supporting a family of 10, thus putting millions of local people into destitution,” Pabst passionately explained. “Sustainable use is a “very successful conservation model”, he said.

KEEP CALM AND LET AFRICA SPEAK!
CIC Press Conference 24 and 28 September 2016 at CITES CoP17

						
The Honourable Bomo Edith Edna Molewa	The Honourable Oppah Chamu Zvipange Muchinguri	The Honourable Pohamba Shifeta	Stephen Mwansa	Prince Mupazvirho Chiwewete	Willem Wijnstekers	Wilfried Pabst
<i>Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs of the Republic of South Africa</i>	<i>Minister of Environment, Water and Climate of the Republic of Zimbabwe</i>	<i>Minister of Environment and Tourism of the Republic of Namibia</i>	<i>Permanent Secretary of the Republic of Zambia</i>	<i>Permanent Secretary of the Republic of Zimbabwe</i>	<i>Former Secretary General of CITES</i>	<i>Owner, Save Valley Conservancy</i>
						
			Moderator: Dr. Ali A. Kaka <i>Regional Councillor for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)</i>			

“Listen to me very carefully, I mean every word I’m saying,” Pabst continued emphatically, “untold NGO’s do good work, but there are those who are against the sustainable use of wildlife resources, those who are disguising the intention of banning sustainable hunting behind the mask of wanting to forbid the importation of trophies into Europe and the USA. ”

"I declare with conviction that the NGO’s directly or indirectly propagating to end sustainable hunting, that these NGO’s are criminal organizations. Did you hear this? Criminal. Because they are soliciting money under false pretenses - this is fraud and thus criminal. None of the donors are told, as they should be, that sustainable hunting is one of the two largest contributors in funding conservation globally. Taking the income from sustainable hunting away will destroy some 75% of all wildlife areas in southern Africa alone. If the well meaning donors would understand that these NGO’s business plans they are funding would cause the destruction, they would not donate. They are kept in the dark that their funds are actually funding the exact opposite of what they believe their contribution would achieve."

"None of these NGO’s would like to see an intact and growing Wildlife scene. Why? If Wildlife is well conserved as in southern Africa at large, these NGO’s could not raise any funds, their business model would die, their offices, vehicles overseas trips would disappear. Conclusion? These NGO’s can

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only survive or thrive by leaving donors in the dark as to the real effect of their donations and they need chaos and destitution in wildlife conservation to solicit these funds. That is indeed a criminal business model," Pabst concluded.

Prince Mupazviriho Chiwewete supported Pabst, saying Zimbabwe had not received a single cent of the millions of dollars collected for *Cecil the Lion*. "When decisions are made without consulting us, without taking into consideration our interest, those decisions are not made in the interest of conservation" he concluded. Shonisani Munzhedzi (South Africa) added that "...local communities are the ones who have to be involved in decision making that affects them! They should be assisted and supported, and we need to ascertain that they benefit!"

"Sustainable use, conservation and fair equitable benefit sharing are the pillars of the natural resources! There is no way that we would have sustainable conservation without looking at the issues affecting people," Munzhedzi concluded.

The Honorable Minister Oppah Chamu Zvipane Muchinguri (Zimbabwe) reinforced these statements by saying "it is easy for those not living with the elephants and other dangerous wildlife to preach and act noble. Yet it is our people who have to bear the cost of this existence. Removing incentives for these communities is to condemn them to perpetual poverty none can understand unless you have experienced it..." She also noted that "it was sad some governments and NGOs are failing to appreciate that sustainable use of wildlife is a key pillar to successful conservation. Communities as major custodians of wildlife resources need to continue accruing economic benefits from wildlife, since otherwise they would have little incentive to conserve it."

The Honorable Edith Edna Molewa, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs (South Africa) mentioned already in her opening address to the CITES delegates that "our commitment to the sustainable utilization of natural resources contributes significantly to socio-economic development of poor and rural communities as part of our country's economic and social development."

Steven Mwansa passionately summarized the position of the panelists, "Please leave us alone!"

The [CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation](#) is a politically independent and globally active advocacy working in the public interest with a diverse membership that includes states, corporates, universities and associations. The core strength of the CIC rests in dedicated hunter-conservationist members from all continents. CIC advocates wildlife conservation across diverse landscapes through shared incentive-driven use. Our adaptive management approach is grounded in cutting-edge science. CIC values traditional knowledge reflected in millennia of diverse hunting heritage. The members uphold and evolve the fundamentals of ethical hunting. CIC aims that each generation bequeaths to its successor intact landscapes richer in wildlife.

The CIC CITES Team consisted of Heli Siitari, President of CIC Division Policy and Law, Willem Wijnstekers, former CITES Secretary General & Deputy President of CIC Division Policy and Law, Willy Pabst, CIC member and conservancy owner in Zimbabwe, Tamás Marghescu, CIC Director General.

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CITES COP 17 And Africa

Willem Wijnstekers, [CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation](#)

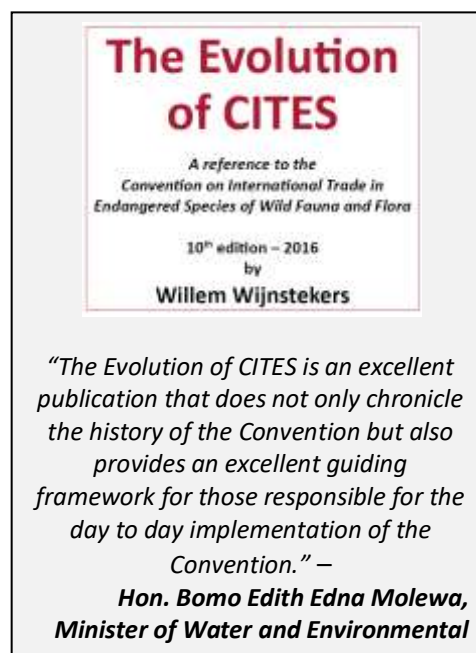
Willem Wijnstekers, a former Secretary General of CITES participated in CoP 17 Sandton/South Africa in the team of the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation. Here is his report on African hunting related matters discussed at CoP 17. Willem is also the author of "The Evolution of CITES", now in its 10th Edition launched in Johannesburg during the CIC Press Conference "Keep Calm and Let Africa Speak". You can download "The Evolution of CITES" [HERE](#)

HUNTING TROPHIES

The EU proposed a far-reaching set of proposals containing a series of new requirements and conditions for the international movement of hunting trophies. South Africa made a counter proposal with less conditions. The two (together with Canada, which made a number of amendment proposals to these texts) in a small working group discussed and agreed on a common proposal, which was then unanimously adopted by CoP 17.

The new set of 'rules' in a nutshell:

- ❖ The export of hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I or II
 - requires an export permit except as provided in Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev CoP16) on Control of trade in personal and household effects (NB This exception unfortunately now only applies for neighboring countries which adopted an agreement, see next paragraph);
 - should only take place when the following conditions are met:
 - the trophy was legally acquired;
 - must be a whole animal, or readily recognizable part or derivative thereof, as specified on the accompanying CITES permit;
 - is raw, processed or manufactured;
 - was legally obtained by the hunter through hunting for the hunter's personal use;
 - is being imported, exported or re-exported by or on behalf of the hunter, as part of the transfer from its country of origin, ultimately to the hunter's State of usual residence.
- ❖ A Scientific Authority of the exporting country must take into account the provisions of Resolution Conf. 16.7 on Non-detriment findings in determining whether the export would be detrimental to the survival of the species; which may include:
 - information relating to distribution, status and trends of populations based on national conservation plans, where applicable, and which informs harvests;
 - a review of the sustainability of harvest levels taking account all mortality sources affecting the wild population of the species, including mortality due to illegal killing.
 - Parties exporting hunting trophies must ensure that trophy hunting is sustainably managed, does not undermine the conservation of target species and, as appropriate, provides benefits to local communities by having in place:
 - a robust regulatory framework relating to the harvesting of trophies;



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- an effective enforcement mechanism with adequate deterrents in the form of penalties for noncompliance;
 - a monitoring system designed to effectively monitor population trends and status, and
 - an adaptive management system through which harvest levels can be adjusted according to the needs of the specific population and based on results of the monitoring program.
- ❖ Trophy hunting activities relating to species listed in Appendix I should produce conservation benefits for the species concerned and thus may benefit from having a benefit sharing or incentive system in place to ensure that harvesting contributes to the offsetting of the cost of living with certain species such as elephants.
 - ❖ Parties should consider the contribution of hunting to species conservation and socio-economic benefits, and its role in providing incentives for people to conserve wildlife, when considering stricter domestic measures and making decisions relating to the import of hunting trophies.
 - ❖ Parties should make every reasonable effort to notify range States of the species concerned at as early a stage as possible prior to the adoption of stricter measures relating to trade in hunting trophies.

CONTROL OF TRADE IN PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS

A second EU proposal was to amend Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP16) on the *Control of trade in personal and household effects*. At CoP16 it was already decided that for the export of rhino horn or elephant ivory contained in hunting trophies export permits are required. CoP17 unanimously adopted the following addition:

- *for the export and re-export of all other hunting trophies unless Parties have entered into bilateral written arrangements for cross-border trade between neighboring countries¹ that include the required findings in Article IV of the Convention and other means of monitoring trade in hunting trophies, provided that such arrangements have been duly notified to the CITES Secretariat, and with the condition that the specimen at the time of import, export or re-export was worn, carried or included in the hunter's personal baggage.²*

A strange thing happened with the Annex to Resolution Conf. 13.7, point 16 of which states that hunting trophies are personal effects (and are thus exempted from the issue of an export permit if both the countries of export and import apply the exemption).

This paragraph was deleted and now only notes that the export of rhino horn and elephant ivory contained in hunting trophies does not qualify for the personal and household effects exemption. This implies that all other Appendix II hunting trophies do qualify for the exemption, but this is made meaningless because the provisions of the newly adopted Resolution as well as the revised one require an export permit anyway.

¹ This was brought in during the COP by Canada, which creates an exemption for itself to issue export permits for hunting trophies exported to the USA and vice-versa. An intervention by CIC was made to have the word *neighboring* in the text in italics above deleted. This would have given for example Southern African countries the possibility to make bilateral arrangements with for example the EU and the USA. The proposed amendment was supported by Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe. The European Union, India and Kenya opposed this.

² The bottom line of this is that for all Appendix II hunting trophies an export permit is required, as is also the case under the new Resolution discussed above, with the likely exception for Canada-USA exports.

On top of this, the EU, the USA and a number of other countries will maintain their legislation requiring an import permit for personal effects.

PROCEDURE TO REVIEW THE QUOTAS ESTABLISHED FOR LEOPARD SKINS

A third proposal was adopted under this agenda item with regard to a *procedure to review the quotas established for leopard skins*: Parties, which have quotas, established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) are requested to review these quotas, and consider whether these quotas are still set at levels which are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild, and to share the outcomes of the review and the basis for the determination that the quota is not detrimental, with the Animals Committee, which may lead to proposals for amendments at CoP18.

