



21st African Wildlife Consultative Forum report

Venue: Windhoek Country Club Resort, Windhoek, Namibia

Date: 9th to 13th October 2023.

Facilitator: Mr Colgar Sikopo



The Picture above shows the participants that attended the 21st African Wildlife Consultative Forum. The photo was taken on the 9th October 2023, at the Windhoek Country Club in Windhoek, Namibia.

***Seated in the front from the left:** Mr Laird Hamberlin, Chief Executive Officer of Safari Club International (SCI) and Safari Club International Foundation SCIF); Mr Brook. F. Minx, President of Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF); Hon Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Namibia, Mr Colgar Sikopo, deputy executive director for the Department of Natural Resources Management in the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Namibia, George Pangeti (SCIF-Africa Program Coordinator) and Hector Magome (Resource Africa).*

1. Introduction

The 21st African Wildlife Consultative Forum was held in Namibia at the Windhoek Country Club Resort from the 9-13 October 2023.

The Forum began with the Namibian National anthem followed by a prayer by Viona Mwanawina. In addition, a moment of silence was held to commemorate the late Mr. Charles Jonga, the Director of CAMPFIRE, Zimbabwe, and Mr. Pieter Potgieter renowned Professional Hunter from South Africa.

During the opening, the Facilitator acknowledged the presence of the Hon Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Namibia, Mr Brook. F. Minx, President of Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF); Mr Laird Hamberlin, Chief Executive Officer of Safari Club International (SCI) and Safari Club International Foundation SCIF); Senior government officials from the various African countries; members and staff of SCI and SCIF, representatives from non-governmental associations; Hunting associations, private sectors as well as NACSO.

The forum brought together senior government officials from different African countries, various private hunting organisations from the hunting industry across Africa, community stakeholders as well as researchers. The purpose of the forum was mainly to discuss sustainable use of wildlife as well as wildlife conservation issues across Africa. Also, it was a platform for all participants with the interest in wildlife conservation hunting to engage with the aim of coming up with practical wildlife conservation solutions that are contributing to the improvement of local communities' livelihoods especially communities living with wildlife as well as the management of wildlife population inclusive of wildlife economy.

The Forum was comprised of twelve (12) sessions and this report is a summary of the key outcomes from the sessions as well as the key action points.

2. Official Opening

The Official session consisted of the following remarks, firstly, by Mr. W. Laird Hamberlin, CEO of SCI, secondly by Brook. F. Minx, President of SCIF, followed by the Forum key note address by the Honourable Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Namibia, lastly the welcoming remark session was concluded with Vote of thanks by Mr. George Pangeti from SCIF.

a) Remarks by Mr. W. Laird Hamberlin:

The CEO of SCI and SCIF welcomed all the distinguished guests such as MEFT and NACSO on behalf of SCI and SCIF. He mentioned that Namibia has been involved in sustainable hunting and ensuring benefits to conservation and local communities. Communal

conservancies (Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM)) have been used as a model at CITES and IUCN. SCI and SCIF is pleased to partner with MEFT, NAPHA NACSO. He also added that SCI and SCIF had initiatives inclusive of the leopard census that was held in 2018 and also supported the Community Game Guards through NACSO.

It was further added that members of the SCI hunt throughout Africa, as they do in other parts of the world and have an interest in supporting 1) development of quality conservation hunting and wildlife management programs, 2) continued cooperation with key stakeholders in the hunting industries and lastly 3) support issues in Africa that are related to the ability to manage natural resources.

He further highlighted that SCI and SCIF over the last 18 months, have managed to get the attention of anti-hunters and non-hunters, emphasised the importance of an understanding of why Africans should manage their own resources instead of people outside Africa that want to determine policies. He lastly added that the roles of indigenous people and local communities is an important part of both the success of conservation and animal welfare.

As part of his conclusion, he emphasized that SCI and SCIF is proud to be the primary supporter of the AWCF.

b) Remarks – Mr. Brook F. Minx, President of SCIF

He observed all the protocols including MEFT and NACSO.

In his remarks he referred to Namibia as a jewel in Africa that is a beautiful country, with wonderful game. He further explained that AWCF is an effective body that represents the hunting industry and other associated wildlife interests in Eastern and Southern Africa and is currently hosting the 21st conference. He mentioned that AWCF was last held in Namibia in 2008 also in Windhoek. In addition, it is the premier conference for sustainable wildlife use in America/Africa. He welcomed delegates from different countries representing governments, hunting associations, community organisations and researchers. AWCF has a program facing all stakeholders, including building a sustainable wildlife economy in Africa as well as the future of Safari hunting.

He further highlighted some of the past successes among others:

- The development of strategies for CITES meetings including the production of a Sustainable Use Voting Guide which is useful in assisting countries that are unable to produce their own,
- Played a role in resolving the crocodile problem at CITES.
- Secured funding for the development of regional strategies for lion conservation.
- Through the AWCF network, SCIF was able to help prevent the listing of African lions as endangered on the US endangered species list, allowing to continue trophy imports into the US.
- SCIF assisted in the development of elephant management strategies so that there is now a general acceptance that the conservation of elephants in Southern Africa and some of East African countries has been successful.

Equally important, he stated that the broader mission of SCIF is to ensure the future of wildlife through conservation, education, and sustainable use conservation hunting. Members have an interest in supporting development of quality conservation hunting and wildlife management programs as well as continued cooperations in wildlife agencies, professional hunters, and key stakeholders. SCIF achieve their mission by implementing scientific studies to provide data in support of sustainable hunting practices and long-term population health. The foundation also supports and conducts on the ground conservation projects in the areas of mitigating Human Wildlife Conflicts and Anti-poaching programs.

In conclusion, he encouraged all participants to engage in discussions on the important issues. The primary goal of the AWCF has been to allow all important voices in sustainable use conservation in Africa be heard freely and openly. He motivated the participants to share their unique expectations and experiences, and lastly, stated that AWCF is willing to assist where they can.

c) Keynote Address by Hon. Minister Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Namibia

The Minister acknowledged all esteemed participants in their various capacities and merits, in attendance of the 21st gathering of African Wildlife Consultative Forum in Namibia. In his remarks he highlighted that the forum is a platform to discuss opportunities to share lessons as well as key threats and challenges associated with wildlife conservation and sustainable use. He also mentioned that, for many African countries, wildlife conservation is a major economic activity which is important for rural communities' livelihood. In his remarks, the Minister further stated that Namibia believes in wildlife conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources. He further indicated that there are milestones achieved, but also acknowledged the challenges associated with wildlife conservation and management such as Human/Wildlife conflicts.

In addition, the Hon. Minister stated that wildlife numbers have declined over most parts of the World and that there is need for adopting models that work for both wildlife and people living with wildlife. Also, there is need to find ways to make wildlife conservation and sustainable use more beneficial for the local communities, as rural communities are critical when it comes to securing a future for wildlife outside of protected areas in Africa and elsewhere.

