



Hunting Good or Bad

In many countries in Africa the hunting industry is being blamed for a decrease in animal numbers. In any profession, even the hunting profession, rotten apples can be found.



The decision of the Botswana government and the Zambian government to close hunting operations down in 2013 and 2014 has come as a surprise. The reasoning behind these actions is firstly because they feel that hunting is responsible for the decline in the numbers of the various species and secondly to promote



photographic safaris in these hunting areas. It is a well known fact that previous hunting contracts all over Africa made provision for infrastructure that could be removed. No fixed structures were allowed in these hunting concessions. This resulted in safari operators putting up tented camps and with the ending of these hunting contracts these tented camps will be dismantled and removed, leaving nothing behind. How is this area now going to benefit from a photographic point of view if there are no accommodation facilities? In the past it was a requirement in hunting contracts that the outfit operating in these so called government concessions employ a certain number of people from local communities to perform an anti-poaching incentive.





To make this happen, the outfitter had to make a hunting vehicle or hunting vehicles available to them so that the anti-poaching team could operate. These anti-poaching operations will now come to a grinding halt and Africa will be left in the hands of Africa.

Soon these hunting concessions where the wildlife were looked after, protected and previously utilised in a sustainable fashion will become empty and poached out. On a previous visit to an area 140 km north of the town of Tete in Mozambique it was unreal to see a fertile piece of Africa, totalling in the region of 260 000km², with hardly a living creature. Everything in this area had been poached; even the birds were few and far between. Approaching a water hole was like walking into a minefield full of landmines. Gin traps, big enough to catch a buffalo, littered the underground on every single game trail leading to a waterhole. Every day poachers were seen hunting with large packs of dogs and the government game scout that accompanied the explorers with an AK 47 rifle waved amicably as we passed them. Drying racks where something was killed are more prolific than trees in that particular area. Are we simply trading the good for the bad? The real answer for the decline in animal numbers

lies somewhere between the fact that there is no money to employ scientists to get to the bottom of the problem and the fact that the people that are supposed to look after the wildlife and manage it, receive no adequate funding and as a result of this they have their own agenda to make ends meet. It is also not uncommon to deal with incompetent individuals.



In the 2012 hunting season a total number of 13 CITES leopard permits were given to Botswana in the Limpopo and Tuli block area. Out of these 13 permits only 8 leopards were hunted by foreign hunters. In the adjacent areas close to these hunting areas an estimated number of 200 leopards were killed by farmers farming with livestock. Why can these problem animals not be targeted and utilised in the process instead of just shooting them and letting their bodies decompose?

NEWS

NEWS FROM MOZAMBIQUE



It has been confirmed that all 300 white rhino that were previously counted on the Mozambique side of the Limpopo Trans Frontier Park (this is the area located on the eastern side of Kruger National Park inside Mozambique) have been killed by poachers. A few years ago the game fence between Kruger National Park and Mozambique was taken down to create the Limpopo Trans Frontier Park. This enthusiastic gesture and what many people called a triumph for wildlife management on the continent, has now come back to haunt us. It's human to make mistakes, the question is: How long would it take us to learn from our mistakes and are we willing to correct them?

NEWS FROM ZIMBABWE

It is reported that three humans have been killed by female lions in the town of Kariba. The Civil Protection Unit is currently investigating the killings but up to date no lions have been brought to justice. Residents living in the area have been warned not to walk alone or walk around after dark. A fisherman that was fishing on Lake Kariba was recently attacked by a crocodile. The fisherman barely survived it.



CONSTRUCTION ON THE ESTATE

In the north eastern corner of the Estate a water reservoir and pump station are in the process of being built. A new fresh water pipeline is also in the process of being put in the ground. This is happening all along the northern side of the Estate parallel to Onverwacht. A sudden

bit of rain in the form of 40 mm forced the project managers to revert to plan B. These trenches are more than 2 metres deep and they were filled to capacity. Soon the pipes will be placed across the

road providing access to the Estate. This will result in some disruptions regarding the traffic coming onto and leaving the Estate.

From the Paarl Sewerage treatment facility a new sewerage line will soon be put in the ground, running from the treatment facility in a north westerly direction towards the western side of Onverwacht. Currently two houses are in the process of being built. One house is in Tholwane Street and the other one in Motlhabatsi Crescent.



Wildlife Quiz



1.	Baby hares will eat the droppings of their parents.	True or False
2.	A warthog is considered to be an omnivore.	True or False
3.	Water scorpions are not found in Lepahalale.	True or False
4.	Only a female mosquito can spread malaria.	True or False
5.	A steenbuck antelope will cover its droppings with sand.	True or False
6.	A duiker antelope is also known for covering its droppings with sand.	True or False
7.	A water scorpion can fly.	True or False
8.	Ochna pulchra is the Latin name for a plant/tree.	True or False
9.	A lion will cover its droppings with sand.	True or False
10.	A ground hornbill will eat wild fruit.	True or False



From your Wildlife Management Team



For information on property sales contact:
Tel: **012 665 5308**
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We would like to hear your story!

Should you have an event or story you would like to share, please send us your photos and a few words to **wildlife@lantic.net**



Answers: 1.(True), 2.(True), 3.(False), 4.(True), 5.(True), 6.(False), 7.(True), 8.(True), 9.(False), 10.(False).