Breakthrough – CIC coordinates global platform on hunting ammunition

The CIC is grateful to our colleagues from The World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities (WFSA: www.wfsa.net) and our friends from the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the European Union (FACE: www.face.eu) for the very constructive and groundbreaking meeting on 4 February between the organizations in Rome.

“The extraordinary achievement of this meeting was to agree to jointly find solutions for possible challenges arising in the use of hunting and sports ammunition with the prime objective to protect human as well as environmental health and security”, said Dieter Schramm, President of the CIC. The representatives of the 3 organizations concluded to form a continuous discussion platform to be coordinated by the CIC.

The 3 partners agreed in Rome on the next steps to take in relation to the design and implementation of a Road Map of collaboration.

Read the latest news on page 3

Nature conservation in the crunch of ideologies

The 15th Conference of Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was held from 3 to 25 March 2010. Over 42 proposals were on the table, reflecting growing international concern about the accelerating destruction of the world’s natural ecosystems through their overuse and the potential impacts of climate change on the biological resources of the planet.

(Continued on page 5)
You might recall that we have dealt with the issue of lead ammunition in this editorial some time ago – and I took the position – if indeed lead is considered “poisonous” in the eye of the public – we as hunters should not argue this issue but support the development of alternative solutions.

Since then, we, the CIC in collaboration with our partners e.g. FACE, AEWA kept up our engagement and in 2009 our General Assembly passed yet another recommendation (CICGA56.REC01) in which we dealt with leadshots. At that time we primarily looked at lead shot in waterfowl and wetlands where the hunting community called for a speedy solution to the use of lead shots. For many hunters the subject seemed closed – case solved, now leave us in peace.

The question, however, is by far more complex: today we know the issue of lead ammunition in general could not only be detrimental for wildlife, but – in consequence – could also be a problem for human health.

When we dealt with lead in ammunition in a 2009 workshop in Denmark organized and chaired by our prominent leaders Nils Kanstrup and Dick Potts, in which also our partners from FACE and BASC (The British Association for Shooting and Conservation) participated, we still primarily focused on wildlife. It was recognized that lead shot could present a problem on terrestrial areas as well and, unfortunately, lead in bullets can cause to varying extent secondary poisoning in predators and scavengers.

Increasing scientific evidence, however, suggests the possibility of contamination of game meat with lead from both shot and fragmented bullets. The topic gets up to a “red-hot” priority in my view, if there is the slightest possibility that human health might be affected by consuming game meat.

All our efforts to find alternatives for lead in ammunition must be seen in terms of minimum impact for endangering humans, animals, plants and our environment. Careful consideration is required – we can only warn against ad-hoc solutions. This is too ambitious a task for one organization alone – or even one group alone, e.g. the conservation hunters. We need concerted action – all parties concerned must get together: the hunting and sport shooting community in a constructive dialogue with the ammunition industry.

CIC and WFSA (World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities) got together in Vienna in December 2009 and consequently, joined forces in a meeting in Rome on 10 February 2010 together with FACE.

In Rome, our common concern about the ongoing discussion on ammunition was evident. All of us agreed we need a common management approach based on a Road Map developed by all concerned. The CIC offered to serve and was tasked to coordinate a platform for designing and implementing this Plan of Action in cooperation with our partners WFSA and FACE.

We need you as active hunter, as a member of CIC, to endorse and support this proactive approach to find alternative solutions for conventional ammunition, which includes (1) the assessment of risks (2) the elaboration of communication strategies (3) the coordination of media work (4) screening of research results to identify best practices and – particularly addressed to you (5) promotion of active involvement of hunters and sport shooters.

Are you coming to Dubrovnik? You do not know yet? Come on – convince the family, fill out the registration form now – your friends want to see you there and discuss our common work – including the issue above!
Focus: Latest news on lead ammunition

There are hundreds of sound scientific papers about the poisonous effects of lead and a recent milestone in the documentation was the 2009 book *Ingestion of Lead from Spent Ammunition* edited by Rick Watson and others, that spelled out important implications for wildlife and humans. The situation is complex with a lot of completely new information so that following Paris Recommendation “CICGA56. REC01”, the Division of Applied Science and the Migratory Birds Commission sought an independent technical up-date and evaluation of data. This took place during 5–7 November 2009 in a workshop titled “Sustainable Hunting Ammunition” held near Aarhus, Denmark. The workshop was convened and financed by the CIC although additional travel and other costs were met by attendee’s organizations and institutions and by private sponsors. Twenty one experts took part from ten countries including three in the Americas.

A vital point was that the invited scientists would be asked to give their expert opinion and it follows from this that the outcome of the Workshop was advice, not policy. Participants were concerned that unless the problems of lead ammunition were addressed soon, the issue could reverse the recent good work bridging the gap between hunters and wildlife conservationists. The main technical issue was the question of non-toxic alternatives and fresh in our minds was the “failure” of the first of the US Army’s experimental non-lead bullets. Professor Vernon Thomas from the University of Guelph had investigated this and several other replacements for lead and he put the record straight. There are in fact several types of replacements for lead ammunition that have passed every test. Equally important the Workshop saw the results of the very latest cartridge technology which enables steel/iron shot to equal lead shot ballistics. We were also shown that the wearing and damage to barrels, ricochets and wounding, often depend more on the expertise of the shooter than on the type of ammunition used.