He further stated that in Southern Africa, the Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme is the avenue through which communities participate in and benefit from wildlife conservation initiatives. However, there is a need to find innovative approaches through governance and other mechanisms to bring benefits to household levels.

The Minister outlined that the success of wildlife conservation efforts is underpinned by the following key aspects:

1. An enabling policy and legal framework aimed at the restoration of rights over wildlife and natural resources,
2. Using the economic value of wildlife as an incentive for conservation.
3. Forging a strong linkage between conservation, rural development, poverty alleviation and mainstreaming of CBNRM as conservation and development strategy in our national development plans,

4. Enabling the recovery of wildlife resources,
5. Building on the enthusiasm amongst rural people and an inherently positive disposition towards wildlife as part of their natural heritage, and a strong sense of ownership of the wildlife resource,
6. A strong regulatory and monitoring framework for the use of wildlife resources, whether for own use, trade, or conservation hunting.

However, there are still many challenges such as the Human Wildlife Conflicts, Climate Change, and opportunities such as market access for our wildlife. There is a need for stakeholders to think of innovative approaches through policy and other means to create resilience against climate change impacts.

In conclusion he said that Namibia offers a great opportunity for hunting. The country has a diverse culture, and its wildlife is indigenous and moving freely. Namibia has a good infrastructure. Lastly, he stated that the major threat to conservation is not poaching only but also animal right groups.

d) Vote of Thanks – Mr. George Pangeti, SCIF

Mr Pangeti in his remarks, appreciated the presentations given by the CEO of SCI, President of SCI as well as by the Hon Minister Pohamba Shifeta. In addition, he extended an invitation to participants to hunt in Namibia and visit Namibia as tourists. He confirmed that the final report for the forum will be shared with the Hon. Minister Pohamba Shifeta.

Session 1: Wildlife Management in Namibia

Moderator: Richard Fryer- MEFT

1.1. Overview of Conservation in Namibia – Mr. Bennett Kahuure, the Director of the Directorate of Wildlife and National Parks:

The presentation discussed the history and current state of conservation in Namibia. It mentioned various aspects such as conservation hunting, wildlife protection and law enforcement, community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), transfrontier conservation areas (TFCA's), human-wildlife conflict (HWC), protected area management, and game farm inspections.

The historical background included the legislation regulating nature conservation in Namibia such as the nature conservation ordinance 4 of 1975, currently under repeal. After independence, the ordinance was amended to Nature Conservation Amendment Act NO.5 of 1996 which granted rights to local communities in communal land to manage wildlife in their areas.

The director discussed the three new national policies in Namibia that were crafted: CBNRM policy of 2013, Tourism and Wildlife Concessions on state land of 2007, and Human Wildlife Conflict Management revised in 2018.

The presentation also highlighted the progress to date inclusive of 86 registered conservancies with over 240,000 members, more than 5,000 jobs, and a 7.7% contribution to GDP from

tourism and the wildlife economy. The total area covered by conservancies is 165,182 square kilometres, which is 19% of Namibia's land. There are also over 50 joint venture lodges and over 55 conservation hunting contracts. The impacts of the COVID 19 also affected the income, which is now on recovery. However, there are several challenges, including increasing threats from poaching and Human Wildlife Conflict, Climate Change/drought and issues related to Governance in communal conservancies such as financial governance.

1.2. Sustaining Socio-ecological Systems by Mr. Bennett Kahuure- MEFT

The presentation highlighted that the world is currently experiencing the most dramatic decline in biodiversity in human history due to over-exploitation of resources causing significant land degradation in many parts of Africa as well as decline in Wildlife numbers across much of Africa,

In some countries, there is wildlife recovery. However, it is also observed that there is poverty in some communal areas under conservation. The Director highlighted that going forward, there is a need to look for a lasting balance between conservation and rural development by providing ongoing benefits to people from sustainable resource use. There is need to promote and create incentives for conservation at landscape level, address poaching of iconic wildlife species and curb illegal trade in wildlife products while managing human-wildlife conflicts at sustainable levels and promote ethical and sustainable resource utilization.

Comments

Below is a summary of the contributions / inputs and the responses from Plenary discussions

1) Effectiveness for the implementation of the policies:

Mr. Kule Chitepo from Resource Africa - enquired on the effectiveness for the implementation of the 3 policies (CBNRM, Concession and HWC); He also cautioned that poverty cannot be solved by the community on their own.

Responses: Within the Namibian context all the policies are interlinked/related to the law, implemented by ministries with timeframe, which is reviewed at various intervals by Civil society. In addition, regarding poverty, there are remittances coming from wildlife, however the key challenge is related with benefit sharing to households in communal conservancies.

2) Compensation vs offset:

Erasmus Tarimu from Tanzania – Shared on the need to investigate strategies for Compensation vs offset. More discussions are needed to find solutions that will balance the coexistence with wildlife and the growing human population.

3) **HWC offset scheme:**

Another participant asked for the explanation of the concept of HWC offset scheme. Namibia does not compensate on losses, but rather offset. However, it is crucial to note that, human population is growing and resources are not growing, there is no immediate solution.

4) **CBNRM vs Community benefits/Wildlife Economy**

Lizanne Nel - SA Hunters and Game Association - shared that there is need to think about incentives for entrepreneurial development.

Response: Guided by legislation that focuses on the community beneficiation.

Session 2: United States regulation of Hunting imports

Moderator: Jeremy Clare, SCI

2.1. **Permitting the Importation of Trophies into the United States** by Amy Brisendine, Deputy Director, Branch of Permits, US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The presentation focused on the following: Import permit requirements overview, 2023 Permitting updates and What to expect in 2024.

2.2. **USFWS Permitting for the Import of Sport-Hunted African Elephant Trophies From South Africa** by Jacob Mesler, Senior Biologist, U.S. CITES Management Authority, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

In his presentation, he briefly covered the U.S. Enhancement Permit Issuance Criteria and the major threats inclusive of Population/Habitat Fragmentation, Overpopulation and Human-Elephant Conflict.

Comments

Below is a summary of the key inputs.

- Imports permits Update
- South Africa elephants' applications – delayed because there are no management plans
- Enhancement criteria- has not been changed
- Timeframe for issuing permit- e.g., 85 outstanding
- Lions and Mountain Zebra- in review for finalization

Session 3: Getting to a \$30 billion wildlife economy.

Moderator: Brian Child, IUCN SuLi

3.1. Namibia wildlife economy – progress, threats, and lessons- by Dr. Chris Brown

The presentation highlighted that there was a decline in wildlife numbers in the late 60s. It also indicated there are conditions needed for wildlife to prosper. The conditions include devolving rights and responsibilities to local level, incentivise a vibrant and competitive wildlife and natural resource economy and national investment in wildlife economy.

