

The Villages of Selous – Niassa Wildlife Corridor, Tanzania, receive Markhor Conservation Award at the Convention for Biodiversity in Bonn, Germany

The five Community Based Organisations representing the 29 villages of the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor in Tanzania together with the Niassa Game Reserve of Mozambique received the Markhor Award from the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, CIC. The award was handed over at the 9th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Bonn on the 27th of May 2008 and recognizes outstanding conservation performance through sustainable use of wildlife, including hunting.



From left: R. Hahn, K. Ngomello, D. Mgalla, R. Baldus, G. Vicente

For more information please use the following links:

<http://www.cic-wildlife.org/index.php?id=344>

<http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/cop9/enbots/pdf/enbots0918e.pdf>

http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2008/05_May/nw_270508_CIC.htm

and read the attached

Statement from the Executive Secretary of the Convention for Biodiversity, Ahmed Djoghlaif, on the occasion of the 2008 CIC Markhor Award Ceremony for Outstanding Conservation Performance, 27 May 2008, Bonn, Germany

The keynote address from the Executive Secretary of the UNEP Secretariat for the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, CMS, Robert Hepworth.



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Statement from the Executive Secretary

Ahmed Djoghlaif

on the occasion of the

2008 CIC Markhor Award Ceremony for Outstanding Conservation Performance

27 May 2008, Bonn, Germany

Representatives of the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to have been invited to address this diverse audience for the celebration of on-the-ground achievements on sustainable use and conservation of biological diversity. Unfortunately, due to my commitments to the current Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), I cannot be with you this evening. Nevertheless, I wish to express my enthusiasm and support for the work, not only of the recipients of the 2008 CIC Markhor Award, but also that of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) itself.

Global biodiversity has both tremendous intrinsic and instrumental value for which substitutes cannot easily be found, if at all. The annual world fish catch is estimated to be worth US\$58 billion. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that at least 40 per cent of our global economy is based on the use of biological resources. In low-income countries, natural capital constitutes about 26 per cent of their total wealth. Worldwide, forests provide an estimated 1.6 billion people with everyday needs such as food, shelter, energy, and recreation, while an estimated 300 million people, most of them poor, depend substantially on forest biodiversity, including non-wood forest products, for their subsistence and survival, including around 150 million people belonging to indigenous groups.

Consider also the role of biodiversity in cultural diversity. Nature shapes each one of its denizens. It provides opportunities for observation and education, recreation and enjoyment. In certain communities, the environment underpins the very structure of social relations. However, as species disappear so too do social traditions and ecological knowledge. Indeed, those living in the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor can tell us first-hand about the multi-faceted value of nature in their lives.

And yet, our use of these natural resources has caused more damage in the last fifty years than in the whole of human history. We cannot afford to continue on this destructive path.

The sustainable use of renewable biological resources is one of best ways to ensure the continued conservation of biological diversity. Nature provides and sustains our very existence, and unless we value the benefits we derive from the use of biological resources, we risk losing them entirely – intrinsic value, cultural value. Indeed, the lessons derived from experiences of sustainable usage can be applied to all economic activities, including agriculture and livestock management, forestry, fisheries, and yes, even hunting and hunting tourism.

As populations expand and begin to encroach on natural habitats, increasing occurrences of human-wildlife conflict, achieving sustainability becomes more and more challenging but at the same time increasingly vital if



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we are to ensure that our use today does not compromise the use of those resources tomorrow. To this end, the Addis Ababa Principals & Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity were established and adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2004. The use and application of these principals and guidelines helps us move closer to the goal of sustainability by providing guidance for the development of practical indicators for the monitoring of sustainable use.

The CBD Secretariat is heartened and welcomes the efforts of organizations like the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation to work towards carrying out the objectives of the Convention and supporting the goals of sustainable development.

The *CIC Markhor Award for Outstanding Conservation Performance Through Sustainable Use* is a unique award, in that it recognizes and celebrates the efforts of personalities, institutions and conservation projects who and which link the conservation of biodiversity and human livelihoods through the application of the principles of sustainable use including hunting.

