

June
2004

WTA News



Wildlife Translocation Association of South Africa

Wildhervestigingsvereniging van Suid-Afrika

WTA Committee

John Blythe-Wood
Chairman

chairman@wta.org.za

Hans Kooy

Vice-Chairman

vicechairman@wta.org.za

T hilo Kaiser

Web Master

webmaster@wta.org.za

Waldo Bekker

Dr Pierre Bester

Mike Bester

Kester Vickery

Dick Carr

Executive Officer

eo@wta.org.za

Elise Berning

Secretary

secretary@wta.org.za

082 928 8090

012 565 4939

P O Box 12452

Onderstepoort

0110

www.wta.org.za

Limpopo Game Auction –the biggest ever!

by Richard Smith

The Limpopo Tourism and Parks Board, which now is responsible for the management of all Provincial Nature Reserves in the province, held its first game sale on the 17th July 2004 in Polokwane.



Proceedings attended by amongst others Mr. Charles Maluleke, Snr General Manager of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and current acting CEO of the Tourism and Parks Board, and Mr. Fixon Hlongwane, General Manager of the Board, were opened by Mr Ben Mphahlele, who made the welcome statement that finance accrued from the sale of the game would be ploughed back into conservation with the improvement of facilities on reserves, replacement of fencing, and be used for up-liftment of local communities in areas where the latter was significant. The auction, which was facilitated by **Vleissentraal**



Fixon Hlongwane, Charles Maluleke, Willie Roux and Johann Vossler.

Bosveld in their own inimitable style, and supported by an enormous amount of background work and preparation, drew a lot interest, particularly as this was the first time the Tourism and Parks Board are to conduct game reduction operations.



Buffalo capture, Percy Fyfe

No game management / reduction operations have taken place on provincial reserves in this province for several years, and as a consequence large numbers of game were put up for sale. A draw-card to the auction was undoubtedly the offer of breeding herds of Roan and Addo Buffalo, a 'first' for the province, and both species realised good prices.



This catalogue auction, reputedly the largest of its kind ever, which broke all records with a turnover of **R19 512 650.00**, would have been bigger still had an outbreak of Foot & Mouth disease in the northern Lowveld not forced the last minute withdrawal of game sales from Letaba Ranch and Hans Merensky Nature Reserve. The reduction of game on Manyeleti and Andover reserves, though not affected by the outbreak, was also postponed. The tender for the translocation of the game from the remaining 13 provincial reserves was awarded to Mr. Rocco Gioia and his team from Roc Safaris, who now have the daunting task of capturing and delivering the 3 600 head of game from before the deadline at the end of September 2004.

The Limpopo Parks Board intends making the Game Auction an annual event, and will hold it a lot earlier than this year, affording more time for the translocation of the game.

The Code of Conduct is to be amended.....

by Dick Carr

The Code of Conduct for any profession is an extremely important document. It sets out the parameters within which practitioners operate. As a WTA member it provides your clients' with a statement of intent and declares your moral obligations and business ethics. The code also serves as the basis for the Association's disciplinary standing and is the yardstick against which members can be held accountable for their actions. By becoming a member of the WTA one tacitly accepts to adhere to this code of conduct.

Why is an amendment to the code necessary? Well it has been argued by various members that the WTA, through its code of conduct, does not articulate its standing strongly enough regarding members' adherence to other legislation associated with the game capture industry. It is felt that the code needs to unequivocally state that members shall operate in accordance with the laws of the country within which they operate. Constitutionally, the new code must be voted into force at this year's AGM and for this reason members are asked to provide alternative suggestions, before 30 September 2004, if not in agreement with the highlighted points below. To this end the code of conduct draft amendment reads as follows.

A member of the Wildlife Translocation Association of South Africa, in practicing his profession, shall at all times:

1. Capture, handle, care and transport all animals in a humane manner, and ensure that persons under his employ or instruction do the same.
2. Ensure that the animals under his direct or indirect care suffer minimal stress.
3. Ensure that all sick or injured animals under his direct or indirect care receive competent veterinary attention – or, where necessary, be euthanased humanely at the soonest opportunity.
4. Have due regard for public safety, public health and public interest generally.
5. Fulfil his duties to his employer or client efficiently and with integrity.
6. Uphold the dignity and standing of the Wildlife Translocation Association at all times.
7. Refrain from maliciously injuring, either directly or indirectly, the professional reputation, prospects or business of any other member of the Association.
8. **Act within the laws, policies and customs of the country concerned.**
9. **Adhere to this code and the recognized standards of conduct pertaining to his profession.**

The masculine shall also refer to the feminine.

“Association” shall mean the Wildlife Translocation Association of South Africa

“Code” shall refer to The Code of Conduct of the Association.

