



DEDICATED TO THE WORLD'S CUSTODIANS OF WILD SPACES & WILDLIFE



Frontlines Dispatches From Around The World

North & South America	2
Europe	7
Africa	10
World	16

North & South America



A Death of Ethics: Is Hunting Destroying Itself? Todd Wilkinson explores the darker sides of hunting in this December 2018 article in [Mountain Journal](#). *“The question of what is legal versus what is ethical and moral in hunting figures prominently in a growing national discussion”* said Wilkinson and states *“that it comes at a time when hunter numbers are in steady decline nationwide and have been for decades.”* He says that from killing baboon families to staging predator-killing contests, hunters stand accused of violating the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Now they’re being called out by their own. Jim Posewitz and others identify several legally permitted hunting activities in America that, in their determination, grossly fail to pass the rule of fair chase and ethical standards laid out in the North American Model. Those contradictions are giving hunting a bad name, they say, resulting in it losing its appeal and credibility among the overwhelming majority of Americans who do not hunt. *“Those of us who value hunting don’t need PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) and the Humane Society to give hunting a black eye,”* Posewitz told Mountain Journal, *“we’re doing that all by ourselves, against ourselves, with the proliferation of self-promoting videos on YouTube and selfies of people posing with dead animals on Facebook and other forms of social media. We’ve become our own worst enemy.”* Keith Balfour, a spokesman for the Boone & Crockett Club, said *“hatred vented toward hunting by the anti-hunter establishment is one deal. What does even more damage to the reputation of hunting is the hatred and knuckleheadedness that exists among members of the hunting*

community sometimes toward each other,” and Val Geist told Mountain Journal that “the phenomenon of hunters seeking public attention is degrading the face of hunting”. [Read this eye-opening article here](#) or download it from the [Conservation Frontlines Library](#).

TR IV: Meet A Real Theodore Roosevelt Conservationist is the title of another article by Todd Wilkinson in [Mountain Journal](#). Wilkinson discusses many aspects of conservation, preservation and social and environmental responsibility on western lands by interweaving the 26th U.S. president’s personal statements and actions from over 10 decades ago with the positions of his great grandson. He delves into the life history of both Roosevelts and the Republican tradition of tethering conservatism with conservation and supporting sensible, forward-minded environment protection laws. Many elected officials, political appointees, businesspeople, hunters, anglers, farmers, ranchers self-identify as a Teddy Roosevelt conservationist. “What does being a TR conservationist or Republican mean? Where possible I try to call out people who aren’t representing [TR’s] values honestly. I can’t speak for him but we do have his own words,” Ted Roosevelt IV said, “[TR] understood the importance of personal character and character as an ethos in politics. One of the things he really liked is the sense that he was battling for right and for morality. At one point he said that if he could no longer battle for those things, he wouldn’t be in politics.” [Read this very interested article in full](#) or download it from the [Conservation Frontlines Library](#).

Ben Partovi’s story of a Stone’s sheep hunt in British Columbia in [The Journal of Mountain Hunting](#) describes a genuine fair chase hunt. His first hunt – a mountain goat – was in Ben’s own words “super exciting although he did not even find a Billy”. Ben’s first Stone’s Sheep hunt in 2017 had a similar result. The story here deals with his 2018 solo expedition into the Northern Rockies. He shares the tenuous preparations and the days and nights on the mountain; arduous climbs and dangerous descents; the shot at a dream ram and his tumultuous feelings when the ram disappears over a cliff; the night at the lonely camp in sub-zero temperatures punctuated by the mental anguish from the uncertainty. And then the relief and elation when he finds his dream ram. Ben concludes saying that “I am thankful to be able to hunt sheep successfully, but also to be able to share my story. I hope this inspires you all to chase the ram of your dreams – wherever that may take you.” [Make sure that you read this fascinating story.](#)

Across America, national parks and public lands are facing a crisis of popularity. Technology, successful marketing, and international tourism have brought a surge in visitation unlike

anything seen before. In 2016 and 2017, the national parks saw an unprecedented 330.9 million visitors, the [highest ever recorded](#). Backcountry trails are clogging up, mountain roads are thickening with traffic, picturesque vistas are morphing into selfie-taking scrums. Environmental challenges are burgeoning – recent research has found national parks bear the disproportionate brunt of global warming – and years of wear and tear have seen park maintenance fall woefully behind. The current backlog of necessary upgrades to roads, trails and buildings stands at more than \$11bn. Traffic congestion has become one of the most visible consequences of overcrowding and underfunding. Dealing with human waste has become a Herculean undertaking. Yosemite, Grand Tetons, Mt Rainier, Yellowstone, and Zion are all being wired with internet and cell service as part of a plan to attract a new generation of park-goers. ([Source](#))