In his conclusion, he emphasized that Namibia has comparative and competitive wildlife advantages. There is a need to link wildlife as a land-use to economic development as well as to biodiversity conservation. Lastly to align markets to work for sustainable use of wildlife, conservation of biodiversity and indigenous ecosystems through focused policies and legislation (including export of game meat and landscape approach)

Comments

- A request for the presentation to be shared after the meeting- all presentations are available on the AWCF website (awcfinfo.org).
- A need for data on economic returns and contribution to national economy
- Best approach for Africa in the wildlife economy: -a need for like-minded persons to join in partnerships.

3.2. Understanding the Regional Wildlife Economy: Insights from national data sets on hunting by Alex Chidakel

The presentation focused safari hunting economy and was drawn from the ongoing analysis of safari hunting data from 3 countries: Namibia, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. The analysis was more focused on performances.

It was highlighted that there is a need for a standard matrix for measurements/indicators.

In summary there was concern about the high variation in data quantity and quality. The disparities are likely to cause suspicions which may be real or artificial, hence the need for more data for analysis.

3.3. Rewilding African rangelands to rejuvenate rural economies- from ideals to implementation by Mathew Child- South African National Biodiversity Institute

The presentation focused on the dynamics associated with Wildlife vs cattle in South Africa, it was found that Wildlife is outcompeting with cattle on many land areas.

Wildlife can be used for meat production, hunting, ecotourism, game breeding, etc. He highlighted the need for people to learn about wildlife economy, trophy hunting, biltong

hunting and ecotourism. Wildlife economy has the potential to generate more job opportunities as compared to livestock farming.

3.4 A Summary of regional wildlife economy, and structure – Brian Child

- 1) Historical background of wildlife economy associated with the destruction of buffaloes in America which destroyed wildlife property rights.
- 2) In Southern Africa, wildlife was put back in the markets, granting people wildlife rights with cut regulations inclusive of tax subsidies.
- 3) Wildlife is a multi-function economy making it a super-power for instance, 1/2 buffalo is equal to about 50 cattle.
- 4) In Namibia, research finding revealed that there is a shift from cattle farming to wildlife.
- 5) The study also found that wildlife farmers are younger than livestock farmers.
- 6) Financing- generally tourism alone cannot save wildlife, also there seems to be biodiversity gaps which are likely to be covered by philanthropic organizations.
- 7) There are also threats to hunting inclusive of external pressure on markets, internal: attitude of control and precaution, loss of economic and administrative knowledge, poor economic policy, weak systems for optimizing revenues, quotas and concessions
- 8) CBNRM areas are under-performing due to land use policy.
- 9) Findings also show that there are many rhinos and elephants that could contribute to wildlife product markets.
- 10) There are threats to the wildlife industry which seemed like the wildlife sector is collapsing (stagnation). External threats include trade restrictions. However, successful models are slowly breaking due to supportive policies that are clear and technical.
- 11) In conclusion, emphasis was on how the hunting industry can become proactive. It was suggested that there is a need for collective engagement by key stakeholders.

Comments

- The biggest concern is with the decision makers/bureaucracies in Africa, Europe and America. Perhaps as a solution, there is need to engage the government officials and make them understand through dialogue and debates.
Response: A need to analyse the problem, re- build capacities, respect the governments and determine the future actions.
- There seemed to be issues of overutilization and loss of biodiversity. Could it be linked to poor governance?
- It is suggested that over exploitation is due to lack of rights to the local people.
- Other inputs were centred around communication with decision makers- there is a need to develop a suitable communication method- using the right information.
- There seemed to be mistrust between some governments and key stakeholders.
- There seems to be lack of education on environmental issues in some operators.
- The solution is to bring together government, communities, and the hunting industry to share experiences.
- There is also the issue of reduced benefits due to CITES restrictions. Perhaps there is a need to establish a convention parallel to CITES.
- Other challenges mentioned are associated with costs of managing wildlife.
- A shift to wildlife economy depends on the diversity of wildlife in different ecosystems in different countries.

Session 4: Elephant and rhinos management, trade, and land use

Moderator: Brian Child

4.1 The History and status of elephants in Southern Africa by Dave Cumming- University of Cape Town

The presentation focused on the collapse and recovery of savanna elephants of Southern Africa. As part of the historical background, it was highlighted that ivory trade was one of the key activities across Africa. Also, San hunters and gathers hunted elephants.

He gave a detailed illustration on the decline in elephant numbers in Africa. The illustration covered countries including East Africa through to Southern Africa.

In his conclusion, a summary of key points was provided as follows: Protected areas in Africa without human predation are clearly not “natural” or “pristine” areas as well as the role of science is to indicate the likely consequences of alternative management options.

Comments

- There was acknowledgement for a good presentation which was professional and detailed. However, there is a need for the information to be simplified or condensed.
- There seemed to be an issue of lack of data, what can be done? A bit not clear because the presentation sort of indicate that there has been research done, there is sufficient data- perhaps there is a need to look at what type of data is required?
- A need to also look at the impacts of elephants on the ecosystem as well as other species than focusing on the economic- **Responses:** there has been some studies that were conducted in National Parks e.g. Kruger.
- The IUCN red list assessment was also mentioned as one of the challenges.
- There is need for better communication of research data and findings to the mainstream practitioners.

4.2. Elephants in Namibia by Kenneth Uiseb- MEFT Namibia

The presentation demonstrated that Elephant conservation in Namibia has been a qualified success story – but there are important and urgent implications to be addressed. Also, it was shared that Namibian elephant population is shared with neighbouring countries, especially Botswana but also Angola and Zambia, thus requiring a collaborative approach at the regional level esp. in KAZA TFCA.

In his presentation, Kenneth also touched on achievements which includes reduction in illegal killing and establishment wildlife corridors. It was also mentioned that there are severe problems such as Human Elephant Conflicts on both communal and freehold land. Commercial farmers incur high costs, annually, in repairing infrastructure, causing significant losses.

4.3. Future options for rhino conservation and trade by Michael' t Sas-Rolfes- Oxford University

The presentation showed that in Africa, the population of Black rhino is around 6,000 and white rhino are around 16,000. The challenges associated with rhino conservation includes continued poaching pressure, high costs of protection, and dehorning, growing opposition to safari hunting and trophy trade as well as dropping commercial value of live animals.

Comments

- There is a need for consumptive rights and ownership of rhinos for direct benefits to the landowners.

4.4. Rhino Management in Namibia by Kenneth Uiseb- MEFT

The presentation outlined that Namibia has an approved management plan. The country has achieved the target to grow the population of black rhino while the white rhino management plan was more focused on the economic value of rhinos.

The country vision is to conserve and sustainably manage a growing free ranging meta-population of black rhinoceros of the sub-species *Diceros bicornis bicornis* within Namibia.

