

MINUTES OF THE 16TH AFRICAN WILDLIFE CONSULTATIVE FORUM (AWCF)

SPEKE RESORT, MUNYONYO – KAMPALA, UGANDA
12-16 NOVEMBER 2018

Monday 12 November

A. Opening Agenda Items

(i) Introductions

Proceedings started off with self introductions of participants to the 16th African Wildlife Consultative Forum (AWCF) meeting. Members expressed rich and diverse expectations of the meeting. The list of participants is attached as part of this meeting record.

(ii) Appointment of Uganda Chair

Mr. Fred Stephen Okiror, Senior Wildlife Officer in the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, was chosen by acclamation to chair the meeting, assisted by Dr. Akankwasah Barirega, Acting Commissioner Wildlife Conservation in the same Ministry, Mr. George Pangeti - Africa Coordinator, and Mr. Joseph Goergen, Conservation Manager for Safari Club International Foundation.

Proposed: Zimbabwe

Seconded: South Africa

(iii) Approval of Minutes from 15th AWCF in Arusha, Tanzania

Minutes of the 15th AWCF meeting held in Arusha, Tanzania on 13-17 November 2017 were confirmed as a true record of the proceedings.

Proposed: South Africa

Seconded: Namibia

(iv) Review of 2017 Action Items

- An update on leopard monitoring, as well as the Charter on Hunting and Conservation led by Namibia would be provided under the respective agenda items.
- Assistance with information documents and proposals for CITES was ongoing.
- A WhatsApp platform had been established and members were invited to join the group.
- SCIF was willing to assist on utilization of game meat and economics of hunting, and this would be discussed further during the meeting.
- Human and Conflict would be covered as part of the agenda.

- Inaugural appointments to the International Wildlife Conservation Council had not included Africa nominations.

(v) Overview of Online Registration and Discussion Group

Appreciation and positive feedback was provided on the first trial of the online registration system for the meeting, including information on the host country, as well as the efficient online visa application facility by Uganda Immigration.

(vi) Report Back from Government and Professional Hunting Association Business Meetings

(a) Government

- A number of factors were militating against engagement and greater participation in AWCF by Central and Western Africa e.g. translation, and frequent changes of designated staff, resulting in split positions on sustainable use matters at the level of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
- Botswana, being one of the founding members of AWCF was welcomed back into AWCF family.
- Outcomes of the CITES Animals and Plants Committee meetings, and Standing Committee meetings were noted, including discussions on the joint CMS-CITES African Carnivore Initiative draft Guidelines.

(b) PH Associations

- James Rosenfels (ZPHGA) had taken over from Danene van der Westhuyzen (NAPHA) as President of the Operators and Professional Hunters Association of Africa (OPHAA).
- Priorities for further engagement included loss of land for wildlife conservation due to unfavorable policies, commercial poaching, and bushmeat.
- The hold on imports of elephant trophies into the United States of America required further engagement, including dialogue with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) during the meeting.
- Expected an update on prospects for the reopening of hunting in Botswana during the meeting.
- Fund raising efforts would be stepped up.
- Disparities in research on leopard and lion, with some countries way ahead of others, necessitated better coordination.

(vii) Discussion

- The meeting agreed on the need for better formatting of future business meetings and report back in order to show incremental change, successes and challenges, outstanding issues, and timelines.

- Africa's approach to sustainable use matters at CITES remained divided. **Action: Mechanism for joint positions on emerging issues involving CITES.**
- There was need for a strategy on engagement across Africa for joint positions on wildlife issues. **Action: Engagement of Central and West Africa through AWCF.**

Tuesday 13 November

1.0 SESSION 1: OFFICIAL OPENING

The session opened with a special promotional video on Uganda.

1.1 Address by representative of Uganda Wildlife Authority, Executive Director

Highlights:

- *Welcomed all the delegates to Uganda, The Pearl of Africa, on behalf of Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)*
- *Uganda Wildlife Authority had the mandate to manage a diversity of wildlife resources, ranging from large mammals to a variety of reptiles, birds, butterflies, moths etc.*
- *Managing resources without any form of utilization presented a host of challenges - there was need to engage stakeholders, create incentives, generate revenue, and re-invest into conservation and community development.*
- *Uganda promoted regulated and carefully monitored wildlife utilization. Since inception, over UGX11bn had been generated and a considerable percentage shared with community associations, land owners and district local governments.*
- *Improved surveillance, patrols, tourism activities, translocations, and community support, showed an increase in wildlife populations in some areas where wildlife utilization was practiced.*
- *Decisions were informed by research, Non Detriment Findings (NDFs) and engaging various stakeholders.*
- *Surveys for key species were undertaken to guide setting and determination of quotas, although there are gaps with respect to inventories targeting carnivores and small mammals that are elusive and nocturnal.*
- *Uganda implemented a robust community conservation programme that involved sharing of tourism revenue, education and awareness, and management of human wildlife conflicts.*
- *Human and wildlife conflict was growing, despite a number of mitigation measures that include trench excavations, fencing, scare-shooting, bee keeping etc.*
- *Associated challenges included poaching, wildfires, encroachment, illegal resource access and illegal grazing among others.*
- *The forum presented an opportunity to brainstorm, share experiences and draw strategies to address these challenges.*

1.2 Address by Chairman of Operators and Professional Hunters Association of Africa, James Rosenfels

Highlights:

- *OPHAA was a group of Associations out of Africa with a common mission for ethical and sustainable use of wildlife.*
- *The body was concerned about land lost to wildlife conservation for other unproductive uses, and sought solutions.*
- *The Association was pushing for an African agenda in the management of wildlife.*
- *Sought to influence the international community in positive light.*

1.3 Address by SCI Foundation Executive Director, Bob Benson

Highlights:

- *Welcomed participants to the 16th African Wildlife Consultative Forum, and thanked Uganda for the warm welcome, and especially the Honorable Minister for accepting to officially open the meeting.*
- *AWCF was a meeting for the best and brightest minds in conservation and the sustainable use of wildlife in Africa and reflected collective energy in the conservation of shared wildlife resources, and a common cause and passion, for the conservation of nature.*
- *Speaking as a hunter conservationist and outdoor enthusiast, Africa was a magnificent continent with all its beauty and wildlife.*
- *Had worked for 27 years in wildlife conservation, not just as a biologist or ranger, but also as a professional communicator and fundraiser and now as an executive administrator for SCI Foundation.*
- *This year's AWCF was extremely important in tackling critical issues facing local communities and the international policy arena.*
- *While AWCF was SCI Foundation's premier activity in Africa, there were also projects on the ground conservation work from GPS collaring of Lions in Tanzania to Sitatunga ecology in Uganda, and a growing number of anti-poaching initiatives.*
- *AWCF provided an opportunity to learn and share with each other openly and respectfully, and to build stronger relationships, develop management plans based on the best science, and create strategies to address the threats to Africa's wildlife, habitat, conservation structures, and sustainable use practices.*
- *Apart from addressing threats AWCF was also a platform for identifying opportunities.*
- *A special welcome was extended to representatives from Botswana, where there were positive developments in community-based sustainable use conservation.*

1.4 Official Opening Speech by Hon. Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities; Prof. Ephraim Kamuntu

On behalf of the Government and People of the Republic of Uganda, I would like to warmly welcome you to Uganda-The Pearl of Africa. Thank you for coming indeed. As a country, we are pleased to host the 16th African Wildlife Consultative Forum and I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Safari Club International and to you all the members of the Forum for choosing Uganda as your host.

Uganda hosts the 16th African Wildlife Consultative Forum at a time when wildlife conservation in Africa is at crossroads. Africa has made tremendous achievements in conservation but a lot remains to be done. As you may have heard, Uganda is one of the richest biodiversity countries in the world with about 54% of the World's remaining population of mountain gorillas, 11% of the world's recorded species of birds constituting 50% of Africa's bird species richness. Uganda has 7.8% of the Global Mammal Diversity constituting 39% of Africa's Mammal Richness; Uganda also has 19% of Africa's amphibian species richness and 14% of Africa's reptile species richness, 1,249 recorded species of butterflies and 600 species of fish. More species continue to be recorded in Uganda today.

To be able to conserve the abundance and diversity of Uganda's biodiversity, a network of protected areas has been set up. We have 10 National Parks, 12 Wildlife Reserves, 10 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 5 Community Wildlife Management Areas and 506 Central forest reserves. A total of 16% of Uganda's total land surface is protected for conservation. Lot more wildlife species exist outside protected areas. Uganda remains therefore a very committed country to conservation and sustainable development of wildlife resources. Our National Constitution and all attendant laws, and sector policies require us to conserve and sustainably utilize Wildlife resources for social economic transformation of Uganda. Wildlife based tourism now accounts for the 9% of Uganda's GDP with tourism being the number one foreign exchange earner for Uganda. That's how serious conservation business is to our country.

Uganda has made significant strides in conservation and combating illegal wildlife trade. We have been able to: (a) Strengthen law enforcement efforts through recruitment, training and equipping our rangers, army and tourism police who work together to ensure safety and security of tourists and wildlife resources. (b) We have established a Financial Intelligence Authority with an enabling law to seize assets of traffickers and prosecute money laundering. (c) Uganda has established a specialized wildlife court to expeditiously try all wildlife trafficking cases in an effective manner. Since the Court was established three years ago, we have improved our conviction rate from less than 50% to over 90% for all wildlife crime cases. (d) We have established specialized wildlife crime intelligence and wildlife crime investigations units within Uganda Wildlife Authority to augment existing conventional crime intelligence and investigations services. (e) We have deployed sniffer dogs on our points of entry and exits and these are doing a great job in curbing illegal wildlife products transiting through Uganda. (f) We continue to strengthen our legal framework to make it hard for the traffickers. In the Wildlife Bill now before Parliament, Government is proposing a life sentence penalty for poaching and trafficking in endangered species for commercial purposes. (g) We continue to improve coordination and collaboration between various law enforcement agencies and judiciary at

national, regional and international level. (h) We have successfully established a community benefit framework where we share 20% of protected area revenue with the local people in addition to Gorilla levy and revenue share of sport hunting fees. In addition, we allow communities to access in a regulated manner, protected area resources of their cultural importance.

At the East African Community level, we already have a regional strategy to combat poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking. This harmonizes our efforts at regional level to work together. A lot has been done but a lot remains to be done. We face challenges of climate change and associated invasive species and human wildlife conflicts. We have serious information gaps to support sustainable utilization of wildlife. We need support in addressing research and ecological monitoring of species under sustainable utilization. We need support in addressing human wildlife conflicts. Harmonious co existence between wildlife and people is very critical for sustainable development.