The DSC Conservation Advisory Board (CAB) had its inaugural meeting during the 2019 Mogambo Convention and Expo. CAB provides expertise with both regional and global perspectives on needed research, program development and advocacy. It will advise and assist the DSC Board of Directors and the DSC Grants Committee on domestic and international conservation issues to ensure that DSC's mission fulfillment is focused most appropriately. Board members include Jeff Crane (President, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation), Khalil Karimov (Chair, IUCN Central Asia SULi Group), Rob Keck (Director of Conservation, Bass Pro Shops), Shane Mahoney (Conservation Visions), Tamas Marghescu (Director General, CIC), Ron Regan (Executive Director, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies) and Danene van der Westhuyzen (President, Namibian Professional Hunting Association) as well as Corey Mason, DSC's executive director – [details can be read in the DSC News Center](#).

I am of a dying breed. I am a naturalist, writes James J Krupa, in the 2017 article *Geronimo's Pass* in [Humans and Nature](#). "Naturalists are most happy when immersed in nature, far from concrete, asphalt, and steel", says Krupa. His story centers on his search for the very rare white-sided jackrabbit in southwestern New Mexico and the conservation implications of 'securing' the border between the US and Mexico with high-tech walls and fences. The story gives a fascinating insight into the Old West, the Apache Wars and the eradication of Mexican gray wolves, grizzly bears, and jaguars in the region. Krupa recognizes that increased border security with a wall, more border agents and border patrol vehicles will be a major problem for all wildlife. The white-sided jackrabbit is not glamorous, charismatic, or conspicuous, and too few people care about it. What this rabbit needs, concludes Kupa, is a Roosevelt to save it with

the decree, “I so declare it” [Read Krupa’s fascinating story here](#) or in the [Conservation Frontlines Library](#)

North American Wildlife Policy and Law (1st Edition) by Bruce D. Leopold, Winifred B. Kessler & James L. Cummins (Editors). Students, university faculty, and wildlife professionals and interested hunters now have an indispensable book that provides a full and accurate account of natural resource policy and law as it relates to wildlife in North America and beyond. The comprehensive text begins with an in-depth examination of wildlife policy and law, creating a foundation for the subsequent detailed material. Hardcover (\$95) – eBook (\$80). [Order at the Boone & Crockett Club Bookstore](#). A detailed review will be presented in the next issue of Conservation Frontlines E-Magazine.

Mulies on the Plains. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is partnering with the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Borderlands Research Institute, Texas Tech University, and Mule Deer Foundation in a five-year mule deer research project looking at the effect of agriculture on mule deer movements and survival in the Texas Panhandle. This project will provide essential information on seasonal movements and survivorship of mule deer in relation to various habitats, along with the impacts of agriculture production on mule deer biology and habitat. Watch the Texas Parks & Wildlife “[Mulies on the Plains](#)” YouTube video.

Alaska officials are calling for less intrusion into wildlife management by federal agencies. In a letter to Deputy U.S. Interior Secretary Bernhardt, acting Alaska Fish and Game Department Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang took aim at the administration of federal laws and regulations that govern wildlife in Alaska. “*Federal agencies have intruded into Alaska authority to manage fish and game and misinterpreted federal law*” he said and concluded that “*it is my hope that this letter opens a constructive dialogue and that we can build a meaningful partnership with our federal partners that respects state authorities and roles*”. Vincent-Lang's suggestions were strongly criticized by Richard Steiner, a representative of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility PEER, a self-described “service organization assisting federal, state & local public employees to work as anonymous activists” ([Source](#)).

A [recent investigation](#) has found that working conditions for wildlife rangers in Central America are difficult and in some cases dangerous. Most of the rangers surveyed reported facing life-threatening situations during the course of their duties. However, these ‘ecosystem guardians’ also remain passionate about their role in protecting Central America’s natural

treasures. The report's authors analyzed the working conditions of wildlife rangers in more than 100 protected areas in Central America, interviewing 331 rangers from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. The collaborating organizations will present the results of the survey at the upcoming World Ranger Congress in Nepal in June 2019 ([Source Mongabay](#) – see also [Rangers face a 'toxic mix' of mental strain and lack of support](#)).