AFRICAN LION

A working group drafted the following decisions: Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with African lion range States, the Convention on Migratory Species and IUCN:

- a. Investigate possible mechanisms to develop and support the implementation of joint lion conservation plans and strategies, taking into consideration existing lion conservation plans and strategies;
- b. Develop an inventory of African lion populations across its range, taking due consideration of existing inventories developed by African lion range States;
- c. Support the development of relevant databases by African lion range States;
- d. Develop strategies to reinforce international cooperation on the management of lions;
- e. Undertake studies on legal and illegal trade in lions, including lion bones and other parts and derivatives, to ascertain the origin and smuggling routes, in collaboration with TRAFFIC and/or other relevant organizations;
- f. Undertake a comparative study of lion population trends and conservation and management practices, such as lion hunting, within and between countries, including the role, if any, of international trade;
- g. Support capacity-building in lion conservation and management, including where appropriate the making of non-detriment findings where a range State requests it;
- h. Support public awareness raising as well as education programmes in African lion range States, in order to support co-existence between humans and lions and to promote measures for the conservation and recovery of African lion populations;
- i. Promote fundraising, as part of its overall fundraising initiatives, to support the effective implementation of conservation and management plans and strategies for African lion and for a CITES Task Force on African lions;
- j. Create a portal on the CITES website to permit, amongst other things, the posting and sharing of information and voluntary guidance on the making of non-detriment findings for African lion; and
- k. Report on the progress relating to paragraph a) – j) to the 29th and 30th Animals Committee meetings.

The Animals Committee shall consider the report of the Secretariat and submit recommendations to the 69th and the 70th Standing Committee meetings and the African lion range States, as appropriate. The Animals Committee shall review the taxonomy and standard nomenclature of *Panthera leo* and report its recommendations to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Standing Committee shall, at its 69th and 70th meetings:

- a. Consider the reports submitted by the Animals Committee;
- b. Recommend further actions to be taken; including the possible need for the development of a Resolution on the conservation of African lion;

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- c. Establish a CITES Task Force on African lions, inviting the participation of all African lion range States, consumer states for lion parts and derivatives, and relevant enforcement bodies, including the members of the ICCWC the Task Force;
- d. Provide Terms of Reference and modus operandi for this Task Force; and
- e. Consider the establishment of a multi-donor technical trust fund to attract funding and direct resources for the work of the CITES Task Force on African lions and to support the effective implementation of conservation and management plans and strategies for African lion.

African lion range States are encouraged to collaborate in implementing the decisions.

All Parties, governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations, donors and other entities are encouraged to support the African lion range States and the Secretariat:

- a. In their efforts to conserve and restore this iconic species across the continent, taking into consideration existing land-use practices; and
- b. In implementing the decisions

Transfer of all populations of Lion to Appendix I: A working group proposed the following Decisions instead:

- a. A zero annual export quota is established for specimens of bones, bone pieces, bone products, claws, skeletons, skulls and teeth removed from the wild and traded for commercial purposes.
- b. Annual export quotas for trade in bones, bone pieces, bone products, claws, skeletons, skulls and teeth for commercial purposes, derived from captive breeding operations in South Africa will be established and communicated annually to the CITES Secretariat.

OTHER AFRICA-RELEVANT DECISIONS

South Africa: Transfer of the Cape Mountain Zebra from Appendix I to Appendix II.

The proposal was adopted by consensus.

Swaziland: Permit trade in white rhino horn from natural deaths or recovered from poached Swazi rhino as well as of future harvest of a limited number of animals: The proposal was overwhelmingly rejected.

Namibia and Zimbabwe: Unqualified listing of Elephant in Appendix II by deleting current restrictive annotation: The 'threat' that the countries concerned would ignore the restrictive annotations if the proposal would be rejected was considered as blackmail by many and clearly had a counterproductive impact: 27 Parties voted in favor, 100 against, and 9 abstained. Note that Botswana indicated to have banned ivory trade (probably including trophies) until at least 2024.

Transfer of populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe from Appendix II to Appendix I: This proposal even had, not surprisingly, a worse outcome than the previous one: 21 Parties voted in favor, 107 against, and 11 abstained.

The Hunter's Image

Ivan Carter

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Yes, a lion got killed. Yes, he had a name and was a favorite at a well-known photographic installation in Hwange National Park. He was killed in a place with no lion permit and the world went nuts: Millions of words of rhetoric were generated, some true, some false, most opinions and feelings. The result of all of this is that today we look at a very different hunting landscape to what we were looking at just 12 months ago.

This event and the subsequent events have been the “Twin Towers” of the hunting world – our 9/11- the anti-hunters have suddenly gained enormous momentum and have shown the hunting world just how powerful they are. If you do not believe this then you just need to look around you ...

Several airlines now do not carry trophies in their cargo. At the time of writing this article, lion trophies are no longer allowed to be imported into the USA, Australia and France. Several hunting conventions were literally shut down as a result of letters being written. As I type this, the European Union (EU) – yes, the whole EU – is discussing the possibility of closing imports of any kind of African trophy into Europe.

The anti-hunters truly used their extreme show of force to illustrate just how influential they have become and, sadly, the thing that truly suffers is our wildlife. This will be the very end of huge parts of Africa and its wildlife ...

When I look at a map of Africa in my mind, I basically see two things – areas with wildlife and areas without wildlife – and I ask myself what the difference is: The areas with wildlife have people who are protecting it and creating value in those areas; some from photographic tourism and some from hunting tourism.

People who are against trophy hunting will often return from a trip to Kenya where they visit the Maasai Mara and a few other places and say, “The wildlife is thriving. We saw millions of animals.” Indeed that is true, very true – but we are not comparing apples to apples. Let’s look at the northern frontier district of Kenya, which in former times was a hunting area thriving with an abundance of species, both in variety and in numbers. A visit there today will show you a broken ecosystem with large numbers of people, livestock and dust ...

As a matter of fact, we do need to acknowledge that there are areas of the planet, huge areas and species where non-consumptive (photographic and viewing) tourism is absolutely the best solution – Maasai Mara, Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, Kruger National Park, Okavango Delta, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest – the list goes on and on ... These are areas that for one reason or another have a very viable business model that does not require hunting to sustain it. However, that is not true everywhere. Let’s look at a vast amount of western Tanzania where enormous hunting blocks, collectively covering millions of acres, are supported 100% by hunters’ dollars. Yes indeed, without hunters to pay for the protection of those areas and the anti-poaching and infrastructural maintenance, these areas and their wildlife will cease to exist.

An old man walked up to me at a trade show recently and asked, “Who closed lion imports to the USA?” I looked at him and said, “You did, Sir.” He was shocked, stuttered, coughed and said, “WHAT?” I repeated myself, “You did, Sir. I did. We all did.” “We did so by not educating people on the importance of hunters as a financial tool for Africa, an integral part of the conservation model. I am not talking here about the actual trigger puller; that’s a whole different conversation. I am talking about the good that the business of hunting does when managed properly and correctly within viable quotas and with a good percentage of the income generated going into communities, anti-poaching, etc. Sir, we have kept that a secret, preferring instead to show kill shots and dead game and reporting only inches and sizes.” After a few moments, he looked me up and down and said, “You know, you are right. I have not thought of it that way.” He then walked off into the crowd.

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Illustration by Duncan Watson

Let's imagine for a moment you are a non-hunter – not an anti-hunter, just a non-hunter, someone who does not hunt but is not against hunting. You are living in Sydney, Australia, you and your wife work and you have a moderate income. You are Mr Average, a First World citizen and all you know is that wild African lions number in the region of 32 000 continent-wide. You also know that vast areas of Africa are seeing declining numbers of wildlife. Then you see a picture of a guy sitting with a dead lion, the caption of which reads: "A great success in western Tanzania yesterday. Congratulations to Joe Schmoe for his magnificent lion taken with a .375 H&H after a hard hunt." Nothing more, nothing less – no education, no other facts. (At this point facts would be ignored anyway because of the overwhelming emotional response associated with the dead lion.) The conclusion as a non-hunter you immediately jump to is that this guy is part of the problem, not part of the solution. The picture angers you so you jump on-line and you google lion trophy hunting, only to find hundreds of similar images. You read all the articles on the first Google page and your mind goes into overdrive. You have seen the solution, you understand why lions are in trouble and you are now well on your way from being a non-hunter to an active anti-hunter.

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So hunters, where have we been? We are hiding behind T-shirts that say: “I hunt, it’s legal, get over it”. We say things like: “I don’t care. The more hate I get, the more pics I am going to post” and “Here’s one for the anti-hunters” as we pose with a leopard over our shoulders and blood running out of its mouth. Can we honestly say that this is going to win the battle for us?

I am not in any way saying hide it. I am not in any way saying stop it. What I am saying, is let’s get serious about what it’s going to take to ensure that the good we do as a group and as a body is truly understood. We are not asking non-hunters to run to the gun shop, buy a gun and start killing animals. What we are asking is for people to truly listen, to understand the good that we do and how we do it.

Hunters who say they do not care about antis are, simply put, very naive. I have a message for hunters: **IT’S TIME TO CARE!** It’s time to take a long, hard look at how we educate, at what we have been doing and how we have been doing it, and start to change the model.

Einstein said that doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result is the definition of insanity. Likewise there have been folks who have said to me that I am a hypocrite, as I have as much or more content on-line of kill shots than anyone – and yes, they are right. But I am also knowledgeable enough about current affairs to know that that needs to change. We cannot change the past – we own it. What we *can* change is the future because we own that too. We are not allowing them to win by changing our strategy. We are not allowing them to shape our future. On the contrary, if we do not change our strategy they will and already are shaping our future – and with it the future of the millions of acres and thousands of wildlife species that thrive on hunters’ dollars.

The other argument I often hear is that it is just 5% of the radicals who are going to write letters and make a fuss and “we don’t need to worry about that”. Well, here are the facts: If we look at a universe of hundreds of millions of non-hunters, even just 100 million non-hunters, then 5% or 5 million people motivated to shut it Down. Any organization that is service-oriented and relies on the general public for their income (a hotel chain, an airline or even a whole community) who receives 5 million letters will look hard and is very likely to make some policy change!

This brings me to a very real question we all often ask ourselves: Why do you hunt?

You do not, I can assure you, embark on an African hunt to feed a local village.

You do not go on a hunt to finance a local anti-poaching group.

You do not hunt to drill water for a man-made watering hole or village water supply.

You do not hunt to build a school or a clinic.

You do not hunt to finance researchers.

This list can indeed go on and on but it is not a list of reasons *why* you hunt – it is a list of the *benefits of hunting* and the effect of hunters’ dollars flowing into an outfitter, a community, a region and a government.

So I say again: Why do we hunt ?

Is it because we love an excuse to be outdoors on the trail of something?

Is it because we are driven by some primal need to chase?

Is it for the relationships developed around a campfire and the pursuit?

Is it for the adrenaline and excitement of the final moments of a stalk?

Is it for the excuse to spend time with loved ones in a carefree, natural environment?

Is it a way for you to feed your family in an exceptionally healthy way?

Is it for the adventure of it all?

I would guess it is probably one or two or even all of the above reasons. And yet what we post on social media does not usually reflect any of that – all it reflects is the dead game, which actually is when it is all over.

In the very wise words of Shane Mahoney: “*There has never been a time in history when the societies around the world have had more empathy for wildlife.*” I truly believe he is absolutely correct

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– we are bombarded through social media, print, television and billboards about wildlife needing help. I agree – a lot of this is marketing campaigns by wildlife welfare organizations who have thriving business models based on emotional response; it is all over *Discovery Channel* and *Nat Geo*, who by the way reach an estimated 400+ million households in more than 10 languages! This is all leading to a great awareness by Mr Average, who also has a Facebook account and an opinion.

So let's get back to the 9/11 analogy, namely that Cecil the lion was our "Twin Towers".

What do we do? Do we all sit and say that sucks, but I'm just going to keep on doing what I do. Or do we mount an army, a powerful, effective and highly intelligent army – let's call it the conservation resistance army!

I say YES – we mount an army. We equip and teach that army and we send them out to battle, and here is how I see it:

The front-line infantrymen: In any fighting force the foot soldiers are the most numerous. Everyone who hunts is a foot soldier – their keyboard is their weapon, their ammunition is the constant stream of good information they can spray into the enemy like bullets. It is thought at a wild guess that there are possibly as many as 250 million people around the world who actively hunt. Can you imagine if each one of those people once a week posted something valuable – a great wildlife image, a great fact about the benefit of hunting, a project supported by hunters, etc. That is 13 billion great facts a year shot into cyberspace!

