

GAME RANCHING IN SOUTH AFRICA

ITS CONTRIBUTION TO
THE **ECONOMY**,
TO **CONSERVATION**
AND TO
BIODIVERSITY



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**9th International Wildlife Ranching Symposium,
Windhoek, Namibia**

HISTORY OF CONSERVATION IN SA

SETTLERS

Guns

- Food, save precious livestock
- Sport: great white hunters



HISTORY OF CONSERVATION IN SA

SETTLERS

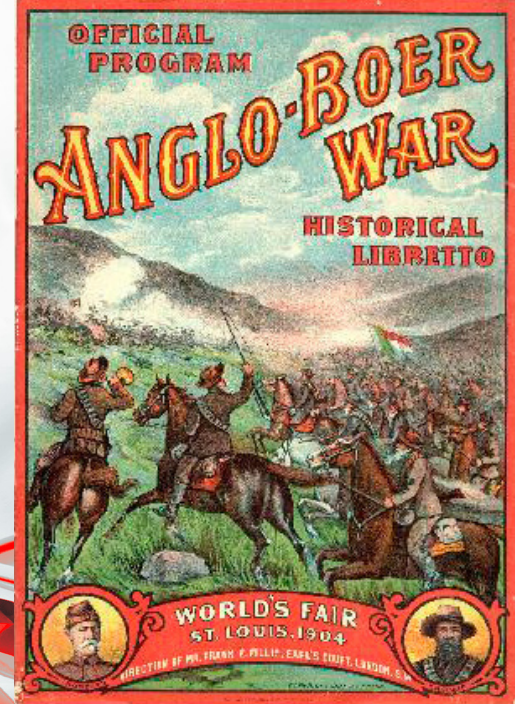
Fences

Livestock

- Game became competition for grazing

War

- Anglo-Boer war



HISTORY OF CONSERVATION IN SA

DISEASES AND VETERINARY CONTROL MEASURES

'Carriers' of disease

Indigenous diseases:

- Nagana
- Foot and mouth disease
- Corridor disease
- Bovine malignant catarrh

Exotic diseases:

- Rinderpest
- Bovine tuberculosis
- Contagious abortion

CONSERVATION STATUS IN SA

SOME GOOD NEWS

Formation of parks (National & Provincial)

Today:

