

MEETING BETWEEN SIMANJIRO AND LOKISALE STAKEHOLDERS

14TH May 2008
TNRF Office, Arusha

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

Participants:

Mr. Manase L. Mbesere – Luke Samaras Safaris Ltd.
Mr. Ahmad Munisi – Tandala Hunting Safaris
Mr. Roger Corfield – Roger Corfield Ltd. / Foxtrot Charlie Ltd.
Mr. Frank E. Mremi – Wildlife Division
Mr. Pratik Patel – Kikoti Safari Camp
Mr. Thad Peterson – Dorobo
Mr. Daudi Peterson – Dorobo
Dr. Andrew Williams – TNRF
Mr. Enock Chengullah – TNRF
Ms. Caroline Chumo – TNRF
Mr. Vijay Aggarwal - TNRF

All stakeholders attended with the exception of representatives from Bundu Safaris and Tarangire Treetops and Boundary Hill Lodge.

The meeting proposed the following:

- 1. The statutory 2 km buffer on the Tarangire National Park boundary be respected by all hunting companies – with no hunting in this zone;***
- 2. A further 1-2 km extended buffer along the Park boundary be agreed in which no hunting should take place;***
- 3. That a core photographic zone with no hunting be created east of the Park Boundary but west of the Naitolia – Tree-tops - Kikoti road;***
- 4. That Treetops 100 acre title deed area not be hunted;***
- 5. That Treetops walking area (an area about 2kms along a Korongo west of the lodge) be explicitly not hunted, particularly in respect of the law which states that wildlife should not be hunted within 500 meters of a water course;***
- 6. Photographic operators should communicate and inform hunting companies of their movements in advance (at least 24 hours notice);***
- 7. Hunting operators should not hunt within one kilometer of a mobile or semi-permanent campsite;***
- 8. Hunting operators should avoid hunting in areas where photographic operators are present on a temporary basis while carrying out mobile camping;***
- 9. A scheme to compensate or acknowledge the use of hunting blocks by photographic operators be discussed at the next meeting;***

From the start of the meeting, Mr. David Peterson, acting as chairperson, asked the participants to discuss the positive contributions of both the consumptive and non-consumptive tour operators in Simanjiro District. He asked participants to use their language of choice, either Swahili or English.

1. Positive aspects of consumptive operators as viewed mainly by non-consumptive operators:

Mr. Patel:

Areas of operation are huge (from Lolkisale all the way to Kimotorok) while photographic operators are utilizing only small areas of the ecosystem and so hunting with the movement of vehicles over a greater area helps reduce poaching activities.

Zoning off certain areas for photographic tourism and informing hunting companies when photographic groups are passing through - as in Lolkisale area. There is enough room for both types of operator if the area is managed well.

Mechanisms should be put in place to facilitate good communication that makes the whereabouts of photographic operators known to hunting block holders. This is the polite thing to do.

Mr. Thad Peterson:

We are all looking for the same outcome – a healthy environment, wildlife conservation creating healthy businesses with communities and government doing well from this. Hunting is viable when the topography and habitat is not conducive to photography or if the area is far outside of the park boundary. There are huge areas where non-consumptive tourism is not viable.

Mr. David Peterson:

So there seems to be common ground...

Mr. Patel:

But the problem is that we are all near the park... (Tarangire)

Mr. Corfield:

And wildlife densities are much higher closer to the park boundaries.

Mr. David Peterson:

There is enough room for all – hunting helps justify wildlife in a much bigger area than photographic tourism. There are huge areas where photographic tourism is not viable due to tsetse fly and the area being too far from the Tarangire Park boundary.

2. Positives of photographic operations as viewed mainly by consumptive operators:

Mr. Patel:

Tourism hunting helps reduce illegal poaching and resident is out of control.

Mr. Mbesere:

Generally there are no problems between photo-tourism and hunting operators. Small areas of the hunting blocks can be zoned off for photographic operations. However, photographic tour operators need to notify hunting operators that they are coming through their blocks. Perhaps the park boundary area and Ol Donyo Sambu have been areas of some tension and conflict.

Mr. Corfield:

Photographic and hunting operations will reduce resident poaching - citing Loliondo as an example.

