



# AFRICAN INDABA

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

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## 63<sup>RD</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CIC AFFIRMS “HUNTING IS CONSERVATION”

Report on the Meeting by Barbara Crown, Editor-in-Chief of [The Hunting Report](#)

*Hunting is Conservation. So, what if we stopped hunting?* That was the affirmation made and the question posed at the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) held in Brussels, Belgium, this past April 22-23<sup>rd</sup>. More than 400 people from 36 countries around the world came to participate in the discussions centered on the CIC's affirmation that “Hunting is Conservation.” Among those in attendance were several representatives of the EU Commission as well as of the EU Directorate-General for the Environment and the EU Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development. High ranking representatives of several African governments and national wildlife authorities were also present; they came not only to address the members of the CIC, but to deliver their own message to members of the European Parliament just days before the assembly. The CIC General Assembly was preceded by a closed session meeting of actual and prospective CIC State Members, EU representatives and the IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group with the CIC Executive Committee.

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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](http://www.cic-wildlife.org)

The CIC and Karl-Heinz Florenz, member of the European Parliament and President of the Parliamentary Intergroup on Biodiversity, Hunting and Countryside, also organized a round table discussion in the heart of the European Parliament. You can watch this discussion on YouTube [here](#).

The goal of the annual CIC General Assembly was to bring together wildlife and conservation stakeholders – from hunters to governments, to NGOs, scientists and academicians - to openly discuss sustainable-use policies in wildlife management, promote a better understanding of the practicalities of sustainable use versus preservationist approaches, and to promote better and transparent management at all levels - from the engagement of local villages to the international policies of governments and companies affecting conservation efforts and funding around the world. The information hand-outs to delegates and guests included the important IUCN briefing paper [“Informing decisions on trophy hunting”](#) (see also [African Indaba Vol.14-2](#)).

Outgoing CIC President Bernard Lozé commenced the opening events with a moment of silence remembering those killed and injured in the terrorist attacks in Brussels only the month before, then he reviewed the recent accomplishments and work of the CIC, including being recognized by the Dallas Safari Club this past January with the presentation of the 2015 Peter Hathaway Capstick Hunting Heritage Award. The award is given to individuals and organizations for achievements in sustained conservation of wildlife and habitat. Lozé pointed out that seven of the 10 past individuals honored with the award have been members of the CIC. Lozé went on to note the “unusually strong” attacks that had been launched against hunting, including the recent effort in the European Union to ban the import of hunting trophies. He credits the defeat of this initiative to the collective strength of the hunter-conservationist community.

The Assembly presented numerous speakers throughout the next two days, including government representatives from the European Union and various African nations. Karel Pinxten, Dean of European Court of Auditors, opened with welcoming remarks highlighting the three things hunters must continue doing to show the effectiveness of sustainable hunting and our commitment to conservation: responsible hunting practices, predator control and habitat improvement. Together, the three maintain biodiversity and prove that hunting is conservation. In today’s world, Pinxten said, hunters must find a way to create trust and work with all stakeholders, including governments and the community of non-hunting animal and nature lovers because it will take all of them to maintain biodiversity.

Keynote speaker, Jyrki Katainen, Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Jobs, Growth, Investment, and Competitiveness, also highlighted three things that hunters must practice: responsibility, sustainability and transparency. Well-regulated hunting, he said, delivers the mutual benefits of management and diversity of wildlife. And because hunting raises passions on both sides, hunters must find ways to cooperate successfully with non-consumptive use proponents. He specifically pointed to the sustainable hunting initiatives under the Birds Directive of the European Commission and the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores as examples of constructive dialogue between hunters and environmentalists. “We should work together on our common conservation goals,” Pinxten said.

The panel discussion **“What if we stop hunting?”** followed the Opening Ceremony with a panel of five experts exploring the environmental, social and economic impacts of hunting bans. The speakers included Rick Capozza of the Roosevelt Wildlife Station in the US; Dr. Ali Kaka, CIC Ambassador to Africa from Kenya; Willy Pabst of Sango Ranch in Zimbabwe’s Save Conservancy; Jurgen Tack, Director of Research European Landowners Organization and ELO CEO Landelijk Vlaanderen; and Seger van Voorst Tot Voorst, of Wildlife Estates (photo below).

Capozza started by pointing out the loss of ancient and deep running hunting heritages that span the globe and the explosion of predator/human conflicts that may occur in countries like the

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United States, where humans live in close proximity to already growing numbers of bears and wolves. "Hunting is a tool to manage predator populations and we will lose that if hunting is banned," Capozza said.



**The Panelists discussing "What if we stop hunting?"**

Pabst highlighted statistics from South Africa where 28 million hectares are currently under management for wildlife. Only 6 million of that are in National Parks. The remaining 22 million are under private ownership and hunting is a major component of income. If hunting were banned they would become unsustainable and 20 million animals would most likely disappear from them.

Between South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe alone, more than 55 million hectares of land depend solely on hunting income. A hunting ban would mean a loss of wildlife habitat the size of Germany and the United Kingdom put together, the loss of an estimated 35 million animals, and hundreds of thousands of people would lose their jobs, Pabst said.

Van Voorst discussed the hard costs to people and tax payers when game populations are not managed, including increases in vehicle collisions with wild game and the installations of grates and other obstacles to keep game out of certain areas. "Can the tax payer truly be expected to pay significant costs of overpopulations when another solution, hunting, exists and does not cost anything?" van Voorst asked.

Van Voorst, Tack and other panelists also pointed out the cascading effects of unmanaged game populations and the effects of over populations, such as the overgrazing of plants that insects and songbirds depend upon, the over population of predators that decimate one prey source after another until there is a total collapse, and the resulting and unavoidable loss of biodiversity in an area or entire region. The resulting changes to the habitats are being seen in Kenya today after 30 years of hunting bans, according to Dr. Kaka. The changes to habitats can be irreversible or take as many years to recover.

Fencing areas to contain game is not the answer either, as eventual over-population of grazers or predators will lead to starvation and collapse. Van Voorst observed that certain animal rightists prefer animals starve to death rather than they be hunted.

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Tack said that many conservationists are still working with game population models that do not account for the realities of limited space, human encroachment and other factors of the modern world. But when those factors are plugged into the models, the loss of biodiversity due to loss of balance becomes obvious and use of hunting as a management tool proves sustainable. Under such models, he says, hunting is scientifically proven to be conservation.

Kaka added that hunting incentivizes local people to leave wild areas wild, and that upon removing those incentives people convert wild land to other uses that may or may not work in marginal areas where much of the coveted wilderness lies. People struggling to make a living see wildlife as a threat to crops or as competitors or threat to livestock, and they inevitably try to eliminate wildlife. In Kenya, Kaka said, not a single species has shown an increase in population since the hunting ban, but populations have begun to crash. In 1977 when the ministry banned hunting, Kenya had 166,000 elephant. By 1989 there were only 17,000 left. Wildlife must have a value to the local people and hunting income provides that. Thus hunting is conservation, stipulated Dr. Kaka.

Another session that captivated the entire assembly was the CIC Africa Initiative, featuring a panel from Africa, including Dr. Ali Kaka, CIC Ambassador to Africa; Chief Charumbira F. Z., President of the Chiefs Council of Zimbabwe; Prince Mupazviriho, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate of Zimbabwe; Barbara Thomson, Deputy Minister Environment Affairs of South Africa; Paul Zyambo, Director of Department of National Parks and Wildlife of Zambia; Tommy Nambahu, Deputy Minister Environment and Tourism of Namibia; and Gerhard Damm, President of Applied Sciences Division of CIC.



**The “Africa Speaks” session at the 63<sup>rd</sup> GA of the CIC  
(Left to Right) Dr. Ali Kaka (Kenya), Chief Charumbira (Zimbabwe), Prince Mupazviriho (Zimbabwe) Gerhard Damm (CIC), Barbara Thomson (South Africa), Tommy Nambahu (Namibia) and Paul Zyambo (Zambia). Not in photo Minister Celso Correia (Mozambique)**

The CIC Africa Initiative is focused on creating a "Charter for Conservation, Habitat Protection and Hunting in Africa", demonstrating to Europe and North America that Africa has a conservation model that works and uses its landscapes and natural resources for the benefit of Africa's people and wildlife. The initiative's position is that conservation means the management of wildlife resources in such a way that it will support the use of that resource in perpetuity – in other

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words, sustainable use. The African conservation model gives value to landscapes and wildlife. The initiative also aims to develop a system to monitor the use of wildlife and habitat. With the right checks and balances it would allow for transparent adaptive management processes so it may become a conservation model that would benefit the entire continent.

Among the themes discussed by the African panelists was the view that Africans are only now coming to a level where they can benefit from the use of their natural resources after a long colonial period that blocked them from that. They expressed dismay that now people in northern nations attempt a form of neo-colonialism in the form of hunting and trophy import bans that again bar Africans from enjoying the benefits of their rich natural resources. Barbara Thomson from South Africa thanked the CIC Assembly for allowing her and her colleagues to put forward African conservation agendas in spite of the efforts by some in the so-called developed nations to dictate what should be done in Africa.

