

## SUMMARY OF MEETING

# Lead (Pb), ammunition and scavengers

Tuesday 31 August 2021 at 14h30

NCE Boardroom, 20 Nachtigal Street, Ausspannplatz area

### Participants

MEFT: Kenneth /Uiseb (K/U), Holger Kolberg (HK), Janine Sharpe (JS, Veterinarian – via Zoom)

UNAM: Lorinda Hart (LH, Biological Sciences), Mark Jago (MJ, Veterinary School)

NNF: Angus Middleton (AM)

NAPHA: Danene van der Westhuyzen (DvdW, via Zoom)

NCE: Chris Brown (CB)

Agenda item	Actions
<p><b>1. Welcome</b> Chris welcomed everyone. Agreed that he would lead this first meeting.</p>	
<p><b>2. Introductions</b> Were made.</p>	
<p><b>3. Purpose of meeting</b> (documents circulated) Background and context were explained.</p>	
<p><b>4. Incentivising the transition of hunting and wildlife sector to lead-free ammunition</b></p> <p>a. Information on the negative impacts of lead ammunition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blog is being prepared that summarises the situation, from toxicity of lead to required actions – share with social &amp; other media. At end of Blog add “Myth-busting” section addressing common questions, knee-jerk reactions, etc.</li> <li>• SA Lead Task Team is producing a series of social media posts which they are happy to make available for us (we can modify if necessary).</li> <li>• Need to link with farmers via NAU &amp; NNFU<sup>1</sup> (use Agrifo rum and the RING<sup>2</sup>), CANAM<sup>2</sup>, arms &amp; ammunition outlets<sup>1</sup>, abattoirs, meat retailers, membership-based NGOs (NEWS<sup>2</sup>, Scientific Society<sup>2</sup>, Namibia Bird Club<sup>3</sup>) and NAPHA courses<sup>4</sup>.</li> </ul> <p>b. Information on lead-free alternatives (including German calibre firearms)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most ammunition (90+%) is used by farmers and harvesting teams (night cull) for own use and shoot-and-sell. Most common calibres are .300, .308, .375, .243, .306.</li> <li>• Perhaps 60% of the 5,000 – 6,000 trophy hunters (clients) entering Namibia each year use German calibre firearms (most bring their</li> </ul>	<p>CB</p> <p>AM</p> <p>Ian Rushworth</p> <p><sup>1</sup>All <sup>2</sup>CB <sup>3</sup>HK <sup>4</sup>DvdW</p>

<p>own firearms and ammunition – but this is declining as some airlines refuse to carry firearms). Overseas hunting clients fire perhaps 10-20 bullets each on average (apart from practice), thus about 83,000 rounds.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidate the information available on lead-free alternatives (what is currently available in Namibia, what is available from the SA company “Badger” and what is available from overseas).</li> </ul>	Linda vd Heever, CB, All
<p>c. Testing of lead-free ammunition</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need about 10 hunters to test the ammo. And each hunter needs to hunt at least 10 animals to avoid anomalies skewing the results.</li> </ul>	DvdW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to order the desired calibre ammunition (Ian suggests .308, but perhaps also others) from “Badger” – Danene to identify hunters and their ammo calibre preferences.</li> </ul>	DvdW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Then place order via local arms dealer for them to import the Badger ammo.</li> </ul>	CB
<p>d. Presentations at NAPHA AGM (1 December 2021)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Put a programme together for the Lead (Pb) component of the NAPHA AGM which includes one or two presentations plus feedback from Namibian hunters who tested the lead-free ammo.</li> </ul>	DvdW & CB & Linda vd Heever & ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work towards getting a Motion from the AGM for NAPHA to provide professional leadership in moving Namibia towards lead-free ammo as quickly as reasonably practical.</li> </ul>	DvdW & All
<p>e. Engage with Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) on environmental levy on lead ammunition, and</p>	
<p>f. Engage with Ministry of Finance on waiver of VAT and other taxes on lead-free ammunition</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss with CEO of the EIF the best options for both above points (which are linked) and the next steps.</li> </ul>	CB
<p>g. Engage with wildlife meat markets on issue of human health and their purchase of meats harvested only using lead-free ammunition</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare info pack for game meat abattoirs, processors and retailers on lead issues, with emphasis on human health.</li> </ul>	CB & All
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look at developing lead-free certification (as part of organic certification) for game meat harvested using lead-free ammunition.</li> </ul>	Not priority right now
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take special care to not raise public concern and frighten people from buying and eating game meat – our objective is to grow the game meat sector.</li> </ul>	All
<p>h. MEFT to change to lead-free ammunition – lead by example</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that management levels in MEFT are well informed of this initiative and support it.</li> </ul>	K/U
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring in extra lead-free ammo for MEFT staff to test.</li> </ul>	CB