Mr. Patel:

Photographic tourism provides year round revenue. Tanzania Big Game Company's anti-poaching unit is strained for resources.

Photographic tour operators need to encourage village game scouts and train villagers in other employment to create incentives for conservation; In addition mentions KDU representation.

There also needs to be more transparency.

Mr. David Peterson:

In summarizing, photographic curtails poaching all year round, and secondly, provides revenue all year round and provides incentives for wildlife-friendly land use outcomes.

Mr. Corfield:

Wildlife by photographic is conserved all year round for benefits to all.

Mr. Thad Peterson:

Photographic has positive impact on habitat and land use protection and thereby also beneficial to hunting companies. Photographic operations in better position to incorporate villages in land use plans; in the 19 years he has been in Simanjiro, no permanent structures nor farms have been built with the exception of a mining company in the concession area Dorobo Tours has.

Mr. David Peterson:

To Mr. Munisi: How do recommend we move ahead together?

Mr. Munisi:

Basically there has been an ongoing problem. We know each other well and previously we had a schedule to reduce conflict. We used informal communications to inform each other about our activities, nothing formal. Unfortunately the system broke down, and we need to revive it. If we can continue that system, it would be good.

Mr. David Peterson:

Hunting block sub-leasers from South Africa came in and refused to respect the system in place. We had to ask the village chairman to intervene on our behalf.

Mr. Munisi:

Another issue is the security of people – reporting our activities to each other is very important (for example, to avoid hunting accidents).

Mr. Patel:

We need confirmation of the borders – Ol Donyo Sambu is the meeting point of Bundu, Tandala and Luke Samaras Safaris hunting blocks; we should ask Mr. Mremi.

Mr. David Peterson:

We need to go further than that...In one case, three hunting blocks converge on one village. People are confused. These hunting blocks need to be re-drawn along village boundaries – this will also help hunting companies by reducing politics.

Mr. Mremi:

They were previously drawn up using landmarks, not village boundaries.

Mr. David Peterson:

How can we have the hunting block boundaries changed – so that they align with village or ward or divisional boundaries? Through Parliament?

Mr. Mremi:

By following the law.

Mr. David Peterson:

The blocks are based on contracts.

Mr. Mremi:

They can be changed after 2009.

Mr. David Peterson:

Without a lot of bureaucracy?

Mr. Patel:

We should make recommendations early (now) so that when the contracts end, the new ones will have a clear basis for improvement.

Group discussion: It was suggested that it would be necessary for WD to review hunting block boundaries in areas where there are serious conflicts with other users particularly the photographic tour operators. This was said in relation to the area where Treetops operates as well as where the 3 hunting blocks meet (Bundu, Luke Samaras and Tandala) at a hill (ol Donyo Sambu) east of Tarangire NP within Emboret village.

Mr. David Peterson:

Some companies aren't here. Should they have a chance to contribute their ideas? Bundu have major problems with photographic operations including Dorobo Tours.

Mr. Mbesere:

They should be given a chance to make their proposals.

Mr. Thad Peterson:

That's why they were invited to attend.

3. Discussion on boundaries and extending the buffer zone:

Mr. Patel:

Our camp is 800m from the park boundary and there is 1200 meters to the end of the buffer zone.

We can propose increasing the buffer zone from park boundary from 2km to 4km where no hunting is allowed. In the same area are Kitoki Safari Camp and Leopard Ridge, looking at Emboret Village. Kikoti 'B' is near the park border. Treetops and Boundary Hill have lots of vehicle movement along the road north to Naitolia and north of Kikoti between Tarangire and these (above mentioned) camps.

Visitors should not see hunting vehicles pass loaded with carcasses, trophies, bait, etc. because it is distasteful and alarming for some guests enjoying a photographic experience.

Mr. Mbesere and Mr. Mremi:

There are no boundary maps, only descriptions. Boundary description has used natural landmarks and nothing has been put on the ground, nor has GPS used.

Mr. David Peterson:

Talking about Naitolia, Treetops, and Boundary Hill Road. West of the road is the prime area where photo-operations are concentrated. Wildlife is also teeming in the area, the

reason for everybody wanting to be there. Hunting perhaps should be kept east of the road.