The generals: These are the large hunting organizations like DSC and SCI, the professional hunting groups like PHASA, ZPHGA, TPHA, APHA and NAPHA. These are the folks who need to have very well-planned social media content, with facts and figures and great information. They need to constantly maintain the supply of weapons and bullets, every new fact and piece of information that comes up gets funneled to the front line by these folks to make sure that their infantrymen have the right, accurate and true ammunition.

The machine gunners: These are the people in the public eye, the folks who film, host, edit, write and distribute any hunting media – a machine gun that can spew thousands of bullets into the opposition's fighting force. The television shows across the globe need to be these gunners; they need to have exceptional, palatable, factual and elegant hunting facts and information, so that when a non-hunter stumbles across a channel or a show or a YouTube clip they are fascinated and educated rather than horrified and turned off.

A big part of the battle is the damage that has already been done and what YouTube continues to do. There are some pathetic YouTube clips that to this day get thousands of views and are widely distributed as "this is what hunters represent". These will *always* be out there; we understand it is the Internet and once content gets out there it is there to stay. That said, each and every single one of us can do a good job of looking back and cleaning up our past; cleaning up some of the less elegant stuff that is out there by simply taking it Down. If we all step up and do that the effect will be profound – no less entertaining will be to aggressively work as a community to replace this with great moments that we pursue every day in the field ...

The military police: Not all hunters are good for an area. As a matter of fact, not all hunting is good for wildlife and wild areas in many areas across Africa. Because of greed and other variables, hunting has been part of the demise, not part of the solution. The military police need to be the governing bodies and associations within these countries who can police and protect the integrity of those who are doing it right – a little goes a long way when you are dealing with emotion and a little bad goes a long way in destroying the benefit of a lot of good.

So, in closing, I would ask this to each and every one of you:

Do you love to hunt?

Do you want your kids to enjoy the freedom to hunt as we enjoy today?

Do you love wildlife?

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Do you want to see it thriving into the next generation?

If your answer to any of these questions is yes, then surely you are prepared to do what it takes to ensure that it will be there forever? In today's world where everyone has a voice we need to exercise ours – in a way the world has never seen before. Can you imagine the impact, even just within our own communities, if every single one of us a few times a week shared something meaningful, generated some exceptional photography or footage and started spreading the facts!

In conclusion, let me say this: Before you upload a video or a photo, before you comment on a post, ask yourself, "Is the post I am about to make going to be educational and informative or is it going to raise emotion and hatred?"

As many of you know, in the last 18 months I have taken on a project that is focused on telling the world about human/wildlife conflict. To that end I have stopped making television shows and DVDs about hunting and have been focused on capturing the essence of these issues, most of which revolve around unsustainable human population growth. I have travelled to many places in a lot of different countries and what I have found in many cases is truly a tragedy. But I have to say I shudder in fear for our wildlife as I imagine the millions of acres across Africa that today are protected in some way, shape or form by money derived from hunting – if that wheel stops turning, the wildlife is doomed ...

I hope you will read this and realize what a serious situation we find ourselves in; how urgently we need to change what we do and how we do it when in the public eye.

I live in the Bahamas – my children have indeed left their little footprints in the African dust. They are fortunate to get a balanced view of how the world works. They have been part of the process and know where their meat comes from. They thrive on being outdoors. When they grow up, they may never choose to hunt – but I owe it to them to make sure that they have that choice.

Ivan Carter, born and raised in Zimbabwe, began a professional hunting career in 1988. With his passion for elephants and other big game spends over 180 days in the field each year in pursuit of dangerous game. He is currently filming for the second season of his new series, "Carter's WAR, Wild Animal Response", presented by NOSLER on the Outdoor Channel, a series based around human/wildlife conflict in Africa. Ivan is a great advocate for sustainable conservation practices, and truly believes in hunting as a conservation tool. Like Ivan on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ivancartersafrica and ivan.carter on Instagram and follow him on his adventures in the field

This article was first published in Source: African Outfitter, www.africanoutfitter.com. African Indaba appreciates that Ivan Carter and African Outfitter gave us permission to re-publish

A Hunter's Heart - "Why do I hunt? It's a lot to think about, and I think about it a lot

- I hunt to acknowledge my evolutionary roots, millennia deep, as a predatory omnivore.
- To participate actively in the bedrock workings of nature.
- For the atavistic challenge of doing it well with an absolute minimum of technological assistance.
- To learn the lessons, about nature and myself, that only hunting can teach.
- To accept personal responsibility for at least some of the deaths that nourish my life.
- For the glimpse it offers into a wildness we can hardly imagine.
- Because it provides the closest thing I've known to a spiritual experience.

I hunt because it enriches my life and because I can't help myself... because I was born with a hunter's heart." [p.161]

David Petersen (ed.) 1996. "A Hunter's Heart: Honest Essays on Blood Sport". Henry Holt & Co., New York. ISBN 0-8050-4423-X

Botswana's Elephants And Conservation – Are Things Starting To Fall Apart?

Keith Somerville



This article was first published on 6th October - click the image of 'talking humanities' for the original



Image: © Elephants without Borders, ©bush24, ©Keith Somerville

*Just over a year ago, stealing the title from Nigerian novelist Chinua Achebe, Professor Keith Somerville wrote a report entitled [No longer at ease: clouds on the horizon for Botswana's conservation success story](#) after a research trip to the Chobe Enclave, eastern Linyanti, Maun and Gaborone. In it he pointed to the gradual growth in elephant poaching, 30–50 a year, according to Michael Flyman, head of the Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks elephant surveys. Now, he warns that the title of another of Achebe's novels, *Things Fall Apart*, could become a more*

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relevant description of elephant conservation and rising human elephant conflict in northern Botswana.

The picture of Dr Mike Chase grimly viewing the carcass of a poached elephant in the Chobe Enclave in northern Botswana is doubly poignant. Not only is it one of at least 26 elephants poached for their ivory there recently, but Mike Chase has just completed the Great Elephant Census of many of Africa's savannah elephants.

This survey is aimed at providing data to help conserve elephants and their habitat and inform debates over the levels of poaching and of human-elephant conflict. It found a decline in savannah elephant numbers in 18 states surveyed (but oddly excludes those in Namibia, Central African Republic and South Sudan and all forest elephants) over the last nine years (much of which was already known, though and recorded in the [African Elephant Database](#)) and the full import of the new minimum estimate of 352,271 has still to be assessed against existing data.

Poaching and conflict on the rise: In late August reports emerged from northern Botswana that 26 or more elephants had been killed in the eastern Linyanti area of the Chobe enclave where some 150,000 elephants roam between Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and Angola. With its river, the Linyanti swamp, Savuti Channel and other water and food sources, Chobe is the territory's core.

The elephants had been killed between the Linyanti Bush Camp, the public camping site and less than three kilometers from the Botswana Defense Force's (BDF) camp. Drawn from the army, its anti-poaching unit has permission to shoot-to-kill armed poachers. In recent years scores of Namibian and Zambian suspects have been shot.

Three weeks before the publication of the photos above, I was following up reports (and photographs) on the [bush 24](#) website about attacks on elephants in a small area along the Linyanti Swamp. This was the same area where, in July 2014, I found poachers' tracks and drag marks from tusks leading to the swamp and the exit route by boat to Namibia's Caprivi Strip.

My guide confirmed local people had started helping Zambian poachers to find and poach elephants.

Amos Ramokati, the regional wildlife officer for the DWNP in Maun, and Michael Flyman both admitted that since the government's 2014 ban on commercial and trophy hunting, there had been an increase in the number of local people assisting poachers. In the past they had backed the DWNP and defense force's efforts to stop poaching.

After the hunting ban, many rural communities lost the substantial income they had received. Some, like those in the Khwai River area were getting an annual income of over a quarter of a million dollars, according to Southern African Sustainable Use Specialist Group (SASUSG), which had petitioned against the ban. The Group said that it would [hit rural communities hard](#), forcing them to poach for 'bushmeat' and because of the [loss of irreplaceable earnings](#) to even help ivory syndicates.

The current rise in poaching does not immediately spell disaster for Botswana's elephants – the biggest single population in Africa. But it is a threat and a possible indication that a combination of national parks, high-cost tourism, legal hunting quotas and concessions, and sustainable-use programmes had built up in Botswana, giving it one of the best conservation records in Africa.

Poaching and the Great Elephant Census: One of the worrying things about the increase in poaching is that it not only suggests a growing exploitation of Botswana's previously sacrosanct populations, but also a threat to long-term plans for increasing elephant ranges, migration corridors and thereby encouraging conservation in this wider region. The Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA), which has been established to encourage the migration and dispersal of elephants to avoid environment damage by concentration in the Chobe region and to repopulate areas denuded of elephants by poaching and the effects of conflict, notably in Angola, is full of good intentions. However, according to Botswana DWNP officials and conservation NGOs, it is largely a paper organization.

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The wave of poaching in northern Botswana adds to Mike Chase's reports, derived from the Great Elephant Census (GEC) survey, of large-scale killing of elephants in south-eastern Angola. Once home to well over 100,000 elephants, the population there was nearly wiped out by a campaign of killing and tusk removal carried out in the 1970s and 1980s by the apartheid South African Defense Force and the Angolan rebel movement UNITA. After the withdrawal of the SADF in 1989 and the end of the Angolan civil war in 2002, Chase hoped that the population would recover and he said there were signs that elephants were moving back there from Botswana via the Caprivi Strip in large numbers, which Michael Flyman in Botswana also confirmed.

But when he conducted the surveys for the GEC, Chase said he found large numbers of carcasses and very few elephants, given that large numbers were thought to have moved into empty areas of bush from Botswana. This expectation was based on Botswana's dry season surveys in 2013 and 2014 which showed a drop in Botswana's population from the range of 156,401–166,882 down to 129,939–142,453. Flyman told me this did not indicate massive poaching but movement between Botswana and neighboring states. He and Chase over the last couple of years have denied that there is a growing poaching problem in Botswana and said few carcasses of illegally killed elephants had been found. The recent discoveries suggest, rather, that poaching is increasing, which was what I have been told by safari and hunting operators who know the region well.

[Chase estimated](#) that Angola was losing 10 percent of its elephants each year, a higher mortality rate than any other country on the GEC and that its population was a mere 3,400. This indicates the poaching problem there was among the most severe in Africa at the moment – following on from the poaching disasters in Tanzania and Mozambique which lost 60 per cent and 48 per cent, respectively, of their elephants between 2009 and 2016.

The nature of poaching in the region was shockingly demonstrated in July when tourists at a Namibian safari lodge on the banks of the Kavango River watched as men armed with AK-47 assault rifles attacked a herd of 40 elephants grazing on the Angolan bank of the river. The poachers opened fire on the elephants, taking no notice of the watching tourists. At least three elephants were killed and many others wounded, perhaps to die later. The attack was blatant and carried out with impunity.

Since the end of the war 14 years ago, the corrupt but oil-rich Angolan government and political elite have done nothing to redevelop the south of the country, which had been hostile, rebel territory; guns abound there. Poverty and weapons, plus a ready market in China for tusks, are the ingredients for widespread poaching aided by government corruption and little or no spending on either rural development or wildlife conservation or protection.

Hunting ban may be hurting elephants and people: Returning to the growing incidence of poaching in Botswana, many blame it on the ready market for tusks and widespread networks of criminal syndicates smuggling ivory out of Africa, but also on the hunting ban and failure by the Khama government to provide alternative sources of income to local communities deprived of hunting earnings.

