



AFRICAN INDABA

DEDICATED TO THE PEOPLE
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People Don't Care How Much You Know Until They Know How Much You Care!

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President Teddy Roosevelt said more than 100 years ago “*People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care*”. This statement aptly describes the present status of the relationship between hunters and non-hunters.

Anti-hunting activism unfettered by scientific facts and logic reasoning is at an all-time high. In the current emotionally charged social media free-for-alls constructive debates have been replaced by non-contextual 140 character tweets bedeviling hunting. Mouse-clicked likes and dislikes require minimal personal effort, but give instant gratification of individual “feel-good” moments. This seriously compromises wildlife conservation and habitat preservation!

Cohesive counter-measures of hunting associations and pro-use groups are scarce, often amateurish, and mostly read only by the own constituency. Individual hunters more often than not shrug their shoulders in a “we-cannot-change-them-anyhow” attitude!

The hunters' and the non-hunters' concerns for habitats and wildlife, although congruent in many if not most aspects, are not sufficiently cross-referenced and explained in context. More of the same will not lead to change. It will not make society aware of *how much hunters care!* It's time that

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we recognize that we need innovative change! Especially in our outreach to the Millennial¹ generation. Hunting is not part of their current conversation². Non-hunting Millennials are largely motivated by individual animal welfare - in the worst case by animal right doctrines - rather than by holistic biodiversity conservation. Reaching out to Millennials means going into an open forum; it will not be a one-way conversation and we must be well prepared to keep up with their pace.

A recent example of well-reasoned outreach comes from a non-hunter, who has a deep understanding for nature and natural processes. This sterling explanation can be found under "Interesting Articles For African Indaba Readers" in this African Indaba issue. I don't think I have ever encountered a better rationalization of the concept of conservation through sustainable use than Dr Chris Brown's³ thoughts and excellent logic presented in "[The important link between hunting & tourism in Namibia - both working for conservation](#)". Please make sure that you read the entire article. It contains lots of ideas which should be used in the dialogue with non-hunters.

Dr. Brown elaborates the concept originally presented by Roosevelt, ardent hunter and passionate conservationist that Roosevelt was. Throughout his life he did the single most important thing to conserve wildlife: he enthusiastically fought to protect wild landscapes; like so many of us, on every continent.

Today our super-saturated societies are overloaded with fact-based and, with increasing tendency, spurious information. In this conundrum hunters and conservationists battle to make their fellow citizens understand and accept that hunting plays an important role in the lives of scores of million people around the globe.

Hunters, in their attempts at justification, are often hiding behind a smokescreen of concern for the well-being of rural communities, habitat preservation arguments, animal welfare and conservation and other rationalizations. These are valuable by-products of hunting, but most likely not our true motives when we venture outdoors to hunt. Our underlying motives are neither conservation, social outreach, or economics; nor are they philanthropic. Let's do some soul searching. Why do we hunt in the 21st Century? What does hunting mean from an individual hunter's perspective? Honest answers may be a game changer!

Our hunting heritage goes back to mankind's origins in prehistory. Hunting has influenced our development, cultures, religions and social interactions. The deep relationship between hunting and human development is inescapable - from prehistory to the second decade of the 21st century.

"Conflicts between hunting and tourism are simply failures of management and communication, nothing more profound than that. But the onus should be on the hunting outfitters to ensure that there are ongoing, good communications. The onus is also on hunting outfitters, professional hunters, and the hunting sector to always maintain the highest ethical and professional standards, and to be mindful of the sensitivities of many people to the issue of hunting."

Dr. Chris Brown
April 2017

¹ The Millennial Generation reached adulthood around the turn of the 21st century and make up nearly one-fourth of the total population in North America and Europe.

² See article 'Culling To Conserve: A Hard Truth For Lion Conservation' with Dr. Byron du Preez' remarks on ecosystem conservation in this issue of African Indaba

³ Dr. Brown is the CEO of the [Namibian Chamber of Environment](#)

Hunting was and remains one of the most intense form of integration or re-integration with nature. When a hunter stalks the prey, all senses sharpen and provide an interconnected range of exciting and intriguing experiences before, during and after the hunt!

I believe that we hunt because hunting gives us sensual archaic experiences. Hunters experience nature unfiltered - as active participants and not mere observers. This is good and right, and doesn't need to be justified! But it needs to be explained!

The process of the hunt is undeniably compelling. To begin with, one of the most fascinating aspect of hunting is the convergence of hunter and prey towards an uncertain conclusion⁴. In order to survive and prosper in the coming decades, hunting must be understood as an holistic experience. This experience includes learning about the intended prey and about the lands where wildlife dwells within a complex ecosystem. Of course this also includes learning from and respecting the people who live with wildlife in the hunting areas. It embraces the preparation for the hunt, the stalk, the approach, the matching of senses, and the final moment of truth when the animal is within reach of the deadly bullet or arrow. Just think of all the emotions before and after this moment, which may end with a kill or the escape of the quarry. Our expectations, elations, remorse or regret, and deep satisfaction or disappointment combine to a heady cocktail indeed!

Consider the emotional *mélange* when you relive a hunt, no matter how it ended. The memories in the stories, diaries and photos; and precious experiences recreated by looking at the horns and antlers of animals ethically hunted and tastefully displayed. Relive the working of honestly harvested venison and the preparation of delicious meals for friends and family! As modern urbanites are discovering the joy of cooking with wild ingredients and the wholesomeness of locally sourced wild venison, we have another great opportunity waiting to be exploited!

Yet, none of us must shy away from criticizing unacceptable and unethical hunting practices. This may put us at odds with some who consider criticism from within our own ranks as road to self-destruction. We need to be conscious of, and be able to explain the big difference between real hunting and mere shooting to kill. Once and for all we need to publicly draw the line! Let's admit that some hunters are disconnected from tradition, disrespectful to the people who own and tend wild lands, uncaring towards animals and habitat, too lazy to study natural processes. They're obsessed with the most modern rifle, the latest camo pattern, the newest range finder or GPS device. They conflate a true hunting experience with long range shooting prowess, bullet performance, macho images in the internet and huge trophies for record book placement!

Public perception does not differentiate between hunting and mere shooting! And often enough we fall into the same conflation trap and should therefore not be astonished that all hunting is painted with one brush! Recognize that engaged anti-hunting activists are very adept at exploiting this very conflation. Consequently hunting suffers strong emotional media, social and political pressure. Stop blaming the media to irresponsibly take sides. Stop insinuating that media produce fake news. Rather let's cultivate relationships with journalists and seek out opportunities to set the agenda, rather than always being caught on the back foot!

During a hunt an animal walking around alive and well in one moment is reduced to a dead carcass after the shot. Have the courage elucidating the apparent paradox that we love animals yet we kill individual ones! Non-hunting nature lovers have understandable difficulties accepting this, since the act of killing animals has effectively been eliminated from the conscience of urban dwellers. Consequently large parts of today's society see the hunter merely as killer. The truth is that

⁴ See the suite of articles "Encore: Canned Lion Breeding And Shooting"; "The Color Game Is Over"; "Defining Fair Chase Behind A High Fence"; and "Boone And Crockett Club On Trophies" in this Issue of African Indaba

hunters take ultimate responsibility and don't use surrogates in our intense and participatory experience of nature's life and death continuum.

We also have to adjust to the impact we have on biodiversity, other creatures and on our non-hunting fellow citizens. Our archaic hunting heritage is, therefore, tempered with limitations drawn by modern conservation biology, formal rules, conscious self-restraint and individual ethics.

In the prevailing urban nature remoteness it is rarely appreciated that the keys to sustainable wildlife management are habitat preservation and the conservation needs of interacting multi-species animal populations. Protecting individual animals is of little conservation relevance⁵.

Building bridges to the silent majority of non-hunting fellow citizens requires individual involvement, preparation and the help professional communicators to formulate truly persuasive messages. These messages should contain factual and psychological evidence, an honest analysis of our motives, and the reasons which motivate non-hunters to express understanding for or rejection of hunting.

Let us explain that hunting means for us not just a set of science-supported facts. Hunting encompasses much more: a participatory nature experience, individual sets of values and promises, stories of the outdoors filled with emotions of awe and wonder, live-long learning processes and the simple joys of escaping to the great outdoors. Combined with evidence from conservation biology as well as from economic and social sciences like the examples Dr. Brown presented, we have an excellent tool-box at our fingertips!

What if we started a concerted effort of 'branding' hunting? What if we conclusively explained our urge to be in nature as authentic participants in the eternal circle of life and death? What if we aligned our messages with the emotions of our non-hunting fellow citizens? What if we seek and actively nourish the conditional support of a wide range of scientists like our friends from the global sustainable use scientist network of IUCN⁶?

Providing education and proper perspective is conservation leadership. Therefore, hunters must create cross-cutting alliances with those who have common conservation objectives. Hunters and non-hunters have, as a rule, identical conservation goals. If we concentrate on what unites us, we can trigger worldwide conservation actions which cut through to the public, the corporate world and to policy makers.

Hunting isn't just picking up a gun and shooting an animal. Our actions in the field must bring honor to the wild places and the wild prey we pursue. Reflect on this and communicate your honest reasons and answers within the circles of your friends, at the workplace, and especially whenever you have a chance to talk to non-hunters. It will require dedication to overcome the obstacles. But we have no option other than this to live up to Roosevelt's challenge: *Let people know how much a genuine hunting experience makes us care for wild landscapes and biodiversity.*

The hunter who accepts the sporting code of ethics keeps his commandments in the greatest solitude, with no witness or audience other than the sharp peaks of the mountain, the roaming cloud, the stern oak, the trembling juniper, and the passing animal.

José Ortega y Gasset (1883 - 1955)

⁶ See article 'The Baby And The Bathwater- Trophy Hunting, Conservation And Rural Livelihoods' in this issue of African Indaba

The Baby And The Bathwater - Trophy Hunting, Conservation And Rural Livelihoods

R. Cooney, C. Freese, H. Dublin, D. Roe, D. Mallon, M. Knight, R. Emslie, M. Pani, V. Booth, S. Mahoney and C. Buyanaa*

A new paper by IUCN experts presents substantial evidence that the controversial practice of trophy hunting can produce positive outcomes for wildlife conservation and local people. Download the PDF at [Unasylva 249, Vol. 68, 2017/1](#)

Trophy hunting is the subject of intense debate and polarized positions, with controversy and deep concern over some hunting practices and their ethical basis and impacts. The controversy has sparked moves at various levels to end or restrict trophy hunting, including through bans on the carriage or import of hunting trophies. In March 2016, for example, a group of members of the European Parliament called (unsuccessfully) for the signing of a Written Declaration calling for examination of the possibility of restricting all imports of hunting trophies into the European Union. Although there is a pressing need for the reform of hunting governance and practice in many countries, calls for blanket restrictions on trophy hunting assume that it is uniformly detrimental to conservation; such calls are frequently made based on poor information and inaccurate assumptions.

Here we explain how trophy hunting, if well managed, can play a positive role in supporting conservation as well as local community rights and livelihoods, and we provide examples from various parts of the world. We highlight the likely impact of blanket bans on trophy hunting and argue for a more nuanced approach to much needed reform.