Mr. Patel:

Doesn't want to destroy client's experience with too much vehicle movement.

Mr. Mremi:

Bundu's block B is within the area where Mr. Patel says there is much wildlife, near Treetops where hunting and photographic companies have conflicting interests. They are at logger heads, and everybody is right in their own way through different jurisdictions. Then visitors experience is getting impaired!!!

Whole group at this point mentions boundary maps being needed

Mr. Patel:

Can we add one kilometer to the two kilometer buffer zone and that way we don't take too much of Bundu's area?

Mr. Mbesere:

Why don't you meet with Bundu?

All:

We will meet with Bundu, no doubt. We are just generating ideas now.

Mr. Patel:

Sopa has a 100 acres title deed.

Mr. David Peterson:

Make an exclusive zone extending to 3 or 4 kilometers with 2 km already designated by TANAPA

Mr. Munisi:

In that area, resident hunting is more of a problem than Bundu Safari's operations.

Mr. Chengullah:

Let's be clear that 2 kilometers for the buffer zone is not a proposal, it is a matter of law enforcement. Perhaps a request to Bundu to leave the Treetops area alone as matter of moral obligation.

Treetops area is a high wildlife density zone - wildlife comes in for water and we should possibly exclude this area from hunting.

Mr. Mremi:

Agrees that the two kilometer buffer zone is not under dispute. The problem is that camps such as Treetops are well established but Bundu conflicts with their operating norms.

Mr. Thad Peterson:

The main track for Bundu goes through Boundary Hill to Treetops. There is big economic activity in that area.

Mr. David Peterson:

Use this known road boundary to designate hunting. East of the road could be for hunting and west of the road could be free of hunting.

Mr. David Peterson:

Asking about the two thousand acre leased concession: What jurisdiction is this area under?

Mr. Mremi:

Treetops has a lease for this area.

Mr. Patel:

We could have beacons put around the Treetops lease area.

Mr. Mremi:

Bundu safaris are likely to say no and as they will argue that there are too many shambas in their area already, making the Tree-tops a prime area for hunting.

Mr. Thad Peterson:

If he argues too many shambas, he should consider Tandala Hunting block. They are practically eating mahindi!

Mr. David Peterson:

We need a compromise.

Mr. Thad Peterson:

We should focus on a compromise for the next 2 hunting seasons. In 2010 comes the reality of redrawing boundaries to make consumptive and non-consumptive operations more viable.

Mr. David Peterson:

Can we then propose today that east of the road hunting is to be allowed excluding the area around Treetops? (And not all the way up to Natolia.)

Mr. Thad Peterson:

Up North we could ask Bundu not to shoot along the road.

Discussion between Mr. David Peterson and Mr. Mremi ensues whereby Mr. David Peterson mentions that agriculture is not prohibited in GCAs

Mr. David Peterson:

We need Bundu and Treetops to resolve the Treetops area.

Group:

Propose for 4km buffer along park boundary and 1 km buffer zone around Treetops camp. Finalization depends on the exact area of Treetop's lease and Bundu's inputs.

Mr. Patel:

Even with a 4km buffer zone there is enough area to hunt.

Mr. Thad Peterson:

No doubt in the next 2 years Bundu is most impacted because it is right next to the park border.

Mr. David Peterson:

Bundu is under pressure because they have taken a somewhat hard-line stance which has impacted relations with other operators.

Mr. Corfield:

And Bundu allegedly is not obeying the 2km buffer zone.

Mr. Mberese:

Why don't Bundu, Treetops and Kikoti camps meet together to work out their issues?

Mr. Corfield:

What we have discussed today is only preliminary.

Dr Williams:

I think it is important that this meeting makes a provisional proposal which Bundu as a stakeholder is able to comment and provide feedback on.

Mr. Patel:

Reasons to increase the buffer zone will be for more money going to the communities

Mr. Corfield:

Money is also going to TANAPA

Mr. Mremi:

Bundu says "I'm paying all the block fees and my colleagues are not helping." Hunters are at least paying for block fees; photographic not paying anything.