Getting hard information was not easy as the Khama government does not take kindly to criticism of its policies. Many safari operators, former hunting concession owners and some NGO conservation specialists are wary of bringing down upon themselves the wrath of the president and his brother, Tshekedi Khama the environment minister. Many would only speak on condition of anonymity, fearing their ability to operate in Botswana would be curtailed by open criticism. Botswana has a tradition of democracy and free speech but has become noticeably less open and more authoritarian under President Khama.

But all those to whom I spoke or with whom I corresponded had much the same to say – that the hunting ban was introduced without any provision for local communities who relied on the income, forcing them to look at illegal hunting or helping poachers in return for payment as a means

of survival. And the end of hunting and the abandonment of hunting concessions has had another very serious effect on local people.

The concession areas were policed by safari operators to keep out poachers (especially from Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe) and, most importantly of all, they operated boreholes which supplied water for the substantial range of wildlife on the land. This was particularly important for elephants and buffalo, which used the boreholes heavily in the dry season. Those boreholes are now dry and three different safari operators told me that the elephants that used them were now becoming problem animals on cultivated or grazing land beyond the hunting areas. They were moving in search of water and food and destroying crops, water pumps and damaging grazing land.

The lives of local farmers were also put at risk. The lack of previous level of management of the areas and the withdrawal of the presence of safari operators and their staff was also attracting in poachers, I was told. Alongside this, the lack of quotas to kill problem lions was leading to greater loss of livestock. Rural people were no longer seeing benefits from conservation mixed with sustainable-use and opposition is growing both to the ban on hunting and to the stringent, army-backed anti-poaching program. The old consensus and systems of mutual benefit are falling apart.

The combined effect of this has been to end local support for conservation, increase direct poaching or assistance for incursions by poachers and to demand for the shooting of problem animals in farming areas now being invaded. There has been a very worrying increase in the poisoning of carcasses to kill predators and scavengers, which is taking a huge toll of vultures, while killing lions whose bones can be sold to traders for use in Chinese traditional medicine.

About 120 vultures were found dead north of Maun, having been poisoned by feeding on two cow carcasses laced with chemicals. The [director of Birdlife Botswana, Kabelo Senyatso](#), said the incident marked yet another mass slaughter of increasingly endangered birds. Vulture numbers are falling as a result of widespread poisoning. The killing of vultures, lions and hyenas also aids elephant poachers as it removes scavengers which could draw attention to poached elephants and bring the BDF anti-poaching units round.

To the south of Chobe and the Okavango, around Nxai Pan and Makgadikgadi National Parks, there is also a growing problem of poaching since the ban. Last year I was told of poachers on horseback hunting zebra for meat and skins there. This year, one former hunting safari operator told me that the areas surrounding Nxai Pan and Makgadikgadi had one elephant poaching incident in 17 years while hunting companies managed these areas whereas as the complex has had 32 elephant poached since hunting stopped and the protection hunting companies provided was lost. He said, 'Without eyes in the field and feet on the ground the poaching in these now vacant areas will be enormous hence there being no buffalo and very few elephant remaining in these eastern concessions.'

No easy answers and a ban wasn't one of them: It is not the hunting ban alone that is to blame for the threat to Botswana's conservation successes, but it very clearly hasn't helped. Depriving local communities of income, which cannot be easily replaced, makes them vulnerable to the blandishments of poaching syndicates but may also push them into bushmeat hunting to survive and poisoning to protect livestock or provide income through the sale of lion bones.

The loss of community income is made worse by the increasing elephant-human conflict in farming areas now being invaded by wildlife which relied on hunting concessions boreholes. This creates another grievance. The Southern African Sustainable Use Specialist Group argued against the ban on all these grounds. The Kalahari Conservation Society's acting CEO, Baboloki Autlwtse, told me that the intention of the ban was to encourage communities to develop an income stream through eco-tourism, but that this took time, funds and expertise which the communities lacked. In conversation with me a year ago, he stressed the need for a fast-track approach by the government

to help such communities so they did not become opponents of conservation or resort to poaching from desperation.

Little seems to have been done in the meantime and poaching and poisoning appear to be escalating. Action is needed by the government before things really fall apart.

[Professor Keith Somerville](#) is a senior research fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICWS), School of Advanced Study, University of London, and teaches journalism at the Centre for Journalism at the University of Kent. His book, *Ivory Power and Poaching in Africa*, will be published in November 2016.

Women And Sustainable Hunting

Gerhard R Damm

The *Working Group Artemis* of the CIC, *International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey*, *Working Group Diana of the Netherlands* organized the 3rd **International Women and Sustainable Hunting (WaSH) Conference** in Wageningen, The Netherlands in July. The huntresses from Europe, Africa, Asia-Pacific and North America made highly educative and interesting presentations on a host of different topics. The main focus of the presenters centered on education concurrent with the Artemis & Diana missions **to convey hunting tradition for future generations, with the center of attention toward species protection, conservation and sustainability.**

Prof. Ron Ydenberg of the University of Wageningen mentioned in his opening address that the question addressed by this conference is whether and how the long-standing traditions of hunting and falconry can be combined with contemporary concerns of species protection, conservation and sustainability. Ydenberg compared this work to architecture, in which fundamental structural considerations are able to find new and better expression with modern materials and methods. He concluded that the values and aspirations of CIC Workgroup Artemis and Workgroup Diana will, be able to develop this ambitious objective.

The [Conference Brochure](#) contains a host of very readable articles like the accomplished falconer **Helen McDonald's** (UK) opening piece "*Dedicated to all Hunting Amazons*". McDonald concludes "*This [Conference Brochure] will play a part in helping a wider audience to understand that the fragility and complexity of ecological systems is intrinsic not only to conservation biology, but to enlightened hunting culture*". In a second paper McDonald highlights that education in field sports is often ignored by the vast expanding urban population and talks about nature learning in primary school through falconry, a highly successful project in the UK.

Fiona Capstick (South Africa) highlights the role of African women in hunting and providing food for their families from prehistory to modern times. She proudly claims that today women occupy

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every imaginable kind of work connected with the hunting, be it as professional huntresses and bush pilots, outfitters, booking agents, ranch owners and breeders of game animals, taxidermists, wildlife veterinarians, wildlife artists, owners of prestigious firearms manufacturing companies, specialists in gun engraving, stock-making, gun checkering and gun-smithing, firearms auctioneering, leaders in outdoor journalism and youth education, office bearers in international hunting organizations, film producers, pro-hunting advocates in the political arena, designers of safari clothing and authors of prize-winning books on hunting.

Soňa Supeková, President of the CIC Working Group Artemis, presents an excursion through the history of hunting in Europe, Supeková explains the hunting cultures of Central Europe and the women's role. She concludes that the modern society of Slavic communities in Central Europe could not exist without the active participation of women in falconry and hunting. They became more active and educated not just for hunting as an activity, but as a way of life and a tool for the sustainable conservation of wildlife and nature.

Mary Zeiss-Stange (USA), expert of the CIC US Delegation, talks about "North American Dianas: hunting for tradition". Women are now beginning to appear on the covers of sporting publications, like *Shooting Sportsman*, *Field & Stream*, *Hunting*, and *Sporting Classics*, covers that would have been unimaginable a few years earlier. The mainstream media are following suit. Suggestive of the breadth of public interest, National Geographic ran a major cover story on women taking up hunting in November 2013, and Aljazeera America did likewise in February 2015. The question posed on one of those *Shooting Sportsman* covers—"Are Women the Future of Hunting?"—is looking ever more reasonable to ask." And she concludes that female hunters provide a powerful platform for nature education in the 21st Century because they find it pretty easy to be green, in both theory and practice. At the same time, they are not hesitant to talk about the thornier side of the life/death cycle in which hunters participate.

Marina Lamprecht (Namibia), member of the Executive Committee of NAPHA, reflected how important it is to educate local people about hunting and create opportunities for them. In Namibia, the Namibian Professional Hunting Association empowered many talented people working in safari hunting (as skimmers or trackers for example) and since 2001, more than 300 Namibians could qualify as a guide or Professional Hunter. Lamprecht highlighted that the value [of animals] beyond meat and hide, makes trophy hunting a beneficial tool for conservation. Hunting employs more people at better salaries, with more training, skill recognition and promotion opportunities, than any other form of agricultural land utilization in Namibia.

Heli Siitari (Finland), President of the CIC Division Policy & Law, explained that even abundant game species benefit from local effort for conservation – like Black Grouse in Finland. As the ecology, behavior, and breeding habits become widely known, local hunting clubs, by adapting hunting season to the biological and ecological needs of black grouse, contributed greatly to the increase grouse numbers. A win-win situation for the local hunters and species conservation

Ineke Smets (New Zealand) expounded that New Zealanders are losing touch with nature, its processes and its importance. It is now these small groups of dedicated and passionate individuals, including organizations such as the Wingspan National Bird of Prey Trust, that help educate and promote the importance of falconry. They link people back to nature. By targeting keen hunters, passionate naturalist and by captivating children there may be hope that people are reminded of what keeps them all alive – Mother Nature, Smets said.

Janneke Eigeman (The Netherlands), Manager Communications of the Royal Dutch Hunters Association, explained were the theory of the golden circles, made by management guru Simon Sinek was leading. Sinek states that successful brands tell people why they do things, unsuccessful brands tell people what they do! In her workshop during the conference she told participants about the challenges and successes of using this approach when explaining hunting to non-hunters.

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Laurens Hoedemaker, Director of the Royal Dutch Hunting Association and Vice President FACE, followed-up saying that the authentic, straightforward story of hunting and the hunter has found broad support in today's Dutch society. A large majority of Dutch people and politicians now support hunting. In fact, the new legislation on nature protection and hunting which passed in 2015 was amended in parliament, in support of hunting.

Catherine E. Semcer (USA) stated that research shows that women are more likely than men to be persuaded into anti-hunting positions and to participate in anti-hunting activism. For this reason it is critical that women who hunt lead and expand outreach efforts to non-hunting women and convince them of hunting's utility to the conservation of wildlife. Urbanization, deforestation, and biodiversity loss have led to people – mainly kids, having less and less interaction with nature and consequently know a little about hunting and conservation. This limited information may lead to a huge number of anti-hunting campaigns, Semcer said. In her presentation and workshop Semcer reviewed what is known about all of these elements within the post-Cecil environment, how they are impacting sustainable hunting programs and begin the process of developing a women-led campaign to persuade women to reject calls to end or create unwarranted restrictions on hunting worldwide.

Quarterly Update On Giant Sable

Pedro Vaz Pinto (The report has been edited for length)

Between July and August we carried out an ambitious aerial census and capture operation in Luando and Cangandala which was integrated into the Action Plan for the Giant Sable Conservation, developed in collaboration between the Kissama Foundation and the Ministry of Environment. This operation was only possible with specific international funding received from Fundación Segré and ExxonMobil Foundation, adding to the local funds of which the two main contributors are currently Sonangol and Angola LNG. Instrumental for the success of this operation, and similarly to the exercises we carried out in 2009, 2011 and 2013, was the reliable support received from FAN (Angolan Air Force) who supplied the Jet A1 fuel drums, and the Angolan Army in Malanje who provided additional crucial logistics.

Dr Peter Morkel provided the veterinary services and Frans Henning, Namibia, piloted the Hughes 500 chopper. The objective for the 2016 capture operation was to make an updated sable population census in Luando Reserve and place up to 16 GPS collars and 5 VHF collars on giant sable, both in Cangandala and Luando as well as a survey of previously identified (from satellite imagery) sable hotspots in Luando, including water holes, critical *anharas*, while assessing and acting against poaching whenever justified.

