



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

Volume 13, Issue No 4

African Indaba eNewsletter

September 2015

THE AFTERMATH OF THE NOTORIOUS ZIMBABWEAN LION HUNT

Gerhard R Damm

Journalists from around the globe qualified in environmental matters or not, with or without sound knowledge on wildlife conservation, felt the necessity to chip in with an opinion or an opinionated story on the most notorious lion hunt ever. And so did millions of people on social media, most with scant or no background information on the realities of African wildlife conservation and the daily life of rural people living close to wildlife in Africa.

The story of a lion from Hwange National Park, which was called Cecil by some, galvanized self-proclaimed experts to condemn hunting as cruel and anachronistic.

A few weeks into the furor about this particular lion more reasonable voices surfaced; people with knowledge on African wildlife conservation put forward rational arguments and questioned the knee-jerk reactions and vitriolic comments.

Africans seemed to be quite surprised about the uproar. Zimbabwean citizen Goodwell Nzou wondered in an [opinion piece in The New York Times of 5th August](#) "*Cecil who? When I turned on the news and discovered that the messages were about a lion killed by an American dentist, the village boy inside me instinctively cheered: One lion fewer to menace families like mine.*"

Why is it, that despite of the millions of visitors to national parks, the protected areas are usually running at a loss and have to be subsidized by the taxpayer? And why is it that many remote hunting concessions have well-functioning anti-poaching and community conservation programs in place? Why are places, less scenic and attractive than those of the up-market game lodges in national parks, still harboring wildlife and have not been converted to agricultural land or livestock grazing grounds? Could it be that hunting, albeit removing a few individuals

African Indaba Volume 13 Issue 4 Contents

The Aftermath Of The Notorious Zimbabwean Lion Hunt.....1	
A Selection Of Reading Material On Lions And Trophy Hunting.....4	
Shane Mahoney On Cecil The Lion And Trophy Hunting.....5	
Experts Call On European Union To Acknowledge Pivotal Role Of Communities.....5	
Hunting Helps Conserve African Wildlife Habitat.....6	
Tanzania's Elephant Management: Two Steps Forward But One Step Back?.....9	
Why The Hunting Conversation Hurts Conservation.....12	
CIC State Member – The United Republic Of Tanzania.....15	
Lion Trouble In North-West Namibia.....15	
Crushing Ivory: (Hopefully) Not Our Best Warfare.....18	
News From And About Africa.....19	
The Conservation Imperative.....21	
Basie Maartens 1929-2015.....22	
Adelino Serras Pires 1928-2015.....23	
Hunting The Spiral Horns: Sitatunga – The Sly, Shy, Secretive One.....25	
Cecil-Mania: Setting The Record Straight.....26	
The Why And Relevance Of Hunting.....26	

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

from locally thriving wildlife populations, provides more attractive returns for the landowners?

[Dr. Rosie Cooney](#) answered these questions with an abundant YES. *“There is clear and demonstrable evidence that vast areas of private/communally owned land in southern Africa have been restored to wildlife, driven by the income earned from wildlife-based land uses”*, Dr. Cooney said, and *“on most of that land, tourism is not viable and the biggest earner is hunting.*

[Dr. Paul Tudor Jones II](#) stated that *“hunting generates a significant amount of revenue”* and he challenged *“those who are bitterly opposed to all forms of hunting, to hark back to E.O. Wilson’s line about a greater independence of thought”*. Dr. Jones added *“Photographic tourism is great in places where large animals roam and the scenery is spellbinding, but that’s not always the case in Africa”*. *In places where landscape and wildlife are mundane, [trophy hunting is the better land-use option.](#)”*

Theodore Roosevelt IV wrote in an article of [The Washington Times](#) *“For my urban friends in New York, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles, trophy hunting is inconceivable and signing petitions to ban it seems like the very least they can do. It is the very least, and the very worst”*.

And I am quoting in this context [Nzou](#) again: *“For Zimbabweans, wild animals have near-mystical significance. We belong to clans, and each clan claims an animal totem as its mythological ancestor. Mine is ‘Nzou’, elephant, and by tradition, I can’t eat elephant meat; it would be akin to eating a relative’s flesh. But our respect for these animals has never kept us from hunting them or allowing them to be hunted.”*

Human hunters were probably the first to express this deeply rooted empathy and respect for the animals they hunted. Hunting constitutes arguably the oldest human activity and influenced human development, culture, religion and social interactions from the beginnings of human history. The ancient human hunters’ relationship with animals made them create amazingly beautiful paintings and rock carvings of hunting scenes; they also conserved parts like antlers, tusks and horns of the hunted game – apparently without any utilitarian purpose – to memorize the hunt and celebrate the hunted. The earliest surviving hunting trophies, one might say! In these days hunting was essential for survival, but it had already recreational and cultural associations. The hunter-animal relationship was more to than simply killing and eating the prey. And all decent hunters still show a strong and determined empathy and respect toward the animals they hunt – the ancient root of the modern hunters’ concern for conservation.

Nzou’s empathy for lions is apparently limited. He asked *“did all those Americans signing petitions understand that lions actually kill people? That all the talk about Cecil being “beloved” or a “local favorite” was media hype? Did Jimmy Kimmel choke up because Cecil was murdered or because he confused him with Simba from The Lion King?”* In Nzou’s village in Zimbabwe, surrounded by wildlife conservation areas, *“no lion has ever been beloved, or granted an affectionate nickname. They are objects of terror!”*

In relation to wildlife viewing tourism Dr. Cooney appropriately asks who earns the returns – and states that such tourism exists only in relatively few areas of some southern and eastern African countries and that the returns primarily flow offshore or to already wealthy elites.

“If sustainable hunting is taken out of the equation on pressure by a well-meaning, but under-informed and emotionally charged public, the sad fact is that most wildlife will be persecuted, shot and driven off these lands, just like they were in all these countries before last century’s wildlife reforms”, Dr. Cooney concluded. Dr. Jones concurred saying that *“if the long-term survival of an animal population means the long-term financial sustenance of a community, then that population will likely survive.”*

Dr. Jones reasoned that *“governments have to justify all land use in economic terms. If hunting is not available to some communities, then their alternative is raising livestock, which takes a*

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

heavy toll on land and water resources. So it really does make more sense to lose an individual animal of an individual species now and then rather than risk losing an entire ecosystem."

Dr. Jones also mentioned that Wilderness Safaris, a leading photo-tourism operator, has a position paper on trophy hunting, stating, in effect, that ecotourism, on its own, cannot ensure the conservation of Africa as a whole and that hunting has been vital in mainstream destinations like Southern Africa and less mainstream destinations like Central African Republic or Burkina Faso.

In South Africa, game ranches literally changed the country's landscape. In the 1960s there were a mere handful, in 2002 the number had risen to about 5,000. Today, the count is over 12,000 and rising. They generate revenue in various ways, ranging from ecotourism to the sale of live animals, but hunting makes the most money by far.

There are negative developments too, like the highly questionable practice of breeding mutant animals or the enhancement of horn length in ungulates by using specialized feed formula. Notorious is the totally unacceptable breeding of lions for killing by executioners who are unfortunately confounded by the public with hunters. But in general, the development has been good for the ecosystem. Despite of the poaching onslaught, South Africa still has an astounding number of black and white rhinos, and the ungulate populations have gone from around half a million animals in 1966 to close to 20 million today. The main driver of this development was hunting, and the huge cash injection through local and visiting hunters.

Stewart Dorrington, a former president of the Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa and a life-long game rancher, puts it simple: *"My hunting price is \$2,500 for a kudu, more than 10 times what the meat of one of these antelopes would bring. If you stop hunting, the market is going to change completely; it'll go to meat value, really; less than 60 cents a pound"*. Many scientists agree.

Vernon Booth, a Zimbabwe-based ecologist who has worked in African wildlife management for 30 years, said that *"lions were now protected because of the high value attached to them [by hunters]. Locals tolerate them because of the income that trickles down. Without the hunt money, locals would increasingly poison lions, which are considered dangerous to people and livestock. If there is a complete ban on lion hunting, the tolerance levels for lions would just plummet and lions would be exterminated very quickly outside protected areas"*. Mr. Booth added that *"even though hunting may seem unpalatable to a lot of people around the world, it is actually very, very necessary"*.

Mikkel Legarth of the Modisa Wildlife Project in Botswana was very explicit in his talk on *"How the ban on lion hunting killed the lions [in Botswana]"*. Listen for yourself to [Legarth's presentation](#) when he says that the Botswana lion hunting ban lead to significantly increased numbers of lion killing by cattle ranchers. And Mr. Legarth can certainly not be counted as an avid supporter of hunting – but he is a realist!

Glen Martin, author of *Game Changer: Animal Rights and the Fate of Africa's Wildlife* (University of California Press, 2012) quotes from Dr. Richard Leakey's address to the Strathmore Business School, Nairobi in the [California Magazine](#). The renowned paleoanthropologist said *"my friends say we are very concerned that hunting will be reintroduced in Kenya, let me put it to you: hunting has never been stopped in Kenya, and there is more hunting in Kenya today than at any time since independence. (Thousands) of animals are being killed annually with no control. Snaring, poisoning, and shooting are common things. So when you have a fear of debate about hunting, please don't think there is no hunting. Think of a policy to regulate it, so that we can make it sustainable."*

Most mainstream conservation groups, wildlife management experts and African governments support hunting as one way to conserve wildlife. It is not a contradiction in terms, they

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

contend; hunting is one indispensable sector of a complex economy that has so far proven to be the most effective method of conservation, not only in Africa but around the world.

“There are only two places on the earth where wildlife at a large scale has actually increased in the 20th century, and those are North America and southern Africa where conservation was built around hunting,” said Dr. Cooney. One might add that Europe has its own successful model which has always included hunting – in fact red deer, boar and chamois populations expand so rapidly in landscapes steeped in deeply rooted hunting traditions that paradoxically the Green parties across Europe today call for ever higher hunting quotas. This does not lack a certain irony! The Spanish ibex populations have risen to record numbers on the Iberian Peninsula because of the cooperation of hunters and landowners with government authorities. And in Asia the once highly endangered markhor has made spectacular comebacks in Pakistan and Tajikistan because of the integration of trophy hunting and community interests – as a side effect snow leopard populations also increased.

