

**Statement on Hunting submitted to the
Panel of Experts by Community
organisations with and interest in
conservation and hunting**

Pretoria, 11th August 2005

Community Statement on Hunting

On the 4TH and 5TH of August 2005, 30 community representatives, representing communities from eight provinces that have an interest in hunting and conservation met in Pretoria. The list of community representatives is set out under Annex 1.

For two days we discussed our concerns, as well as aspirations regarding hunting, conservation and poverty relief. It was clear that while some of us had experience in dealing with hunters, damage causing animals and conservation, we also realized that we are just at the beginning of dealing with a complex issue. However, there was overwhelming consensus that hunting and the industry around it represent an opportunity to help address rural poverty.

We subscribed to the view that hunting should be conducted in a way that respects and appreciates the animals that are being hunted and that all hunting should be done within a sustainable use framework. We are apposed to “canned hunting” as well as hunters that abuse community land and animals by “bribing” community leadership to give them permission to hunt on communal land.

Case Studies

We heard about the Makuleke Community who decided to keep their reclaimed land under conservation and have used professional outfitters. They have raised substantial revenue for community development by selling the rights to hunt excess animals on their land in the Kruger National Park. They have generated over R3 million in four years, used to improve the lives of their people by funding the electrification of their villages, building additional classrooms and implementing other smaller projects.

We also heard about the Mathenjwa community in KwaZulu Natal who had made a decision to convert communal grazing land into conservation land and are using hunting to raise money for maintaining the land and improving facilities in their Community Conservation Area. This has created jobs, increased support amongst the community for conservation and bio-diversity protection, as well as a sense of pride that they are determining their own futures.

Five key discussion themes

The workshop focused on four key themes. (Listed in the order they were discussed rather than importance.)

How to increase rural community and previously disadvantaged individuals' involvement in the Trophy Hunting Industry

How to deal with damage-causing animals that escape from state and private conservation areas

The differences between recreational and traditional hunting

What benefits could come from hunting for community development as well as for their conservation plans

The existing regulatory and permitting system

Our statement picks up on these themes, highlights our concerns and makes some suggestions.

Theme 1. The trophy hunting industry

We understand that trophy hunting is essentially done by overseas hunters who come to South Africa to hunt for the thrill and experience of hunting the big five and that they really do take a trophy back with them in the form of a the skin and head of the animals they have shot. We explored the whole chain of the trophy hunting industry. These are
Land and game owners who sell their animals for hunting,
Outfitters who do the marketing and packaging of the hunting tour,
Professional Hunters who accompany the hunter on the hunt,
Accommodation establishments that cater for the hunters and their families,
Guides who take hunters and their families to see other aspects besides hunting in South Africa,
Trainers that train professional hunters and outfitters,
Taxidermists that prepare the trophy for export to the hunter.

In summary, we found that this industry is an “old boys club” of white men who keep the clients and their networks to themselves for financial gain. The standards and requirements set for one to become a professional hunter, which you need before being registered as an outfitter, or before you can become the director of a hunting academy, are stacked against black individuals. Of concern is the new proposed training standards, being proposed by the SETA, which will ask for two years informal hunting experience making it even harder for black community members to be trained as professional hunters.

We noted that the new category being proposed in the profession, of a “Hunting Guide” which would allow PDI’s to guide local hunters to do biltong hunting. In theory this could be a step in the right direction as the biltong hunting market accounts for nearly three times as much turnover as trophy hunting. However, we are concerned that this could perpetuate the division between trophy and recreational hunting professions with black professionals only accessing the local recreational hunting market.

Our detailed analysis and recommendations are attached as Annex 2.

We therefore note and recommend the following;

That the obvious place the community can be part of the process and therefore get benefits from the industry is as owners of conservation land and game. However, the slow pace of land reform in protected areas is hampering this. We are encouraged by efforts by some provincial conservation agencies and DEAT poverty relief programs to create conservation areas on communal land. This will help deal with the fact that most hunting takes place on private, white owned land.

