

*SUSTAINABLE vs
UNSUSTAINABLE
TRENDS IN GAME
RANCHING IN AFRICA*



Presented by
DR WILHELM SCHACK
Wildlife Veterinarian,
Ecologist
Thabazimbi, LIMPOPO



Wildlife, the Crown Jewels of Africa



A close-up photograph of a rhinoceros's head, showing its thick, wrinkled skin and a large, dark horn. The rhinoceros is looking towards the right. The text "I AM AN AFRICAN" is overlaid in the center in a bold, yellow, serif font with a white outline. The background is a blurred green field.

I AM AN AFRICAN

INTRODUCTION

**I'M AN AFRICAN,
and what I have to say today, is said from
an African perspective and not from any
other perspective, be it western, eastern
or from where-ever.**



ESSENTIAL HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

500 YEARS OF INVASION, COLONISATION,
FOREIGN CONTROL, LOOTING

50 YEARS OF UHURU AND DECOLONISATION
HAVEN'T BROUGHT FREEDOM, BECAUSE WE
ARE STILL DICTATED TO IN A HIGHLY
PATERNALISTIC FASHION BY THE SO CALLED
'DEVELOPED WORLD' THROUGH
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND NGO'S
LIKE CITES AND THE CONCEALED COLONIAL
FORCES OF THE PRESENT DAY

CURRENT STATE OF WILDLIFE IN AFRICA

The state of wildlife in Africa can be summarised by a few key words, which don't need much explanation :

These are : **SPIRAL DIVE TO EXTINCTION, CONFUSION, CATASTROPHY, ENDLESS PRESSURE, PRESSURE, PRESSURE!!!**

Currently there is **NO GAME PLAN** for the continents wildlife. Iconic species take the brunt (**rhino and elephant**) but all others will follow suit in no time.

The march to misery was a long one.

- It took centuries to manifest and it's escalating exponentially as years and days go by.
- What will save the continent from final demise?

- And how best to turn around the seemingly irreversible urbanisation trend of impoverishment.
- Obviously through AGRICULTURE and all its ramifications.
 - ENTER : COMMERCIAL GAME RANCHING

OUTCOMES OF GAME RANCHING

- Massive multi-billion investments in land, infrastructure, know-how and animals.
- Highly significant reversal of downward trends in wildlife populations.
- Massive job creation projects in the food, hospitality and related industries.
- Rehabilitation of ecosystems through wise management of indigenous wildlife populations.