Tommy Nambahu of Namibia put the demands that African governments close hunting in perspective. He said Namibia has focused on community-based nature management programs that allow locals to benefit directly and substantially from landscapes and wildlife. Many of the anti-use activists sitting in comfortable offices in London, New York or Berlin do not understand that elected officials cannot take funds from education and other essential programs for people to support conservation. African people must see an economic return from conservation.

"We have come here to represent the rural people of our countries," said Paul Zyambo of Zambia. "They have not been consulted by those in other countries who wish to ban hunting. Yet they are the ones who depend on these resources, and they should not be managed from afar." He went on to say, "Good governance should be consultative and inclusive." Imposing bans from afar is not good governance.

Mozambique's Minister of Land, Environment and Rural Development, Celso Ismael Correia also addressed the CIC Assembly in a surprise appearance. He told the participants that time is ticking and we cannot waste it talking about banning hunting. Instead we must focus our energies on fighting the scourge of organized poaching. "Organized poaching is an illegal activity conducted by the same people behind drug smuggling, human trafficking and general organized crime," he said. "Mozambique will always put human development first. Our biggest conservation challenge is funding. How do we take money from the needs of people to put it into conservation? This is why we support policies to make hunting professional and to use it to support human development."

Prince Mupazviriho of Zimbabwe followed saying that what is needed is a clear understanding by all of what is meant by community involvement in conservation. What mechanisms and structures must be in place? And how do we adapt them to meet the specific needs and circumstances of the different countries? The communities on the ground are not recognized by parties at CITES, so they and the structures communities need, are overlooked.

Chief Charumbira of Zimbabwe echoed that, saying that the very people most affected by policies passed by CITES, foreign governments and companies such as airlines are never represented or consulted. "Poaching is the evidence of people feeling short changed," he said. "Why don't locals police the national parks? Because you have alienated them from the resources!" Chief Charumbira emphasized. Communities will not assist with conservation if they have no ownership stake in it. No decisions about wildlife should be made without including the communities affected by them, he concluded.

Other sessions included perspectives on the advantages of game meat over commercially produced meat by Professor Göran Ericsson and chef Gert Klötzke; partnerships between hunters and veterinarians by Dr. Bernard Vallat; global game health by Professor Torsten Mörner and Janis Baumanis; management issues in the transnational Carpathian ecosystem with Frans Schepers of

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Rewilding Europe, Wanda Olech of Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Professor Dr. Ovidiu Ionescu, Alexandra Sallay-Mosoi and Tamás Papp; and the Working Group Artemis on women in hunting with Dr. Soňa Supeková, Professor Dr. Mary Stange, Jaana Puhakka and Hannele Pyykkö. A side meeting on migratory birds explored issues of intervention with a focus on woodcock management and the conservation of threatened waterbirds in Eurasia.

The CIC General Assembly also served as an informal discussion forum to hammer out an initiative for the “*Establishment of a Rural Communities Committee*” at the CITES Conference in September this year. Several African nations co-sponsored this Zambian proposal as a consequence.

One session that attracted much attention was “Hunting Bans must be Banned!” Gaël de Rotalier of the European Commission Environment Directorate-General presented information on a proposed EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking. He explained that the plan was a step towards a comprehensive policy on trophy importations and not the ban that was proposed by a handful of individual MEPs that failed to meet the required number of signatures. Rotalier explained the proposal focuses on CITES listed species only and is a two-page document offering “guiding principles.” Those principles aim to ensure that a trophy was taken legally, in a sustainable manner, and with the involvement and benefit of the local communities.

However, other panelists argued that the requirements of the proposal are in fact overcomplicating, duplicating or superseding requirements already in place by CITES and in the EU. Also, they questioned the need to focus so much additional regulation on the tiny percentage of trade that is composed of already amply documented hunting trophies while smuggling of poached wildlife runs rampant. One speaker said no matter what governance deficiencies there may be in some hunting countries, the proposed EU requirements are akin to using a sledge hammer to kill a mosquito.

During the closing ceremony, CIC President Bernard Lozé (France) announced that he was stepping down after completing six years of service in this office. The CIC Vice Presidents named George Aman (Switzerland) as acting president until the next formal election at the 2017 CIC General Assembly. By unanimous vote Bernard Lozé was given the title Honorary President of the CIC. The upcoming 64<sup>th</sup> CIC General Assembly in April 2017 will be celebrated in Montreux and hosted by the CIC Swiss Delegation. See you there!



CIC Honorary President Bernard Lozé (right) and CIC Acting President George Aman (left)

## SA ACADEMIC WINS CIC THESIS AWARD

Monique Basson [NEWS 24](#)

A young, local stewardship officer who came up with a unique approach of looking at how attitudes and beliefs about hunting can be used as a basis for strategies to improve the social legitimacy of hunting, has been recognized with a prestigious, international thesis award. Dr Wentzel

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Coetzer was awarded the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation's (CIC) Young Opinion Research Award for 2016 at the CIC's 63<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly in Brussels, Belgium.

The Young Opinion (YO) Working Group of the CIC focuses on creating a global network of young scientists by supporting those whose research projects contribute to the sustainable use of wildlife for the benefit of natural heritage conservation. To qualify for the award, students of masters or doctoral programs had to submit a summary of their research project, explaining the aim, methods and conclusions of the project. "The quality of this year's submissions was outstanding and addressed the three pillars of sustainable wildlife management", said CIC YO Vice-President Denis Slobodyan during the award ceremony.

Coetzer's thesis formed part of his doctorate at the Department of Agriculture and Game Management at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) in 2015. Coetzer, who had worked at NMMU as a contract lecturer for five years, said he is honored and overjoyed by this prestigious award. He is currently the Biodiversity Stewardship Facilitator for the Greater Kromme Stewardship (GKS) initiative that is managed by [Conservation Outcomes](#). The initiative offers private landowners in the area the opportunity to play an important role in the conservation of the region's natural heritage.

According to Coetzer, who grew up on a farm near Thornhill, conservation formed part of his daily life from a very young age and is embedded in his DNA. "Having to decide what to study after matric, was a toss-up between mathematics and conservation. When I heard that the only career with a degree in mathematics is that of a statistician, the choice was easy - conservation it was," said Coetzer.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL G7 SUMMIT REAFFIRMS BENEFITS OF SUSTAINABLE USE**

**Gerhard R Damm**

The G7<sup>1</sup> Toyama Environment Ministers' met in Toyama, Japan in May and discussed the 2030 Agenda, Resource Efficiency and the 3Rs ("Reduce", "Reuse" and "Recycle"), Biodiversity, Climate Change and Related Measures, Chemicals Management, the Role of Cities, and Marine Litter. The G7 Ministers and the European Commissioner were joined by heads and senior officials of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

Under the heading "Biodiversity" the Official Communiqué (point 21) stated that biodiversity plays a vital role for maintaining life-sustaining systems, and therefore is of paramount importance and recognized that the loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems constitute both an environmental problem, as well as a socio-economic problem which reduces human well-being. Furthermore the need for a transition to socio-economic systems to make conservation more valuable than degradation, and sustainable use more valuable than unsustainable use was highlighted (point 23).

Importantly, the G7 Ministers made reference to the importance of promoting fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promoting

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<sup>1</sup>G7 includes the Governments of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States, as well as the European Union.

appropriate access to such resources (point 27). The G7 Ministers reaffirmed that economic instruments complement other approaches, and **that sustainable use including the legal commercial trade of wildlife may be beneficial to biodiversity conservation by engaging local communities** (point 28).

The G7 Ministers confirmed that the illegal trade in wildlife remains a major threat to the survival of certain species of wildlife, and has adverse impacts not only on conservation but also on the social and economic issues, including the loss of our natural and cultural heritage, mainly in range states (point 29). The pursuit of economic approaches for mainstreaming biodiversity and commitment to further develop and advance these mechanisms will contribute to address the topic of “mainstreaming biodiversity for well-being” across sectors, and to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the SDGs (point 31) (Full document click [HERE](#)).

## CAN THERE BE SUSTAINABLE LION HUNTING IN AFRICA?

Jason G. Goldman June 22, 2016 [Conservation This Week](#)

By now the arguments for both sides are well known. Trophy hunting provides important revenue for African landowners, and without that income, they might be persuaded to convert land currently managed for wildlife into farms and mines. Sacrificing a few older, non-reproductive lions—it is argued—allows the entire ecosystem to be preserved. On the other hand, pervasive corruption and unscrupulous practices that contravene the established scientific guidelines for sustainable hunting have led to overharvesting, especially for the charismatic king of the jungle. Can anything be done to make hunting practices more sustainable?

That’s what Montana State University the [Zambia Carnivore Programme’s Scott Creel](#) wanted to know. The common wisdom for sustainable hunting is known as “age-restricted harvesting,” and it holds that only male lions above a certain age ought to be removed from the population. The problem, the researchers realized, is that those guidelines were developed based on a well protected, growing lion population. They set out to determine whether there could be sustainable lion hunting for the more typical challenged populations.

Using mathematical models informed by real-world population estimates, Creel and his team projected population dynamics for African lions 25 years into the future—both without hunting and under a range of hunting scenarios. Those scenarios included quotas for hunting blocks, age restriction, and hunting periods punctuated by recovery periods with no hunting. They assumed that the hunting blocks were located adjacent to protected areas like national parks, as is so often the case in the real world, with lions moving frequently between protected and unprotected landscapes.