All land claims settlements in National and Provincial protected areas, must give the explicit right to claimants to sustainably hunt either for themselves or to sell the rights to professional hunters. The quantity and kind of game to be hunted will be agreed with the conservation agency so that it is done sustainably and does not threaten any tourist activity. This is in line with the Protected Areas Act which gives harvesting rights to neighboring and land owning communities.

The proposed training standards need to be evaluated to see if they will enable or frustrate the emergence of black professionals in the hunting market.

We welcome the Hunting BEE scorecard that has been proposed but think it does not go far enough to deal with all aspects of the hunting value chain.

We propose that the state uses its game resources and hunting rights to push for change in the industry, by giving preference to outfitters that show they are doing their best to assist black and community involvement in the industry. The right to hunt game on state land such as military land could be given out to communities, who in turn could partner

with professionals.

A key instrument that could be used by the state is in the issuing of CITES permits which should only be given to outfitters who are able to demonstrate community and PDI involvement. Where communities have the animals on their own land, an agreed percentage of the CITES permits should be issued for hunting on these pieces of land.

We suggest that there is an annual indaba of all role-players including us as community conservation organizations to discuss the state of the industry and what progress is being made in terms of changing the “whites only” nature of the trophy hunting industry.

Theme 2 - How to deal with damage-causing animals (DCA) that escape from state and private conservation areas.

We decided to raise the issue of so-called problem animals in this forum as we live on the border and suffer when a lion, elephant and other trophy animals escape. Often these animals are then hunted either for profit or by provincial rangers who have no other choice but to destroy the animal.

We do not agree with defining animals that escape from private or state conservation areas as Problem-Causing Animals. We have lived alongside these animals for centuries and there are only certain times that they pose a threat to these communities. We therefore decided to call these animals “damage-causing animals”.

A definition: a damage-causing animal (DCA) is one that either presents an imminent danger or is destructive in such a way that it negatively affects the livelihood potential of individuals or communities, be that through loss of income (including crops and livestock), habitats or loss of limb or life. There are deviations in animal behaviour so an animal that may not present a threat one day may become dangerous the next.

As traditional communities we promote conservation and are totally against unethical and illegal hunting of these DCA's as well as other animals. Government must formulate compensation and hunting of DCA policies, monitoring and law enforcement mechanisms.

The issue of compensation for loss of livelihoods or injury remains a sore point for us. An agreed system of game owners compensating or insuring themselves against compensation claims needs to be explored.

Since the legal framework of our country is clear about land rights and administration in tribal or traditional areas or communities, traditional communities affected by Damage-Causing Animals need to the right to manage and control DCA's.

The community is prepared to appoint a person who will immediately report the sighting of a DCA.

The traditional communities further deem it fit and fair to effectively participate in DCA issues by establishing legal entities, which can enter into joint ventures as equal partners with professional hunters in order to acquire skills and capacity to handle DCA.

In the long term, traditional communities should be able to manage DCAs independently. Income generated from the management and control of DCAs would accrue 1) to a community fund and 2) individual victims or the dependents of the deceased, will be compensated, as well as individuals whose livestock or crops have been damaged.

The issuing of permits to professional hunters who will hunt Damage Causing Animals

has to be expedited because undue delays obviously allow further damage. Officers issuing permits should be decentralised to districts in which DCA activity is prevalent. DCA monitoring is required in order to identify worst affected areas.

Greater awareness is required among traditional communities regarding their legal rights to a safer environment, their property and compensation where applicable. Nationals and provincial conservation agencies should give this, with assistance from environmental NGOs.

Theme 3 - Recreational and traditional hunting

African communities have hunted for many years. One could even say we were the first hunters. However, over the last two centuries the colonial governments outlawed the way we hunt, as they took control of our natural resources. It must be remembered that it was only after the arrival of white hunters with their vast firepower and greedy hunting zeal that we needed to create protected areas to stop the killing to extinction of the big five.

