Impact of Responsible Hunting on Sustainable Wildlife Ranching

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Biodiversity economy
- Wildlife-based tourism R104 bil
- Consumptive hunting R8.6 bil
- Trophy Hunting R1.6 bil
- Game sales at auction >R1.1 bil
- Processed products R4.5 bil

Conservation targets
- Threatened species and ecosystem

Ecosystem services (R73bn 3%GDP)
- Supporting the economy

Extensive wildlife areas

Extensive private land / game farms
- 16% national estate
- 3x the land of formal PA
- 16 mil head of game vs PA 6 million
- Rhino...Roan...Wild dog......

Communal areas

Protected areas

Fragmentation
- Cash crops
- Settlements
- Mining
- Forestry
Hunting as an income stream acts as one of the incentives to land managers to maintain these extensive ecosystems.
- 30%+ of income on wildlife ranches derived from hunting
- Hunting is an incentive to maintain extensive wildlife areas
- Other landuse options in dryland areas limited
- Eco-tourism not competitive on smaller areas, <5% income from tourism
- An important role in securing extensive wildlife areas that comprises 14% of the country, which is 2.2 times greater than the area covered by South African state protected areas

![Pie chart showing the proportion of income from different activities:]
- Ecotourism: 91%
- Trophy Hunting: 1%
- Consumptive Hunting: 8%
SA Hunters

- Established in 1949
- Hunting & Conservation
- 40 000 paid up members - 75 Branches
- About 600 Game Farmers

Total for RSA

- Estimated 300 000 hunters
- 28 Accredited Hunting Associations
- Estimated 75 000 hunters are members of Hunting Associations
- Average spend by hunter R 20 328
- Total Economic Contribution R8,55 billion/
- Total spend on game hunted R3,9 billion/
- Grown by 35% from 2013 to 2015
Consumptive Hunters

- Preferred destinations:
  - Limpopo (48%);
  - Northern Cape (18%);
  - Eastern Cape (11%)
- 8 species – 80% of animals hunted
- Springbok
- Impala
- Blesbuck
- Warthog
- Blue Wildebeest
- Kudu
- Gemsbok
- Black Wildebeest
TROPHY HUNTING

Trophy hunters to RSA
- 2011 - 9 138
- 2013 - 7 638
- 2014 - 7405

Total income
- 2011 - R901m
- 2012 - R811m
- 2013 - R1.1b
- 2014 - R1.6b

Preferred destinations
- Limpopo (40%); Northern West (16%); Eastern Cape (13%)

Trophy hunters to Africa
- R6 bil
- Creating 5300 Jobs
WHAT DO HUNTERS WANT?

• **Authentic hunting experience**
  • Wild animal in its natural environment – not canned or captive bred
  • Participate in experience and not just a “spectator”
  • Spending time in nature
  • An honest representation of the hunt – fair chase

• **Healthy, free-range protein source**
  • No hormones and antibiotics

• **Responsible hunting and game areas**
  • Legal actions
  • Adhere to local and universal rules, customs and best practise
  • No reputational damage (hunting + industry)
  • Must be sustainable (social, environmental, economical)

• **Protection of species and their habitats**
THE SOUTH AFRICAN STORY

- Game in RSA almost hunted out in previous century
- By 1940 estimated total number of game animals in RSA 500 000
- Legally Game = “Res Nullius” Belongs to nobody
- Farmers, Hunters and Conservationists wanted to turn this around
- Process led to changes in Stock Theft Act – early 90’s
- Appropriate enclosure and water supply
- Individual may claim game to be his property - value
- Net result hereof now
  - About 12 000 registered and exempted game ranches
  - Various reserves (National, Provincial, Communities and Municipalities)
  - Estimated number of game now 20 Million
- Conservation through sustainable utilisation – supported by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)
- Sustainable use acknowledged as key in conservation – imbedded in RSA biodiversity legislation
Hunting amongst other strategies pays for conservation and security costs for rhino.
RISKS AND CHALLENGES

- One of the biggest risks is probably the negative, global perception of hunting
- Followed closely by an unsupportive regulatory environment in SA
- A reduction in extensive or semi-extensive hunting area because competing land use
- Reputational damage, as a result of unsustainable or unacceptable hunting practice (full value chain issue, not just hunting)
- Profitability of wildlife ranching practices
- Domestication of wildlife
- Lacking, or inadequate, industry norms and standards
INTENSIVE BREEDING

**Individual animal**
- Adaptability – loss of rare alleles; welfare; social/behavioral

**Population**
- Loss in disease resistance/fitness; adaptability; imprinting – mate selection; social/behavioral; domestication

**Species level**
- Protected areas: 376
- Private sector: 1,483
- Private sector eligible: 8
- Conservation size: 233-272

**Disinvestment extensive game farms**
- Private sector contribution to ecosystem services + conservation targets

**Landscape – fences + landuse planning**
- Fragmentation – isolation; death species; habitat integrity

**Veterinary & disease**
- Resistant parasites – risk to wildlife and livestock populations

**Exposure to natural water limitations**
- Exposure to natural food limitations

**Disease and parasite resistance**
- Exposure to natural predation

**Individual animal**
- Age: 26/12/2013
- ID: "Saartjie" Microchip No: 945000001453224
- Remarks: Hand-reared Black Impala ewe

**Protected areas**
- Disease and parasite resistance

**Conservation size**
- Reproduction

**Fragmentation**
- Isolation; death species; habitat integrity
• **Reputational damage to biggest economic contributors**: hunting and ecotourism
• **BRAND SA and our Competitive advantage**
  - Minister of Tourism outspoken against canned hunting
  - Major Hunting Associations in North America, Europe and Africa has come out publicly against these practices (e.g. Boone & Crockett Club; SCI in America; The Nordic Safari Club; CIC in Europe; SAHGCA and PHASA) Also conservation organisations (IUCN), welfare (NSPCA) + Zoos (AZA)
• **Losing market share - Namibia still increase**
  - In 2006 RSA over 16 000 visiting hunters - Namibia 6 300
  - In 2014 Namibia over 23 000 visiting hunters – RSA 7 400
  - Germany’s leading hunting show will **no longer allow advertising or selling** of canned or captive hunts, including species bred as unnatural colour variations
• **Disinvestment in extensive wildlife areas**: private sector contribution to conservation targets ↓ (social value ↓ + financial value ↓) lead to economic implications
• **Other risks to social value**: Fragmentation of landscape, impact on threatened species, protected area expansion, veterinary risks, etc.
IN CONCLUSION

• Despite challenges, hunting and wildlife ranching are interdependent
• Risks should be identified and mitigated in collaboration
• Practices need to be responsible – socially, environmentally and economically acceptable
• Manage reputation - ensure that practices that are not acceptable internationally or by the broader community are not supported
• Industry approved standards should be developed and implemented throughout the value chain
• Develop a green certification and labelling scheme to ensure consumer can make truly informed decisions
• Regulations should be changed to be common sense and uniform and to create an enabling environment