

The Sustainable Harvest

Part 1



Hunting's Contribution to Conservation



Sustainable Hunting is...

An integral part of the heritage of all the different culture groups of South Africa.

One of the main drivers for the South African wildlife sector and a significant contributor to it's economy.

A responsible commitment to conservation and to related research.

A responsible contributor to all administrative and legal aspects related to the sector.

An innovative contributor to socio-economic rural development in South Africa.

A significant contributor to an under-utilised tourism opportunity.

HUNTER stands for...

H - *Heritage*

U - *Upliftment (Rural)*

N - *Nature*

T - *Tourism*

E - *Economy*

R - *Responsibility*



Sustainable Hunting – USA



In USA, approximately *12 million hunters*, who...

- contribute *US\$ 7,5 million* to conservation *per day* in hunting season;
- contribute *US\$ 12,7 billion* to conservation *per annum*;
- support *600,000 jobs per annum*;
- contribute *US\$ 5,9 billion* to US Federal taxes *per annum*

Sustainable Hunting – USA



Resulted in...

Numbers of Rocky Mountain Elk
increasing from
 $\pm 41,000$ in 1920 to $\pm 1,690,000$ in 2015.



Numbers of White Tailed Deer
increasing from
 $\pm 500,000$ in 1920 to $\pm 32,300,000$ in 2015.

Sustainable Hunting – USA



Resulted in...



Numbers of *Wild Turkey*
increasing from
 $\pm 150,000$ in 1920 to $\pm 7,060,000$ in 2015.



Numbers of *Waterfowl*
increasing from
 $\pm 1,000,000$ in 1920
to $\pm 35,000,000$ in 2015.

Sustainable Hunting – UK



Approximately **800,000** hunters in UK, who...

- Contribute **£ 2 billion** in hunting related goods *per annum*;
- Contribute **£ 1,6 billion** to the economy *per annum*;
- Support **70,000 jobs** *per annum*;
- Manage **2 million ha of land** under conservation.

Sustainable Hunting – UK



In 2016, ± 9 million *gamebirds* were harvested in the UK.



80% were Ring necked pheasant.

93% of the hunted birds were destined for sale in restaurants and in food stores.

Sustainable Hunting – EU



Approximately **7 million hunters** in the European Union.

In the EU the annual wildlife harvest is worth **>€ 16 billion** and an important economic input to depopulating rural areas (harvested meat distributed into restaurant network).



Sustainable Hunting – South Africa



In the Middle of the 1900s in South Africa:

Wildlife had no monetary value and were regarded as competitors for grazing land and belonging to no-one (government).

This resulted in commonly hunted species being virtually shot out by 1943.

Sustainable Hunting – South Africa



By 1943, no value on huntable species in South Africa resulted in there being, i.e.



- 110 Bontebok left,
- 2,000 Blesbok left,
- 15 Mountain Zebra left,
- 400 Black Wildebeest left,
- 3,400 Blue Wildebeest left

Sustainable Hunting – South Africa



Despite some conservation effort through government intervention to try and rectify the situation, i.e.

- 1894 - statutory game reserves - through hunters' pressure
- 1926> Founding of Kruger, Addo, Bontebok National Parks, etc.

"Rescue" only really came in 1991, through private ownership of game allowed under the *Game Theft Act of 1991* ...

Sustainable Hunting – South Africa



By 2015, the value placed on species through ownership of wildlife resulting in legal and sustainable hunting, which in turn lead to a considerable increase in the numbers of huntable species in this country ...



- Mountain Zebra – up from 15 to **970**
- Bontebok – up from 110 to **2,956**
- Blesbok – up from 2,000 to **59,000**
- Black Wildebeest – up from 400 to **29,000**
- Blue Wildebeest – up from 3,400 to **30,000**

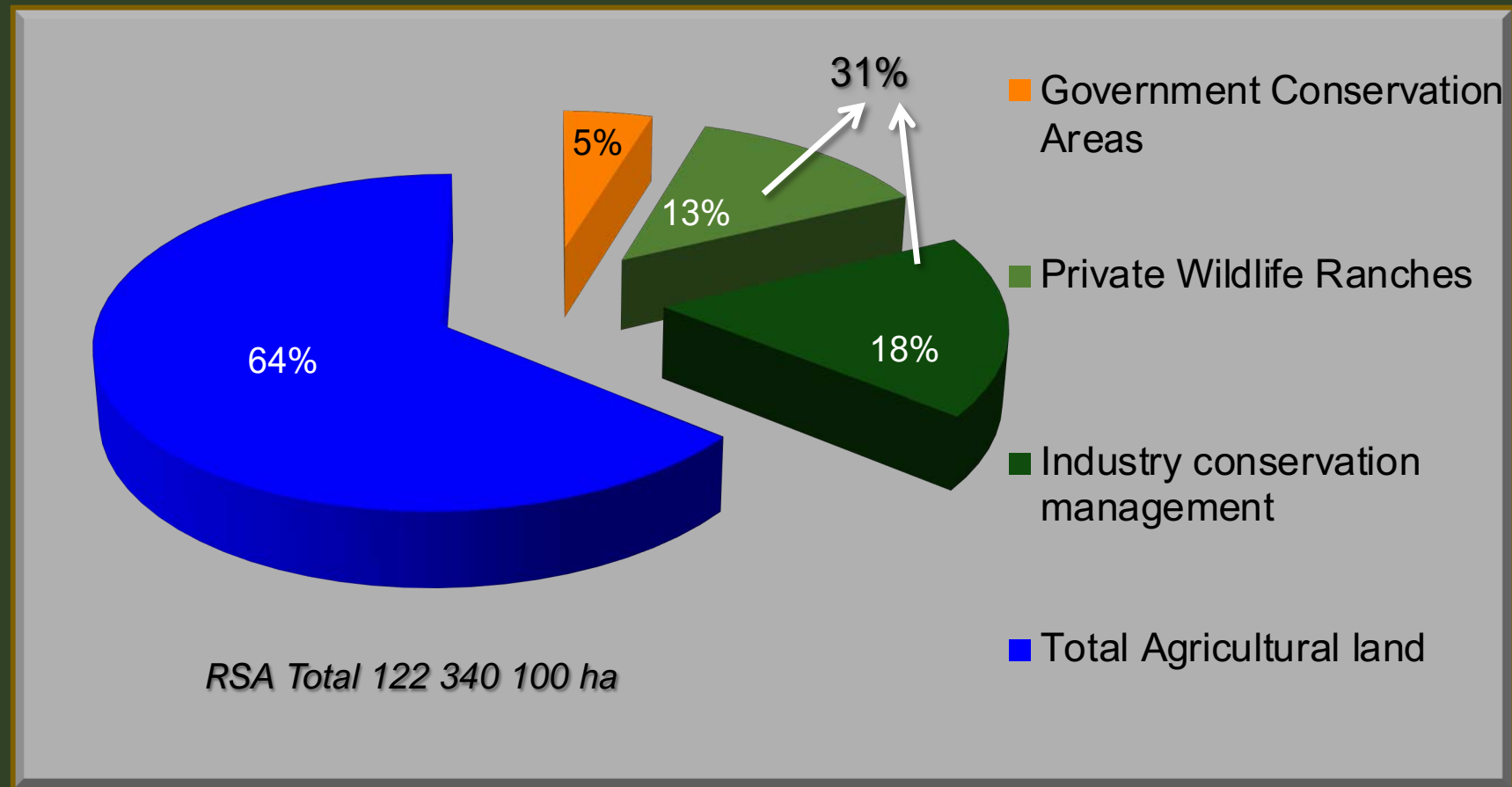
Sustainable Hunting – South Africa



Note that the numbers of Mountain Zebra and Bontebok did not grow substantially as these animals could not be hunted as frequently as other huntable species due to more stringent hunting permit requirements brought about by their endangered status.



Since 1991, Game Ownership Resulted in Land Under Conservation (2015)



South Africa – Game Ranching (2015)

±12,000 wildlife ranches and game farms

