
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BY SUSTAINABLE USE

**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
BY SUSTAINABLE USE**

Edited by
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PREFACE

This volume represents important data on a critical subject: Wildlife Conservation by Sustainable Use. The contents offer a broad spectrum of data with interpretations and analysis from a most varied list of experts. The editors Herbert Prins, Jan Geu Grootenhuis, and Tom Dolan are to be congratulated.

The debate on what is the best approach to conserve wildlife will undoubtedly rage on for years and I am sure that twenty years from now, conservationists will have the chance to either look back on the end of the 20th century and marvel at how wrong we were or hopefully, applaud our success in some challenging situations. I fear greatly that to a large measure, we will get it wrong quite often.

From my perspective, the greatest challenge is to incorporate economic and political and demographic realities into conservation strategies. We must recognise the influences of under-development, poverty, the world market and unemployment. Politicians of today, grasping at democracy, have little choice if they are to be re-elected but to deal with the short term strategies. Seldom will such an approach be positive for conservation.

Traditional life styles have changed : yes there are still pastoral nomads but many have children in college or working as professionals. This puts a strain on the income and cash needs of a family and alternative land use patterns will emerge.

I believe that in time, the ASAL (arid and semi-arid lands) zones in East Africa will undergo fundamental change in terms of use and the larger part of these areas will have diminishing numbers of both human and domestic animal residents. The

value of wildlife will perhaps then become clearer and re-stocking of abandoned range with selected wildlife species is likely.

This volume offers an insight into many of the issues. The inevitability of socio-economic changes has to be a constant background to many of the observations and concepts. Wealth creation is surely going to take time if it is to have depth in society and in my opinion, only the moderately well off can actually sustain wildlife use as a primary land use option. The contributions that follow set out some of the experiences and parameters of this debate.

Richard E. Leakey

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