

THE ZIMBABWE WILDLIFE INDUSTRY

- A BRIEF OVERVIEW

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Operation Noah

- ▣ 1958 – 1964
- ▣ Rupert Fothergill
- ▣ 6000 animals
- ▣ *"take such measures as they thought necessary to save animals from the rising water."*
- ▣ Necessity became the mother of invention
- ▣ First to use dart guns and drugs in Zimbabwe
- ▣ 1964 – formation of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management (formerly a division under Department of Mines since 1952).



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Parks & Wildlife Act - 1975

- ▣ Gave authority to private landowners to manage, utilise and benefit from animals on their property.
- ▣ Massive expansion in wildlife industry.
- ▣ Basis for development of conservancies.
- ▣ ZPWMA sold wildlife to private land owners.
- ▣ Resulted in full time capture teams.
- ▣ Leaders in the field.
- ▣ WPA under CFU
- ▣ Pioneers in Elephant Translocation – Clem Coetzee



Role of Parks & Wildlife Management Authority

- ▣ Apart from National Parks:
- ▣ Regulatory
 - Permits
 - Quotas
 - Scientific Department
- ▣ Monitoring
- ▣ Security/ Anti-poaching
- ▣ Joint Venture/ partnerships – eg Gonarezhou Trust

Conservancies

- ▣ From previous land used for cattle
- ▣ Eg: SAVE Valley Conservancy
 - Used to be 3400sq km
- ▣ Buby Valley Conservancy
 - 3740 sq km
 - 20% of country's lions
 - Rhino Protection Area
- ▣ Nuanetsi Ranch / Malilangwe
- ▣ Food security / Exports

CAMPFIRE

- ▣ 1982 – the Act was amended to include communal areas, management of which was through Rural District Councils.
- ▣ CAMPFIRE –Communal Areas Management Program for Indigenous Resources
- ▣ Highly regarded
- ▣ To ensure local communities received benefit from wildlife on their land

Tourism



Hunting/Guiding

- ▣ Zimbabwe renowned and respected for its “mentorship-based” training program.



Veterinary Department

- ▣ FMD policy to protect beef export market to EU
- ▣ Fences and “zones”
- ▣ Minimise contact between buffalo and cattle.
- ▣ Collaboration between PWMA and Vet Department
- ▣ Establishment of Wildlife Unit



Recent Years

- ▣ Generally centralised control
- ▣ Land Redistribution Program
- ▣ Old Policies



Associations

- ▣ Zimbabwe Wildlife Association (ZWA)
- ▣ Safari Operators Association of Zimbabwe (SOAZ)
- ▣ Zimbabwe Professional Hunters and Guides Association (ZPHGA)
- ▣ Many Others





Cecil !

- ▣ Impact of Social Media
- ▣ Public Relations
- ▣ Damage to Image
- ▣ Anti-Hunting Lobbyists
- ▣ Attempted smuggling



The Challenges

- ▣ Decreasing wildlife area
- ▣ Subsequent increasing numbers of people/livestock
- ▣ Finding ways to ensure wildlife becomes an asset to the average person.
- ▣ Strong support towards community based wildlife conservation programs
- ▣ Need to get creative.
- ▣ Need unity of purpose and political support.

Future?

- ▣ Past successes and current potential need to be built upon.
- ▣ Clear and enabling policies needed – reviews are under way
- ▣ More unity in approach to conservation (different Ministries involved)
- ▣ Benefits of responsible hunting need to be highlighted.
- ▣ PR campaign



It's not over till the fat lady
sings...