- 6m ha (or 6% of agricultural land), with
- Approx. 6m head of game

World goals are 12%



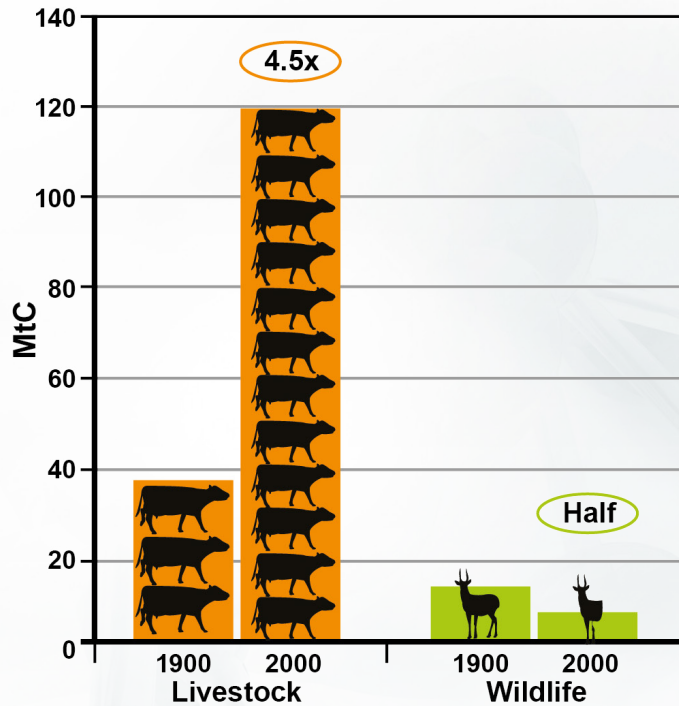
CONSERVATION STATUS IN SA

By 1965 game basically extinct outside the parks



GLOBAL CONSERVATION RECORD

LOSS OF WILDLIFE IN THE PAST CENTURY

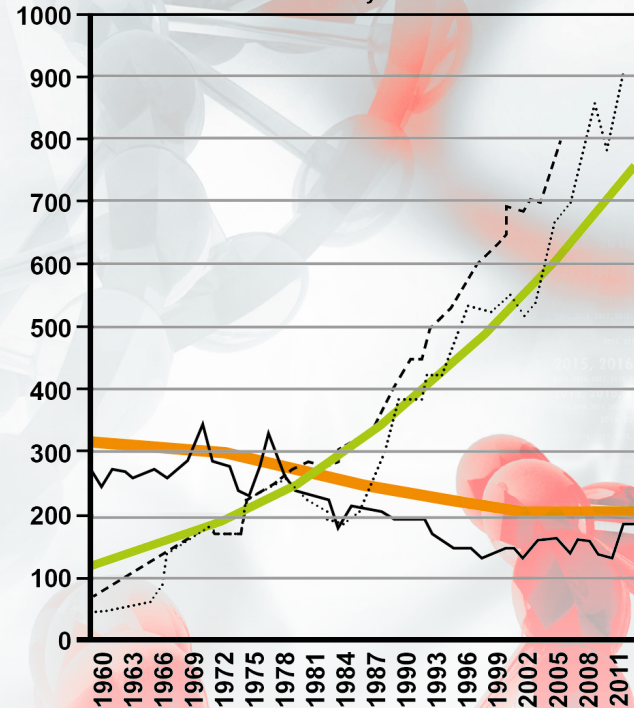


Smil, V. (2011). "Harvesting the Biosphere: The Human Impact." Population and Development Review 37(4): 613-636.

"MARKET FAILURE"

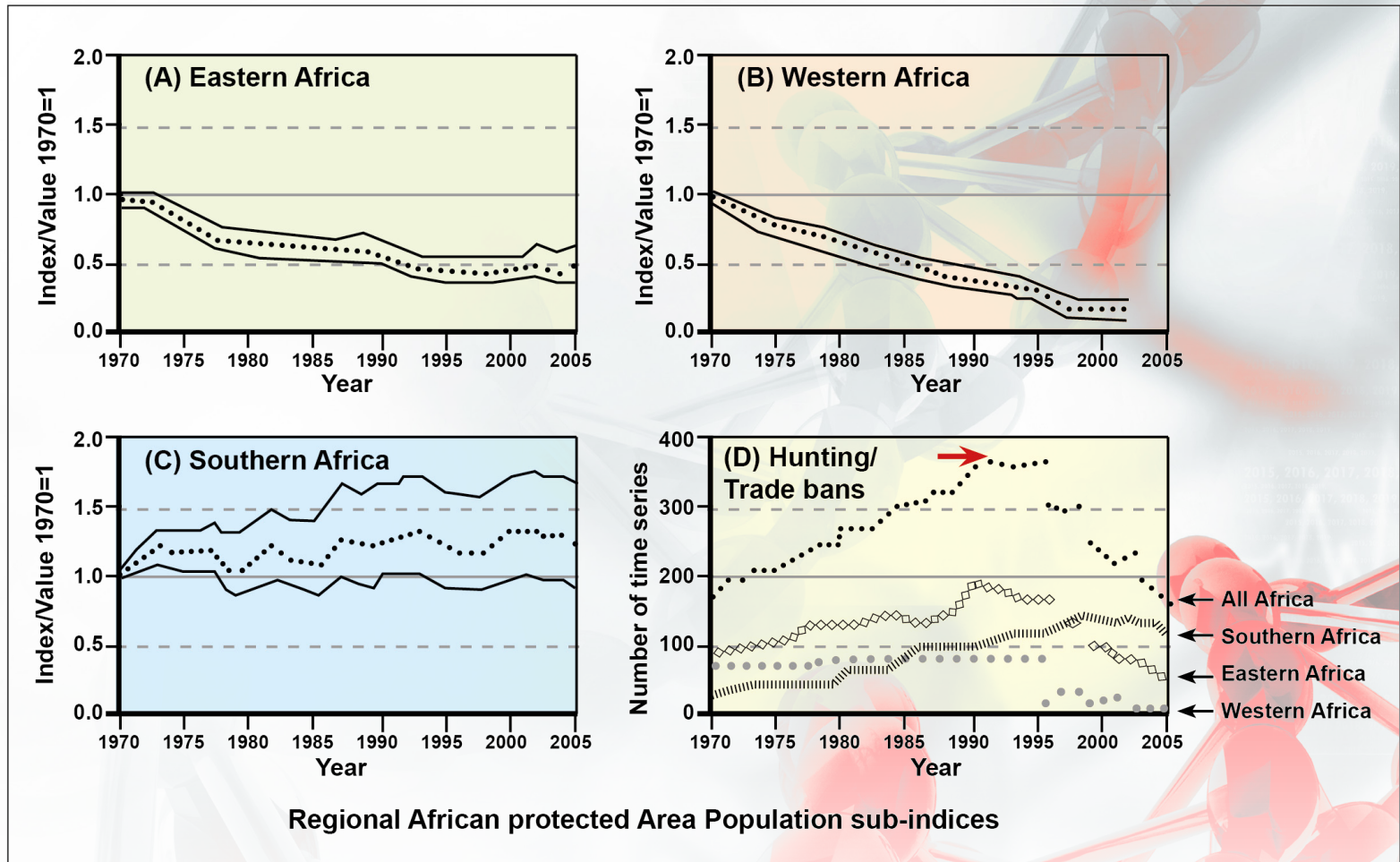
DOMESTIC (OWNED) ANIMALS ARE REPLACING WILD (UN-OWNED) SPECIES, YET WILDLIFE OFTEN HAS A COMPARATIVE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE.