We see that while there are differences between what the industry call “biltong or recreational” hunting and traditional hunting there are also similarities. We see of traditional hunting practiced by many communities in the following terms.

The purpose of traditional hunting is not for money but for subsistence, rituals/ ceremonies, medicinal, rites of passage.

The methods used include hunting with spears, using dogs, traps and snares. While we agree that snares and traps are not ethical, however to only see hunting with a rifle without the use of dogs as the only ethical form of hunting is a white liberal point of view. What about American and European hunting that uses dogs, such as bird, fox and leopard hunting? Is it a problem only when it comes to black rural communities using dogs.

Traditional hunting in South Africa is illegal in most areas, however so more forward thinking conservation authorities issue permits and involve traditional authorities in the process. These methods of hunting are a dying practice that needs revival and management. As long as these practices are seen as illegal it will remain unmanaged and be a constant source of conflict between conservation and communities. Legalization will allow for improved methods and possibly even become part of the trophy hunting industry as foreign hunters want to experience traditional hunting methods.

Hence our desired state in term of traditional hunting is to set up formal processes for community hunter to apply for traditional hunting permits through traditional and local authorities. Also permits should be given for traditional hunting for medicinal purposes. These permits would only allow selected hunting methods, snares and traps must remain outlawed.

We suggest that a revival of traditional hunting could take place through initiation schools where a permit can be issued to these schools. Conservation awareness and education for learners via conservation agencies is also needed to prevent a case where any animal is hunted in this way. There is a need to establish monitoring and management mechanisms.

Theme 4 - What benefits could come from hunting for community development as well as for their conservation plans.

As community organizations trying to establish conservation areas or agreeing use reclaimed land for conservation, we see that we can get many benefits from hunting. The first category of benefits is those that can be used to assist put communal land under conservation and secondly those benefits that directly benefit our rural residents living outside protected areas.

Hunting can give the following benefits for community conservation areas

Income and incentives for investments into infrastructure eg roads, fences, lodges etc

Jobs within CCA

Promotes land rehabilitation

Skills for community members

Land-use change – increasing land under conservation and biodiversity

Enhanced ecotourism potential

Enables networking with private sector, hunters, tourists

Hunting is part of managing numbers of wild animals

Increased involvement and support from communities for conservation

Hunting can be a low impact on land but create high income

Hunting can also give the following “Benefits beyond the boundaries” of Community Conservation Areas.

Conservation education and awareness for community members

Create badly needed employment in rural communities

Allow for harvesting of natural resources for community use in the CCA

Appreciation of the value of animals inside and outside CCA

Recreational opportunities for community inside the CCA

Investment in social development using income from trophy hunting

Improved relations between communities and conservation authorities

Infrastructure spinoffs: improved infrastructure for bordering communities when infrastructure supplied to the reserve

Community cohesion and participation in decision-making

Improvement in relationships between traditional leadership, government and CBOs

However, we noted that hunting, like conservation, will only deliver these kind of benefits where there is an enabling or empowering framework that the hunting industry is forced

to abide by. The industry must be encouraged to perform according to good practice, which includes supporting community conservation efforts. A suggestion is to have the same kind of guidelines developed with the industry that DEAT created for the tourism industry in the form of the “Responsible Tourism Guidelines”. We feel that there are many hunters who besides wanting to hunt ethically also want to make a contribution to the lives of communities who are making their own contribution to conservation and biodiversity. In this way hunting can be seen as making a contribution towards poverty alleviation.

Theme 5 - The existing regulatory and permitting system

It is clear that the current regulatory framework is insufficient to manage this industry. While in some instances devolving the responsibility to a provincial authority is useful given the lack of capacity at a national level, we note that there is too much fragmentation. If hunting is going to give us the benefits we envisage and if the industry is going to become more representative of communities and PDI's, then a national framework that sets targets, and monitors compliance is needed.

As communities, we support a new framework that enforces ethical practices in hunting and want to be part of a cleaned-up industry. To do this we need government and the hunting industry to create awareness amongst our children and adults about hunting and conservation so we can play our part.