Some miss-information stems from a perception amongst a few hunters that the anti-lead campaign is actually an anti-hunter campaign. It is no such thing. Some hunters even imagined that the CIC might be driving the campaign, as if we had our own biochemistry department that could mount such activity! There is a lot of “bad science” around especially where it relates to toxins, but the science on lead is not part of this. There is a serious science debate surrounding human health and low-level lead exposure, but it is important to recognize that the human health line of evidence is not the CIC’s prime concern, although we as hunters have responsibilities for the health of consumers of game meat. Compared to the evidence of ingested lead shot affecting wildlife and terrestrial bird species, humans are an afterthought. A vital point was that the invited scientists would be asked to give their expert opinion and it follows from this that the outcome of the Workshop was advice, not policy. Participants were concerned that unless the problems of lead ammunition were addressed soon, the issue could reverse the recent good work bridging the gap between hunters and wildlife conservationists.
waterbirds and upland birds and their predators, the human health evidence is not as compelling. The lead poisoning of waterfowl, upland game birds, and their predators is the solid evidence warranting the adoption of non-toxic ammunition. Our approach here is based on powerfully documented scientific evidence of extensive mortality of wildlife from different sources of ingested lead ammunition. For example a study by Dr. Mateo, IREC Ciudad Real, found almost 400 lead shot per square meter in some wetlands and he showed that the European waterfowl populations with an average prevalence of lead in gizzards of 10% or more were declining. The situation was similar in North America with such species as mottled duck canvasback and pintail affected, but now with the ban on the use of lead shot in wetlands the situation is improving.

Based on all the available information the advice from the Workshop was that CIC should adopt a “Road Map” joint approach together with other responsible organizations. Various parts of a phase-out of lead could be carried out at different speeds with risk assessments dictating the speeds. Adopting this approach may or may not prevent over-reactive legislation, it will depend on whether speedy progress can be made, but it would mean that hunters could become part of the solution rather than remaining identified as the problem.

Not just hunters, but everyone who is a stakeholder in the “Road Map” is so to stay in the same boat. Without sustainable hunting (politically and ecologically) there would be no need for any ammunition for game, so the ammunition manufacturers are obviously stakeholders, likewise gun makers. The science base is sound and the “attack” on lead ammunition is not an “attack” on hunting. It could, however, quickly turn into an attack on both hunters and ammunition manufacturers unless we all adopt a firm position as soon as practicable.

At its meeting in Brussels on 17 November 2009, the CIC Council expressed its appreciation for the organization of the workshop in Denmark and supported the “Road Map” approach.

Since then a delegation of CIC members and representatives from FACE and BASC had a first, very constructive and groundbreaking meeting with WFSA on 4 February 2010 in Rome.

A workshop report including abstracts, presentations and position statements will be available at the CIC website prior to the General Assembly in Dubrovnik.

Dr. Dick Potts
Chairman of the Division
Applied Science

Niels Kanstrup
President of Commission
Migratory Birds
The delegation of the CIC, consisting out of its Director General Kai-Uwe Wollscheid and its Special Adviser Tamás Marghescu, collaborated closely with the representatives of the International Professional Hunters Association, Conservation Force (John J. Jackson III), Federation of Hunting Associations in the EU (FACE) as well as Safari Club International and Safari Club International Foundation.

In the presence of 1,500 delegates representing more than 170 governments, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations and businesses, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Achim Steiner opened the Conference. He outlined the importance of the Convention for the conservation of biodiversity and called upon participants and here in the first instance upon the Parties of the Convention to provide the Secretariat of the Convention with the required resources to fulfill their mandate and meet the ever rising challenges and expectations. UNEP’s Executive Director emphasized that the conservation community was searching for a new vision and distinct targets for conservation. In this context he especially referred to the “Green Economy” programme of UNEP and its importance for the positioning of environmental issues in the future.

Mr. Steiner took the occasion of the opening ceremony to thank the outgoing Secretary General Willem Wijnstekers, who served the CITES Convention as Secretary-General since 1999 and will retire on 1st May 2010 for his leadership of the Convention throughout the last decade. He at the same time announced that the designated successor of Mr. Wijnstekers was Mr. John Scanlon, Australian National, who after leading the Environmental Law Programme of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for a number of years has been serving as a top adviser to the Executive Director of UNEP during the last 3 years in Nairobi, Kenya.

During the opening day, Kai Wollscheid and Tamás Marghescu were granted an appointment with the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Achim Steiner during his very short presence at the CITES COP in Doha. During the meeting it was agreed to explore the potential merits of intensifying the collaboration between UNEP and its Nature conservation in the crunch of ideologies
The CIC delegation also met with Elisabeth Maruma Mrema, newly appointed Executive Secretary of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and discussed next to the continuation of the fruitful collaboration between the CIC and CMS the possibilities of intensifying the capacity building needs of customs authorities. In the same context, the CIC expressed its interest to discuss a possible participation in the work of the coalition.