Students in two Iowa school districts will be enrolled in a mandatory hunter's safety course as part of their curriculum in 2019. Parents who object having their kids participate in the training can simply opt out of the class. Iowa Department of Natural Resources IDNR also supports a number of mentor-based hunting programs along with numerous initiatives in schools to adopt target shooting as a sport ([Source](#)).

Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission prohibits drones filming Montana hunts. Montana wildlife managers have pushed for a number of restrictions in an effort to maintain a "fair chase" standards and ethics. The amended regulation passed by the commission clarifies that drones cannot be used to pursue or drive game animals or to locate animals on the same day as hunting. Drones are also prohibited from being used to film a hunt. Another regulation amendment passed by the commission prohibits the possession of, while hunting, remote operated camera or video devices capable of transmitting real time information, pictures or videos, seismic devices, thermal imaging devices, satellite and radio telemetry devices. Thomas Baumeister, president of [Orion – The Hunters Institute](#) applauded FWP and the commission for pushing to maintain a technological balance between the hunter and the hunted ([Source](#)).

Alaska's Izembek National Wildlife Refuge protects one of the wildest nature spots on Earth, but that isolation is threatened by preparations to bulldoze a road through the refuge's federally protected wilderness. This stretch of road is part of the Interior Department's trade to Aleut Natives so the cannery town of King Cove can build the final 12 miles of a 37-mile gravel road to the Cold Bay Airport; in exchange, the federal government gets an equal amount of Aleut land. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded in a [study](#) that a road through the refuge would "lead to significant degradation of irreplaceable ecological resources." It would jeopardize the global survival of the Pacific black brant, as well as the emperor goose, Steller's eiders, tundra swan and other waterfowl and bisect the land bridge for bear and caribou. There is an ongoing dispute whether the road, which is popular with King Cove's fishing families and

political leaders, is being built to commercially transport fish or to transport patients with medical emergencies to the Cold Bay Airport, where they could then fly to an Anchorage hospital ([Source](#)).

Toronto restaurateur Yannick Bigourdan's pick for his wild rabbit cannelloni combines his two favorite things: wild game and pasta. "I started hunting when I was 10 years old. In the south of France, it's ingrained in our genetics," says Bigourdan, who's gone after everything from wild goat to pheasant. Canoe's executive chef, John Horne, is also a hunter. Because the rabbits from northern Quebec used at the restaurant are not farm-raised (Canoe has a special permit to buy the meat from trappers), rabbit dishes come and go from the menu depending on availability. Wild rabbits are leaner and boast a stronger taste than their farm-raised cousins. For the filling of the cannelloni, Horne braises the rabbit low and slow for hours, shreds the meat and folds it into a rabbit mousse mixed with foraged Ontario chanterelles and morels. [Read more here](#)

Europe



French president Emmanuel Macron unabashedly supports hunting, promising to strongly promote and protect it as a French way of life. The president insisted there should be no shame in supporting hunting and has prepared laws to make hunting cheaper and easier. He hopes

attracting a new, younger generation by reducing the cost of national hunting permits from €400 to €200 and changing rules on monitoring species for hunts. Macron also suggested reinstating the tradition of presidential hunts at the Château de Chambord. Thierry Coste, political advisor for the National Federation of the Hunters, said Macron understands that hunting is part of French rural identity. As the recent *gilets jaunes* (Yellow Vests) protests hit rural areas, the hunting lobby remains one of Macron's key links to the countryside and he has refused to give in to animal protectionists who criticize his pro-hunting stance. Many of France's more than one million hunters are working class. French hunters and their families make up a significant pool of voters and they once fielded their own candidate in presidential elections. Some hunters historically voted Communist, but now the vote is spread between the left, the mainstream right, and increasingly, Marine Le Pen's far right ([Source](#)).