The poaching situation in Cangandala NP is fairly under control. With a couple exceptions all giant sables there are contained inside the fenced sanctuary. In Cangandala were done mainly with the purpose of capturing two young males and attach VHF collars. On a control flight outside the sanctuary and old bull not seen since 2011; he was captured and released with a GPS collar! The rangers also recovered dozens of snares built with the steel wire stolen from the border fence.



The collared 59 inch bull showing off © P vaz Pinto



56 inch Bull © P vaz Pinto

In Luando NP we knew of three confirmed herds and added two more during our operation. One of the newly discovered herds proved to be the largest with 31 animals. The number may even increase when all cows finished calving and re-join the herd. The other herds totalled 26, 21, 19 and 18 animals excluding the territorial bulls. All herds included between 8 and 10 breeding females and 4 to 6 calves (almost half of the cows were still pregnant), but what seems determinant to explain the difference among herds is the number of yearlings and immatures (2-year olds).

The largest herd had many and the two smaller herds had few yearlings and immatures. Young animals are the most vulnerable to snare-poaching and this is reflected in the age structure of different groups according to the poaching pressure they suffer. In each herd we collared two cows. In total we collared eight females with GPS and two with VHF collars. Nine bulls were darted and seven were also collared with GPS devices. Among these bulls a few were outstanding, including one animal carrying over 59 inch horns.

One of the first animals darted in Luando this year was poor a young female (born in 2011) which carried a nasty wound in her right front foot. Dr Morkel improvised a surgical intervention to remove a steel cable. This female was lactating, meaning that she had had a calf recently. Three bulls



Confiscated Snares and Traps © P vaz Pinto



Removing a Snare from a Bull © P vaz Pinto

also had serious foot injuries caused by snares, and in two of them it was again necessary to carefully remove the cables constraining their feet. The rate of animals injured by snares has remained above

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20% of all animals darted. Two bulls collared in 2009 and 2013 were found alive and well. Several collars that should still be active in bulls could not be located, except for one that was found dead. The collar led us to the skeleton of a 10 year old male collared back in 2013, and the conditions suggested it may have died several months earlier. Inspecting the bones the cause of death became evident when we found a fractured femur, showing some minor signs of post-growth.

Another important aspect of this operation involved some preventive anti-poaching measures, as a joint effort between our team, the Ministry of Environment, the local political Administrations and the Army from the Northern Military Region. An awareness campaign was carried out and the military, made it clear that the giant sable antelope is a national symbol that deserves full protection and they are prepared to endorse the efforts and enforce the law if necessary. As result and over the period of a few weeks it was possible for the local administration to collect dozens of shotguns that were being used for poaching inside the reserve.

Pedro vaz Pinto's very interesting photo series can be accessed via the following link:
<https://goo.gl/photos/3qaGGscEVEJcD4XX7>

Sterile Freaks

Neels Geldenhuys, Publisher and Editor in Chief, [African Outfitter](#)

For the last couple of months I have been standing quietly on the sideline, observing the “amazing investment opportunity scheme” unfold and mature. Yes, I am referring to the color variants bred all over South Africa. We have passed yet another breeding season with many an investor anxiously inspecting his 2-hectare “farm” every morning, hoping to spot some black newborn lambs. When he finds nothing, he blames it on the drought. No Mister Investor, it is not the drought, but it could be because your R500 000 black impala ram has only one testicle, or does not produce any sperm, or perhaps has an underdeveloped scrotum.

This is of course the result of intensive inbreeding, year after year. Not even to mention major other anatomical deformities that can only be observed from a dead specimen – over- or underdeveloped organs, such as lung, liver and heart. Recently I was told about a *kraal* buffalo with a heart three times the size of a normal one. He might have a 47” spread, but can he be regarded as a good representative of the species? All of the above is the result of a very limited gene pool of these freaks, like the black impala or golden gnu, which these investors originally found in the wild. The thousands of color variants found on farms today basically all descend from only a couple of individuals that originally occurred in the wild.

Then there are also new freaks bred from the original ones by investors, such as “royal impala”, “king springbuck” and many others. As all these animals are related, it is to be expected that anatomical deformities will be the order of the day.

But let us look at Mister Investor who still refers to a “*kudu ram and ewe*” or a “*nyala ram*”. He also talks about his “*roland ward*” impala and, my personal favorite, his “*roland award*” impala. Sir, please familiarize yourself with the basics like Rowland Ward before you call yourself a game rancher. Also take note of the following:

- ❖ Males in the wild need to compete before mating, thus ensuring that the best genes are passed on; it also helps with the production of more and healthy sperm. You offer none of these benefits to the animals on your 2-hectare “farm”. Your females have to make do with what you offer them, even if it is a black impala ram with one testicle.
- ❖ You may even find that your females refuse the male (the one with excellent genes that you specially selected from a top breeder), as they sense what you cannot – he is utterly

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useless! But what do they know; you have paid a fortune for this male and that is all that counts.

I have even heard of new “top investors” developing game pellets that will bring females into season earlier – yes, three impala lambs in two years! When all the breeders have bought from all the other breeders, Mr Investor, who are you going to sell to? Yes, I know, us hunters, but that is your story and you stick to it. With all the pellets and vitamins you feed your freaks, I am sure an impala ram in the thick Dwaalboom bush tastes much better than the black impala from your 2-hectare “farm”.

It is still early in the auction season but one can already see the trend – two years ago a bargain black impala ram sold for R800 000; now you cannot give it away for R150 000.

This editorial appeared in African Outfitter May/June issue 2016 and is published by African Indaba with permission. Please join the *African Outfitter* group on [Facebook](#).

SA Hunters Concerned About New Regulations That Allow Cross-Breeding Of Wildlife

[Magda Naude](#) South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association 21 July 2016

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) added twelve wildlife species to the list of tame and domesticated animals regulated under its Animal Improvement Act (No. 62 of 1998) in July. This amendment will allow genetic manipulation and cross-breeding of wildlife in the same way that cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses and poultry are bred to obtain animals with specific characteristics for agricultural purposes.

Editor's Note: In the meantime the delegates at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i in September have adopted Motion 016 [Management and regulation of selective intensive breeding of large wild mammals for commercial purposes](#). Click the link for the full text of the motion (see also the following article).

The South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association (SA Hunters) is gravely concerned about this amendment that puts Black Wildebeest, Blue Wildebeest, Blue Duiker, Bontebok, Gemsbok, Impala, Oribi, Red Hartebeest, Roan, Sable, Springbok, and Tsessebe at risk of genetic manipulation and genetic pollution, amongst other concerns. The description in the Animal Improvement Act states that listed animals may be used “for the breeding, identification and utilization of genetically superior animals in order to improve the production and performance of animals in the interest of the Republic; and to provide for matters connected therewith”. DAFF published its amendment to the Regulations of the Act on 10 June without any consultation with major role players in the wildlife industry. The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), which is the department responsible for legislation regarding wildlife was apparently also unaware of the listing of wildlife with livestock to allow for genetic manipulation to develop new breeds.

SA Hunters requested that the matter be placed on the agenda of the Wildlife Forum where government interact with the wildlife industry to ensure official responses from both DEA and DAFF on the matter. Although DAFF confirmed that they would report on the matter at the meeting, they did not show up and no response was given on the matter. Lizanne Nel, conservation manager at SA Hunters, said breeding practices such as genetic manipulation and cross-breeding of wildlife are in conflict with existing biodiversity conservation legislation that protects indigenous wildlife and maintains the genetic integrity of wildlife species for current and future generations.

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"Some of the antelope species that have been listed with livestock species such as cattle and sheep under the Animal Improvement Act, are also popular species for the local hunting market, while others, such as Bontebok, Blue Duiker, Roan Antelope and Oribi, are threatened. The reason for listing these species for animal improvement is unclear."

The intention of the Animal Improvement Act is predominantly to enhance animal species through breeding practices for improved food production. This practice certainly cannot be argued to be beneficial for threatened species. It will be problematic to distinguish between, or permanently separate, domesticated game and free-roaming game, with potential reputational risks to the hunting sector that already bears the brunt of local and international criticism because of unacceptable hunting practices.

The only wild animal that was previously listed under the Animal Improvement Act, was the Ostrich. Scientific reports indicate that haphazard breeding and cross-breeding, between for instance the Northern African ostrich and the Southern African ostrich was done to improve feather production. This has material implications on the genetic integrity of indigenous wildlife. The South African ostrich industry is known to experience reproduction and chick survival problems as a result of breeding practices.

Intensive and selective breeding of wildlife already resulted in illegal cross-breeding between West African Roan, a declared alien invasive species, with local Southern Roan to create so-called genetically superior animals. DEA is in a process to develop a strategy to address this problem at a cost to the tax payer. "How the same government could allow listing of some wildlife species, including some that are threatened, with domestic stock for genetic manipulation is just beyond comprehension," Nel said. SA Hunters awaits feedback from the DEA on how the Department intended to deal with this matter.

In this context read also SAHGCA Media Statement 1 September 2015 "Real hunters only support responsible utilization of free ranging game" at <http://www.sahunters.co.za/index.php/hunting-jagsake/item/214-hunters-want-free-roaming-game> and Dr P Oberem's article "Dangers of Residue from Tranquilizing Drugs" at <http://sahunters.co.za/index.php/hunting-jagsake/item/83-dangers-of-residue-from-tranquilising-drugs>

WWF And Trophy Hunting

[WWF Global](#)

WWF is dedicated to protecting the earth's wildlife and the ecosystems that support us all. Myriad threats have led wildlife populations to decline by an average of 52 percent globally since 1970. Success in conservation requires the use of a range of approaches to address the world's environmental challenges.

In certain limited and rigorously controlled cases, including for threatened species, scientific evidence has shown that trophy hunting can be an effective conservation tool as part of a broad mix of strategies. *At the same time, WWF opposes any hunting that threatens species or habitat sustainability. Importantly, WWF does not support trophy hunting unless it demonstrates both conservation and community benefits.*

Conservation programs that include trophy hunting must be sustainable and benefit the wildlife populations of affected species, their habitats and associated ecosystems. They must also benefit local communities and be legally, culturally and religiously appropriate within the region, and meet other minimum conservation standards. Further, these programs must be very strictly managed. As such, WWF believes trophy hunting should only be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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When strict criteria are met, multi-pronged conservation strategies including trophy hunting enable communities to prioritize habitat and wildlife conservation over alternatives such as cattle raising and converting habitats for farming. They include putting people on the ground to monitor and protect lands and wildlife, and offset the costs and dangers of living with wildlife.

Such programs have enabled communities to invest funds in long-term wildlife conservation and sustainable development. They have proven to be vital to communities where remoteness and lack of facilities limit the availability of other livelihood options, such as ecotourism. As part of its work, WWF provides long-term scientific and technical advice to improve the management of some conservation programs involving trophy hunting, with the goal of ensuring both people and wildlife can thrive.

Trophy Hunting Examples That Benefit Conservation

In the mid-1990s in Namibia, wildlife numbers were at historical lows in many areas. But since the government's visionary support for a community-based conservation strategy, including some tightly regulated trophy hunting, the recovery of wildlife has been remarkable. Namibia now boasts the largest free-roaming population of black rhino, as well as expanding numbers of elephants, lions and giraffes and the world's largest cheetah population. Local communities have also benefitted substantially from the program.

In Pakistan, a scientifically based program including trophy hunting has led to a significant increase in the number of endangered Markhor goats, which has boosted the area's population of endangered snow leopard (for which Markhor is an important prey species). The program has directly benefitted local communities, helping to boost the local economy and stimulate development.

Trophy Hunting Examples That Do Not Benefit Conservation

WWF believes leopards and Himalayan black bears should not be hunted in Pakistan because of the wide array of threats to their survival and lack of accurate population estimates. Instead, WWF has called for a dedicated conservation program for both these species, which does not exist.

