Statement

By

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Head of the German CIC Delegation

At the

2008 Markhor Award for Outstanding Conservation Performance

Bonn, 27 May 2008
Your Excellency, Honourable State Sec. Mrs. Heinen, Distinguished Guests,

On behalf of the German Delegation within the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, I’d like to heartily welcome all of here you tonight.

Germany is the host of the 2008 Convention on Biological Diversity, and the German Delegation within the CIC is delighted to be the host the CIC Markhor Award event during the course of this important international conference.

We would like to thank the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection for allowing the CIC to use its premises for the ceremony.

Furthermore, we would like to thank State Secretary Mrs. Heinen for her speech honouring the laureates, as well as the audience tonight with her presence.

Likewise, we are grateful to Mr. Hepworth for his keynote address.

Finally, we would like to thank all of those who have contributed in preparing tonight’s event. I have to especially mention Dr. Baldus, Dr. Burhenne and Dr. Lammel and their respective teams.

Special congratulations, however, should be addressed to tonight’s winners of the CIC Markhor Award from Tanzania and Mozambique. They have been awarded for their outstanding and example-setting contributions in conserving both nature and hunting.

In achieving those targets, we as hunters in the CIC International and as German hunters – who are by law officially acknowledged as conservationists – feel closely connected to your efforts in Tanzania and Mozambique.

In spite of its 82 million inhabitants in a relative small sized state, compared to the vast landscapes of countries in Africa for example, Germany holds one of the world’s biggest population of wild game that is allowed to hunt, compared to countries that are similar in size and inhabitants.

This is only possible because of the existence of hunting principles that are guided by a “sustainable use” of its assets. In the German hunters’ language, we call these governing headlines “Hege”, and this wording is also mentioned in our German hunting legislation. “Hege”, or similar “sustainable use”, is an obligation for all hunters in Germany – it describes a balanced system of conservation and hunting.

In Germany we have learned lessons due to mistakes that have been made in the last 100 years and with some of them even lasting until today, mostly related to ecological destruction that often had devastating effects on the flora and fauna.

A lot of these mistakes have in the meantime been repaired and/or we still continue to undoing them. Being successful in “repowering” – or let me say – “renaturing” our
environment allows us to re-create living areas for such remarkable high levels of wild game that we can see in Germany today.

We would like to share the above mentioned experiences with our partners in Africa as well as in other regions throughout the world, but at the same time, we would also like to learn from their experience.

In this sense, I wish all of us a fruitful and enriching partnership and I would like to thank you for your interest and your participation.

Dr. Sigurd Lehmann-Tolkmitt

Head of the German Delegation of CIC