Thierry Coste, political advisor for the National Federation of the Hunters, who advised the then candidate Macron on hunting policy during the French presidential election, said Macron's recent moves in favor of hunting are totally coherent with the politics outlined during the campaign and stated further that *"hunting benefits bio-diversity, and countryside with high bio-diversity is always more attractive economically, both for farming, tourism and other activities, than a sterile countryside. If rural areas are not to be left behind it is important that active measures are taken to support them, and I am sure this too has influenced the president"* ([Source](#))

The distribution range of Canada, Gray and Egyptian geese in Germany has expanded significantly during the last decade. The Wild Animal Information System (WILD) of the federal states reported Greylag geese in 40 percent of the participating hunting territories in 2017 – an increase of 58 percent compared to 2009. The Egyptian goose was present in 2017 in more than a third of all German hunting territories – an increase of 71 percent. The Canada goose has the highest increase with 91 percent and can be found in more than a quarter of the areas. The annual harvest numbers also increased; for Greylag geese it has almost doubled from around 30,000 in the 2008/09 hunting season to around 57,500 in the 2016/2017 hunting season. In view of the solid increase in geese populations, the German Hunting Association is calling for a nationwide concept for sustainable goose hunting to prevent ecological and economic damage. A warning example is the situation in the Netherlands - as a result of the Dutch hunting ban, the Greylag population increased by 2,000 per cent between 1985 and 2011. Annual compensation payments to farmers cost around 15 million euros. In 2015 the

government of the Netherlands started to gather flightless adults in moulting and juvenile birds and killed them with lethal gas. ([Source Wild & Hund](#))

836,865 wild boar have been harvested by German hunters in the hunting year 2017/2018. This represents an increase of 42 percent over the previous year. The Thünen Institute for Forest Ecosystems expects a significantly reduced harvest during the current hunting year 2018/19 as long frost periods with up to -17 degrees Celsius in March 2018 killed many juvenile wild boar. ([Source Wild & Hund](#))

Jagd & Hund, Europe's largest hunting fair with over 80,000 visitors, takes place annually on the entire Dortmund fairgrounds towards end of January (2019 from 29 January to 3 February). The culinary preparation of wild game has enjoyed increasing popularity in recent years. From this year onwards, Jagd & Hund will dedicate an entire exhibition hall to the [Wild Food Festival](#). Wild harvest gourmets can savor venison specialties and matching aperitifs at various stalls, buy the appropriate accessories and equipment and be inspired by many experts at cooking demonstrations. Show, Food & Expo - the Wild Food Festival includes a culinary offer of delicacies, fresh produce and ingredients, creative recipe ideas, exciting stage shows on Wild Kitchen Cooking, wild game workshops with celebrated TV chefs and top chefs with Michelin rating, and much more. *GRD*

Africa



The difference in views on trophy hunting between the western urban elite and that of the people of rural Africa is stark, says Dr. Chris Brown, CEO of the Namibian Chamber of Environment in [an opinion piece published by Africa Geographic](#). Brown responded to a recent [letter to the Guardian by a group of public figures](#) in the UK. [This letter](#) describes trophy hunting as “*cruel, immoral, archaic and unjustifiable*” and was apparently initiated by Eduardo Gonçalves, founder of the Campaign to Ban Trophy Hunting, and co-signed by Labor leader Jeremy Corbyn, television presenter [Piers Morgan](#) (known for polemic and vociferous attacks on hunters, rather than for civilized dialogue), Will Travers (animal rights activist from Surrey, chief executive of the Born Free Foundation and president of Born Free USA and Species Survival Network) and quite a few members of parliament as well as other public figures. Dr. Brown concluded his well-reasoned response by saying “*for those living in western economies the situation of conservation hunting in the drylands of Africa may seem counter-intuitive. But for us in Africa, it is so obvious that we wonder why seemingly intelligent and well-meaning western conservationists are continually trying to undermine our conservation work, particularly where the record of conservation accomplishment in African countries with devolved economically-based sustainable use policies is so obvious*”.

Chris Brown [was not the only one to question](#) Gonçalves and co-signatories:

Dr Tim Davenport, Tanzania Country Director of the Wildlife Conservation Society, suggested that *“the signatories may not be aware of the consequences of what they propose”*; Davenport, an experienced and pragmatic conservationist, also said *“no matter how counterintuitive it may seem to many, hunting is the only means of financing key conservation areas [in Tanzania]”*.