Annexure 1

Attendance register of community members 4th and 5th August Community hunting workshop

| Name | Organisation | Position | Province | Contact | Cell |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Patson Khoza | Endangered Wildlife Trust | Admin Officer [Con Leadership Gr] | Gauteng | 011 486 1102 | 082 929 0649 |
| Axon Malumane | Setlhare community Land Claim | Chairman | Limpopo | 015 793 2548 | 083 453 1034 |
| Aaron Mahumani | Letaba Mulezhe Development Trust | Chairperson | Limpopo | 014 717 5316 | 082 717 7104 |
| Chief TJ Ramovha | Lubambiswano Forum | Chairperson | Limpopo | 015 759 4013 | 082 454 2692 |
| Elmon Mthombothi | Manombe Management Committee | Chairperson | Mpumalanga | 015 759 4013 | 082 328 1754 |
| Elna Mathonsi | Hlanganani Forum | Chairperson | Limpopo | 073 761 0649 | 083 5498141 |
| Francis Mhinga | Phalaborwa Forum | Chairperson | Limpopo | 015 769 1759 | 082 711 4311 |
| Godfrey Lesufi | Masebe Community Tourism Association | Chairperson | Limpopo | 015 491 2238 / 082 826 6772 | |
| Jacob Moabelo | Mahlamba-Ndlopfu Forum | Chairperson | Limpopo | | 072 704 7378 |
| Mavis Mathebula | Modjadji Nature Reserve | Chairperson | Limpopo | | 072 869 7678 |
| Patrick Morata | Malebocho Management Committee | Chairperson | Limpopo | | 072 1992542 |
| Zeblon Gumede | Tshanini Community Game Reserve | Chairperson | KwaZulu Natal | | 083 7185789 |
| Zibuthe Mngwazi | Masiphumelele Development Tourism | Chairperson | Western Cape | | 083 774 1319 |
| Danny Stander | Covie Community Committee | Committee Member | Western Cape | 044 385 1442 | 082 679 0425 |
| Sambane Mlambo | Wildlands Conservation Trust \Mathenjwa | Community Facilitator | KwaZulu Natal | | 072 4923671 |
| Steve Aphane | Mpumalanga | Community Representative | Mpumalanga | | 082 9049694 |

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| Mandla Tembe | EKZN Wildlife | Community Conservation Officer | KwaZulu Natal | | 082 256 8816 |
| Mpho Ntsike | Valencia / Mayibuye Ndlouvu Trust | Community Representative | Eastern Cape | | 082 851 4004 |
| Clement Mphotshane | Usuthu Trust | Co-ordinator | KwaZulu Natal | 035 591 0114 072 154 9503 | |
| Sipho Sibiya | Malibuye Tembe Elephant Park | Co-ordinator | KwaZulu Natal | | 073 2578170 |
| Samson Madumi Danisa | Mutale Municipality | Councillor Dep.Dir. | Limpopo | | 082 873 3041 |
| Daniel Mahlangu | MP Dept. of Agriculture | Conservation Management | Mpumalanga | 013 656 5469 | 082 8549257 |
| David Sutherland | Sutherland Hunting Academy | Director | Mpumalanga | 013 744 1481 | 084 6050682 |
| Robin L. Turner | University of California at Berkeley | Doctoral student in political science | Gauteng | | 073-777-2710 |
| Sibongile Molefe | Stepmo Enviromental Club | Enviromental Trainer | KwaZulu Natal | 033 701 2601 | 072 369 2971 |
| S'Phelele Mtshengu | Women's Leadership TP | Enviromental Trainer | KwaZulu Natal | 033 701 2601 | 082 210 7799 |
| Livingstone Maluleke | Makuleke CPA | Executive Committee Member | Limpopo | 015 853 0063 | 083 457 2252 |
| Promise Mkhize | Emandleni Community Trust | General Secretary | KwaZulu Natal | | 082 517 34 66 |
| Dennis Skhalela Chief | Makuleke CPA | Implementation Officer | Limpopo | 015 853 1286 | 082 830 0309 |
| Matlapeng | Batlokwa Boo Kgosi Tribal Administration | Kgosi | North West | 014 517 0218 | 073 1970655 |
| Nicholas Cepu Victor Gumede | Mkambati Land Trust Hluhluwe Umfolozi Community / Community Policy Forum | Member | Eastern Cape KwaZulu Natal | | 073 796 9984 072 2007408 |
| Absalom Kwazi Manyanga | JOBE T/A | Member and Chairperson of WC | KwaZulu Natal | 035 838 1913 | 082 541 6083 |

