

The regulatory environment of wildlife ranching

Julius Koen

Department of Environment and
Nature Conservation

13 October 2011



OUTLINE

- Background
- Aspects of wildlife ranching requiring regulation
- Selected international legislation impacting on wildlife ranching
- South Africa as a case study
- Discussions
- Solutions



BACKGROUND

- Wildlife ranching is a rapidly growing industry in South Africa – 10 000+ registered wildlife ranches covering 16.8%+
- Wildlife ranching presents the opportunity to convert marginal agricultural land into productive ranching systems
- Can diversify products derived from the land
- Offers more specialized employment opportunities



ASPECTS OF WILDLIFE RANCHING REQUIRING LEGISLATION

- Ownership
- Species
- Hunting
- Ecotourism
- Capture / translocation
- Supply of wildlife products – meat, skins, trophies



INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION IMPACTING ON WILDLIFE RANCHING

- CITES
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Veterinary regulations: import / export
- Regulations on imports/exports of venison
- Regulations on import / export of trophies
- SADC protocol on wildlife conservation and law enforcement
- Bi-lateral agreements



SOUTH AFRICA AS A CASE STUDY

- Three tiers of government: national, provincial (9), local (262)
- National: Various departments regulating aspects of wildlife ranching. Differing opinions on which department should be the lead department
- Provincial: 9+ Conservation Authorities
- Constitution: Environment is a concurrent function



SOUTH AFRICA.....cont.

- Concurrency results in.....
 - Various national Acts, Regulations, Norms & Standards
 - Various provincial Acts, Ordinances, Regulations, Policies, Strategies
 - Difficult to align all legislation – inefficient coordination
 - Confusion and frustration in wildlife industry



SOUTH AFRICA.....cont.

- Possible a flawed assumption:
Science and regulatory framework adequate and top-down regulation appropriate



DISCUSSIONS

- Different opinions on the contribution of wildlife ranching to conservation – extralimital species, color morphs, trophy breeding, intensive captive breeding, predator control, small populations
- Leads to differential control through legislation
- Tension between stakeholders and government
- “Grey areas” in certain legislation
- Time span for permitting



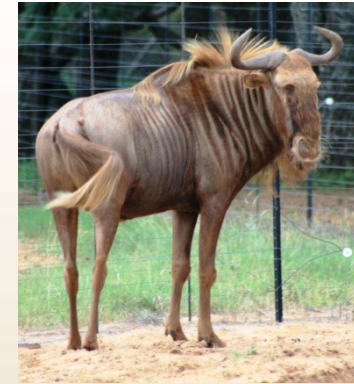
AVERAGE PRICES - 2010

- Gemsbok R 4 757
- Golden gemsbok
R 400 000
- Pied gemsbok
R 800 000



AVERAGE PRICES - 2010

- Blue wildebeest
R 2 374
- Golden gnu
R 370 000
- Impala R 1 122
- Black impala
R 190 000



AVERAGE PRICES - 2010

- Springbok R 980
- Copper springbok R 9 000

- Sable R 117 731
- “Zambian” sable R 250 000



TROPHY BREEDING

- Selective breeding for a specific trait

Genetic implications?



DISCUSSIONS....cont.

- Differential definitions e.g. hunting, trophies, etc.
- Complexities of AIS – restrictions by area, movement, etc.
- Large tracts of land under conservation management
but....
- Positive conservation impacts vs. economic priorities
- How to balance it?



SOLUTIONS

- A set/s of national legislation guiding wildlife ranching
- or.. At least effective national coordination of provincial legislation – aimed at combating specific ecological problems associated with wildlife ranching
- Effective coordination and cooperation between departments
- Develop legislation with stakeholders



SOLUTIONS....cont.

- Improved communication between authorities and industry role players
- Consistent application of regulations
- Sustainability grading or rating system for wildlife ranching



Thank you!

