

# Harvesting and Processing of Wild Game in Namibia

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# Overview

- Namibia has abundance of wildlife;
- Over 2 million head of wildlife;
- Combined value of wildlife and tourism - contributes 3.5% to GDP compared to 3.2% for agriculture;
- Meat processing contributes further 2.3% to GDP.



# Overview

- Wildlife sector in Namibia has major role to play in Namibia's growth strategy;
- Underutilised wildlife use sector - huge potential for value-addition and diversification of income opportunities – especially for communal conservancies in Namibia.....



# Overview

- Both livestock and game – part and parcel of Namibian ecosystem;
- However - expected that climate change will be more severe on livestock than wildlife;
- Therefore – crucial to deal with Food Security and maintain a biological resource base;
- This includes the promotion of game meat as a sustainable animal protein source for food supply.



# Overview

- More than 80% of the larger game species in Namibia found on private farms;
- Wildlife numbers projected to rise to 5 million in the next 50 years;
- Thus wildlife will become important economic activity.



# Overview

- Climate change is real!;
- Predicted that southern Africa will experience an increase in temperature of 2-6 deg C;
- Central and northern Namibia - rainfall will decrease 10%;
- Southern Namibia – rainfall will decrease with 20%;
- Well-adapted game species will become increasingly more important...



# Rights over wildlife

- Utilization of game meat linked to Article 95 of National Constitution of Namibia;
- Vision 2030 – aims to ensure biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization of wildlife;
- Freehold farmers - rights over wildlife 1967;
- Communal farmers - same rights in 1996.



# Wildlife utilisation

- Namibia - moving away from a preservationist philosophy to more sustainable utilization;
- Previous study estimated - of 16 000 to 23 000 tonnes of game meat are produced in Namibia annually.....



# Marketing of wildlife

- Tourism - strongest driving force - creates about 103 500 jobs – 19.4 % of total employment;
- Trophy hunting contributes largely to tourism industry - although lowest return per unit area;
- Live sales (N\$ 60-100 million);
- Game meat sales  
(N\$ 500 million – N\$ 1.2 billion).



# Livestock and game

- Tourism, live sales, trophy hunting – cannot alone sustain growth;
- Trophy hunting only removes 1% of wildlife herd;
- Farming with wildlife aiming at commercial meat production - an option;
- Generally game occupies app. 30% of the farming area and realizes only 20%, if, of the income;
- Important to note: Livestock and wildlife often do not compete for the same grazing.



# Namibian wildlife species most suitable for meat production

- Gemsbok
- Kudu
- Springbok
- Red hartebeest
- Eland
- Mountain zebra



# Game meat – the healthy choice

- Demand for game meat increased locally and internationally;
- Competitive advantage - < 3% fat, can be considered as organic; high in polyunsaturated fatty acids; high protein content; energy value < 500 kJ / 100 g
- Hygienic slaughter and processing of game meat – IMPORTANT;



# Harvesting for commercial purposes – professional manner



- On-farm *ante-mortem* inspections
- Registered harvesting teams
- Trained game meat examiner
- Workers - medical evaluations



# Harvesting truck transporting shot springbok to veld abattoir



# Harvesting truck transporting large game to field abattoir



# Requirements for veld/field abattoir



- Veld abattoir
- Light source
- Hygiene system
- Two – knife system
- Water - warm ( $> 82^{\circ}\text{C}$  or chemically sterilized)
- Refrigerated truck on site
- Carcass cooling to  $7^{\circ}\text{C}$  or less within 24 hrs
- Carcass ultimate pH = less than 6