CIC also consulted with the delegation of China and commended it for its ongoing commitment to Tiger conservation and expressed appreciation for the efforts undertaken in order to support, e.g. the First Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation held earlier this year in Thailand. CIC shares China’s concerns about arising conflicts of some parties and NGOs aiming at having CITES reaching beyond the provisions of the Convention. Particularly in the context of Tiger conservation, the con-
certed efforts of the range states and the cooperative spirit among those countries have to be put in the focus.

During the Congress, the CIC delegation, in its role as intergovernmental observer organization to the Convention, was “working the corridors” of the conference to coordinate the efforts of stakeholders representing pro sustainable use opinions and is assisting parties in providing facts and science information to facilitate their informed decision making.

It has become a fight between animal welfare organizations, sustainable use promoting entities and lobbying national delegations which themselves are undermined and infiltrated by specific interests. It is questionable whether in this struggle the objectives of the convention can be pursued sufficiently.

Kai Wollscheid
Director General

Tamás Marghescu
Special Adviser

Over 42 proposals concerning the amendment of the CITES appendices were on the table. Yet, the CITES CoP15 will be remembered in the hunting world for the debates on polar bears and ivory trade.

CITES adopted a definition on hunting trophies, which considers worked and manufactured items made from the hunted animal as part of the hunting trophy:

“The term ‘hunting trophy’ means a whole animal, or a readily recognizable part or derivative of an animal, specified on any accompanying CITES permit or certificate, that:

i) is raw, processed or manufactured;
ii) was legally obtained by the hunter through hunting for the hunter’s personal use; and
iii) is being imported, exported or re-exported by or on behalf of the hunter, as part of the transfer from its country of origin, ultimately to the hunter’s State of usual residence.”

All decisions will soon be available online under www.cites.org

Watch the 4 minutes long video of David Morgan, Chief of the Scientific Support Unit of the CITES Secretariat explaining how the convention works:
www.cic-wildlife.org/index.php?id=524
New Leadership in the Spanish Delegation

As many of you are aware, since November 2009 the Spanish Delegation has elected a new Executive Committee, composed of very motivated members that aim to promote more activity in the Spanish Delegation. They are Javier Mira, Beltrán Cotoner, Duke of Linares, Estanislao Carvajal, Javier Roca de Togores and myself that I have the honour of being the Head of Delegation. Our basic targets are mainly the following:

(i) Communication: we believe that we need to increase the communication among members, both Spanish and international. For these purposes, we have already distributed the first issue of a newsletter among the members.

(ii) Scientific activities: CIC has a well known scientific reputation in the field of sustainable use of natural resources and we want to keep on organizing events like symposia on relevant matters concerning game management and sustainable hunting. We are now working on a symposium on the Spanish red-legged partridge with the great support of Juan del Yerro. We have also cooperated with the Spanish National Science Museum in an ambitious project of cooperation with hunters and their trophy collections. In this regard, a book has been published containing a CIC article supporting this Museum’s project.

(iii) Trophy Measurement: CIC has a really valuable asset which is its highly recognized trophy scoring system. We want to continue to computerize our database and promote the measurement in Spain by creating a Measurers network all over the country. We have recently reached agreements with reputable taxidermists and have set up a Scoring office in Los Yébenes (Toledo) thanks to the cooperation of the Garoz family.

(iv) Financing: we want to increase the number of members of the Spanish Delegation as we believe that there are a lot of people in Spain that share our principles and that still do not belong to our organization. We were present at one of the main Spanish hunting fairs, Venatoria which was held in March in Madrid where we had the opportunity to explain the value of CIC to interested people. Other sources of finance are the trophy scoring activity, our now traditional Spanish Ibex draw and the merchandising of CIC items.

Natural resources and hunting are of extreme importance in Spain and a strong CIC Delegation is a must. There are many Spanish hunters that are willing to cooperate with organizations like ours, that want to give their non-lucrative contribution for game conservation and would like to seriously work for future generations. We have to introduce ourselves to all these people and explain the CIC principles and spirit. We want to be a more and more useful part of the CIC.

Finally, I would like to thank once more the CIC management and the Budapest office staff for your constant support and help to achieve our common goals.

Luis de la Peña
Head of Spanish Delegation
The second regional exhibition of trophies took place in Timisoara, Romania, on 5 – 6 March 2010. The event was organised by the members of the CIC YO in collaboration with USAMVB (Banat University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Timisoara) and AJVPS (Hunting Association of Timis county).

CIC YO chose Romania as a partner in its project because Romania’s name is synonymous with the mystery of the Carpathians for hunters, and the country has been sending remarkable game trophies to international exhibitions.

The city of Timisoara was a practical choice for the venue as it is very close both to the Hungarian and to the Serbian border. Indeed, trophies and participants from these countries were abundant during the event. In total there were approximately 1500 students attending.