Furthermore, the award is very special as it sets as a standard the successful work of the Torghar Conservation Project in Pakistan. The design of this project was based on the principles of sustainable use, local tribal involvement and conservation biology. Populations of the *Sulaiman Markhor* -- the beautiful animal featured on the programme cover this evening -- have increased, after more than 20 years, from a critical level to healthy and stable populations thanks to sustainable hunting tourism and community conservation efforts.

A key to achieving long-lasting change, and one of the most important activities of the CBD, is to raise awareness of the significance and feasibility of sustainable use on the global scale. The CIC Markhor Award helps achieve this by recognizing projects and communities who have brought into the centre of their activities the Addis Ababa principles.

Following in the footsteps of the Torghar project, the local communities and conservation bodies of southern Tanzania and Northern Mozambique have been working together and across boundaries to conserve their biodiversity, and thus ensure their livelihoods by recognizing that the use of resources is the only way to conserve those resources for future generations. This does not only safeguard biodiversity, but it strengthens at the same time peace and stability in a once troubled part of the world. Indeed, as Professor Wangari Maathai noted during her acceptance of the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize, "There can be no peace without equitable development and there can be no development without sustainable management of the environment in a democratic and peaceful space. I hope that this prize will help many people see the link between peace, development and environment."

Therefore, we have come together on this occasion to recognize the hard work and efforts of the many people who inhabit one of Africa's last, great wildernesses in the Selous-Niassa area. What is lost in one country in this region is lost to the world. Thus, each country has a vested interest in reducing loss of biodiversity. But more than this, and in the spirit of international cooperation, governmental and non-governmental organisations should reach out to assist those countries least capable of adapting to the impacts of climate change. The CIC is a leader in supporting this type of cooperation and this year's award winners are proof that it is possible for humans to live in harmony with nature.

As the theme of COP 9 highlights, we truly are One Nature, One World, One Future. Indeed, the communities of Tanzania, Mozambique and Pakistan have inspired us all by living up to this motto.

Congratulations to all of you for your commitment and achievements, and I wish you continued success.

Address by Robert Hepworth
Executive Secretary of the UNEP/CMS Secretariat
**at the Markhor Award ceremony of the International Council
for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)**
Tuesday, 27 May 2008

Excellencies, distinguished award recipients,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First I would like to say how much the Convention on Migratory Species values its special partnership with CIC. Partnerships from right across the spectrum are a distinctive feature of CMS. We have a tradition of strong science coupled with conservation commitment and tolerance which means we partner sustainable hunters, tourist enterprises, zoos and other ex situ conservation bodies, mainstream conservation bodies and organisations which blend conservation and animal welfare. I hope and believe that my Parties will continue that tradition at our next COP in Rome in December. We have co-operated with CIC in a number of areas and perhaps most notably so far on the Avian Influenza Task Force.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Markhor inhabits some of the most magnificent high altitude mountain ranges of Pakistan, Central Asia and India. One of the most rugged regions where the rarest and largest of these wild goats, the Sulaiman Markhor, is found is known as the Torghar Mountains of Pakistan.

When naturalist George Schaller observed Markhor in the early 1970s in the Kashmir region during several expeditions, which resulted in his famous two books, he estimated their figure at around 2,000 individuals. Schaller was fascinated by the Markhors' excellent climbing skills, often coming across individuals feeding on leaves high up on trees. The name Markhor means "snake horns" in Pashtun language and (as you can see from the Markhor Award logo) this is an accurate description for these impressive horns.

Poverty and unsustainable traditional hunting practices led to high levels of exploitation of wildlife, including Markhor, which became threatened with extinction. This trend was fuelled by political instability and the resultant influx of refugees and weapons. Soon the Markhor were on the road to extinction.

However, the "snake horns" of the Markhor have recently helped to reverse this trend! The species has become associated with a highly successful

community-based conservation project. This project takes advantage of the high trophy value of the Markhors “snake horns”, of which a small number determined by the CITES quota have been allowed to be exported since 1997. Foreign hunters paid US\$ 40,000 per trophy in 2006. The resultant revenue pays for rural development initiatives such as health care, education and improved water management. This has created a strong incentive for local people to protect Markhor rather than to hunt it themselves for food or recreation. The result in terms of population numbers has been astounding: In 1985 less than 100 markhors were all that was left in the Torghar area and this is when the Torghar Conservation Program was initiated. In 2005, the markhor population size in the same area was estimated to have risen to over 2500 animals. A 25-fold increase in numbers in twenty years – what an achievement! The Convention on Biological Diversity refers to the Torghar project in Pakistan as the single best example of “best practices” of sustainable use. Thus I welcome the initiative of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) to use the Markhor as its flagship species for its new award to honour conservation projects that are community-based and that successfully use hunting as a tool for rural development.