# Mobile veld/field abattoir in operation



# Veld/field abattoir for large game



# Game meat processing



# Biltong and droëwors production



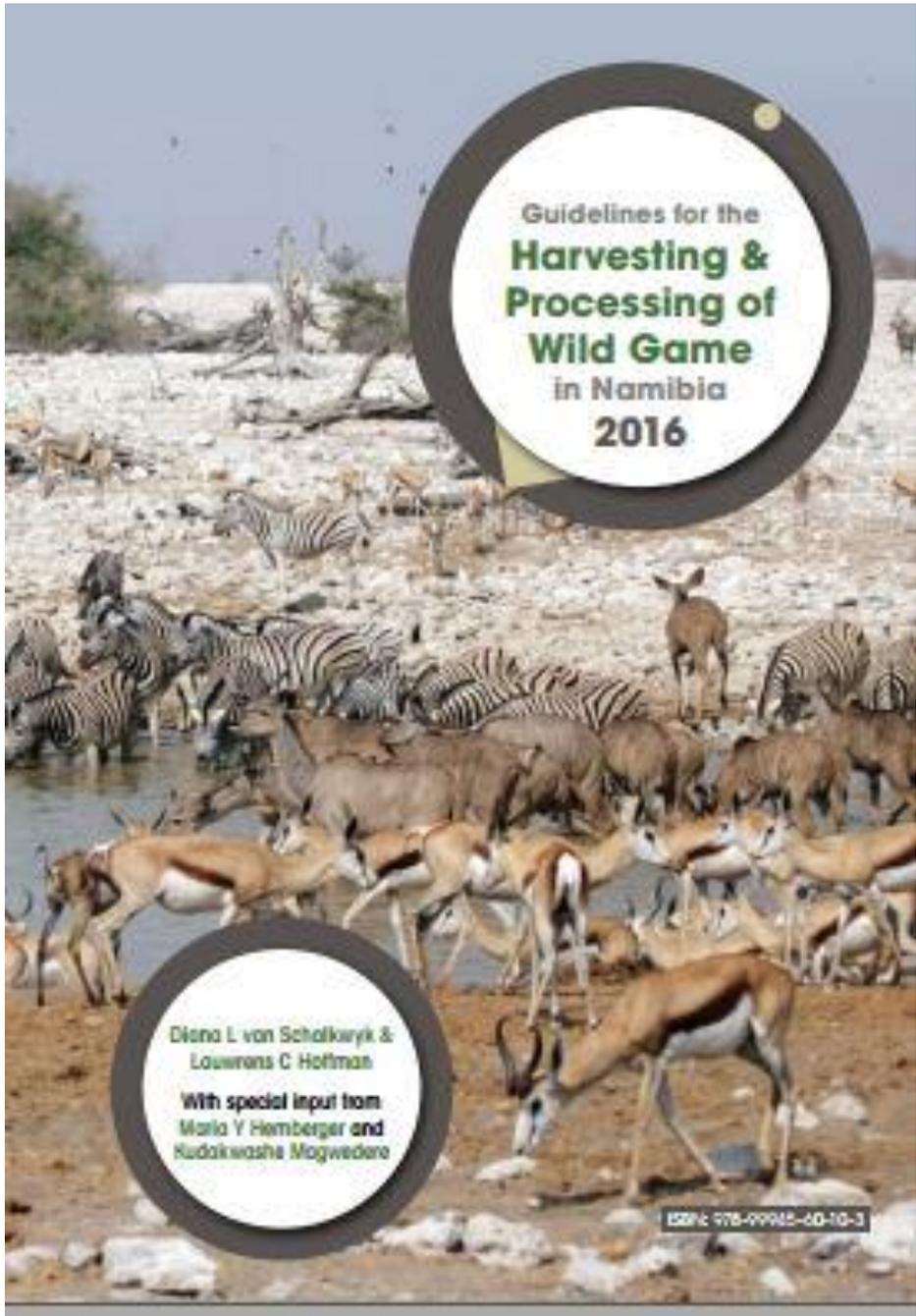
# Harvesting Regulations and Guidelines

- Numerous acts and regulations - applicable to the harvesting and processing of game in Namibia;
- **Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS)** – competent authority overseeing meat exports;
- **Ministry of Health and Social Services (MOHSS)**
  - custodian for local game meat trade;
- **Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET)**
  - regulates quotas and registration of harvesting teams.

# Guideline booklet – Harvesting and Processing of Wild Game - updated

- Need to hygienically harvest game - spearheaded the writing of guideline booklet in 2010 and the recent update in 2016;
- Intention of being used by Namibian game farmers and stakeholders;
- Supported by MET and GIZ.





Guidelines for the  
**Harvesting &  
Processing of  
Wild Game**  
in Namibia  
**2016**

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Thank you....

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Harvesting teams

Stakeholders

MET

GIZ