They discovered that most hunting scenarios resulted in a long-term decline in trophy-sized males, which is both detrimental to lion populations and undesirable for hunters. The best strategy, therefore, was a mosaic one. “This decrease in the availability of prime-aged males is minimized,” the researchers conclude, “by the combination of a block quota of one, a 3 on/3 off cycle of hunting and recovery, and a minimum hunted age of 7 or 8 years.” In other words, hunting blocks can sustainably be allocated one trophy hunt per year of a lion at least 7 years old, for three consecutive years, followed by three years for recovery. They also recommend that trophy fees be increased to account for the reduced quota. Still, such a scenario would still include a long-term decline in lion populations, especially if poaching or habitat degradation worsen.

Trophy hunting by itself might be sustainable, but not given a background of poaching, habitat loss, and retaliatory killings. “If other negative effects on lions are not controlled, it is unlikely

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that trophy hunting at any level will be sustainable,” they conclude. It’s a dire warning, and one that they say likely applies to other African megafauna as well, especially leopards.

**Source:** Creel, S., M’soka, J., Dröge, E., Rosenblatt, E., Becker, M., Matandiko, W., & Simpamba, T. (2016). Assessing the sustainability of African lion trophy hunting, with recommendations for policy. *Ecological Applications*. DOI: [10.1002/eap.1377](https://doi.org/10.1002/eap.1377).

## AFRICAN LION RANGE STATE MEETING

Gerhard R Damm

Delegates of 28 African lion Range States<sup>2</sup>, met in Entebbe, Uganda from 30 to 31 May 2016 to discuss the conservation, management and restoration of the lion (*Panthera leo*) and its habitat in Africa. The [press release and communiqué](#) from the meeting highlights the importance of CBNRM, incentives, benefit-sharing, HWC mitigation measures and well managed hunting programs for the conservation of African lion, and the potential negative impacts of import bans on hunting trophies.

The range states also recognized that the main threats (listed in no particular order) for lions in Africa are: (1) unfavorable policies, practices and political factors (in some countries); (2) Ineffective lion population management; (3) habitat degradation and reduction of prey base; (4) human-lion conflict, (5) adverse socio-economic factors; (6) institutional weakness; and (7) increasing trade in lion bones.

The [Official Communiqué](#) highlights inter alia

- the need for the development of national action plans and adaptive management practices to conserve lions at the national level;
- that community-based natural resource management, the creation of incentives for local communities to engage in lion conservation, the sharing of conservation benefits and the establishment of mitigation measures can increase the lion range and are essential to the conservation success of lions.
- a call for the establishment of viable ecosystem and wildlife-based land-use practices, ensuring that agricultural activities and mining operations do not impede lion conservation, including restoration programs;
- and points out the benefits that trophy hunting, where it is based on scientifically established quotas, taking into account the social position, age and sex of an animal, have, in some countries, contributed to the conservation of lion populations and highlight the potentially hampering effects that import bans on trophies could have for currently stable lion populations.

## TRACK THE IMPACT OF KENYA’S IVORY BURN

Duan Biggs

Kenya’s government delivered a powerful message against elephant poaching and the illegal ivory trade on 30 April by burning 105 tons of ivory, worth up to US\$220 million. With stockpile

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<sup>2</sup>Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

destruction on the rise, it is important to evaluate the impact of this strategy on elephant populations.

Since 1989, 21 countries have burned or crushed 263 tons of ivory — most of it (86%) in the past 5 years (see [go.nature.com/ivory](http://go.nature.com/ivory)). However, there is no published evidence so far that these events reduce poaching. Destroying ivory stockpiles risks a perverse outcome: ivory becomes rarer, fetching higher prices and increasing poaching and illegal stockpiling (see M. 't Sas-Rolfes et al. *Pachyderm* 55, 62–77; 2014).

This has prompted calls by some for a highly controlled legal ivory trade to secure elephant populations (J. F. Walker and D. Stiles *Science* 328, 1633–1634; 2010) — an option that ivory destruction removes. It is therefore crucial to track the effects of Kenya's largest-ever ivory burn. Time is short and the stakes are high. "Why would you run an experiment and decide not to collect any data?" The experiment would seem to have two possible goals, intimately entwined with each other: a) to slow down the rate of poaching; b) to increase resources to those opposing the ivory trade.

It may well be that "no data was collected on the rate at which poaching declined", but there are considerable available on the improving financial and resource base of those opposing trade. This raises an interesting issue. If there are no test on the extent to which hypothesis 1 was correct ... why do it again" If there were test supporting hypothesis 2 .... it would make obvious sense to repeat it.

**Note:** Please also refer to The Guardian article dated 8<sup>th</sup> June "[Is burning poached ivory good for elephants? Conservationists raise serious questions about the widespread incineration of ivory stockpiles confiscated from poachers](#)" and to [J. F. Walker's blog](#)

Duane Biggs is a member of the IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (SULI) and works for the ARC Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions, Centre for Biodiversity & Conservation Science, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia and Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Source: *Nature* Vol. 534, Page 179, 9 June 2016

## FACTS SHOW HUNTING IS CONSERVATION AT NYC DEBATE

Karen Mehall Phillips [American Hunter](#)

**So do hunters really conserve wildlife?** For decades that question has been at the core of the clash between anti-hunting groups and conservation organizations that promote hunting, and was put forth in a debate on Wed., May 4, 2016. [Field & Stream](#) Editor Anthony Licata and Catherine Semcer of H.O.P.E. ([Humanitarian Operations Protecting Elephants](#)) argued for the motion; Wayne Pacelle, president of the [Humane Society of the United States](#), and Adam Roberts, head of Born Free USA, argued against it. The debate was hosted by Intelligence Squared (IQ2) at Manhattan's Kaufmann Center and moderated by John Donovan of ABC News. [You can read the debate transcript in its entirety here.](#)

So when the dust settled, which side won? The answer is ... drum roll, please ... It still depends on which side you ask. But results of pre- and post-debate polls of the live audience show that Pacelle and Roberts were able to use their well-rehearsed and expertly delivered emotional arguments to "convince" an already biased audience to vote that hunting is not really conservation.

Although a bit discouraging, the outcome is not surprising considering that the debate took place in New York City—a locale not exactly famous for its contingency of hunters. It is important to

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note that a pre-event online "Hunters Conserve Wildlife" poll showed a 69-percent approval of hunting as a means of conservation, a poll that drew such vicious verbal threats from the anti-hunting contingency that the Kaufmann Center was compelled to increase its security force prior to the event. Conveniently, these online poll results were omitted from any final reporting as Donovan later cited them as being "unscientific."

Audience members in attendance were provided with electronic voting systems at their seats as a way of voting for or against the motion.

While Licata and Semcer artfully presented indisputable facts and statistics supporting that hunting is the most powerful means of conserving animal species, particularly those that are endangered, Pacelle relied on examples of animal rights extremism as a basis for his arguments as he lashed out at conservation groups including the NRA and SCI. Perhaps his



biggest jab at hunters was when he actually said conservation has nothing to do with why hunters go into the woods. "Hunting is going to be around for a while," he says. "There's a deeply committed, small segment of the American population that favors it, but let's not make the argument, because it's untrue, that somehow this [hunting] is a big protector of wildlife in general." As for Africa, he says, "The trophy hunting concessions are miniscule compared to wildlife watching, which is why Botswana and Kenya and Rwanda have banned all trophy hunting." Even Roberts had to give the facts a slight nod when he said, "Well, I think it's very effective if you look at it in a very small microcosm." But then was back at it and said hunters only work to rebuild species' populations just to hunt them back to the verge of extinction.

Pacelle and Roberts regularly relied on highly charged and widely publicized controversies such as 2015's "Cecil the Lion" to get the audience to focus on one animal rather than on the general health of a species' population. Licata and Semcer repeatedly called them out for being disingenuous and for purposely obfuscating the facts to tap into audience emotions and compel them into believing poaching is hunting and that market hunters are sportsmen. At one point when a man in the front row said he knew Cecil and that "there were 13 other lions killed illegally that were wearing collars in Hwange National Park," even Donovan stepped in, responding, "But this team is not arguing for the illegal killing of animals." Thank you, Mr. Donovan. That that would be poaching.

Countering Roberts' false statements on the decline in lion populations, Semcer, whose organization H.O.P.E. works with governments and organizations to fight poaching in Africa, said, "We are the people who hunt legally. We pay into the system. We purchase licenses. We do boots-on-the-ground conservation projects. The cause of lion decline is not sportsmen, and you know this. The cause is herdsman killing lions because they are competing with their livestock. That is in every single document, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the IUCN," referring to the April 2016 IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Briefing Paper [prepared for the European Union](#) advising it to ensure decisions restricting or ending trophy hunting are based on an analysis

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of trophy hunting's role in affected communities and are made only if other alternatives can deliver equal or greater conservation incentives.