In order to effectively address contemporary conservation challenges, we need strong collaboration and partnership and this meeting provides that needed avenue to share ideas and strategies to address conservation challenges of our time. I call upon the Governments and partners in conservation gathered here to strengthen collaboration and cooperation especially in sharing intelligence, capacity development-equipments, training and financing, strengthening laws and cross border law enforcement, reducing demand for illegal wildlife products and strengthening legal mechanisms for commercialization of wildlife to support sustainable development. Uganda remains steadfast and committed to this cause.

Once again I welcome you to Uganda and invite you to take off time and visit the countryside so that you can experience real wildlife conservation in practice.

I now take this honor to declare the 16th African Consultative Forum officially open.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

2.0 SESSION 2: INTERNATIONAL POLICY – UNITED STATES

2.1 Status of Enhancement Findings, International Wildlife Conservation Council, ESA Reform and other US Policy changes by Eric Alvarez, Acting Director International Affairs, USFWS

2.2 New Guidelines for Trophy Importation and Permitting Process by Mary Cogliano, Ph.D. Chief, Branch of Permits U.S. CITES Management Authority, USFWS

Highlights:

- *The U.S. was one of the world's largest importers and exporters of wildlife and wildlife products.*
- *Its permitting programs sought to ensure sustainable use of native and non-native listed species, based on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and stricter domestic measures under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA).*
- *The highest categories of permit applications included Hunters (25%), Commercial Animal Exporter (18%), and Commercial Products/Skins (18%).*
- *"Non-detriment Findings" for CITES Appendix I species: Leopard, Elephant (e.g., Tanzania, Zambia) and Black Rhino were required, to ensure the import was for purposes not detrimental to the survival of the species.*
- *"Enhancement Findings" for ESA listed species: Lion, Bontebok, Elephant, and Black Rhino, ensured that the import enhanced the survival of the species in the wild.*
- *Legal, well-regulated hunting as part of a sound management program could benefit the conservation of certain species by providing incentives to local communities to conserve the species and by putting much-needed revenue back into conservation.*
- *Following the recent D.C. Circuit Court opinion, USFWS had withdrawn countrywide enhancement findings for a range of species across several countries, and now made findings for trophy imports on an application-by-application (or case-by-case) basis.*
- *Multiple sources of information were used by the U.S. FWS in its evaluation of each permit application, including foreign government consultations; professional hunting organizations, safari outfitters, researchers; meetings, such as the African Wildlife Consultative Forum, and U.S. FWS site visits, as well as concession or operator reports.*
- *In order to contribute to enhancement of hunted species, hunters were encouraged to choose hunting areas that contributed to conservation by reducing threats to the species, providing community incentives for conservation, and complying with harvest laws and regulations.*
- *Individual hunting concessions, wildlife management areas, conservancies, etc., could support enhancement within their hunting area by monitoring populations of hunted species and their prey/food source; protection and improvement the habitat, anti-poaching; human-wildlife conflict mitigation; community investments and providing incentives for conservation; local employment creation; and compliance with harvest laws and regulations.*
- *Governments and other management entities were encouraged to establish and use science-based quotas; adopting sex and age-based harvest approaches; invest fees received through hunting back into conservation (e.g., anti-poaching, managing human-wildlife conflict, population monitoring, etc.) and community benefits; enforce compliance with wildlife laws and regulations, including implementation of management plans and use of adaptive management.*

2.3 Making Non-Detriment Findings: United States case study by Eleanora Babij, PhD, Scientific Authority, USFWS

Highlights:

- *The U.S. had one Management Authority, with a single office for CITES policy and coordination, issuance of permits, and a Scientific Authority with a single office for CITES science policy and responsibilities for both plants and animals, and provided all non-detriment findings for permits and findings.*
- *The Division of Scientific Authority (DSA) was responsible for Non Detriment Findings (NDFs) and Species Listing Proposals (Appendices I & II)*
- *Parties to CITES had a legal obligation to undertake NDFs through a written advice from the Scientific Authority, a verbal advice from the Scientific Authority, or a quota agreed by the Scientific Authority for a specific time period.*
- *NDFs were not required for the export of specimens of Appendix III-listed species.*
- *CoP16 held in Bangkok in 2013 (Res Conf 16.7) established a series of 10 none legally binding guidelines for the making of NDFs.*
- *U.S. Guiding Principles required biological and management information demonstrating that the proposed activity represented sustainable use, and that the removal of the animal or plant from the wild was part of a biologically based sustainable-use management plan designed to eliminate over-utilization of the species.*
- *The U.S. gave greater scrutiny and required more detailed information for activities that posed a greater risk to a species in the wild, and considered the cumulative risks, recognizing that each aspect of international trade had a continuum of risk (from high to low).*
- *If sufficient information was not available or the factors led to conservation concern, the required finding of non-detriment could not be made.*

2.4 Discussion

- ESA included foreign species for which NDFs may be unnecessary, but Enhancement Findings were required.
- U.S. FWS started implementing the new permitting system on 1st March 2018. Ordinarily, the Service provided capacity building support for NDFs upon request.
- Range countries were under resourced, and therefore imposed rules had to be financially supported by importing countries. Bans of imports killed conservation.

3.0 SESSION 3: INTERNATIONAL POLICY – TANZANIA CASE STUDY

3.1 Status of Trophy Hunting in Tanzania by James Wakibara, PhD, Director General, Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA)

Highlights:

- *Tanzania currently had 151 Hunting Blocks, as well as 38 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) of which 22 have user rights and 16 at different stages of development.*

- 4million USD from TAWA's annual budget (17%) was shared with communities in 2017/18 financial year.
- Budget priority was social services, and wildlife conservation expected to self-run.
- Tourist hunting was expected to generate financial incentives for wildlife conservation on 304,399.95km².
- Habitats for Tourist Hunting were often not suitable for photographic safaris, and hunting generated considerably more income per client than photographic, e.g. in 2012/13, only 700 hunters paid 15million USD, of which elephant contributed 2.5million USD in Tanzania.
- For the period 2013-2016, hunting contributed 19.5million USD towards wildlife conservation.
- Major challenges included elephant poaching, revenge killing of lion, and human encroachment, especially blockage of wildlife corridors in the Tarangire ecosystem.
- Tanzania had responded to the challenges by strengthening law enforcement through establishment of a Transnational Serious Crimes Investigation Unit, Rapid Response Teams, Reference Guide for Prosecutors and Investigators, and an Operational Tool Box for wildlife crimes.
- Tanzania's elephant population stood at 50,894, or 73% of the East African population.
- Lion range covered 816,790km² or (92.4%) at an estimated population of 17,564 in 2006
- Elephant poaching had gone down in Selous, from a peak of 131 in 2012/3 to 5 in 2017/8.
- Tanzania had suffered heavily from the import ban of elephant and lion trophies into the United States of America since 2014, the U.S. being its major market for tourist hunting.
- Hunter arrivals declined from a peak of 700 in 2013/4 to less than 500 in 2017/8.
- Consequently, 61% of the 151 Hunting Blocks had become vacant.

3.2 Role of Professional Hunters in Conservation by Michel Leonidas Dimitrios Mantheakis, Chairman of Tanzania Hunting Operators Association (TAHOA)

Highlights:

- The Tourist hunting industry in Tanzania continued to increase until approximately 10 years ago, before decline started and dropped further in 2014, resulting in 81 of the 157 hunting concessions being vacant, totaling more than 100,000km².
- Vacant blocks without the custody of hunting operators were potentially open to encroachment through livestock invasion, subsistence agriculture, illegal logging, and poaching.
- Only 8 of the 38 WMAs were occupied.
- Government revenue declined from \$23.5 million in 2010 to about \$12 million in 2017/18 (an over 50% decline).
- Tanzania mainland without Zanzibar and Pemba was 945,000 km² of which national parks cover only 7%. On the other hand, Game Reserves, Game control Areas and Open areas and Wildlife Management areas and RAMSAR sites that used to be functional hunting concessions until recently were 304,000 km² or 32% of Tanzania surface area.

- *Only the northern circuit national parks of Serengeti, Kilimanjaro, Manyara and Tarangire got enough tourists to make them profitable.*
- *The majority of the national parks did not have enough income from photographic tourism to cover their operational cost, clearly illustrating that it was NOT a viable option to convert tourist-hunting concessions into photographic tourism concessions.*
- *Trophy hunting created the needed financial incentive to conserve these wilderness areas and to justify them against the pressures of alternative use like unviable agriculture and livestock farming.*
- *Tourist hunting industry had declined in the last 10 years due to both internal and external factors. Internal factors mainly involved the increase of fees and taxation, while the main external factor was the USFWS import suspension on Elephant in 2014 and consequent hold/suspension on of imports on Lion trophies from Tanzania since 2016.*
- *The import ban of Lion trophies into France plus the EU parliament petition to ban trophy imports into the EU that later failed, caused huge insecurity during the show season with devastating effects on sales for 2015 and 2016.*
- *there were also aggressive anti-hunting campaigns, to the extent of identifying hunters and sending them insulting and/or threatening hate mail on their emails and social media.*
- *Cecil the Lion constituted the biggest anti-hunting media hysteria and misinformation campaign the world had ever seen, and escalated anti-hunting propaganda to record levels.*
- *Outfitters started to lose money and were forced to hand back concessions that were no longer cost effective, leading to depletion of wildlife and its habitat in the vacant hunting areas.*
- *The anti-hunting community was deceptive and refused to make the distinction between legal safari hunting and illegal poaching.*
- *The real ARMAGEDON of wildlife in Africa was the human population explosion combined with poverty, e.g. Tanzania's human population doubled every 15 to 20 years, with most people suffering great poverty and creating an even bigger demand for more arable land for farming and livestock, leading to devastating meat poaching and the poisoning of predators to safeguard livestock.*
- *The value of utilization through hunting was that the wildlife and habitat was protected. If a hunting area earned \$150,000 to \$250,000 per year in hunting income from under 1% to 3% of the population of game harvested, then the total wildlife resource was worth millions.*
- *The presence of a hunting company constituted a surveillance benefit as a hunting party commonly covered 100 to 200 kilometers in a day. The outfitter took care of his concessions as he depended on the concessions to make a living.*
- *Instead of conserving Elephant and Lions, the US import ban in reality facilitated removal of the key element in conservation and anti-poaching in roughly half the range land outside of National Parks.*
- *Anti-hunting pressure had resulted in the deaths by poaching of more Elephants, Lions and other wildlife than safari hunting ever had.*
- *Up until 2014 the sum of all the anti-poaching expenses of the hunting companies was greater than the total operational budget of the present TAWA.*