The main purpose of the exhibition was to present the CIC trophy evaluation method to the students of the Faculty of Forestry by Mr. Aleksandar Ceranic and Mr. Sima Mioc from the Serbian national commission of trophy evaluation. The theme of this year’s exhibition was the presentation and the evaluation of the roe deer and wild boar trophies, two of the most widely spread species of the area. During the 2-day event 210 trophies were evaluated, among which 69 roe deer and 141 wild boar trophies. In total 130 were awarded. The best roe deer trophy in the exhibition had 167.7 CIC points; the best wild boar trophy received 142.2 CIC points.

The visitors could learn about the role of hunters in the sustainable use of game management.

The event attracted the media’s attention and a good number of TV channels, radios and newspapers were reporting


Der Hauptzweck der Ausstellung bestand darin, den Studenten der Fakultät für Forstwirtschaft die Bewertungsmethode des CIC vorzustellen. Während der zweitägigen Ausstellung wurden 210 Trophäen bewertet und 130 mit Preisen ausgezeichnet.

Die Besucher konnten sich über die Rolle des Jägers bei einer nachhaltigen Bewirtschaftung des Wildbestandes informieren.

Die Veranstaltung zog die Aufmerksamkeit der Medien auf sich. CIC Young Opinion ist der festen Überzeugung, dass derartige Veranstaltungen eine große gesellschaftliche Wirkung haben.

La deuxième exposition régionale destrophées s’est déroulée en mars à Timisoara, Roumanie. L’événement a été organisé par les membres du Groupe de travail « Opinion jeune » du CIC.

Destrophées et des participants de Roumanie, de Serbie et de Hongrie étaient abondants durant l’événement. Au total, environ 1500 étudiants étaient présents.

L’objectif principal de l’exposition était de présenter la méthode d’évaluation du CIC aux étudiants de la Faculté de sylviculture. Pendant l’événement de 2 jours 210 trophées ont été évalués et 130 ont été attribués.

Les visiteurs ont eu l’occasion d’entendre parler davantage du
Die indische Delegation des CIC, gestärkt durch 25 neue Mitglieder, erklärte, dass „die Tierwelt Indiens als unschätzbares Erbe dem indischen Volk zum Nutzen künftiger Generationen anvertraut ist“ und forderte, Naturschutz aufgrund der Nachhaltigkeitsprinzipien zu entwickeln.

La délégation indienne du CIC, renforcée par 25 nouveaux membres a déclaré « la faune de l’Inde en tant que patrimoine inestimable confiée au peuple indien pour le bénéfice des futures générations » et demande à la conservation de se fonder sur le principe d’utilisation durable.

At the occasion of a recent mission of President Dieter Schramm and Vice-President Axel Graf Douglas to India, 25 new Members of CIC’s Indian Delegation committed themselves to the global principle of conservation through sustainable use by signing a declaration on 13 March in Delhi.

The conservation status of many Indian wildlife species worsened when in 1972 all legal hunting in all the states of India was banned by law by the Central Government. Likewise to many other countries where sustainable wildlife use is not permitted, wild living species were not any longer regarded as a vital part of nature and had lost their value to the land owner and the tenants. In the years passed, due to human pressure on habitat and misuse of natural resources, many species of the Indian wildlife are severely endangered or face to being lost forever. Additionally, throughout the Subcontinent poaching is committed on big scale. The rural population either kills the animals to protect their crop or to make use of the meat. Increasing human-wildlife conflicts therefore are a major challenge for conservation. The fish in many rivers have disappeared because of widespread dynamiting and poisoning. The illegal practice of electric fishing can be witnessed more and more. The authorities are unable to enforce the existing laws to protect the wildlife for many reasons, mostly because it is done by too large a number of people, influential members of the society included.

The declaration of CIC’s Indian Delegation clearly promotes “the wildlife of India as invaluable heritage entrusted to the Indian people for the benefit of future generations” and calls for conservation to be based on the sustainable use principle.

President Dieter Schramm expressed his thanks in the name of all the members of the CIC especially to Mr. Vidyacharan Shukla, former Minister, Govt. of India, HRH Maharaj Jai Singh of Jaipur, Dr. D.K. Arya, former Director General of Border Security Forces, India, HRH Raja Kamal Singh Sukra, Mr. M. M. Thapar, Mrs. Geeti Bhagat, Earth Foundation, India

The Head of the Indian Delegation of the CIC will be present at the GA in Dubrovnik and will inform the delegations about the projects in planning.
In 1970 wolves were practically extinct in Sweden and Scandinavia, but a large wolf population remained in Finland, Russia and Eastern Europe. During the period 1978 to 1982 at least three wolves moved into central Scandinavia and the first pair was formed in 1982/83 in the western part of Sweden. The wolf population has thereafter steadily increased and in 2008/09 44 territories were established with packs or pairs. The wolf population was estimated to be around 250 individuals in the end of 2009, concentrated to large forest areas in the central part of Sweden. One pair has established a territory approximately 50 kilometres from Stockholm. The population is highly inbred, because of its origin of only three animals, and actions are in force to increase the migration of wolves with fresh genes from Russia/Finland into Sweden. This action will increase the genetic variation. In recent years, two wolves have migrated to Sweden and there are at the moment approximately 20 offsprings from these two animals giving the wolf population of Sweden a much better genetic status.