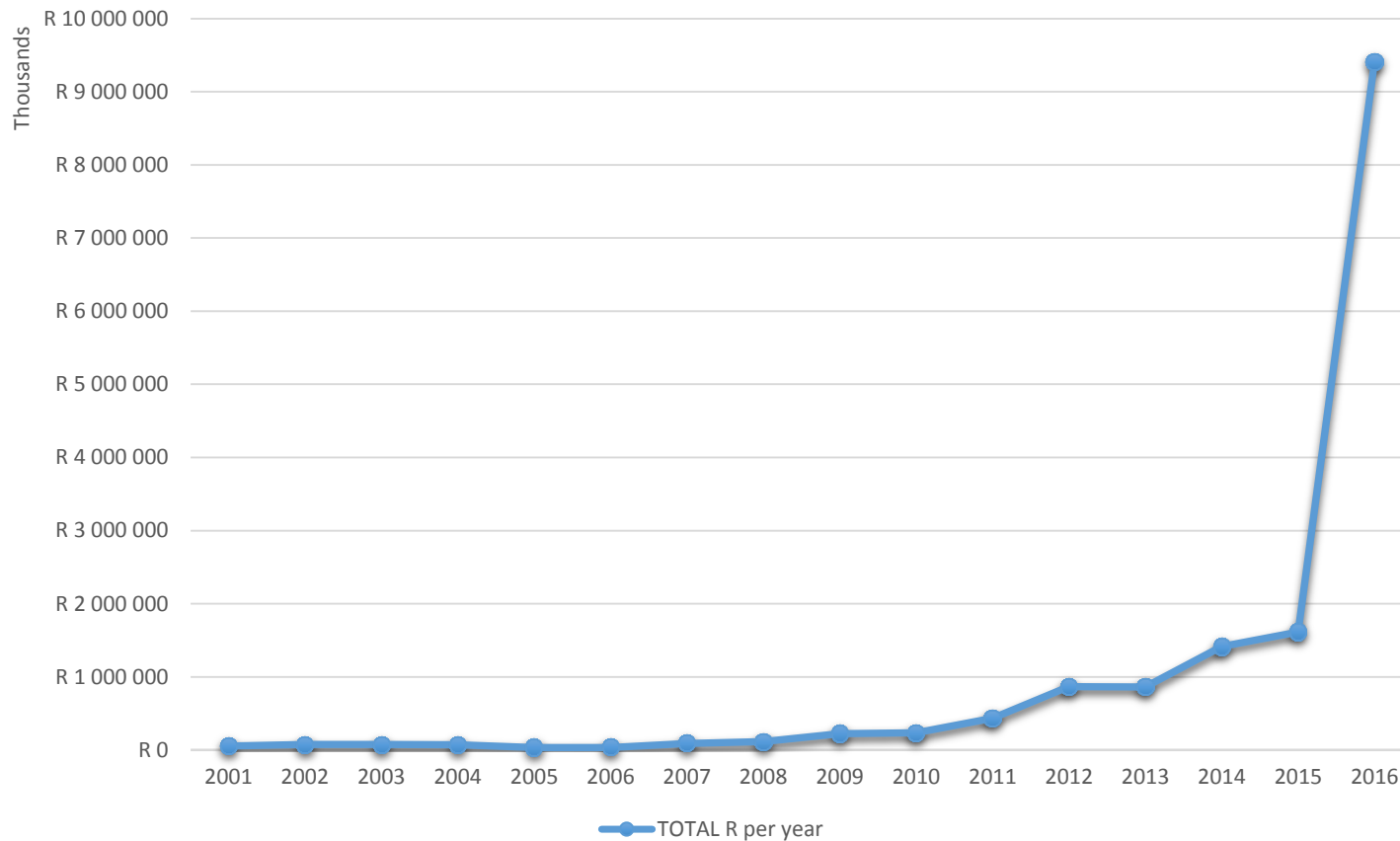
DOES THE NEW TREND IN GAME RANCHING CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE LIVING IN AFRICA?

- In this section I will analyse three aspects of the current game industry in South Africa which I regard as **crucial indicators of the overall sustainability** of the industry, namely
- Growth and fluctuations in market price of ordinary **plains game species**
- Growth and fluctuations in market price of **colour variant antelope species**
- Growth and fluctuations in market price of **rhinos**.