Comments

- Based on the background that there was an import of rhino in Namibia, there is a need to understand the purpose of rhino imports.
- The main concerns are centred around CITES regulations hence the need to explore the markets available for horns especially for local consumption.

Session 5: The state of Hunting

Moderator: Brian Child

5.1 The State of the Safari Hunting Economy: Taking Stock and Paving the Way for Annual Reporting by Alex Chidakel

The presentation focused State of the Hunting Sector Across the Region: Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The main challenge is associated with data inconsistency. However, the available data indicates that hunting contributes to job creation.

It is suggested that a reporting template be designed for capturing data on the state of safari hunting.

Comments

- The presentation did not adequately capture data on the status of hunting in Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwe delegation undertook to assist in providing additional information.
- In addition, it was recommended that there is a need for obtaining data from the right people/entities.

- In terms of HWC related data the approaches should be centered around finding long-term solutions.
- The issue of data accessibility seemed to be a challenge in most countries.

5.2. Hunting, Hunting Bans and Hunting Standards by Dr. Dilys Roe, IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihood Specialist Group

The presentation highlighted that Trophy/safari/sport/conservation hunting is under threat due to trade bans.

Session 7: Communicating about hunting in Africa to a North American Audience

7.1 Keith Tidball from Cornell University discussed the importance of improving communication strategies about hunting in Africa to gain social acceptance from the North American audience. He emphasized the significance of understanding the perceptions of American hunters, as they play a crucial role in the wildlife economy. Trophy hunting is generally viewed negatively internationally, so it is necessary to change this perception among American hunters. Keith provided an overview of the hunting situation in Mozambique and highlighted the concerning drop in approval rates by residents in the US, which requires further research.

In the US, certain groups have the lowest approval of hunting, including Black and Hispanic individuals who have not engaged in fishing or shooting in the past three years, are between 18 and 34 years old, female, live in the Northwest region, and reside in a large city, urban area, or suburban area. Hunting for the purpose of protecting humans or wildlife management has the highest approval rating, at 78% and 77% respectively. However, hunting for meat has seen a decline in approval, dropping from 84% in 2019 to 75% in 2023. Additionally, hunting for locally sourced food or organic meat has experienced significant declines.

The reason why we are losing ground is that the issue has been politicised and there needs to be a way on how that process can be reversed.

Furthermore, in the reflections from the previous year AWCF Congress, there is a mention of the strengths to try to get the pulse of the hunting industry.

By utilizing a sustainability approach based on value chains, it is possible to determine how to sustainably utilize wild meat species. This involves studying and analysing the activities that contribute to or detract from sustainability throughout the entire value chain of each wild meat species. By doing so, it is possible to identify opportunities for promoting and maintaining

sustainability. A value chain assessment can help answer questions such as who is involved in the wild meat value chains.

Keith discussed three spheres of food motivations in hunting: food ethics, nutrition and health, and culinary quality and adventurous eating. In terms of food ethics, consumers want to know where their food comes from and ensure that the animals had a high quality of life. There is also a growing interest in seeing food sources in natural environments and addressing food security for indigenous people. In terms of nutrition and health, there is a need for empirical data on the nutritional content of game meat and its health benefits. This data should be publicly available and there is an opportunity for collaboration between government agencies and universities. Lastly, there is a demand for high-quality game meat prepared by trained chefs, and there are opportunities to market hunting to foodies, particularly women hunters, to improve acceptance of safari hunting.

There is a call to action suggested to hunting and food motivations. One is to invest in all three spheres of food motivations in hunting, with a specific focus on the experience of hunting tourists. Another call to action is to better communicate the food ethics implications for future safari hunting participants and explore models for indigenous participation in hunting for food. Additionally, there is a call to prioritize research partnerships to gather and analyse nutritional data for all species, including the "big 5" animals. Investing in social science to document the health and wellness outcomes of participation in ecosystems and the African Wildlife Economy is also recommended. Lastly, there is a call to encourage hunting operations to enhance "foodie" experiences and be willing to adapt models to include consumer desires.

Comments

- **Game Strategy in South Africa** – South Africa has formulated a Game Strategy that is ready for execution. However, it is crucial to note that there is a growing recognition that the implementation of the strategy for game meat necessitates the collective effort and involvement of the entire government and all sectors. To promote awareness about the nutritional benefits of game meat, a nationwide campaign will be conducted. Further a standard certification scheme has been developed to trace game products to the farm.
- **Bison meat opinions** - the meat is considered unique because it falls under both the domestic and wild categories. It is also worth mentioning that there is a distinction in nutritional value between domestic and wild bison meat.

- **Processing meat from shot elephants-** Concerns were raised regarding sale of and processing meat from a shot elephant in a village. The challenge is to ensure that the meat does not get spoiled while being processed. Additionally, there is a need to convince an American audience about the methods used.
- **Marketing Hunting** - It was noted that there are challenges in marketing hunting as a means of food security and healthy food due to people relying on game meat as a protein source and the recent concerns about ammunition containing lead.

7.2. How can we make safari hunting more welcoming to 50% of our population by Francine Barchett (Cornell Univ.)

The presentation discussed the role of hunting in the African wildlife economy and explored potential ways for hunting and hunters in Africa to evolve. It focused on addressing the negative attitudes towards hunting in the Western world by adapting the business model to incorporate social and cultural aspects. This could involve targeting food enthusiasts, adventure seekers, and cultural tourists. The presentation also emphasized the need to develop a market strategy to reach non-traditional hunting clients, such as women and minorities.

The share of hunters in the US population has decreased, but there has been an increase in female participation. Francine, who conducted the study, became the first individual female hunting client at a hunting concession in Mozambique. She studied female hunters by participating in hunting programs and conducting interviews and observations in Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Namibia. Female hunters were seen as an opportunity for growth in the safari hunting industry, as they were the fastest growing demographic of new hunters in the US. However, overall hunting participation rates in the US were declining, which posed a threat to the funding structure of state fish and wildlife agencies.

The number of women participating in safari hunting in Africa was significantly lower compared to men. Obstacles preventing more women from entering the field included concerns about safety and comfort, societal expectations, and motivations based on previous experiences. It is important to consider the safety and comfort of individuals, particularly in relation to restroom facilities.

Research indicates that women are more driven by the culinary aspect of hunting, while men place a higher emphasis on hunting as a sport. This has led to the emergence of female hunters who contribute to the sub-industry by creating game meat cookbooks and writing blogs.

Practical recommendations have been provided to address various aspects of the hunting industry in Africa. These include recruiting and retaining female professional hunters through specific programs, introducing women to safari hunting through programs like "Becoming an Outdoorswoman: Hunting Safari," and promoting dialogue among industry professionals to ensure inclusive and safe hunting experiences. It is also suggested that hunting operators in Africa should view hunting as part of a larger experience to diversify the sector and enhance the resilience of Africa's wildlife economy.