Terms of Trade for Bioexperience and Beef Commodity Sectors



— Beef price (1967 \$/hundredweight x 10)
 --- International tourism arrivals
 Tourism spend \$billion (\$ 2005)

AFRICAN CONSERVATION RECORD



WILDLIFE RANCHING IN SA

The reasons for success

PRINCIPLES upon which game ranching is built:

Ownership

- Laws in SA and Namibia unique
- 1991 Game Theft Act

Based on:

- Free market and 'luxury' market
- Love of nature
- Compassion for animals

As a result of above motivations = massive investment

- 10 000 game ranches of 500ha at R10 000/ha = R50 billion
- Add cost of game and infrastructure, salaries = at least R200 billion

Government support:

sustainable use policy = thank you!

WILDLIFE RANCHING IN SA

Current contribution to the economy

SUCCESSSES OF GAME RANCHING IN SA

20 million hectares of marginal, often damaged agricultural land that is now part of a sustainable green economy.

R20 billion *annual* contribution to SA's GDP

140 000 decent jobs

- 3 x as many workers as there are on equivalent domestic stock operations
- Salaries 3 x those of domestic stock equivalents

Food security:

Produce > 150 000 tons of game meat per annum

Unique product for export (100 million US\$ market in Europe)

Constraint is DAFF's lack of policy/regulations and the control of FMD



WILDLIFE RANCHING IN SA

Current contribution to conservation

SUCSESSES OF GAME RANCHING IN SA

Conservation and biodiversity:

20 million hectares improved from damaged (by the plough and the cow) marginal agricultural land.

(Perspective is important: this is ex-agricultural land, not conservation land that is being degraded!)

Increased biodiversity (just a few examples)

- Cape Mountain Zebra
- Bontebok
- Black Wildebeest
- White rhino



WILDLIFE RANCHING IN SA

Current contribution to conservation

NOT TO MENTION

- Geometric tortoise
- More dung beetles species
- Oxpeckers
- Waterberg copper butterfly
- Vulture restaurants
- Wetlands
- And much more



WILDLIFE RANCHING IN SA

Current contribution to conservation

SUCCESSSES OF GAME RANCHING IN SA

Now, 20 million head of game in SA, more than in the past 165 years

- cf 14m cattle and 30m shoats

Species where wildlife ranching played an important role in saving them from extinction

SPECIES	TOTAL APPROX. 1950	IN PARKS	ON PRIVATE RANCHES	TOTAL 2015
White rhino	30	12 000	5 000 (30%)	17 000
Black rhino	30	1 510	450 (23)	1960
Blesbok	2 000	25 000	>225 000 (90%)	>250 000
Bontebok	19	1 000	>7 000 (87,5%)	>8 000
Sable antelope	450	<500	4 500 (90%)	>5 000
Roan antelope	150	<200	2 300 >(93%)	>2 500
Cape mountain zebra	<80	1 925	865 (31%)	>2790
Black wildebeest	<500	1800	>15 700 (87%)	>17 500

WILDLIFE RANCHING FUTURE PROJECTIONS

Contribution of wildlife ranching to SA

2025 projections:

- Land under game ranching (green economy): 30m ha (30% SA's agricultural land)
- Number of game animals: 30m head
- Number of decent jobs: 350 000
- Game meat produced: 250 000 tons initially
- Contribution to GDP: >R75 billion annually

WILDLIFE RANCHING CONSTRAINTS

INCORRECT PERCEPTIONS:

Discussed above and below

WRSA has to spend money, ironically, on correcting perceptions, such as:

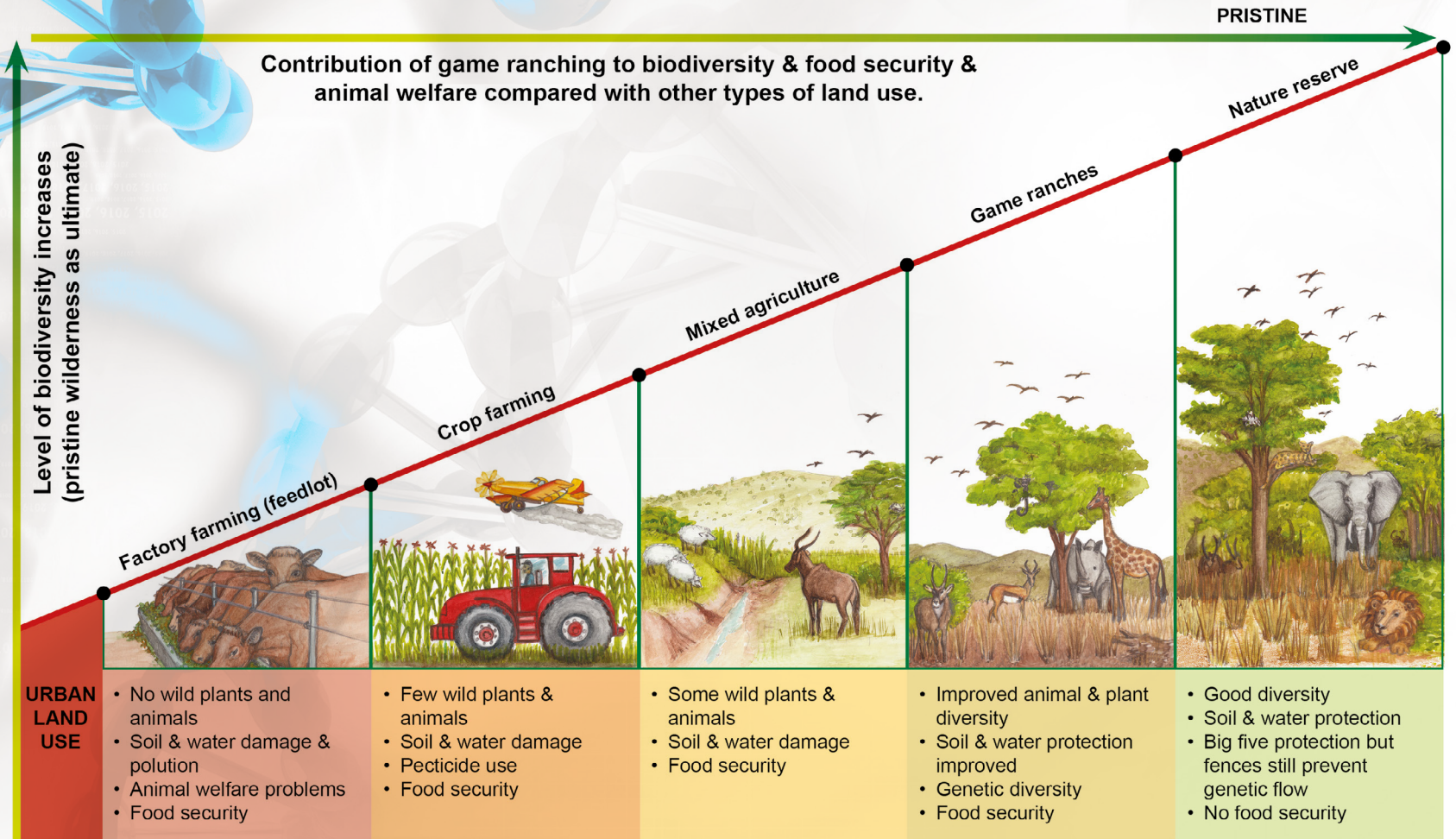
- Not contributing to food security
- Not transforming
- Damaging conservation land
- Damaging biodiversity
- Employing genetic manipulation
- Breeding mutants...

In process of addressing these incorrect perceptions:

- Research
- Marketing programmes
- Code of Conduct and Notes of Best Practice

GAME RANCHING IN SA

The progression of biodiversity conservation



WILDLIFE RANCHING CONSTRAINTS

LEGAL FRAMEWORK:

- Old conservation laws promulgated prior to the inception of game ranching are not appropriate for this agricultural industry
- Inadequate staffing of DEA and provincial offices
- Constitutional 1 + 9 competencies (permitting)
- New agricultural legislation AAct and formation of WPA
- Moratorium on trading with rhino horn
- Uneven treatment of buffalo with brucellosis and tuberculosis cf. cattle



WILDLIFE RANCHING FUTURE PROJECTIONS

Incorrect perceptions

Legal framework

Lack of veterinary support: too few experienced wildlife vets

Lack of knowledge

- Animals in new dynamic situations
 - Moving of species
 - Mixing of species (domestic/wild)
 - Fencing
 - Intensification



A close-up photograph of two rhinoceroses facing each other in a savanna setting. Their horns are touching at the tips, and they appear to be in a calm, social interaction. The background is a soft, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The rhinos' skin is dark and textured, and their eyes are visible.

THANK YOU

TO A NEW BIGGER, BRIGHTER AND MORE PRODUCTIVE FUTURE