We all know that there are some major problems with current governance of hunting in Africa. The present systems have its flaws and failures. Better control, more science, more dedicated benefits to local communities and more hunter education are needed. It is upon us that the death of the particular lion in Hwange is converted into a catalyst of such improvement.

But most importantly we should listened to Goodwill Nzou when he says *“we Zimbabweans are left shaking our heads, wondering why Americans care more about African animals than about African people ... and please, don’t offer me condolences about Cecil unless you’re also willing to offer me condolences for villagers killed or left hungry by his brethren, by political violence, or by hunger.”*

The “Cecil Story” now had a tragic aftermath. On the morning of August 24th Quinn Swales, a 40-year old fully qualified and very experienced Zimbabwean professional guide, was mauled and killed by an adult male lion while leading a bush walk with guests of Camp Hwange. The lion was – at least according to some reports – also collared. I do not want to make rash assumptions, but could it be that the recent global outcries made Quinn hesitate to use his rifle for a crucial and ultimately fatal moment?

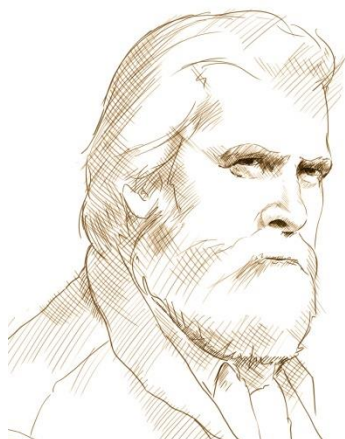
A SELECTION OF READING MATERIAL ON LIONS AND TROPHY HUNTING

- [Lion hunt quotas could be good for animals but bad for humans](#) The Conversation, South Africa
- [Another View: Responsible hunting helps save lions](#) Sacramento Bee, USA
- [In Zimbabwe, We Don’t Cry for Lions](#) The New York Times, USA
- [Cecil the Lion: Lessons in misplaced outrage](#) The Daily Maverick, South Africa
- [Dishonest environmental campaigns will harm lions](#) The Daily Maverick, South Africa
- [Lionizing Cecil Makes Us Feel Good, But a Trophy Hunting Ban Will Accelerate Slaughter](#) California Magazine, USA
- [Trophy hunting tough to define](#) GreenBayPressGazette, USA
- [RIP Cecil the lion – what will be his legacy? And who should decide?](#) IIED, United Kingdom
- [The necessity of hunting](#) The Washington Post, USA
- [On the Conservation of Trolls](#) Conservation for the 21st Century, United Kingdom
- [Hunter Defends Big Game Hunting](#) Boston NPR News Station, USA
- [Cecil: fiction trumps fact, logic loses to hysteria](#) Business Day, South Africa

... AND ONE VERY INTERESTING VIDEO

[How the ban on lion hunting killed the lions](#) featuring Mikkel Legarth of Modisa Wildlife Project Botswana

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



SHANE MAHONEY ON CECIL THE LION AND TROPHY HUNTING

There's been a great deal of discussion regarding the Cecil the Lion. What has often been lacking is a balanced approach and more complete treatment of the related issue of trophy hunting. In response, Conservation Visions Inc. has produced a 16 minute film that features wildlife biologist, conservationist, and CEO of Conservation Visions Inc., Shane Mahoney. Shane reviews the issue, presents the facts as they are known, and provides excellent commentary on the realities of ecosystem and wildlife management, and evidence in support of legal and regulated hunting as a tool for conservation. We believe this is a valuable contribution to the larger, ongoing debate that has stemmed from what has become an international incident and social media tsunami. It was designed to hopefully engender further meaningful discussion amongst the hunting community and the general public.

Here's a YouTube link to the video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_WWEo7ofD4

An MP4 download is available at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zaayss0hu3kl45v/AABExloPqtPi7kCVt0ABIIJ6a?dl=0>

We encourage you to circulate this short film to your own contacts and throughout your own circles. Rather than being divisive and alarmist, the film identifies the Cecil phenomenon as an opportunity for all people to realize the challenges facing wildlife conservation and the role that hunting can and does play in supporting those. We also ask that you share this video through your social media, and we would encourage you to post it to your website, if you deem that appropriate. Feedback is welcome. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with Conservation Visions should you have questions, comments, or suggestions. **Email:** amanda@conservationvisions.com; **Web:** <http://conservationvisions.com/>

EXPERTS CALL ON EUROPEAN UNION TO ACKNOWLEDGE PIVOTAL ROLE OF COMMUNITIES

Secretariat of the EU Intergroup 'Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development'

Pavel Poc, Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the EP Intergroup on "Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development", hosted a meeting of international experts in collaboration with the IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (SULI), TRAFFIC, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), and the European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD).

Participants called upon EU decision-makers to acknowledge the pivotal role of communities in supporting wildlife conservation - including the combat against wildlife crime - in their

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

forthcoming strategies and action plans. "Front line communities can be powerful and positive partners in combating wildlife crime—we need approaches that recognize their needs and build their support for conservation," said Rosie Cooney, Chair of the IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods (SULi) Expert Group.

[World experts met in February 2015](#) in South Africa to share experiences on involving communities to achieve success in combating illegal use and trade of wildlife. Some of these experts made the journey to the European Parliament to present successful case studies where local people have been involved in fighting wildlife crime.

Susan Canney of the Mali Elephant Project and Rodgers Lubilo from the Southern African Wildlife College highlighted case studies of combating wildlife crime that would not be possible without community engagement. Communities living alongside wildlife typically have the best knowledge about who is doing the poaching. When they are empowered and given a stewardship role, communities can be the "eyes and ears" of anti-poaching efforts, and work closely with armed authorities to manage the threat of illegal poaching and trade.

"Local people will protect wildlife if they own it and have access to it. In parts of Southern Africa, trophy hunting and distribution of the revenues of it is critical in changing attitudes to wildlife among local communities. Communities should retain 100% of the revenues and should be able to make their own choices. Wildlife, money and jobs go side by side," said Rodgers Lubilo, who himself grew up in a rural village in Zambia and has first-hand understanding of the pressures facing the communities who live with wildlife.

Kenya is losing its wildlife at 4% per annum and losing land for wildlife to agricultural expansion at the rate of 8% per annum, which means that there is no space for the wildlife in the future unless its values are recognized through approaches such as payments for ecosystem services, said Calvin Cottar of Kenya-based Cottar's Safaris, a leading ecotourism operator.



Poor communities are vulnerable to economic pressures, and there can be powerful incentives for people to engage in poaching or to provide food, information or accommodation to criminals. It is therefore crucial to help support the rights and responsibilities of communities for wildlife management, and to support ways for communities to benefit from conservation, such as through greater returns from tourism and trophy hunting.

[**BEYOND ENFORCEMENT: COMMUNITIES, GOVERNANCE, INCENTIVES AND SUSTAINABLE USE IN COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME**](#)

HUNTING HELPS CONSERVE AFRICAN WILDLIFE HABITAT

Richard Estes

I'm writing in defense of hunting in Africa from the viewpoint of a biologist who has devoted half a century to studying, writing about and promoting conservation of its unequalled wealth of "big game."

International outrage over the killing of Cecil became viral when photos of this superb black-maned lion, an icon in Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park, illustrated accounts in the social media that it was lured out of the park and wore a satellite collar attached by Oxford University's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCru). The director, Prof. David Macdonald, one of the most

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

dedicated researchers and conservationists of African wildlife, has defended Wildcru's cooperation with professional hunters, and so has Panthera, another highly respected international organization devoted to conservation of the big cats. The fact that the killing of Cecil led anti-hunters to donate more than half of a million dollars in support of Oxford's lion research and conservation program, strikes me as one of the ironies surrounding this episode.

Here's another: In the 1960s, shortly before Rhodesia became Zimbabwe, some of the leading wildlife managers and ecologists from the U.S. and Europe carried out pioneering research in the country supported by Fulbright Scholarships, the Food and Agriculture Organization, American, European, and South African universities. I met and learned from some of them soon after beginning my own research on the wildebeest. I still have contact with colleagues and friends in Zimbabwe who have devoted their careers to conservation and sustainable use of Zimbabwe's wildlife.

Pioneering research on game ranching was first carried out by Fulbright scholars while Zimbabwe was still Rhodesia. The results made a growing number of landowners think of wildlife as a valuable natural resource that could be harvested, like any other crop, at a substantial profit. By the mid-1980s, Zimbabwe had one of the best managed and most effectively protected systems of conservation areas in Africa. Equally significant, the Parks and Wild Life Act of 1975 conferred ownership to landholders of wildlife on their property. The consequent growth of the private-sector wildlife industry resulted in a marked expansion of the distribution and abundance of most of the larger antelope species in commercial farming areas, from which these species had previously been widely eradicated to make way for agriculture and cattle ranching.

When South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia followed Zimbabwe's example, the result was the restocking of ranches and farms from which wildlife had previously been exterminated. At game auctions in South Africa, a prime sable bull may now be sold for up to \$25,000.

During the late 1980s and 1990s there was a decline in the levels of protection and management of Zimbabwe's national parks, safari and other wildlife areas administered by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management. In contrast, the wildlife industry on private land was booming, driven largely by the rapid growth of safari hunting.

The number of registered private game ranches rose from 50 in 1960 to more than 650 in 1995. A similar development had occurred on communal lands; since its commencement in the mid-late 1980s, the Community Areas Management Program for Indigenous Resources, also known as the Campfire Association, has extended its operations from two to more than 20 rural districts. As with private game ranches, safari hunting was the major source of revenue generated by Campfire Association districts.