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Culling To Conserve: A Hard Truth For Lion Conservation

[Michael Schwartz](#)

People that don't live in Africa tend to learn about wildlife conservation in easy-to-understand terminology. But safeguarding animal species like lions is often more complex than mainstream media sound bites would have their audiences believe.

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The *National Post* [recently reported that management from Zimbabwe's Buby Valley Conservancy was considering a controversial move to cull upwards of 200 lions](#) out of a rough population of 500 in order to ensure the reserve's wildlife biodiversity.

It was also reported that since the growing calls to end trophy hunting, due in large part to the [killing of Cecil the lion](#) in Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park last year, conservancies like Buby are no longer seeing the funding necessary to adequately cover conservation costs, which includes fence maintenance, financing local schools and health clinics, and providing meat to local people.

Given the many challenges conservationists face in Africa, coupled with culling and trophy hunting being such contentious issues, I decided to reach out to Dr. Byron du Preez, a Buby Valley Conservancy project leader and member of the [Wildlife Conservation Research Unit \(WildCRU\)](#), in the Department of Zoology at Oxford University.

Specifically, I was hoping for clearer answers regarding the potential paradox that increasing calls for hunting bans in Africa have on existing lion populations, and how that may be playing out within the recent culling conundrum.

Fortunately, Du Preez went one step further by clearing up what was initially reported, clarifying the proposed cull, explaining how culling works, and elaborating on the dangers of promoting single species management. The following is his official statement:

Clarification on the Proposed Lion Cull

I am an independent scientist working on the [Buby Valley Conservancy](#), focused on lion ecology, which actually means just about every aspect of the ecosystem, such is the influence that lions have. I am neither pro- nor anti-hunting. I simply focus on practical conservation solutions that actually work in the real world.

We are hopeful that we will be able to translocate some lions, although all previous attempts to translocate lions out of the Buby Valley Conservancy have been derailed by factors entirely out of our control. However, if the species was in as much trouble as the sensationalist reports like to focus on, one would think that it would be a lot easier to find new homes for these magnificent animals than it actually is. *'There is basically no more space left in Africa for a new viable population of lions.'* The fact remains that habitat destruction is their biggest enemy, and there is basically no more space left in Africa for a new viable population of lions.

The Science of Culling

A cull is not a once-off fix (neither is translocation, nor contraception), but would be more of an ongoing management operation conducted on an annual basis. When given adequate space, resources, and protection, lion populations can explode, such as they have done on the Buby Valley Conservancy.

Reducing numbers to alleviate overpopulation pressure does nothing to permanently solve the problem, nor halts the species' breeding potential; [it] only slows it down for a relatively short time until their population growth returns to the exponential phase once again.

Culling is a management tool that may be used for many species. That includes: elephants, lions, kangaroos, and deer, basically animals that have very little natural control mechanisms other than disease and starvation, and that are now bounded by human settlements and live in smaller areas than they did historically. As responsible wildlife managers who have a whole ecosystem full of animals to conserve (not just lions), we have therefore discussed culling as an option for controlling the lion population, but have agreed that, for now, this is not necessary just yet and we will continue to try and translocate these animals until our hand is forced.

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As already mentioned, there is very little space left in Africa that can have lions but doesn't already. Also, where lions do occur, especially in parks and private wildlife areas, they often exist at higher densities than they ever did historically. This is mainly due to augmented surface water supply resulting in greater numbers of non-migratory prey that now no longer limit lion nutrition and energy availability, allowing the lion population to rapidly expand. For example, successful hunting to feed cubs all the way through to adulthood and independence is one of the greatest stresses for a lion, and often results in dead cubs and reduced population growth. In turn, a high density of lions can severely reduce the density of their prey, ultimately leading to the death of the lions via disease and starvation—far more horrific than humane culling operations conducted by professionals.

The Dangers of Single Species Management

Lions are the apex predator wherever they occur, and as such exert a level of top-down control on the rest of the ecosystem. Lions prey on a wide variety of species, and we are starting to see declines in even the more common and robust prey such as zebra and wildebeest—not to mention more sensitive species such as sable, kudu, nyala, warthog, and even buffalo and giraffe.

Apart from their prey, lions are aggressively competitive and will go out of their way to kill any leopard, cheetah, wild dog, or hyena that they encounter, and have caused major declines in these species, not just on the Bulyebe Valley Conservancy, but elsewhere in Africa where lion densities are high. According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), cheetah are listed as vulnerable, and wild dogs are endangered.

It is easy to simply focus on the number of lions remaining in Africa that has fallen steeply over the last century from ~100,000 to ~20,000 today, but which is directly linked to the reduction in available habitat. Simply focusing on increasing the abundance of one species at the cost of another cannot be considered a conservation success—assuming that holistic conservation for the benefit of the entire ecosystem is the end goal—no matter how iconic that species is. Luckily, lions kill lions, resulting in more lion mortality than any other species—including man on the Bulyebe Valley Conservancy—and in an ideal world the lion population would level off at a putative carrying capacity where lions control their own numbers (deaths from conflict equal or exceed new births). However, it is possible and probable (man-made water points increase the carrying capacity of — and therefore also the competition and conflict between—all wildlife species) that this would still be at the cost of certain other sensitive species.

Ecosystem stability is related to size (and conversely ecosystem sensitivity is inversely related to size) and smaller areas need to control their lion numbers a lot more carefully than large areas such as the Bulyebe Valley Conservancy, which is over 3,000 square kilometers [1,160 square miles]. In fact, small reserves in South Africa alone culled over 200 lions in total between 2010 and 2012, according to the [2013 report from the Lion Management Forum workshop](#).

Understanding Carrying Capacity

The Bulyebe Valley Conservancy does not rely on trophy hunting to manage the lion population. I will discuss the economics of hunting in brief. The most recent and robust lion population survey data calculate a current lion population on the Bulyebe Valley Conservancy of between 503 and 552 lions (it is impossible to get a 100 percent accurate count on the exact lion number — which also changes daily with births and deaths).

Carrying capacity is an extremely fluid concept, and changes monthly, seasonally, and annually depending on all sorts of factors including rainfall, disease (both predator and prey), and economics. It is estimated that 500 lions eat more than US\$2.4 m. each year (meat value calculated at very conservative \$3/kg—compare that to the price of steak in a supermarket, and then remember

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that the Buby Valley Conservancy used to be a cattle-ranching area, and if wildlife becomes unviable, then there is no reason not to convert it back to a cattle ranching area once again).

To give the question of carrying capacity a fair, if necessarily vague, answer, I would personally estimate that the upper carrying capacity of lions on the Buby Valley Conservancy would be around 500 animals—assuming that they are allowed to be hunted and therefore generate the revenue to offset the cost of their predation.

Remember, lion numbers can get out of hand. And if there was no predation, then thousands upon thousands of zebra and wildebeest and impala would need to be culled to prevent them from over grazing the habitat, leading to soil erosion, starvation, and disease. The ecosystem is a very complex machine and whether anyone likes it or not, humans have intervened with cities, roads, dams, pumped water, fences, and livestock. The only way to mitigate that intervention is by further, more focused, and carefully considered intervention, for the sake of the entire ecosystem.

It is important to bear in mind that the wildlife here, and in the majority of other wildlife areas in Africa (hunting areas exceed the total area conserved by Africa's national parks by more than 20 percent), does not exist as our, or anyone else's, luxury.

The Buby Valley Conservancy is a privately owned wildlife area, or to put it another way, it is a business. The fact that it is a well-run business is the reason why it is one of the greatest conservation successes in Africa, converting from cattle to wildlife in 1994 (only 22 years ago) and now hosting Zimbabwe's largest contiguous lion population at one of the highest densities in Africa, as well as the third largest black rhino population in the world (after Kruger and Etosha).

This is only possible because it is a business, and is self-sufficient in generating the funds to maintain fences, roads, pay staff, manage the wildlife, pump water, and support the surrounding communities—all extremely necessary factors involved in keeping wildlife alive in Africa.

Michael Schwartz is a freelance journalist and African wildlife conservation researcher. Several of his articles have been published in African Indaba

Why Men Trophy Hunt

Chris T. Darimont, Brian F. Coddling and Kristen Hawkes. [Royal Society](#)

Editor's Note: Carl D. Mitchell sent me this article. Considering the main topic in this issue of African Indaba it seems appropriate to include this opinion piece of Darimont et al. in full length.

1. Introduction

The killing of Cecil the lion (*Panthera leo*) ignited enduring and increasingly global discussion about trophy hunting [1]. Yet, policy debate about its benefits and costs (e.g. [2,3]) focuses only on the hunted species and biodiversity, not the unique behavior of hunters. Some contemporary recreational hunters from the developed world behave curiously, commonly targeting 'trophies': individuals within populations with large body or ornament size, as well as rare and/or inedible species, like carnivores [4]. Although contemporary hunters have been classified according to implied motivation (i.e. for meat, recreation, trophy or population control, [5,6]) as well the 'multiple satisfactions' they seek while hunting (affiliation, appreciation, achievement; [7], an evolutionary explanation of the motivation underlying trophy hunting (and big-game fishing) has never been pursued. Too costly (difficult, dangerous) a behavior to be common among other vertebrate predators, we postulate that trophy hunting is in fact motivated by the costs hunters accept. We build on empirical and theo-

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retical contributions from evolutionary anthropology to hypothesize that signaling these costs to others is key to understanding, and perhaps influencing, this otherwise perplexing activity.

2. Man the show off?

Subsistence hunting among traditional 'hunter-gatherers', which also targets larger-bodied prey, provides a starting point for understanding trophy hunters from the developed world. Owing to disagreement over the relative importance of potential benefits men receive from hunting, however, evolutionary explanations as to why subsistence hunters target large prey attract competing theories and significant controversy. Some assert that energetic and nutritional returns to hunters and individuals they provision best explain why men accept the costs of big game hunting (e.g. [8,9]). Others invoke the pressure to share large prey as an explanation for wide distribution of meat (e.g. [10]). But why target prey that will be mostly consumed by others? An alternative hypothesis, consistent with data across hunter-gatherer systems, starts by noting that men generally target species that are not only large-bodied but also—and, importantly—impose high cost (i.e. high failure risk; [11,12]). The hypothesis considers the carcass not only as food but also a signal of the costs associated with the hunter's accomplishment. The Meriam peoples of Australia provide a flagship illustration of this association. There, men, women and children collect green turtles when they come ashore to lay eggs. In contrast, only men hunt them at sea. Pursuing turtles in boats, hunters accept significant economic and personal cost, including a dive into dangerous waters [13], despite the fact that most of what they acquire will be consumed by other community members [14,15]. Such seemingly irrational behavior is resolved by costly signaling theory [16] from which the hypothesis draws. The theory considers the social status and prestige that accrue to successful hunters. The Maasai peoples of eastern Africa themselves describe lion killing as a manhood ritual that awards prestige to the hunter who first spears the animal [17]. Why is status awarded? Simply put, killing large, dangerous, and/or rare prey is difficult with high failure risks that impose costs on the hunter. Accordingly, successful hunts signal underlying qualities to rivals and potential allies. This holds true for successful Meriam turtle hunters, who gain social recognition, get married earlier to higher-quality mates, and have more surviving children [14]. For such behavior to be maintained, even the attempted hunt must signal that the hunter can sustain the handicap of high-cost, low-consumption activity, providing honest evidence of underlying phenotypic quality [14,15,16].