- *“Why is it wrong that we copy the same wildlife management principles and policy of sustainable utilization of wildlife resource as that of USA, that is raising 15 billion dollars from hunting fees that is financing your conservation efforts and has resulted in the USA having more wildlife today than in the last 100 years, why is it wrong for us to do the same?”, Michel asked.*
- *U.S. FWS needed to understand that the anti hunting community strategy was to stop hunting by discouraging it, and pushing for over regulation until it was no longer viable or profitable. They openly claimed this to be their goal and strategy to be achieved through CITIES and lobbying.*
- *Michel congratulated and thanked the new approach the U.S. FWS had taken, especially in sending a delegation to Tanzania.*

3.3 Discussion

- Calling it a ‘ban’ or ‘suspension’ of imports had the same effect, as Tanzania had still not been answered despite submitting all the necessary information.
- U.S. imposed conditions were crippling Africa and had a detrimental effect on conservation. It was important that the U.S. and the EU listened more to Africa than to the criminals that pretend to value conservation. The U.S. had in any case not placed any advisory warning against hunters.
- Tanzania had a huge area to manage, and there were pros and cons for its institutional management arrangements, which were under continuous review. 17% of income was the total allocated to communities.
- Elephant hunting was the economic engine of hunting, followed by Lion. Africa valued U.S. clients, who paid the best prices compared to other markets.
- U.S. FWS could not lobby against country laws, but prioritized engagement with range countries and was committed to work with governments and to gather the necessary data and information to resolve outstanding issues.
- The U.S., being the most powerful economy in the world, and recognized for establishing the first national park, was implored to support sustainable use proposals at CITES, and to take the lead in restoring sanity on outstanding issues.

4.0 SESSION 4: SPECIAL SESSION – THE PEARL OF AFRICA

4.1 Sport Hunting as a Conservation Tool: Hunting & Cropping: Conservation & Welfare-Tools by Professor Ludwig Siefert, Makerere University

Highlights:

- *The transition from islands of people amidst seas of wildlife to the opposite today had led to conflict, ethical criticisms and emotional arguments that ignored real hardships facing many people.*

- *There was need to find a balance between harmony and conflict using the right science, economics, and welfare considerations – ‘landscapes matter and happiness also matters’.*
- *There were no easy ways to curtail revenge killing practices, including snaring, which now included silicone coated material that poisoned and killed wildlife even more painfully.*
- *Different opportunities could be researched on and combined to achieve optimum utilization of wildlife, despite differences in human carrying capacity and agricultural practices across countries.*
- *Attitudinal change towards resource valuation was urgently needed, to help people in making a choice between poverty, and wealth and health.*
- *Biodiversity restoration through reintroduction and reinforcement offered a win-win solution – domestication of some species, mixed ranching and value addition (including quality assurance and managing global risks (e.g. for venison production), as well as cropping hunting, and processing of animal products.*
- *Conflict management required exemplary leadership in changing learning approaches in order to help the disadvantaged through doable projects.*
- *Wild lands were at risk as people ran away from the effects of global warming and climate change.*
- *Africa needed to learn from the West, as much as the West also needed to learn from Africa, through sincerity and not emotion.*
- *Repeated Green hunting combined with final Red hunt at top trophy quality could not be dismissed as a management option among many, but genetic engineering for restoration of species was dangerous.*

4.2 Trends of Selected Wildlife Populations and the Role of Research by Fred Kisame Eria, Senior Warden Monitoring and Research, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)

Highlights:

- *The trends of key wildlife species inside and outside protected areas of Uganda had varied over the past decades, especially after the 1960s when the human population started increasing, posing a serious threat to wildlife and decline in the 1970s and early 1980s due to conflicting land use demands, civil war, and political instability.*
- *In 1996, Uganda Wildlife Authority was formed to manage wildlife within and outside protected areas.*
- *Since 1996, the country had made remarkable strides in re-stocking some of the protected areas, including private ranches. Latest figures showed that the populations had progressively increased and some species doubling since 1999.*
- *As far back as the 1950s, Cambridge University researchers undertook studies on habitat changes and carrying capacity in Queen Elizabeth National Park, leading to the establishment of the first Institute of Ecology (UIE), and the research findings were used for management actions e.g. culling of hippos.*
- *Later in the 1980s and early 90s more research stations were established in protected areas that have also contributed to protected area management.*

- *UWA now had a comprehensive Ecological Monitoring and Research Program governed by a monitoring and research policy of 1999.*
- *Research has assisted in preparation of General Management Plans (GMPs) for PAs, e.g. in establishing management zones for tourism.*
- *Research data on especially trends and numbers had been a basis to carry out translocations and restocking.*
- *Research data on trends of animals outside protected areas was helpful in understanding the magnitude of damages to crops, property and humans, and used to develop appropriate deterrent measures.*
- *Research data was also used in setting of quotas for different classes of wildlife and use rights.*
- *Accurate research data about the conservation status of wildlife had assisted management in mobilizing funds for conservation from development partners.*
- *Research data was also used in execution of park patrols.*

4.3 Human and Wildlife Conflict in Uganda by Justus Tusubira, Senior Manager, Head Awareness Education and Human and Wildlife Conflict Unit, UWA

Highlights:

- *The Wildlife Act established UWA to manage all wildlife in the country within and outside protected Areas - 10 National Parks, 12 wildlife reserves, 5 Community wildlife areas and various sanctuaries.*
- *An estimated 50% of Uganda's Wildlife was outside gazetted wildlife protected areas*
- *Wildlife management had started by the wild elephant control department in 1923 when 1000 elephants were killed annually.*
- *HWC included crop and property damage, human and livestock injury, human and livestock death, with the average annual number of cases being 1605 (about 4 cases per day), and increasing annually at about 22%.*
- *Elephant raids comprised the highest reported HWC cases.*
- *Increase in cases was attributed to: increased human wildlife interface, climate change, changing land use patterns, and improved communication.*
- *The costs of HWC varied from area to another; Guarding crops around Budongo FR was found to vary from US\$ 25-30; while around Kibale national park the cost was US\$ 12 per farmer or US\$ 200 per kilometer.*
- *Some of the mitigation measures included; establishment of barriers and trench construction, bee hive lines and use of chill for elephant control, growing tea as a buffer crop, supporting community livelihoods enhancement, and supporting sustainable wildlife utilization schemes.*
- *Fragile soils, vandalism, high maintenance costs affected effectiveness of most HWC interventions.*
- *UWA was promoting private sector involvement in biodiversity conservation, focusing on transforming wildlife on private land into a viable land use option.*

- *Some of the key issues for HWC in Uganda included; Reducing or stopping wildlife moving out of PAs; Managing wildlife outside PAs to demonstrate benefits to communities; Managing wildlife displaced from its habitat e.g. urban areas, cleared forests; Understanding the pattern of disease transmission between wildlife and domestic animals and managing it; Securing participation of local authorities and communities; Developing, maintaining and sustaining selected mitigation measures; Ensuring timely and swift application /response to reports of human wildlife conflicts; Mitigating the effects of climate change relating to HWC; Limited institutional capacity to address the challenge; Raising tolerance levels of affected communities amidst increased interface with wildlife; Limited local government capacity to manage vermin; Scattered and uncoordinated management of reported HWC cases; Limited/ inadequate use of cutting-edge high-tech equipment.*
- *An HWC strategy was being developed to guide management of HWC in the country.*
- *Innovative approaches were encouraged including conservancy establishment, electric fencing and other collaborative solutions.*

4.4 Economic Contribution of Hunting in Uganda by George Owoyesigire, Community Conservation Department, UWA

Highlights:

- *Game provided for controlled hunting and cropping in game reserves (Preservation and Control Ordinance of 1959).*
- *Revenue was paid to local districts and local people also received game meat from problem animals shot as a measure to minimize human and wildlife conflict.*
- *The main objective was to demonstrate the economic value of wildlife as an incentive for private landowners and local communities to support wildlife.*
- *Partnership established between UWA, private investors (Game Trails (U) Ltd) and Greater Mbarara District and local communities, and four new companies around 2008.*
- *Annual quota set at 1-2% of wildlife populations, specific areas, targeting mostly Non- CITES species.*
- *The Wildlife Policy (2014) emphasized the need to promote public-private partnerships in the development and management of wildlife resources.*
- *Strategic objective of the Policy emphasized the relevance and need to ‘promote protected areas as a focus of local community involvement, pride, ownership and commitment and, where appropriate, a source of socio-economic benefit.*
- *The most sport-hunted species included Bush buck, Impala, Buffalo, Uganda kob, water buck and Warthog.*
- *For 2008-2016, sport hunting generated over USD 3million for UWA (15%), and UGX 1,646,093,726 for the District Local Governments (10%), Land owners (30%), Community Wildlife Associations (35%), with 10% reserved for coordination and monitoring.*
- *Other benefits included infrastructure development, community income generating projects, employment; tourism infrastructure; markets for local products; increased community*

awareness; stakeholder participation in wildlife conservation; enhanced surveillance and patrols; leading to the recovery of animal populations.