Since 2000, large sections of the private-sector wildlife industry have been obliterated by the Mugabe government's reckless program of land resettlement. This has resulted in the often-illegal occupation of large areas of privately owned land, including many game ranches, with resultant large-scale destruction of wildlife. More than 90 percent of the country's white farmers have reportedly now been dispossessed of their land.

Zimbabwe's trophy hunting industry has managed to stay afloat (unlike the near-total collapse of the tourism industry), despite a substantial decline in the number of international hunting clients. The Campfire Association has continued to function without major disruptions, and some privately owned wildlife areas have so far escaped the carnage that has resulted from the land resettlement program.

Stopping trophy hunting in Zimbabwe would put another nail in the coffin of this bankrupt dictatorship and kleptocracy. The income earned by hunting safaris and money sent home by the thousands of expatriates who have fled the country are essential sources of foreign exchange. I don't see how my colleagues and friends who are still hanging on could subsist without it.

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

Comparing tourism and trophy hunting in Tanzania, the country I know best, shows interesting similarities and differences in the management of wildlife resources in the two nations. Twenty-five percent of Tanzania's land area is reserved for wildlife protection, the highest percentage of any African nation. The Wildlife Division (aka Game Department) has responsibility for managing and protecting all lands outside of national parks, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, and forest reserves, including wildlife on open and unclassified land. The National Parks and Ngorongoro Conservation Area, the primary tourist attractions, are relatively well-protected, but management of Game Reserves, Game Controlled Areas (GCA), Open Areas, and Wildlife Management Areas is decreasingly effective. Open Areas and some GCAs may actually exist only on maps.

One of the Wildlife Division's primary functions is regulating sport hunting, which is a permitted activity except in parks, forest reserves, and the NCA. Over 75 percent of the protected areas in Tanzania were originally set aside for trophy hunting. Approximately 20,500 hunting days are sold annually to 1,370 clients in 180 hunting blocks, generating a gross income for the industry of over \$27 million from daily rates. So Africa's big game brings in as much money as photographic tourism, which amounts to some 16 percent of Tanzania's foreign exchange. The ratio of tourists who come to see the wildlife and hunters who come to shoot it is many hundreds to one — arguably mirroring the difference between the U.S. middle class and the millionaire top one percent!

The Wildlife Division earns 60 percent of its income from license fees levied for each species available in hunting blocks. These are leased for five years at a time to outfitters that employ licensed professional hunters to guide the tourist sportsmen. Each year the Wildlife Division sets the quotas in the hunting blocks, and hunting companies have to generate revenue of at least 40 percent of the value of the quota for each species.

Failing to do so, the outfitter is required to make a top-up payment to the Wildlife Division to meet the 40 percent minimum. The outfitter is further required to contribute to anti-poaching, road construction, and community development. Outfitters also help to build schools, drill water wells, bring in doctor(s)/nurses, and provide protein to locals by donating hunted meat, along with employing the local people to act as company trackers, skimmers, cooks, and cleaning ladies.

The difference between the cost of a hunting safari and a tour through Tanzania's protected parks and reserves is mind-boggling. A 16-day guided tour on the Northern Circuit, starting with Tarangire and including Serengeti NP, costs \$7,000 to \$10,000, plus travel to and from Tanzania.

Hunting clients on a 21-day safari can easily end up paying over \$100,000!

Considering that a three-week hunting safari in Zimbabwe, South Africa or Namibia may cost half as much, it is amazing that so many hunters choose Tanzania. But there's one big difference: Unlike nearly all hunting reserves in southern Africa, Tanzania's hunting blocks are still unfenced and therefore perceived to be wilder. In addition to a much greater diversity of game, Tanzania also conjures up thoughts of the "classic African safaris" that Ruark, Hemingway or Roosevelt went on and depicted in the books that many hunters have read.

The outlook for conservation of Africa's wildlife in this century depends on the continuing protection of its parks and other wildlife preserves.

Africa's human population passed one billion in 2000 and is increasing in most countries at 2 to 3 percent a year. Inevitably, natural habitat is being transformed and developed to meet human needs in nearly every country. Even parks and game reserves set aside for wildlife are under pressure, while ongoing development between them is eliminating connecting corridors and making them into islands. Meanwhile, climate change keeps wildlife in these protected areas from changing their range.

In Tanzania, the mainland population almost tripled from 1967 to 2002, from 11.96 million to 34.6 million. At the present growth rate of 2.3 percent, people are expected to number about 56

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

million in 2020. Surely the needs of the human population will transform all habitable land that is unprotected. But meanwhile, tourism and sport hunting are vital for protecting existing wilderness areas.

There are just two possibilities I can think of that could slow or even stop the elimination of wildlife habitat in most African countries: granting ownership of wildlife on private property, as in Zimbabwe, and the growing establishment of international peace parks jointly managed by neighboring countries.

Dr. Richard Despard Estes, a biologist specializing in the behavior of mammals in mainland Africa is an Associate of the Harvard Museum of Natural History and Research Associate of the Smithsonian Conservation and Research Center, a member and former chairman of the [IUCN Antelope Specialist Group](#) and an authority on wildebeest behavior. Dr. Estes has written two guides for travelers to Africa: [The Behavior Guide to African Mammals](#), University of California Press, 1991, and [The Safari Companion: A Guide to Watching African Mammals](#), Chelsea Green Publishing Company, 1999. His most recent work, [The Gnu's World – Serengeti Wildebeest Ecology and Life History](#), University of California Press, 2014 presents a synthesis of research conducted over a span of fifty years, mainly on the wildebeest in the Ngorongoro and Serengeti ecosystems.

This article is Copyright © 2015 Monadnock Ledger-Transcript 2015 and permission has been given by Dr. Estes to publish it in this issue of African Indaba.

TANZANIA'S ELEPHANT MANAGEMENT: TWO STEPS FORWARD BUT ONE STEP BACK?

Marco Pani

Two recent articles gave me some food for thoughts. The first one is a scientific paper published in 2015 in [Land Use Policy](#), “*Elephants over the Cliff: Explaining Wildlife Killings in Tanzania*”. This paper presents an event that occurred in West Kilimanjaro in 2009 when numerous villagers chased a herd of elephants over a cliff, killing six of them, in retaliation for continuous crop damages. At that time conservation in the study area was implemented without local communities having any real influence on decision-making. This led to a feeling of being marginalized and disempowered, which caused resistance to conservation.

Although this was a tragedy for people and elephant both, Tanzania has since taken steps to improve human-wildlife relations, culminating in one of the most important reforms to Community Based Conservation policy implemented in Africa in recent decades: the Government of Tanzania has, during a workshop held in Arusha in early July 2015, dramatically improved the revenue sharing system governing its Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs).

The Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism ordered “urgent” review of the current WMA Regulations (2012) to strengthen WMA Governance systems at all level in order to enhance transparency, and also “urgent” review of Non-Consumptive Wildlife Utilization Regulation (2008) (affecting photographic tourism), including revised benefit sharing arrangement as follows: WMA 75%; Tanzania Wildlife Protection Fund (TWPF) 20%; District Council(DC) 5%.

The Minister also announced new benefit-sharing arrangements from tourist-hunting operations as follows (in brackets old percentages):

Block Fees: WMA 75%; TWPF 25%; DC 0% (No changes)

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

Game Fees: WMA 65% (45%); TWPF 25%; DC 10% (15%);
Treasury 0% (15%)

Conservation Fees: WMA 70% (45%); TWPF 25%; DC 5% (0%);
Treasury 0% (30%)

Observers Fees: WMA 70% (45%); TWPF 25%; DC 5 % (0%);
Treasury 0% (30%)

Permit Fees: WMA 70% (15%); TWPF 25%; DC 5% (0%);
Treasury 0% (60%)

This ground-breaking initiative places Tanzania right after Namibia in terms of the percentage of revenue sharing in favor of local rural communities. That is an impressive place to be. It is also an important step towards a full "devolution of authority to local communities" in the context of wildlife and natural resource management on which the Government of Tanzania has formed a national Task Force to analyze institutional arrangements needed to aim at the 100% of revenue sharing as in the Namibian CBRNM framework.

As I wrote [in a previous article](#) for African Indaba, Tanzania has finally recognized that *"In the absence of economic benefits accruing from the elephant (or wildlife in general), negative attitudes towards the elephant will heighten and may place the elephant population under risk of increased poaching, which may reverse the progress made by many countries to date. To compensate for the direct costs associated with living alongside elephants, which include crop damage, injury and loss of human life, the elephant must yield economic returns to the landholders."* Tanzania's new regulations put this recognition into action for the betterment of communities and wildlife.

This reform has enormous potential. The conservation community should give all possible support for its careful implementation.

The second article is a news item published on the Telegraph, a UK-based newspaper. Titled ["Tanzania's elephant catastrophe: 'We recalculated about 1,000 times because we didn't believe what we were seeing'"](#) is an account of the 2013 and 2014 aerial surveys that took place in Tanzania, the latter under the [Great Elephant Census](#) project.

While the issues surrounding CBNRM are in the process of being addressed, the second article cast some shadows on Tanzania's credibility. Not because of the poaching crisis, that nobody is denying, but for the increasing doubts that many experts have in the quality of the recent aerial surveys done by the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI).

Several questions remain unanswered, dating back to 2006, where a country-wide aerial survey was discarded by IUCN experts as unreliable.

The country-wide 2009 Survey apparently had no issues but the available and final report contains no record that cameras were used during the surveys, in particular the surveys of the Selous and Ruaha ecosystems. The use of cameras is not mentioned in the methodology in the published report, and therefore it is assumed that they were not used. As they were used in the 2013 and 2014 surveys this fact could seriously affect comparability.

In a KAZA TFCA Partner Countries Workshop held in Kasane, Botswana in April 2014 to plan for the Great Elephant Census (GEC), the use of cameras in elephant aerial surveys was discussed and remained unresolved following reports that in some cases the estimates of population numbers were lower when cameras were used. The GEC guidelines for the surveys were changed so that cameras did not have to be used where teams wished to retain comparability with previous surveys and time series data.