National Norms and Standards

by Dick Carr

The 5th draft discussion document on the translocation of wild mammals in South Africa is now available for comment. A copy of this document can be obtained from Dick Carr (dickcarr@mweb.co.za) or directly from Dr Kas Hamman at khamman@pgwc.gov.za

Please note the following important points made by the Working Group that is developing this policy, under the chairmanship of Dr Hamman:

1. This is a draft document developed by the DEAT, the Provinces and SANParks with no current legal standing.
2. **It is fully recognised that the game industry has not yet been formally consulted, but the intention is to initiate such a formal participation process once this document has been approved by DEAT's Working Group 1 (WG1), which effectively means when consensus has been reached by the various provinces and SANParks as to how the final draft takes shape, prior to wider consultation.**
3. WG1 has however decided to encourage provinces to informally make all drafts available to the game industry as a gesture of openness and good will.
4. The main objective with the document is to develop national norms and standards for the game industry specifically in terms of translocation, which will address those issues, which are seen as problematic from a nature conservation point of view.
5. Several of these problematic issues, could also have detrimental impacts on the long-term sustainability of the game industry as a whole and should in our view be considered seriously.
6. It is fully recognised that these issues can only be addressed effectively with the support and participation of the game industry.
7. In our opinion it would be detrimental to all facets of the game industry in the long-term to modify game animals genetically to such an extent that these animals could not safely be mixed or released into natural populations.
8. After approval of the draft document for public participation by WG1, the game industry will formally be approached to workshop all facets of the document. We will be looking forward to your positive contribution to the further development of this document, once it has been made available for public comment.

Equipment failure.

by Dick Carr

There are a number of door operating and locking designs used on game capture trucks and trailers. One particularly popular design is the articulated push-rod system which uses a steel rod to open and close a sliding door, and which in the closed position articulates through ninety degrees, and secured to the side of the vehicle as the door lock. This is a simple design, easily manufactured, providing quiet operation and effective locking, all in one. The perfect solution, one would argue, to situations where labour might be under pressure, getting the job done quickly and hitting the road. However, how safe is this locking mechanism?

Well as it transpires, not so safe. Recently a load of roan antelope cows was transported in individual compartments in a trailer whose exterior doors were fitted with the articulated push-rod operating system. This particular operator had been using this system for many years and it was his design of choice. He had never had any problems. That is until he loaded very expensive roan antelope for an important and influential client. While *en route*, the axle pin that provided the articulation in the push-rod fell out of the joint. The pin had been welded into position and it was the welding that failed, possibly due to excessive wear or vibration. Anyway, once this joint failed the door was free to roll open and the roan cow jumped or fell out while on the road. Unfortunately the roan, although recaptured some hours later, died a few days later from her injuries resulting in an insurance claim.

So how can a recurrence of this incident be prevented in future? Simple, have a back-up lock on all doors that use this operating system. Possibly the simplest method would be to use a vertically inserted safety pin through the door and the floor / wall / guide channel; a safety chain; or a pin screwed horizontally through the door and into the wall of the crate. The latter technique is recommended because this would also reduce rattling and vibration noise by holding the door firmly against its slide channel. The use of binding wire as a back-up lock is unacceptable.

After discussing this incident with a number of WTA members it transpires that this is not the first time that this type of mechanism has failed. Therefore, for all future equipment inspections **an effective back-up lock will be mandatory** on vehicles that use this type of articulated push-rod door operating system, especially on exterior doors. Let's learn from someone else's misfortune and promote professionalism.



From the Secretary...

by Elise Berning

Well it looks as if the WTA Newsletter is turning into something of a magazine. The thought is quite daunting!

Firstly – a very big thank you to all who have contributed!

News from the North will be a regular feature in the Newsletter from now on and on behalf of the WTA and all its members I'd like to extend our warmest thanks to Richard Smith for his all efforts to collect those green copies of the register covering game translocations in Limpopo. **Rich is going out of his way to get the register system working and needs as much support as possible from all of you to prove that it can be done.** So pull your pens out, as opposed to your fingers, and get cracking! Speaking of which, Kees joins us again from the vlaktes of the Vrystaat, this time from the nether regions of a rhino. Be sure to read! JJ – ongelooflik! Thank you for your super article and photo's!

I have had the pleasure of joining up with Louis Fourie's team on a number of occasions as well as visiting Aitjie and Matopi Wild, busy on Sandy Cox's farm down in Kimberley. Lood and Hanley got an unexpected hello at Percy Fyfe where I had my first impressive R44 flight (with Grant, cover). Thank you to all – and to John Bassi for great company and the many trips!

Diarise 12 November! The Committee is already putting AGM plans in place - and this year we are hoping for a grand turn out! The AGM gives the Committee its direction for 2005 - we need as many of you as possible to attend! And just so that you know - wives are invited!!! As are your secretaries, managers and relevant Field Members!

PLEASE FIND OUR DATA FORM ENCLOSED AND PLEASE COMPLETE THILO'S HELI QUESTIONNAIRE !!!

