GAME RANCHING IN SOUTH AFRICA: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION OR AGRICULTURE?

BACKGROUND

SOUTH AFRICA'S WILDLIFE RICHES

THE RISE OF COMMERCIAL WILDLIFE

CONTRIBUTION TO CONSERVATION OR DIVERGENCE

THE PROS AND CONS

CURBING THREATS

THE WAY FORWARD

BACKGROUND: HISTORY OF GAME RANCHING

- Legal background
  - Status of wildlife
  - Wildlife eradication programmes
- A loophole for landowners
  - Certificates of adequate enclosure
  - Exemption
  - 1968/69

South Africa's Wildlife Riches

- 3rd most diverse country in the world
- < 1% of global surface area
- 10% of global plant, fish & bird diversity
- 6% of mammal & reptile diversity
CONSERVATION IN SOUTH AFRICA TODAY

- National Parks System
- Provincial Nature Reserves
- Municipal Reserves
- Private Reserves
- Game Ranches
- Transfrontier Conservation Areas
- Education and training

Surface areas under conservation

- Official protected areas – 6.1%
- Private game ranches – 16.8% (20 500 000 ha)

SA’s conservation effort to date

- 18 000 white rhino
- 18 000 elephant
- 2 000 black rhino
- Black wildebeest, bontebok, mountain zebra, etc.
- 16 – 20 million game animals

THE RISE OF COMMERCIAL WILDLIFE

- Scarcity
- Profitability
- Trophy quality
- Colour variants
- Distribution
- Exotics
CONTRIBUTION TO CONSERVATION
- OR THE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CONUNDRUM

SOUTH AFRICA'S CONSERVATION GOALS
FAILING CONSERVATION EFFECTIVENESS
INDIRECT CONSERVATION
POLITICAL WILL/FUNDING PRIORITIES

THE PROS

Threatened & rare species conservation
Sable antelope
Roan antelope
White rhino/black rhino
Disease free buffalo
Contribution to hunting

CONS

Exotic species

Hybridization – West African Roan Eland
Black/blue wildebeest Hartebeest/tdsebe/blesbuck
Genetic aberrations
Movement of indigenous species
Disease control
CURBING THREATS THE OFFICIAL RESPONSE

Threatened or protected species (TOPS) regulations

SOME OTHER CONCERNS

- Fair value accounting
- Environmental legislation
- Veterinary restrictions
- Foreign ownership

GAME SPECIES AND TOPS REGULATIONS

CERTIFICATION INCENTIVES

- TAX REBATES/BIODIVERSITY SUBSIDY
- FOOD SECURITY – RED MEAT CHAIN
- MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PRODUCT
- HEALTHIER

Biodiversity conservation or agriculture?
THANK YOU