- *Challenges included conversion of wildlife habitats to crop fields; poaching; climate change; human and wildlife conflict; diseases; inadequate data on selected species; inadequate capacity to breed/ranch some species.*
- *Uganda managed a small scale, science-based and carefully monitored and regulated hunting programme, and the programme promoted restoration of wildlife populations through strategic translocations.*
- *The industry had demonstrated that it could generate immense benefits for government, landowners, and local communities to support wildlife conservation.*

4.5 Potential Tourism Investment Opportunities around National Parks by Executive Director, UWA

Highlights:

- *Tourism was one of the leading foreign exchange earners for the economy, and played an important role in the livelihood of many local communities.*
- *Uganda had experienced growth in tourism numbers in excess of 1 million tourists in the last decade from 600,000 in 2008 to 1,700,000 in 2017, 300,000 of which visited the national parks in 2017.*
- *The increase in visitor numbers to the parks could be attributed to the highly diversified nature products in parks such as a wide range of animal species, a variety of birds, natural forests, and water based tourism.*
- *UWA had identified opportunities for investment in services, products and infrastructure and accommodation facilities in a number of its national parks, such as: Developing High end and mid-range tourist accommodation facilities; Operating House Boats, Boat Cruises and Launches; Sport fishing; Managing Walking Safaris in the wilderness areas and around volcanic crater Lakes; Canopy Walkways, Ziplining and other forest products in tropical forests; Mountain products such as rock climbing, cliff swings and hiking; Internal air transport services/ Chartered flights to parks and other domestic touristic hubs; White water rafting; and Stop over tourism services.*
- *UWA offered concessions to private investors as one way to generate revenue to sustain conservation operations. UWA could also enter into co-management agreements or PPPs under some projects.*
- *The investment opportunities would be advertised and awarded on a competitive basis.*
- *UWA had a standard concessions framework that guides the terms of operation and relationships with the investors, including monitoring and review of performance.*

4.6 Sustainable Trophy Hunting for Sitatunga in central Uganda by Camille Warbington, University of Alberta

Highlights:

- *Sitatunga (Tragelaphus spekii) was found on wetlands mostly in Central Africa and parts of East Africa, Southern and West Africa, and was of Lower Risk (near threatened) on the IUCN Red List.*
- *Range wide population was estimated at 170,000.*
- *Study area was along 10km of Mayanja River in Uganda which was under threat from human encroachment, climate change, and opening up of areas leading to more cattle and cover changes.*
- *Data was being generated on genetic diversity and feeding characteristics, plant species, vegetation height, and distances to hiding cover using trail cameras and sightings.*
- *Data provided new information on the interface between Sitatunga and cattle (which was limited), showing no increase in use of wetland interior during droughts, and shoreline and forests during floods.*
- *Improved data ensured that trophy hunting in Mayanja River was sustainable.*
- *The study was building upon existing techniques for the study of cryptic and elusive species in dense habitats.*

4.7 Discussion

- 12-14 species mainly non-CITES listed were hunted in Uganda, with no hunting inside national parks. Limited numbers of Leopard and Hippo were hunted as problem animals with permission from the Wildlife Authority. 2% of total population was the maximum off-take and 1% in areas bordering protected areas.
- It was misleading that the Foot and Mouth Disease was a one way pathogen. Buffalo and cattle interface needed to be understood from the context that FMD pathogens existed in cattle even without buffalo, unless vaccinated.
- There had been cases of mass slaughter of wildlife for FMD and preventive veterinary fences, showing that everything possible was done for cattle, as people enjoyed ownership rights, unlike wildlife.

5.0 SESSION 5: POACHING

5.1 Counter Poaching in Mozambique's Greater Lubombo Region by Lionel Dyck, Dyck Advisory Group Conservation Trust

Highlights:

- *Three pillars of conservation - Political Will; Local Population Filter; Fortress Conservation (Protecting the Asset).*
- *Greatest barriers to Counter-Poaching: (1) Political will – corruption, and reluctant legal system (unnecessary re-arrests); (2) Local Population Filter – people outside the boundary must be encouraged to be part of the solution, they were NOT recipients of poachers largess,*

but endured pressure from syndicates to release information about counter-operations; and (3) Fortress Conservation (Protect looking out, not the center).

- *Effective operations depended on reaction - technology had to be balanced with effective human reaction, through effective boundary protection, and an effective Quick Reaction Force constantly trained and appropriately equipped, guided by good strategy and tactics.*

5.2 Successful Rhino Anti-Poaching in Zimbabwe's Savé Valley Conservancy by Willy Pabst, Savé Valley Conservancy

Highlights:

- *Save Valley Conservancy came into being after the 1992 drought when cattle farms were converted into a wildlife investment.*
- *The conservancy had potential to expand into the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Park, as it formed an important range for rhino (193, growing at 9.5%), with only one lost in 2018, 130 Wild Dog, strong population of Pangolin, and 12 Cheetah.*
- *Rhino anti-poaching effort through a Special Species Protection Unit helped protect all other species.*
- *Successes included elimination of main historic poaching syndicates (120 years of sentencing and 90% reduction in poaching), recovery of firearms, and dangerous drugs and poisons.*
- *Special operations included K9 Unit, drones, and Intelligence.*
- *Awarded the 2018 Rhino Conservation Award's Gold Medal for the Conservation Practitioner of the Year by the Game Rangers Association of Africa.*
- *Conservancy had successfully moved 100 elephants to the Zambezi Valley as part of population management. 2000 other animals were on permit for culling, which was not an option.*
- *Sango, one of the properties in the Conservancy, was living proof of what sustainable hunting can create.*

Wednesday 14 November

6.0 SESSION 6: COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION

6.1 Keynote Speaker: Sustainable Wildlife Utilization in Botswana: Hunting as a Conservation Tool by Professor Joseph E. Mbaiwa, PhD. Okavango Research Institute, University of Botswana

Highlights:

- *Hunting could be categorized as – Subsistence, Market or commercial, and Recreational.*
- *The subject of hunting was polarized, with animal rights groups and protectionists on one side, and hunters and conservationists on the other.*

- *3 conceptual foundations for of hunting for community development and conservation were: Economic value, Devolution, and collective proprietorship.*
- *Botswana had promoted decentralization of resource management to local communities through Controlled Hunting Areas, with trophy hunting (quota based) undertaken in marginal areas not suitable for photo-tourism.*
- *For 2009-2010, P33million, or 75% of the CBNRM revenue came from hunting.*
- *Reported benefits included better housing, water reticulation, income to households, better diets, infrastructure - lodge, offices, and transportation, resulting in improved rural livelihoods and increasing wildlife populations.*
- *In contrast, Kenya had banned hunting in 1977, and thereafter experienced a 40% decline in wildlife populations, both within and outside of national parks, with wildlife numbers continuing to fall and today being less than half of that which existed before the ban.*
- *Botswana had banned hunting in January 2014, with social and economic costs: 4800 livelihoods affected, loss of meat supply, photographic tourism failing to replace lost jobs; in excess of P40 million lost annually (over 6 months) by communities, and in excess of 600 jobs lost.*
- *Botswana had an estimated 207 545 (+/- 10%) elephants, growing at around 5% per annum, and expanding their range both westwards and southwards, resulting in severe crop and vegetation damage, and increased poaching.*
- *In Sub-Saharan Africa, conservation hunting generated about 15% of tourism revenues from only 1% of tourist arrivals, making it one of the lowest impact forms of tourism.*
- *Considering that annual quotas for elephant and buffalo were around 400 per year, conservation hunting could not possibly have any impact on the populations.*
- *Hunting helped to halt elephant movements into agricultural land, as long as wildlife corridors were kept open.*
- *Command-control was not the best approach to wildlife conservation, and it failed to yield better results prior to CBNRM development.*
- *Sustainable wildlife conservation required an integrated land use planning approach that respected context - photographic, hunting tourism, and agricultural uses.*

6.2 Community-Based Natural Resource Management in Namibia by Maxi Louis, Director, NACSO and Dr. Malan Lindeque Permanent Secretary of the Namibia Ministry of Environment and Tourism

Highlights:

- *Wildlife was depleted by the 1980s, and conservancy legislation and rights over wildlife in the 1990s after Independence had led to 80+ conservancies on 166,045km², benefitting over 189,230 people.*
- *Conservancy income over past twenty years, was made up of tourism joint ventures, wildlife utilization, meat, plant utilization, crafts etc. - 1998: USD 53,000, 2008: USD 2.6 million, and 2017: USD 10,5 million.*

- *The value of spending on the CBNRM programme added up to about USD 184 million of investments between 1990 and 2017, made up mostly of donors, government, and NGOs.*
- *Population of desert-adapted lions in north-west Namibia had rebounded from a low of 20-25 individuals in 1995, to at least 120 in 2017 – an almost 400% increase, in contrast to the 50% decline in lion numbers across Africa over the same time period.*
- *Rhino and elephant were growing, despite the poaching threat.*
- *Work was underway to combat Wildlife Crime, through a partnership approach, with communities as the front line of defense, and to secure corridors.*
- *HWC was a general challenge, and a revised HWC Policy was in place, centering on offsets.*
- *A Wildlife Response Unit had been established for HWC.*
- *Community Game Guards in key areas where there were no conservancies were helping in addressing wildlife crime and expanding impact of conservancies beyond boundaries.*
- *Trophy hunting as a revenue source was the key to conservancy viability, and advocacy efforts were being undertaken to ensure hunting compliance in order to maintain Namibia as a reputable hunting destination.*
- *The Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN) had been established in response to reduced donor support to Namibia as a middle-income country.*
- *Resource degradation and habitat loss – land conversation, should be viewed as a result of: lack of rights at local level, absence of positive incentives, and distortion and loss of market for biodiversity resources.*
- *The Kavango Zambezi (KAZA) TFCA was an opportunity for integration of natural resources across international boundaries, in the face of land fragmentation - increasing pressures from mining, agriculture, and privatization of land.*
- *The principal vehicle for conservation outside state protected areas was community based conservation and its incentive framework - hunting was critically important for habitat conservation away from tourist hotspots. Tourism was very important, but required high capital investment and tended to be localized and prone to overuse, while other opportunities were promising but not significant yet.*
- *Commitments to sustainable development needed to change the framework conditions for large scale habitat loss on a pro poor basis.*
- *There was need to move the debate over community role in conservation, hunting and trade from being willing partners or beneficiaries of positive conservation outcomes to: Primary resource managers, Equal partners in policy and decision making (nationally and internationally), and Integration of land, water, forest, fish, health and education, not just ‘wildlife’.*
- *It was not about just consulting communities and getting them to participate in CITES meetings, but to recognize their rights to have a say about the resources that they depend on.*

6.3 Trophy Hunting in Ethiopia: Benefit Sharing mechanism, the case of Oromia by Chemere Zewdie, Oromia Forest & Wildlife Enterprise

Highlights:

- *Trophy hunting in Ethiopia had a long tradition going back to the time of Emperor Menelik II.*
- *The trophy hunting ban (1993-1996) was followed by the concept of leasing the hunting blocks to licensed outfitters in four Regional States.*
- *A total of 53 mammal and one bird species were legally permitted for tourist hunting, including 3 endemics and 49 of species found in Oromia.*
- *Hunting revenue consisted of: Hunting site concession fee, Trophy fee, Conservation/levy fee*
- *Revenue distribution: Concession fee 100% to the respective Region, Trophy fee (15% Federal), and the remainder to the respective Regions. A Levy fee (100 USD per hunting day remained at Federal level. 60% of the hunting income share of the Region went to the community.*
- *Revenue was shared among the adjacent Kebeles/villages based on the ratio of their area coverage, and this was supported by legislation.*
- *30 % of park entrance fees and live exports also went to the community.*
- *Hunting in Oromia started on a single hunting block (now two) in 2009 as a pilot (now scaled –up Region wide), with one Mountain Nyala on quota.*
- *Annual Quota had since increased, as well as the list of hunted species, following improvement of the habitat condition, and improved community attitudes towards wildlife.*
- *Due to increasing human population, wildlife habitat loss and fragmentation was a challenge.*
- *Limited number of Operators throughout the country (only six) reduced competitive investments by the private sector, and returns.*