Mr. Thad Peterson:

Maybe Bundu should be offset for block fees once we start paying the WD as per the Non-consumptive Wildlife Use Regulations?

Mr. David Peterson:

Actually we (photographic operators) are paying block fees – but to the villages whereas hunters pay to the central government; This is part of the fundamental conflict – as photographic operators are operating through the jurisdiction of the Village Land Act (in terms of leasing or paying for access to land, whereas hunting operators pay central government for user-rights to wildlife within a delimited zone, but with no right to the land itself).

Mr. Thad Peterson:

So these different payments are regulated under different laws.

Mr. Corfield:

Bundu's block starts outside the 2km block but it has the best shooting.

Mr. Mbesere:

We need Bundu for this discussion.

Dr. Williams:

A proposal needs to forward to them otherwise resolution and progress will be difficult.

Mr. Patel:

We need everybody here for transparency and also we need something to propose to Bundu and Treetops. Mr. Mremi can make an impartial report to Bundu.

Mr. David Peterson:

Let's finalize in agreeing on a proposal.

Mr. Patel:

So a one km zone in each direction to be no shooting at Treetops, with the area to the west of the road to have hunting prohibited but for hunting to be permitted on the east side.

All hunting around the Korongo (place with water) should be prohibited 500m from water (as per the law) - so hunters should not hunting within 500m of this Korongo.

Mr. Thad Peterson:

Let's not forget that Treetops goes walking about 2 kilometers from their camp towards the Park.

Mr. David Peterson:

So we should propose a 1km radius around permanent camps for there to be no hunting.

Dr. Williams:

Why should Bundu agree? Doesn't it seem like they are losing out? They are losing hunting area, etc. What can photographic operators give to Bundu in return?

Mr. Mremi:

An alternative is that they could be losing the entire area.

Dr. Williams:

But they could be paid for those areas of the hunting block which they lose access to for the remaining two seasons.

Mr. Mremi:

After two seasons we'll renegotiate.

Mr. Patel:

I could give Bundu some of my block.

Mr. David Peterson:

After finalizing the proposal we'll calculate what they lose.

Mr. Patel:

Bundu pays about \$27,000 in block fees [verifies with Mr. Mremi]. Suggests helping with block fees with maybe each photographic company contributing \$2000 to Bundu.

Mr. David Peterson:

Suggests leaving proposal as is and leaving out matters of compensation for now until sitting down with Bundu.

Mr. Corfield:

Bundu is in a prime area they are not going to lose out on game, especially if you compare with numbers of game in other blocks.

Mr. Patel:

For the problem area – ask Bundu to respect 2km boundary zone and add 1km for security measures.

Mr. David Peterson:

Proposal at this stage to suggest 4km from park boundary as buffer zone; east of road for there to be hunting and photographic camps to have a 1km radius buffer. The discussion about compensation will come later.

Mr. Patel:

We will wait to find out how upcoming block fees will work.

Mr. Corfield:

Mr. Tarimo (the Director of Wildlife) mentioned a phasing scheme.

Mr. David Peterson:

Communities should seek revenue for the bigger picture and get on board with conservation.

Mr. Thad Peterson:

Also suggests giving notice to hunting companies when entering and reiterating the need for a 1km no hunting radius around the camps. When mobile camps are not in the area hunting companies can use it. And when photographic mobile camps are in the area, we request a buffer area around where we walk.

Mr. Patel:

Talking about his company's community development projects involving health and education, which are taking place today and tomorrow.

Mr. David Peterson:

Need to communicate community work to hunting companies so that they know when non-consumptive guests will be passing through and can adapt their shooting schedules.

Mr. David Peterson:

Near Terrat village we are very concerned about the conservation of the Simanjiro plains in relation to their significance for wildlife populations in the Tarangire Ecosystem and the Park in particular. Unfortunately, due to a past legacy that is now beginning to change, communities do not trust the Wildlife Division, TANAPA, or consumptive operations, as well as conservation organizations – particularly due to a lack of respect by these organizations for community rights over land and local livelihoods. This presents a challenge – how to achieve effective conservation outcomes on the ground with communities actively participating and benefiting?