Sustainable use projects are extremely difficult to implement successfully, and thus it is all the more important to recognise those examples that work and to share the lessons learnt. The project, which is being recognised today is noteworthy not only for ticking all the Markhor Award boxes, but also because it is running in two countries and manages to make transboundary conservation work. This is a major achievement. The Convention on Migratory Species is on an every day basis involved in conserving species that cyclically and predictably cross national borders. International collaboration between range states is key to success; otherwise the efforts of a single country are unlikely to be effective and could, in fact, be in vain. But as you are no doubt aware, transboundary protected areas are anything but easy to set up and require dedication and stamina.

The two recipients of the CIC Markhor award have both these skills (and many more) and have successfully put them to use to conserve wildlife in Tanzania and Mozambique. Tanzania has been a member of CMS since 1999, but I am delighted to announce that Mozambique is just about to become a new member state of the Convention on Migratory Species! Thus the entire region of the Markhor award project will be covered by the Convention, which is excellent news, not least for migratory species.

So I would like to congratulate the joint winners of the first ever Markhor award: The Mozambican Niassa Game Reserve and the 29

villages within the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor region in Tanzania.

Not unlike the Markhor project in Pakistan, both projects employ hunting and sustainable use of wildlife for their communities' benefit. By doing so, they conserve biodiversity in a crucial network of protected and unprotected areas. The 29 villages aim to use hunting tourism as a way to sustain their livelihoods and at the same time conserve elephants, Roosevelt's sable antelopes, lions and many other wildlife species in their own interest. The Niassa Reserve uses sustainable hunting tourism in a similar fashion in order to finance management and conservation. Together both projects facilitate trans-boundary conservation and cooperation. The Corridor connects the Niassa Game Reserve with the Tanzanian Selous Game Reserve and together this constitutes a conservation area of over 120,000 km². The engagement of Germany, the Bonn Convention's host country, has been vital not only during the CBD COP9 in Bonn, but also in the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor, where Germany's support is very much facilitating the implementation of this large-scale initiative.

I gather that the initiative of local people in driving the vision of a transboundary conservation project from the bottom-up has been the key to success. Such efforts with a strong emphasis on transparency and best practises as defined in the recent European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity, which was co-authored by CIC, deserve international attention. I would like to urge Tanzania and Mozambique to support the Markhor award winners in their efforts at this critical early stage. Nature conservation without borders – this is what is required to protect wildlife for future generations. A great number of stakeholders, from the individual in an African village or here in Bonn right up to inter-governmental organisations such as the CIC and governments themselves are needed to ensure we reach our ambitious goals.

The Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor permits the transboundary movement and genetic exchange of wildlife populations either side of the Tanzanian-Mozambican border. But the reserve is not only vital for African biodiversity - it is also important in the global context as the following anecdote by Rudolf Hahn, a German District wildlife advisor in the corridor, illustrates. In September 1979 a white stork was found in the Ruvuma river, which is the national border between Mozambique and Tanzania within the Selous-Niassa wildlife corridor today. It had a strange aluminium ring around its ankle and was promptly taken to the chief of Magwamira village in Tanzania. The small metal ring, which had fallen down from the skies attached to the storch, was thought to be peculiar and was kept in the village. While researching the wildlife movements in the corridor,

Hahn and his Tanzanian colleagues met the Sultan, and he showed them the precious talisman. It turned out that the stork had been ringed in 1979 on the Baltic island of Hiddensee in the former German Democratic Republic and had crossed more than 7000 kilometres on its way from Germany to Africa. Not only was the mystery of the ring finally resolved, but this remarkable story illustrates beautifully the importance that African protected areas have for migratory species worldwide. The Selous-Niassa-Corridor is therefore not only a biodiversity corridor between the Niassa and Selous Game Reserves, but equally between Europe and Southern Africa.

Congratulations again to the winners of the award!

Robert Hepworth/Aline Kühl
UNEP/CMS Secretariat
27 May 2008