Licata and Semcer touted proven facts and research provided from agencies such as the [U.S Fish and Wildlife Service](#) and from African agencies that acknowledge the billions of dollars hunters raise for conservation. Some of them include:

- American hunters provide 80 percent of the funding for state wildlife agencies.
- Sportsmen contribute a billion dollars annually to wildlife conservation.
- Since 1965, hunting license fees have generated \$22 billion for conservation in their respective states. In 2015 alone, they generated \$821 million.
- The Pittman-Robertson Act's excise tax on sales of ammunition set aside over \$12 billion for state wildlife conservation, allowing species from deer to wolves to recover.
- The duck stamp has preserved six and a half million acres of wetlands.
- Considerable hunter-generated income comes from nonprofit hunting groups. In 2014 and 2015, Ducks Unlimited alone raised \$238 million for conservation and has conserved 13.5 million acres of wetlands across North America.
- Hunters have conserved an area of wildlife habitat in Africa more than 1.7 times the size of the U.S. National Park System.
- One outfitter in Mozambique's Coutada 11 reinvests \$100,000 in anti-poaching efforts annually. And thanks to anti-poaching efforts that H.O.P.E. supported through training, advisory assistance and procurement services, this is the only area in Mozambique that did not see a decline in elephant numbers in the last national elephant census.
- The Tanzanian Wildlife Division receives 6.8 times more funding from hunting than from photo tourism.
- Conservation does not come for free. We need tourism, too, but the reality in Africa is that it's not possible everywhere.

Despite all this, Pacelle said to instead examine our national parks. "Every U.S. national park with the exception of one forbids trophy hunting and forbids sport hunting entirely. So we're managing those populations through Mother Nature, who does it quite well and has done so for eons." Not true. Here are just two recent stories talking about [how and why hunting](#) is being [used on some national parks](#).

Licata countered, "We don't live in one giant national park. Not everything has that intact ecosystem. The fact is, there are a lot of people in this world. The habitat won't support predators. It cannot just be left to its own. Hunters are a natural part of that ecosystem and always have been. And when it's done in the right way, it's absolutely effective and valid."

In the end, this particular debate on whether hunters help or hurt conservation was decided by a court of public opinion—a public that was pre-disposed to delivering the unfavorable outcome.

However, what came out of this was an opportunity for hunters—and future hunters and potential hunters—to analyze the deceptive and emotion-based tactics set forth by those who wish to end all hunting as a means of conservation. Please share this article with fellow hunters and be advised: Pacelle's and Roberts' obfuscating debate styles showcased the tactics the anti's are using to sway an undecided public to their side. That is why it is more important than ever that hunters arm themselves with facts to be prepared to counter anti-hunting extremism.

There is more to come at [AmericanHunter.org/HLF](#) on this debate. In the meantime, the moral of the story is to tell our story. And as Licata said, wildlife populations across America are up, thanks to hunters, but that's because we work at it every day.

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## WILL KEEPING THE RHINO HORN TRADE ILLEGAL KILL MORE RHINOS?

Michael Schwartz

Many conservationists are lauding [South Africa's recent decision not to propose the reintroduction of trade in rhino horn](#), citing concerns that legitimizing it could reignite consumer demand. Other conservationists, however, fear that keeping the ban in place will paradoxically lead to an increase in the killing of rhinos throughout Africa. Michael Schwartz is a conservation journalist and African wildlife researcher. Published with the author's permission.

**Pro-Trade Rationale:** South Africa's private rhino owners host roughly 33% of the country's black and white rhinos, while remaining free-ranging rhinos live in state-run national parks. With the resurgence in rhino poaching over the past decade, trade proponents maintain that a legal market of regulated supply would reduce black market prices, thereby discouraging the incentive to illegally harvest horn. Furthermore, they assert that profits made from a renewable supply—horn from natural rhino mortality and the sheering off of horn portions from live specimens—could be reinvested into anti-poaching and rural community endeavors. Both ideas stem from the notion that the trade moratorium has not successfully upended rhinoceros poaching. To wit, a continued embargo would only encourage more illicit activity.

**South Africa Backs Down from Trade Proposal:** Private rhino owners and a number of state conservation institutions were hoping that South Africa would propose an end to the international trade in rhino horn at this year's 67<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Recently, however, [the Committee of Inquiry, a branch of South Africa's Department of Environmental Affairs \(DEA\)](#), recommended that government not move ahead with such a proposal. It was eventually decided that the pursuit of legalizing international trade in rhino horn was not in South Africa's best interest. [RhinoAlive](#), an awareness campaign composed of private rhino owners and conservationists, condemned the government's decision. "The only people who will be celebrating will be poachers and ill-informed, misguided animal rightists," vice-president of Wildlife Ranching South Africa, Dr. Peter Oberem, said in RhinoAlive's news release. "This will be the end of the rhino population as we know it. Game ranchers cannot possibly continue to foot the bill for the security of one third to one half of the world's remaining rhino population." Pelham Jones, chairman of the Private Rhino Owners Association and member of the Committee of Inquiry, expressed similar disappointment: "Government's cowardly capitulation will have a detrimental effect on both private sector and rural conservation communities—and the ultimate price will be paid by the rhino itself."

**Evidence Supporting the Ban:** Trade advocates point to 1977, the year that CITES listed all rhino subspecies on Appendix I—a motion paired with the moratorium on the international trade in rhinos and their products—as a grave turning point for the species. However, trade skeptics observe that the ban was initially put in place to halt rhino killing that had already taken a devastating toll on populations across Africa and Asia. Anti-traders also posit that the [increase in public awareness and Asia's domestic bans helped drive down poaching rates](#) during that time period; so much so that Southern Africa didn't see much rhino killing until 2008, around the same time when unfounded assertions that horn carried medicinal properties renewed consumer interest.

Moreover, anti-trade proponents observe that South Africa already had permission to sustainably utilize rhino in the form of legal hunting after the southern white rhino was downlisted

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to Appendix II in 1994. The caveat is that no trophy can be gifted to anyone but the hunter, nor are any rhino trophies permitted for medicinal use.

**Pseudo-Hunting:** A [2014 report issued by the DEA](#) states that, “many of the rhino horns sold with legal permits before 2009 were subsequently smuggled out of the country, meaning that the traders that bought the horn did so with dishonest intentions at the outset.” The report goes on to mention that poaching began picking up again through, “the legal internal permitting system, either directly from private rhino owners or indirectly through intermediaries...”

Of particular concern is an illegal method of hunting the DEA referred to as *pseudo-hunting*. Loosely defined, pseudo-hunting is the hunting of a rhinoceros for reasons other than obtaining a trophy—a method that allegedly started when Asian clients and certain hunting proprietors began circumventing regulatory measures to illegally obtain horn. In 2014, [the U.S. authorities brought indictment charges against Dawie and Janneman Groenewald](#), two South African brothers allegedly involved in pseudo-hunting and rhino horn trafficking.

**Undermining Public Awareness:** One of the biggest concerns with the notion of legal trade is that it could undermine efforts in educating the public about rhino horn’s virtual uselessness as a homeopathic cure-all, not to mention the cost incurred should trade potentially reignite an unsustainable volume of consumer demand.

Some view the 2008 sanctioned one-off sales of elephant ivory as an example of ostensibly increasing such demand, though there are conflicting reports arguing that what actually escalated elephant poaching [was the nine year ban placed on future sales](#) the previous year.

While some might admit that it is theoretically possible to minimize poaching through a tightly controlled system of legally supplied horn, they ultimately do not believe it could ever be adequately enforced. Even if a legal framework were set in place, some suspect that it would not stop corrupt administrators, private rhino owners with less than noble intentions, and low-level poachers from circumventing the system to enhance personal enrichment.

Similarly, skeptics argue that in spite of promises, profits obtained from legal sales might not necessarily be reinvested back into rhino conservation efforts. Most surmise that if rhino farmers ever get their way, they would not only have to financially compete with black market traders, but also continue perpetuating the myth that rhino horn has medicinal value.

**The DEA’s Conclusions:** The DEA report concluded that while both arguments carry the potential to negatively impact South Africa’s remaining rhino population, lifting the ban is not in the best interest of the species at this junction. Yet it still conceded that the moratorium has not effectively relieved poaching rates, even suggesting that, “restrictions created by the local trade ban may be exacerbating the poaching problem.” Ultimately, they did agree that private owners from the ranching industry need to have a better incentive to continue conserving rhinos. Still, the assessment still leaves some unresolved questions.

Do any private rhino owners have duplicitous agendas? What would a hypothetical legal market look like? And who will buy horn if trade is only relegated to South Africa? Ultimately, will trade be good for rhinos, or will it all but seal their fate?

## LA CHASSE SPORTIVE EN AFRIQUE N’EST PAS L’ENNEMIE DE LA BIODIVERSITE

Renaud Lapeyre, [The Conservation Imperative](#)

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**Editor's Note: You find the condensed English translation after the original French version. The translation was kindly provided by Mrs. Fiona Capstick. For hyperlinks please refer to the original French version.**

Ultra-médiatisée avec [l'affaire du lion Cecil](#) abattu au Zimbabwe en août dernier – illégalement, il faut le rappeler –, la chasse sportive a donné lieu en Europe et aux États-Unis à des débats passionnés quant à sa cruauté et son utilité. En France, Ségolène Royal a ainsi demandé en novembre 2015 [d'arrêter la délivrance](#) de permis d'importation de têtes, pattes et peaux de lion.