We propose that an assessment of contemporary trophy hunting behavior offers fresh additional evidence for a costly signaling model to explain any big-game hunting. First, inedible species, like carnivores commonly targeted by trophy hunters, make nutritional and sharing hypotheses implausible. Second, evidence for show-off behavior appears clear. Trophy hunters commonly pose for photographs with their prey, with the heads, hides and ornamentation prepared for display [18]. Interestingly, similar costly display occurs in other taxa. For example, chimpanzees likewise pay a cost in time and effort spent hunting without commensurate food consumption gains; interpretations of related display behavior support a social status model (reviewed in [19]). Similarly, some seabirds like the pigeon guillemot show off 'display fish', sometimes for hours. Often discarding them, the behavior is likewise thought to be social, related to site-ownership display [20]. Third, whereas some might argue that caloric returns for edible trophy hunted species are high and associated costs of failure low (owing to advanced killing technology and foods easily purchased by participants), the behavior still imposes costs that guarantee the honesty of the signal; while rarely costly in terms of danger or difficulty, hunts for endangered species can be extraordinarily expensive. Moreover, even the everyday hunter who targets larger individuals within populations pays the opportunity costs of forgoing income-generating activities as well as sustenance lost by passing up smaller, abundant prey. We note that the signal can honestly reflect a hunter's socio-economic

standing (and qualities that underlie it) but not necessarily any remarkable physical abilities ([21]; figure 1), given the efficient technology contemporary trophy hunters employ [4].

A signaling model assumes benefits to both signaler and audience, the latter benefiting from the information they can then use in their own ways. It is unclear what specific benefits—other than increased status—might accrue to trophy hunters. Trophy hunting systems do not lend themselves to testing for patterns associated with reproductive success, as in the Meriam example above. Hunting associations (e.g. B&C, SCI), however, have elaborate scoring systems that award status. We predict that greater status is bestowed upon those killing larger and/or rarer (i.e. costly) animals. Similarly, no detailed data exist on the potential audience, but we suspect hunters would broadcast the signal to friends and family, colleagues and members of hunting associations or social media groups (see below). Survey and/or interview data, commonly collected in the context of wildlife management or research, may be able to clarify audience composition. If we accept that trophy hunting simply provides a vehicle for status-accumulation, such an interpretation is consistent with those related to the purchase and display of luxury objects (e.g. expensive automobiles, clothes and jewelry), long proposed to serve as forms of competitive signaling [22]. Finally, given that women in hunter-gatherer societies overwhelmingly target small, predictable prey compared with men [12], there are now seemingly puzzling examples of female trophy hunters, often prominent media figures and/or professional hunters sponsored by outdoor companies. We speculate that such behavior, counter to expected gender norms (and their evolution), might allow for increased attention in an increasingly competitive social media and marketing world (below).

3. Costly signaling in a global, commercialized world

Worldwide social media creates for trophy hunters a vast audience to which to boast. Signaling the costs of hunting are no longer restricted to carcass displays in small social groups. Men can now communicate an ability to absorb trophy hunting costs not only to their immediate social group but also—with the help of the Internet—to a global audience. Media abound with costly signals. For example, although probably not a representative sample, many hunters post hunting stories and pictures on online discussion forums, commonly emphasizing the size of kills [21]. Advertisements for hunting equipment likewise frequently emphasize a product's efficacy in securing large specimens. In these ways and more, contemporary culture reinforces trophy-seeking behavior that probably evolved long ago.

4. Policy-relevant research

Although some argue that trophy hunting provides a route to conservation, others contend that trophy hunting can pose significant threats to hunted populations. Interacting with our signaling hypothesis, and of acute conservation concern, is how trophy hunting of rare species can propagate a feedback loop toward extinction. Known as the 'anthropogenic Allele effect', demand and associated costs increase when otherwise unprofitable rare resources become attractive, thereby speeding up their decline [23]. We call for more research to evaluate quantitatively the conditions that influence trophy hunting motivation. If the signaling hypothesis explains this behavior, then policies designed to limit the perceived cost of the activity, dampen signal efficacy or both should reduce trophy hunting. Indeed, recent bans by several governments on the importation of lion remains have probably curtailed demand, despite the hunts themselves remaining legal. And how might shame [24] influence motivation? We predict that social media boasting about lion hunting declined following the widespread shaming after Cecil's death during perhaps the largest media coverage ever associated with wildlife [25]. After all, any perceived benefits of signaling are also probably contingent on associated threats to status, something shaming would erode.

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House Of Commons Library Provides Fake News - MPs Misinformed On Trophy Hunting

[FACE Press Release](#)

A briefing paper titled [Trophy Hunting: UK and international policy, Alison Pratt and David Hirst, 2017. Briefing Paper Number 7908, 23 February 2017. House of Commons Library](#) provides incorrect information to the Members of Parliament in the UK (MPs) and their staff on policy and sustainability aspects of trophy hunting.

It is not true that EU Member States signed a Written Declaration in January 2016 calling for the examination of the possibility of restricting all import of trophies into the EU. What really happened in 2016 was that an overwhelming majority of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) —not EU Member States—chose NOT to support a written declaration with that content.

Importantly, in 2016, the UK Government and the other 27 EU Member States took a unanimous decision, as part of the 183 countries that are parties to CITES, to adopt a resolution on trade in hunting trophies in which they:

1. recognize that “well-managed and sustainable trophy hunting is consistent with and contributes to species conservation, as it provides both livelihood opportunities for rural com-

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munities and incentives for habitat conservation, and generates benefits which can be invested for conservation purposes”; and

2. recommend that Parties “consider the contribution of hunting to species conservation and socioeconomic benefits, and its role in providing incentives for people to conserve wildlife, when considering stricter domestic measures and making decisions relating to the import of hunting trophies”.

The mistakes in the Commons Library Briefing Paper could have been avoided and a more balanced overview of the best available science and opinions on trophy hunting could have been reflected therein, had the authors relied more on peer-reviewed evidence. It is surprising that the authors relied so heavily on opinion papers from a few animal rights’ organizations that are well-known for having a negative attitude towards trophy hunting.

MPs deserve to be properly briefed⁷ on such an important matter for wildlife conservation! In this context, this misinformed briefing paper should be withdrawn and resubmitted with a greater reliance on the existing peer reviewed evidence.

Prides, Protection And Parks: Africa's Protected Areas Can Support Four Times As Many Lions

Panthera

Africa's protected parks and reserves are capable of supporting 83,000 wild lions if well funded and managed, according to a new report led by Panthera. Published in *Biological Conservation*⁸, the study shows that populations of the African lion and its prey species are drastically below their natural potential inside most of Africa's protected areas (PA). In recent years, lion numbers have declined steeply. Some estimates suggest as few as 20,000 wild lions remain in all of Africa, compared to 30,000 that existed just two decades ago. Yet, the study indicates that with sufficient global support for African conservation efforts, the continent's protected areas could support as many as 83,000 free-ranging lions.

Panthera Research Associate and Wildlife Conservation Network Conservation Initiatives Director, Dr. Peter Lindsey, shared, "Africa's incredible protected areas hold the key to securing the future of lions and several other wildlife species, and can yield significant benefits for people. African governments have set aside enough space to conserve lions effectively—we just need to find ways to enable those areas to be funded sufficiently and managed effectively. While a diverse set of approaches are needed to achieve lion conservation, it is clear that investing in improved management of PAs has particular potential to boost the conservation prospects for lions."

Lindsey continued, "Encouragingly, there are more than just biological reasons for investing in PAs. Well-funded protected areas, and especially those with lions, can play a critical role in developing tourism industries whose revenues can help to grow and diversify economies and create jobs. In addition, protected areas also play essential roles in providing ecosystem services, such as water-

⁷ Dr. Chris Brown's paper [The Important Link Between Hunting & Tourism In Namibia - Both Working For Conservation](#) ought to be added to the House Of Commons Library!

⁸ [The performance of African protected areas for lions and their prey](#). 2017. Lindsey P A, Petracca L S, Funston P J, Bauer H, Dickman A. Everatt K, Flyman M, Henschel P, Hinks A E, Kasiki S, Loveridge A, Macdonald D W, Mandisodza R, Mgoola W, Miller S M , Nazerali S, Siegel L, Uiseb K & Hunter L T B. *Biol. Cons.* 209 (2017) 137–149

shed protection. By investing sufficiently in Africa's protected area network, the global community has the opportunity to halt and reverse the decline in lion numbers."

The study found that less than one third of the 175 parks and reserves examined are currently conserving lions at more than 50% of their 'carrying capacity'—an ecological term for the natural population levels animals reach if human threats are minimal. Parks were in slightly better shape for lion prey, with around 45% of surveyed protected areas conserving herbivores at over 50% of their carrying capacity.

The illegal bushmeat trade stands out as the most severe and prevalent threat facing lions and many other wildlife species in Africa's protected areas. Following closely behind are a multitude of threats, including human-lion conflict, encroachment of PAs by humans and livestock and in some cases, the emerging threat of direct poaching of lions for the illegal wildlife trade.

Panthera and partner scientists found that adequate management budgets and management capacity are essential pre-requisites for successfully conserving lions in PAs, as they permit effective law enforcement and other critical conservation initiatives. Those protected areas dedicating the use of their land primarily for photo-tourism operations are also associated with the greatest success in conserving lions and their prey.

Today, sub-Saharan Africa's tourism industry, supported by dozens of parks and reserves, is valued at \$25 billion dollars, compared to the \$20 billion a year illegal wildlife trade that is increasingly targeting Africa's big cats and wildlife for their precious parts. Panthera also recognizes the importance of making sure that local people have a stake in and stand to benefit from PAs and big cat conservation. Simply put, managing PAs and protecting wildlife will be cheaper and easier if local people are supportive, and have a stake in the process. Senior Lion Program Director, Dr. Paul Funston, stated "There is just no replacement for large protected areas that invest adequately in management and protection of their lions. Very few areas in Africa meet these needs, and those that do are pure gold for lions. They are places where tourists can see lions really being lions in all the amazing facets of their behavior, and where lions properly fulfill their ecological role." Funston continued, "Protected areas are at the heart of the formula to save Africa's lions, and to ensure the species lives on, lions and their wild landscapes require nothing short of a wealthy and immediate investment from the global community—everyone from donors in New York City and African nations to international governments, corporations, foundations and NGOs who want to be a part of the solution in saving one of our planet's most remarkable wild animals."