7.3 The concept of social tourism and the safari hunting experience by Keith Tidball

Social tourism was discussed as a type of tourism that aimed to provide benefits to both travellers and the communities they visited. It was defined as a form of tourism that focused on economic, social, and cultural advantages. The financing of social tourism varied depending on the type, with some travellers paying for activities themselves and others joining charitable organizations or receiving funding from governments, employers, non-profit organizations, and charities.

The purpose of social tourism included leaving a positive impact on local communities, exploring lesser-known destinations, immersing oneself in new cultures, contributing to the economic growth of host countries, and making travel accessible to all. The main aim was to foster connections between travellers and their host countries, promote international relationships, and encourage responsible travel.

The presentation discussed the connections between conservation and hunting guidelines at different levels. It mentioned global hunting guidelines that focused on biological sustainability, net conservation benefit, socio-economic cultural benefit, adaptive management, and accountable and effective governance. At the Africa level, the African Hunting Charter was being developed to conserve wildlife and habitat, incentivize wildlife-based land use, support communities, maintain hunting as an African heritage, and promote good governance and best practices. At the country level, Namibia had specific guidelines for conservation hunting, including a legal framework with clear checks and balances.

Safari experiences were said to encompass various unique cultural components. One such aspect was hunting, which was influenced by European hunting traditions. This influence was evident in the literature, lore, and historical knowledge of firearms, primarily transmitted by professional hunters (PHs) and safari operators. Additionally, African indigenous hunting

practices also played a role, often observed by hunters and travellers through interactions with trackers and skinners. Another cultural component was the cooking traditions.

The implications for safari hunting operators and associations were said to be significant. It was observed that for many US travellers, the importance of successful hunting was on par with the desire to expand their cultural awareness and understanding. This anecdotal evidence was being supported by promising data collection efforts currently underway. Preliminary surveys of non-traditional hunters in North America, including younger individuals and females, suggested that in the future, there may be a higher demand for social tourism opportunities in North American Safari Hunting, particularly those that incorporated elements of hunting culture. Hunting operators were advised to consider what was feasible for them.

Hunting as a conservation tool by Maxi Pia Louis, Director of NACSO

The NACSO Director gave an overview of NACSO stating that it is the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations, a network of NGOs that supported conservancies, had different structures in place to manage natural resources. They had partnerships with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism and the World Wildlife Fund. One of their structures, the Natural Resource Management Working Group, consisted of specialists from NGOs and government ministries. Their aim was to provide technical assistance and funding to implement and maintain Natural Resource Management Systems in community conservation areas in Namibia. They also provided coordination at regional and national levels among all stakeholders.

These are the support services that NACSO provides such as mapping, management planning, anti-poaching, wildlife reintroductions, game utilization, event booking, game counting, auditing, and monitoring. These services aim to support the management and achievement of objectives in wildlife and conservation efforts. In addition, the mapping services provided include support for all working groups, partner organizations of NACSO, and the government. These services involve mapping data for the State of Community Conservation Report. Another service is Support towards Conservancy Game Management and Utilization Plans.

An Event Book Monitoring Support involves a local level monitoring system where communities decide what to monitor. Training is provided to community game guards on the use of the Event Book System. Support is given for planning and implementing mid-year and annual Event Book audits, as well as capturing and analysing the data from these audits. The interpretation of the Event Book data is facilitated. On the other hand, the Game Count Support

involves one of the largest game counts in the world, which is a coordinated effort between communities, MEFT, and NACSO partners.

The Natural Resource Working Group is involved in quota setting for conservancies. The Quota Setting Coordinating Committee, composed of various stakeholders, including NACSO that collects data and input from conservancies, the Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), and other stakeholders. They consult with experts and task teams to determine quotas for different species, including elephants, predators, wetland species, huntable birds, and general game. The committee then presents their recommended quotas to the MEFT for endorsement. The process also involves data collection, analysis, and review, as well as consultations with regional staff representatives. Harvest management, monitoring, and compliance control are also part of the process. A conservancy consultation meeting is held annually to discuss adaptive management, and the final quota proposal is compiled and submitted to the Director. The quotas are presented and approved by the MEFT Management Meeting, and quota management contracts are issued to conservancies.

The Natural Resource Working Group provides various support services provided for the management and mitigation of human-wildlife conflict. This includes supporting the implementation of policies, guidelines, and standard operating procedures, as well as local data systems for analysing incidents. They are also involved in the prevention and mitigation measures such as developing management and action plans, providing training and technical support, and raising awareness among conservancy members. Additionally, there is a focus on anti-poaching support, including training community game guards and facilitating awareness training. The Director also highlights the importance of adaptive management, including data collection and analysis, providing feedback to conservancies, and developing action plans. Lastly, there is a mention of maintaining a database, developing apps for data collection, generating feedback posters and reports, and drafting donor reports and programmatic monitoring and evaluation.

The CBNRM Program has some achievements including an increase in wildlife populations, the establishment of local wildlife monitoring systems, the presence of game guards and resource monitors, a science-based quota-setting system, and strong collaboration between various organizations. The challenges include the availability of funds, drought, human-wildlife conflict, limited human resources, and the impact of COVID-19.

Session 8: Safari Operators Associations

Moderator: Scott Talbott, SCIF

8.1. Policy for Compensation for Human Wildlife Conflict by Erasmus Tarimo (TAHOA)

Erasmus Tarimo discussed the issue of communities facing challenges from wildlife in many countries, particularly in Africa. The Ministry responsible for wildlife management in Tanzania struggled to meet compensation demands from affected community members. The lack of a compensation scheme led to conflicts between humans and wildlife, with communities resorting to retaliatory killing of animals. The increase in human population near protected areas exacerbated the issue. The presentation proposed the development of a compensation scheme to address the situation, highlighting the economic benefits of wildlife tourism in Tanzania.

Furthermore, this presentation discussed the importance of compensating citizens for wildlife-related damages and proposed a scheme to generate funds for compensation. A levy was suggested to be imposed on visitors to national parks and trophy hunting safaris, with the government matching the levy. The funds would have been collected by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and deposited in the Tanzania Wildlife Protection Fund. Unspent funds could have been invested for future use. The need to stop retaliatory killing of prime trophy animals was emphasized to provide a better hunting experience and increase safari sales. The management of the compensation scheme, including data collection, database establishment, and the designation of a unit at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism headquarters, was mentioned. The scheme would have prioritized compensating communities residing further away from protected areas.

Comments

- **Compensation or offset model** -A comment was made suggesting the need to reconsider the compensation or offset model. The speaker emphasized the importance of considering benefits that are accrued at a household level, as most human-wildlife conflicts occur where the loss is experienced. It reflects to Tanzania as if there is no equitable benefit model in communities within protected areas. **Response:** In Tanzania, there is a collective benefits model at the community level where they receive benefits. However, the compensation is lower for community members located in wildlife areas compared to those in areas that are further away from wildlife corridors.

