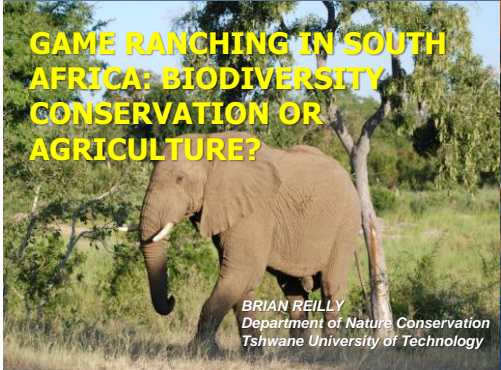




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**GAME RANCHING IN SOUTH AFRICA: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION OR AGRICULTURE?**

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**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




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**BACKGROUND: HISTORY OF GAME RANCHING**

- Legal background
  - Status of wildlife – *Res nullius*
  - Wildlife eradication programmes
- A loophole for landowners
  - Certificates of adequate enclosure – exemption
  - 1968/69





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**South Africa's Wildlife Riches**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> most diverse country in the world
- < 1% of global surface area
- 10% of global plant, fish & bird diversity
- 6% of mammal & reptile diversity




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**CONSERVATION IN SOUTH AFRICA TODAY**



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




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**Surface areas under conservation**



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

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**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

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**THE RISE OF COMMERCIAL WILDLIFE**

- Scarcity
- Profitability
- Trophy quality
- Colour variants
- Distribution
- Exotics






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## CONTRIBUTION TO CONSERVATION

### -OR THE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CONUNDRUM

SOUTH AFRICA'S CONSERVATION GOALS

FAILING CONSERVATION EFFECTIVENESS

INDIRECT CONSERVATION

POLITICAL WILL/FUNDING PRIORITIES



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## THE PROS

Threatened &amp; rare species conservation

Sable antelope  
Roan antelope  
White rhino/black rhino  
Disease free buffalo

Contribution to hunting



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## CONS

Exotic species

Hybridization – West African Roan

Eland

Black/blue wildebeest

Hartebeest/tsessebe/blesbuck

Genetic aberrations

Movement of indigenous species

Disease control





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**CURBING THREATS THE OFFICIAL RESPONSE**

Threatened or protected species (TOPS) regulations




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**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

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**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION OR AGRICULTURE?**