6.4 CAMPFIRE Program in Zimbabwe by Charles Jonga, Director CAMPFIRE Association

Highlights:

- *The Community Areas Management for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) contributed to the protection of between 3 and 5 million hectares of land on which wildlife and other important natural resources were found in Zimbabwe.*
- *Approximately 777,000 households (25%) in Zimbabwe benefitted from CAMPFIRE directly or indirectly, through incentives to conserve wildlife and prevent poaching (with solid evidence of a sharp decline in elephant poaching in Mbire district since 2010).*
- *Decision making at community level was reposed in elected Ward Wildlife Committees who report to the Traditional leadership (Village Heads, Headmen, up to the Chiefs), and their elected Councilors.*
- *At the peak of donor funding in 2002, CAMPFIRE encompassed 53 Rural District Councils (RDCs) with Appropriate Authority (AA), though only 23 of these functioned as intended outside donor funding. Only 15 had proved sustainable, and received regular income from wildlife.*
- *Performance of the program was varied and determined by the size of land that is free from human settlement for commercial agriculture purposes, or other economic activities such as gold panning and mining that negatively impact on wildlife management.*

- *Based on Constitution of the CAMPFIRE Association as amended in 2007, all major RDCs used CAMPFIRE revenue sharing guidelines, and in these districts income was paid directly into community controlled bank accounts by Safari Operators.*
- *Income sharing guidelines: not less than 55% of income paid as Ward dividends; not more than 26% allocated to the RDC for wildlife management (habitat management, fire control, monitoring, hiring of game scouts, etc.); 15% retained by the RDC as an administrative levy; and 4% to CAMPFIRE Association.*
- *About 90% of CAMPFIRE revenue was from hunting, with elephant hunting contributing up to 70% of annual revenue.*
- *Some RDCs did not consider all revenues as “CAMPFIRE Funds” and segregate trophy fees from the other revenues. On average, the CAMPFIRE District Wards received 42% of the combined Concession and Trophy Fees, but for Trophy Fees received over 55%.*
- *The volume of people residing in some of these areas precluded providing individuals with direct dividends since the value of such dividends would be meaningless. The CAMPFIRE wards had therefore elected to invest in community projects that provide social services to the whole community and only in special circumstances paid out dividends for food security and direct cash benefits to the underprivileged.*
- *Revenue allocated to communities was used for resource management (22%), household benefits (26%), and community projects (52%).*
- *Most RDCs invested in activities related to the management and administration of the CAMPFIRE program rather than on social services. On average, 40% was spent on administration, 20% of law enforcement and 11% on management related expenses while 6% was allocated to support social services.*
- *The net impact of the United States of America suspension of elephant trophy imports was a reduction of CAMPFIRE income from US\$2.2m in 2013 to US\$1.7m in 2014. A similar pattern prevailed in 2015 (US\$1.6m), before firming up to (US\$1.7) in 2016 and 2017 as outfitters struggled to sell elephant safaris at heavily discount prices.*
- *This had become a key driver of the escalating levels of community dissatisfaction with wildlife, which was feeding into the anti-hunting lobby through social media.*
- *There was no official national compensation scheme. However, RDCs and Wards (including Outfitters) financially assisted people and families that suffered attacks from wildlife.*
- *133 people had lost their lives in CAMPFIRE areas only, and others injured after encountering dangerous animals since 2010.*
- *It was estimated that 7,000ha of crops were destroyed by elephant during the period 2010-2015, with elephant considered the greatest threat and problem. Lion and crocodile were responsible for most cattle deaths.*
- *Since 2015, CAMPFIRE Association had been working on a pilot project in Tsholotsho to reduce human and elephant conflict, and the new system had spread to all affected wards in the district.*
- *CAMPFIRE programme was focused on capacity building for the sustainable management of natural resources as viable business ventures, promotion of enabling conditions for Public Private Community Partnerships, and credible systems for monitoring, reporting, and knowledge management.*

7.0 Session 7: Community-Based Conservation – Country Reports

7.1 Socio economic importance of Hunting Zones in Cameroon: Case of the North region by Nadia Nhiomog

Highlights:

- *Cameroon's protected areas were divided into: 18 National Parks; 6 Wildlife reserves; 4 Sanctuaries; 3 zoological and botanic gardens; 1 Botanic Garden; and 70 Hunting Zones.*
- *The Northern Region had 3 National parks, 1 Zoological Garden, and 32 Hunting Zones (24 active).*
- *Over USD 1.5 million was paid as lease fees between 2010 and 2016, while hunting generated approximately USD5 million over the same period.*
- *Distribution – District Council 40%, Public Treasure 27%, Special Fund for Wildlife 23%, and Communities 10%.*
- *Up to 2000 jobs were provided per year, in addition to important social services (school construction, distribution of school equipment, drinking water supply), and contribution to the financing of income generating activities in District Councils and communities.*
- *Accompaniment of tourists and hunters by village guards was an added benefit, as well as sales of local art objects to tourists, rentals of vehicles, accommodation.*
- *Poaching of elephant by heavily armed individuals from foreign countries as well as local people was a challenge, resulting in injury or killing of Eco-guards and local people, as well as the decrease of animal populations, and loss of biodiversity.*
- *Strengthening of the intervention force was being undertaken in collaboration with the Ministry of the Defense, increasing awareness, and assisting the Hunting Zone lease holders with anti poaching operations.*

7.2 Community Development and Benefit Sharing: Mozambique Country Report - National Administration for Protected Area Management (ANAC)

Highlights:

- *Three community conservation programs had evolved in Mozambique: Tchuma Tchato, Chipanje Chetu, and Mitcheu.*
- *The Constitution stipulated that 20% of Natural Resources Revenues should be given back to the Local Community, and provided for use of natural resources products for subsistence of local community households, income generating projects from conservation activities, social responsibility of the Operators, and job creation and human development initiatives.*
- *Challenges included: Human and Wildlife Conflict vs Benefits; performance based payments; weak community-based organizational structures; lack of common vision on what to do with the money received; absence of infrastructure services in most of the rural areas; and power of local Leaders which sometimes undermined the impact of the benefits.*

7.3 Wildlife Management in Zimbabwe: The Critical Themes by Arthur Musakwa, Director Conservation: Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority

Highlights:

- *Wildlife land use regimes in Zimbabwe were based on a Gazetted wildlife tenure system that covered about 26% of Zimbabwe's total area - National Parks 12%, Communal and Forest area 13%, and Private areas 0.8%.*
- *The country had 4 critical wildlife landscapes that carried viable elephant populations among other species – Mid Zambezi, Northwest Matabeleland, Sebungwe, and Southeast Lowveld.*
- *Rhinos occurred on both state and private land across the country.*
- *The last national elephant survey done in 2014 showed an overall population of 83000 elephant.*
- *The country was currently conducting a leopard survey and Non Detrimental Findings (NDF).*
- *High poaching levels and elephant poisoning in 2013 and 2015 had decreased due to increased law enforcement efforts.*
- *Rhino poaching was increasing (22 in 2015, 28 in 2016, 29 in 2017), and occurring mostly on private land.*
- *Short term law enforcement strategies included: Intensified ground, aerial and river patrols, Anti-poaching patrols including Joint operations with other security agencies, Enhanced intelligence gathering and informer networking, Conservation education and awareness campaigns, Recruitment and deployment of additional man power for increased coverage, and Continuous training and monitoring of water bodies and salt licks among other measures.*
- *Medium term strategies involved procurement of patrol equipment and capacitating of intelligence Units, procurement of appropriate technology for surveillance activities, resource mobilization including lobbying government to allocate resources to capacitate Zimbabwe Parks, and staff training.*
- *Long term strategies entailed procurement of equipment (vehicles, drones and aircraft), establishing a forensic laboratory, building capacity at local level, and establishment of environmental Courts.*
- *The high number of people killed and injured by wildlife had necessitated the need to develop a human wildlife conflict policy, which was underway.*
- *Zimbabwe had a stockpile of 115 tons of ivory and 5 tons of rhino horn, which could not be disposed of due to CITES trade restrictions.*
- *Other challenges included existing and potential bans of exports, and stricter domestic measures by importing nations.*
- *Climate change variability and its impacts was leading to increased competition for resources, more conflict, increased conservation costs (pumped water), settlement encroachment into protected areas (affecting buffer and margins areas of protected areas), depletion of fisheries resources, and poor and unselective harvest methods.*

7.4 Community Based Natural Resources Management in Botswana by Sennyne Neo-Mahupeleng

Highlights:

- *40 percent of the land in Botswana was set aside for Parks, Reserves and Wildlife Management Areas, including private reserves, and the country had the largest elephant population in the world.*
- *Proceeds from Parks were for the national fiscus, but it was also recognized that there was need for the local people to appreciate the meaning of conservation especially at the household level where people feel the pinch from damage of crops and properties.*
- *Community Based Organizations (CBOs) involved in CBNRM were widely spread throughout the country, initially depending a lot on hunting, but now shifting to other resources such as monuments, veld products, and photographic tourism.*
- *Performance of the CBOs varied depending on the resources available to them as well as support and assistance given.*
- *Revenue generated by 5 communities in Ngamiland showed a high of over P20 million in 2017/18, compared to about P8 million in 2015/6.*
- *Challenges were: too much dependence on wildlife resources, limited capacity in managing, low literacy levels, expectations not met, and general lack of management skills.*
- *Due to declines that were observed in some species of wildlife, a hunting ban was instituted in 2014, and remained in force.*
- *The government of Botswana continued to recognise CBNRM as a key component in natural resources management and was continuously finding ways of improving the programme, including through TFCA initiatives, exploration of Community Game Ranching, and promoting use of other natural resources and photographic tourism.*
- *Consultations on hunting were on-going, and the outcome expected to satisfy all.*

7.5 Discussion

- There was no timeline for the ongoing discussions on reopening of hunting in Botswana. It was clear that natural resources management had potential to also drive the national economy, but its sustainability was more important so that these resources lasted into the future.
- For CBNRM in general, cash dividends didn't seem to measure up to the costs suffered by communities (other non-monetary benefits not included). Costs could be offset through insurance mechanisms, but there was no price tag for human life. Beyond offsetting crop losses as in Namibia, regional collaboration was necessary to make HWC insurance mechanisms more viable.
- The human dimension might not be the most important factor in explaining habitat loss, as the Namibian model worked well in extreme opposites of the country – in the very dry

west, and the highly populated north with better rainfall. What was important was creating the necessary conditions for co-existence between people and wildlife.