While in many ways bleak, the lion's future glimmers with hope. Panthera's President and publication co-author, Dr. Luke Hunter, noted, "Many African nations have allocated truly massive swaths of land as protected parks and reserves. However, for Africa's vast PA network to fulfill its potential for conserving lions and other species, there is an urgent need to greatly escalate funding and capacity to effectively manage those parks. That will require a renewed commitment, both from African governments and the international community."

Encore: Canned Lion Breeding And Shooting

Gerhard R Damm

The advocates of captive lion breeding and canned lion shooting often claim that these practices have broader conservation outcomes, such as a demand reduction in the hunting of wild lion and positive conservation outcomes as the reintroduction of captive bred lion into the wild. Hunter et al. (2012 in *Oryx*, 47(1), 19–24) already stated that the captive breeding and shooting industry

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lacks any capacity to contribute to *in situ* lion conservation⁹, with the dubious exception that the industry has been trying to bribe its way towards recognition by offering rather substantial financial "conservation contributions" for each killed (or 'hunted' as they say) captive bred lion!

In this issue of African Indaba the article "Why Men Trophy Hunt" highlights at least one of the reasons why there is still a market for South African lion breeders and the associated hunting operators. Fortunately, the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service closed this loophole last year. The lion breeders responded with lobbying the SA government to establish a quota for lion bones to be exported to Asia. If this is legal and sustainable, I have no reasonable argument against it, although a decidedly negative opinion. After all we also 'produce' beef, pork, lamb and chicken this way; but just as these latter activities—it has nothing to do with conservation, let alone hunting! It is worthwhile re-reading the IUCN resolution WCC-2016-Res-013-EN "[Terminating the hunting of captive-bred lions \(*Panthera leo*\) and other predators and captive breeding for commercial, nonconservation purposes](#)" (pages 40-41), overwhelmingly passed at the IUCN World Conservation Congress Hawai'i in September 2016. This resolution was accepted as official position of the CIC International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation by the CIC Executive Committee. In any case, all professional hunting associations in Africa and most national and international hunting associations have distanced themselves from shooting captive bred lions!

The Color Game Is Over

Stafford Thomas [Financial Mail South Africa](#) (January 2017)

The breeding of wildlife to produce unusually colored animals, in the hope that hunters would pay a lot more to shoot them, has fallen flat in a spectacular manner — with the practice being widely condemned

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. The old adage has become a painful reality for speculators who stampeded into the color-variant game sector. Luring them were rocketing prices being paid at game auctions for color variants bred in captivity and not found in the wild. Described as "unnatural freaks" by Peter Flack, one of SA's foremost game experts, color variants include black impala, white impala, gold wildebeest, white gemsbok and king wildebeest.

"Buyers grabbed anything they could at auctions," says Johan Vorster, a Vleissentraal game auctioneer.

The idea was that hunters would pay more to shoot unusually colored trophy animals. But what the buyers were getting into had all the makings of a classic pyramid scheme: early entrants make big money. Latecomers lose their boots.

This is exactly how it played out. By early 2016 prices of color variants were already sliding. They went on to collapse. It is not that there weren't warning signs. As early as 2011 the International Council for Game & Wildlife Conservation (CIC) declared color variants a manipulation of wild game and said they should not be hunted.

Average auction prices supplied by Game & Hunt of color variants tell a sad tale. Among extreme examples, the average price paid for white impala in 2014 was R8.2m. In 2016 the average

⁹ The availability of wild founder lions, the unsuitability of captive lions for release and the evidence-based success of wild-wild lion translocations shows that captive-origin lions have no role in lion restoration. Compare the M. Schwartz' article 'A Hard Truth For Lion Conservation' in this issue of African Indaba.

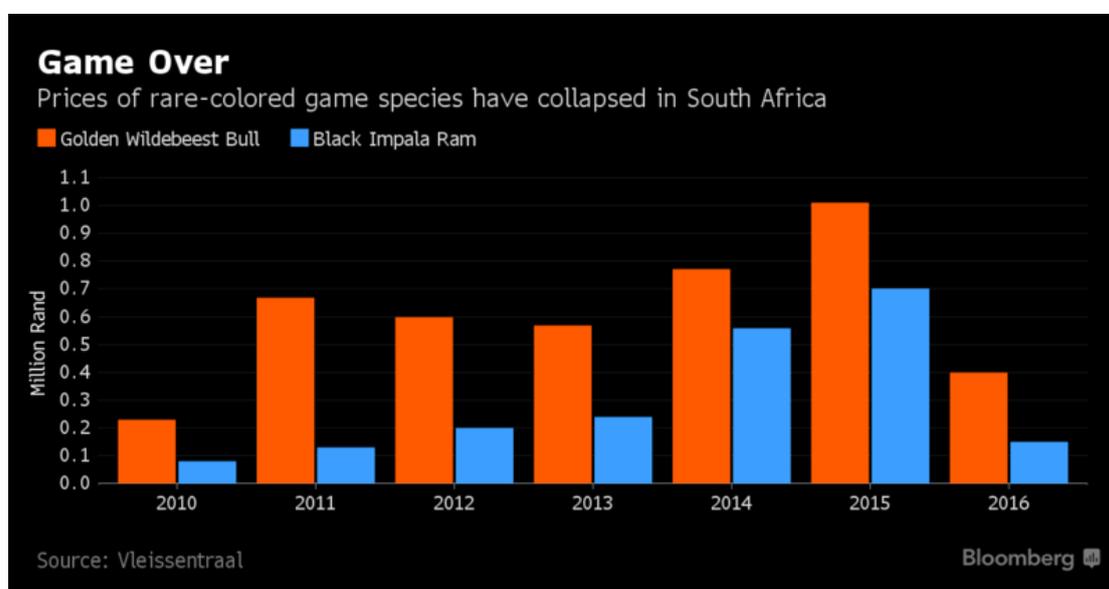
was R48,333. Other color-variant prices have suffered a similar fate. Of black impalas, which sold at an average of R384,964 in 2014, SA-based CIC member Gerhard Damm says: “I doubt you will get more than R10,000 for a black impala ram.” With color-variant animals, a supply was created for which there is no real demand where it counts most—from hunters, says Lizanne Nel, conservation manager at the 45,000-member SA Hunters & Game Conservation Society (SA Hunters). It is not only because of their unnatural nature that hunters shun color variants. “Most hunters want a responsible hunt,” says Nel. “You can’t have it when an animal is bred in captivity.”

Virtually all leading foreign hunting organizations have adopted this stance. Among them is the influential US-based Boone & Crockett Club, which has voiced strong opposition to the hunting of bred animals. Nel believes the collapse in color-variant animal prices is primarily thanks to advocacy work done by SA Hunters and other hunting and conservation bodies.

Not all industry players fully agree. Among them is game breeder Jacques Malan. He concedes “badmouthing by hunters” has done a lot of damage, but argues the biggest problem has been the devastating drought. “There was no natural vegetation,” says Malan. “Breeders faced the huge expense of buying fodder.” “The drought had a big impact,” says Vorster. “Some breeders had to sell at any price.” Malan believes recent good rains will restore the color-variant market’s fortunes. “The natural vegetation is back. We will see a lot of confidence return.”

Nel disagrees. The drought, she says, may have contributed to the collapse but the real damage has been done by the realization that there is no viable market for color variants. “The color-variant game is over,” says Flack. Damm agrees.

But Damm, Flack and Nel stress that the color-variant controversy has dealt SA’s game industry another big reputational blow. It follows the huge damage done by the “canned lion” hunting debacle. Canned lion hunting involves releasing captive-bred lion into small enclosures where they are shot with ease by “hunters”. It is a practice of which Flack has said: “It is not hunting, it is slaughter.” The world agrees. The US has banned the import of lion trophies from SA.



The average price of a buffalo bull fell 71 percent, to 95,704 rand (\$7,336), in 2016 and is now a fraction of the record 2.1 million rand set in 2013, according to Vleissentraal, an auction house. Prices of golden wildebeest, black impala and kudu bulls dropped 60 percent to 80 percent ... (Source [Bloomberg](#) - this graph was not part of Thomas' original article)

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There is another area of concern for conservationists: captive breeding of buffalo with exceptional horn-spread widths. Huge prices are paid for these animals. In September a new record for a single animal was set when a buffalo bull was sold for R168m. Four years earlier the record was R26m. Buffalo ranchers claim they are breeding back top genetics ruined by reckless hunting in the past. Nel is not buying it. "The principles are the same as those applying to color variants," says Nel. "Animals are dependent on humans. You can't hunt them and then say it was a fair hunt."

"You would think SA's game industry is on a mission to self-destruct," says Damm. Foreign hunter numbers coming to SA underscore his concern. In 2014, the latest year for which data is available, 7,638 foreign hunters came to SA, less than half the best-yet figures of 16,394 in 2006. The big winner is Namibia, a country free of canned hunting and color variants. "Foreign-hunter numbers to Namibia grew from 6,300 in 2007 to 23,768 in 2014," says Flack

Defining Fair Chase Behind A High Fence

[Craig Dougherty](#) October 7, 2011 [OutdoorLife](#)

Editor's Note: I recently discovered Dougherty's 2011 article when searching the internet. Although written in a North American context, it strikes me as being applicable to Southern Africa, if one exchanges deer with buffalo, antelopes, etc. and readjusts the property sizes. We have written often about Fair Chase and related topics in previous issues African Indaba, and how the color- and trophy mania together with canned lion shooting damages not only the reputation of all hunters, but also undermines the genuine connection between hunting and conservation.

I recently published a piece criticizing deer farmers for creating "[freak show](#)" bucks through [genetic manipulation](#). Apart from a few deer breeders who were critical of the post, it seemed like most readers shared my concern. It was my most widely read post so far on OutdoorLife.com and it really got some folks fired up.

Interestingly, the post spurred a conversation on high fence hunting (apart from genetic manipulation) which fanned the flames even higher. It seems like hunters have very strong opinions on high fences and are not shy about sharing them. Their opinions range from believing that high fences are the future of the sport to believing that high fences are destroying the sport.

But before we get any further, a few facts:

- Both native and non-native game species are hunted behind high fences
- High fence hunts are widely practiced in this country
- High fence hunts are growing in popularity, are a very big business, and have many supporters
- Not all hunting behind high fences is fee hunting on shooting preserves or game farms. Much of it is on private ranches with thousands of acres under fence

Defining Fair Chase

Much of the opposition to high fence hunting seems to center around the concept of "fair chase." Fair chase is defined by most as a situation where the hunted is not put in a disadvantaged position and has a real chance to escape.

In the wild, this means you don't shoot a moose when he is swimming across a lake, you don't walk up to a caribou mired in the mud and shoot him and if you find two helpless locked-up bucks you do everything you can to get them apart and let them escape unharmed.

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Some extend the definition "fair chase" to not hunting over bait, food plots, watering holes or any other artificial means of concentrating wild animals. Others believe hunting islands, blind canyons or using natural terrain blockades isn't fair chase either. Short of obeying state and federal fair chase game laws, the concept can get pretty gray pretty fast. Basically it is up to the individual hunter or club or organization to draw the fair chase line in the sand. When it comes to fair chase and high fences, there are three different scenarios. Here's my take on each ...