In October 2009, the parliament decided to limit the wolf population to 210 animals for a period of four years. In 2012, there will be an evaluation and a further decision taken how the Swedish wolf population should be managed. During this period, the wolf population will be managed through regular population size estimations, radiotracking of animals and a strictly controlled hunting in areas where the population is high.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency issued this year a license for 27 wolves for five counties and beyond that about approximately 10 more wolves have been taken out, mainly in the reindeer area. The number is well within the recommendation from the Scandinavian wolf project. The hunting was open from January 2 to February 15. The regulations for the wolf hunt followed the directives from the EU concerning a strictly controlled hunting. People that wanted to hunt wolf, needed to register themselves at the Environmental Protection Agency. Approximately 12 000 hunters registered, but probably only around 5 000 were actually out hunting the wolves.

The conditions for hunting were perfect with cold weather, fresh snow allowing the hunters to track the wolves. The hunters coordinated the hunt over large areas and 20 wolves were shot the first day, and remaining 7 animals within three days.

The wolf hunt was heavily debated in the media and some people were upset about the hunt. However, polls made by different papers, and by the Swedish University of Agriculture demonstrated that there was a support for the hunt by the majority of the people, although there was a difference in the opinion between people living in the countryside compared to people living in cities.

The size of the wolf population as well as the number of pups born has been monitored during the winter and spring months. These figures will thereafter be the base for the quota that will be given for the hunt in the forthcoming winter.


**I7th Session of the FAO African Forestry and Wildlife Commission in Brazzaville, Congo**

Why are the heavily subsidised agricultural and forestry sectors in Africa not working together – in view of low productivity and increased competition on land resources? What is the role of wildlife and hunting in rural development and national accounts? What are the lessons drawn from 30 years of experience in community-based conservation?

These questions show that wildlife and sustainable hunting received prominent recognition by delegates at 17th Session of the FAO’s African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC), held 22-26 February 2010 in Brazzaville, Congo. The African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) is one of the FAO’s specialized commissions, which is unique, as it integrates both forestry and wildlife and operates since the 1960’s.

In his address to the heads of forestry and wildlife services of the African countries, CIC’ Director General Kai Wollscheid called upon delegates to “create Human-Wildlife-Alliances rather than manage Human-Wildlife-Conflicts!” This expression summarizes in a nutshell the questions crucial for wildlife conservation that need to be addressed by governments: how can wildlife in Africa contribute to poverty alleviation, food security and protected area management? Wildlife is important in the delivery of FAO’s mandate which addresses both food security, and poverty alleviation. Kai Wollscheid referred to the role model of FAO-CIC’s Wildlife Initiative for Central Asia and the Caucus (WICAC), which is working successfully with the support of the Czech Government and GTZ since 2006 and has meanwhile produced results also very relevant to the African context. He presented the “Principles and Guidelines for the Development of Sustainable Wildlife Management Laws” as baseline for progressive hunting legislation and invited delegates to make use of this toolkit.

During a well attended side event on “Best practices for Human Wildlife Alliances”, which was chaired by Dr. Edgar Kaeslin, FAO Wildlife & Protected Area Management Officer, Kai Wollscheid presented the latest three joint FAO-CIC publications on the economics of hunting tourism in Southern Africa, 30 years of experience in community based conservation and the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor in Tanzania (see also page 14).

The discussion with participants showed the need for making such experience and lessons learned available and hence is a proof of the relevance of the CIC Technical Series. Participants also called upon CIC and FAO to re-print the “Best Practices in Sustainable Hunting” publication.

Critical to the long term survival of African wildlife is the growing threat of human-wildlife-conflict, which has become more frequent and severe over the past decades due to human population growth and resulting human encroachment on previously wild and natural areas. Consequences can include injury and even death from encounters with wild animals, but can also be indirect, resulting in loss of crop and livestock.

Dr. René Czudek, FAO Forestry Officer for Southern Africa, presented during the side event a newly developed practical toolkit for human-wildlife conflict prevention and mitigation. “This tailor-made toolkit now allows fieldworkers on the ground to sit together with communities and jointly develop an understanding for the reasons of HWC as well as a possible way-out” resumes Czudek.
Passion and tradition, profession and recreation, art and education, programs and opportunities – describes this years Hungarian hunting fair, the FeHoVa in just few words. The FeHoVa is an internationally renowned exhibition with more than 50 000 visitors each year. The 200 exhibitors come from 10 countries and visitors diversity is equally high. Hungary is a famous hunting destination – the land of unlimited hunting opportunities.

The CIC, respectively President Dieter Schramm was asked to be the patron of this exhibition. In his opening speech he highlighted the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity worldwide and its importance for hunters and fishermen.

“Mankind has contributed through overuse to the huge loss of species diversity, and so we as responsible users of natural resources must do our level best to slow down this process. With this background, the CIC as a global umbrella organization of responsible hunters makes all efforts to safeguard the diversity of our wild species in the world.”

“Certain prejudices towards hunting are based on lack of knowledge, which we have to tackle by proving that the preservation and promotion of our traditional passion is essential for the maintenance of species diversity. We need to give the resource ‘wildlife’ a value, from which also local populations can benefit.”

