Report-back on proposed Wildlife Advocacy Group

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9th International Wildlife Ranching Symposium

Windhoek, September 2016
Meeting held March 22-23, 2016, in Pretoria:

A Vision for a Coherent African Wildlife Industry

Kindly supported by WRSA and MLP Media

Delegates from wildlife (ranching) sector, government, academia and NGOs
from South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Kenya
(also Switzerland and Singapore)
Rationale

• Wildlife ranching under threat from closure of global markets, motivated by international NGOs, activists and policies that fail to understand and recognize the southern African sustainable use approach to conservation
• Rhino horn trade / trophy hunting as examples
• Need to engage more effectively in the global public policy debate
• Identify issues to be addressed
Wildlife ranching challenges and needs

- Intensification
- Social transformation
- Ethics and standards

Research: better data and analysis
Policy engagement at all levels
Improved communication
What was achieved?

• Excellent, informative background presentations
• Start of constructive dialogue between stakeholders
• Four working groups formed
• Modest action plan
Working Groups

1. Gathering information on wildlife ranching
   Data collection and analysis of relevant conservation and economic contributions

2. Reviewing existing governance
   Institutional and policy analysis, identify constraints, engage with policy- and decision-makers to improve governance

3. Building a business case linked to regional upliftment
   Develop a strategic plan for collective leadership

4. Educating /communicating with stakeholders effectively
   Develop a PR, communications and education / extension strategy
Vision statement

SOUTHERN AFRICAN WILDLIFE ADVOCACY FORUM

‘Africa’s resources for Africa’s people’

To drive a new wave of development and prosperity in southern Africa through the sustainable use of our unique wildlife assets.
Modest action plan

• Side event at CITES
• Working groups to continue
• Forum launch?
• Follow-up meeting?
Progress to date and challenges

Subsequent dialogue, but nothing public
Established some commitments for steering committee
CITES side event to go ahead

Limited time of volunteers (we are all really busy)
Strong WRSA support, but many others still need convincing
Proposed way forward

- Follow-up meeting (March 2017) to
  - establish research protocols and plans for Working Groups 1 and 2
  - develop agenda and MO for Working Groups 3 and 4
- Explore possibility of larger ‘Wildlife Economy’ conference in 2018