Depuis le début de l'année, un nouveau projet de réglementation a relancé le débat, déjà tendu, entre associations environnementales et fédérations de chasseurs. Le 18 janvier 2016, des députés européens ont proposé une déclaration écrite appelant [à cesser l'importation](#) dans l'Union européenne de tout trophée issu de la chasse, ce qui porterait un coup à cette pratique. La déclaration n'a finalement obtenu qu'un soutien limité, ne recueillant que 20 % de signatures.

**Des problèmes de mauvaise gestion:** Cette absence de nouvelle réglementation sera sans doute vivement critiquée par les associations anti-chasse. Pourtant, il faut s'en féliciter pour la biodiversité africaine. La bonne conservation de cette dernière nécessite en effet que des usages non-agricoles du foncier, [très disputé](#), soient financés. Le tourisme ne suffit pas, ou seulement dans des cas [très particuliers](#).

La chasse sportive, à condition bien sûr d'être sélective et régulée, peut représenter un revenu d'appoint précieux. Priver les communautés locales de ses retombées potentielles fragiliserait en réalité la conservation.

Certes, on s'associera difficilement à la satisfaction [des réseaux sociaux pro-chasse](#) claironnant que « les groupes activistes anti-chasse ont misérablement échoué dans leurs efforts d'être soutenus par le parlement européen », noyée dans les photos publicitaires d'armes à feu et de chasseurs fièrement assis sur des animaux ensanglantés.

Par ailleurs, la chasse sportive en Afrique souffre indéniablement de problèmes récurrents. Les revenus générés par cette activité, lorsqu'on y enlève les frais de fonctionnement et les taxes, peuvent [être insuffisants](#) pour couvrir le financement de la conservation. Et les opérateurs de chasse ne sont [pas toujours choisis](#) sur des critères environnementaux ou sociaux.

Au final, lorsque les institutions nationales sont trop laxistes, le nombre d'animaux chassés est trop élevé, les pratiques de chasse laissent à désirer éthiquement parlant, et surtout, les communautés locales se trouvent lésées, comme le montre une [étude](#) menée au Nord du Cameroun.

**Indissociable de la conservation:** Pourtant, quoi qu'on pense de l'activité en elle-même, la chasse sportive reste le plus souvent la plus importante, voire la seule, source de revenus pour le développement et la conservation dans bien des régions en Afrique. Un certain nombre d'experts auprès de l'Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature (UICN) [soutiennent](#) d'ailleurs cette activité, dans une perspective de conservation.

Certes, les activités écotouristiques génèrent elles aussi [des revenus](#), et ce sans abattre d'animaux, mais ce secteur a besoin d'une densité de faune minimale et d'un bon accès à celle-ci, ce qui limite l'activité dans de nombreux pays d'Afrique centrale, où la forêt est parfois trop dense pour que les touristes puissent voir les animaux. Enfin et surtout, le tourisme a besoin d'infrastructures routières et hôtelières de qualité, de sécurité et de stabilité politique, qui font souvent défaut sur le continent.

Dans ces contextes, la chasse sportive représente un revenu essentiel pour inciter les populations locales à accepter que la faune sauvage soit présente et préservée dans de larges parties de leurs territoires, a fortiori lorsque celle-ci entre en [conflit](#) avec les activités humaines.

**Sur le terrain:** Interdire la chasse sportive scierait dans bien des cas la dernière branche à laquelle se tient la conservation de la biodiversité en Afrique. La chasse sportive a généré en 2014 en Namibie – où un [programme national](#) de conservation de la faune a été mis en place en 1996 – 1,5 million d’euros, emplois compris, soit près d’un tiers des revenus issus de la gestion de la faune et de la flore par les communautés locales du pays.

Au Botswana, de plus en plus de voix s’élèvent [contre l’interdiction](#) de la chasse sportive décidée en 2013 par le gouvernement, car les animaux sauvages dont le nombre est en recrudescence attaquent les troupeaux, et parce que les revenus pour les communautés s’en trouvent sérieusement grevés.

En tout état de cause, et comme le souligne un [récent article scientifique](#) paru au sujet de la situation en Namibie, écotourisme et chasse sportive sont deux activités complémentaires qu’il faut mener de front. Alors que la première génère des revenus après 6 ans en moyenne, la seconde n’en a besoin que de 3. Enfin, sans chasse sportive (sous l’hypothèse d’une interdiction), 8 communautés sur 50 dans le programme national namibien ne pourraient plus couvrir leurs coûts de fonctionnement liés à la conservation, contre 37 sur 50 avec la chasse sportive.

La conservation de la faune sur le continent ne peut financièrement pas se passer de cette pratique. Il ne faut pas moins de chasse sportive, mais une meilleure gouvernance de cette dernière.

## **SPORTHUNTING IN AFRICA IS NOT THE ENEMY OF BIODIVERSITY**

“Passionate debate about sport hunting was unleashed in Europe and in the United States in the wake of the Cecil the Lion debacle in Zimbabwe during August 2015.” Since the beginning of this year, there is fresh debate between environmental associations and hunting organizations. A written statement by European Deputies was made, calling for a ban on importation into the European Union of all hunting trophies. This project attracted 20% of the requisite signatures.

Anti-hunting organizations will doubtless severely criticize this lack of new legislation but it is welcomed in the interests of African biodiversity. Tourism alone, save in truly exceptional cases, cannot fund sound biodiversity. True conservation of African biodiversity requires that non-agricultural use of land be financed. Selective, regulated sport hunting can be a valuable contributing source of revenue.

Conservation would be weakened if local communities were deprived of the spin-offs arising from sport hunting. That is not to say that sport hunting in Africa does not suffer from recurring problems. Revenue generated by this activity can be insufficient to finance conservation efforts after operating costs and taxes are deducted.

Where national institutions are too lax, an excessive number of animals are hunted, hunting practices are cause for concern from the ethical point of view and, above all, local communities are wronged, as revealed in a study conducted in North Cameroun.

Whatever one may think of the activity itself, sport hunting often remains the most important source of revenue, indeed, the only such source, for development and conservation in many regions of Africa. A number of IUCN experts, furthermore, support sport hunting from the conservation point of view.

Ecotourism certainly generates revenue without killing animals but this requires minimum density of animals and good access to the animals. This limits such activity in many countries in central Africa where the forest is often too dense for tourists to see the animals. Tourism also needs hotel and road infrastructure, security and political stability which are often lacking in Africa.

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Given these contexts, sport hunting represents essential revenue to encourage the local population to accept the presence of wild animals and to protect them in large areas of their territories.

Prohibiting sport hunting would, in many cases, cut off the last source which nourishes conservation of biodiversity in Africa. In Namibia, for example, sport hunting generated 1,5 million Euros in 2014, including employment. That country has had a national conservation of fauna program in place since 1996 and the revenue just cited is almost one third of the revenue arising out of fauna and flora management by the country's local communities.

In Botswana, there is an increasing outcry against the prohibition on sport hunting proclaimed in 2013 by the government. The escalating number of wild animals are attacking livestock and community revenue is under serious strain.

Be that as it may, and as emphasized in a scientific article published in Namibia, sport hunting and ecotourism are two complimentary activities that must be managed together. Sport hunting generates revenue after three years while ecotourism needs an average of six years to generate revenue. If sport hunting were to be banned, eight out of fifty communities in Namibia in the national program would not be able to cover their operating costs linked to conservation, as against 37 out of 50 communities who cover their operating costs through sport hunting.

**Wildlife conservation in Africa cannot survive financially without sport hunting. One is not speaking of less sport hunting but of better management of this activity.**

## NEWS FROM AND ABOUT AFRICA

African Indaba Editorial Team

### Angola

Pedro vaz Pinto reported that rains in Cangandala had been quite generous, constraining so much the researchers' movements. They could only access the park between late January and early February to reach the trap cameras. This time they couldn't approach the giant sable inside the sanctuary. As positive surprise the photos showed that



an old giant sable bull often called Ivan the Terrible had reappeared after having last been recorded in November 2014. Researchers had speculated that the bull had probably been killed in a poaching incident. In the last three months he was photographed on five independent occasions. The reasons for his long absence are unknown. See more photos [HERE](#)

### Botswana

March 27 marked twenty years since the Central Kalahari Bushmen first brought their plight to the UN. In 2006 Botswana's High Court ruled that the Bushmen had been evicted from their ancestral homelands in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve "wrongfully and unlawfully and without

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their consent.” The Botswana government was asked to “clarify the matter” in 2014 by UN Special rapporteur on cultural rights Farida Shaheed. Shaheed had found that “the fear amongst affected people is that once the elders have passed away, nobody will be entitled to live in the reserve.” In March 2016, Botswana’s Foreign Minister reportedly told the UN Human Rights Council that Shaheed’s observations were “inconsistent with the relocation and the ruling on the CKGR case. The Government did not forcefully relocate Basarwa from the CKGR.” [Read more HERE](#)

### **Botswana**

The Minister of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism, Tshekedi Khama, has pulled a last minute no show on communities who had wanted to meet with him over the hunting ban. Ngamiland communities resolved to request Khama’s ministry to exempt buffalo and elephant from the hunting ban as these species have not been affected by the wildlife declines which resulted in the imposition of the hunting ban in 2014. According to the Aerial Census of Animals of Botswana, carried out by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) in 2012, Ngamiland has the highest number of elephants in Botswana standing at 126,474 as well as the highest number of buffaloes at 53, 424. Read more [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)