It can be argued that more reliable data was gathered from photographs, and that visual estimates over-estimated numbers. As I understand it, the resistance from southern African scientists centered on the ability of cameras to record animals under dense tree canopy cover. It's

much easier to spot animals by naked eye before they move out of sight, and hence out of the camera view. In any case the different methodology between the 2009 and 2013 and 2014 surveys should be accounted.

The 2011 Aerial Survey that took place in Selous is a mystery: no survey report is available.

The final reports of the 2013 Surveys in the Selous and Ruaha have not yet been made available and therefore many of the parameters of these surveys are still unknown. It is very difficult to analyze the reported estimates without full parameters and data available. The 2013 Survey used a methodology that has several differences with the MIKE Standards.

I refer in particular to paragraph 1.2 of [Aerial Survey Standards for the MIKE Program Version 2.0](#) that states: "*It is acceptable to change stratum boundaries from a previous survey to accommodate changes in population distributions or other requirements, as long as the overall survey area boundary is **not** changed.*"

It seems to me that the overall survey area boundary, at least in Selous, has changed every year since the 2009 aerial survey. For example, in 2009 the survey area was 80,390 km², 87,421 km² in 2013 and 105,730km² in 2014. This seem not to adhere to the MIKE standards quoted above, because of the ever changing strata boundaries and also because strata detail and accounts are not given in the report as it is done in several high quality Southern African aerial survey reports.

Moreover, note 13 of the Aerial Survey Standards for MIKE, referenced above, states: "*The probability that animals will be seen is strongly affected by height, speed and strip width. Surveys done at different speeds and **strip widths** are therefore not comparable. A height of 300ft above ground is a standard for most surveys of elephants. As a measure of comparability, it has become common to characterize surveys in terms of searching rate, which integrates strip width and speed and which is expressed in area searched per unit time or time to search unit area.*"

It seems that changing the strip width between surveys makes them incomparable as it could have happened between 2009 and 2013. The use of searching rate as a parameter apparently is now widely used to ensure comparability. This data is missing from the 2013 survey reports and is not clear in the 2014 reports of which I was given a copy after their public presentation in June 2015.

The comparability of the reports may be compromised if Tanzania is not adhering to MIKE standards and is changing the methodology every few years. This makes it hard to estimate how much Tanzania's elephant population has fallen and how badly the country has been affected by poachers.

The 2014 Surveys found a very low 1+2 carcass ratio (i.e. the index of the elephant mortality rate during the year preceding the survey) in several ecosystems, including Ruaha-Rungwa which according to the 2013 Survey had an estimated elephant population of slightly more than 20,000 elephants and, according to the 2014 Survey, had only 8,200 elephants. How can an ecosystem lose 12,000 elephants in one year with a 1+2 carcass ratio of only 2% (11 elephants carcasses in category 1 and 2)? Could it also be that the 2013 was grossly over estimated, or the 2014 survey was grossly under estimated?

Among the hypotheses in the Survey reports, the most fascinating is that poachers are using a new technique and are hiding the carcasses! It is hard to imagine that these gangs of criminals who are slaughtering elephants at a superfast rate are then going around the bush with bulldozers to dig big holes and hiding the carcasses! But if this hypothesis will prove to be true a deep investigation will be needed into the anti-poaching abilities of Tanzania.

Suggesting they have their own concerns about the surveys, TAWIRI has recommended in the reports to repeat this survey and other ecosystems again!

I hope the [IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group](#) that is now auditing and validating these surveys will come up with some responses to the doubts expressed above, provided that TAWIRI and

the Government of Tanzania will give IUCN full access to the raw data of the 2014 and 2013 aerial surveys.

Aerial surveys are a fundamental tool not only to provide wildlife estimates but especially to guide management decisions. TAWIRI is no doubt trying its best in a difficult situation, but it has to probably improve its reporting (IUCN hopefully will dissipate the methodology doubts expressed above) so as to give wildlife managers the good guidance they can rely upon. It needs to take a step back, so that it can move forward again with management oriented surveys.

Marco Pani is an international consultant in wildlife trade and management with a keen interest in Community-Based Conservation. He has served for 5 years as Director of TRAFFIC Europe Italy's Office, being instrumental in the drafting of the new CITES legislation of Italy, 3 years as Associate Enforcement Officer in the CITES Secretariat in Geneva and 9 years as staff in the Italian Ministry of Environment. He is a member of the [IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group \(SULi\)](#) and [IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group](#), Vice-President of [IWMC-World Conservation Trust](#) and Advisor to [Conservation Force](#).

WHY THE HUNTING CONVERSATION HURTS CONSERVATION

Simon Espley [Africa Geographic Magazine](#)

The thing about hunting is that the topic is so polarizing that it prevents meaningful discourse between people who probably have more in common than they care to admit. And, while the protagonists battle it out, the grim reapers continue to harvest Africa's wildlife and other natural resources.

We humans tend to silo information to suit our personal requirements, and make enemies out of those who feel differently. We might agree on 99% of things, but the 1% apparently makes us enemies.

Let's face it, we either hate Kendall Jones or we adore her – there is no middle ground. So the chatter around her tends to be angry, emotional, defensive and meaningless in the greater scheme of things – which is of course what she wants: the more attention she can generate the higher she ranks in the race for social media fame. And while we bolster her fame, the process of turning Africa's incredible biodiversity into trophies, trinkets, medicine and lifestyle products continues apace. The enemies of conservation are well-resourced, focused and



Cartoon by Walter Pichler

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

not distracted by the chatter about who has the moral high ground.

I find myself discussing hunting with people from all walks of life. I make a point of speaking to hunters to try and understand their motivation. In my experience people are mostly either rabidly for or rabidly against hunting. This rabid focus results in an inability to see facts or opinions that are not directly in line of sight, and this kills the opportunity to learn from each other and work together towards a common goal.

Many of the NGOs that tend towards emotional campaigns and demand-side strategies to solicit donor funding are from the “developed” world, while many of the more practical approaches and supply-side campaigns come from within Africa itself. While some “developed” world protagonists call for tourism boycotts on African countries that offer trophy hunting, they tend to ignore the fact that it’s largely their fellow countrymen who are doing the hunting, and that hurting the tourism industry will remove livelihoods, reduce protected areas and drive more people and resources into hunting. Try explaining that to a rabid anti-hunting campaigner.

Personally, I find the act of hunting for pleasure or trophies unconscionable and I find it sad that many trophy hunters resort to the default argument that killing animals is good for conservation. There are indeed examples where community-based hunting programs, in remote areas that are not suitable for tourism, do provide meaningful funding for communities and, ironically, do lead to the recovery of the targeted species (Namibia has a few such examples), but this is by no means the norm. And many trophy hunters get upset when it is suggested that these examples are few and far between and that the overall picture is not pretty.

One of the problems with hunting as a topic is that it’s a complex issue. People are by and large lazy, so little research is done outside of a narrow range of personal interests. There are so many types of hunting, such as subsistence hunting by communities on their own land; hunting on fenced private farms that choose wildlife over sheep; trophy hunting in unfenced areas near national parks; canned hunting and so on, and each has its own set of implications. And there are the moral/ethical considerations to weigh with the conservation implications. In my view you shouldn’t lump all hunting debate into one pot and stir, you should rather try to understand each situation and then debate based on its merits. In that way you avoid generalizing and insulting large groups of people (on both sides of the debate).

I was recently asked to attend the preview of a rhino horn pro-trade documentary film, and to provide constructive feedback. The documentary was put together by a group of experienced, respected people (some of whom I know personally and have great respect for) and I was one of an audience of about 50. The documentary makes a passionate plea for CITES to permit the trade in rhino horn – and some of the content is compelling. Unfortunately the documentary came across to me as one-sided, with some claims being made that were rather ambitious and others that were simply not accurate. For example, it claimed that Kenya’s wildlife has been decimated since the ban on trophy hunting in 1977, and that hunting is therefore essential for the survival of African wildlife. I stood up and pointed out that both Tanzania and Mozambique have ongoing hunting industries and yet their wildlife has also been decimated, therefore the attempt to position hunting as the cure for poaching was disingenuous and did not cater for the complexity of the situation. I was hoping for intelligent debate, but sadly the panel of experts shied away from the issue, folding their arms and avoiding eye contact. Even the chairman tried to move me away from my question. It was awkward. I stood my ground and requested clarity on the issue. A well-known hunter who remained silent that evening subsequently described me on social media as an “animal rightest” – I think he meant it as an insult. And therein lies the problem – when intelligent probing questions result in insults, censorship and cessation of discussions, what chance does conservation stand?

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

The team at Africa Geographic have to deal with ongoing attacks from people on both sides of the hunting debate – alternatively describing us as “bunny-huggers” or “right wing hunting promoters”, depending on the nature of the content on that day. We suffer insults, profanities and even death threats. Our mission is to educate and inspire people to celebrate Africa and do good for the continent. We are determined to bring you content that we feel meets that objective, as difficult as some of it is to stomach.

In my discussions with hunters, I find that the reasons they commonly give for pursuing their passion just don't add up as being exclusive to hunting. They relate to being outdoors, the bush skills required, the thrill of being close to danger etc. – all of which I get in spades when I walk in remote areas and track wild animals to observe them up close. During one recent fireside discussion a hunter called me “ignorant and stupid” for doing all of that without a gun – without any knowledge of my bush experience. When I suggested that the only thing separating him and I in our respective pursuits was the act of killing, he became defensive and insulting. But after a while he admitted that it was in fact the act of killing that gave him the ultimate rush, and that my strategy of bush walking without weapons just can't measure up. I respect him for coming clean on that issue and suspect that it was a cathartic discussion for him – it certainly was for me.