Happy catching and best regards,

Elise

Blesbok capture with Matopi and John



Gemsbok outside Mareetsane and giraffe capture near Brits, both with Louis Fourie Game Capture.



Sybrand filling in his WTA Register!



JBW's tip for the month:

Never believe a promise whispered in the dark!



John Goen, John Deer & Gert Caterpillar. by Elise Berning

“But madam, you have to climb up!”

Madam here hesitates.

“But madam, you don’t *understand*, you have to climb up!”

Madam surveys the smallish tree’s 2 parallel trunks (with nowhere to put feet) and attempts to pull herself up. Arm muscles burning (and stuck after 15cm, at most!) she gets grabbed under both arms and is hauled heaven ward – just as a charging, very bedonned buffalo comes tearing through the plastic below us.

Eish!

Mere moments earlier, Nelson and I had been standing casually at curtain 4, observing the small group as they trotted down beyond 5. It was at this point that Murphy himself stepped in, hitching 5 halfway through closing. Within a wink there were 4 buffalo’s heading back our way – fast and FURIOUS!

With the galloping of hooves closing in, nearby thorn trees had quickly filled with a scattering of ground staff, Nelson, and of course, the hoisted madam.

Pilansberg National Park, Nare Road. It was late afternoon and I had driven out for the buffalo catch. Jacques half bends over and surveys his buffalo boma at “buffalo eye-level”. Quite amused, I join him. If I hadn’t just walked up through the boma as the guys were adding their finishing touches, I would never have believed it was there – especially from “buffalo height”!

WTA members had gathered in force – Jacques Els and Mark Tout of Procap, Dr Wilhelm Schack (Dr Shock because of his extra LONG prodders) his daughter Reinhold and nephew Martin, dear Dr Bester, Nelson de Sousa of Wildlife Capture & Management Services and *commercial* pilot, Danie Oosthuizen (a.k.a Daniel Boon) of GameWork Helicopters.

Jacques happy with the boma we headed back to Manyane Gate where, a good few beers later, Pierre stood propped up only by his bar stool, the rest of us not far behind. These guys together are **agonisingly** entertaining - *everything* was sore from laughing so much – and we spent the evening doubled-over to side splitting accounts of Procap life in general and my favourite from Jacques, further classification of Dagga Bulls . After a good dinner we headed back to our chalet to make a fire and, with no wood except a few “borrowed” bits from our neighbours, we eventually decided to call it night.



Danie does his thing, John Deer far right.

The next morning came too quickly. Our jackets smelling of “You’re The Khaya” from the night before’s attempted fire we munched down a hearty brekkie and set off to catch buffalo – and climb trees!

So there I was, backside safely out of buffalo reach, my appreciation towards my two Procap rescuers growing with every circuit a particularly miserable 1-horned cow did around our tree. A long, neat scar striped its way all the way down her back. We sat perched in our respective trees for about 20 minutes, watching as they (the cow now had company) thundered around aimlessly, pulling down curtains. After a crash and a bang from further down the boma another buffalo reversed the capture process and, clearing the path to freedom by neatly lifting curtains, they headed off for lion-filled hills. An adrenalin OD’d Madam climbed down the tree (un-aided!) and headed for the safety of the trucks as a new, quiet resolve settled in - to start doing push-ups!

Imagine my unexpected delight to come face to immobilised face with my 1-horned friend during the big buffalo bleed at the Eko Wild pens in Thabazimbi two weeks later. As Jacques would put it, “haar kaartjie was geknip en sy moes bus klim.”

Once into a routine, we worked like clock work. Ear tag and microchip, 10 tubes of blood per buffalo, a

skin sample, a hair sample, a tick sample and a blood smear. Bulls were measured, cows were pd’d. Everything marked, everything checked. 51 buffalo in a few short hours. Blood stained, crap smeared and I’m sure quite fragrant I headed for OP with hard earned, precious cargo.

Thank you, thank you
THANK YOU guys!



Pierre tops up, Pieter behind



Jacques reversing one of the bulls



Dr Shock and his nephew Martin.



NEWS FROM THE NORTH

REQUEST FOR COPIES OF WTA REGISTERS

By Richard Smith

The thirty or so WTA members who elected to have their equipment inspected by the Association, and who have been issued WTA registers for recording their transactions, have been asked to submit the appropriate copy of the register to the provincial authority for record keeping purposes. The news isn't good. The response has been poor, with only 10% of members reacting to the requests. Reasons for limited reaction are probably many and varied, and I would hazard a guess that the majority of operators simply don't use their registers. The benefits of maintaining accurate records of one's transactions cannot be over-emphasized, and I would like to encourage translocators to make use of this valuable tool.