WWF does not support so-called "canned" or captive-bred hunting. This type of hunting has no proven conservation value. "Canned" hunting is a form of trophy hunting where the animals are bred for the purpose of being hunted and are usually confined or restrained at the time of the hunt.

Download the complete [WWF Policy and Considerations on Trophy Hunting](#)

TROPHY HUNTING QUESTIONNAIRE 2015/2016

The tourism research unit, TREES (Tourism Research in Economics, Environs and Society, North-West University) in co-operation with Professional Hunters Association of South Africa (PHASA), is currently conducting research regarding trophy hunters visiting South Africa. The research will assist the hunting industry in providing facts like to questions like the perceptions of hunters regarding color variants, the size of this hunting industry, its economic contribution, and motives for hunting. Completion of this questionnaire will ensure automatic entry into a lucky draw. Respondents stand a chance of winning hunting related equipment such as binoculars, telescopes etc. Please enter your contact details at the end of this questionnaire, to qualify for this amazing opportunity. All the information will be handled confidentially.

Click the image to access the questionnaire



Fiona Capstick Receives CIC Gold Medal

CIC Media Release



Fiona Claire Capstick is not only a prolific author and past recipient of the CIC Literary Award for her masterwork "The Diana Files - The Huntress-Traveler Through History" published in 2005 (ISBN: 978-0-9584590-4-4) but also the sponsor of the Peter Hathaway Capstick *Hunting Heritage Award of the Dallas Safari Club*. This award, named after well-known American author Peter Capstick, was first announced in 2004. It honors and recognizes an individual, organization or group whose achievements reveal a sustained and significant contribution to the conservation of wildlife and its habitat as well as long-term commitment to our hunting heritage. Several individual and association members

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of the CIC have already received the coveted Capstick Award. In January 2016 the CIC International Council of Game and Wildlife Conservation, represented by President Bernard Lozé, was honored and received the bronze statue in front of thousands of DSC members at the DSC Convention Gala Dinner.

In appreciation for her unwavering support for sustainable and ethical hunting and her highly readable literary exploits of the global role of women in hunting and conservation, the CIC Executive Committee recognized Fiona Claire Capstick with the CIC Gold Medal during the 63rd General Assembly in Brussels in April 2016. Gerhard Damm, president of the CIC Applied Science Division, and his wife Conny presented Fiona with the medal and award certificate at Fiona's home in Pretoria, South Africa in June on behalf of the CIC Executive Committee.

News From And About Africa

Gerhard R Damm

Africa

Africa's overall elephant population has seen the worst declines in 25 years, mainly due to poaching over the past ten years – according to IUCN's [African Elephant Status Report](#) launched at the 17th CoP CITES, in Johannesburg. The report is an authoritative source of knowledge about the numbers and distribution of elephant populations across their 37 range states in sub-Saharan Africa.

Africa

African rhino conservation has seen a major boost with the continent-wide African Rhino Conservation Plan, led by South Africa and IUCN-SSC's African Rhino Specialist Group. The plan focuses on areas where African rhino range states can work together to enhance rhino conservation, such as sharing and analyzing intelligence information, re-establishing rhino across boundaries, and enhancing effective funding for conservation. It does not seek to duplicate existing national plans, but rather complement them. [Read more](#)

Africa

The IUCN Antelope Specialist Group (ASG) works with the Czech University of Life Sciences to organize a conference on Antelopes, Giraffids and Hippos, to be held in Prague, Czech Republic, 20-24 February 2017. Preliminary details can be found on the conference website [here](#). Dr Richard Estes, will be one of the keynote speakers. The proceedings of the last antelope conference, held at ZSL in London in 2011, have just been published by Wiley-Blackwell. *Antelope Conservation: from Diagnosis to Action*. (Eds. Jakob Bro-Jorgenson and David Mallon). ISBN 9781118409640

Africa

The paper Sustainable Use & Livelihoods paper: From Poachers to Protectors pulls together core thinking on how interventions to combat wildlife trade can affect individual level incentives to "poach" or to "protect" wildlife. It provides a simple conceptual framework to help thinking and planning toward more nuanced and integrated responses to IWT that address core drivers at the local level, including issues of rights and responsibilities, equitable benefit-sharing, and human-wildlife conflict click [HERE](#).

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Africa

The elephant poaching crisis does not harm elephants alone, it is bad for the economy too. The loss of elephants to wildlife trafficking is costing African countries about \$25 million a year in lost tourism revenue, a study found. The tourism revenue lost due to declining elephants exceeds the anti-poaching costs necessary to stop the decline of elephants in east, west and southern Africa. More [HERE](#) on Mongabay or download the study from [Nature Communications](#)

Cameroon

With its vast bio-diverse forests and key great ape habitat, Cameroon is being eyed as a prime site for oil palm production, making it a center of agro-industry development in Africa. Conservationists in Africa are working to implement oil palm standards that will limit deforestation, protect biodiversity, limit carbon emissions, and benefit smallholders, while also supporting economic growth and job creation. A key to Africa's sustainable oil palm production is the implementation of mutually agreed upon industry-wide, and possibly nationwide, sustainable standards for siting and development of plantations. More details [HERE](#) on Mongabay

Congo DR

On October 4 a park ranger was killed in Kahuzi Biega NP while trying to protect the park's rare Grauer's gorillas. He is the second ranger killed in Kahuzi Biega in the last 6 months. Kahuzi Biega NP is believed to be the last stronghold of Grauer's gorillas, so the murder has conservationists worried about the future of the rangers, their families, as well as the gorillas

Congo Republic

Brazzaville-issued mining permits dip into Congo's flagship park. In 2016 the Ministry of Mines and Energy issued at least seven permits that allow companies to prospect or begin mining for gold inside the Republic of Congo's largest national park. Odzala-Kokoua became a national park in 2001 by presidential decree, which does not allow mining. Congo's pivot toward mineral extraction as an economic development strategy may mean that the government could change the park's borders to allow mining if it is "in the public interest". More details [HERE](#) on Mongabay

Kenya

Kenya's coastal forests are part of the Eastern Africa Coastal Forests ecoregion, with high levels of biodiversity and several species of plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. An influx of migrants into the region has meant more human pressure on forests, with the region losing upwards of 10 percent of its tree cover in 15 years. Major infrastructure and industry developments are also planned for the area, leaving conservationists worried about their environmental impacts. More details [HERE](#) on Mongabay

Kenya-Tanzania

About five percent of Africa's workforce - about 20 million people - are employed by the charcoal or firewood industry. Traders say that a large part of their operating expenses go to bribes, payoffs, and security. Despite health risks, charcoal remains a popular and cost-effective option for household cooking. More details [HERE](#) on Mongabay

Kenya

An [66 year Italian tourist](#) was trampled to death by an elephant at Swara camp in the Tsavo National Park near the Sabaki River. while trying to get a good picture. A [43-year-old farmer](#) from Silare, Nyahururu, Laikipia County, has lost his leg after he was attacked by an elephant on his farm.

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The farmer kept vigil every night in order to scare away elephants which have become the greatest threat to farming. In Lamu, a [farmer in Lamu](#) has been attacked and killed by a stray buffalo while he was fetching water from a swamp at Kililana. The incident comes days after a herder from Bar'goni Village escaped death narrowly after he was attacked and bitten by a hippo. (Sources: AllAfrica.com)

Kenya

Kenya's elephant population has declined by almost [80 per cent](#) (from ca. 170,000 in 1970's to about 35,000 now) over the past fifty years according to the Living Planet Index (LPI) 2016 Report by the Wild Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature. In 70's there were about 20,000 rhinos in the country, now there are 678 left. This decline has mainly been caused by the intense pressure food production has had on the ecosystems and various species.

Mozambique - European Union

The EU Scientific Review Group has approved importation of lions from Mozambique's Niassa National Reserve. The decision was made at the 76th meeting of the SRG on trade in wild fauna and flora on June 27. The SRG maintained a negative finding for lion elsewhere in Mozambique as well as for elephant from there and Tanzania. Source [Hunting Report August 2016](#)

Mozambique

The country completed its National Elephant Action Plan this past May. Mozambique is hoping to meet the requirements for importation approval by the SRG and US Fish & Wildlife Service. Source [The Hunting Report August 2016](#)

Namibia

The second African buffalo symposium, organized by CIRAD and the IGF Foundation under the auspices of the Antelope Specialist Group of IUCN was held during the 9th International Wildlife Ranching Symposium (IWRS), in Windhoek in Namibia in September. Interesting and stimulating communications & presentations and extensive discussions on many topics related to the African buffalo, its ecology, genetics, conservation and management made the symposium a success. The third symposium will not be linked to the IWRS. Plans are to hold it in the first semester of 2019. Dr. Kevin Robertson from the **Southern African Wildlife College** has offered to host it at the college, close to the Kruger National Park where a lot of buffalo work has happened in the past and is happening currently. African Buffalo Interest Group (AfBIG) was set up within ASG in 2014 and will launch its own website soon

Nigeria

The Ekuri Initiative, a forest stewardship run by one of the indigenous communities whose land lies in the path of the Cross River Superhighway, has delivered 253,000 signatures to the federal government asking for their ancestral forests to be protected. Several protected areas, including the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary, the Afi River Forest Reserve, Cross River National Park, Cross River South Forest Reserve, and Ukpon River Forest Reserve, would also be impacted by development of the highway. A number of threatened species live in these protected areas, including forest elephants, Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees, drills, Preuss' red colobus monkeys, pangolins, slender-snouted crocodiles, African gray parrots, and many others. More details [HERE](#) on Mongabay.

South Africa

Mobile telephone apps that track wildlife sightings in South Africa's Kruger Park have caused a rise in road rage, roadkills and speeding as tourists rush to animal sightings, and South African

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National Parks (SANParks) said it was exploring how to restrict use of the apps, saying that they "induce an unhealthy sense of eagerness for visitors to break the rules". The apps share information between tourists on where elephants, lions, leopards and other animals have been spotted, allowing other users to drive quickly to the scene.

South Africa

Director of US Fish & Wildlife Service Dan Ashe has announced that lion trophies from captive bred populations in South Africa will not be accepted for importation to the United States. However, wild and wild-managed lions from South Africa will receive import permits. The captive bred lion breeders do not meet the requirements for true enhancement sought by USFWS, which include transparency, scientific management and effectiveness in protecting and enhancing wild lion populations. **The World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i had earlier this year passed Motion 009 - [Terminating the hunting of captive-bred lions \(Panthera leo\) and other predators and captive breeding for commercial, non-conservation purposes.](#)** The CIC International Council has now adopted this motion as its official position on captive lion breeding and shooting

Tanzania

In July, the Government of Tanzania decided to apply the national Value Added Tax (VAT) of 18% to all services rendered to foreign tourists. The new tax applies also to hunting tourism and to foreign hunters visiting Tanzania. Starting in 2016, youths less than 18 years of age are not allowed to hunt, even if accompanied by parents.

Tanzania

Conservation Force made an extensive submission to the US Fish and Wildlife Service in support of applications for permits to import lion trophies from Tanzania. This submission documents the clear enhancement/benefits generated by safari lion hunting in Tanzania. The submission explains Tanzania's lion management plan, regulations, and policies to show that lion hunting is well-managed and how the hunting addresses the three primary threats to lion. Most importantly, the submission includes the reports of 27 Tanzanian safari operators. These Operator Enhancement Reports detail and document the operators' contributions to habitat and prey protection, anti-poaching, and community tolerance. They also explain the operators' responsible stewardship of prey base species and lion, and the critical role U.S. hunters play in sustaining these efforts. This is a short video about the recently documented sample of the unmeasured benefits (social and eco-system services) of safari hunting is available at <https://vimeo.com/190055022>. More details at Conservation Force.org

Tanzania

President John Magufuli has appointed retired Chief of Defense Force General [George Marwa Waitara](#), the board chairperson of the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA). During the impromptu visit to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism the President also [ordered the arrest](#) of all poachers and other suspects who are connected with the illegal business regardless of their positions and seniority after he was shown 50 tusks and motor vehicles which were seized between in the three days preceding his visit. The anti-poaching unit also arrested eight poaching suspects.