On the other hand, in my discussions with anti-hunters I have found that many of them have the same knee-jerk response and lager mentality. It seems impossible to get them to accept that there are examples where hunting does work to keep communities gainfully employed, relatively free from animal-human conflict and that the target species even recovers and grows in numbers. The anti-hunting lobby seems to rely largely on emotion to win votes, and contradicting facts seem to be an inconvenience.

It's a complex situation, but the facts deserve to be taken into account. The Kruger National Park, South Africa's flagship conservation and tourism drawcard, is a classic example of how complex the situation is, but the facts are compelling (this short summary is of necessity abbreviated, so for more information [read this post](#)). Afrikaner “Voortrekkers” moved into the Kruger area in the mid 1800's, utilizing the wildlife to survive – there seemed to be no limit to the available wildlife. The arrival of gold prospectors also put pressure on wildlife, with active trade in horns, skin and meat, and the arrival of “sportsmen” (trophy hunters) from Europe finally resulted in the decimation of most of the wildlife by the early 1900's. The government at the time tried to implement a series of laws to regulate hunting, none of which were successful. Eventually a number of game reserves were proclaimed, the beginnings of what is now the Kruger National Park. Today many nearby farms and reserves offer hunting, even some that are fenced into the greater Kruger and recognized as tourism brands. Much of the Kruger wildlife can migrate into these areas, putting them at risk, but not as much risk as they face on cattle and citrus farms where there is little tolerance for wild animals. And so the Kruger area has recovered from historical plunder and there is an uneasy truce between hunting, tourism and conservation. There are examples of foul play, but broadly the system works and it stands as an example of how things can progress if different groups co-operate for a common good.

My parting thought is to challenge you to get involved in the debate. Whatever your views please try to respect others and their opinions and harness your emotions to fuel your energy and not to override your common sense. Those of you engaged in hunting do your best to rid your circles of abuse and illegal practices. Let's take on the threats to Africa's biodiversity and wild areas as a combined, united force and face the real enemies.

Keep the passion.

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

Simon Espley, like many people who love Africa's wildlife, often tackles contentious issues. In THE THING ABOUT HUNTING he aims to find a way for parties on either end of this heated debate to find a way to move forward. His article was first published in [Africa Geographic Magazine](#) (30th January 2015). We thank the editor of Africa Geographic for giving permission to bringing this article to the attention of our readers.

CIC STATE MEMBER – THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

CIC Press Release



Dr. Adelhelm Meru, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism of the United Republic of Tanzania participated in the 62nd CIC General Assembly in Pravets, Bulgaria in April 2015 and was an honored guest at the first ever official CIC State Members' Meeting. The overwhelming success of this meeting of state representatives with the CIC leadership prompted the United Republic of Tanzania to subsequently send a declaration to CIC President Bernard Lozé, conveying the wish of the Minister and Government to reinstate the United Republic of Tanzania as CIC State Member.

The United Republic of Tanzania is rich in biodiversity and has about 44% of its territory under conservation. The constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania advocates the sustainable utilization of natural resources for present and future generations. Tanzania, one of the leading hunting destinations in Africa advocates well-regulated and sustainable hunting as an important tool for incentive driven conservation. The CIC State Member Platform is a forum to exchange cutting edge scientific knowledge and practical experiences in legislation and enforcement.

LION TROUBLE IN NORTH-WEST NAMIBIA

Helge Denker [THE NAMIBIAN](#)

We were lucky. The giraffe was lying right on the track. A large mound of meat silhouetted against yellow grass backlit by the early sun - with the outline of a lion crouched alongside. A male with an impressive mane, appearing almost as large as the body of the giraffe. A once-in-a-lifetime experience for me, after so many years of travels, to see a fresh lion kill at such close range, here, on the fringes of the Namib Desert, in Torra conservancy in the Erongo-Kunene community conservation area. A once-in-a-lifetime experience even for community conservation veteran Garth Owen-Smith, who was accompanying us, who has lived and worked in this area for half a century and knows more about these lions than most; who woke with a start one night while sleeping out in the veld in Kaoko many years ago, to find a lion yanking at his foot. With a shotgun blast over the cat's head, he managed to dissuade it of its intentions. A reminder, as we listened to Owen-Smith's story, that lions do consider humans fair game.

Right now, there are 30 known lions in Torra alone, and over 150 estimated for the north-west. The pride this male belongs to is believed to consist of 14 individuals. The male had obviously

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

brought the young but already huge giraffe down alone, most likely having ambushed it from the cover of a sprawling *boscia* nearby. Now he was protecting his kill until his pride would join him - which by the next morning some of them had: three females with small cubs, which mostly remained hidden somewhere in dense vegetation near their mother.

For a day-and-a-half, we spent many hours with the lions at their kill. They are relatively unbothered by vehicles and gave us a wonderful, intimate encounter.

It is not even one of the tourism concessions that are considered the wildlife strongholds for the area. It is communal farmland. Land where people generate their livelihood from a mixture of livestock herding, the odd patchy garden and wildlife-based ventures.

The fact that the lions are becoming increasingly accustomed to vehicles and people actually poses an additional threat to the local community, who have to live with the predators on a daily basis.

The conservation of these lions is hugely important in the face of rapidly diminishing global lion ranges and numbers. In Namibia, both lion ranges and numbers are expanding, at least for the time being. Current population estimates for the country indicate somewhere between 600 and 800 animals. Yet Owen-Smith is predicting real lion trouble for the north-west, and says actions must be taken now.

He saw lions starving at the end of the drought of the early 1980s, when lion numbers - and drought conditions - were similar to what they are now. Droughts can be a time of plenty for predators, and the poor and patchy rainy seasons of the last years have given many of the lions in the north-west favorable conditions by concentrating game in the few areas where rain has fallen, or by forcing game to use isolated waterholes.

This has led to highly successful lion breeding and unusually large prides. But game dispersal in search of grazing can also work against the lions, as it did in the early '80s, and will then bring them into increasing conflict with livestock. Today there are significantly more people and their livestock in the north-west than 30 years ago.

As the drought becomes more severe, farmers trying to access the last available grazing are forced to move livestock into areas frequented by lions. "People do not want to hear about lions," says Vitalis Florry. "The lions have made farmers poor." Talking with the Torra conservancy field officer (and livestock farmer), it is clear that the trouble is already here, and brewing.

In the last two months, one horse, two cattle, three donkeys and 25 goats have been lost to lions in the conservancy. One of the three lion-proof stock enclosures built with donor funding to solve the problem, was demolished by elephants last year. The other two are working well, but such enclosures are costly to erect and currently provide only localized relief for farmers.

The lions now range across at least 25 conservancies, and the sentiments of local communities in most of these are similar: the costs and dangers of living with lions far outweigh the benefits. "Lion rangers" are being employed in several conservancies to help monitor lion movements, and alert farmers to herd their livestock to safety to avoid conflicts. Ranger salaries are being paid partly by conservancies, partly by tourism operators and partly by NGOs. But the concept is not as simple as it sounds.

Without remote tracking technology, monitoring lion movements in rugged terrain can be near impossible. While about a third of the adult lions have been fitted with transmitters, mostly by Philip 'Flip' Stander as part of the Desert Lion Conservation Project, the 'early warning system' that the remote tracking could enable is currently not active.

One of the issues is funding. Another is manpower. Stander and his project cannot do that job alone. Conservation NGO Africat has taken this on in some conservancies, but has thus augmented monitoring in only a small portion of lion range. Flip Stander's focus is research. He has

achieved a gargantuan task for lion conservation and is continuing to gather and share an incredible wealth of data. Yet, as Stander's work has brought international attention to the lions, that attention has also taken him away from his research to create more awareness, most recently by helping to produce another documentary 'Vanishing Kings' about his subjects.

But all the desert lion fame alone will not save them. Most of the people living in rural areas, and especially livestock farmers, want to see fewer lions.

Actively zoning core wildlife areas in conservancies helps. But wildlife moves, especially during times of drought. This is marginal wildlife habitat. All game needs to wander and use available resources to stay alive - for lions that includes the odd livestock meal. More must be done to reduce conflicts. But some conflicts will always occur, and these need to be offset by clear and direct returns from lions.

Tourism is part of that long-term solution. Yet current tourism contributions are limited. It is mostly the joint-venture lodges that generate meaningful returns in their areas of operation. Some operators are still refusing to pay anything. Input from the mobile tourism sector [Editor's note: mostly 4x4 enthusiast from South Africa, but also from Europe and US] is generally meagre. The TOSCO Trust (Tourism Supporting Conservation) is working hard to change that, and a system of conservation contributions in a few core areas is being tried out. Currently, the claim that tourism returns could fund all conservation initiatives in the north-west is not apparent on the ground.

Trophy hunting is making an important contribution to conservancy income, especially in terms of funding game guard salaries and other running costs. Yet the trophy hunting of lions is extremely controversial. Hunters are accused of always singling out prime males, skewing population demographics and upsetting pride structures.

Desert Lion Conservation Project data shows that significantly more lions are killed by locals than by trophy hunters. Targeted trophy hunting of individual, suitable lions could reduce lion troubles and generate significant conservation revenue. But poor practices by some hunting operators have reinforced the stigma, and around the globe pressure is mounting to ban trophy hunting of lions altogether [Editor's note: Denker's article was written before the lions got names].

There is a whole new guard of concerned conservationists fighting the cause of the lions and collecting funds for desert lion conservation. These efforts are making an important difference, especially to lion research, but as long as they remain ad hoc, will only offer short-term relief. If lions are to survive outside national parks for generations to come, more permanent funding streams need to flow directly into conflict mitigation.

Under the Ministry of Environment and Tourism's Human-Wildlife Self Reliance Scheme, compensation payments for losses are made according to strict conditions. After initial start-up funding from the MET's Game Products Trust Fund, conservancies now need to pay compensation from own income, reinforcing the importance of generating direct returns from wildlife.

The concept of wildlife incentives is being coordinated by the Natural Resources Working Group of NACSO. The idea includes securing funds from external conservation partners to match tourism operator contributions.