Terrat Village has some important short-grass plains, and Dorobo does fundraising for Village Game Scouts (i.e. bicycles, binoculars, mobile phones). Five operators are paying the village to protect the ecosystem (i.e. no agriculture or permanent settlements – but grazing allowed) and are proposing to offer financial benefits to protect areas of wildebeest and zebra calving whereby payments can allow villages to forego agriculture as a land use option. This is in essence called an 'easement'.

There is still a need to have more scouts although Dorobo employs six scouts in Emboreet village.

There is a strong need to extend these 'easement' to other villages not necessarily for tourism but to protect habitat and to improve the viability of the Tarangire ecosystem – which after all is a major component of Tanzania's tourism industry. This type of protection essentially benefits the hunting blocks as well

Mr. Thad Peterson:

Even Sopa is on board because this area is so important to the Tarangire Ecosystem and their business.

Mr. Patel:

People from Arusha are starting to go to Simanjiro in search of shambas.

Mr. David Peterson:

There is a lot of politics so one must go slowly – the issues are complex.

Mr. David Peterson:

Scouts generally are very good but when encountering difficult situations they should contact TANAPA

Mr. Munisi:

Problems with land-use planning in Siminjiro; concerned with lack of expertise with overall planning

Mr. Patel:

Talk or inclusion of land-use plans in discussions easily becomes political; mentioned case of one minister saying it is Tanzanian's right to farm the land wherever possible.

Mr. Thad Peterson:

We could make a proposal for 2010 with a map.

Mr. David Peterson:

Munisi's suggestion of revenue going directly to the village councils on the condition of conservation-friendly / supporting land use practices.

Mr. Corfield:

If communities don't get enough from conservation they will start to farm.

Dr. Williams:

At the end of the day, it's money that speaks loudest. There has been a considerable amount of land-use planning carried out – often with little effect - so good land use planning needs to be complemented and supported with straightforward schemes – such as easements – that are economically beneficial for villages and help offset the opportunity costs of conservation. Conservation should be profitable for communities.

Mr. David Peterson:

If blocks are aligned with village boundaries and these core areas are to be hunted in a sustainable fashion, then it also makes sense bring in a photographic operator to provide further financial incentives for conservation and protection or else the government needs to develop a way of generating much more revenue from hunting and ensuring that it goes to the landholders who make the land-use decisions.

Mr. Thad Peterson:

Need revenues from hunting to protect core areas.

Mr. Corfield:

Yes we don't want another Lolkisale where maize is growing everywhere.

Dr. Williams:

It's clear to many that blueprint plans for community-wildlife management are perhaps a wasted opportunity. In some areas WMAs will work and be the best solution – in other areas, it's clear that WMAs are not going to work as they stand, and that other management solutions are required – such as easements, or direct village-based agreements with the private sector. And there will be other options or combinations no doubt. So an emerging take home lesson is that the Wildlife Division perhaps needs to consider the possibility of re-developing the WMA regulations and framework to encourage the emergence of a reasonable range of solutions in response to different situations and needs – and this issue was raised by a working group during the recent consultation workshop on the non-consumptive wildlife use regulations. Government will want to standardize and make CWM uniform – and this indeed may be a trap that needs to be avoided within reason – as one size will not and cannot fit all.

Mr. Mremi:

Yes the Maasai are resisting WMA formation because they are suspicious of the Wildlife Division's intentions and the consequences of the WMA process.

Mr. Patel:

And AWF are perhaps misinterpreting WMA's in Simanjiro leading to possible resistance by communities.

Dr. Williams:

Part of the issue is the length of the WMA development process – and how the process can be streamlined without compromising its validity.

Mr. Munisi: We need to make our own (community-private sector) National Park in Simanjiro.

Mr. David Peterson:

What are alternative options are there for WMA's?

Conclusion:

Mr. David Peterson:

So we are now agreeing to meet again to discuss the proposal we have for Bundu Safaris with other stakeholders – Treetops Lodges and Boundary Hill in attendance too?

Mr. Patel:

Yes with everybody together for transparency.

Mr. Mremi:

Bundu available from 20-25th May.

Next meeting scheduled for the 21st of May at 2pm