Remote Identification And Measuring Of Buffalo

Kevin Robertson, Southern African Wildlife College, Sustainable Use and Field Guiding

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The use of available technology and the applied learning process, which is fundamental to the College's training methodology, is aimed at helping develop best practice for the industry. One area currently being addressed by the Sustainable Use and Field Guiding Department is the ageing of wildlife, more particularly buffalo, correctly and to look at whether harvesting of these species, depending on their age, is genetically sustainable.

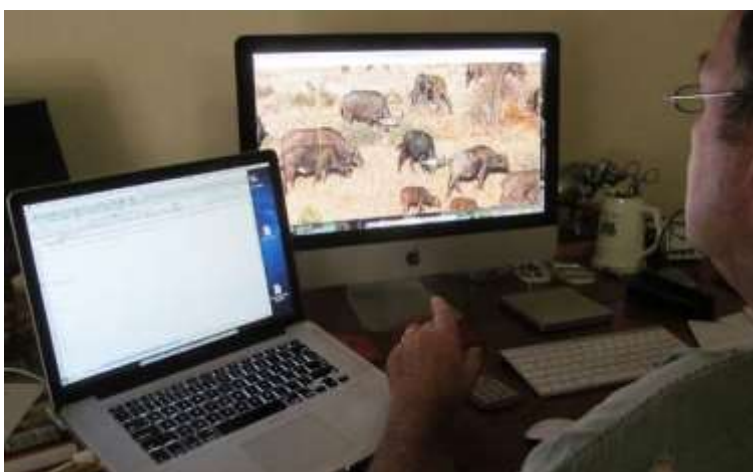
"The continual removal from any gene pool of the best trophy specimens before their genes have been afforded every opportunity to be passed on will, over decades, result in the gene pool being impacted negatively," said Dr. Kevin Robertson who heads up the department.

With modern-day technology however, it is now possible to reverse any such trend – and this is where Wynand Uys of Changing Tides 1126CC and his amazing aerial photography comes into the picture. "Through trial and much error Wynand has perfected the technique of being able to take, from a slow-flying fixed-wing aircraft, series of high resolution photographs of buffalo herds. Stitching all the photos together creates a single photo of the whole herd. Small groups of bulls and even lone dagga boys can now also be clearly photographed from the air," said Dr. Robertson.

In addition, the Taylor First Molar Tooth Aging Method enables us, by measuring the crown heights of the two first molar teeth from a bull buffalos' lower jaw and by then plotting this average on a graph, to accurately determine a buffalo's age in years.



Such is the quality and resolution of the aerial photographs the pictures can be enlarged to such an extent that the age and size of horn spread of individual bulls can be assessed



The secret to this evaluation process is the wonderful picture quality of an iMac and an Apple 'magic mouse' which at the swipe of a finger move the image both up and down and left and right. Thanks to the vertical guide lines, the whole image is systematically covered so all bull can be identified. On the second Apple, the age and trophy size of all bull identified is recorded onto an excel spreadsheet.

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When this information is linked back to the bull's specific secondary sexual characteristics (like boss development, the position and condition of the ear tips and other facial features), one can over time become pretty good at ageing live buffalo bulls as well, he said.



Their extreme eartip measurement of most buffalo bulls is 32 to 33 inches. This fact makes outside horn spread estimation a lot easier. This magnificent bull is aged at 10 years, with an outside horn spread of 42 inches.



Measuring the crown heights of the two first molar teeth in four places, calculating the average and then plotting this measurement on a graph predicts the age of a buffalo in years. This information, when coupled to other visible signs of age enables us to now accurately estimate a live bull

In teaching the students about accurate ageing techniques, he says that by repeating the process a couple of thousand times, it is possible to become really good at such age estimations. "Most buffalo, south of the Zambezi, are born within a distinct late summer calving season. This fact allows then allows us to age live sexually mature buffalo bulls even more accurately, down to a couple of months in fact."

By also using other methods such as spread of a mature buffalo bull's ear tips when they are in an alert and "pricked" position and comparing this to the outside spread of a bull's horns, allows for ranking all sexually mature bulls (those 5 years of age or older) identified in the photographs into the following age (5 to 15 years) and size categories (low 30's, 30-33"; mid 30's, 34-36"; high 30's, 37-39"; low 40's, 40 to 43"; mid 40's, 44-46" etc.).

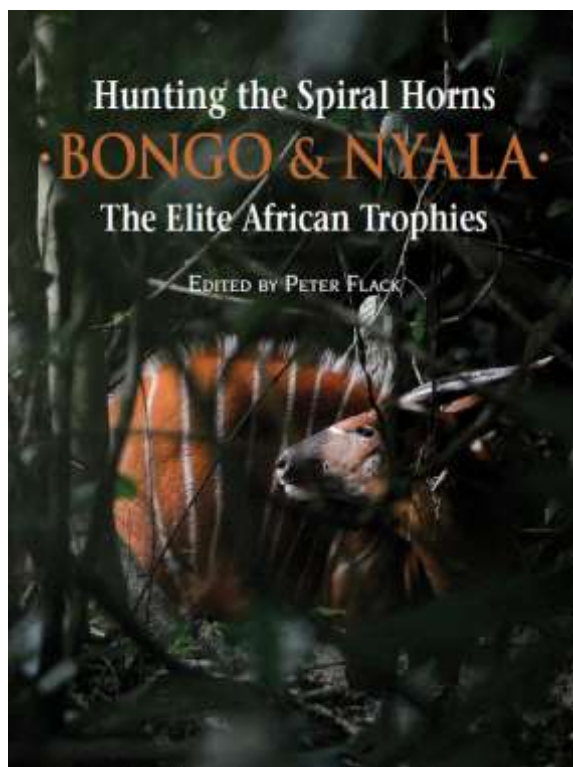
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By using available technology and analyzing the photographs taken, it is now possible to accurately determine the average age and trophy quality of a buffalo herd or population. This research, technology and applied learning is set to help guide the industry.

Original article appeared in "The Bateleur", September 2016 issue, the Newsletter of the Southern African Wildlife College.

Peter Flack's Hunting The Spiral Horns: Bongo & Nyala - The Elite African Trophies

Book Review by Gerhard R Damm



Edited by Peter Flack

Peter Flack Productions - 2016

432pp, color and b&w photos, 8.25x10.75, hardcover with dust jacket (standard edition ISBN: 978-0-620-69953-2) and 200 limited edition quarter bound in tan leather, signed, numbered and slip cased

Standard Edition	\$ 95 (World)
	ZAR 950 (Africa)

Limited Edition	\$195 (World)
	ZAR 1950 (Africa)

Prices exclude delivery

Available from [Peter Flack Productions](#), [Safari Press](#), [Halseton & Company](#), [The Hunting Report](#)

This is the fifth and final book in the five-book series covering all thirty spiral-horn species and subspecies that are recognized by Rowland Ward and SCI. Describing the two bongo subspecies

and the common and mountain nyala, and all what comes with their conservation and hunting, Peter Flack's well-known ambition to produce a perfect product undoubtedly won again. This massive book is simply the best and most comprehensive book for these elusive dreams of many an African safari addict. In his foreword, our mutual friend Shane Mahoney brilliantly describes Peter Flack as *"representing that remarkable amalgam that has emerged throughout the history of wildlife conservation; namely, a man who in his heart and intellect is a hunter but who is to such an extent inspired by the wild creatures he pursues that he comes to view their natural persistence as the greatest objective of his life."*

In parts one to three, with ten chapters altogether, Flack covers not only the historic aspects of the discovery of the three species; he also gives tips on where to find and how to best hunt them. The scientific chapters on nyala and mountain nyala have been written by two outstanding experts. Dr Jeremy Anderson (South Africa) wrote his doctoral thesis on nyala after studying them in the field for many years and Dr Paul Evangelista, considered by his peers as the leading expert on mountain

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nyala. Peter Flack took it upon himself to painstakingly research the western and eastern bongo - from its first documented appearance in form of some horns and bones pieces in the halls of the British Museum, to the latest population estimates in Eastern and Western Africa; from the stories of early hunter-explorers to the tales (and brilliant photos) of modern hunter-conservationists. Biology, distribution and life history of the two bongo subspecies are intermingled with entertaining hunting stories past and present. The chapters are complemented with hunting adventures as told by Mike Prettejohn, Robin Hurt, Pemble Davis, Ross Murphy, Eric Mararv, Adam Parkison, Christophe Beau and of course Peter Flack's own quest for a monstrous and ancient western bongo. Professional hunters Christophe Morio and Rudy Lubin chip in with tips on hunting bongo in West Africa.

Jeremy Anderson describes the graceful nyala of southern Africa in his extensive chapter "From Rare to Abundant: Natural History of the Nyala", as behooves a man who spent his life studying these animals. Garry Kelly, South African Outfitter *extraordinaire*, and his brother John talk about hunting outstanding bulls, with young Danie Geel giving a riveting story of bowhunting one. Hans Schabel tells his story of hunting this shy antelope in Mozambique, which the well-known Mark Haldane amplifies with tips towards hunting them in this hunter's paradise. The late Anthony J. (Tony) Tomkinson lets us partake in the "Nyala Conservation And Hunting Success Story". Peter Flack's old hunting companion Peter Kennedy rounds off the chapter with an exhaustive and entertaining list of tips on how, where and when to hunt this essential Southern African antelope, and what equipment to use.

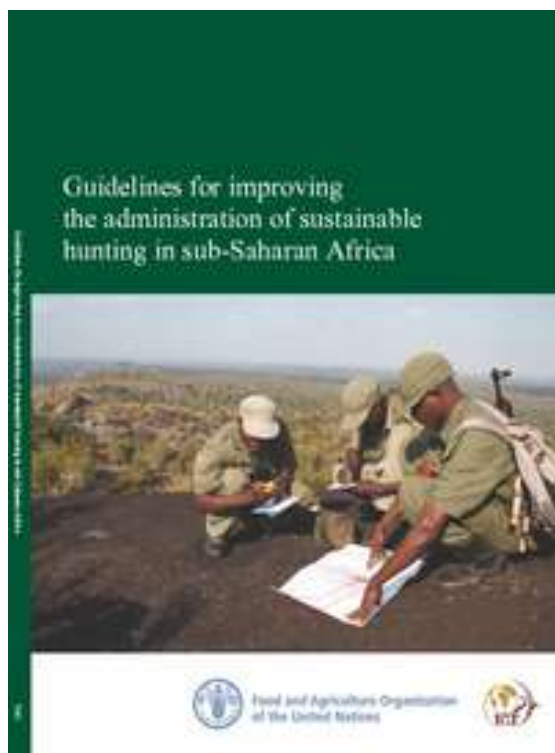
The third part of the book is dedicated to the shyest, most elusive (and most expensive) monarch of them all - the mountain nyala of Ethiopia. It is aptly introduced with a most complete article by the foremost expert on the species, Paul Evangelista. Peter Flack answers all remaining questions on hunting methods, equipment, hunting areas, and everything else an aspiring mountain nyala hunter wanted to know. One of the stories I liked most in this book is the late Sherwin Scott's epic tale "*There comes a time ...*". I had read it years ago, just months before Sherwin passed to the Great Hunting Grounds Beyond, and it made a deep impression. Sherwin's adventure together with PH Jason Roussos is what hunting is all about! And there is also Gwyn Brown's mountain nyala story, in Peter Flack's words a petite, very feminine yet very experienced, passionate and determined huntress, as well as the story of Peter Treboldi's hunt!