IMPORT / EXPORT AND CONVEYANCE PERMITS – LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Are you aware that it is necessary to obtain a permit before you import / export or convey any wildlife within Limpopo Province? Of course you are, but for those who are uncertain about the procedure there are district service centres throughout the province, which you can approach for your permits *in advance* of transporting wildlife, and please remember that you must first apply for your permit in the district concerned. The district centres are authorised to issue permits for the majority of transactions, but if necessary, will forward an application with recommendations to Head Office in Polokwane where the request will be scrutinised.

All CITES permits are dealt with in Polokwane.

Here's the list of Limpopo Service Centres with contact numbers and addresses.

CITES AND PERMIT MANAGEMENT c/o Dorp & Suid Streets P O Box 9486 Polokwane 0700 Tel 015 295 9300 Fax 015 295 5018	HANS HOHEISEN SERVICE CENTRE P O Box 146 Hoedspruit 1380 Tel 015 793 1482 Fax 015 793 2023	LEPHALALE SERVICE CENTRE P O Box 347 Lephalale 0555 Tel 014 763 2776 Fax 014 763 2776	MOKOPANE SERVICE CENTRE P O Box 3567 Mokopane 0600 Tel 015 491 8010/5 Fax 015 491 8140	POLOKWANE SERVICE CENTRE P Bag X 9555 Polokwane 0700 Tel 015 297 3839 Fax 015 297 7595
PERMITS OFFICE POLOKWANE c/o Dorp & Suid Streets P O Box 9486 Polokwane 0700 Tel 015 295 9300 Fax 015 295 5018	KLASERIE SERVICE CENTRE P O Box 21 Klaserie 1381 Tel 015 793 2471 Fax 015 793 2571	MAKHADO SERVICE CENTRE P O Box 3865 Makhado 0920 Tel 015 516 0002 Fax 015 516 0089	MUSINA SERVICE CENTRE P O Box 78 Musina 0900 Tel 015 534 3235 Fax 015 534 0123	THABAZIMBI SERVICE CENTRE P O Box 217 Thabazimbi 0380 Tel 014 777 1539 Fax 014 777 1539
GIYANE SERVICE CENTRE P O Box 9678 Giyane 0826 Tel 015 812 1342 Fax 015 812 4684	LEBOWAKGOMO SERVICE CENTRE P O Box 2003 Polokwane 0700 Tel 015 633 5220 Fax 015 633 5153	MODIMOLLE SERVICE CENTRE P O Box 419 Modimolle 0510 Tel 014 717 5383 Fax 014 717 5200	PHLALABORWA SERVICE CENTRE P Bag X 01011 Phalaborwa 1390 Tel 015 769 1660 Fax 015 769 1792	TZANEEN SERVICE CENTRE P O Box 1397 Tzaneen 0850 Tel 015 307 1196 Fax 015 307 1195



And especially
for
Lood (left)
and Aitjie
(right)!



Elephant population management: “Thinking outside the box”

by JJ van Altena

The African Elephant, once endangered in parts of Africa, has through protective management of their populations recovered so well that measures to limit their numbers are now required. These increasing populations have, however, long been of a concern to biologists and conservationists throughout Africa and for the most part, it is agreed that, due to their destructive nature, intervention is necessary. Left unchecked, elephants will do irreparable damage to habitats, ultimately resulting in a loss in biodiversity. After all, we as biologists and conservationists strive for maintaining biodiversity. This fact is often overlooked in the ongoing debate on elephant population control. As humans we tend to anthropomorphise the elephant to such an extent that it actually governs our conservation and management principles.

The active management of elephant populations does not come without its limitations. Talking of elephant population management, there are only two really viable options. The first is culling and the second translocation to new habitats. Most large elephant populations have, in the past, been controlled and maintained by culling operations or through a combination of both culling and translocation. This has been the case in Kruger for many years. However, no matter how successful these two methods are or have been they are no longer deemed ethical or feasible. Culling has been classified as inhumane and unethical by some. The anthropomorphic sentiments relating to elephants have compounded the issue.

Although it is found to be more acceptable, translocation is no longer feasible in many cases. With wildlife areas dwindling everyday, the available habitat left for elephants is shrinking. To make matters worse, most areas have reached saturation point for elephants. Besides, even if we were able to translocate elephants to new areas, we are in actual fact only moving the problem and buying the elephants a little more time. These populations, one day, will too need to be controlled.

So, what other options other than culling and translocation do we have? We need a population control method that meets conservation principles and achieves ecological goals while remaining humane and publicly acceptable. No easy task - the answer may, however, lie in contraception. To be more precise, elephant immunocontraception! This biological control method is safe, non-lethal, reversible and effective in stabilizing elephant populations. Where does it come from? Immunocontraception using the porcine zona pellucida (pZP) vaccine has been around for some twenty years during which time it has been extensively tested in

various species, amongst others free-ranging wild horses and white-tailed deer.

Research on immunocontraception with pZP in elephants started in the Kruger National Park (KNP) in June 1995 and was successfully concluded in late 2000.

