

Notes on the discussion

Breakaway Session C

Opportunities in the Emerging and Commercial Wildlife Sector:

Service providers within the wildlife value chain

South African Taxidermy Tannery Association (SATTA), Wildlife Translocation Association (WTA), Wildlife Veterinarians

1) Taxidermy and Tannery Institution

- Need for both formal and informal training
- Capital Required in starting business:
 - Machines very expensive and only available from overseas or second or third generation machines
 - Large premises needed
 - Large staff required
- General difficulties in industry:
 - Standard of work
 - 9 + 1 permits system
 - Exporting difficulties
 - Dip and Pack industry controversy
- Opportunities – there is 100 + taxidermists and tanneries. There are however many opportunities to provide specific and specialized services as well as many opportunities in auxiliary services. From crate building, to shipping, to supplies, to specific services like specialist tanning, to manufacturing of goods from skins (bag/ shoes/ belts, etc) to décor items from skulls and horns. The only limit is imagination. Also opportunities in creating training schools. Handling permits.

2) Wildlife Capturing

- Need for both formal and informal training
- Capital Required in starting business:
 - Vehicles and trailers, Trucks and helicopters
 - Nets, sails and related equipment very expensive
 - Ramps to offload
 - Large and well trained staff required
- General difficulties in industry:
 - Standard of work, lack of knowledge
 - 9 + 1 permit system, Legislation, etc
 - Difficulties in industry – farmers not open for BEE business, government too strict on BEEE. Very difficult for any young/ new person to enter this closed industry
- Opportunities
 - Translocator transport, long haul

- Specialized services, similar as with Taxidermy
- Expansion to auxiliary services – meat, skins, etc

3) Role of Wildlife Veterinarian

- Opportunities

limited in this sector to mostly graduates. Crucial to form a partnership with conservation organizations, Wild life capturers or Culling teams. Would still be a small vet practise type of business. Specific opportunities in research and development of drugs, nutrition, management and planning of translocation, assistance to breeders. In fact a lot of work required to create a comprehensive study on breeding.

- Difficulties:
 - Funding to study
 - On job training / learnership type of programmes – at present most opportunities goes to international researchers/ students

4) Summary

In summary:

Opportunities- many and varied available, difficulties many and varied. The industry has some specific challenges, but overall it is no different from any other industry. Same lack of skills, lack of money:

- Funding in various forms and for various aspects ranging from
 - Training, formal studies, incl business skills training
 - Capital to start or buy business
 - Capital for equipment and premises
 - Cashflow
- Experience – as in any other sector this is a big problem. Need to look at Learnerships, practical training, etc
- Training/ Education – schools required, training facilities, Accredited courses, SAQA approved programmes, practical training projects, Learnerships
- Government and Legislation needs to be reviewed, specifically in terms of the 9 + 1 permit system. Rules and regulations too restrictive
- In all sectors transformation and empowerment has not been addressed fully