- Exchange visits and learning tours across many levels including policy makers, though expensive, remained important in strengthening CBNRM.

8.0 SESSION 8: AFRICAN ELEPHANT AND RHINO SYMPOSIUM

Highlights:

8.1 CITES MIKE Program, Capacity Building and NIAP Process by Thea Carroll, CITES MIKE Program Coordinator

Highlights:

- *MIKE covered 33 countries, with 68 sites in Africa (17% of the elephant range & 35% of the population), and now had 15 years of data – 17,700+ records received from 53 MIKE sites in 28 range States in Africa.*
- *Ranger based monitoring entailed daily data collection and consolidation, monthly and annual consolidation through MOMs and SMART programs, and the MIKE Workbook.*
- *The Minimizing the Illegal Killing of Elephants and other Endangered Species (MIKES) project, was being implemented as the flagship of the MIKE program, to strengthen the capacity of local law enforcement agencies to reduce the impacts of poaching and illegal wildlife trade on key species.*
- *Law enforcement capacity assessments were being carried in Southern Africa – Niassa National Reserve, Mana Pools, Sapi and Chewore; East Africa – Queen Elizabeth National Park and Katavi-Ruka; Central Africa – Boumba Bek National Park, Dzanga Sangha and Okapi Faunal Reserve; and West Africa – W Complex PAs.*
- *MIKE data helped in informing the international community in elephant status, poaching and illegal ivory trade levels, and responding to poaching and seizures.*
- *The 2016 IUCN African Elephant Status Report showed a net decline of 110,979 in 9 years.*
- *According to ETIS, as of June 2018, there were 28,490 records of which 25,822 represented ivory seizures.*
- *The MIKES Event Response Mechanism (MERM) supported in Africa at both national and site level emergencies on seizures and poaching.*
- *The National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) process under CITES included African countries such as Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Kenya and Mozambique selected on a three category basis, and was important in responding to the elephant poaching crisis. NIAPs and progress reports were available online <https://cites.org/eng/niaps>*
- *The feedback loop in MIKE was important to ensure that data was used by range States*

9.0 SESSION 9: AFRICAN ELEPHANT AND RHINO SYMPOSIUM

9.1 Country Report: Mozambique

Highlights:

- *According to the 2008 Census, Mozambique had 22000 elephant, but the number had been reduced by 50% due the poaching.*
- *Mozambique had no data on Rhino numbers.*
- *Measures were being implemented to deal with elephant poaching, cross border smuggling, ivory stockpile thefts (7 stockpiles, challenges in consolidation of management system), unregulated domestic ivory markets, and ivory shipments to international destinations.*
- *Following amendments of the Conservation Law, 373 poachers were detained with 25 convictions; 179 fire arm and 692 munitions recoveries; and more than 3 tons of ivory seized at Maputo International Port.*
- *Mozambique would be conducting a National Aerial Survey of Elephant in 2018.*
- *The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), guided by the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit (ICWC), developed by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, was assisting the country on preparedness to respond to organized wildlife and forest crime.*
- *Other development partners were assisting improving capacity in prevention and combating wildlife trafficking, wildlife investigations and prosecution.*
- *Mozambique was yet to establish an Anti-crime Unit for wildlife and called for international cooperation between states, with a focus on greater involvement and commitment of the states (buyers) of ivory.*

9.2 Country Report: South Africa

Highlights:

- *Elephants occurred throughout most of SA, following re-introduction in private & state reserves from 1979-2001, although distribution was fragmented and restricted - 800 elephants re-introduced.*
- *The National elephant population was about 28,219 on 84 properties, with 1903 elephant on private reserves outside of Greater KNP complex, mostly confined by fences.*
- *Elephant surveys were done either annually or bi-annually.*
- *Poaching in KNP had escalated from three elephant in 2013 to 68 in 2017. This was however still a very low percentage of the total KNP population.*
- *Six parcels of smuggled ivory had been intercepted at ORT Airport over a period of 3 weeks.*
- *Total area occupied by black rhinoceros (1,893) was estimated at close to 33,000 km² or less than 3% of the total land surface of the country.*
- *Rhino was widespread, occurring in more than 69 State, private and communal reserves and game farms across 7 out of the 9 provinces, and majority of subpopulations were fenced.*

- *White Rhino (17,208) was also widespread, occurring in more than 350 state, private & communal game farms and reserves across all 9 provinces, and mostly fenced, on 49,000 km², of which approximately 18,000 km² was private or communal land.*
- *An additional 1,517 (as of 2017) white rhinoceros was found in South Africa's largest captive breeding facility under semi-intensive management.*
- *The most immediate threat was poaching for horn.*
- *Poaching of Black Rhino had been increasing each year from 2010 (when 12 animals were poached), and reached a peak in 2015 when 62 were poached in the country (an estimated 3.3% of the wild population).*
- *Since 2016 poaching had declined slightly with an estimated 45 wild black rhinoceroses (approximately 2.4% of the wild population) poached in 2016.*
- *On average, 2.4% of the black rhinoceros population was currently poached annually (c. 45 individuals), effectively representing 40% of the potential annual population increment.*
- *For White Rhino, poaching had been increasing each year from 2007 (when 13 were poached), and reached a peak in 2014 when 1,151 were poached (an estimated 6.5% of the wild population).*
- *Poaching had since declined slightly with an estimated 1,009 (approximately 6% of the national population) poached in 2016 – a likely positive result of the anti-poaching interventions employed nationally and specifically in KNP, (102 cases successfully prosecuted between March 2017 and 31 March 2018, highest effective sentence 28 years imprisonment, and highest penalty paid R1.2 million).*
- *Two forms of legal off-take consisted of: management removals and trophy hunting, based on strict biological criteria - an average of 3 – 4 black rhino trophy bulls hunted/year under CITES, and since 2012 an average of 70 white rhino (0.43% of the national population) legally hunted/year.*
- *A scientific assessment for elephant had been published, and an Elephant Research Strategy launched.*
- *A 10 year national rhino research strategy was in place.*

9.3 Discussion

- Plans were underway through Norms and Standards to provide options for the management of the growing elephant population in Kruger National Park, and to protect the biodiversity.
- The discrepancy between poachers arrested and convicted for Mozambique could be explained by complex networks in a poor country, and limited capacity of the judiciary to deal with wildlife crime.
- Non-reporting for MIKE by some countries should not be linked to any penalization and terminologies like the “Gang of 8” were a creation of an excited media, and not CITES which continued to search for ways to make the process better.
- Generally, costs of protecting rhino, either on State or private land had increased.

10.0 SESSION 10: COMMUNICATIONS: HUNTING AND SOCIAL MEDIA

10.1 Social Media Best Practices by Danene van der Westhuyzen, President Namibia Professional Hunting Association

Highlights:

- *As a precaution, government had discouraged posting of photos of hunts on social media, as the practice was fueling a negative perception of the industry.*
- *Industry was aware that hunting experiences were cherished and celebrated moments that contributed to nature conservation.*
- *A study had been undertaken, and NAPHA had developed Social Media Guidelines.*
- *An information pamphlet - A Quick Guide to Ethical Marketing practices for Hunters, was being distributed widely, with generic write-ups in support of conservation, and a possible point/credit system - for Continued Professional Development (CPD).*
- *A statutory body would be established by NAPHA, MET and other relevant organizations, to monitor and manage the point system, and such a body could reprimand offenders / deduct credits where conduct failed to meet required standards.*

A short video educating against unnecessary posting of hunt photos and trophies was shown.

10.2 Discussion

- Industry was challenged to invest in good production companies (with possibility of peer review) to avoid circulation of promotional materials that shocked the public.
- There was need to set up a means of tracking negative posts/attacks on hunting, identifying the originators, in order to engage or respond more appropriately, not just for social , but also main line media – marketing agents had to be also brought into the loop.
- Fake experts on social media had to be exposed, as well as identifying allies from main line media.
- Education of the public was important, as a means of defending the industry – the youth, for example, lacked enough knowledge about conservation and fueled negative public Tweets mostly out of ignorance.
- Need to shift from sharing emotional responses to facts, in a proactive manner – including generating personal stories not directly in response to any negative criticism of hunting or attacks, and it was not necessary to respond to everyone and everything.
- Clients could be the biggest problem if left to self record their hunts, which was a service that should be provided by an Outfitter, to avoid circulation of inappropriate photos.
- OPHAA would consider taking up the NAPHA initiative and suggest Africa wide guidelines/regulations.
- Emotions were steered by sharing celebrations of hunted wildlife, as opposed to slaughtering of livestock and poultry which was not shared.