Jason Roussos, hunter, outfitter and guide in Ethiopia who guided over 100 hunters to mountain nyala gives all final answers in his section "Mountain Nyala – Understanding Them, Hunting Them and Guiding for Them" - and, let me mention this too - his everlasting fight to protect their habitat and conserve this mighty mountain ungulate.

Flack rounds off his last book on the spiral horns with sections on clothing and equipment, a rainforest checklist, rifles and ammunition - all typically Flack, well-researched, tested and meticulous to the smallest detail. His friend and master taxidermist Rodney Kretzschmar takes care of the part on trophy care and preparation.

In his final musings over the state of wildlife, conservation and hunting in Africa I recognize the Peter Flack I have known for years. His words may sound cynical at times, but I suggest that this book, and indeed the entire series on the spiral horns, will inspire a new generation of hunters to come to Africa and put their energy and talent into saving what's left of the great African wilderness and the great game of the continent. Buy the book, read it, enjoy it ... and then do it! Africa needs you!

Guidelines For Improving The Administration Of Sustainable Hunting In Sub-Saharan Africa



Editors: Vernon Booth & Philippe Chardonnet

Year of Publication: 2015

Publisher: FAO

Pages: 129 p.

Abstract:

These guidelines provide both operational and technical guidance on approaches in countries practicing regulated hunting. When and where well-managed, this hunting industry brings considerable conservation benefits and socio-economic profits. However, like any sector, the hunting sector is in need of improvement in respect to nature conservation, rural socio-economy and cultural livelihoods and lifestyles. By raising the level of professionalism in its administration, it is expected that the performance and quality of services of the whole sector will improve. Good administration is obviously crucial for promoting best practices and discouraging the others.

Download the complete booklet [HERE](#)

[#AdamRuinsEverything](#) ... Adam On Trophy Hunting

This Time Adam ruins the Conventional Wisdom that Trophy Hunting Is Bad for Conservation

Gerhard R Damm

Turns out the real threat to endangered animals isn't trophy hunters..., says comic Adam Conover, a cast member and writer at the popular comedy website CollegeHumor. The show debuted on September 29, 2015 on [truTV](#).

The series aims to shine light on popular false impressions and trends, debunking false ideas that pervade in American society. Conover brings his original online series to TV, expanding upon his efforts to poke fun at everyday things that people accept or assume without question.

In the investigative comedy, Conover uses a not-quite-deadly combination of comedy, history and science to debunk widespread misconceptions about topics and ideas that are routinely taken for granted. This time he took on trophy hunting, and even if some trophy hunters will not like the way they are depicted, Conover hits home with his statement " **Why Trophy Hunting Can Be Good for Animals**". Conover has great talent



Click the Image to watch the Movie

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singling out "annoying facts", in this case trophy hunting, and backing his points by lecturing the audience, appearing in skits, interviewing experts, and citing references on-screen

The animation is garnered with dark humor, debunking conventional wisdom spread over the social media and by word of mouth. At the date of writing this article. **Adam on Trophy Hunting** had 1,995,147 views and counting (54,890 likes and 2,813 dislikes). That means that this positive message probably reached more non-hunters than any other pro-hunting message before.

Incidentally - the clip also features Rosie Cooney, chair of the IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group) flying away on an eagle. Input was provided by Rosie Cooney, and other SULi and broader SSC members who provided comments and input on the text - like Holly Dublin, Richard Emslie and Mike Knight, Chris Weaver, Greg Stuart-Hill, Simon Stuart and Mike Hoffmann.

African Indaba wants to join in with IUCN SSC/SULi expressing thanks to **Adam Ruins Everything** for initiating the idea, and to Rosie for working with them on the content. **Congratulations to them for being brave enough to take on this difficult topic!**

A Film Everybody Should Watch: A Conservationist's Cry

Gerhard R Damm

A brilliant documentary on the absolute importance of hunting. A must see for anyone who takes wildlife conservation seriously.

"A Conservationist's Cry" was produced by the Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa (PHASA). The group of generous supporters comprised several organizations and private citizens. This film is a necessary action by dedicated hunter-conservationists to educate the world on what really happens if hunting is stopped.

The true effect of the ban on hunting to Africa's wildlife is a paradox many have chosen to ignore for a variety of reasons. African Indaba hopes that sharing this video will go a long way to assist people realize their best (or worst) intentions may mean Africa wild spaces and Africa's wildlife as we know it will disappear within a generation.

This 17 minute film tackles important issues, around hunting in general and safari hunting in Africa in particular. You are hearing it directly from those people whose lives are forever being changed due to ill-advised game and hunting laws, airline bans, stricter domestic measures on international CITES regulations, and so on. You'll even meet two brothers who resorted to poaching to feed their families. You need to listen to their father's lament.

The video was also distributed to thousands of CITES delegates during the last Conference of the Parties in Johannesburg this past September.

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[A Conservationist's Cry - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWxvZyAyg8)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWxvZyAyg8>

Sep 22, 2016 - Uploaded by PHASA

A Conservationist's Cry

Support this call for showing the truth about hunting bans in rural Africa, and the rest of the world. Unless more people choose to highlight the effects of the hunting ban then we may lose some of the most amazing wilderness on the planet, along with their most special species they support. Please share this as widely as you can

The objective of reviewing and posting it here is to give every reader of African Indaba - all 19,000 of them - the chance to share and distribute the YouTube link to the movie as far and wide as possible. Please contact PHASA if anyone would like a version to put on your own YouTube.

I checked the link on the PHASA Website, when writing this article - there were 29,492 views with 212 LIKES and 4 DISLIKES (this shows that the film has not reached the broad audience we need).

Far too small a number - on the viewer side and on the LIKE side - and it's in your hands to change these figures.

A Conservationist's Cry

produced under the auspices of the Professional Hunters' Association of SA's Conservation & Empowerment Fund for distribution at CITES CoP17

PHASA's heartfelt thanks to the following sponsors, whose generous contributions were indispensable for the production of this video:

African Professional Hunters Association (APHA)

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[Click HERE to Download Movie](#)

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Wildlife Populations Thrive In Wealthy, Urbanized Countries

[Matt Ridley, The Times](#)

Editor's Note: This is a though provoking article which has been discussed extensively on the IUCN-SSC SULI Network. Not all agreed in full with the author's findings and some said that a bit more differentiation is necessary. Reactions, particularly what people from developing countries are thinking about this article in their own contexts would be of interest.

As foxes move into cities and deer, badgers and otters grow ever-more numerous, along with birds such as ospreys, buzzards and red kites, you might be thinking much of Britain's wildlife is doing well. Yet last week the Zoological Society of London, together with the World Wide Fund for Nature, published their latest assessment of the state of the world's mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish: the Living Planet Report 2016. They found that on average populations of such animals declined by about 58 per cent between 1970 and 2012.

The report also provides evidence that while wildlife populations are doing poorly in poor countries, they are generally doing well in rich countries. I spent a happy few hours on virtual safari through the detailed database behind the findings (so I can report that granulated catfish, *Pterodoras granulosus*, in Paraguay are doing well, while rockfowl, *Picathartes oreas*, in Cameroon are doing badly), and this pattern emerges clearly.

Take large mammals: throughout Africa the populations of elephants, rhinos, giraffes, lions and many antelopes are in headlong retreat. Throughout Europe the populations of deer, moose, boar, ibex, bear, wolf, beaver, otter and grey seals are booming. The report notes that lynx numbers in Europe have quadrupled over the past 50 years. It is the same in North America. Deer, coyotes, bears and even cougars are growing their numbers, expanding their range and edging into the suburbs, while humpback and grey whales are booming along America's coasts.

There are exceptions, of course, but some of them prove the rule. Sea otters are doing badly off Alaska, largely because resurgent killer whales are eating them; hedgehogs are doing badly in Britain because resurgent badgers are eating them.

As with mammals, so with many birds. Bald eagles, once teetering on the brink of extinction, have increased so fast that they were taken off the US endangered species list in 2007. Goose numbers have grown so much in Europe and North America that they have become pests. Cranes are back in Britain after hundreds of years.

The impression that prosperity generally helps wildlife is confirmed by the fact that middle-income countries are in between: wildlife populations have often ceased falling and are beginning to show signs of recovery. China's giant panda population is rising (although the Yangtze river dolphin is probably extinct); India's tiger population has inched up in recent years, although its vultures have done badly. Brazil's Amazon river dolphin is still fairly numerous, although threatened by various risks.

Notice also that in the tropics, large wild animals are increasingly confined to national parks and nature reserves. In Europe and North America even big animals are starting to re-colonize areas heavily populated by people. In a suburb of Boston I was warned to watch out for gangs of aggressive turkeys. Bears are turning up in cities. Foxes have moved into British towns. A wolf has been filmed crossing a busy road in The Netherlands. I sometimes see peregrine falcons flying from Westminster Abbey to the Houses of Parliament clutching pigeons in their claws.

In terms of habitats, a similar contrast can be seen. Rich countries are steadily expanding their forests, while poor countries are still chopping them down. All of Europe is getting ever-more thickly wooded, from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean, as satellite images confirm. Britain has doubled its woodland cover in a century and is now as forested as it was in 1750. New England was once mostly farmland; it is now mostly woodland.

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The transition from deforestation to reforestation generally seems to happen when a country's GDP per capita reaches about \$US4600 (\$6000) a year in today's money. Costa Rica went from 75 per cent forest to 25 per cent between the 1940s and 80s, at which point it passed that threshold and today it is back at over 50 per cent forested. China and India are both now reforesting.

Yet the prevailing theory among environmentalists is that it is affluence that is killing wildlife: that if we lived simpler lives closer to nature we would save more species. Although it is true that some of the demand for the resources of poor countries comes from rich countries, this is not the whole story. Rhinos and elephants are doing badly because of demand for their products from increasingly affluent Asian people, yet much of the pressure on tropical wildlife is domestically generated. Desperately poor people in the Congo rainforest, catching bushmeat for food or for sale for a pittance in a local market, are a greater threat to monkeys than are tycoons on yachts in Monte Carlo.

Indeed, go back tens of thousands of years and the lesson is even clearer. Sparse populations of Stone Age hunter-gatherers, armed with little more than bows and arrows, wiped out a majority of the large mammal species — from mammoths and sabre-tooths to giant sloths and giant kangaroos — within an archaeological eye blink of arriving on each continent, and with no help from the wealthy, because there were no wealthy. In North America, 45 of 61 large mammal groups went extinct coincident with the arrival of people; in South America 58 of 71; in Australia 17 of 18. The first people likewise devastated the giant lemurs of Madagascar.

The reason rich people are now able to live alongside wildlife in a way that poor people do not is partly because, once liberated from mere subsistence, they can afford to care. Wealth partly decouples the life of human beings from dependence on wild ecosystems. By eating farmed food, moving to cities, using minerals instead of organic materials, we reduce the need to exploit, or compete with, wildlife. This phenomenon is known as sustainable intensification.

So when the ZSL-WWF report blames the consumer society and the intensification of agriculture for the plight of wildlife, as it does, it has it exactly backwards. It argues that global economic growth, while reducing poverty, has resulted in “culturally entrenched aspirations for material consumption” and has gone “beyond what can be supported by the carrying capacity of a single Earth”. Yet if a billion Africans had the high farm yields of Europe, relied less on forests for fuel and materials, and had high living standards, it's a fair bet that there would be a lot more lions and elephants.



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