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|--|--|--|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Jan Jacobus Joseph Amon Sithole | Griqua National Conference of South Africa Wildland Conservation Trust | Member of the Griqua National Conference | Western Cape | | 072 149 8917 083 514 7443 |
| Aubrey Ngeni Vetty Mahamba Norbert Coetzee | Bersheba Dev. Forum Mbangweni Trust | Project Manager | KwaZulu Natal | 035 789 0562 | 072 137 7858 |
| Betty Bukhosini | Mabibi Community Trust | Secretary Secretary | Eastern Cape | 042 230 1520 | 082 345 9651 |
| Naledi Rapoo | Riemvasmaak Community Development | Supervisor - Riem.Eco-Tourism | Northern Cape | 054 431 0945 | 073 517 2259 |
| Simon Seganoe | Balete ba Lekgophung Dev. Trust/ Sebolao Dev. Trust/ Batlokwa Boo Kgosi Tribal Adm | Vice Chairperson | KwaZulu Natal | | 073 517 2259 |
| | | | North West | 018 365 9908 | 083 404 6712 |
| | | | North West | 014 553 2753 | 073 311 2942 |

**Annexure 2
trophy hunting industry**

| Land and game owners (issue around ownership) | Majority of hunting land is owned by white individuals Provincial reserves | Many well stocked community conservation areas (piece of land owned by the | |
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| Part of hunting industry | Current state give hunting rights on tender. | Desired state used for conservation) with hunting use/rights. | Strategies |
| | <p>Communal land not involved, only in very few isolated areas.</p> <p>Lots of state owned or managed land, not optimally use.</p> <p>No benefit from hunting or game sales to bordering communities.</p> | <p>Provincial authority to give out the rights to adjacent communities, instead of open tender. But communities must come up with the lease money.</p> <p>Clear ownership rights in protected areas.</p> <p>Communities and BEE outfitters are part of hunting right process.</p> <p>Percentage of sale</p> | |

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| <p>Land and game owners (issue around ownership)</p> | <p>Majority of hunting land is owned by white individuals</p> | <p>Many well stocked community conservation areas</p> |
| | <p>Provincial reserves give out hunting rights on tender.</p> | <p>(piece of land owned by the community used for conservation) with hunting use/rights.</p> |
| | <p>Communal land not involved, only in very few isolated areas.</p> | <p>Provincial authority to give out the rights to adjacent communities, instead of open tender. But communities must come up with the lease money.</p> |
| | <p>Lots of state owned or managed land, not optimally use.</p> | |
| | <p>No benefit from hunting or game sales to bordering communities.</p> | <p>Clear ownership rights in protected areas.</p> |
| | | <p>Communities and BEE outfitters are part of hunting right process.</p> |
| | | <p>Percentage of sale (tangible benefits, not just meet) goes towards community development, just like a percentage of gate entrance fees goes to the</p> |