- **Inclusion of community members in the compensation process-** The Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism suggests that it is beneficial to include a larger number of community members in compensation processes and actively involve them to ensure their support and understanding of the actions being taken.
- **HWC- compensation proposal** – Tanzania proposed a need to explore alternative sources of revenue that can be utilized to support the compensation fund during times of crises like the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposal was supported as follows:
 - A Zimbabwean representative expressed support for the proposal, hoping that the government will approve it. They mentioned that while Zimbabwe already has a relief fund for funeral expenses, it is challenging to compensate individuals who have lost a limb or their life. However, there is a fixed fee provided to those affected. Additionally, hospital bills are taken care of.
 - A government official from Tanzania acknowledged the proposal and will investigate how they can have a way forward. However, on a personal level the issue of consolation is very critical, and the legislation was enacted in 2011, and it is in the process of being reviewed but there is no conclusion that this money will be increased for the consolation of properties.
 - A comment from MEFT stated that they fully support the proposal. In Namibia, there is a wildlife corridor strategy where certain areas are designated as corridors and communities are encouraged to live outside of them. The strategy aims to keep communities out of these corridors and compensate them for leaving the area open for wildlife movement. It is also recognized that there is no buffer between the park fence and the immediate community. The comment acknowledges that communities have always coexisted with wildlife and will continue to do so. However, no amount of money can adequately compensate for the loss of life or injuries caused by wildlife. The plea is made for global funds to increase the offsetting fee to have a tangible impact on the ground, as the government lacks sufficient funds.

Panel discussion

There is need for sufficient data and research to plan the way forward.

Start speaking with a united voice, but we still have a vast area of commonality.

Research funding is a constraint. Without research, we cannot go forward, and we can only justify when we have evidence on the table.

Africa has the most iconic species, but we are in competition with other continents, hence policy frameworks are often challenging.

- It is recommended that we make reports outlining key successes, challenges, and suggested recommendations.
- There should also be discussions on how the safari industry should regulate itself.

Session 9: Feedback sessions from breakout groups

Breakout Group Information

The goal of this agenda item was to establish breakout groups to address three key (and overlapping) issues – elephants and rhinos, hunting, and CBNRM. Group discussion was enhanced by plenary presentations where government representatives, scientists, and industry leaders provided background information for the three groups in order to come up with specific, actionable recommendations. The breakout groups were as follows:

Breakout Group 1. Industry regulation and self-regulation. Strengthening the hunting sector with data, standards, etc.

Breakout Group 2: Communities and the hunting sector – what do we need to improve?

Breakout Group 3: Outline a regional strategy for managing rhinos and elephants including issues of habitat conservation, community, hunting, and CITES

During the first group discussion, the topic of industry regulation and self-regulation was explored. It was acknowledged that the hunting sector would face increased scrutiny in the future. It was agreed upon that being proactive about data and standards would be beneficial for the sector. The group discussed the need for data and its importance in strengthening the organization and unity in the hunting sector. They deliberated on the types of data that should be collected and its purposes, provoking the questions below:

- 1. Do we need data, and why?**
- 2. What data do we collect?**
- 3. What do we use it for?**
- 4. What tools and systems do we need?**

Group two discussed various concerns and challenges related to the hunting sector and community-based natural resource management (CBNRM). They expressed the need for poor individuals to have the resources to become operators and professional hunters (PHs). They also highlighted the perception that PHs and operators are predominantly white and emphasized the need for a mindset change.

One of the biggest concerns raised was the difficulty in taking hunting products to the market. They questioned why African communities do not sell their own products and why there is always a middleman involved. They argued that selling and hunting their own products would allow them to fully benefit from the business. The group also questioned why Africans tend to take a back seat when it comes to marketing and ownership. The group identified the barrier to the market as the biggest challenge they face. They noted that the current system is controlled by a small percentage of the population, with the rest being forced to work for the rich individuals. They expressed frustration that local individuals are unable to access concessions due to prohibitive policies leading to foreign concessionaires dominating the industry. The group criticized the rich individuals who buy hunting quotas for leisure purposes, resulting in negative consequences for the sector.

The group's overall goal was to empower African communities as rightful owners of land and wildlife resources, allowing them to participate equally in joint ventures with the private sector to build the Southern African Wildlife Economy. They aimed to transfer 30% of the wildlife business to local communities and emphasized the importance of trust between the government, operators, communities, and NGOs. To achieve their goal, the group proposed various specific actions. They suggested establishing hunting tool kits for communities, revising the language in CBNRM to recognize people's rights, implementing proper commercial arrangements, and growing African local hunting markets. They also emphasized the need for transparency, trust, and integrity in the sector.

The third group discussed their goal, which was to address regional governance of elephant and rhino conservation in a coordinated way. They recognized that both human and elephant populations were increasing, leading to potential ecological damage and conflict. Additionally, the populations of rhino species were threatened by poaching and becoming fragmented. Financing for these issues was constrained, and policy within the region was inconsistent. The group proposed strategies such as organizing a SADC regional meeting to address specific

issues, starting with technical matters and progressing to the political level over several years. They also suggested asking the SADC Secretariat to act as an ongoing convenor and applying for USFWS funding. A small task team, led by Brian Child and supported by Namibia and South Africa, was proposed to lead the initial process.

Inputs and questions on hunting sector with discussion on data and hunting standards

Question:

How can this data be utilized by businessmen to enhance efforts in protecting endangered species and wildlife, combating anti-hunting activities, and ensuring invisibility and unwillingness in these endeavours?

Response

It is important to identify the factors that drive the ability to export permits, shift the narrative, and be effective. Additionally, we need to understand how to integrate data with compelling stories and how to secure financing. The assumption is that having this data will be highly beneficial.

Input:

Obtaining data from various ministries in Zimbabwe and Zambia has been challenging, with resistance encountered. As a result, it is important to prioritize the fast variables and their impact, while also considering the slow variables. When these variables intersect, there is a higher likelihood of system collapse and regime shifts. It is crucial to carefully analyze the regional-level variables that may be influencing the situation.

Response,

The suggestion is to start designing systems from the bottom up, taking into account the needs of different stakeholders and addressing technical issues. It is proposed to begin with pilot sites and demonstrate practicality on a small scale before coordinating at a regional level. This approach may help unlock financing for the systems.

Input:

Firstly, it should be noted that the absence of information does not necessarily mean it does not exist. Many countries in the SADC region have gathered extensive data on hunting, which has been used to inform government decisions. However, some countries have chosen not to make this information public, and it is important to respect their decisions. One

potential opportunity to address this issue is the upcoming NDF workshops in Nairobi. It may be beneficial for a group of experts and academics to approach these governments and offer assistance in retrieving and utilizing this information.