Extensive behavioural and physiological monitoring and research was carried out throughout the project to determine the efficacy of contraception in elephants. It proved to be 80% effective and was found to be safe and reversible. Furthermore, it could be delivered remotely with a dart. It is safe in the food chain as it cannot affect predators, reptiles, birds and insects that may feed on elephants or their products.

Due to the success of the trials in Kruger, the next phase was to develop a strategy for the population control of free-ranging elephants. For this purpose a suitable reserve with a discrete elephant population was needed. Due to its manageable population of 66 animals (Jan 2004), herd accessibility and detailed identity kits, The Greater Makalali Private Game Reserve in the Limpopo Province was identified as ideal for this next phase.

How does the immunocontraception with pZP-vaccine work?

Immunocontraception with pZP is a non-steroidal (non-hormonal) method of contraception based on the immune response of females given the vaccine.

The zona pellucida is a protein membrane that surrounds all mammalian eggs. Once administered, the vaccine stimulates an immunological response (formation of specific antibodies) in the target animal. When the animal ovulates an antibody layer forms around the egg and blocks the sperm receptor sites thereby preventing sperm penetration of the egg and fertilisation from taking place.

The pZP vaccine is not a hormone and to date, there have been no behavioural or physical side effects noted. All reproductive functions are maintained in the target animal, namely oestrus cycles, lactation and foetal development (should a cow be pregnant).



Because the elephant has an oestrous cycle that is 15-17 weeks long, contracepted cows coming on heat does not create a significant disturbance factor to the family unit or associated bulls.

The vaccine is now made in South Africa at Veterinary Wildlife Unit of the University of Pretoria.

How is immunocontraception implemented?

First and foremost, a clearly defined elephant management plan that outlines the reserve's elephant carrying capacity as well as the active management options and long-term objectives, must be in place. This is vital in tailoring a contraceptive program to meet the objectives of the reserve while, at the same time, maintaining a healthy and viable elephant population.

Target animals, consisting mainly of the reproductively active females within a population, then need to be identified. The vaccine is administered remotely to the free-roaming elephants, either from the ground or air. Important: The vaccine administration program must reflect the conservation and ecological requirements of the specific reserve. Each of the selected target animals receives an initial vaccination followed by a booster three weeks later. This will contracept the target animals for one year. In order to maintain the contraceptive effect thereafter, the target animal will need to receive an annual vaccination (consisting of one shot). It is important to note, that there is no need for target animals to be immobilized or radio-collared. As a result the contraception of elephants is not limited to small populations. With the use of a helicopter and drop-out darts, one can effectively vaccinate large groups of elephants in a relatively short period of time.

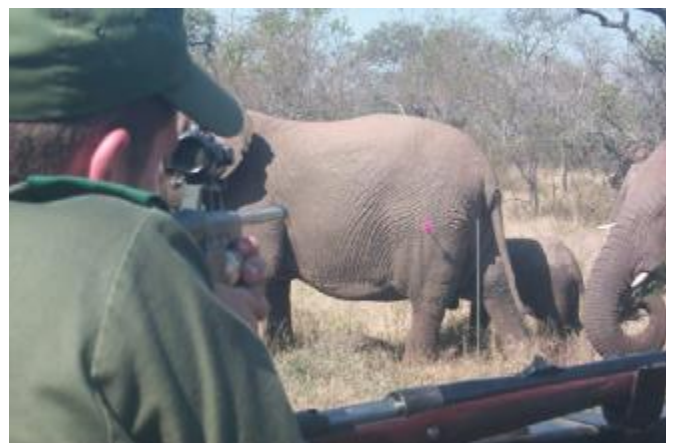
Immunocontraception is an alternative population control method that managers now have at their disposal. It may not be the answer to every situation but it definitely offers a safe, non-lethal, humane, reversible and effective means of stabilizing elephant populations. To date there has been no evidence to suggest that the vaccine has caused any side effects of either a physical or behavioural nature. No animal treated with pZP vaccine has died as a result. From a humane perspective, it considers all the characteristics of these charismatic mega-fauna in being safe, non-lethal and reversible.

Of major importance is that, with the exception of fertilisation, reproductive functions are maintained and it does not have any detrimental effect on pregnant animals. The vaccine's reversibility is also vital, assuring that essential biological and social interactions within the family unit are not lost.

From the work completed at Makalali thus far, it is clear that immunocontraception is by all means a viable and practical means of stabilizing elephant populations. The results also prove that it is very effective with a zero percent growth rate having been achieved.

Bearing in mind that this is a biological control method aimed at slowing down and ultimately stabilizing an elephant population, it will not reduce it. The population will start to decline as the number of animals dying of 'natural' causes exceeds the number of births. The trick is not to wait until you have a problem but to anticipate and responsibly manage elephant population numbers for the future. Immunocontraception is an alternative method for controlling elephant populations. Traditionally trained wildlife managers seldom "think outside the box" and employ methods other than what they have learned. They are sceptical of new technology, largely because they don't know how to use it or because they have heard negative things about it. Our biggest challenge – bigger than the science of elephant contraception- is to change the way people think. The technology is there and it is available! Let's use it.

