

NAPHA

THE NAMIBIA PROFESSIONAL HUNTING ASSOCIATION

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Left to right: Marina Lamprecht, Ted Rowe (President of the WFSA) and Minister Nandi-Ndaitwah.

Two African Women Win the WFSA Ambassador Award 2011

The World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities (WFSA) presented its Sport Shooting Ambassador Award 2011 to Hon Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, the Namibian Minister of Environment and Tourism, and Ms Marina Lamprecht of Hunters Namibia Safaris, who also serves on the executive committee of the Namibia Professional Hunting Association (NAPHA), for their achievements to conserve Namibia's wildlife through hunting tourism. Marina Lamprecht is also co-editor for *Hunting: Namibia* for *African Outfitter* magazine.

This Sport Shooting Ambassador presentation is made to individuals selected for their contribution to the shooting sports. The award was presented in Nuremberg, Germany, at IWA, the International Trade Fair for Hunting and Sporting Arms, Outdoor Articles and Accessories, where the WFSA had its annual general meeting. The WFSA's Sport Shooting Ambassador Award consists of a solid silver reproduction of a 16th century pistol with its powder flask.

Minister Nandi-Ndaitwah was lauded for her Ministry's support and promotion of sustainable trophy hunting as a conservation tool, as well as

for her keynote address at the WFSA symposium on "The Ecologic and Economic Benefits of Hunting" which was held in Windhoek, Namibia.

Marina Lamprecht was given recognition as an extremely effective spokesperson for the African trophy hunting industry, for her pro-hunting writing and seminars as well as her WFSA symposium address on "The Development of Trophy Hunting in Namibia from the 60s to the Present Day".

On 7 March 2002, the WFSA granted the Inaugural Sport Shooting Ambassador Award to the best-selling African author Wilbur Smith. Other recipients of this prestigious international award include Scottish racing driver Sir Jackie Stewart, Italian gunmaker Ugo Gussalli Beretta and US Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

The WFSA Image Subcommittee believes that the public at large in most countries is denied the opportunity to understand the value of sport shooting in the wider community. The Ambassador Award aims to redress this by making public recognition of the social contribution made by some of the many public figures who have a long-standing interest in the shooting sports. This year the theme of the conference was "Hunting and Sport Shooting in the 21st Century".

The WFSA, now representing more than 30 associations, aims to raise global community awareness of the case for legitimate gun ownership. International governmental groups as well as institutions such as the United Nations have increasingly turned to the WFSA as it puts forward the views of the global gun owner. The WFSA represents over 100 million sport shooters from all around the world.

Minister Nandi-Ndaitwah, in her keynote address at the WFSA meeting in Nuremberg, explained that wildlife in Namibia has more than tripled in recent years, as hunting tourism encourages landowners to have game on their land. Wildlife has turned from a cost into an asset. This has been the case on farms and ranches, but more importantly many rural communities have formed their conservancies, and the income from wildlife now contributes to their livelihoods. Game is back on land where it became extinct a long time ago. And with the ungulates the predators return. "Namibia is the number one cheetah country in Africa," said the Minister. She condemned all kinds of unsustainable and unethical hunting practices and underlined that they are not tolerated in her country. "Come to Namibia and hunt," she encouraged the international hunting community.



Marina Lamprecht (second from left) addressing the plenary session of WFSA on “The Image of Trophy Hunting” at the IWA show held recently in Nuremberg, Germany.

“By hunting you help Namibia to keep its wildlife for future generations.”

When addressing the meeting on “The Image of Trophy Hunting”, Marina Lamprecht said that selective, ethical, fair-chase trophy hunting is a proven conservation success in Namibia: “Through hunting we have given our wildlife a value far greater than that of their meat, and the meat still utilised by the communities/landowner/communal conservancies.

Nowhere in the world would one ever consider that domestic animals – being cattle, sheep and goats – would ever become extinct, although they are the most utilised animals on earth. That is because we have developed them to a point that they have become essential to human beings. If we develop our wildlife in the same manner we will secure their future. The Namibian constitution enshrines the sustainable utilisation of our natu-

ral resources, and the income trophy hunters provide for landowners serves as a powerful economic incentive for the conservation of this valuable natural resource. Trophy hunting in Namibia continues to prove to be one of the most lucrative forms of commercial as well as communal land utilisation, and we all know how important it is to use our land effectively for the benefit of our communities and our wildlife.

The greatest threat facing trophy hunting in Namibia is the lack of law enforcement to effectively punish those who hunt unethically and/or illegally.”

Ms Lamprecht urged the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism to put effective measures in place to ensure that trophy hunting is carried out strictly according to the letter of the law. “Let us join forces to keep foreigners operating illegally out of our country, as well as to adopt an attitude of zero tolerance towards those who hunt unethically – they threaten the future of our industry and, more importantly, make a mockery of our well-regulated trophy hunting legislation which, if applied effectively, has the potential to be our greatest conservation success.”