One of the highlights of this hunting fair is the exhibition of the strongest trophies of Europe – in memoriam Herbert Nadler, one of the initiators of the CIC Trophy Measurement System. Like also last year, the exhibited trophies were shown together with an oil painting of that particular animal. The book on this exhibition was published with a foreword from President Schramm. The highlight of this trophy collection is the strongest spanish ibex from King Juan Carlos of Spain, Patron Member of the CIC.

Another CIC related highlight was the autography of hunting books with the participation of the Chairmen of our Culture Division, Count József Károlyi.

President Schramm was adjured to be a patron of the exhibition. He did the opening speech after a short concert of the Hungarian Hunting Chamber’s hunting horn ensemble.
Publications

Latest publications of FAO and CIC

Gemeinsam mit der Ernährungs- und Landwirtschaftsorganisation der VN (FAO) veröffentlichte der CIC kürzlich drei englischsprachige Broschüren über Artenschutz und Jagdtourismus in Afrika.

Dr. Rolf D. Baldus: Ein praxisbezogener Überblick über die Erfahrungen mit gemeindebasiertem Wildschutz in Afrika: „Was haben wir in drei Jahrzehnten gelernt?“

Dr. Rolf D. Baldus and Rudolf Hahn: Der Selous-Niassa Wildschutz Korridor in Tansania: Erhaltung der Artenvielfalt durch die Bevölkerung. Praxisbezogene Erfahrungen und Lehren aus der Integration lokaler Gemeinschaften in das grenzüberschreitende Management natürlicher Ressourcen


The CIC together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has just published three booklets about wildlife conservation and hunting tourism in Africa.

Dr. Rolf D. Baldus
A Practical Summary of Experiences after Three Decades of Community-based Wildlife Conservation in Africa “What are the Lessons Learnt?”

Africa’s wildlife is under siege – no doubt. The loss of habitat that results from population growth, poaching and unsuitable wildlife management drive the wonderful and valuable natural resource “wildlife” into extinction at many places. Well meant hunting bans in some countries have speeded up the decline.

In Southern Africa private game ranches had surprising results: Wildlife numbers have soared and game roams on land, where it became extinct decades ago. In other countries wildlife is owned and managed by the state, and this has mostly not been a success.

For thirty years community based conservation of wildlife has developed as a third option. It has proved successful in several countries, where the Governments have been sympathetic and supportive. In other cases, it had limited success only. Recently this approach has been criticized by animal welfare groups, which are opposed to hunting.

The CIC together with FAO found that it is about time to critically review and summarize the experiences of the last three decades in order to draw conclusions for future successful wildlife management and for strategies to reduce or stop the loss of biodiversity.

In Southern Africa cross-border conservation initiatives traditionally started from the top with the signing of protocols by the heads of state. However, trans-boundary conservation activities ultimately take place at local level. More often than not, the local level administration and managers, and in particular local communities most dependent on natural resources, have been neglected in the planning and implementation process. Since there is growing consensus that conservation of biodiversity, natural resources and wildlife depends on the cooperation and involvement of communities living at the resource base, their level of participation and ownership are also key for the development of successful cross-border conservation.
How this can be achieved in practical terms is demonstrated with the development of the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor, an initiative receiving official support from the German Government and the Global Environment Facility in form of different projects based on agreements concluded with the Tanzanian Government.

Vernon R. Booth
A Comparison of the Prices of Hunting Tourism in Southern and Eastern Africa

Hunting tourism has been conducted in 7 eastern and southern African countries for more than 50 years and recently Uganda has re-opened hunting. This form of wildlife utilization generates significant income for community-based natural resource programs and contributes to the national economies of these countries – approximately 70% of the total cost of a Big Game Safari will enter the economy of the host country in the form of government licences and outfitter operating expenses.

Sustainable hunting tourism, or conservation hunting as it is sometimes called, therefore is an important tool in promoting conservation and rural development across a broad spectrum of landscapes. In terms of gross revenue generation the conservation hunting industry appears to be robust with growth being recorded in South Africa and Namibia but not in the other major southern and eastern African destinations. The key instruments that generate this income are the cost of various hunting packages offered by hunting operations. Understanding the market trends is therefore essential in determining the value that wildlife brings to local, national and regional economies.

Over 100 websites representing a broad spectrum of hunting operations from Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Namibia were visited in 2008 and 2009 to gather data on the marketing strategies of this industry. This paper reviews the data gathered to establish the mean daily rate, trophy fee and hunt duration for a selection of hunting packages ranging from classic big game safaris to plains game ranch hunts. These data are then compared to determine marketing and pricing strategies for the various hunting packages across the region. From this a number of conclusions are drawn regarding the future growth of the industry.

Print-versions can be obtained from the Administrative Office. Only shipping and handling costs will be charged. Please contact us for further details. Electronic versions can be downloaded from the CIC website.
The General Assembly is approaching and one of the highlights will certainly be the hunting auction which will take place during the Gala Dinner. We would kindly like to remind you that there is still time to send us your donations with hunts, pieces of art, hunting tools! Thanks to your continuous support, we have managed to support causes important for all of us and we trust that this good tradition will continue, and even get to higher level!

With this year’s auction revenue we will support projects like the Markhor Award, a recognition intended to award outstanding conservation performance through sustainable use of wildlife, including hunting. We will also support the Sustainable Ammunition project, which is crucial for the future of hunting.

Besides the funding benefits, CIC’s Hunting for Treasure is also a perfect opportunity for CIC Members to discover another hunting ground, and also to establish or tighten the friendship between Members of different Delegations, as states Rolf Baldus, President of the Tropical Game Commission:

“Hunting for Treasure: doing something good, experiencing hunting and finding friends!"

In February, I have hunted in Namibia. I had purchased the hunt at the auction during the General Assembly in Paris. It has been donated by our German CIC colleague Michael Lüke from Blaser Safaris, who also attended his lodge himself. Under the professional guidance of my Namibian professional hunter Ehrfried I experienced not only a successful active stalking in luxurious setting but could also make new friends.

With the Treasure Hunt the CIC specially meets its claim, to be not only an international Hunting Organization but also a circle of friends.”

CIC is first of all a circle of individuals devoted to sustainable hunting. Therefore, we are counting on your support! Think for a minute on what could be offered by you and please fill in the enclosed Donation Form and send it back to the Administrative Office. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have already supported this cause with their donation.

The Silent Auction will start on the Opening day (6 May) of the General Assembly and will last until 8 May. Look for the Auction panel in the lobby, where the auction items will be displayed, and place your bids in the Hunting for Treasure Box. If you would like to make sure that you get the desired item, make sure to check regularly the panel, as bids will be refreshed approximately every hour.

The closing of the event will be held at the Gala Dinner, in the prestigious Fortress Revelin on 8 May, where the Live Auction will take place.

You can already make your selection of the offers available so far in the enclosed preliminary brochure, where you can find hunts from Europe to Africa, as well as several accessories offered by well-known gun manufacturers and publishers.

Deadline for submitting offers: 23 April 2010
Silent Auction: from 6 to 8 May, in the lobby
Live Auction: on 8 May, at the Gala Dinner, in the Fortress Revelin

Thank you for supporting the CIC!
The 57th CIC General Assembly awaits all CIC members

The 57th CIC General Assembly takes place from 6 to 9 May 2010 in Dubrovnik under the topic “Biodiversity of the Mediterranean Region: Challenges and Opportunities for Hunters”.

The venue is the 5-star Hotel Croatia, located in the charming village Cavtat, 18 km south of Dubrovnik, in the immediate vicinity of the international airport. The Gala Dinner will take place in the medieval fortress of Revelin, in the old town of Dubrovnik. The awaited hunting auction will also take place during the Gala Dinner, to further enrich its glamour.

Accompanying persons can choose among a wide variety of excursions: sightseeing-tour in Dubrovnik old-town, an excursion to Konavle with wine-tasting, a visit of an old mill, a tour to the beautiful island Korčula where Marco Polo was born, and a half-day excursion to the village Trsteno with a seafood banquet and a visit to one of the oldest botanic garden in the world. The Croatian organizers offer an excursion to the participants of the General Assembly. It takes place on the last day of the meeting, on 9 May. We will set off by boat to the beautiful island called Mljet. It is one of Croatia’s top sights and one of the most beautiful islands in the Mediterranean Sea. About half of the island’s territory is a pristine national park. The cost for the excursion is € 70,50 per person, which includes a lunch.

We are looking forward seeing many of you soon in beautiful Dubrovnik!
The CIC is announcing a forthcoming change in the leadership of its Administrative Office in Budapest.

Tamás Marghescu, who until recently was running the Pan European Regional Office and the Permanent Representation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to the European Union in Brussels, will succeed Kai Wollscheid, who declared his intention to step down from his post in the coming year, as Director General.

At an extraordinary meeting in Vienna on 14 December, the CIC Executive Committee expressed its sincere regret over this announcement and thanked the outgoing Director General for his dedicated and outstanding contributions and achievements for the CIC. The CIC Executive Committee unanimously decided to offer the leadership of the CIC Administrative Office in Budapest to Tamás Marghescu.

Tamás Marghescu, who at various occasions had represented IUCN at CIC events, is a dual citizen of Germany and Hungary. Born in Paris, he fulfilled his childhood dream by studying forestry sciences in Vienna, Austria and Freiburg, Germany. He joined the Bavarian State Forest Service in Germany and started his international career as Forestry Operations Officer at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy with responsibilities for India, the Kingdom of Thailand and Papua New Guinea. Following a transfer to the FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific, he was appointed by the request of the Royal Thai Government as the Chief Technical Adviser of a large rural development project.

His next career step brought him back to the European continent, where he served as a high-level, German funded government adviser to the Ministry of Environment in Hungary.

In 2001, he was appointed as Regional Director for Pan Europe of IUCN, "putting IUCN on the map of Europe", as the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Achim Steiner and former Director General of IUCN once honoured his achievements.

And as the present Director General of IUCN, Madame Julia Marton-Lefevre put it: Tamas “...was always able to ‘think out of the box’ in developing a vision and making it become reality. As a result of this capacity, our regional presence and programme in Europe has grown tremendously over the past few years.”