A group of 45 world-renowned conservationists and community conservancy members from Africa and Asia [boldly stated](#) *“this well-meaning call risks unintended negative consequences for both wildlife and for impoverished rural people. For rhino, elephant, lion and all the species mentioned in the letter, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – the global authority on conservation – considers that trophy hunting is not a key threat to their survival. Indeed, well-managed trophy hunting has led to increases in populations of rhino, elephant, lion, markhor, argali, chamois and others. The main problems facing these species are habitat loss and fragmentation, conflict with local people, prey base depletion and illegal poaching.”*

Environmental social scientist Dr. Niki Rust ([@NikiRust](#)) from the Centre for Rural Economy of Newcastle University, UK says in her article [Banning trophy hunting imports won't save the world's wildlife](#) published in “The Conversation” that *“[the] arguments [of the signatories of Gonçalves’ letter] are, at best, ill-informed and, at worst, they divert attention from the most pressing causes of biodiversity loss; Rust concludes saying that “knee-jerk reactions, while imbued with noble intents, will not save lions, elephants and rhinos”*.

Interested readers will find the full text of the cited essays in the Conservation Frontlines Library under the tag [“Hunting in the 21st Century; Hunting Ethics and Fair Chase; Hunting in Society”](#) – please use the search function with the author’s name. Incidentally, don’t miss Dr. Brown’s 2017 article [“Hunting and tourism can work together for conservation: the Namibian experience”](#)

A Frenchman, a Zimbabwean, a Mozambican and two young South Africans completed a near two-and-a-half-year journey at the [Southern African Wildlife College](#) and graduated as fully-fledged professional hunters on 16 November 2018. The journey started in June 2016 with a 75-day Dangerous Game Site Guide course, followed by a professional hunting program and finally came to conclusion after a grueling practical 2018 season. The aim of the SAWC program is to supply the hunting industry with ethical, well rounded professional hunters that will act as dedicated conservationists first and hunters second. Course leader Gawie Lindique said *“I am certain [they] will make the industry proud”* and challenged the new professional

hunters to show their best, by remarking “if we do meet you on social media, may it be to spread a positive message of the importance of hunting as a conservation tool and the need to professionalize the industry underpinned by a strong set of conservation ethics. We will be watching” (Source SAWC).

Save the Lions with a Quick Annual Payment of \$1-2 Billion is the title of an [article written by Glen Martin](#) and published by CAL Alumni Association of the UC Berkeley in California Magazine. Martin interviewed Jennie Miller, a lead co-author of the PNAS paper and a former postdoctoral researcher at UC Berkeley’s College of Natural Resources, and Laurence Frank, a research associate with Berkeley’s Museum of Zoology, the director of the conservation NGO Living with Lions, and a peer reviewer of the paper. In respect of trophy hunting the two scientists stated their clear opinion in Martin’s article.

Laurence Frank said “... a lot of the NGOs spend their money on nonsense. Born Free, for example, spends an enormous amount of money beating up on trophy hunters. The overwhelming majority of lion conservationists feel that trophy hunting has a role in lion conservation—with the usual caveats. None of us like the idea of killing majestic wildlife, but hunting that provides benefits [such as jobs and meat] to local communities provides viable alternative uses to land development. [Hunting concessions] help prevent wilderness areas from being overrun by zillions of cattle or converted to intensive agriculture”

And Jeannie Miller confirmed “... as for trophy hunting, I do see a role for it, with the caveat that it needs to be properly managed. There aren’t a lot of studies on the transparent accounting of hunting concessions and local communities, but westerners need to consider culture in this context. There is a culture of trophy hunting in Africa, both from the perspective of rural [African] communities and [western professional and sport hunters]. There needs to be some sensitivity to this culture. When trophy hunting is conducted properly, some individual animals—a few dozen to a few hundred across the continent—are taken. That is sustainable, considering the base population of lions, and trophy hunters pay an enormous amount of money to take a lion, much of which can be directed to the communities. I understand this is difficult for some people to accept. The furor over the Cecil the Lion episode [in which an American dentist legally killed a well-known lion in Zimbabwe] was intense. Animal welfare activism can hit a lot of hot buttons that affect conservation, but as I said, cultural values in the West and Africa are different. And when you’re talking about saving an entire species, I think sacrificing the few for the many can be appropriate. The majority of hunters I’ve talked to

showed both great respect for and knowledge of wildlife. Poor professional hunters [who guide trophy hunters] are usually quickly identified and weeded out by the companies that hire them.”