"Funding needs to be used effectively where it is most needed," says Russell Vinjevold, who coordinates human-wildlife conflict mitigation for Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation. "The problem is finding a lasting balance between the aspirations of people and the needs of wildlife."

Does it all boil down to money? Actually, it all comes down to people and land use. Lions are large and dangerous predators that are difficult to live with. If we want communal farmers to put up with this threat to their livestock and their lives, we need all the innovation we are capable of. We

need to stop talking about saving 'the last of the desert lions', because we can hardly expect more than 150 lions to coexist with people in the arid north-west.

We need to listen to the people out there and find solutions that will help them live with the lions that are there now.

First published in The Namibian on 2015-06-24

CRUSHING IVORY: (HOPEFULLY) NOT OUR BEST WARFARE

Ben Carter, Executive Director Dallas Safari Club

President Nixon was the first to declare war on drugs. Drug abuse, he said, is public enemy No. 1. He vowed more federal resources to prevent new addicts and rehab existing ones. That was 1971. One study estimates the U.S. now spends \$51 billion annually on its drug war. And, by all accounts, drug abuse has skyrocketed. A memorable line from a movie sums it up perfectly: "This can't be a war. Wars end."

So now we've declared war on poachers. Like Nixon, President Obama has promised more federal resources to prevent the indiscriminate killing and black-market trafficking of elephants, rhinos and other wildlife.

Like the war on drugs, the poaching war also is well intended. But unless we move beyond silly political posturing and showmanship, it may be equally counterproductive.

The flagship in this war, so far, is publicly destroying ivory. As I write this on June 19, 2015, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials are proudly loading a full ton of raw elephant tusks, antique carvings and other seized ivory into a huge rock crusher parked in New York City's Times Square. Because of the high-profile location, there is heightened bureaucratic pomp, photo ops and speechifying. Soon someone will hit a switch and promptly convert \$3 million worth of valuable animal-products into coarse dust.

Ironically, the agency is accepting proposals for re-purposing this dust into educational art projects or symbolic totems to help build public awareness of the plight of elephants. How about pressing the crushed ivory into the shape of, say, an elephant tusk?

Destroying ivory, war generals claim, will "send a message." But what that message is, and who's supposed to receive it, and how it might allegedly make a difference, isn't exactly clear. Will Asian consumers, by far the biggest market for ivory, see a Twitter post about Times Square and suddenly rethink the material values of a thousand-year-old culture? Will the cartel traffickers have an abrupt change of heart? Will African triggermen decide to blow off tonight's profits?

To me, the real message is loud and clear: Now more elephants must die to replenish the ivory stocks that we just destroyed for a publicity stunt.

Some law enforcement officials, particularly elected ones, also like to "send messages" by inviting the media and making a show out of setting fire to seized marijuana. We all know how effective that's been in the war on drugs... But at least no drug bust ever ends with officers burning a pile of seized cash!

Instead, valuable assets are converted to more and better law enforcement, and that's a concept worth considering in the war on poachers. Saving an elephant tonight requires more and better game wardens. More good guys with guns will always discourage bad guys with guns, even in the African bush. And new but expensive technologies such as drones are proving effective in

wildlife protection. But the Dark Continent simply doesn't have a superpower bank account. More funding, instead of more unintelligible message sending, would have been meaningful.

Sport hunters walk the talk better than anyone else in Africa. Law enforcement efforts funded by hunters are among the best tools for sustaining wildlife populations against poachers. When managed hunting goes away, so do the animals. It's a fact that too many animal lovers can't seem to wrap their heads around.

Here's a more elementary notion. Basic supply-and-demand principles suggest poaching would slow if ivory stockpiles were used to flood, rather than deny, the Asian markets.

If that happened today, some experts believe, Africa could produce enough ivory to meet world demand forever. Imagine African nations, with cooperation from U.S. and Chinese governments, effectively managing, regulating, harvesting, profiting from – and thus ensuring the future of – renewable natural resources. Sounds a lot like conservation.

Listen, I'm not ready to advocate legalizing drugs or free trade in ivory. The problems are more complex than that, and right now I doubt that either of those fixes would bring ideal ends to their respective wars. But I am extremely confident that destroying elephant tusks isn't part of the answer. It just seems pointless.

Wildlife poaching is a serious threat. Taking it seriously should begin with a reality check, followed by international collaboration, resources and way smarter tactics. Surely we can do better than stupid publicity stunts.

This article was first published in *GameTrails*, Vol. XXII/2, the magazine of the Dallas Safari Club.

Formally introduced in 2015 as an official member of the IUCN, the United Nations' International Union for the Conservation of Nature, [Dallas Safari Club](#) (DSC) is increasingly recognized as an international leader in conservation. DSC's mission is conserving wildlife and wilderness lands, educating youth and the general public, and promoting and protecting the rights and interests of hunters worldwide. Get involved at www.biggame.org.

NEWS FROM AND ABOUT AFRICA

Compiled by Gerhard R Damm

Angola

Pedro vaz Pinto reported from Cangandala and Luando about the Giant Sable project. In Cangandala, Mercury, the dominant bull has now fully matured, and the team observed him at close distance grazing very relaxed. The trap camera showed that the females seem healthy and should be calving in July. The two main herds are increasing in number and most of the animals are very young. The prospects are good for Cangandala in the short term. In Luando our objectives were hindered by the very long grass. At the water holes checked by the team poaching signs were not evident. But generally poaching pressure is not diminishing and the rangers feel helpless to counter-act increasing numbers of well-armed and organized poacher groups. Photos can be downloaded at [Pedro's site](#).

Congo

Malinois, the short-haired version of the Belgian Shepherd, are used on the periphery of Odzala-Kokoua National Park in the Congo by African Parks and Application of Law for Fauna (PALF) to sniff out ivory, bushmeat and weapons. Recently they found 380 kg of bushmeat (mainly giant

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

pangolin and water chevrotain) at SICOFOR – a Chinese-run logging concession in southern Congo. The PALF sniffer dogs have been fundamental in many arrests in the Congo. Source [Africa Geographic](#)

European Union

In July 2015 the EU became the 181st party to join the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The European Commission services have started the preparatory work for an EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking, for which the EU accession to CITES constitutes an important milestone. The EU has been a major supporter of the CITES Convention for many years, especially in relation to elephant poaching and ivory trade.

Malawi-Zambia

Malawi and Zambia signed a Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (TFCA) treaty to protect their common biological resources in a unique conservation and development area along their boundaries. Malawi President Mutharika said that the treaty is of mutual socio-economic benefits to the peoples of both countries particularly those living within and adjacent to the TFCA and that the right to utilize natural resources comes with the obligation of doing it in a responsible manner that safeguards their continued existence of posterity. Zambia President Edgar Lungu said the treaty will bind the two countries in the cause of conservation and management of the natural resources.

Mozambique

The Mail and Guardian South Africa reported about the blatant rape of Mozambique's old growth forest by Chinese timber traders. A former rural subsistence farmer turned illegal logger, who cuts about 40 trees per day, said he was lured into this illegal work by Chinese who visited the area and offered him a high salary. He and his two helpers earn between 160 and 300 Mozambican meticais (between R60 and R100) cutting high value trees. Tens of thousands of tree trunks sit on the compounds at Beira waiting to be shipped to China. Read the full article [HERE](#).

South Africa

The socio-economic development model of the [South African Hunters' and Game Conservation Association](#) (SAHGCA) that promotes the development of economies of scale through partnerships between communities, private sector and government in nodes of concentrated extensive wildlife areas is gaining widespread support. It was presented at the recent workshop for the development of South Africa's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and accepted as NBSAP flagship project. As the only representative of the Wildlife Industry at the SANBI workshop, SAHGCA ensured the inclusion of the role of game farmers and hunters in the national strategy. The MoU between SAHGCA and PAMISH has also been signed to promote the local wildlife economy in and around Mayibuye Game Reserve, Mkhambathini Municipality, and Ophathe Nature Reserve. SAHGCA would be providing technical support and guidance in the establishment of responsible wildlife related activities, income streams, including hunting and downstream value chain enterprises associated with these areas.

South Africa

A new study by researchers from Oxford University's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCru), TRAFFIC and the University of Witwatersrand, were published in [Bones of Contention: An assessment of the South African trade in African Lion bones and other body parts](#). The study finds there is little evidence that the Lion bone trade in South Africa is currently adversely impacting wild

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

lion populations there, but warns the situation needs to be closely monitored and that too little is known about the situation elsewhere in Africa. From 2008 to 2011, the official number of skeletons legally exported with CITES permits totaled 1160 skeletons (about 10.8 tons of bones), 573 of them in 2011 alone, with 91% of them destined for Lao PDR. The North West, Free State and Eastern Cape, all home almost exclusively to captive-bred Lions, were the only provinces to issue export permits. The authors recommend Lion breeding facilities are closely monitored to restrict opportunities for abuse of the system for financial gain (Source [TRAFFIC](#)).

USA – China – Africa

US Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in July that Beijing and Washington are both working to end commercial ivory trading. Jewell met in Beijing with Vice Premier Wang Yang and Forestry Administration head Zhao Shucong.

USA (New York)

Senate Bill 4686 backed by animal “rights” groups, seeking to ban the importation, possession, sale or transportation of “Big Five African Species” (meaning the African elephant, African lion, African leopard, black rhinoceros and white rhinoceros and including hunting trophies) was successfully blocked by New York lawmakers. Opponents argued that the bill would not only prevent hunters in New York from participating in legal hunting activity and bringing home their trophies but also have a deleterious impact on these species (Source [Ammoland](#)).

USA (Texas)

Dallas Safari Club has entered the ranks of IUCN MEMBER by a vote of the Council Committee and the Council Plenary! Also admitted are the Swiss and French hunting associations.



THE CONSERVATION IMPERATIVE.

The Conservation Imperative is an informal, unaffiliated organization created for the purpose of promoting the philosophy of sustainable utilization of wildlife in accordance with the IUCN's sustainable use policy across the full spectrum of wildlife management practices.