### **Chad**

After an absence of more than 25 years, scimitar-horned oryx are once again present on Chadian soil. On the evening of March 14, 25 oryx were unloaded from a chartered Ilyushin 76 at Abéché airport. The oryx, drawn from the world herd have been assembled by the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD) in the United Arab Emirates. The pre-release pens are in the vast Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim Game Reserve. The vast bulk of Chad’s oryx were lost in a brutally short period between 1979 and 1982. The species and finally became extinct in the wild in 1989. The vast majority of the world’s remaining oryx, possibly some 20,000 in number, are descended from the 60-70 animals captured in Chad during the 1960s. For more information on Scimitar Horned Oryx see also [http://www.saharaconservation.org/IMG/pdf/Sandscript\\_19\\_Spring\\_2016\\_Standard.pdf](http://www.saharaconservation.org/IMG/pdf/Sandscript_19_Spring_2016_Standard.pdf)

### **Congo, Democratic Republic**

Grauer’s gorillas are poached and pushed out of their habitat in northeast DRC. Their numbers have dwindled to under 4,000, a 77% drop in 20 years. The plummeting population has prompted a number of conservationists and their NGOs to call for Grauer’s gorillas to be designated “critically endangered”. Conservationists propose the disarming of miners that are illegally settled in the gorillas’ core areas, stop illegal mining, better training, equipping and motivating rangers and working more closely with communities to provide them with alternative livelihood opportunities so they don’t have to hunt gorillas and species for survival. (Source [Voice of America](#))

### **Congo, Democratic Republic**

In April elephant poachers killed three wildlife rangers and wounded two more in a shootout in Garamba National Park, reported African Parks. All five victims were members of African Parks. Garamba — once a stronghold for elephants and other wildlife — has been hard hit by poaching and violence against conservation workers. Last year five park guards and three members of the Congolese Armed Forces were killed by poachers in three incidents

### **Kenya**

The Kenyan government torched more than 100 metric tons of ivory, much of it seized from traffickers, in an effort to deter illegal poaching. But in Amboseli – as in other parts of Kenya, such as

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the famed Maasai Mara national reserve – farmers and herders trying to protect their livelihoods kill or injure more wildlife each year than criminal poachers. They are finding conflict increasingly difficult to avoid, killing the animals that raid their crops and eat their livestock. They also retaliate when the animals [are killing people]. "If human-wildlife conflict is not mitigated, it will lead to whatever species being eradicated sooner or later," said Richard Bonham, of Big Life Foundation, "any tourism operation that relies on wildlife that creates conflict will end up with no product." As long as humans continue to encroach on the natural habitat of lions, elephants, and other potentially dangerous animals, human-wildlife conflict will be a perennial problem to mitigate. The future of wildlife "will depend on how we can reconcile the competition between humans and animals for space and resources," Big Life said in a recent statement. "Otherwise, it is a battle that wildlife will surely lose." (Source [Newsday.com](http://www.newsday.com))

### **Namibia**

The Kunene Regional Community Conservation Association (KRCCA), representative of 29 communal conservancies held a peaceful demonstration at Opuwo in April, during which they handed over a petition to be channeled through the relevant offices of members of the European Parliament. "*Our livelihoods will be disrupted by a [trophy hunting] ban, and we can't sit idle,*" the chairperson of the KRCCA said. According to him, conservancies have managed to prevent the poaching of elephants and black rhinos in the region through funds generated through trophy hunting to pay game guards. The KRCCA also argues that some parts of the Kunene region are dry and unattractive to tourists and community development, and thus survive solely on trophy hunting. The request of the association to the EU is to visit the conservancies and see how conservation has contributed to the increase in wildlife, as well as how the income generated from trophy hunting has changed lives. Source [Namibian](http://www.namibian.com)

### **Namibia**

Police Commissioner du Toit warned that visiting hunters should not leave firearms and/or ammunition with private persons when leaving the country after safari. Under the law temporarily imported firearms must leave the country with the importer or handed over to the police if not being taken with until the owner sells legally relinquishes these firearms to an authorized person.

### **Namibia**

Eighty-one rhinos have been poached thus far (17<sup>th</sup> May 2016) since the beginning of this year and most of these poaching incidents occurred at the Etosha National Park. (Source <https://www.newera.com.na/2016/05/17/sms-responses/>)

### **Namibia**

The Namibian Ministry on Environment and Tourism states on the difference between 'Poaching' and 'Trophy Hunting': Poaching in simple terms refers to the illegal killing of wildlife and takes the wildlife value out of the country providing no local benefits and undermining conservation and tourism development. Trophy hunting refers to the legal, well-managed conservation hunting of indigenous resources in healthy environments. Trophy hunting is based on scientific principles and sound knowledge. Offtakes are carried out according to annual quotas based on sustainable harvest rates and are controlled through permits and reporting requirements.

Trophy hunting is a conservation methodology that will assist not only the ministry but the entire country to keep and grow healthy wildlife populations. [It] provides benefits in terms of incentives or revenue generation particularly to the local communities, private farmers and to the

state. Trophy hunting generates revenue in three ways: In trophy hunting areas in conservancies revenue generated goes to the communities. On average conservancies generate N\$20 million to N\$22 million a year. For trophy hunting in national parks and on other state lands, revenue goes to the Game Product Trust Fund [and is] invested back to conservation. On average it generates around N\$10 million for the government. In some parks like Bwabwata, the ministry shares the revenue generated on a 50/50 basis with the community. Two hunting concessions exist that generate about N\$4.6 million annually. This is shared with the community. Revenue generated through this method is invested into the Game Product Trust Fund. It is then reinvested into conservation by means of support to human wildlife conflict mitigation, anti-poaching and infrastructure development such as water provision to game, amongst others. For trophy hunting on commercial farms revenue generated goes to the farm owners and the prices are set by them. Read more [HERE](#) (

### **Niger**

An extensive SCF survey in March across key habitat for the addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*) was able to identify just 3 animals, the IUCN reported in May. Oil operations in Niger, chiefly those of the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), have decimated addax populations IUCN said, mostly due to poaching by the military personnel hired to protect CNPC's operations. Even in the Termit & Tin-Toumma National Nature Reserve in eastern Niger, Africa's largest protected area, poaching has increased drastically. SCF used cutting-edge technologies, including infrared capture and ultra-high resolution cameras, and covered more than 3,200 km of transects across key addax habitat. After 18 hours of flight time, however, the SFC researchers had not found one single addax. The ground team searched over 700 km and sighted one small group: "3 very nervous addax individuals," as IUCN reported. A few thousand of the animals live in captivity or semi-wild conditions in zoos, nature reserves, and breeding programs in Africa, Europe, Japan and Australia and there are also several hundred addax living on private ranches in Texas — where they are legally hunted. Get more information on Addax [HERE](#).

### **South Africa**

Dimension Data and Cisco announced a partnership to save rhinos. The technology deployed by the companies will track vehicles and people entering a reserve that is located near the Kruger National Park. The primary goal of the pilot project dubbed "Connected Conservation" technology is to stop people entering the reserve illegally. In the second phase, plans are to incorporate CCTV, drones with infrared cameras, thermal imaging, vehicle tracking sensors as well as seismic sensors on a secured intelligent network. Source [IB Times UK](#)

### **South Africa**

South Africa will host the 17<sup>th</sup> conference of the parties (COP 17) to CITES in September and October 2016. At the conference, South Africa was aiming to propose legalizing the international trade in rhino horn in a bid to control the escalating rhino poaching. South Africa withdrew the proposal in April 2016. Jeff Radebe, Minister for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation said cabinet approved the recommendations made by the Committee of Inquiry on the feasibility of trading in rhino horns as one of the options to preserve the country's rhino population. "The recommendations endorse South Africa's integrated strategic management approach to resolving the poaching of rhino and illegal trade in rhino," Radebe added and "the committee recommends that the current mode of keeping the country's stock levels be kept as opposed to the trading in rhino horns. The recommendations were endorsed by the Interdepartmental Technical Advisory

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Committee and the Inter-Ministerial Committee appointed to investigate the possibility of legalizing commercial international trade in rhino horn, explained Radebe. Source [FIN24](#)

### **South Africa**

South Africa is in the possession of a fairly significant stockpile of ivory confiscated from poachers or collected following natural deaths. Currently, the country's stand on legal ivory trade is "officially undecided, with huge internal debate", says Ross Harvey from the South African Institute of International Affairs. There's a strong chance that South Africa will come out in support of legalizing trade in ivory, says Chris Galliers, from the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa. There is "quite a prominent ideological stance that 'this is our ivory and we should be able to capitalize on it'" Read more [HERE](#)

### **South Sudan**

South Sudan authorities arrested an army major at Juba International Airport for allegedly trafficking with 27 pieces of cut ivory and a Chinese oil worker engineer who had luggage 10 kilograms of frozen pangolin meat his arrival in Juba from the Paloich oil fields.

### **Swaziland**

The Kingdom of Swaziland submitted a last-minute proposal to CITES to down-list their population of Southern white rhinos, which would essentially allow them to trade in rhino horn. This proposal will open the debate on rhino horn trade at CITES CoP17 later this. Swaziland has a population of 73 white rhinos in the Hlane and Mkhaya Game Parks at present.