Fair Chase Behind the Fence

A gray area in the hunting community is hunting behind a high fence that encloses hundreds if not thousands of acres. The whitetails living on this ground have never seen a baby bottle or Snickers bar and are every bit as wild and wary as deer on open land. The deer live under natural wild conditions and are plenty challenging to hunt. Aside from the fence, they are not artificially constrained or for that matter, even concentrated in a given area. In my book, this is black and white, this is fair chase hunting.

The fences are up to keep undesirable animals (and trespassers) out and desirable animals in. I have on occasion hunted these places and have noticed no difference in hunting these properties from unfenced ground. In fact, some of them can be considerably tougher to hunt than some free range properties I've been on. On hunts like this there's no guarantee that you're going to kill a buck, or even get a chance to kill a buck. As far as I'm concerned, the only real difference is you can't register your high fence kill in some of the record books.

But cut the acreage to say 50 or 75 acres, stock it regularly with new recruits from a game farm and feed your deer in troughs, and it's a different story for me. The hunt is now a "shoot" and I want no part of it (more on this later). I shoot doves, I hunt whitetails. But that's just me.

Almost Fair Chase Behind the Fence

Then there are shooting preserves with stocked game, guides who put you on animals and highly-managed property. These places basically guarantee a kill. Many argue that these pay-to-hunt shooting preserves and game farm hunts are not only legal but plenty fair as far as the "fair chase" doctrine goes. They point out that it is not shooting fish in a barrel and their hunting experience is every bit as rewarding as a hunt taken in the wild. In fact, they argue since most shooting preserves are well stocked with wild game, the experience for many is more rewarding than a non-fenced hunt where you often come home empty handed.

They cite high fence operations, which excel at providing a "hunting experience" that feels like a real hunt with plenty of drama and "almost got him" opportunities. The high fences are seldom if ever noticed, the guides are authentic and the animals are good at making themselves scarce. Many of the animals were born behind the high fence or at least have lived there long enough to learn the ropes. The "stockers" came out of natural whitetail stock not inbreeding freak show antler genetics. The hunt often lasts for a couple of days or more but in almost every case, by the end of the hunt the hunter is put on a shooter, shots are fired and an animal gets killed. Backs get slapped, chests get pounded and somebody gets paid. Money must change hands in order for this kind of thing to work.

Proponents of these hunts claim they are a great way to introduce newcomers to the sport, or that it's the only way they can hunt with their busy schedule. Or maybe it's the only hunting within 500 miles. For some, it's what hunting is all about. Some simply state: "It's legal and I'm having a good time, so mind your own damn business and quit putting ideas in the anti's heads!"

OK, I get it, and I don't begrudge folks who enjoy this kind of thing. I've been there once or twice and it didn't do a thing for me. It might be a sign of the times, but count me out!

Unfair Chase Behind the Fence

The worst canned hunts (or more accurately shoots) are nothing short of obscene. You select your "trophy range" in inches and by what your checkbook can handle. The only rule being "the bigger the better." Your deer may have been delivered to your hunting location a few days earlier or may have been stocked a few weeks or months earlier. If he carries uncommonly massive antlers he is probably the product of genetic manipulation where the only thing that matters is rack size. He was sold as a "shooter" because he didn't make the grade as a breeder. He may be semi-tame or even semi-stupid with all that "only antlers matter" inbreeding in his line.

You may shoot him out of a golf cart or you may choose to break in those new boots, but one way or another you will get your buck. You may hunt over bait or wait for the boys to walk him through a narrow shooting slot but get him you will. You will head for the bar, pay the bill (\$10,000 to \$15,000 for a really good whitetail), drive through the gate and will be home for dinner.

The problem is, you've just been ripped off. This buck is no trophy. He is not the same as a naturally bred whitetail. His spectacular antlers are the product of genetic manipulation and artificial insemination. He's been raised on supplements and steroids and all sorts of high performance food-stuffs.

Most agree these hunts have little semblance to the real thing. Not only are they not "fair chase" but an abomination as well. Becoming a hunter isn't all that complicated. You can do better than this.

Boone And Crockett Club On Trophies

[B&C Press Release Big Game Trophies and Trophy Hunting](#)

The Boone and Crockett Club, the oldest hunter-conservationist organization in North America, has released a position statement and video on big-game trophies and hunting on 18 January 2017.

There are several aspects to public hunting and its connection to wildlife and habitat conservation that are not well understood. Trophy hunting, however, is the subject that has generated the most misunderstanding and misperceptions. It has become a polarizing topic, both internationally and in North America. As a result, the conservation benefits of hunting in general and the ethics of some hunters individually have come under attack. The Club felt it was time to bring forward the historical and scientific context of big-game trophies and offer the Club's views on the subject.

The Boone and Crockett Club does not believe trophy hunting is a particular form of hunting, but rather the selective pursuit of an older, more mature animal that tends to be more wary, elusive, and more challenging to hunt. When hunters choose to selectively hunt in fair chase, they are engaging in wildlife conservation at its core. It is a choice that should be respected and admired, not criticized.

The Club has encouraged selective hunting for over a century for a variety of reasons, which are further delineated in its position statement. Originally, selective hunting was a means of helping decimated game populations to recover in the first half of the 20th century. With most species now recovered - some areas to an overabundance - the existence of mature animals today is proof that modern wildlife management policies, which include public hunting, are successful and do not harm the sustainability of game populations.

"The arguments being put forth that trophy hunting is unacceptable are value-based and have no scientific relevance," said Club President Ben B. Hollingsworth, Jr. "They also ignore the historical linkage between hunting, wildlife recovery, conservation and management, and the future

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welfare of game species. Most of the criticisms about hunting big-game trophies appear more concerned with the actions of individuals than for the welfare of wildlife."

The new position statement expresses the Club's belief that the term "trophy hunting" is ambiguous, subjective, and can therefore be easily exploited to advance anti-hunter rhetoric. Hollingsworth explained, "Inserting the word 'trophy' in front of the word 'hunting' is a disingenuous tactic intended to sway the public against all hunting. In the Club's view, selective hunting is not something that can be singled out and legislated away without threatening public hunting as a whole, as well as our proven system of wildlife conservation. The Club strongly encourages those who do not hunt to ignore misleading rhetoric. It also reminds sportsmen to uphold the highest ethical standards whenever they hunt and apply peer pressure on others to do the same. In doing so, everyone who cares about wildlife will continue to support wildlife conservation.

Giraffes: The Silent Extinction Of Africa's Gentle Giants

[Dr Noelle Kumpel](#), Zoological Society of London

Although widespread across the savannah, woodland and desert regions of 21 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, giraffe populations are increasingly fragmented and shrinking in size, and have already been lost from 7 countries. There are now estimated to be less than 100,000 individuals left - less than a quarter of the number of African elephants and a staggering 36-40% decline in 30 years.

This is all the more concerning given that giraffe numbers are increasing in southern Africa, masking the quite dramatic reductions in other populations, such as the Nubian, Reticulated and Maasai subspecies in northern/eastern Africa. For example, the reticulated giraffe has declined from a historic estimate of 36,000 to 46,750 to a mere 8,661 individuals today. These populations are threatened largely due to the increasing size and mobility of human populations, resulting in loss and degradation of habitat for timber harvesting and agriculture, competition with livestock and hunting as bushmeat, particularly when poor local people are battling drought or have been displaced by civil conflict. Development of infrastructure, mining and oil also impinge on some giraffe habitat in some areas.

Perhaps because giraffes are readily seen in adverts, on safari and in zoos, and they are not threatened by the much publicized international wildlife trade like species such as elephants and rhinos, most people (including conservationists) are not aware that many populations are heading toward a silent extinction if we don't act now to conserve them.

This IUCN Red List assessment, conducted by members of the [IUCN SSC Giraffe and Okapi Specialist Group](#), is therefore critical to not only help prioritize action where it is needed most, but also to help raise global awareness and support to help governments, conservationists and local stakeholders really start to focus on giraffe conservation and research.

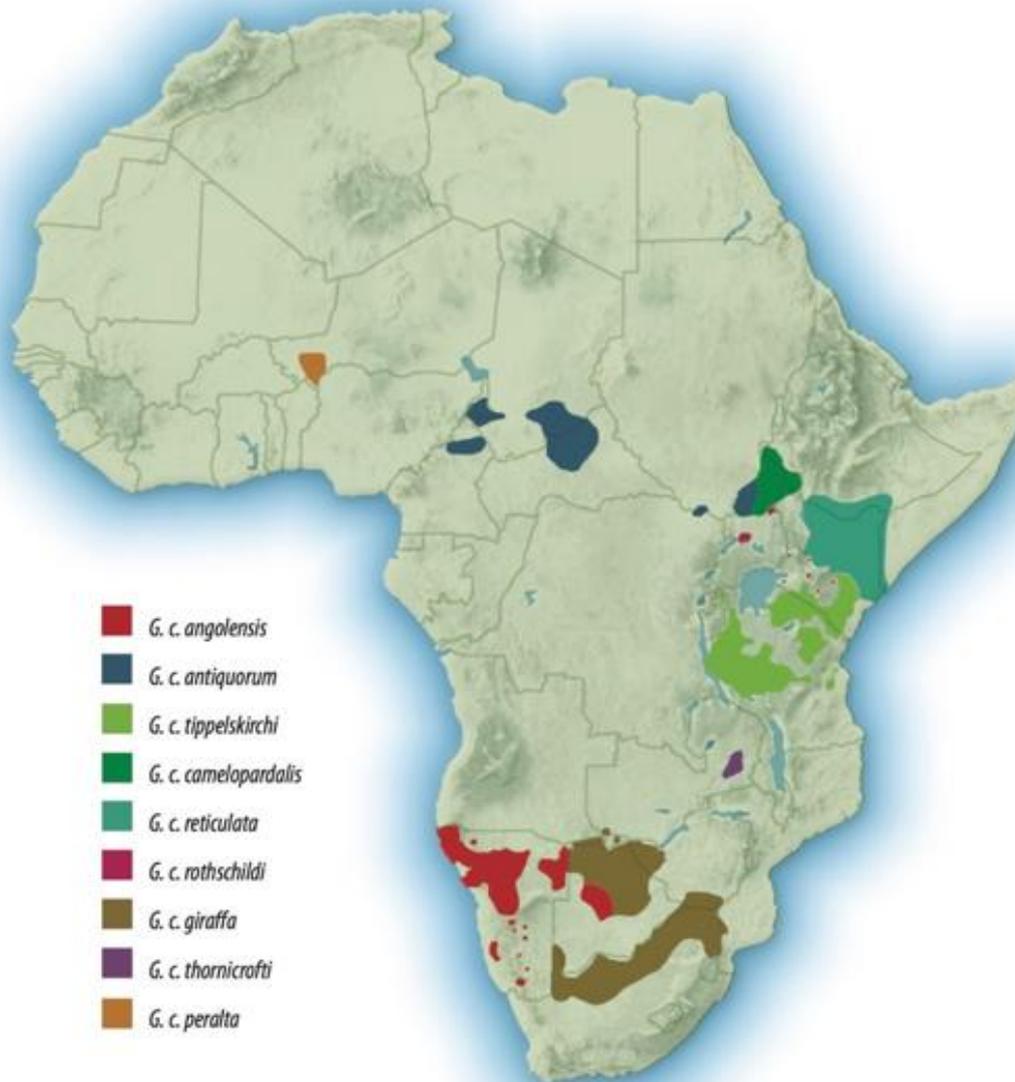
The Specialist Group is helping to spearhead and coordinate these efforts, and ZSL, as a Red List Partner, provides technical support for species conservation assessment such as these. We also support Red List products such as the Red List Index, an indicator of global trends in extinction risk, and National Red Lists, which provide complementary and additional information to the global level assessments.