Reference: **More than \$1 billion needed annually to secure Africa’s protected areas with lions.**

Authors: Peter A. Lindsey, Jennifer R. B. Miller, Lisanne S. Petracca, Lauren Coad, Amy J. Dickman, Kathleen H. Fitzgerald, Michael V. Flyman, Paul J. Funston, Philipp Henschel, Samuel Kasiki, Kathryn Knights, Andrew J. Loveridge, David W. Macdonald, Roseline L. Mandisodza-Chikerema, Sean Nazerali, Andrew J. Plumptre, Riko Stevens, Hugo W. Van Zyl, and Luke T. B. Hunter. PNAS November 6, 2018 115 (45) E10788-E10796; published ahead of print October 22, 2018 <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1805048115> or download from [ResearchGate](#) or from the [Conservation Frontlines Library](#).

Cornu Logistics owns 108 kilograms of legally harvested rhino horn; the South African company now announced a new digital currency backed by rhino horn called *Rhino Coin*. Under the scheme, a horn owner places horn into the *Rhino Coin* system by legally selling it to Cornu Logistics. The horn is weighed, audited, and placed in Cornu’s vault. An additional 500 kilograms of horns are reportedly waiting to be audited and added to the system. One digital *Rhino Coin* is created for each gram of horn via blockchain technology; they can be bought with South African Rands by domestic and international buyers and are traded on the Cornuex exchange. By selling *Rhino Coin*, Alexander Wilcocks, a director of Cornu, says his company can raise capital for rhino protection. Adam Welz of Yale 360 describes details in his article [‘Rhino Coin’: Can a Cryptocurrency Help Save Africa’s Rhinoceroses?](#)

Southern African states who together harbor the world's largest elephant population (Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe) will push for controlled legal ivory trade at this year’s CITES meeting with two proposals, while another group of countries (Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Sudan, Syria and Togo) wants trade restrictions expanded. Significantly, the latter group’s proposal relates to the transfer of elephant populations in the populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe from App. II to App. I. The southern African countries believe countries with their own problems, including weak law enforcement, shouldn't impose policy on others. Protecting elephants comes at a big cost as human populations increase and wildlife habitats shrink. [The proposals were published by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#)

[\(CITES\)](#) and will be discussed at the CITES Conference of Parties May 23-June 3 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Botswana's President Masisi reshuffled his Cabinet on December 14. Serowe North Member of Parliament Tshekedi Khama was replaced as Minister of the Environment, Natural Resources, Conservation and Tourism by specially elected MP Onkokame Kitso Mokaila. [More details here](#)

Kenya's national elephant population stood at 35,000 elephants in 2018; an increase by 119 percent over a period of 29 years from 16,000 elephants in 1989. The Mara ecosystem elephants have increased from 1,000 in 1983 to the present 2,493 translating to an increase of 149 percent in 35 years. Kenya lost 396 elephants in 2018 due to diverse causes, compared to 727 that died during 2017. The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) announced on Thursday, 27 December 2018, that poaching of elephants also reduced by 50 percent from 80 cases recorded during 2017 to 40 cases in 2018 ([Source](#)). *Editor's Note: It is interesting that 40 cases of poaching in Kenya's relatively small elephant population didn't trigger the same public outcry as Dr. Chase's exaggerated poaching claims for the much larger Botswana elephant population in August last year.*

Kenyan Auditor-General Edward Ouko blamed several critical Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) departments for the continued loss of wildlife through poaching and conflict with humans. The other reason is failure by KWS to effectively involve communities in wildlife security, the auditor-general observed. Mr Ouko now wants KWS to fully implement the Wildlife Act 2013. The main challenges in wildlife conservation are poaching, human-wildlife conflicts, habitat destruction and changes in land use patterns, Mr Ouko said. These are further compounded by incomplete information on wildlife census, species dynamics, reduction in dispersal areas and blockage of migration corridors in areas bordering parks ([Source](#)).

The Madagascar pochard was believed extinct, but then 25 of the birds were rediscovered in 2006 at one remote lake (African Indaba reported). Now the rarest bird in the world has been given a new home with the release of 21 pochards at a lake in northern Madagascar. The international team who spearheaded the efforts hopes that this reintroduction will provide a powerful example, not just for how to save a most threatened species but also how communities can support both people and wildlife in valuable habitats, even in areas of significant poverty ([Source](#)).