### **Tanzania**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and the Board of Directors of the College of African Wildlife Management - Mweka have resolved to turn the institution into a center of excellence. Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Prof Jumanne Maghembe and CAWM Board Chairman, Prof Faustine Bee, projected investment in improvement of the college infrastructure.

### **Tanzania**

Secretary General Mike Angelides of [Tanzania Hunting Operators Association \(TAHOA\)](#) confirmed that Tanzania has resumed the exporting all trophies with immediate effect after a brief temporary interruption due to an internal clerical issue.

### **United States of America**

The DC Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that hunters taking captive bred scimitar-horned oryx, dama gazelle and addax in the US do not need to obtain Endangered Species Act permits. Safari Club International announced they had won the suit after more than a decade of legal wrangling. The fight began in 2005 when USFWS listed the three exotic antelope as endangered but also created a special rule that exempted ranch owners and hunting clients from obtaining ESA permits for captive bred populations in the United States. Finally, the US Congress stepped in, passing the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014, including Section 127 directing USFWS to reinstate the special rule exempting the three species from the ESA permit requirement. Anti-hunting groups went back to court challenging the constitutionality of Section 127. SCI intervened and on June 3, the court decided that the US Congress did not violate the US Constitution in passing the law. You can read a detailed history on this fight [on SCI's website here](#) (Source The Hunting Report)

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### Zambia and Zimbabwe

During the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation the members voted to accept the applications of the Zimbabwean Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate and of the Zambian Ministry of Tourism and Arts to become State Members of the CIC. Both ministries will cooperate with the CIC to develop of African-based wildlife policy approaches.

### Zimbabwe

The Dande Safari Area in the Zambezi Valley of Zimbabwe forms a vital wildlife corridor between the Chewore Safari Area in the west and the country of Mozambique in the east. Without safari hunting this wildlife refuge would simply cease to exist. The Conservation Imperative posted the video “Custodians of Wilderness: Zambezi Valley, Zimbabwe” on <https://vimeo.com/165256789>. This is the story of a wildlife sanctuary on the edge. More of [The Conservation Imperative’s](http://theconservationimperative.com/) excellent work can be found at <http://theconservationimperative.com/>

### Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has a stockpile of more than 90 tons, worth nearly US\$13 million, obtained mostly from elephants that died a natural death. Rather than being able to earn from it, Zimbabwe spends almost the same amount (\$13 million) every year on retrieving, preserving, transporting and storing ivory, an expenditure the government cannot afford. Moreover, the US ban against imports of legally hunted ivory has reduced earnings which could have used for conservation efforts, says Zimbabwe’s Environment, Water and Climate Minister Muchinguri-Kashiri. In the absence of options, communities resort to poaching. In 2015 alone, 11 suspected poachers were shot dead, 2,139 incursions were detected, and 1,354 local poachers and 129 foreign poachers were arrested. (Source <http://www.downtoearth.org.in/coverage/should-ivory-trade-be-legalised--53564>)

## ABSTRACTS OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED WILDLIFE PAPERS

Compiled by Gerhard R Damm

### LION (*PANTHERA LEO*) POPULATIONS ARE DECLINING RAPIDLY ACROSS AFRICA, EXCEPT IN INTENSIVELY MANAGED AREAS<sup>3</sup>

Hans Bauer, Guillaume Chapron, Kristin Nowell, Philipp Henschel, Paul Funston, Luke T. B. Hunter, David W. Macdonald, and Craig Packer. 2015, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1500664112

Abstract: We compiled all credible repeated lion surveys and present time series data for 47 lion (*Panthera leo*) populations. We used a Bayesian state space model to estimate growth rate- $\lambda$  for each population and summed these into three regional sets to provide conservation-relevant estimates of trends since 1990. We found a striking geographical pattern: African lion populations are declining everywhere, except in four southern countries (Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe). Population models indicate a 67% chance that lions in West and Central Africa decline by one-half, while estimating a 37% chance that lions in East Africa also decline by one-half over two decades. We recommend separate regional assessments of the lion in the World Conservation Union

<sup>3</sup>See also African Indaba article on page 22 regarding the “[amazing discovery claim by Born Free Foundation](#)” and [Reconnaissance visit to Alataash – Dinder Lion Conservation Unit, Ethiopia – Sudan border](#).

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(IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species: already recognized as critically endangered in West Africa, our analysis supports listing as regionally endangered in Central and East Africa and least concern in southern Africa. Almost all lion populations that historically exceeded ~500 individuals are declining, but lion conservation is successful in southern Africa, in part because of the proliferation of reintroduced lions in small, fenced, intensively managed, and funded reserves. If management budgets for wild lands cannot keep pace with mounting levels of threat, the species may rely increasingly on these southern African areas and may no longer be a flagship species of the once vast natural ecosystems across the rest of the continent.

Download at <http://www.pnas.org/content/112/48/14894>

#### **LION POPULATIONS MAY BE DECLINING IN AFRICA BUT NOT AS BAUER ET AL. SUGGEST**

**Jason Riggioa, Tim Caro, Luke Dollar Sarah M. Durant, Andrew P. Jacobson, Christian Kiffner, Stuart L. Pimm, and Rudi J. van Aarde. 2015, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences**

Abstract: Historical knowledge and recent surveys attest that lions are declining across parts of Africa. We applaud Bauer et al. for assembling available counts because they motivate better monitoring and conservation support. Their own data, however, rejects their claims that lions are “declining everywhere, except in four southern countries” and that lions increase only where “intensively managed.”

See: <http://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/1473612/1/jacobson%20PNAS%201030%202.0%20consensus.pdf>

#### **ASSESSING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF AFRICAN LION TROPHY HUNTING, WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY**

**Scott Creel, Jassiel M'soka, Egil Drøge, Eli Rosenblatt, Matt Becker, Wigganson Matandiko & Twakundine Simpamba. 2016. John Wiley & Sons, Ecol Appl. Accepted Author Manuscript. DOI: 10.1002/eap.1377.**

Abstract: While trophy hunting provides revenue for conservation, it must be carefully managed to avoid negative population impacts, particularly for long-lived species with low natural mortality rates. Trophy hunting has had negative effects on lion populations throughout Africa, and the species serves as an important case study to consider the balance of costs and benefits, and to consider the effectiveness of alternative strategies to conserve exploited species. Age-restricted harvesting is widely recommended to mitigate negative effects of lion hunting, but this recommendation was based on a population model parameterized with data from a well-protected and growing lion population. Here, we used demographic data from lions subject to more typical conditions, including source-sink dynamics between a protected National Park and adjacent hunting areas in Zambia's Luangwa Valley, to develop a stochastic population projection model and evaluate alternative harvest scenarios. Hunting resulted in population declines over a 25-year period for all continuous harvest strategies, with large declines for quotas greater than 1 lion/concession (~0.5 lion/1000 km<sup>2</sup>) and hunting of males younger than 7 years. A strategy that combined periods of recovery, an age limit of  $\geq 7$  years and a maximum quota of ~0.5 lions shot per 1000 km<sup>2</sup> yielded a risk of extirpation < 10%. Our analysis incorporated the effects of human encroachment, poaching and prey depletion on survival, but assumed that these problems will not increase, which is unlikely. These results suggest conservative management of lion trophy hunting with a combination of regulations. To implement sustainable trophy hunting while maintaining revenue for conservation of

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hunting areas, our results suggest that hunting fees must increase as a consequence of diminished supply. These findings are broadly applicable to hunted lion populations throughout Africa, and to inform global efforts to conserve exploited carnivore populations. **Download the full article [HERE](#).** See also <http://www.montana.edu/screel/Webpages/creel.html>

#### **EMBARGO ON LION HUNTING TROPHIES FROM WEST AFRICA: AN EFFECTIVE MEASURE OR A THREAT TO LION CONSERVATION?**

**Philippe Bouché, William Crosmary, Pierre Kafando, Benoit Doamba, Ferdinand Claude Kidjo, Cédric Vermeulen, Philippe Chardonnet. 2016 PLoS ONE 11(5): e0155763. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0155763**

**Abstract:** The W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) ecosystem, shared among Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger, represents the last lion stronghold of West Africa. To assess the impact of trophy hunting on lion populations in hunting areas of the WAP, we analyzed trends in harvest rates from 1999 to 2014. We also investigated whether the hunting areas with higher initial hunting intensity experienced steeper declines in lion harvest between 1999 and 2014, and whether lion densities in hunting areas were lower than in national parks. Lion harvest rate remained overall constant in the WAP. At initial hunting intensities below 1.5 lions/1000km<sup>2</sup>, most hunting areas experienced an increase in lion harvest rate, although that increase was of lower magnitude for hunting areas with higher initial hunting intensity. The proportion of hunting areas that experienced a decline in lion harvest rate increased at initial hunting intensities above 1.5 lions/1000km<sup>2</sup>. In 2014, the lion population of the WAP was estimated with a spoor count at 418 (230–648) adults and sub-adult individuals, comparable to the 311 (123–498) individuals estimated in the previous 2012 spoor survey. We found no significant lion spoor density differences between national parks and hunting areas. Hunting areas with higher mean harvest rates did not have lower lion densities. The ratio of large adult males, females and sub-adults was similar between the national parks and the hunting areas. These results suggested that the lion population was not significantly affected by hunting in the WAP. We concluded that a quota of 1 lion/1000km<sup>2</sup> would be sustainable for the WAP. Based on our results, an import embargo on lion trophies from the WAP would not be justified. It could ruin the incentive of local actors to conserve lions in hunting areas, and lead to a drastic reduction of lion range in West Africa. **Download the full article [HERE](#)**