The giraffe Red List assessment process has been a major collaborative effort, compiling data on all nine subspecies from a large number of researchers working across the range.

We've known that giraffe populations have been declining in many parts of their range for some time, but the IUCN Red Listing process provides a standardized, thorough and peer-reviewed

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means of formally assessing and registering this - moving the giraffe status up two notches from Least Concern to Vulnerable.



In 2013, we similarly assessed the giraffe's only living relative, the okapi, which is now listed as Endangered on the Red List due to an estimated decline of over 50% over three generations (24 years). This means that both these much-loved species - the giraffe, instantly recognized around the world, and the okapi, a national emblem for the Democratic Republic of Congo, the only country where it is found - are now threatened with extinction.

The loss of these species has wider repercussions, as giraffe play a critical role as agents of change in the ecosystems in which they live. Their browsing of trees opens up areas, stimulates the production of new shoots and plays a role in pollination, and they disperse seeds in their droppings.

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We are only just starting to understand the importance of species like giraffe and elephant to maintain healthy, resilient ecosystems to support other wildlife and local people. This news may seem depressing, but we can turn things around.

IUCN Members recently passed a [key resolution](#) calling for greater efforts to raise awareness and secure the future of both these hugely charismatic, iconic and gentle giraffid species, including safeguarding key protected areas. Giraffe numbers in countries such as South Africa are increasing thanks to good protected area and population management. Involving and benefiting local stakeholders such as stakeholders and local communities, within a stable political environment. Species conservation strategies can use information from the Red List assessment, identifying actions to counter threats, and provide a clear roadmap to guide conservation action.

With the development of the first National Giraffe Conservation Strategy, the government of Niger has increased the population of West African giraffe from a low of 50 individuals nearly eight-fold in 20 years. ZSL and other partners are supporting the development of a similar strategy for Kenya, which we hope will help to similarly address the substantial declines of the three subspecies of giraffe found there.

Finally, while some of the threats listed above are specific to giraffe, many are general in nature, and as such the globally-recognized giraffe can serve as both an indicator and a poster child for tackling wider conservation and development issues. The Living Planet Index, produced by ZSL with WWF, reveals that wildlife populations globally have declined by 58% since 1970, with similar downward trends in the extinction risk of species according to the Red List Index. With the population of Africa likely to quadruple this century, we need to support African nations to develop sustainably – including locating and managing agriculture, forestry, mining, oil and gas extraction and infrastructure so as not to disrupt the coexistence and interdependence of people and nature.

- Read the [official IUCN Red List assessment](#) for giraffe
- [Giraffe Conservation Foundation](#)

Africa's Other Elephant Is Fading Fast

Ed Young, [The Atlantic February 2017](#)

When Richard Ruggiero first saw the gold mine from the air, [he was reminded of one of Dante's circles of hell](#). It In the midst of Gabon's Minkebe National Park—a huge protected area the size of Belgium—there was “a gaping hole in the forest more than half a mile wide and long.” On the ground, the mine was a “noisy, crowded, polluted, lawless confusion”—a hub of 6,000 miners, prostitution, drugs, and arms trafficking. And amid the chaos, Ruggiero and colleagues found caches of ivory, high-caliber weapons, and huge, grey carcasses. That's when they knew that the forest elephants of Minkebe were in trouble.

Contrary to popular belief, Africa isn't home to just one species of elephant—but two. The [savannah or bush elephant](#) is the familiar one that tourists see on safaris, and that turns up in nature documentaries. The [forest elephant](#) is smaller, darker, straighter of tusk, and rounder of ear. Its ivory, which is extra hard and has a pinkish tint, is [also particularly prized](#).

At the turn of the century, forest elephants had already been decimated by poaching, and of the 80,000 estimated survivors, half lived in Gabon. Minkebe was meant to be a sanctuary for them—far from Gabonese villages in the south, bordered by swampy terrain on the north, and just too large and isolated for poachers to sweep. “People took their eye off the ball because they thought the park was safe,” says John Poulsen from Duke University.

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The cost of that complacency became clear when the gold mine was discovered. The Gabonese government sent the military to close the mine and root out the poachers, but the damage had already been done. In 2013, following a quick pilot study, scientists estimated that between [50 and 100 elephants were being killed daily](#), and that between 44 and 77 percent of Minkebe's elephants [had already been slaughtered since 2004](#).

"If we do not turn the situation around quickly, the future of the elephant in Africa is doomed," wrote [Lee White](#), the British-born head of the Gabon National Parks Agency. "Our actions over the coming decade will determine whether these iconic species survive." Now, [after a more rigorous survey of the elephant numbers](#), White, Poulsen, and others have found that their work is even more urgent than they had realized.

Savannah elephants can be counted from the air, but forest elephants are so elusive that biologists literally have shit to go on: They have to trudge through the undergrowth, counting piles of elephant dung. They then used two separate methods to convert dung densities into elephant numbers—one that estimates the rate at which dung decays, and another that also factors in the effect of rainfall. Satisfyingly, both methods led to the same conclusions. Depressingly, those conclusions were worse than the team had expected.

They estimated that in 2004, there were between 32,800 and 35,400 elephants in Minkebe. [But in 2014](#), there were just 6,500 to 7,400 left. In just one decade, poachers had killed around 25,000 forest elephants—between 78 and 82 percent of the park's population. "It was an enormous shock," says Poulsen. "To be quite honest, I would have guessed that other studies had overestimated the loss. I was expecting a decline, but I didn't expect it to be that high."

The dung decline fit with [other lines of evidence](#). Guards have stumbled across hundreds of actual carcasses. Poachers have been caught with rifles and tusks. A [genetic study](#) traced the DNA of seized ivory back to elephants living in the Minkebe region.

That this should have happened in Gabon is a tragedy. The country has among the best conservation policies in Africa. They have set aside large tracts of protected space. They pay wildlife rangers on time. [In response to the Minkebe crisis](#), President Ali Bongo Ondimba raised the status of the forest elephant to "fully protected", doubled the budget of the National Parks Agency, created the National Park Police, passed new legislation to criminalize commercial ivory poaching, and increased prison terms for ivory traffickers. In 2012, he set fire to the country's entire stockpile of seized ivory—the first such act for a Central African country. For three days, a 10,000-pound pyramid of tusks burned in symbolic defiance.

"Although elephants can and do move away from poaching, at some point there is nowhere left to go." But most of the poachers aren't coming from Gabon. The dung surveys suggest that they are pouring in from Cameroon to the north. "There are now military posts along the border, but it's big and poachers eventually find a way to slip through," says Poulsen. "And though military ecoguards patrol the park, poachers are often more familiar with the forests than the military, who come from the capital city." Heading to places where the elephants gather, like fruiting trees, clay licks, and water sources, they gun down the animals with automatic weapons, and slice off their faces with chainsaws.

These deaths are tied to less grisly activities. "The biggest threat to forest elephants is commercial logging," says Andrea Turkalo from the Wildlife Conservation Society. "It attracts people in search of work which puts even more pressure on the wildlife." [Logging also means roads](#), and roads provide access to hunters. It's telling that poaching in Minkebe is lowest in the park's southern end, where the closest Gabonese road is 50 kilometers away. By contrast, the north-eastern corner, which is 6 km away from a main road in Cameroon, had been nearly emptied of elephants. Again, there's only so much Gabon can do on its own.

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“Although elephants can and do move away from poaching, at some point there is nowhere left to go,” says Fiona Maisels from the Wildlife Conservation Society. “The international nature of both poaching and elephant movements means that trans-border protection and collaboration between states is absolutely key to maintaining elephant populations.”

And ultimately, as long as people are buying ivory, poaching will continue. [Ivory prices](#) at nearby trading posts have increased ten-fold since 2005, and the ivory from a single elephant is worth four years’ salary in Cameroon. “Poachers are often just poor villagers, who are armed by cartels with resources,” Poulsen says. “The Gabonese government is working hard on reducing the supply of ivory, but other countries need to work on the demand.” Last December, China—the country where most poached ivory ends up—led the way by vowing to shut down its domestic ivory trade in 2017. “That will go a long way,” says Poulsen. He argues that the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, which classifies the planet’s species according to their risk of extinction, needs to consider forest elephants separately from their savannah cousins. Although the two used to be thought of as closely related subspecies, they are clearly distinct. They’re as genetically different from each other as Asian elephants are from extinct mammoths. To Poulsen, lumping the two species together is a political move. “There are a few southern African countries that have successfully protected the savannah elephant, and want to sell some of the resulting ivory,” he says. That’s possible because the elephants are classified as “vulnerable”—translation: they’re in danger, but not *too* much danger. But if the two species were separated, the forest elephant would almost certainly move down two ranks to “critically endangered”, and the savannah elephant might be downgraded too. Ivory sales would have to stop.

That decision, Poulsen says, is probably inevitable. “The scientific evidence means that they’ll eventually be recognized as separate species, and we’ll need to deal with their conservation separately.” And despite the grim outlook from his work in Minkebe, he isn’t giving up. “As much bad news as we’ve been hearing, I think people are paying attention and there’s more will to conserve the elephants. China’s ivory ban is good evidence of that. I’m optimistic that we can move forward and save both species.”

What’s The Environmental Impact Of Your Toast?

Emma Bryce [Mar 3, 2017 in Anthropocene](#)

Editor's Note: When you come across vegetarians/vegans again - here are some good arguments for a civilized dialogue

When it comes to food, few things are more universal than a loaf of bread. Wholemeal, white, or seeded, we consume billions of loaves annually, all over the world. But despite its clear culinary impact, it’s less obvious what the environmental effects are of all this carbohydrate consumption.

That comes down to the complexities of the food system: between field and fork, the processes that eventually give rise to a food product each have varied and unique environmental impacts that can be difficult to measure. Now, in a first-time effort to quantify those impacts for bread Goucher et. al. tracked the processes that go into producing a standard 800g loaf of whole grain. Their article “[The environmental impact of fertilizer embodied in a wheat-to-bread supply chain](#)” in *Nature Plants* stated that they discovered that fertilizers are by far the biggest cause of environmental damage—accounting for almost half of the greenhouse gases generated by the average bread loaf.

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To estimate environmental impact, the researchers considered factors like how much bread production polluted waterways, produced toxins harmful to humans, and contributed to global warming. They began by separating the supply chain into three distinct parts: wheat cultivation, milling, and baking—up to the point where a bread loaf is packaged and ready for transport.