Input:

It is important to establish goals and intentions for collecting this data and determine how it will be utilized. It may be beneficial to start with a top-down approach initially.

Input:

One step in the process involves identifying key indicators that can be used for multiple purposes. These indicators can help governments and operators strategically identify critical factors that apply to different processes. This will help us better communicate with the stakeholders and investors.

Inputs and questions on CBNRM and Hunting

Question

What is the definition of "community" and who are considered as communities in this context? How does the disconnect between communities and land tenure impact the ability to benefit communities? If someone wants to engage with a specific community, who should they interact with? How can the rights of these communities be secured to enable direct communication with investors and bypass middlemen?

Response

The suggested strategy involves rephrasing the terminology used in CBNRM as it is considered condescending. Not only should they empower communities, but it is also important to acknowledge their rights. Additionally, the feedback emphasized the importance of implementing a biocultural mechanism.

Input:

Debbie expresses her satisfaction with the mention of expanding African markets and emphasizes that she and her team are ready to provide assistance., as South Africa has very good experience in this.

Input:

The issue at hand is that Trusts, which are elected by communities to make decisions on their behalf, are not being properly informed or included in the decision-making process. This is due to marginalization by the government and a lack of functioning technical advisory committees that are supposed to provide support to the Trusts. As a result, there is a disconnect between the technical level, the Trusts, and the community. Additionally, regarding the operator do we know who paid the community money? Does the operator have security of tenure?

Input:

Organisations such as CLN need to constantly engage with the government to secure land for communities.

Input:

There has not been enough focus on the Hunting concession allocation, challenges. It is suggested that in the next engagement, there should be insights given on Hunting Concessions and allocation systems. As Tanzania is experiencing some challenges it can be a learning experience in countries within SADC.

Input:

CLN and Resource Africa is offering the Secretariat to convene and organise meetings to track on deliverables. In the same perspective, alternatively, the Namibia Nature Foundation can be the convener.

Session 10: African leopard research and management

Moderator: Chris Comer

Leopard as an economic driver of sustainable hunting in southern Africa by Brian Child.

The presentation discussed the economic impact of leopards in southern Africa. Leopards are difficult to spot and manage but hunting two leopards on a 10,000-hectare property was found to be sustainable. These leopards played a significant role in allowing farmers to transition from livestock to wildlife, which is more profitable. Buffalo and leopards are the two key species for hunting and are easier to sell. South Africa sells buffalo, making it easier for

countries like Mozambique to sell leopards. In Namibia, there are approximately 14,000 leopards, with around 700 being shot for problem animal control, representing a 1% offtake. Farmers in Namibia currently do not make much profit from cattle farming, but hunting one leopard can earn them as much as their entire cattle herd, incentivizing them to switch to hunting wildlife. This shift contributes to the sustainability of land use.

Input

One participant stated that he does not believe that conservation should be dictated by HWC, noting that these are two separate issues and should be looked at differently. Hunting must be able to generate enough revenue that must address wildlife conflict and must be addressed separately.

The Namibia Leopard Census, Phase I by Iifo Philemon, MEFT

The study conducted between 2017 and 2019 aimed to update the status of the leopard population in Namibia. Camera trap surveys and questionnaires were used to determine leopard density, distribution, and human-leopard conflict. The study took place in two survey areas, the Auas Mountains and areas northeast of Omaruru. The results showed a decrease in leopard density in the Namib Naukluft area, an increase in density in the Aus Mountains and Omaruru area, and a decline in the national population estimates. The study also recorded a total loss of 3,977 livestock and game due to leopard predation between October 2016 and December 2018. The study captured presence records for leopard in areas previously categorized as 'No known occurrence'. The study found that leopard density in Namibia ranged from 0.25 leopards/100km² to 13.5 leopards/100km². The national leopard population estimation in 2019 was lower than in 2011, but this decrease is attributed to a reassessment of density intervals rather than a change in the population.

National Leopard Survey Botswana by Dr. Chris Comer (SCIF)

The presentation reported on progress of the nationwide leopard surveys in Botswana conducted by SCIF working with the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Institute at Texas A&M University in Kingsville and the Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks. The surveys are using remote cameras on 4km by 4km grids of approximately 832 km² to get quantitative estimates of leopard density. Two cameras per station are placed along game trails or roads for 8 weeks. The target is to survey 20 areas over 2 years of field work. The project

started one year ago and has surveyed 9 areas (7,880 km²) successfully to date. Leopards are identified by unique spot patterns and data analyzed using spatially explicit capture-recapture modelling (SECR). So far, scientists have analyzed one area that had 24 individual leopards and a density of 1.48/100 km². Surveys take about 5 days of field work and most camera losses have been the result of elephant activity.

The Botswana project field work should be complete by the end of 2024 and full reporting by summer 2025. There is interest in expanding this project to additional countries in the region to provide robust data for governments to use in quota setting, CITES reports and similar.

Inputs:

Several commenters expressed support for the project and the idea of collecting leopard data at national scales. There was a question about survey cost. Response: Reaffirmed interest in expanding these surveys across regions where leopard hunting is possible. Cost is approximately \$150-175,000 USD per year.

Representatives from Mozambique government and private conservancies in Zimbabwe expressed interest in having leopard surveys.

Session 11: CITES: Looking Ahead

Moderator: Jeremy Clare SCI

The discussion focused on the ongoing cycle after the 19th Conference of the Parties (CoP19), which is currently in progress. AC32 took place in June, and SC77 is scheduled for early November.

Maxi Louis from NACSO in Namibia stated that Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) typically attended international conferences as observers and sometimes as part of their government delegations. They appreciated these efforts and have attended three Conferences of the Parties (COPs) with the community in Johannesburg since 2016. They often feel overwhelmed by anti-trophy hunting groups. However, at the recent CITES workshop in Panama, the Community Leaders Network (CLN) managed to establish two working groups: the IPLC working group and the Livelihood working group. The presence of South American representatives was encouraging as they supported sustainable use. The first objective of the

working group was to define the purpose of the groups. The workshop environment was less hostile compared to previous meetings.

What is the ultimate long-term goal for engagement within CITES for IPLCs?

In response, Rodgers Lubilo emphasized the importance of giving Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) a platform to have their voices heard at both local and international levels. They expressed the desire for IPLCs to be involved in the decision-making process of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). CITES believes that IPLCs should be engaged by their respective governments at the local level, but IPLCs feel that they should have direct representation.

Maxi Louis mentioned that IPLCs are actively exploring various options within the CITES structure to find opportunities. However, a major challenge is the financial aspect, as IPLCs are advised to attend through their governments, which are also facing funding difficulties. The panellist acknowledged China's support in considering the recommendations within CITES to accommodate IPLCs.