(Co-researchers: Douw Grobler, Audrey Delsink, Henk Bertschinger, Jay Kirkpatrick)



Meeting dates for 2004

August – Monday 30th – Committee Meeting.
October – Monday 25th – Committee Meeting.
November – Friday 12th – AGM 10h00.

10 YEARS AFTER – WHERE ARE WE WITH CONSERVATION IN THE NEW SOUTH AFRICA?

By Dr Nick King

Our first decade of democracy provides a good opportunity to reflect on what is happening in the conservation arena in South Africa – an arena which arguably bears the responsibility for ensuring the long-term sustainability of South Africa's real wealth, our rich biological *natural treasury*. Encompassing the southern tip of Africa and thus climatic regions ranging from hot, wet, subtropical on the eastern seaboard, through winter rainfall and Mediterranean climes around the Cape, to desert on the western Atlantic coast, South Africa is recognised as one of the world's so-called *megadiverse* countries. After Brazil and Indonesia, South Africa is rated as the third most biologically diverse country in the world. Uniquely, this includes having one of only six floral kingdoms, the Cape Floral Kingdom, entirely within the borders of the country, as well as the only arid *hotspot* in the world, the Succulent Karoo. With less than one percent of the global land surface, this country harbours some 10 percent of global plant, bird and freshwater fish diversity, and some six percent of mammal and reptile diversity.

Over the past decade, since the election of a democratic government in 1994, South Africa has undergone profound socio-political changes. This process has included the drafting of a new Constitution, new policy and legislation covering every sphere of governance, transforming national institutions, converting four provinces to nine (with attendant new provincial legislatures) and redrawing local municipalities. On a socio-economic front, redress of previous inequities, redistribution of resources and poverty eradication have been priorities of the new administration. Within the context of the need for ensuring that all citizens now have equitable access to natural resources, education and health care, the principle of *Sustainable Development* is a key consideration. As such, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are of primary importance to the country's future.

However, who holds responsibility for this? The new Constitution of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996) established three spheres of government: national, provincial and local. Within this, national parks, national botanical gardens, water, forests and fisheries are deemed national competencies, while nature conservation and environmental management are concurrent national and provincial competencies. The Constitution sets up a system of co-operative governance in these and other spheres to facilitate co-operative implementation.

At the international level, amongst a host of related environmental agreements, South Africa ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1995.

The objectives of the CBD, namely biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and the equitable benefit-sharing thereof, are thus the responsibility of a number of role-players, including various Directorates of the national Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, National Department of Agriculture, Department of Science and Technology, South African National Parks, National Botanical Institute, provincial departments responsible for environmental affairs and provincial conservation agencies such as the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board, Limpopo Parks Board, Mpumalanga Parks Board and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. Outside of this, South Africa has a number of very active non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) which focus on biodiversity and environmental conservation.

After extensive public participation, framework national policy governing environmental management was promulgated in 1997 as the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA). Under NEMA, various Regulations governing biological diversity have been developed further, including the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Bill and National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Bill, both promulgated in early 2004. An ongoing process is in place to continue to develop and roll out further relevant environmental legislation such as Regulations on Threatened Species, Invasive Alien Species and Bioprospecting.

What does this mean in reality? Nationally, the past decade has seen South Africa develop some of the best and most up-to-date environmental legislation in the world, incorporating implementation of our obligations under such international treaties as the CBD, in which we have often been a leading voice for the less-developed world. For this, the new administration is to be soundly congratulated, especially given the dire socio-economic context within which they have had to operate. On the ground, however, implementation is still sadly lacking – the *sustainable* component is largely missing from South Africa's mad scramble for *development* in the last decade. We continue to abuse and lose our natural resources at an alarming rate in the name of 'development'. Implementation is bedevilled by a lack of capacity within national and provincial governments, a lack of financial resources allocated to implementation, a lack of political commitment to longer-term strategies, as well as political conflict and confusion between national and provincial responsibilities. Given these constraints, much of the good "hands-on" conservation work being undertaken outside of protected areas, is being done by NGOs. NGOs of course, are also constrained by lack of resources,

Conservation in the New South Africa continued...

if not in human capacity, certainly financially. Notwithstanding this, South Africa has a wealth of visible, active environmental NGOs working to conserve our rich biodiversity. The role of civil society in a democracy is crucial, in that democratic governments should ideally operate under *laissez faire* principles, intervening only when required for the good of society. However, in democracies which lack the capacity to intervene to the required level, it behoves the citizenry to take up responsibility to fill the gaps left by government, and the environmental NGOs in South Africa are doing just this. Within this role, perhaps the NGOs need to take a more proactive stance in ensuring fuller representation of a broader spectrum of the different stakeholder groups in civil society such as disparate landowners.