Thursday 15 November

11.0 SESSION 11: LARGE PREDATOR SYMPOSIUM – COUNTRY REPORTS

11.1 Namibia Leopard Census by Dr. Louisa Richmond-Coggan, LRC Wildlife Conservation

Highlights:

- *Leopard distribution covered 8,515,935km², from Sub-Saharan and North Africa to the Middle East and Asia, and suitable range had been reduced by >30 % worldwide in the last three generations (22.3 years).*
- *A leopard study was being undertaken by Namibia from August 2017 to March 2019, led by Dr Morgan Hauptfleisch of the Namibia University of Science and Technology, who addressed the meeting via video conference and presented the research methodology and ongoing data collection and analysis.*
- *The project sought to establish how many leopards there were in Namibia and where they were distributed; livestock/game loss and problem animal removal patterns, and the size and impact of pressures on the population.*

11.2 Applying Age-Based Monitoring of Trophy Lion and Leopards: Zambia Experience by Vernon Booth

Highlights:

- *In response to the global debate on the status of lion and leopard, the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) had in 2009 formulated a science-based Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for the African Lion that had been adopted by both the government and the conservation-based NGO community.*
- *Aim of current research was to provide a simple, reliable and repeatable method of determining acceptable or unacceptable age classification of trophy hunted lion and leopard, considering that precise ageing of large carnivores was still not practical.*
- *Research was focusing on two stages of assessing the age of trophy hunted lion and leopard*
 - *Selection of live animal during the hunt, and age estimation of trophy following the hunt (post-mortem).*
- *Government had also put in place new guidelines on the hunting of lion and leopard.*
- *Work was progressing well on the assessment form to gauge age class of acceptable lion and leopard trophies, as well as online data capture, to improve availability of monitoring and indicator information.*

11.3 Zimbabwe Professional Hunters and Guides Association (ZPHGA) Leopard Programme by Richard Peek

Highlights:

- *As a participant in hunting, ZPHGA had made a decision to become proactive and develop a leopard survey initiative.*
- *The ongoing work involved camera and spoor surveys and age related trophy assessments in four sites (Communal, Private, National Park, and Conservancy) in Zimbabwe.*
- *The study had demonstrated that an age-based hunting approach, including tooth wear, dewlap size facial scarring, and scrotum color was practically applicable for leopards. However, implementation would require major reform within the regulatory framework and the hunting industry.*
- *Since two years ago, Zimbabwe operators and PHs had agreed to a 4 year threshold for sport hunted leopard, with a provision that the threshold would be adjusted upwards when PHs had adapted to the system.*
- *The PHs had become more discerning and there was good feedback from many operators to the leopard research programme, which could only assist in better understanding of leopard populations.*
- *The study had established that all but one criteria used for age class assessment were based on subjective ranking, necessitating progressive fine tuning of age classes to improve accuracy.*
- *According to available age class assessment data, the aggregates of age class per hunting area indicated sustainability and the results could be used to adjust hunting quotas.*

11.4 Hunting and Conservation Status of Leopard, Lion and Cheetah Mozambique

Highlights:

- *Mozambique was undertaking a detailed survey on the conservation status of leopard using local data to assist in establishing its hunting quota.*
- *The methodology mainly involved the use of baits.*
- *Preliminary data showed that leopard occurred in Niassa Province, Cabo Delgado Province, Manica Province and Sofala Province where hunting quotas are allocated at an average 60 animals per year, and all quotas were utilized.*
- *The major threat to the species was poaching.*
- *Direct benefits included jobs for local people through Safari Hunting Companies which employed more than 800 people, anti-poaching teams, in 2015 of which about 40% were seasonal workers.*
- *The 2009 Lion population estimate was 2700, and sport hunting undertaken in Coutadas, game farms and communal areas with 50 lions on quota (50% utilization).*
- *Conflict with humans was high, with 120 people killed, and about 6-8,0% due to Lion.*
- *Lions were also killed illegally for use of their parts.*
- *The review of the National Action Plan and elaboration of Hunting Guidelines for lion was underway, and professional hunters were required to complete the safari return form for both successful and unsuccessful safaris.*
- *Cheetahs (approximately 200) were highly protected by law and hunting not allowed.*

- *Human activity was the main factor threatening cheetahs.*

11.5 Discussion

- Overregulation of legal activities was more dangerous than no regulation.
- Increasing the level of professionalism in Leopard hunting was key – the Professional Hunter had to be in control, not the client.
- Criminalizing mistakes made without malice was unfair, and there was need to stagger penalties in order to deal with repeat offenders, and this required a joint effort between governments and the private sector.
- Southern Africa had many shared populations, and there was need to combine research efforts and share information, from a central and accessible source.
- Practice showed that CITES quotas (determined by resolution – 2/3 majority) were normally higher than off-take levels, compared to adaptive management/nationally determined quotas, even though this applied for non-CITES quotas.
- CITES Non Detriment Findings and adaptive management processes guided utilization, not necessarily the CITES quota.

11.6 Keynote Speaker; Dr. Jerry Belant: Tanzania Lion Project Update and Implementation of Abundance Estimation Methodology

Highlights:

- *The project focused on refining technologies for lion abundance to eliminate biases and had been trialed in the Serengeti ecosystem and Ngorongoro – weekly Density Estimates variation had been reduced from 56% to 39% (2015-2016).*
- *The Repeated Call-in was more effective than the Single Call-in, and habituation response to Call in surveys had been eliminated.*
- *A comparison of the techniques showed that Individual id/counts, Multi-session Call-in, and cameras were more effective than the traditional Track/Spoor counts, Single session Call-in, and Roar counts.*
- *Next steps entailed application of the methodology at national level, taking into account issues of cost, design and analysis, sites selection for long-term monitoring, benchmarking and evaluation of indices.*

11.7 Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivore Initiative Range States Meeting: Notes on Leopard Monitoring: Decisions on Leopard at CITES CoP17 by Marco Pani

Highlights:

- *CoP17 Directed to Parties with quotas established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal to review these quotas, and consider whether these quotas were still set at levels which are non-detrimental to the survival of the*

species in the wild, and to share the outcomes of the review and the basis for the determination that the quota is not detrimental, with the Animals Committee at its 30th meeting.

- *An in-session working group on quotas for leopard hunting was established at AC30 to review the information submitted by leopard range States to draft recommendations to the Standing Committee for consideration at its 70th meeting.*
- *The AC noted that some Parties were implementing monitoring and adaptive management systems to ensure that the off-take of leopards was sustainable and did not pose a threat to the survival of the species, and asked the Secretariat to liaise with the countries that had not sent in the reviews for consideration.*
- *Meetings such as the joint CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative provided an opportunity for discussion and lessons learned on monitoring of populations of leopards.*
- *Range countries were urged to note that the Standing Committee would be making its own recommendations to CoP18 regarding the review and if necessary revision of quotas for leopards.*

11.8 Discussion

- There were important lessons to learn from the Tanzania Lion research project and need for sharing information. **Action: Coordination and consolidation of research information on large predators.**
- Although the outcomes of the Joint CMS-CITES meetings were not presented to the main meeting, guidelines for conservation of lions would be finalized in consultation with range states and there was need to keep track of the process.
- Range states had during CMS-CITES meeting commented on the two documents on lion which were not well developed, and only South Africa present.
- Input of range states was critical – the Convention could not attempt to prescribe what range states should do, including proposing guidelines from non-range states.
- Most CoP decisions were decided by voting, and not the Convention text – not everyone could speak, and reservations were confined to change of appendixes.
- A support group would assist with the Lion technical document due at the end of the month and provide comments through IUCN by 1st December 2018 and included as a submission to the Conference of the Parties (CoP18). There would be further opportunities at CoP18 to comment, Leopard would be for CoP19, necessitating the need to coordinate predator projects. **Action: Range states to provide comments to the joint CMS-CITES African Carnivore Initiative draft guidelines for the conservation of lions.**

12.0 SESSION 12: INTERNATIONAL POLICY – NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS AND BEST PRACTICES

12.1 CITES Non-Detriment Finding Guidelines by Thea Carroll, CITES Secretariat

Highlights:

- *According to Articles III and IV of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), a Management Authority could only issue an export permit if positive advice was provided that export permits for species in Appendices I and II was not detrimental to the survival of the species (NDF).*
- *For exports of Appendix II, the Scientific Authority had to monitor actual exports.*
- *Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) allowed Parties to establish national voluntary export quotas, which were based on non-detriment findings made by their Scientific Authority.*
- *Trade in hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I or II required that importing and exporting countries maintain a close dialogue as necessary, and that these countries share information, upon request, regarding the finding of the Scientific Authorities.*
- *NDFs used the best available scientific information (science-based assessment), different methodologies and approaches, and could take the form of verbal advice from the Scientific Authority, written advice from the Scientific Authority, or a quota agreed by the Scientific Authority for a specific time period (typically annual).*
- *NDFs could be Positive, Negative, or Positive with certain conditions.*
- *CITES had developed a tabular checklist to help Scientific Authorities in advising if exports of Appendix II-listed taxa were not-detrimental to the species' survival.*
- *The results were usually visualized as a circular chart to help evaluate where biological and management information was strongest or weakest, so as to help decision-makers reach a conclusion.*

12.2 International Expert Workshop on NDFs for Hunting Trophies of Certain African Species included in CITES Appendices I and II: Results and Future Developments, Spanish CITES Scientific Authority

Highlights:

- *The government of Spain had in the context of CITES Resolution 17.9. on trade in hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I or II convened an experts workshop in Sevilla in April 2018 to foster close collaboration between Scientific Authorities from both exporting and importing countries in relation to the formulation of NDFs for hunting trophies of certain African species.*
- *Conclusions and results were submitted as an EU contribution to the 30th CITES Animals Committee in July 2018, which noted the report and supported the continuation of the work on NDFs.*
- *Attendees mostly agreed on several scientific relevant variables to guide (rather than prescribe) non-detriment findings, rejected others and highlighted a third group that may be desirable but more challenging to implement.*
- *It was concluded that a second workshop would be convened in Africa for greater representation, including Francophone countries.*
- *The challenge was to put into practice a comprehensive testing of the outcomes of the workshop on the ground, as part of a scientific, capacity and information sharing exercise,*

with a view to further developing and refining practical and evidence-based NDF guidelines for the focus species.

12.3 Discussion

- There was no explicit provision under the Convention for importing countries to make NDFs for Appendix II species.
- Scientific Authorities in exporting countries had to exercise sovereignty in development of NDFs, and it was unfair to make this a shared responsibility with importing countries.
- The elephant in the room was Stricter Domestic Measures by importing countries – exporting countries spent resources on NDFs sometimes rejected by importing countries, e.g. Mozambique Hippo NDF, with efforts now to complete the Zambezi Delta census, creating a case by case scenario to the detriment of the rest of the country.
- The Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings had experienced some disagreement on certain issues - viewpoints against NDFs, trophy exports, especially by those who didn't quite understand what happens on the ground.
- Animal rights groups were a misfit at the workshop – as these were not involved in either wildlife management or trade, on which CITES was based. Some countries had economies based on based on wildlife trade, others had none.
- The second workshop to be convened in Africa would promote better acceptance of NDFs in Europe and understanding with Africa – regulation by Europe should not have a negative impact on countries further away. **Action: Identification of a volunteer host country for the second International Expert Workshop on NDFs.**

12.4 Best Practice Case Study: Namibia, by Danene van der Westhuyzen, President of NAPHA

Highlights:

- *In the late 1700s, Namibia had around 8-10 million animals, before numbers collapsed due to uncontrolled and wasteful hunting by traders and explorers, then by local people who had acquired guns and horses from the traders, then by early farmers, veterinary policies and fencing, and finally by modern-day farmers on both freehold and communal land who saw wildlife as having little value and competing with their domestic stock for scarce grazing.*
- *By the 1960s wildlife numbers had declined to about half a million, as at that time was "owned" by the state and land owners and custodians lacking rights to use the wildlife and to derive any benefits from wildlife.*
- *In response to declining numbers and growing dissatisfaction among farmers, a new approach to wildlife management was introduced, and today Namibia had game farms, private reserves, and 83 conservancies - 43.7 % of the country under conservation management, and an estimated 3 million animals.*