Within each of those phases, they examined multiple steps, like the harvesting, storage, and cleaning of grain, as well as baking, slicing and packaging of bread. Each has its own associated energy and material factors to consider—like electricity, gas, water and herbicide use, and plastic packaging—the environmental costs of which were tallied using an analytical tool that provided estimates for these factors.

This detailed examination revealed that overall, wheat cultivation is by far the biggest culprit, accounting for 65 percent of a bread loaf's potential global warming impact, 65 percent of river pollution, and 77 percent of human health impacts.

Specifically, fertilizer turned out to be the major contributor, accounting for 43 percent of bread's global warming impact, due to the production of gases like carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide, which are both implicated in climate change. "I must admit we were surprised by the scale of the fertilizer dominance," says Peter Horton, study co-author, and researcher from the Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures at the University of Sheffield. This larger footprint is explained in part by the fact that ammonium nitrate fertilizer production spews out vast amounts of carbon dioxide, and also because once it's on the farm and in the soil, fertilizer gets broken down by soil microbes, which release nitrogen oxide as a by-product into the air.

Bearing this in mind, it's worrying that 60 percent of global agricultural land now uses fertilizers, and that by 2018 we'll be distributing an estimated 200 million tonnes of fertilizer globally. Horton and colleagues do have suggestions for how to curb its impact in coming decades—like replacing manufactured fertilizer where possible with manure, engineering crops that use nitrogen better so that less escapes the soil, and applying fertilizers precisely where needed, not indiscriminately.

News From And About Africa

Compiled by Gerhard R Damm

African Leopard & US Fish & Wildlife Service

The deadline for comments to assist the US Fish & Wildlife Service with its decision on whether to up-list leopard to 'Endangered' was January 31st. It will take another year or more before a decision is rendered and action taken. Hunters taking leopard hunts in 2017 should not have any problems importing them into the US. South Africa will not have a leopard quota again this season announced by South Africa's Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), therefore there will not be any leopard hunting in South Africa in 2017. The DEA Scientific Authority considered input from the Scientific Steering Committee for Leopard Monitoring, comprising government institutions, NGOs, representatives of industry and academic institutions, but suggested the possibility of introducing a precautionary hunting quota in 2018. The Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa (PHASA) objected to the DEA's decision in a statement issued January 20th, stating that there is currently 'no reliable scientific evidence to substantiate the zero quota for the second consecutive year.

African Lion, Tanzania & the European Union

Hunters from the EU are now able to import lion trophies from Tanzania. In November 2016 the EU's Scientific Review Group (SRG) issued a positive finding for African lion from Tanzania. A

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group of three SRG experts traveled to Tanzania in August 2016 to assess the sustainability and management of lion trophy hunting. The SRG experts concluded that despite challenges, hunting is well-regulated in Tanzania. The continued functioning and success of Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) relies heavily on income derived from the hunting sector and significant revenue goes to the Districts and procedures are in place for sharing benefits with the local communities. The team also evaluated whether the areas would be better served by devoting them to photo tourism and concluded that the concessions are more suitable for hunting. Human-wildlife conflict was identified as a major issue affecting lions – not hunting. Lions are a key species to attract hunters, and lion hunters spend an average \$100,000 US. Lion hunting targets only male lions six years or older and is strictly monitored (TAWA observers accompany hunters, and hunt evaluation forms, photos, and samples be submitted to TAWA; including anonymous skull inspection and measurement, x-raying of tooth cavities, and ageing of all lions hunted by independent experts. The SRG field group concluded that not only is Tanzania's lion population not threatened but current trophy hunting in Tanzania is no threat to the species either.

African Elephant, Tanzania & the European Union

The EU Scientific Review Group (SRG) has not yet changed its June 2016 negative opinion on Tanzanian elephant, but some important conclusions that may lead to a positive finding in the near future were made by a group of 3 SRG experts who traveled to Tanzania in August 2016. The team analyzed quota management and control procedures and was satisfied with the elephant status information received. They concluded that the overall population appeared stable for the last two years after a significant decline. A few populations nevertheless remain seriously threatened, and more research is needed to understand the influence of migration on fluctuations in local populations. The current maximum hunting quota represents less than 0.2% of the population. This is sustainable. Hunting was not the cause of the decline, and the hunting safari industry makes a significant contribution to the conservation of elephants in and around the Selous, by providing incentives for habitat conservation and valuable income for supporting anti-poaching measures.

Anti Poaching Technology Platform

Responding to the elephant poaching crisis illustrated in 2016's Great Elephant Census (GEC), philanthropist Paul G. Allen and his team of technologists and conservation experts are partnering with park managers across Africa to provide a new technology platform to better protect elephants and other wildlife. The Domain Awareness System (DAS) is a tool that aggregates the positions of radios, vehicles, aircraft and animal sensors to provide users with a real-time dashboard that depicts the wildlife being protected, the people and resources protecting them, and the potential illegal activity threatening them. The visualization and analysis capabilities of DAS allow park managers to make immediate tactical decisions to then efficiently deploy resources for interdiction and active management. The system has been installed at six sites since November 2016. Working with Save the Elephants, African Parks Network, Wildlife Conservation Society, and the Singita Grumeti Fund as well as the Lewa Conservancy and Northern Rangelands Trust, a total of 15 locations are expected to adopt the system this year. When fully operational by the end of 2017, the system will cover more than 90,000 square miles. The SMART Partnership, a consortium of conservation NGOs, government partners, and technology companies, is working with Paul Allen's team to integrate DAS with SMART software used in nearly 500 sites across 46 countries to measure, evaluate and adaptively improve the effectiveness of wildlife law enforcement patrols and site-based conservation activities.

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Botswana & South Africa

In early April 12 white rhinos left South Africa for Botswana. The rhinos made their trip by truck, plane and helicopter from a game park on South Africa's east coast to Botswana's Okavango Delta. The 12 white rhinos are part of a larger group of 100 rhinos that are being moved from South Africa due to the high risk of poaching. A first batch of 25 rhinos was transferred several months ago. The relocation was carried out by the 'Rhinos without Borders' team. The NGO now hope to expand the resettlement project to other southern African countries. Rhinos without Borders estimates that it costs \$45,000 to relocate a single rhino, which includes support for rhino monitoring teams and anti-poaching patrols when they reach their new home. (Source: AllAfrica.com)

Kenya

Between 1985 and 2012, tree cover in hirola habitat increased by 251 percent. This increasing encroachment by trees is likely to blame for the decline in hirola populations—the world's most endangered antelope—[researchers say in a new study](#). Decline in elephant and cattle numbers in the region, an increase in browsing livestock, and increased drier conditions could have resulted in increasing tree cover. Once widespread across open grasslands along the Kenya-Somalia border, fewer than 500 hirola (*Beatragus hunteri*) remain in the wild in Africa today.

Liberia

The Wildlife Management Department with the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) of Liberia is serious about moving to sustainable use of its vast natural resources and building tourism around that. Liberia has the second-largest rainforest in West Africa after Congo. The government wants to move Liberia away from timber operations, and plans to convert large portions of the country's rainforest into national parks and to develop community hunting areas, which would be available for regulated hunting programs operated by safari operators.

South Africa

The South African Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) published in Gazette Notice 74 the Draft Regulations for Domestic Trade in Rhino Horn which will allow for the legal trade of rhino horn in South Africa on the preconditions of TOPS compliance by both the seller and buyer, as well as the provision for a foreign national to export two horns for personal purposes. The draft regulations fail to mention the period of time to which the provision applies - is it per year or once a lifetime, or something else.

South Africa

Five people, including a police officer, were arrested at the Paul Kruger Gate, when they tried to enter the park posing as tourists. Six people, including a SANParks employee, were arrested at the Phalaborwa Gate in Limpopo. They were found in possession of a rifle, another firearm, ammunition, and poaching equipment. Another alleged rhino poachers was shot and died; his accomplice was arrested. Another 10 suspected poachers were in different parts of the park. Several .458 rifles with silencers, ammunition, an axe, fresh rhino horns, and other poaching equipment were recovered. (Source AllAfrica.com).

South Africa

The Kruger National Park's Meerkat wide range surveillance technology developed by South Africa's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) uses a radar system to detect movement and plots the movement on a map. An electronic optical surveillance system is then used to identify

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the exact location of potential poachers. The Meerkat implementing partner Peace Parks Foundation, said the aim of the system was to have day and night surveillance. The system is designed to fold up and fit in the back of a truck, and can be unloaded by a small team. On February 14, the system detected three separate groups of poachers. (Source: AllAfrica.com)

Interesting Articles For African Indaba Readers

Collected by Gerhard R Damm

The important link between hunting & tourism in Namibia both working for conservation

by Dr Chris Brown, [Namibian Chamber of Environment](#) (April 2017)

I am not a hunter. Nor have I ever been. I am a vegetarian (since the age of about 11), I am part of the environmental NGO sector and I have interests in the tourism industry in Namibia. So, it might surprise you that I am a strong supporter of the hunting industry in Namibia, and indeed, throughout Africa. Having said that, I should qualify my support. I am a strong supporter of legal, ethical hunting of indigenous wildlife within sustainably managed populations, in large open landscapes. The reason is simple. Well-managed hunting is extremely good for conservation. In many areas, it is essential for conservation. There is much confusion and misconception, particularly in the urban industrialized world and thus by most western tourists that visit Namibia, about the role of hunting in conservation. Urban industrialized societies, and I include many biologists and recognized conservation organizations in this grouping, see hunting as undermining conservation, or the anathema of conservation. [Read more ...](#)

Poaching's Bloody Human Toll

by Joe Walston, [The New York Times](#) (December 2016)

Being a wildlife ranger can be extremely hazardous to your health. Some 110 rangers died in the line of duty worldwide in the year preceding July 31 2016, according to the [Thin Green Line Foundation](#). Nearly a dozen were killed by elephants in Africa and Asia, some trampled to death. One was gored by a spotted deer; two others were killed by rhinos. In India, two rangers were mauled to death by tigers; a bear killed another wildlife officer there. In Zimbabwe, yet another ranger drowned when a hippo attacked his canoe. A land mine killed a Thai officer. Ten died fighting fires. But what is particularly troubling is this: At least 25 were killed by poachers or timber smugglers, most in Africa or Asia. One was shot and pushed off a cliff. Two were axed to death. One died when his helicopter was shot down by poachers. Most of the rest were simply shot. [Read more ...](#)

Why it's so important to understand how elephants sleep

by Paul Manger [The Conversation](#) (22 March 2017)

Humans and animals need to do several things to pass on their genes: eat, avoid being eaten, reproduce and sleep. Missing any of these biological imperatives leads to death. But when we're asleep we can't perform those other functions. One of modern science's big mysteries, then, is: why do we sleep? [Read more](#)

The Big Problem With Opposing Legal Rhino Horn Sales

by Ivo Vegter [The Daily Maverick](#) (March 2017)

On February 8, 2017, Environmental Affairs Minister Edna Molewa gazetted [draft regulations](#) that would permit domestic trade in, and limited export of, rhino horn. The outcry was predictable. A representative article is Melanie Verwoerd's piece: "[The big problem with legalizing rhino horn](#)

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[sales](#)". Although she points out a few issues that are typical of badly drafted law (and can easily be remedied), most of her arguments are stock anti-trade positions. [Read more](#)

Paradise Is Finite – A Lesson A Long Time In The Learning, And Yet To Be Learnt By Some
by Mic Smith [The Daily Maverick](#) (March 2017)

The history of rhino conservation is paradoxical. It's tied to the very English sport of hunting. The conservation of rhino began with white hunters who were shooting them and wanted to protect them so they could continue to shoot them. These trophy hunters included the likes of Percival, Pater-son and Prowse who penetrated East Africa in the 1900s. They didn't want to protect rhinos and game only because they wanted to shoot them, they also respected them in a way that only trophy hunters understand. [Read more](#)

World Wildlife Crime Report - Trafficking In Protected Species
by [United Nation Office for Drugs and Crime UNODC](#) (2016)

The trafficking of wildlife is increasingly recognized as both a specialized area of organized crime and a significant threat to many plant and animal species. In response to this growing awareness, UNODC has been mandated to build a Global Program on Wildlife and Forest Crime, and research is a key part of this Program. This report represents the first global wildlife crime assessment conducted by UNODC, with the support of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), making use of the global seizure database "World WISE"... All regions of the world play a role as a source, transit, or destination for contraband wildlife, although certain types of wildlife are strongly associated with each region.

The report includes, amongst others, case studies for African elephant ivory, rhino horn. Each case study lends special insights into the ways wildlife trafficking is perpetrated, suggesting the drivers and dynamics of the criminal trade.

Download the full 101 page report [HERE](#)

Wyss Foundation Commits \$65M to African Parks

Joint Press Release [The Wyss Foundation](#) & [African Parks](#)

The Wyss Foundation is partnering with African Parks [currently managing ten parks in seven countries, totaling approximately six million hectares of protected areas] to safeguard more large wild landscapes in Africa from poaching and destruction," said Hansjörg Wyss, Founder and Chairman of The Wyss Foundation. "African Parks has demonstrated success in cooperating with local leaders, communities and African nations in preserving ecosystems benefiting wildlife, while supporting local communities and populations. We are proud of our partnership with African Parks." The philanthropic commitment of \$65M will extend the Wyss Foundation's existing support to African Parks for Akagera National Park in Rwanda, and Liwonde National Park, Majete Wildlife Reserve and Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve all of which are in Malawi.

The Wyss Foundation's gift will also enable African Parks to work to protect and manage up to five new parks; African Parks is currently developing potential park proposals in Chad, Kenya, Mozambique and Benin and is also having discussions with the Governments of Zimbabwe and Zambia. The Wyss Foundation's support for these new parks is in the form of "challenge grants" that will be provided, if matching funds can be raised to support the long-term stewardship of the parks.

A previous grant from the Wyss Foundation, [announced in 2015](#), has helped African Parks bring lions back to Rwanda after they had been hunted out of existence after the genocide 20 years

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ago. Seven lions were reintroduced in August of 2015 and already seven cubs have been born, doubling the population and increasing tourism dramatically to the park.

The Foundation has also been a critical partner for African Parks in implementing one of the most globally significant elephant translocations in human history. Up to [500 elephants](#) are currently being moved from two parks with a surplus (Liwonde and Majete) to a third park (Nkhotakota) that until recently had been heavily poached but has since been secured and is poised to be restocked and revived as Malawi's premier elephant sanctuary. In addition to these elephants, more than 1,000 head of other animals, including sable antelope, buffalo, waterbuck and impala have also been reintroduced to Nkhotakota, re-establishing viable founder populations, and helping to restore the health of the park.

"It's rare to find individuals who commit themselves so whole-heartedly and with such conviction and clarity in wanting to save Africa's wildlife for the benefit of the people" said Peter Fearnhead, CEO of African Parks. "Our vision is to protect 20 parks by 2020, bringing up to 10 million hectares of wilderness under our management. This historic gift, and the partnership forged with the Wyss Foundation, enables us to have a conservation impact at a scale which is globally significant. We couldn't be more grateful for this inspiring and transformational commitment to the continent of Africa".

The Wyss Foundation, which has long supported locally-driven efforts to conserve public lands in the American West, has broadened its conservation philanthropy in recent years to support the [protection of wildlife](#) in eastern Africa, the modernization of fishery practices, and the stewardship of [wild areas around the world](#).

New FACE Secretary General

[Face Press Release](#)

The Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU is pleased to announce that Mr. Ludwig Willnegger has started his employment as new Secretary General of FACE. Mr. Willnegger holds a degree in agricultural sciences and law and has both Belgian and German citizenship. He obtained his hunting license in Bavaria at the age of 16 and grew up on a farm in a family with longstanding hunting traditions. He initially worked for two years for the European farmers' federation and later headed the representative office of a large German retail group for another eight years.

Fluent in the three official languages of FACE, the new Secretary General combines a breadth of professional EU affairs and diverse hunting experience across Europe.

In regards to his new role, Mr Willnegger said, "I am delighted to be joining FACE and would like to thank President Dr. Ebner and the Membership for this unique opportunity. As stewards of our countryside and nature, hunters have a direct stake in safeguarding Europe's wildlife and biodiversity for future generations. Hunting is one of the expressions of Europe's cultural heritage. The future of hunting lies in strengthening the bond between man and nature, acting responsibly and implementing sustainable policies. To be part of this as FACE's Secretary General is a great prospect which I am keen to take forwards with the FACE Secretariat, working with its Members and other stakeholders to connect their expertise and experience."



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33rd Congress International Union Of Game Biologists IUGB And 14th Perdix Congress

Be they direct or indirect, over the short or the long term, the effects of human activities on wildlife are often difficult to assess. Once the effects of human activities are properly evaluated, one can adapt management practices to better take them into account in order to better fulfill wildlife management objectives.



The [IUGB 2017 Congress](http://www.iugb2017.com) will present works at the cutting edge of science tackling topics related to agriculture, forestry, hunting, tourism, urbanization, economic development, ecosystem evolutions, climate change, and their relationships with wildlife. Practical tools, field methods, statistics, as well as conceptual breakthroughs will be shared. In addition to the results of each study or experience, the Congress will also build on their conclusions to try highlighting the most appropriate management fallouts for local conditions and objectives.

Make a note in your 2017 calendar – the 33rd Congress of the International Union Of Game Biologists IUGB and 14th Perdix Congress will take place In Montpellier/France from August 22 to 25, 2017. For more information on IUGB 2017 please contact: Murielle Guinot-Ghestem or Sophie Verzelloni at iugb2017@gmail.com or check <http://iugb2017.com/>

Ben Carter Stepping Down As DSC Executive Director

[DSC Media Release](#)

DSC Executive Director Ben Carter has announced his resignation, effective May 31, 2017. Ben has served as Executive Director of DSC for approximately 10 years, during which time DSC experienced tremendous growth in all phases of the organization. Most importantly, DSC became a recognized leader in the wildlife conservation and sustainable use movement. Ben will continue to serve DSC as Executive Director through May 31, 2017, and will assist DSC in the search for, and transition to, his successor.

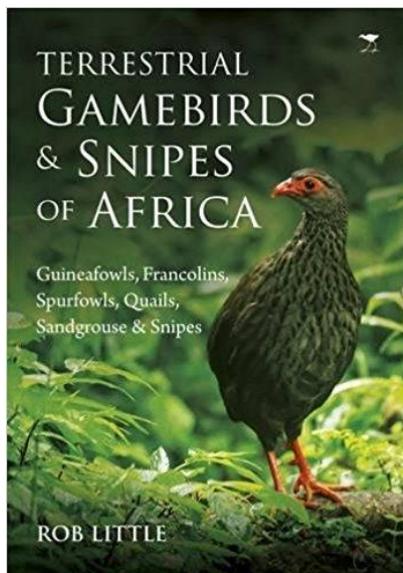
For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources. African Indaba is the official CIC Newsletter on African affairs, with editorial independence. For more information about the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC go to www.cic-wildlife.org

Carter said, "It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve DSC, and to lead us into the international reputation that we enjoy today. I am proud of the accomplishments made on my watch and grateful for the support from my excellent staff and volunteers over the years. I will continue to be involved with DSC, in support of the important mission and programs that protect and advance our hunting heritage."

DSC President Allen Moore acknowledges and recognizes Carter's many years of dedicated service. "Ben has served as Convention Chair, President and Executive Director of DSC, and has played a significant role in making DSC what it is today. His contributions are greatly appreciated. DSC wishes Ben success and happiness in his future endeavors." African Indaba joins in with best wishes and good luck for the future!

Book Review: Terrestrial Gamebirds & Snipes of Africa

Gerhard R Damm



Rob Little is a prolific author and a passionate birder and conservationist with a BSc in Wildlife Resources and a PhD on the behavioral ecology, management and utilization of the grey-winged francolin. During the early 1990s, Rob coordinated the Gamebird Research Program at the [Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology](#) (Fitztitute), University of Cape Town. Together with Tim Crowe, he published the book *Gamebirds of Southern Africa*. Rob was Director Conservation at WWF South Africa from 1997–2008. In 2009 he was appointed manager of the Centre of Excellence at the Fitztitute. He is the Fitztitute's link with the South African National Research Foundation and the Department of Science & Technology and manages the research activities which are funded by the CoE using Birds as Keys to Biodiversity Conservation.

His definitive, full-color monograph on the gamebirds and snipes of Africa includes everything needed to better understand the 74 species that fall into six groups: guineafowls and Congo

peafowl, francolins and partridges, spurfowls, quails, sandgrouse and the snipes and Eurasian woodcock.

Terrestrial Gamebirds & Snipes of Africa offers a concise summary of the large but scattered body of accumulated scientific research and field-guide literature on these birds. Pertinent and interesting facts about the description, distribution, habits, feeding, breeding and conservation of each species are presented in a readable fashion. Illustrative photographic plates convey the appearance, characteristic features, behavioral activities, and in many cases the habitat environment of each bird. The book will be a worthy addition to the ornithological literature and to the bookshelves of bird enthusiasts, particularly birders, wing-shooters, land owners and anyone with an interest in nature and conservation, throughout Africa and across the rest of the world.

***Terrestrial Gamebirds & Snipes of Africa (Guineafowls, Francolins, Spurfowls, Quails, Sandgrouse & Snipes)* by Rob Little. 2016. Flexi-Cover 240x168mm; 304 pp; ISBN 978-1-4314-2414-6; [Jacana Media](#), South Africa. Price ZAR 280.00.**

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CIC VISION

A world that values and supports sustainable hunting for the benefit of people and nature.

CIC MISSION

To promote - across the globe - sustainable hunting to conserve wildlife and wild lands, support communities and preserve our hunting heritage.

Mastering the Future with the four Global CIC Initiatives

**Combat Wildlife Crime
Promote Wildlife Conservation
Partner with International Organizations
Sustain our Global Cultural Heritage**

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