With tourism the fastest growing sector, and currently second only to the manufacturing sector in contributing to the GDP, to provide a long-term basis for planning and to move South Africa's economic development onto a more sustainable footing, a more open and co-operative partnership is required between NGOs and government. Whilst NGOs need to maintain their neutrality and independence, they also need to ensure their interactions are based on a premise of support for the national good, operating under the principles of sound science, accountable governance and credible delivery. In this way, we can maximise mobilisation of resources towards common national objectives of conserving our rich natural heritage for future generations whilst ensuring a more equitable future for all our citizens.

For more information see: Endangered Wildlife Trust (www.ewt.org.za); Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (www.deat.gov.za); South African National Parks (www.parks-sa.co.za).

Dr Nick King, Director: Endangered Wildlife Trust. nick@ewt.org.za +27 11 4861102 June 2004

WP se renosters ook darem.

deur Kees Lawrence

Die renoster wat weggekom het op Willem Pretorius is 'n teer sakie - so 'n teer sakie dat ek nog steeds my termometer soek. Dit is in die jaar van '94 wat daar besluit is om al die Administrasie se wit renosters met mikro-skyfies in te plant. Een in elke horing en een in die lyf. So gesê, so gedaan en alles verloop goed met die eerste 14 renosters. Peertjies (veearts) pyl no. 15 en sy gaan sit-lê al te mooi. Die grondspan beweeg in om die nodige werk te doen, maar soos Murphy dit wil hê het die Departement Landbou 'n vergadering by die Voorligting Sentrum en wil hulle kom kyk hoe die hele affêre gedoen word.

Toe die renoster val is almal by en soos nuuskierige apies stap almal nader. Dis van ministers, direkteure, kamera-manne en joernaliste die hele lot! Hulle kwetter soos 'n spul rooibekvinke en almal wil net weet en vat aan alles. Peertjies en Werner is besig met die merk en boor vir die mikro-skyfie inplanting. Daniël en Tinta en Georg gee suurstof dat die byle huil, want hulle is mos nou op kamera. En ek, Kees natuurlik, moet die temperatuur meet . . .

Kom ek verduidelik hoe dit gedoen word. Jy neem die termometer en kyk dat die kwik onder is, lig die renoster se stert op en druk die termometer in die renoster se hol. Nou moet jy die termometer daar vashou anders poep die renoster die termometer uit sy hol uit.

Okay, daar het julle dit nou. Almal het hulle werkies en is ernstig besig om gelukkig te lyk vir die kameras. Net toe ons dink alles verloop goed hoor ek net 'n gil en 'n brul en daar staan renoster koei no. 15 onder ons op – wild en wakker en reg vir aksie. Die koei gee 'n paar snorke en hardloop vorentoe bo-oor Peertjies se toolbox. Jy sien net V.I.P, kameras en joernaliste in verskillende rigtings verdwyn. Al wat Lukas Stolz, direkteur van Natuurbewaring kan sê is: "Wat te donder gaan nou aan!" en hy hardloop dat die kak wit sit, Smokey Boiing is ok nie ver agter nie. Dit is net gille orals waar jy kyk. Maar ai, die arme suurstof dieners lyk die slegste, want die renoster besluit om reguit vorentoe te hardloop en arme ou Tinta is voor die renoster en hy hol vir al wat werd is vir 'n boompie wat 6 voet hoog staan met 'n 4 duim stam (asof hierdie boompie sy lewe gaan red?). Gelukkig draai die renoster en slaan sy haar eie koers in, ewe windgat met wydsbene.

Met al die konsternasie bekyk ek die spulletjie so, skoon verbaas en uit die veld geslaan en sê droogweg vir dié wat wil luister: "En daar gaan die renoster koei met my termometer in sy hol!"



**BOSVELD**

Member's game auction prices - LATEST!

22/05/2004 LOUIS FOURIE GAME CAPTURE ELLISRAS

	NUMBER	MALE	AVERAGE	HIGHEST
Blesbok / Blesbuck	80		687.13	750.00
Blouwildebees / Blue Wildebeest	17		1 700.00	1 700.00
Eland	9		4 300.00	4 300.00
Gemsbok / Gemsbuck	38		3 594.74	3 800.00
Kameelperd / Giraffe	4		16 000.00	16 000.00
Koedoe / Kudu	7		1 800.00	1 800.00
Njala / Nyala	9		7 777.78	8 000.00
Rooibok / Impala	67		663.96	775.00
Rooihartbees / Red Hartebeest	23		3 273.91	3 400.00
Sebra / Zebra	18		4 677.78	5 100.00
Waterbok / Waterbuck	10		4 990.00	5 200.00
Blouwildebees / Blue Wildebeest		3	2 816.67	3 000.00
Kameelperd / Giraffe		1	17 000.00	17 000.00
Koedoe / Kudu		2	3 900.00	4 000.00
Rooibok / Impala		13	1 100.00	2 600.00
Rooihartbees / Red Hartebeest		2	3 200.00	3 200.00
Swartwitpens / Sable Antelope		1	32 000.00	32 000.00
Waterbok / Waterbuck		1	4 800.00	4 800.00