What is the biggest hurdle to allowing a greater voice for IPLCS and what can the parties do to help to overcome that hurdle?

According to Maxi Louis, there is a belief that governments should assist Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) in gaining recognition at the level of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). However, the government expressed that they lack the necessary funds to support this.

According to Rodgers Lubilo, it has been noticed that non-range states make proposals that involve certain range states, and they expect these range states to consult with the communities affected. However, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) are willing to establish positive relationships with their governments. It is crucial to recognize that in order to protect our habitats, the involvement of communities is essential. Since these communities are vulnerable, they will be denied opportunities to engage.

What are the reviews and objectives of the upcoming workshop in Nairobi ?

Mpho Tijane from South Africa explained the concept of NDF (non-detrimental finding) in relation to CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). NDF ensures that exporting species does not harm their survival in the wild and is a requirement for export permits. However, some parties lack NDFs. There is need for capacity building and guidance related to NDFs for certain kinds of trade. The Secretariat and the IUCN have reviewed nonbinding guidelines and formed working groups to address various aspects of NDFs, such as specific levels, high-value timber species, plants, transboundary species, and marine species. Progress in these groups will be discussed at the next workshop, but there is concern about making the guidelines too complex, which could hinder implementation for range states. The participants are urged to attend the workshop in Nairobi to understand the process and the impact of each working group on different countries. The moderator adds that registration for the workshop is limited to 150 people, so early registration is encouraged.

In addition to the issues of IPLCs and livelihood, what are the issues that the Namibian government is focused on for the CoP19 cycle?

Elly Hamunyela noted issues for both plants and animals. For example, some countries in Central Africa possess stockpiles of harvested timber, but face challenges in exporting them due to the processes of Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs). During COP 17, discussions were held regarding the rules of procedure, particularly rule 25.6, which determines the order of discussion for proposals of the same taxon with varying levels of trade restrictions. However, the issue has not been resolved and a working group continues to debate the issue. In southern Africa, certain countries are breeding appendix one specimens in captivity for commercial trade, guided by Conf. 12.10. South Africa and Namibia are involved in this working group. Additionally, resolution 11.3 on compliance and enforcement holds importance as it can result in punitive measures. There is concern that although some SADC states are part of the working groups, only a few members are actively participating in the discussions. It is encouraged for range states to be more active in working group discussions.

The other issue is the African range states dialogue meeting where there is need for prior preparation and might need resources for these preparatory meetings.

Aside from elephants and rhinos, are there any predictions to which species will be a focus of debate at COP 20?

Elly Hamunyela mentioned that predicting proposals of CITES is challenging due to the frequent surprises that occur each year. It is expected that the hippo proposal will resurface, so it is important to establish a strategy for dealing with hippos and to prepare national strategies. Southern African countries should ensure they have accurate data to support their presentations at CITES.

Comment:

It has been agreed that the hippo proposal, will likely be resubmitted for CoP 20. A three-day workshop in Livingstone focused on hippos. The purpose of this workshop was to develop a strategy for hippo conservation in the SADC region. In regard to the petition pending with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service it was decided that once an action plan is completed, it will be submitted to U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. The west African countries will hold their action plan meeting for hippo soon.

Question

Panellists 1 and 2 were asked if there have been any discussions in Peru regarding document 15 of COP 19, which includes proposals to create suitable platforms for communities in CITES?

Rodgers Lubilo mentioned that document 15 was discussed and there was a need to explain why the committee is necessary and what the cost would be. Since there were no funds available from the parties in CITES, they had to explore other options, such as relying on other working groups.

Comment

It was noted there are eight working groups in total, with one specifically dedicated to Indigenous and local knowledge. The participant believes that the general guidance provided will be beneficial in addressing specific issues that need clarification. They are excited to learn more about Indigenous and local knowledge during the upcoming workshop in Nairobi.

Session 9 Cont'd: Formal responses from industry sectors to reports from breakout groups and suggestions / agreements for action.

Moderator: Brian Child

1. Community and Game Ranching Associations

Community leaders who are part of a network are committed to supporting smaller working groups in order to promote the effective implementation of Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM). They collaborate with hunters, partners, and governments to achieve this goal. The community leaders have already begun working together through the network, which can serve as a platform to enhance CBNRM in various regions. Their objective is to collaborate with national associations to advocate for improved policies and legislation, as well as to establish a regional alliance.

2. Hunting Associations

- One positive outcome would be to hold AWCF assemblies every 6 months, allowing task teams to convene and promote understanding among hunting industries and governments, with the support of hunters.
- There is a need for an action plan to address the information overload and connect communities and operators. Mechanisms for moving forward should be established.
- Communication, particularly through CLN, should be encouraged and channels need to be opened for active communication.
- It is advised that a one size fits all approach cannot be applied to every country, but there are common challenges that need to be addressed.
- NAPHA will assist in organizing virtual meetings and reaching out to the public to promote the benefits of trophy hunting.
- Operators from Botswana are committed to working with local governments and advancing the CBNRM program.
- SCIF is willing to finance some of the intersessional meetings between the annual AWCF sessions.
- A task force should be established to exchange information on future AWCF meetings, as not all participants may be able to attend.
- Constant engagement is important to maintain momentum, and proposals for funding can be submitted for these meetings.
- SCIF is committed to funding two or three meetings per year.

- A well-connected and powerful individual should be identified to work faster as the convener, instead of relying solely on SADC.
- Political considerations should be taken into account when seeking funding from SCI, and a clear process should be established to ensure credibility and buy-in.
- CIC can assist in communicating a unified voice in the global north and is interested in engaging in the elephant dialogue and all working groups.

3. Governments

The government of Zimbabwe expresses gratitude for the knowledge gained from the workshop. It is worth mentioning that the government follows certain procedures but is dedicated to collaborating with partners and communities. This collaboration enhances the country's global influence.

The Mozambiquan government wants to emphasize their participation in CITES and their collaboration with hunting associations. They are interested in conducting a leopard census to determine the leopard population in Mozambique. They also want to involve local communities in hunting activities. Currently, they are working on developing their legal framework to support their progress. Additionally, they want to address the issue of overpopulated elephants, which has led to conflicts between humans and wildlife, and they aim to implement measures to control the situation. The SCIF president confirmed that they will fund a leopard survey in Mozambique.

The Namibian government is dedicated to upholding their national policies and laws regarding the conservation of wildlife and sustainable use, as well as the development of the wildlife economy. They are also committed to collaborating with the SADC Secretariat to facilitate and coordinate efforts in implementing items that are agreed-upon.

Vote of Thanks

The government delegate of Tanzania gave a Vote of thanks at the end of the AWCF meeting.

Next AWCF meeting:

Venue for the 22 AWCF meeting in 2024 is South Africa, with interest in holding the meeting in Cape Town.