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| <p>Professional Hunters</p> | <p>Not a PDI as it is not a profession in SA.</p> <p>Fragmented affirmative approaches being tried by provincial authorities.</p> <p>Current policy is restrictive and not enabling. (Every province has a different policy)</p> | <p>Many community or black outfitters especially with rights on communal land.</p> <p>A nationally coordinated programme driven by DEAT. Assistance is very fragmented at the moment, there's no continuity between provinces</p> | <p>BEE scorecard.</p> <p>Training and learner ships.</p> <p>State to use cites permits and tenders in to support PDI outfitters.</p> <p>BEE incentives to existing outfitters.</p> <p>Accessible financial support to enable equipping of PDI outfitters. Training costs.</p> <p>Promote partnerships between current and emerging outfitters (need for proper mentor ships).</p> <p>Annual gathering of role-players. Analysis/learn lessons. How to increase involvement not if?</p> |
| | | <p>Want a clearly defined national policy which enables community and PDI participation.</p> | <p>Review qualification process to allow PDI's to enter industry.</p> |

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| <p>Professional Hunters</p> | <p>Seen PLOs through a professional stage hunters and the few of training pros that have been professional is hunters.</p> <p>Training is currently not affordable.</p> | <p>Many professional hunters are PDI's and are employed as professional hunters.</p> <p>As professional as now but accessible</p> | <p>Recruitment (career guidance and community mandated trainees.)</p> <p>Training and learner ships.</p> <p>Incentives for learner ships to existing outfitters and professional hunters.</p> |
| | <p>Professional Hunters Association has too much status in some provinces.</p> | <p>Basis of membership is freedom of association and membership should not be needed for professional hunters status.</p> | <p>Need to change prior hunting experience needed for professional hunters and outfitters.</p> <p>Provincial authorities must open up opportunities.</p> <p>Need financial resources nationally in order to enable provincial authorities to continue training people.</p> |

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| <p>Accommodation for hunters</p> | <p>Secure relationships linked to this stage but not skipt and the objectives of the projects have been achieved in being affiliated close to hunting area.. Training is currently affordable has to meet certain criteria i.e. safe for the guns etc.</p> | <p>Geographic spread of community hospitality facilities.</p> <p>As professional as now but accessible</p> <p>Affordable for PDI's through subsidy scheme</p> | <p>Establish have some kind of policy facilities linked to community. DIFA and SETA to financial assistance is needed. Percentage of poverty relief money to go to hunting facilities.</p> <p>Ensure the hunting</p> |
| | | | <p>BEE scorecard includes hospitality supplies.</p> <p>Provincial agencies issuing tenders must ask where client is staying (to see if they use community facilities).</p> <p>Outfitters must be encouraged to provide information about possible visits to bordering communities for</p> |

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| <p>Accommodation for hunters</p> | <p>No accommodation is provided but most ships are located within the industry..</p> <p>Accommodation normally on or close to hunting area..</p> <p>Accommodation has to meet certain</p> | <p>Outfitters to seek blankets for community hospitality facilities.</p> | <p>Establish BEE equity content of agencies linked to community initiatives.</p> <p>Financial assistance is provided.</p> <p>Percentage of poverty relief money to go to hunting facilities.</p> |
| | <p>criteria i.e. safe for the guns etc.</p> | | <p>Ensure the hunting BEE scorecard includes hospitality supplies.</p> <p>Provincial agencies issuing tenders must ask where client is staying (to see if they use community facilities).</p> <p>Outfitters must be encouraged to provide information about possible visits to bordering communities for hunters.</p> <p>Hospitality providers to make learner ships available.</p> |

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| Taxidermists | No black owned taxidermists but most employees are black within the industry.. | Want to see black owned taxidermists. | Use the BEE equity route. Encourage worker equity. BEE hunting scorecard to include taxidermists. Get PDI's into the 'dipping & shipping' industry via the BEE route. |
| Guiding (for tourism purposes) | Often the professional hunter does the guiding too. Guiding industry is mostly white. | Outfitters are encouraged to use black guides or community tourism companies. | Make BEE hunting score card include guiding aspect. Where a community's animals are hunted, encourage community/cultural visits. Need more integration between hunting & guiding accreditation. |
| Hunting Guide (for local, recreational hunting) | Not formalised qualification yet. Cannot take out international client. Includes skills such as tracking and skinning. This qualification falls under conservation. | Should be formalised as a recognised skill | Provincial agencies must accredit hunting guides for non-trophy hunting. |

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