Read and view the most recent articles and short movies

[Interview with Prof. Brian Child Part 1](#)

[Interview with Prof. Brian Child Part 2](#)

[Interview with Prof. Brian Child Part 3](#)

[The Fate of the African Lion: Tanzania](#)

[The Fate of the African Lion: Zambia](#)

[The Fate of the African Lion: The Buby Valley Conservancy](#)

[Interview with David Hopcraft, Swara Plains Conservancy, Kenya](#)

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

BASIE MAARTENS 1929-2015

Gerhard R Damm



The death of Basie Maartens at the age of 86 left a void in the hunting community of Africa and indeed worldwide. Basie was a legend as professional hunter and outfitter.

After completing his schooling in 1946 Basie left South Africa for what was then South West Africa and is now the Republic of Namibia and a new life with his parents who had gone ahead to get settled before his arrival. Basie soon became well known throughout in Namibia, Angola and Botswana as an excellent marksman and an avid hunter.

In 1958 Basie received a letter from Elgin T. Gates. Gates wanted to hunt some of the endemic species, especially the gemsbok, found in the arid south western African landscapes and arrived for his safari in 1959. Basie guided Gates to a 44 inch gemsbok bull in the great Kalahari Desert.

These were the beginnings of Basie Maartens Safaris, based on Basie's firm principles of hunting and conservation ethics as well as on his exacting professionalism. Basie, a fifth-generation South African, is generally regarded as the first licensed professional hunter in southern Africa. At that time, South West Africa was far off the beaten track, and safari hunting was yet to develop and become the major earner of foreign exchange it is today. Basie was an early pioneer in this process.

Gates, who won the Weatherby Award in 1960, was the first of Basie's many and illustrious clients; and the list reads like the *who's who* of the hunting world. Over a career spanning five decades years Basie would become one of the most well-known and respected professional hunters in Southern Africa. Basie Maartens was a household name at the great hunting conventions of GameCoin, Shikar Safari Club International, and others. His reflections on trophies and records, hunting ethics, wildlife conservation and the essence of hunting established directions we are still trying to understand, explore and build on.

In his autobiographic book, *The Last Safari*, Basie tells of the romance and realities of safari hunting in Africa and the turbulent and at times dangerous periods. The book contains more than 200 historic photos from Basie's personal collection taken on safari and at hunting association functions. Reading *The Last Safari* is like sitting around a campfire with Basie, trademark guitar in hand, as he recounts his life in old Africa.

I met Basie for the first time in 1984 at the world-famous Mountain Shadows lodge outside Paarl, South Africa, which he had established as a second career together with his wife, Sandy, and children Lianne, Philip, and Craig.

Basie's smile was infectious and the hospitality of the Maartens family legendary. When lodge guests gathered for aperitifs in front of the fireplace before dinner, Basie's stories kept us spellbound. Guests became instant friends through Basie's easy-going attitude – by dinner time, when all assembled around the candle-lit dining table, guests and the Maartens' were always one large family. After dinner Basie's trademark guitar came out and we spent many happy hours at the Mountain Shadows fireplace together.

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

Even a debilitating stroke could not dampen his spirits. Basie and Sandy continued to receive guests from all over the world at their home in Paarl, and travelled to hunting conventions around the globe. I vividly remember a lunch, when Basie had a battery of his vintage reds lined up in the living room and was firmly determined that we tasted all, and if still drinkable (as most of them were), dispose of them in the appropriate way. Basie's eyes were always sparkling with humor, his smile and optimism an example for all.

This great man led the SWA Hunting Guide and Professional Hunters' Association (which became the Namibia Professional Hunters' Association NAPHA) and the Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa (PHASA) as president; he was a founding member and past president of the International Hunters' Association (IPHA).

Robin Hurt wrote after he learnt of Basie's passing: *"He was a pioneer of safari hunting in southern Africa. A highly ethical hunter, he was one the gentlemen professional hunters that were the foundation of our industry in the early 1960s. A man who was highly respected throughout the hunting world. A man who was an example to others as to how to behave both in the hunting field, and elsewhere. A man to be looked up to. A man of immense wisdom. A man who had a deep love for wildlife and wild places. A man who had time for everyone he met whether young or old. Mostly, a man who will be much missed by his family and by his friends and clients."*

Basie once said *"The ultimate challenge that faces us in our quest for staying alive in the hunting world is to create a culture of hunting that maintains respect for the animal and acknowledge the spirituality that takes it to a higher level than a mere trophy on the wall or venison for the table."* This is today more valid than ever!

Lala Kahle Madolo – Sleep Well Old Man! You will continue to be an inspiration and we honor your memory.

ADELINO SERRAS PIRES 1928-2015

Gerhard R Damm



Adelino and his wife Fiona at their home in Pretoria in May 2015

Adelino Serras Pires, one of the great names in African safari hunting has left us. He died in Pretoria on 10 August 2015 at almost 87 years of age. He was one of the early, vigorous pioneers throughout the 1950s and 1960s into the early 1970s in the eco-tourism development of the Gorongosa Game Reserve in Mozambique. He was one of the very first to bringing foreign tourists to the Park and he invested his own time and money in developing the Chitengo camp in 1954. The symbol of the Park – a golden lion's head – was chosen by Adelino from the big game hunting book by Marcus Daly (1937) that Adelino received as a prize at Prince Edward School in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. That symbol continues as the 'face' of the Park until today.

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

Throughout his life Adelino was known for his humility and kindness. His generosity knew no bounds. He was the great gentleman of the traditional African hunting safari, quietly spoken, beautifully mannered and charming to the core of his noble soul.

A man of translucent integrity and relentless courage in the face of corruption and cowardice, Adelino suffered greatly in his life because of his unshakeable convictions about what was right and what was wrong.

Born in Ponte de Sor in Portugal, Adelino arrived as a tender 8-year old in the port of Beira on the Mozambique coast. A few weeks later, his father took him to pursue a pride of man-eating lions; this rite of passage sealed Adelino's destiny: he would hunt for a living and live for adventure.

And an adventurous life he had indeed – as a young lad he met John 'Pondoro' Taylor in 1940 in front of a notorious bar in Tete on the Zambesi River. After matriculating at Prince Edward High School in Salisbury (now Harare) Adelino returned to Tete in 1947 and took on a prospecting job with Goldfields.

The Serras family farm at Guro, in the area of what later became known as Coutada 9, was the core area from where Adelino started to arrange hunting safaris in Mozambique. In 1959 Adelino went to America to promote tourism and hunting in his country. This met with little success initially, but, on his return trip, he stopped over in Spain and met Max Borrell. The first safaris were planned and Adelino never looked back. As the international marketing force of SAFRIQUE, Adelino helped propel the company into the largest and best organized outfit for hunting safaris in Africa by the late 1960s.

Adelino walked and hunted the African wilderness in Mozambique, Sudan, Angola, Zaïre, Tanzania, Rhodesia, South Africa and Central African Republic with European royalty and aristocracy, state presidents, American generals, astronauts and entrepreneurs, Weatherby Award winners and indeed hunters from every walk of life.

Together with his friend, soulmate and beloved wife, Fiona Claire Capstick, Adelino penned a lifetime of adventures in the monumental book *Winds of Havoc: A Memoir of Adventure and Destruction in Deepest Africa* in a moving portrait of a life and time that are now gone forever. They describe not only childhood and hunting, but also how the forces of post-colonial African upheavals caught up. Adelino, his son, his nephew and a fellow hunter were abducted in Tanzania and turned over to the secret police in Frelimo-controlled Mozambique. In hair-raising detail, Adelino recounts months of torture and interrogation, which almost cost him his life, and the treacherous circumstances that landed him in that hell. Yet, despite enduring unimaginable suffering, this iron-willed man refused to give up his fierce yet critical love for Africa, Africans and African wildlife. This gentleman pioneer truly lived between two fires, and fought havoc.

Only a couple of months before his death, Fiona and Adelino came over for an extended lunch at our home in Rivonia. His warrior spirit alive and sparkling as ever, Adelino talked about hunting and conservation. His relentless and determined conviction that well-regulated hunting can contribute immensely to the conservation of African wildlife permeated the conversation. When we parted with the traditional Portuguese *abraço* I had no inkling that it was a final farewell to this icon of African hunting and to a friend with whom I unfortunately never shared a campfire in the bush.

José Flávio Taveira Pimentel Teixeira from the Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo and columnist in 'Canal de Moçambique' wrote a fitting farewell to Adelino on August 11th:

Morreu-me hoje um grande amigo. Homem grande de coragem e integridade feito. Envolto em polémicas e controvérsias assim as confrontou - sem medo e seguro das escolhas que fez, mesmo em desagrado da maioria.

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

Morreu hoje um caçador apaixonado, para quem a ética da caça era ainda um valor a respeitar. Conhecia o mato como ninguém e com ele aprendi que aparentes opostos de podem casar num homem com rectidão. Morreu-me hoje um amigo com quem nem sempre concordei, mas que sempre admirei e respeitei. Morreu-me. Deixou-me as memórias dos momentos comuns e a lembrança da amizade que nos uniu. Morreu-me hoje um amigo. Morreu o Adelino Serras Pires.

Farewell my friend, and good hunting in the eternal hunting grounds.

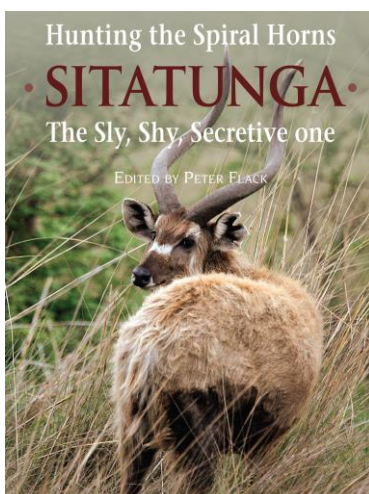
HUNTING THE SPIRAL HORNS: SITATUNGA – THE SLY, SHY, SECRETIVE ONE

Book Review by Gerhard R Damm

This is Peter Flack's fourth in the five book series covering all the spiral horn antelopes – Eland, Giant Eland, Kudu, Lesser Kudu, Nyala, Mountain Nyala, Bongo, Bushbuck and Sitatunga; Flack describes 30 spiral horned antelope phenotypes recognized by both Rowland Ward and SCI in this series.