- *Namibia's laws gave the same rights to farmers in both land tenure systems. Placing a value on wildlife and leading to a total change in attitude towards wildlife by land owners and custodians, and supporting a multi-faceted business model, including conservation hunting, management hunting, meat production, live sales of surplus animals and tourism.*
- *Conservancies were not national parks, but farmlands where the local people had agreed to tolerate certain levels of wildlife on their lands in return for receiving benefits from wildlife, while also keeping their livestock.*
- *Namibia was currently host to the world's largest population of free-roaming cheetahs, 100% in conservancies/communal areas, and all elephants hunted in Namibia (contributing roughly 59% of income generated) were in communal areas, and the lion range had expanded - 80% of wildlife was outside protected areas.*
- *The only significant and increasing population of free-roaming black rhino on communal land in the world was also found in Namibia.*
- *Benefits to landowners from hunting had made wildlife an attractive land use option, encouraging people to maintain or restore wildlife habitat and populations.*
- *Communal landowners in Namibia used trophy-hunting revenues to pay guards and rangers, buy equipment, and otherwise manage and protect wildlife.*
- *There was also increase tolerance for living with wildlife, reducing the effects of human-wildlife conflicts and reducing illegal killing.*
- *A hunting quota system and professional hunting control system was in place.*
- *Hunting revenues and benefits were about 40% (provided more than 60% of the cash income to conservancies) of the 2016 income of US\$7.9 million, while tourism was closer to 50%.*
- *NAPHA had spearheaded the formation of the Hunters United Against Poaching Trust in 2015 for the protection of all wildlife in Namibia through innovative fundraising.*
- *Another NAPHA initiative from 2004, with the assistance of Dallas Safari Club, Texas USA, was support schools/hostels hosting children of disadvantaged people.*
- *Our current threats included habitat decrease, drought, human and wildlife conflict, some disillusionment with CBNRM program, wildlife crime (110 rhino poached in 2015, mostly in Etosha)*
- *Other threats emanated from attacks on trophy hunting by animal rightist groups, airline bans, ban on import of trophies Conservation or trophy hunting, and rogue hunting outfitters.*
- *Namibia was reposition hunting through various means: government support against hunting bans and changing trophy hunting to conservation hunting, rewriting of new legislation, introduction of a new code of conduct, introduction of best practice hunting guide, introduction of a program on collecting biological information, introduction of mandatory ethics training for all hunting guides, and introduction of an age related measurement system for trophies hunted in Africa.*

12.5 Discussion

- Collection of biological specimens covered every hunted animal to help develop a gene bank on game farms and monitor genetic changes, as well as introduction of stamp duty to hunt wildlife, in addition to permit fees.
- In the U.S., 10% of 2 million waterfowl duck stamps were purchased by non-hunters at Federal government level, generating 95% of income for duck habitat, and big game was regulated by State government.
- There was need for a shift in mind-set from trophy/sport hunting to conservation hunting, as sport hunting entailed only trophies on walls and not the full value of the hunt.

13.0 SESSION 13: CITES AND SUSTAINABLE USE ISSUES

13.1 Report from 30th Animals and 70th Standing Committee Meetings FACE: European Federation for Hunting and conservation, by Roderick Enzerink

Highlights:

- *European Union hunters played a significant role in raising money to fund wildlife conservation programs worldwide, and FACE played an important role given the extensive regulation of hunting in the EU.*
- *The European Union acted as 1 party to the CITES convention and usually voted as block.*
- *The convention was implemented in EU legislation and binding for member states.*
- *A Scientific Review Group formed opinions on trade in species.*
- *Among other recent activities, FACE had convened a dinner debate on the future of trophy hunting and CITES in November 2017, held a conference on CITES and local communities in the European Parliament, provided input in relevant decisions in Europe and internationally, held ivory consultation and limitations to trade.*
- *Its work would be aided by up to date information from the ground, especially on EU decisions, and on CITES CoP proposals/documents.*

13.2 Rural Communities Engagement by Joe Goergen, SCIF

Highlights:

- *The CITES Standing Committee (SC70) was held on 1-5 October 2018 in Sochi, Russian Federation and discussed the draft working program for CoP18, and the Secretariat would be providing proposals by Parties on some agenda items.*
- *A huge chunk of the agenda was relevant to Africa, but not necessarily on hunting.*
- *The report on engagement of rural communities was noted as lacking consensus on the recommendations, and the SC would be asking CoP18 whether to extend the mandate of the working group on how to engage rural communities in CITES processes and report to CoP19 – greater coordination of the proponents was required to ensure extension of the mandate.*
- *The next meeting of the CITES Standing Committee would take place in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 21 May 2019, one day prior to the start of CoP18.*

13.3 Discussion

- Some countries argued that they already had mechanisms for community engagement in place, and that the implications of a permanent or non-permanent mechanism were complex.
- Southern Africa needed to caucus more on the Rural Communities Committee proposal to avoid unnecessary discord at CoP18. **Action: Continuation of work on rural community engagement at CITES before the CoP18.**

Friday 16 November

14.0 SESSION 14: OTHER RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT TOPICS

14.1 Anti-Poaching Efforts in Tanzania by Silvanus A. Okudo, PWO – Law and Prosecution

Highlights:

- *Tanzania was among the four mega-biodiversity Nations in the world alongside Brazil, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).*
- *Poaching and trafficking were the major threats to wildlife and forests.*
- *Wildlife traffickers used complex means of physical obfuscation to transfer contraband across geographical boundaries and through illicit supply chains.*
- *Illegal “markets” and their “incentives” remained major driving factors.*
- *Illicit networks central operations were organized and complex and usually set up in states where government authority could easily be “evaded” or “undermined”.*
- *Countering poaching therefore required high political will, effective coordination and cooperation, and community active engagement.*
- *Tanzania had developed a National Anti-poaching Strategy for Combating Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade in 2014 to address three fold objectives to strengthen institutional capacity at International, national and local levels to combat poaching and illegal trafficking of wildlife and forest products, based on a 5 level conceptual framework of the poaching syndicates, and developing corresponding anti-poaching and law enforcement levels.*

15.0 SESSION 15: CLOSING BUSINESS

15.1 Upcoming Events for the Record

These were noted as:

- CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP18) to be held in Sri Lanka in 2019, preceded by SC71.
- PH Associations Annual General Meetings
- NDF workshop in 2019

- SCI Hunters Convention in Reno, Nevada, USA in January 2019.

15.2 Review of New Action Items

1. Range states urged to provide comments to the joint CMS-CITES African Carnivore Initiative draft guidelines for the conservation of lions developed by the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group by 1 December 2018. SCI Foundation to coordinate sharing of comments along with South Africa and Uganda.
2. AWCF agreed to develop a strategy to engage more Central and West African countries.
3. A Working Group comprised of scientific experts to be formed to coordinate the various large carnivore (lion/leopard) projects to implement best methodology and share research information across countries.
4. Range states, including Zimbabwe and Tanzania, assisted by the Spanish Scientific Authority and coordinated by SCI Foundation, to identify a volunteer host country for the second International Expert Workshop on NDFs surrounding dates for the 17th AWCF in November 2019.
5. Range states, led by Namibia, to continue work on the issue of rural community engagement at CITES before the CoP18 in private, with assistance from SCI Foundation and other wildlife conservation and hunting NGOs as needed.
6. Participants were encouraged to use AWCF as a mechanism to produce joint positions on other emerging issues involving CITES. An informal AWCF meeting was to be convened at the SCI Convention in January 2019 and immediately before the CoP18 in May 2019.

15.3 Host of 17th AWCF 2019

Zimbabwe was accepted by acclamation as host to the next AWCF meeting in 2019.

15.4 Vote of Thanks by Namibia

Maxi Louis thanked Uganda for volunteering and successfully hosting the AWCF meeting for its first time. The Uganda Wildlife Authority team was thanked for welcoming everyone with open hearts and tireless efforts in keeping everyone feeling so homely in Munyonyo, and was asked to convey to convey this gratitude to the Honorable Minister who had graced the meeting. Special mention was made of the Chair for ably managing such a large agenda. Special thanks were extended to African governments in attended for their continued support to AWCF, and to convey this to their principals. SCIF was thanked for keeping AWCF going, and for always being there for Africa and its wildlife, acknowledging George Pangeti for his exemplary leadership and good coordination role. Joe Goergen was singled out for performing beyond expectation and for

being a shining example of the youth across the globe, in his role as a manager. OPHAA was thanked for performing a critical task and contribution to Africa and rural communities. Everyone was thanked for their attendance and contributions in making the Forum a success each year. Appreciation of good service was extended Munyonyo Resort staff. U.S. FWS and the EU were thanked for always being available for dialogue, even in the absence of agreement on some issues. Zimbabwe received thanks and best wishes in advance for accepting to host the next AWCF meeting.

SCI/F

John Boretsky assisted by James Rosenfels and Kaka Matama Swaran, thanked SCIF, governments, OPHAA, Team Uganda, and all delegates, and expressed honor to present a gift to Danene for her warm personality and sterling role for Africa and wildlife while serving as immediate past Chair of OPHAA, which gift Danene humbly acknowledged as belonging to all, and thanked Uganda for chairing one of the best run AWCF meetings.

Bob Benson took the opportunity to thank everyone in supporting his 6 year Directorship of SCIF and extended invitations to the 47th SCI Hunters Convention in Reno, 9-12 January 2019.

Presentation of memento to Uganda

As per tradition, the government of Uganda was presented with a befitting memento by SCIF.

15.5 Closing Remarks

Commissioner Okiror extended apologies for the Permanent Secretary who could not officiate due to bereavement within the Ministry. He thanked SCIF and delegates for accepting the invitation to spend time in Uganda for the conservation of wildlife, ahead of all other engagements. He expressed gratitude to the Wildlife Conservation and Management Association of Uganda for its support to government in hosting the meeting, saying Uganda was not just for tourism, but also a rich cultural heritage – First for the guest, First for Wildlife, and imploring everyone to return again with family and friends. Uganda firmly stood for wildlife conservation and sustainable. Those against sustainable use were against conservation, as conservation did not stand for preservation only.

On behalf of the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, he wished everyone safe travels, and officially declared the 16th AWCF meeting closed.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS