



**Sustainable Use  
Specialist Group**



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[SUSG/ZSL 2006 Hunting Workshop](#)

## Background

- ❖ What is sustainable use?
- ❖ IUCN sustainable use policy [fra] [esp] [deu]
- ❖ The SUSG
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- ❖ SUSG Strategic Focus 2005-08

### **London Symposium & Workshop Finds Strong Links Between Recreational Hunting, Conservation & Rural Livelihoods**

October 2006  
Robin Sharp, Chair, European SUSG

Organised by the IUCN Species Survival Commission Sustainable Use Specialist Group (SUSG) and attended by over 200 people, the Symposium, *Recreational Hunting, Conservation and Rural Livelihoods: Science and Practice*, took place at London's Zoological Society on 12 & 13 October. Opening the meeting SUSG Chair Jon Hutton said " This meeting breaks new scientific ground because for the first time we have brought together leading experts and practitioners from around the world to examine in depth the claims that recreational hunting makes a significant contribution to conservation and rural livelihoods."

For the purposes of the Symposium recreational hunting was given a working definition of "hunting where the hunter or hunters pursue their quarry primarily for recreation or pleasure". From an economic perspective it was recognised that there are two broad but not exclusive types: local hunting, where the hunter originates locally to the hunting area, and hunting tourism, where the hunter travels a considerable distance, often abroad, and pays a substantial amount of money for the hunting experience.

## Resources

- ❖ Achieving sustainability manual
- ❖ Addis Ababa Principles & Guidelines
- ❖ Analytic Framework
- ❖ CITES
- ❖ Governance: policy dialogue
- ❖ The Ecosystem Approach
- ❖ Indicators
- ❖ Lessons learned
- ❖ Literature reviews
- ❖ SUSG Newsletter
- ❖ 2nd Pan-African Symposium
- ❖ Policy brochure
- ❖ Precautionary Principle
- ❖ Technical series
- ❖ White Oak
- ❖ Website links

Some 35 contributors made 26 presentations which ranged from the origins of modern conservation in the initiatives taken by some famous hunters, through global overviews of recreational hunting, angling and falconry to regional models from North America and Southern Africa, scientific studies of the effect of trophy offtakes on population dynamics for species such as lion, red deer and bighorn sheep and the interactions of game management and agricultural policy. Case studies demonstrated how controlled hunting involving decision making by local people had assisted the acceptance of restored populations of wood bison in the Yukon, had played a critical role in the recovery of markhor goat and urial sheep numbers in the Torghar area of Pakistan and provided vital incentives for the revival of the Lake Mburo Park in Uganda.

Other presentations identified the circumstances allowing or inhibiting photographic and hunting tourism to be combined in relatively small protected areas in South Africa, examined what rights and benefits villagers in Zambia and Namibia see as important to their own well-being in relation to hunting tourism by foreigners and the application of the Nunavut "IQ" (all inherited, present and future knowledge of the community) to wildlife management and hunting by themselves and others. Cases were presented of over-exploitation by hunting of antelopes in African arid lands and of corruption by a few key individuals preventing the revenues from tourist hunting being maximised for conservation and community benefit. The need for good governance at all levels was a theme echoed by many speakers.

The application of the CITES regime to import and export of hunting trophies was outlined. When examining new approaches to improving the governance of hunting, various initiatives defining principles, guidelines, criteria and indicators for sustainable hunting in Europe were described, as was an outline code of conduct derived from an analysis of sport hunting in Southern Africa. Possibilities for certifying hunting at a local level on the lines of forestry schemes were considered, but something much simpler was advocated. In her concluding remarks to the Symposium, SSC Chair Holly Dublin set out the challenges of a rapidly evolving international agenda, while affirming that " a common passion for conserving wildlife unites everyone who has taken part in this meeting".

Immediately following the Symposium on 14 & 15 October, the SUSG held a workshop attended by some 70 people to examine a range of possible tools for enhancing the sustainability of recreational hunting, including standards, certification, principles, codes and charters and to determine whether there were topics on which it could work within IUCN, as well as those managing and participating in recreational hunting. Among the outcomes to be further considered by the SUSG are work on broad principles of global relevance and examples of best practice relating to them, as well as the need for wider understanding of the contribution which hunting makes to pro-biodiversity land management and livelihoods.

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