In October 2018 community members from Africa participated in the London Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference with a central aim to build coalitions between sectors, including researchers, private sector, NGOs, civil society, the media, and governments. Listen to the voices and clear messages of [Brisetha Hendricks](#), Ūibasen Twyfelfontein Conservancy, Namibia; [Sophia Masuka](#), head of communications with the Tanzania Natural Resources Forum, [Rodgers Lubilo](#), Zambia Community Based Natural Resource Management Forum, [Amandine Laure Toumbou Nouazi](#), Zoological Society of London, Cameroon and [George Wambura](#), Community Wildlife Management Areas Consortium (CWMAC) in Tanzania, speaking about the importance of local communities getting a voice in efforts to combat the illegal wildlife trade.

Ending wildlife trafficking - Local communities as change agents. This report of the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, authored by Annette Hübschle with Clifford Shearing, aims to provide a better understanding of why African rural communities participate in wildlife economies, both legal and illegal, and how alternative, community-oriented strategies can help build a more resilient response to organized wildlife crime than has hitherto been achieved. [Download the full report here.](#)

The Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre (UWCEC) has pledged to assist schools in teaching pupils about wildlife protection and animal preservation. This initiative is aimed at being adopted as a new subject within the country's educational curriculum. The move will see pupils being taught about species which are constantly under threat and this will be facilitated through books and educational board games ([Source](#))

The Tanzanian government remains undeterred in its plans to construct a large dam in the Rufiji River, at Stiegler's Gorge in the Selous Game Reserve a protected UNESCO World Heritage Site. Conservation groups including the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) have raised concerns since the project was mooted in 2009 and consistently called for the project to be abandoned. At 130 meters (427 feet) in height and stretching 700 meters across the canyon, the dam will create a lake of 1,500 km², and destroy one of the most important habitats for wildlife and the heart of the Selous. Meanwhile the government is pushing ahead to fell more than 2.6 million trees from the area that would be flooded by the dam. It would open up the whole area for industrialization, infrastructure and settlements. The World Heritage Committee (WHC) of

UNESCO expressed its utmost concern, saying the dam project has a high likelihood of [causing] serious and irreversible damage. ([Source](#) & [Source](#)).

World



CF Editor's Comment on CITES: The single greatest problem with a multi-lateral environmental agreement like CITES is that the views of Party States, represented by elected officials, adopt positions on politically sensitive issues not so much on science as on the perceived views of their constituencies. Animal protectionist, welfare and rights organizations understand and exploit this well, and lobby these constituencies as well as the officials accordingly. This leads to international cooperation being replaced by international meddling of these well-funded organizations in the domestic policies of producer/exporter States.

This also fundamentally alters the functioning of CITES since many of these organizations' agendas do not include managing wildlife trade and its sustainability, but rather shutting down trade. Typically, their representatives join CITES CoP and SC working groups in force and exert inordinate influence in decisions, lobby with Party delegations, hold side events and press conferences, disseminate a variety of (not always accurate and scientifically correct) literature advocating for outcomes related to species listings, resolutions and decisions along their

ideological narratives, intervene on the floor in CITES gatherings with well-prepared texts arguing for trade bans (even at the national level), etc., etc.

It is difficult to see how the protectionist paradigm being promoted by these extremely well-funded and organized organizations can be countered, but if it cannot, there may be an increasing number of species appendix uplistings and recommendations aimed at restricting movements of wildlife and products in CITES resolutions and decisions.

The loss of sustainable biotic and natural resource trade will have serious negative impacts on local economies and the conservation of the species that are affected by these interventions. Blanket bans have not worked in the past. The manipulative skills of the notorious anti-use organizations, and their clever use of the instruments within CITES, block the ability of African, Asian and Latin American states to have a real say in managing their own habitats and wildlife to benefit communities and conservation.

In the changing mood of the international debate on the use of wildlife, sustainable or otherwise, it is quite conceivable that some producer states may elect to denounce CITES as being an out-of-date instrument that needs to be replaced by something that: i) promotes a greater degree of transparency; ii) requires decisions to be based on traditional knowledge and contemporary science rather than emotion; iii) minimizes the influence of vested interests; v) respects and safeguards sovereign rights of States; and vi) better accommodates the interests of local communities in the decision-making process.

(G R Damm summarizing the views of several internationally respected conservationists).

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