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## **21. APPLICATION OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN EXPERIENCE TO WILDLIFE UTILIZATION AND CONSERVATION IN KENYA AND TANZANIA**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

This book and the workshop that preceded it show a remarkable convergence of ideas and consensus as to the inherent and actualised potential of wildlife, the reasons why this potential remains unfulfilled in some situations and the importance of economic institutions in resolving the problem in realising wildlife's potential. This convergence was surprising given the highly publicised "rift" between the utilisationist approach prevalent in southern Africa and the preservationist tendencies in East Africa, a rift which it appears, hardly exists at the technical level. While the chapter explaining the background and principles of CAMPFIRE (Child, Chapter 17) described the southern African responses to the disappearance of wildlife, the conclusions it comes to apply equally well to the Kenyan and other situations. Indeed, these lessons respond directly to an appeal by David Western, then Director of the Kenya Wildlife Service, for evidence and information to support a shift towards more pragmatic and economically sound conservation policies in Kenya.

### **THE ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF DISEASES, ECOLOGY AND PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY**

The workshop began on the old themes of veterinary and physiological research, and the ecological advantages or differences between wildlife and livestock, and it pulled these concepts together very usefully (see Grootenhuys, Chapter 6). Grootenhuys's summary of wildlife diseases highlighted key veterinary challenges. However,

for a subject usually mired in technology, it was refreshing in that it raised questions about the economics of wildlife and livestock diseases, and suggested that more emphasis should be given to understanding the economic consequences of veterinary interventions and policies. He provoked comment on how damaging veterinary related policies had been to wildlife and conservation, often because they had not been thought through or had only been considered from the perspective of livestock.

The contribution by Prins on ecology (Prins, Chapter 5), likewise, distilled years' of research effort, concluding that there is little difference between wildlife and livestock in utilizing fodder for energy, and little ecological separation where savannahs are used intensively. This confirms that the major differences between livestock and wildlife are not ecological but that wildlife has a far wider range of uses that add value to the carcass. Ironically, these economic advantages have far greater ecological consequences than the hoped for ecological advantages of multi-species systems. They allow substantially more income to be produced from wildlife at lower stocking rates and it is stocking rates, not the species stocked, that have the greatest impact on savannah ecology. A very high proportion of the research on wildlife utilization has focused on ecological comparisons with cattle, yet Prins concludes that there are few differences. Research into ecological factors is not an efficient use of research resources since they are only marginally limiting. Understanding the relationship between stocking rate, savannah function and degradation is one important area for ecological research, especially given that some socio-ecologists are questioning degradation (Sandford, 1983; Schoones and Wilson, 1988). In general, however, research into wildlife economics, tenure and policy is more constructive and likely to be more useful than ecologically based research.

#### **KENYA'S WILDLIFE IS BEING DESTROYED BY POOR GOVERNANCE**

The papers from Kenya make very challenging reading. David Western began thoughtfully, saying Kenya's wildlife is in trouble, that it would only survive if it is used and imploring the workshop to give him the scientific evidence to support this stand (see Preface). Graham Child, the Director of Parks in Zimbabwe for nearly two decades, noted how similar this was to a speech he gave in early 1970, while others noted that Simon had written the same in Kenya in the 1950s. Despite Western's plea for information, there is ample evidence for wildlife's comparative advantage and a good understanding of the institutional and economic reforms necessary, suggesting that it is political will rather than technical know-how that is preventing progress in Kenya. Indeed, Graham Child emphasised that the southern Africans had not waited for evidence, which was not available anyway, as the new philosophy had never been tried, but had plunged ahead with what turned out to be considerable success (Child and Chitsike, Chapter 12). Kenya has only to look to the South where there is evidence aplenty that devolving use rights to landholders and using wildlife commercially has very positive effects for wildlife.

The rangelands of eastern and southern Africa are broadly similar, with the former generally being more productive and more scenic. In southern Africa there was sub-