The Sitatunga book is the second most voluminous of the four volumes published so far and contains nearly 370 pages and 454 color photos and 36 black and white ones. Nineteen contributors have written brand new and extremely captivating Sitatunga stories and readers may find that this volume will probably be the best of the series thus far. It certainly succeeds in its goal of being THE definitive book on hunting Sitatunga.

The contributors read like the *Who's Who* of African hunting: the United States' foremost expert on African hunting Craig Boddington; North America's top African PH and outfitter Jeff Rann; 2014 Weatherby award winner Alain Smith; Rudy Lubin, considered one of, if not the, most experienced and well-known French professional hunter in Africa; Don Cowie author of *An African Game Ranger on Safari*; Robin Hurt, the iconic East African professional hunter and author of *Hunting the Big Five* and last not least the hugely experienced PH and accomplished writer Brian Herne, author of *Uganda Safaris, Tanzania Safaris, Desert Safaris* and *White Hunter*.



The photographs are truly outstanding and include excellent examples of the work of a number of top class professional wildlife photographers, such as Phillippe Aillery, Jofie Lamprecht, Håkan Pohlstrand, Robert Ross, Brendon Ryan and Michael Viljoen, as well as hundreds of other photographs supplied by the contributing authors and excellent amateur photographers.

The chapters of the contemporary authors have been complemented by experts of yesteryear like Maydon (author of *Big Game Shooting*) who inspired James Mellon, author of the world famous masterpiece *African Hunter* (excerpts from which are included), William Cotton Oswell (immortalized by his sons in a two volume biography), Selous, Shorthose and Count Szechenyi to mention but a few.

There are chapters on rifles and ammunition, clothing and equipment, field preparation of trophies and hints on how to hunt Sitatunga. In fact, it is no

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

exaggeration to say that the book contains everything you ever want to know about this sly, shy, secretive ghost of the African forests and hunting it in its natural haunts. If you have questions about the Sitatunga book or any of the other spiral horn series please do not hesitate to contact the editor, Peter Flack at peter@peterflackproductions.com or give Peter a call at +27 (0) 21 790 6374.

Sitatunga – The Sly, Shy, Secretive One is available from Peter Flack Productions

Webpage: www.peterflackproductions.co.za or www.peterflackproductions.com

Email: cathryn@peterflackproductions.com or rowan@peterflackproductions.com

Phone: Cathryn in South Africa at +27 (0)31 701 2777 or Rowan in USA at +001 717 592 8999

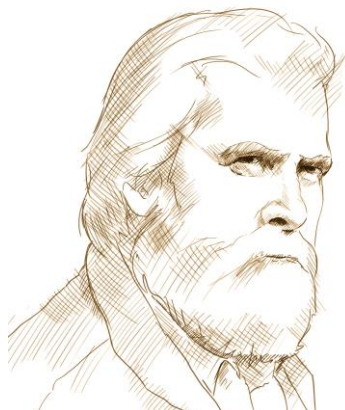
Price: Standard Edition US\$75 (ZAR750) or US\$175 (ZAR1,750) for one of the 200 exclusive quarter-leather bound and slip-cased limited editions, signed by Peter Flack.

Cecil-Mania: Setting the Record Straight

Special Report – Conservation Bulletin September 2015 by Conservation Force Staff Attorney Regina Lennox

The death of Cecil the lion has been international news for weeks. Most of the ‘facts’ have been misrepresentations and hyperbole. This is not good for the image of hunting. The media’s naive and uncommon fascination with the story has not helped, and constant re-reporting has allowed the misinformation to spread unchecked. The habitat, revenue, anti-poaching, and community incentives tourist hunting provides should not be ignored. To that end, in this bulletin we debunk some myths and misinformation about hunting which have been consistently repeated during the “Cecil mania.” The good news is that we have the facts on our side. As a community, we need to correct false impressions and widely share these critical facts. Read more [HERE](#)

Conservation Matters with Shane Mahoney



THE WHY AND RELEVANCE OF HUNTING

The desire to understand our place in nature is an ages old preoccupation of the human animal, arising long before our earliest civilizations. Indeed the emphasis given to this by hunter gatherer societies, our longest and most successful social enterprise by far, gave rise to the extraordinary world of myth and ritual that are among the great hallmarks of our humanity. In this sense it can be argued that modern religion and art were born in a womb of uncertainty, an intense and shadowed place where

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

man's sense of uniqueness conflicted with his inescapable dependence upon the wild others he pursued and killed. It would appear little has changed, and modern debates over our dual citizenship, as nature's consumers and custodians all, are unlikely to go away any time soon.

Hunting, of course, has emerged as one of the most contentious issues of all. Why in the modern world, it is asked, should the willful pursuit and taking of wild creatures be allowed? Obviously, for many people, experiences with wildlife can include the stalking and voyeuristic capture of the animal, visually or with camera, but not extend to predatory engagement. Many individuals thus condemn hunting as an anachronism and unnecessary cruelty. By focusing on the animal's death they come to condemn the hunting process that leads to it. While it may be convenient for hunters to condemn such ideas outright, or ascribe them to a fringe "animal rights crowd", the reality is that many people who hold such oppositional views towards hunting are neither fringe nor animal rights activists.

They simply don't see any societal value in hunting, and therefore see the pain and death of wild creatures that result as unnecessary and unacceptable. Many of these individuals care deeply about conservation and about wildlife. In this sense they rightfully deserve both our respect and willingness to explain. If they are led to honestly ask us "Why do you hunt?" and "What relevance does hunting have today?", then I believe, as hunters, we have a responsibility to answer truthfully.

But this, it appears, is not such an easy task. Most often hunters respond to the question of "why" by explaining some of the benefits they personally derive from hunting, rather than the deeply personal motivations that lead them to pursue it. Thus they will cite time out of doors, or the exercise benefits, or the opportunity to spend time with friends and family as the reasons for their hunting activities; to which the opponents of hunting will respond, but why do these things need to end in the death of a beautiful creature? Can you not derive these pleasantries without killing things?

These perspectives obviously frustrate hunters, believing as we do that our engagements with wild animals lead us to become elite advocates for their conservation and protection. We see the economic and political support that hunters have for so long provided as critical to wildlife and note that under many circumstances hunting can help reduce negative wildlife impacts that can undermine public support for this resource. We point to animal diseases, threats to human property and safety, and habitat alterations as just some of the negative impacts that unrestrained wildlife populations can inflict on society.

Hunting, we argue, can help deal with these issues, at no cost to the taxpayer. So, doesn't everybody win? We then often add, if hunters don't do this, who will?

Unfortunately for hunting, many of these arguments are also easily deflected, at least in part. In fact, we hunt only a tiny percentage of the wildlife species in North America. Most animal populations rise and fall with no influence from hunting whatsoever, and relatively few examples of hunting effectively regulating animal populations can actually be found.

Furthermore, many hunted species have reached incredible numbers, far beyond what hunting can reasonably control. Certainly it is true that hunters, through license sales and tax levies, do fund an incredible array of conservation programs, supporting game and nongame species management and research, and purchasing extensive amounts of habitat for biodiversity in general.

However, considerable public funding from general revenues are also applied to wildlife conservation in North America, often far more than hunters are aware of or will acknowledge. Yet, there can be no doubt, that, per capita, hunters pay the greatest freight, and this fact we emphasize too little.

So where does this leave us? It leaves us exactly where we are; in desperate need of a more fundamental debate and dialogue on the issues of why we hunt and its relevance in modern times. It

may be fashionable or convenient to reduce arguments in favor of hunting to simplistic categories or halftruths, but in the end these arguments will fail us where it matters most; in the fight for the hearts of the public majority who still support us, for the support of those who may be opposed but are truly open minded, and for our own life long commitments to our greatest engagement with nature.

What organization will rise to lead this charge, I wonder?

This article appeared first in [Sports Afield, the World's Premier Hunting Adventure Magazine](#)

Shane Patrick Mahoney, a Newfoundland native, is the President and CEO of [Conservation Visions](#). Mahoney has over 30 years' experience working primarily as a scientist, wildlife manager, policy innovator and strategic advisor; but also as a filmmaker, writer, narrator, TV and radio personality, and lecturer – all within the scope of the greater conservation world, encompassing both the scientific and professional wildlife communities, as well as NGOs and the hunting and non-hunting public. Mahoney serves as Vice-Chair of the [IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods \(SULi\) Specialist Group](#) and as the International Liaison for [The Wildlife Society](#), and is an Expert to the [International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation \(CIC\)](#), as well as a Director of [Conservation Force](#).



African Indaba eNewsletter



The official CIC Newsletter on African wildlife and conservation. The publication, free electronic dissemination and global distribution are funded by the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation - CIC Headquarters, H-2092 Budakeszi, P.O. Box 82, Hungary. Email: office@cic-wildlife.org

Publisher & Editor: Gerhard R. Damm. Postal Address: PO Box 411, Rivonia 2128, South Africa, Phone +27-(0)11-883-2299. Email: Gerhard@muskwa.co.za Web: www.africanindaba.com.
Webmaster: Aliz Ertler a.ertler@cic-wildlife.org

Opinions expressed in African Indaba are not necessarily those of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC, the publisher and editors. Whilst every care is taken in the preparation of this newsletter, the CIC, publisher and editors cannot accept any responsibility for errors.

African Indaba is published every two months as a free service. Please share it with others who may be interested. Archived copies of previous issues of African Indaba are available from our website, www.africanindaba.com/previous-issues.

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