31/05/2004 HANLEY WILDLIFE SERVICES ALLDAYS

	NUMBER	MALE	AVERAGE	HIGHEST
Blouwildebees / Blue Wildebeest	31		1 891.94	2 200.00
Eland	4		4 350.00	4 500.00
Gemsbok / Gemsbuck	13		3 661.54	4 000.00
Kameelperd / Giraffe	5		18 200.00	19 000.00
Koedoe / Kudu	12		1 891.67	2 000.00
Njala / Nyala	3		9 733.33	12 000.00
Rooibok / Impala	64		641.02	825.00
Sebra / Zebra	11		4 736.36	5 200.00
Volstruis / Ostrich	21		1 378.57	1 450.00
Waterbok / Waterbuck	9		5 122.22	6 700.00
Blouwildebees / Blue Wildebeest		2	3 200.00	3 200.00
Eland		2	7 150.00	7 300.00
Gemsbok / Gemsbuck		3	4 000.00	4 000.00
Koedoe / Kudu		9	5 338.89	7 500.00
Njala / Nyala		1	7 000.00	7 000.00
Waterbok / Waterbuck		3	6 833.33	6 900.00

19/06/2004 KZN WILDLIFE HLUHLUWE

	NUMBER	MALE	AVERAGE	HIGHEST
GAME IN PENS				
Duiker – Grys / Common Duiker	2		4 750.00	4 750.00
Kameelperd / Giraffe	10		11 300.00	12 000.00
Njala / Nyala	260 + 3		5 869.04	6 750.00
Renoster – wit / White Rhino	22 + 2		129 931.82	250 000.00
Njala / Nyala		16	9 734.38	13 500.00
Renoster – wit / White Rhino		2	110 000.00	110 000.00
CATALOGUE GAME				
Blesbok / Blesbuck	84		771.43	800.00
Blouwildebees / Blue Wildebeest	81		1 333.33	1 600.00
Dassie	50		330.00	450.00
Kameelperd / Giraffe	57		11 938.60	16 250.00
Koedoe / Kudu	58		2 591.38	2 800.00
Njala / Nyala	145		5 306.90	5 750.00
Renoster – wit / White Rhino	5 + 1		142 200.00	250 000.00
Rooibok / Impala	995		485.68	600.00
Rooihartbees / Red Hartebeest	65		4 469.23	4 500.00
Sebra / Zebra	71		4 745.07	5 800.00
Seekoei / Hippopotamus	12		31 625.00	35 000.00
Springbok	86		602.33	625.00
Volstruis / Ostrich	8		3 400.00	3 600.00
Vlakovark / Warthog	120		647.92	750.00
Waterbok / Waterbuck	8		5 400.00	5 400.00
Blouwildebees / Blue Wildebeest		14	2 000.00	2 000.00
Koedoe / Kudu		6	5 000.00	5 000.00
Njala / Nyala		28	7 607.14	8 250.00
Renoster – wit / White Rhino		1	50 000.00	50 000.00
Renoster – swart / Black Rhino		3	131 666.67	145 000.00
Rooihartbees / Red Hartebeest		17	3 344.12	3 500.00
Waterbok / Waterbuck		2	5 500.00	5 500.00

17/07/2004 LIMPOPO PARKS POLOKWANE

For interest!

	NUMBER	MALE	AVERAGE	HIGHEST
Bastergemsbok / Roan Antelope	42		162 500.00	180 000.00
Basterhartbees / Tsessebe	59		18 330.51	19 000.00
Blouwildebees / Blue Wildebeest	571		1 214.89	1 600.00
Buffel / Buffalo	25		154 600.00	165 000.00
Eland	151		3 997.35	4 100.00
Gemsbok / Gemsbuck	182		3 753.85	4 900.00
Kameelperd / Giraffe	49		12 693.88	14 500.00
Koedoe / Kudu	704		1 394.78	2 000.00
Sebra / Zebra	237		3 953.59	4 300.00
Njala / Nyala	53		6 150.94	7 000.00
Rooibok / Impala	1159		470.94	600.00
Rooihartbees / Red Hartebeest	38		3 892.11	4 000.00
Swartwitpens / Sable Antelope	10		75 000.00	75 000.00
Volstruis / Ostrich	40		1 900.00	2 000.00
Waterbok / Waterbuck	273		4 056.78	4 600.00
Buffel / Buffalo		3	55 500.00	58 000.00
Swartwitpens / Sable antelope		4	25 000.00	25 000.00

OMSET / TURNOVER FOR LIMPOPO PARKS

R 19 512 650.00

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