CIC President Dieter Schramm said: “We are fortunate to win Tamás Marghescu along with all his renowned energy and creativity to lead the CIC Administrative Office into the future.”

The change will take place in 2010 and in the interim period, Tamás Marghescu supports the work of the Administrative Office as Special Adviser.
CIC German Delegation donates plaque in Tanzania

The Selous Game Reserve in Tanzania is Africa’s oldest protected area and at the same time the continent’s largest hunting reserve. Hunting revenues support the conservation of wildlife and the maintenance of bio-diversity. The Tanzanian Wildlife Division erected now a commemorative plaque at the Mtemere Entrance Gate to remember the establishment of the Reserve by the German Governor Hermann von Wissmann in the year 1896. The bronze plaque was donated by the German CIC Delegation. The CIC thanks GTZ and the Beho Beho Lodge in the Selous for assisting with the logistics.

Country of the Saiga – An 11-day tour of the “Wildlife and Cultures of the Southern Russian Steppe”

As reported before, CIC supported the 2009 small grant programme of the Saiga Conservation Alliance (SCA), allowing us to select four exceptional in-country saiga conservationists for financial support. The programme supports grassroots conservation activity for saigas in the wild, funding self-contained projects costing <$2000.

On behalf of SCA, an experienced tour operator, Eastern Approaches is organizing a tour to the “land of the saigas”.

The southern steppe-land of European Russia between the Don and the Volga Rivers is one of the most unusual and diverse natural habitats in Europe. Ranging from the rich grasslands of the steppe to arid semi-desert towards the Caspian and lush subtropical wetlands of the Volga Delta, the region is home to a variety of flora and fauna.

Chief them is the saiga antelope. This unique antelope is Critically Endangered, with their numbers falling by 95% in just 15 years. SCA is committed to saving the saiga from extinction and supports a number of vital conservation projects in the region. This tour is a unique opportunity to see both the saiga themselves and the extraordinary environment where they are found. This is the only place in the world where saigas can easily be seen in relatively large numbers, and this is the only tour that allows you to go behind the scenes and meet the committed conservationists who are working to save this species and its habitats. The tour visits some of the projects supported by the SCA, in particular the Centre for Wild Animals in Kalmykia and the Stepnoi Reserve in the Astrakhan region. A portion of the tour price goes towards the SCA and its conservation work in the region.

Practical information:
- Date: 19–29 August 2010
- Limited to 15 places
- Tour Price: £3535 (full board).

For more information and booking, please contact Eastern Approaches at www.easternapproaches.co.uk.
It was in the early eighties when we ran into a young foxy-bearded scientist at a symposium about wolves in Lisbon, Portugal. “Why on earth does the CIC waist time with nice dinners and excursions when we could continue our work?” Herby challenged us – and we told him “mens sana in corpore sano”… in the end, Herby bought himself a green tuxedo – “you know” he said, “I am representing the CIC now and I will not accept anything less than the best”!

And that he did: he became President of the Migratory Bird Commission, was one of the founding fathers of AEWA (Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds) in one word: for years Herby Kalchreuter was one of the foremost experts and widely recognized scientist promoting sustainable hunting – and the CIC.

At a time when the CIC was “less” concerned with the “I” – the international – in its logo, Prof. Dr. Heribert Kalchreuter was the most prominent scientist promoting the wise use principle on the level of what some call to-day the “Conservation Industry”. Even the “anti-hunting” antagonists had to accept him in the end – Herby’s talent of convincing the most hart-bred enemies of hunting was legendary – they looked at him whenever he confronted them – and could not resist his charm and – the facts about nature’s real functioning he confronted them with. And when Herby lectured to a still not fully converted antagonist, say one of those “aggressive” animal welfare ladies, about the nutrient value of game – he used to munch, crack and eat a solid red-deer bone to underline his point.

Herby wrote books – books which you found and still find in the hands of many people, who – to say the least – have a certain distance to the sustainable, conservation-oriented hunting community. Books, which were written in a clear, convincing no-nonsense way – stunning the reader with simple and understandable explanations of the nature’s complex scientific facts.

He was not without edges and a certain charming stubbornness, our Herby had a great personality and that was what we accepted and even expected from someone, who successfully worked as a convinced individualist “outside” of the mainstream. “Herby, where on earth have you been?” – I once asked him after he had disappeared from our screen for quite some while. “Well”, he grinned, “I was just fed up with all of you and spend two happy years as a trapper in Alaska!” I recall a discussion within the ranks of the CIC, as to how we should and could support Herby’s scientific institute, the EWI (European Wildlife Institute). The discussion centered about the Institute until someone made a point: “never mind the Institute we shall support Herby, basta”.

Herby left us, completely unexpected, after just celebrating his seventieth birthday on 14 March 2010 in the Dominican Republic – fully convinced that he was strongly marching to exceed his nineties. This was not to be and the conservation world is quite a bit more “empty” now. But then – as Pericles said in his famous speech honoring the slain soldiers of Athens: big man’s monuments are not the gravestone – their monument is the live memory of their personalities.

Dieter Schramm
President of CIC