COMMERCIAL TRENDS OVER A 16 YEAR PERIOD IN SOUTH AFRICA

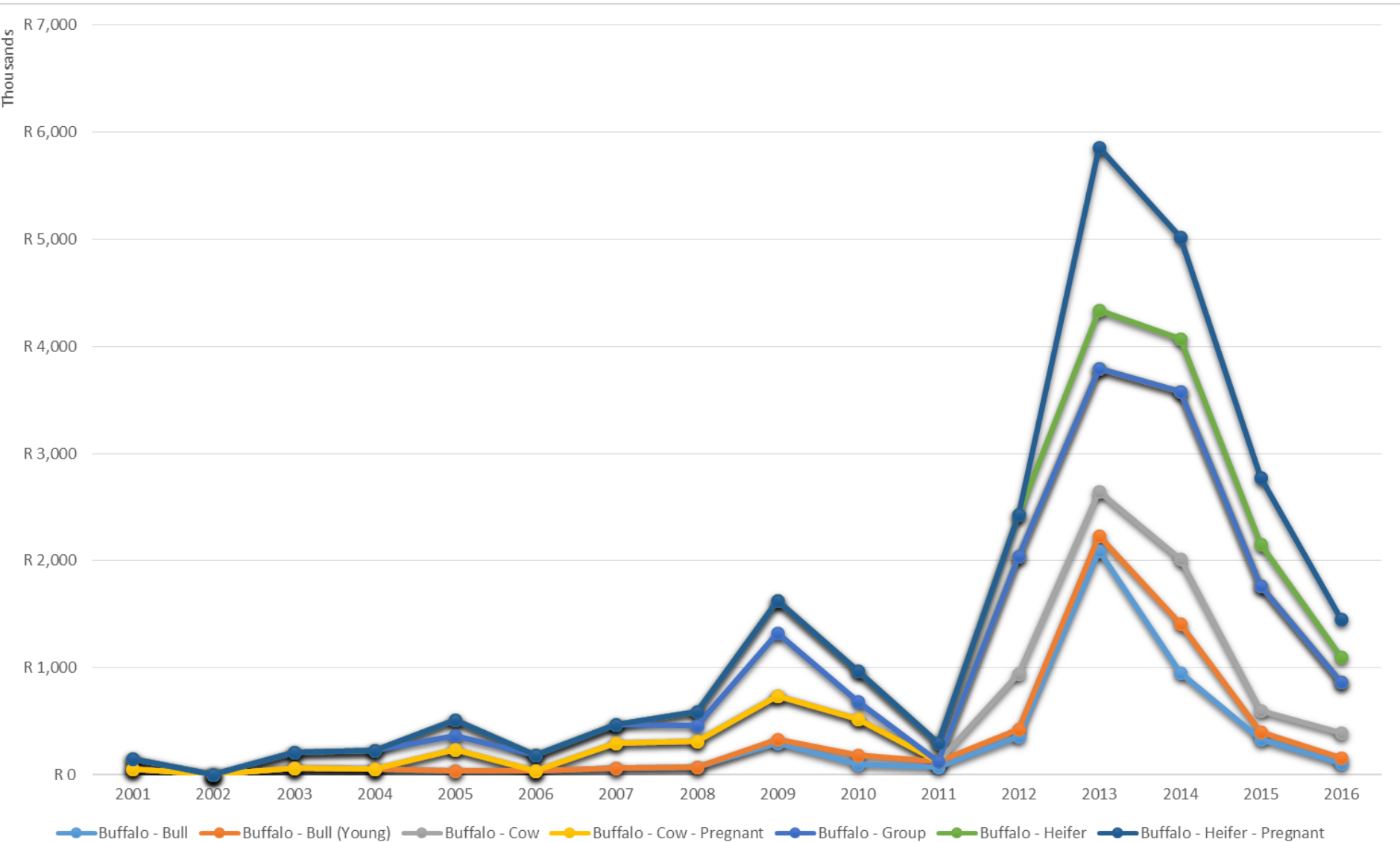
- The following series of graphs and statistics illustrate some tendencies seen on the South African game ranching scene. Information was gathered from the website of the best known and oldest livestock and wildlife auction house in South Africa, namely Vleissentraal.

Grand Total: Game Sales – 2001 to 2016 August

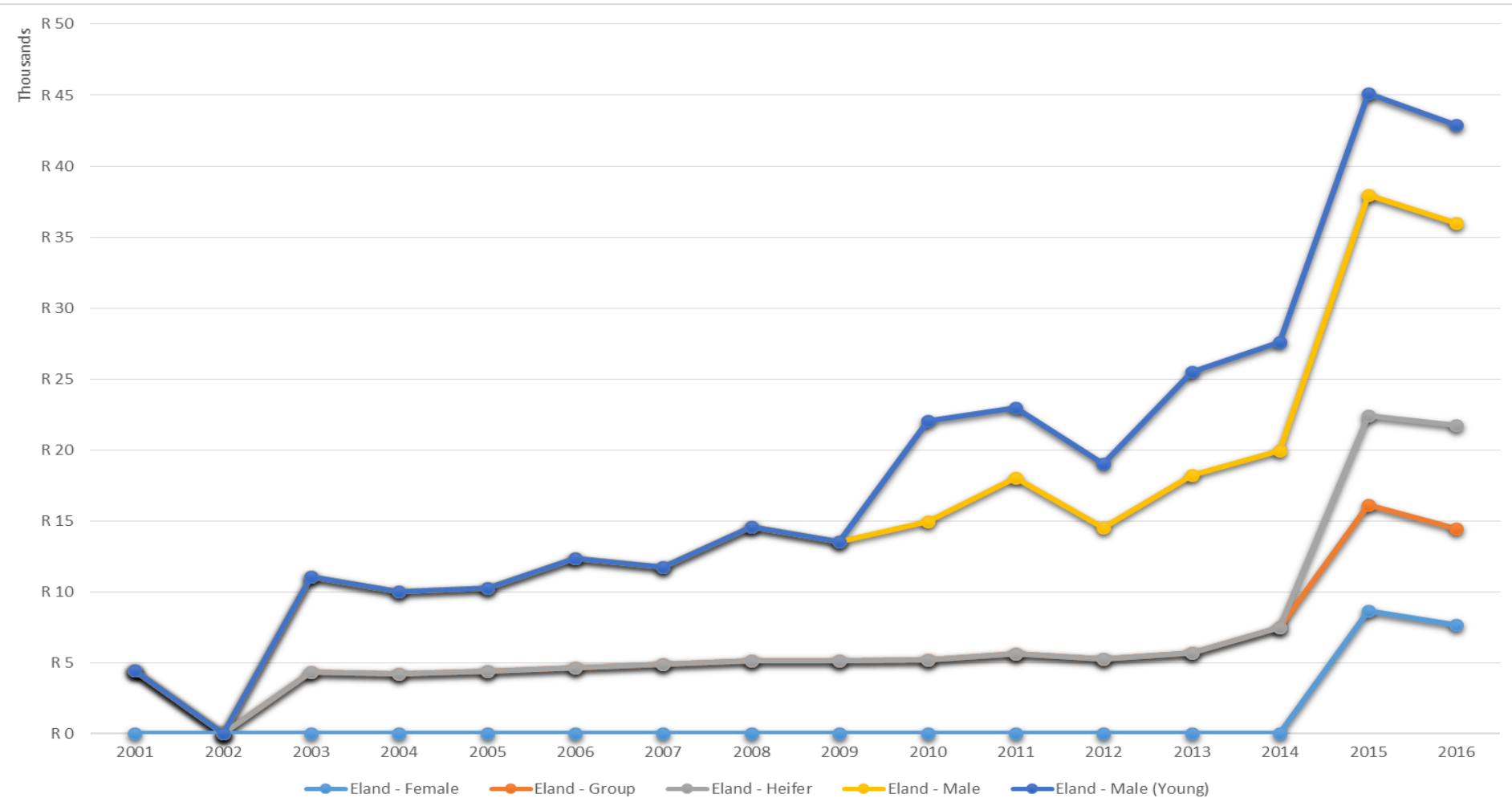


2001	R 52,857,575
2002	R 74,174,021
2003	R 73,540,122
2004	R 71,894,818
2005	R 32,506,098
2006	R 39,290,125
2007	R 89,734,140
2008	R 111,478,235
2009	R 221,787,481
2010	R 232,657,650
2011	R 434,006,178
2012	R 863,989,987
2013	R 861,875,838
2014	R 1,413,444,943
2015	R 1,612,237,120
2016	R 9,408,457,895

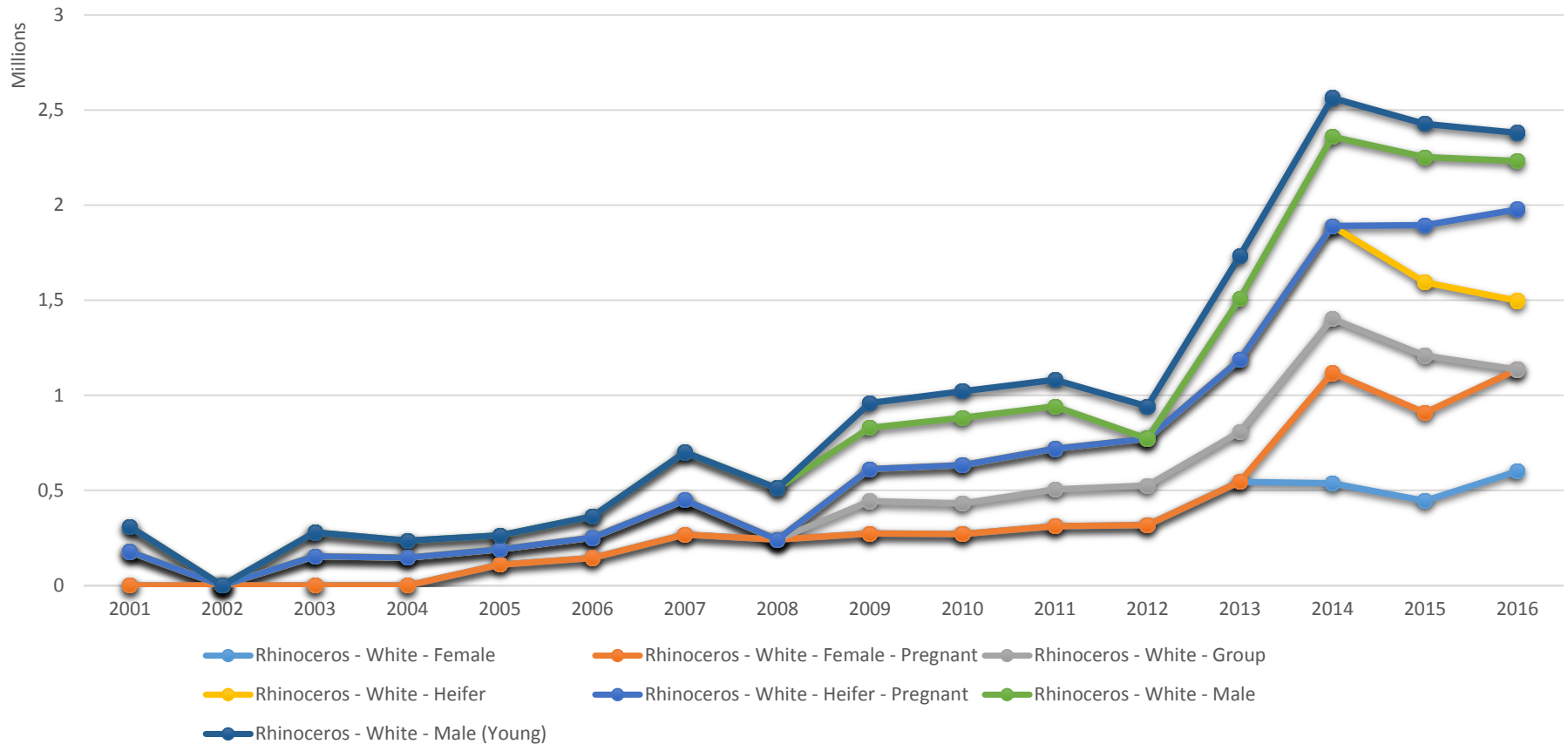
Buffalo (Common) – 2001 to 2016 August



Eland (Common) – 2001 to 2016 August



Rhinoceros - White – 2001 to 2016 August



THE SUSTAINABILITY INDEX (SUSDEX)

a. DEFINITIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY

i. The Convention on Biological Diversity

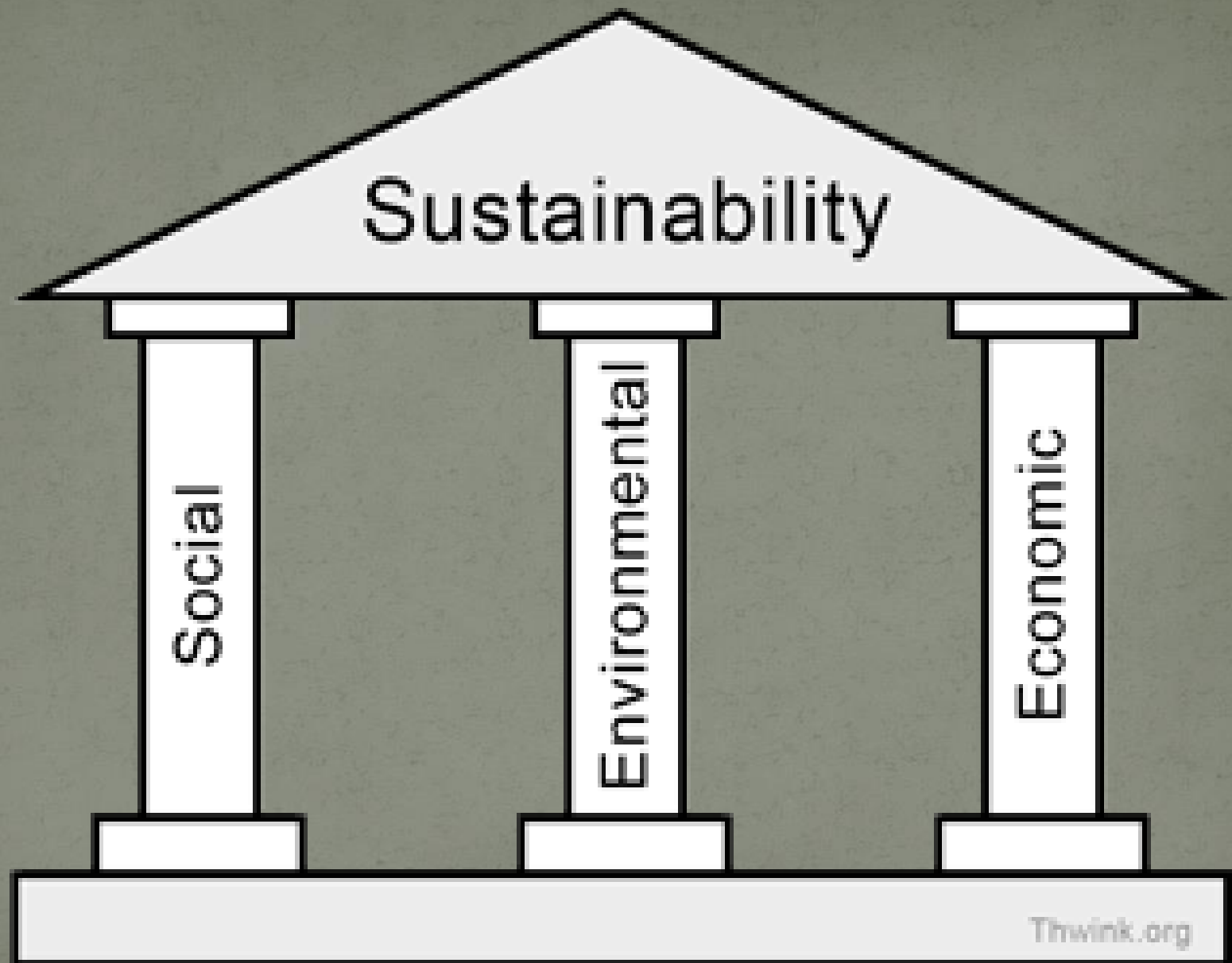
definition (1993)

- “... the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long term decline of biological diversity thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.”

i. The **Thwink.org** definition

The three pillars of sustainability

- ***Environmental Sustainability***
 - The ability to maintain rates of renewable resource harvest, pollution creation, and non-renewable resource depletion that can be continued indefinitely.
- ***Economic Sustainability***
 - The ability to support a defined level of economic production indefinitely.
- ***Social Sustainability***
 - The ability of a social system, such as a country, to function at a defined level of social well-being indefinitely.



SUSDEX PARAMETERS

- The following table outlines 11 parameters randomly chosen to give some substance to the Sustainability Index.

Ecosense	Environmental assimilation value, in other words how well does the species fit a given set of ecological criteria or circumstances
Econosense	Long term economical viability of projects dealing with a given species, type or specimen
Sociosense	Public perceptions about species, programs and projects, and ultimately the acceptability of such. Are general perceptions positive or negative? Are we entering a new 'promised land' scenario, or is it just another ponzi scheme?
Biosense	Value and legality in terms of biodiversity guidelines and laws
Genesense	Gene pool health in terms of variability, heterozygosity
Planetsense	Contribution to planetary health in terms of habitat utilization, management and the ultimate outcomes
Communosense	Contribution to community health and prosperity
Benefitsense	Benefit circle : narrow or wide in terms of numbers of individuals/communities/regions/continents affected.
Survivorsense	Survival value. Environmental adaptability in terms of diseases, nutrition, predation, climate and human pressures as honed by the evolutionary history.
Manipulation sense	Susceptibility to human interventions like husbandry, hunting and market manipulations
Nonsense	General summarising feel for sustainability.

OBJECT : BLACK IMPALA

SUSDEX PARAMETER	VALUE				
	LOW		MEDIUM		HIGH
	NEGATIVE		UNDECIDED		POSITIVE
	1	2	3	4	5
Ecosense		2			
Econosense				4	
Sociosense			3		
Biosense	1				
Genesense	1				
Planetsense	1				
Communosense	1				
Benefitsense	1				
Survivorsense	1				
Manipulationsens	1				
Nonsense	1				
TOTAL	8	2	3	4	
INDEX FIGURE	17/55				
INDEX %	30.9				

EXPLANETARY SUSDEX NOTES BLACK IMPALA

PARAMETER	INDEX VALUE	EXPLANATION
Ecosense	2	Perhaps better ecological value than sheep and goats
Econosense	4	Hugh short term benefit
Sociosense	3	Gimmick value
Biosense	1	Low contribution
Genesense	1	Recessive genes, low long term value
Planetsense	1	Very low contribution if any
Communosense	1	Very limited value
Benefitsense	1	Very narrow circle of beneficiaries
Survivorsense	1	Low in comparison, sensitive to competition, predation
Manipulationse nse	1	Highly manipulated market
Nonsense	1	Very low value for sustainability

OBJECT : ORDINARY IMPALA

SUSDEX PARAMETER	VALUE				
	LOW		MEDIUM		HIGH
	NEGATIVE		UNDECIDED		POSITIVE
	1	2	3	4	5
Ecosense					5
Econosense			3		
Sociosense				4	
Biosense					5
Genesense					5
Planetsense					5
Communosense					5
Benefitsense					5
Survivorsense					5
Manipulationsense			3		
Nonsense					5
TOTAL			6		40
INDEX FIGURE	46/55				
INDEX%	83.6				

EXPLANETARY SUSDEX NOTES ORDINARY IMPALA

PARAMETER	INDEX VALUE	EXPLANATION
Ecosense	5	Perfect niche animal in browser spectrum in savannah biome
Econosense	3	Medium but steady income
Sociosense	4	Highly acceptable from a tourism, hunting and food security standpoint
Biosense	5	High level of contribution
Genesense	5	Broad gene pool in Africa, high long term value
Planetsense	5	High value in species diversity and ecological rehabilitation programs
Communosense	5	Hugh role to play in food security
Benefitsense	5	Wide circle of beneficiaries
Survivorsense	5	Well adapted to african environment in wide range of habitat types, low sensitivity to competition, buffer species in conservation areas to minimize predator pressure on rarer species
Manipulationsens	3	No intentional manipulation, but susceptible to inbreeding through mismanagement on smaller game ranches
Nonsense	5	High value for sustainability

OBJECT : WHITE RHINOCEROS

SUSDEX PARAMETER	VALUE				
	LOW		MEDIUM		HIGH
	NEGATIVE		UNDECIDE D		POSITIVE
	1	2	3	4	5
Ecosense					5
Econosense	1				
Sociosense	1				
Biosense					5
Genesense		2			
Planetsense					5
Communosense	1				
Benefitsense	1				
Survivorsense					5
Manipulationsens	1				
Nonsense	1				
TOTAL	6	2	3		20
INDEX FIGURE	31/55				
INDEX %	56.4				

EXPLANETARY SUSDEX NOTES **WHITE RHINOCEROS**

PARAMETER	INDEX VALUE	EXPLANATION
Ecosense	5	Perfect niche animal in grazer spectrum in savannah biome
Econosense	1	Low or no income on game ranches, currently steady but declining income for large conservation areas
Sociosense	1	Public perceptions negative in terms of future outcomes. Highly acceptable from a tourism standpoint
Biosense	5	High level of contribution
Genesense	2	Narrow gene pool world wide. In need of rapid and high population growth figures to counteract serious genetic bottleneck in future (all rhino species)
Planetsense	5	High value in species diversity and ecological rehabilitation programs
Communosense	1	Currently low value in community life. Hugh potential role to play in sustainable development programs in rural communities in Africa and elsewhere
Benefitsense	5	Currently very narrow circle of mostly state ownership. Wide circle of beneficiaries possible if the world could change its perception and views (on legalization of horn trade)
Survivorsense	5	Well adapted to african environment in wide range of habitat types, low susceptibility to competition in well managed reserves.
Manipulationsense	3	Poaching syndicates dictate all future outcomes in rhino population management. CITES measures useless and counterproductive. Susceptible to inbreeding through mismanagement on smaller game ranches or reserves or in crisis meta populations on other continents (USA, Australia)
Nonsense	1	Currently highly negative value for sustainability

INTERPRETATION OF SUSDEX RESULTS

- Firstly, a person employing this index to gain information to be applied in future scenario planning should try to be as **objective** and **honest** as possible to obtain a credible outcome of his/her analysis.
- Secondly, a SUSDEX analysis should be done at **regular intervals**, say quarterly or annually, in order to discover or establish trends for the given object.

INVEST IN SENSIBLE FUTURE OUTCOMES

- Gain and interpret information objectively to enable sensible strategic decision taking in investment policies.
- Fine tuning investment strategies in this way will ensure long term sustainability of our industry.
- Don't be deceived by the hype created by auctioneers, your neighbour or the market manipulators.

WHAT INFLUENCES SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE RANCHING NEGATIVELY?

1. POOR PERCEPTIONS OF CURRENT AND FUTURE VALUE OF WILDLIFE
2. DISPLACED PURIST VIEWS ON CONSERVATION
3. INTERFERENCE BY WESTERN COUNTRIES AND NGO'S
4. PRICE MANIPULATION FOR SHORT TERM GAIN BY INDIVIDUALS, SYNDICATES AND AUCTION HOUSES
5. SUSCEPTIBILITY OF WILDLIFE INDUSTRY TO MONEY LAUNDERING

RESCUE MEASURES FOR WILDLIFE IN AFRICA

1. SERIOUS RURAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
IN COMMERCIAL WILDLIFE VENTURES
2. COUNTERACTING WESTERN PURIST VIEWS ON
WILDLIFE UTILIZATION
3. GETTING RID OF THE MISPLACED INFLUENCE
OF SELF-CENTRED (DONATION DRIVEN)
WESTERN NGO'S BY FINDING CONSENSUS
AMONGST ALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES
TOWARDS AN EXIT STRATEGY FROM CITES

AFREXIT

PROPOSAL TO ALL AFRICAN NATIONS

AFRICAN CONVENTION ON SUSTAINABLE USE OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

- **INDEPENDENT AFRICAN INITIATIVE**
AN AFRICAN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDANCE
- **AFRICAN COUNTRIES TAKE BACK CONTROL OVER
THEIR OWN RESOURCES**
- **LET AFRICA STAND ON ITS OWN LEGS**

Prayer

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika

and PLEASE, NKOSI, our Crown Jewels as well!





CONTACT DETAILS
WILHELM SCHACK
wilhelm@ekowild.co.za
Mobile 0027-83 301 8119