#### **CECIL: A MOMENT OR A MOVEMENT? ANALYSIS OF MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE DEATH OF A LION, *PANTHERA LEO***

**David W. Macdonald, Kim S. Jacobsen, Dawn Burnham, Paul J. Johnson and Andrew J. Loveridge. *Animals* 2016, 6, 26.**

**Abstract:** The killing of a satellite-tagged male lion by a trophy hunter in Zimbabwe in July 2015 provoked an unprecedented media reaction. We analyze the global media response to the trophy hunting of the lion, nicknamed “Cecil”, a study animal in a long-term project run by Oxford University’s Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU). We collaborated with a media-monitoring company to investigate the development of the media coverage spatially and temporally. Relevant articles were identified using a Boolean search for the terms Cecil AND lion in 127 languages. Stories about Cecil the Lion in the editorial media increased from approximately 15 per day to nearly 12,000 at its peak, and mentions of Cecil the Lion in social media reached 87,533 at its

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peak. We found that, while there were clear regional differences in the level of media saturation of the Cecil story, the patterns of the development of the coverage of this story were remarkably similar across the globe, and that there was no evidence of a lag between the social media and the editorial media. Further, all the main social media platforms appeared to react in synchrony. This story appears to have spread synchronously across media channels and geographically across the globe over the span of about two days. For lion conservation in particular, and perhaps for wildlife conservation more generally, we speculate that the atmosphere may have been changed significantly. We consider the possible reasons why this incident provoked a reaction unprecedented in the conservation sector.

**Download at:** <http://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/6/5/26/htm> - It is important to read the comment in the [Conservation Force Bulletin June 2016](#) (click for the pdf download) in conjunction with the paper of Macdonald et. al.

#### **AGE ESTIMATION OF AFRICAN LIONS *PANTHERA LEO* BY RATIO OF TOOTH AREAS**

**Paula A. White<sup>1</sup>, Dennis Ikanda, Luigi Ferrante, Philippe Chardonnet, Pascal Mesochina, Roberto Cameriere. 2016 PLoS ONE 11(4): e0153648. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0153648**

**Abstract:** Improved age estimation of African lions *Panthera leo* is needed to address a number of pressing conservation issues. Here we present a formula for estimating lion age to within six months of known age based on measuring the extent of pulp closure from X-rays, or Ratio Of tooth AREas (ROAR). Derived from measurements taken from lions aged 3–13 years for which exact ages were known, the formula explains 92% of the total variance. The method of calculating the pulp/tooth area ratio, which has been used extensively in forensic science, is novel in the study of lion aging. As a quantifiable measure, ROAR offers improved lion age estimates for population modeling and investigations of age-related mortality, and may assist national and international wildlife authorities in judging compliance with regulatory measures involving age. **Download the full article** [HERE](#)

#### **THE IMPACT OF LAND REFORM ON THE STATUS OF LARGE CARNIVORES IN ZIMBABWE**

**Samual T. Williams, Kathryn S. Williams, Christoffel J. Joubert and Russell A. Hill. PEERJ, January 2016 Impact Factor: 2.11 · DOI: 10.7717/peerj.1537**

**Abstract:** Large carnivores are decreasing in number due to growing pressure from an expanding human population. It is increasingly recognized that state-protected conservation areas are unlikely to be sufficient to protect viable populations of large carnivores, and that private land will be central to conservation efforts. In 2000, a fast-track land reform program (FTLRP) was initiated in Zimbabwe, ostensibly to redress the racial imbalance in land ownership, but which also had the potential to break up large areas of carnivore habitat on private land. To date, research has focused on the impact of the FTLRP process on the different human communities, while impacts on wildlife have been overlooked. Here we provide the first systematic assessment of the impact of the FTLRP on the status of large carnivores. Spoor counts were conducted across private, resettled and communal land use types in order to estimate the abundance of large carnivores, and to determine how this had been affected by land reform. The density of carnivore spoor differed significantly between land use types, and was lower on resettlement land than on private land, suggesting that the resettlement process has resulted in a substantial decline in carnivore abundance. Habitat loss and high levels of poaching in and around resettlement areas are the most likely causes. The FTLRP

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resulted in the large-scale conversion of land that was used sustainably and productively for wildlife into unsustainable, unproductive agricultural land uses. We recommended that models of land reform should consider the type of land available, that existing expertise in land management should be retained where possible, and that resettlement programmes should be carefully planned in order to minimize the impacts on wildlife and on people. **Download at** <https://peerj.com/articles/1537/>

#### **LEOPARD STATUS, DISTRIBUTION, AND THE RESEARCH EFFORTS ACROSS ITS RANGE**

**Andrew P. Jacobson, Peter Gerngross., Joseph R. Lemeris Jr., Rebecca F. Schoonover, Corey Anco, Christine Breitenmoser-Wursten, Sarah M. Durant<sup>1</sup>, Mohammad S. Farhadinia, Philipp Henschel, Jan F. Kamler, Alice Laguardia, Susana Rostro-Garcia, Andrew B. Stein and Luke Dollar. Jacobson et al., PeerJ, 2016. DOI 10.7717/peerj.1974, Creative Commons CC-BY 4.0**

The leopard's (*Panthera pardus*) broad geographic range, remarkable adaptability, and secretive nature have contributed to a misconception that this species might not be severely threatened across its range. We find that not only are several subspecies and regional populations critically endangered but also the overall range loss is greater than the average for terrestrial large carnivores. To assess the leopard's status, we compile 6,000 records at 2,500 locations from over 1,300 sources on its historic (post 1750) and current distribution. We map the species across Africa and Asia, delineating areas where the species is confirmed present, is possibly present, is possibly extinct or is almost certainly extinct. The leopard now occupies 25–37% of its historic range, but this obscures important differences between subspecies. Of the nine recognized subspecies, three (*P. p. pardus*, *fusca*, and *saxicolor*) account for 97% of the leopard's extant range while another three (*P. p. orientalis*, *nimr*, and *japonensis*) have each lost as much as 98% of their historic range. Isolation, small patch sizes, and few remaining patches further threaten the six subspecies that each have less than 100,000 km<sup>2</sup> of extant range. Approximately 17% of extant leopard range is protected, although some endangered subspecies have far less. We found that while leopard research was increasing, research effort was primarily on the subspecies with the most remaining range whereas subspecies that are most in need of urgent attention were neglected. **Download at:** <https://peerj.com/articles/1974.pdf>

#### **HYBRIDIZATION FOLLOWING POPULATION COLLAPSE IN A CRITICALLY ENDANGERED ANTELOPE**

**Pedro Vaz Pinto<sup>1</sup>, Pedro Beja, Nuno Ferrand & Raquel Godinho. 2016 Sci. Rep. 6, 18788; doi: 10.1038/srep18788**

**Abstract:** Population declines may promote interspecific hybridization due to the shortage of conspecific mates (Hubb's 'desperation' hypothesis), thus greatly increasing the risk of species extinction. Yet, confirming this process in the wild has proved elusive. Here we combine camera-trapping and molecular surveys over seven years to document demographic processes associated with introgressive hybridization between the critically endangered giant sable antelope (*Hippotragus niger variani*), and the naturally sympatric roan antelope (*H. equinus*). Hybrids with intermediate phenotypes, including backcrosses with roan, were confirmed in one of the two remnant giant sable populations. Hybridization followed population depletion of both species due to severe wartime poaching. In the absence of mature sable males, a mixed herd of sable females and hybrids formed and grew progressively over time. To prevent further hybridization and recover this small population, all sable females were confined to a large enclosure, to which sables from the other

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remnant population were translocated. Given the large scale declines in many animal populations, hybridization and introgression associated with the scarcity of conspecific mates may be an increasing cause of biodiversity conservation concern. In these circumstances, the early detection of hybrids should be a priority in the conservation management of small populations.

Download at <http://www.nature.com/articles/srep18788>

## A WATERING HOLE AND RESTAURANT FOR VISITING HUNTERS

Gerhard R Damm

Just before finishing this issue I had a most delightful lunch with friends at the newly opened Wombles Steakhouse, a colonial style restaurant & bar lounge in Johannesburg's Hobart Shopping Center in Bryanston (less than 15 minutes drive by Uber from the hotel clusters in Sandton).

Wombles used to be located in Parktown North in a charming old home. Now their new restaurant in is a retreat which will take you back to a by-gone era where you are welcomed into an African colonial home with an attentive service by dedicated staff.

Executive Chef Nesberth Nhambura prepares prime cuts of South African beef and venison like kudu and springbok with utmost expertise. For the visiting hunter it is an absolute must to dine in this superb venue, decorated with a range of shoulder and skull mounts, antique Africa maps and photos from bygone times. There's also a place for a good cigar after dinner!

Check the Wombles website at <http://www.wombles.co.za/>



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