<p>i. Other?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could make it a condition of all hunting concessions in communal conservancies and national parks that only lead-free ammo is used.</li> <li>• Freehold conservancies could consider “lead-free” certification.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. Monitoring / research (which should not act as a handbrake to the above)</b></p>	
<p>a. Monitor levels of lead in the blood of wild-captured vultures (including nestlings)</p>	
<p>i. Collection of samples (blood)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blood samples will be collected from vulture nestlings during the upcoming ringing season (Oct- Dec) and from a few adult birds when possible.</li> </ul>	<p>HK, LH, ringers &amp; Elizabeth Shilunga (student)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Namib vultures (Lappets) are probably exposed to less lead than in central areas. Thus important to include samples from White-backed Vultures in Windhoek to Grootfontein / Outjo farming areas.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artwin Aschenborn has some vulture blood samples – LH to link up.</li> </ul>	<p>LH</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should also collect feather samples – may be easier to get from adult birds than blood.</li> </ul>	<p>HK, ringers &amp; All</p>
<p>ii. Identify one or more laboratories to analyse samples (blood)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UNAM lab may have the equipment to analyse lead in blood (and perhaps in feathers and bones) as they are looking at heavy metals in fish and crocs. LH to follow up.</li> </ul>	<p>LH</p>
<p>iii. Standardise (and document) protocols (e.g. data form and methodology) (blood)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are presumably protocols already established and documented, including data forms? LH to contact Linda vd Heever at BirdLife SA.</li> </ul>	<p>LH</p>
<p>b. Monitor levels of lead in bones of dead wild vultures and selected carnivores (hyaena, lion, jackal )</p>	
<p>i. Collection of samples (bone)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Put out a call to MEFT staff, NGOs, farmers, hunters for bone samples from dead vultures (and other scavenging raptors), hyaenas, jackals and lions.</li> </ul>	<p>CB on behalf of Lead Working Group</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include some background to this work, protocol for collecting (see below) and where to send/deliver samples.</li> </ul>	
<p>ii. Identify laboratories (bones)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are a number of potential Labs – UNAM, Geological Survey and Trevali Mining in Rosh Pinah. LH and CB will follow up.</li> </ul>	<p>LH &amp; CB</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trevali Mining has corresponded on their willingness to assist but biological samples are new for them – they have some questions. JS to review their correspondence.</li> <li>• A good student project (perhaps Vet School?)</li> </ul> <p>iii. Standardise &amp; document protocols (bones)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There may be protocols already established. LH to contact Linda vd Heever at BirdLife SA.</li> </ul> <p>c. Monitor levels of lead in skimmers, farm staff and hunters on a voluntary basis</p> <p>i. Engage with Ministry of Health / UNAM Medical School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not an immediate priority and will be some ethical considerations. Address in next phase of work.</li> </ul> <p>d. Monitor lead in game meat on supermarket shelves and other outlets (biltong)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good student project (Vet School?). Most appropriate game meats would be boerewors, salami and biltong. Could use Xray and/or XRF machine at Geological Survey.</li> </ul> <p>e. Other?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey of arms dealers in terms of types of ammo sold – lead versus lead-free and change over time in different calibres.</li> </ul>	<p>JS</p> <p>MJ</p> <p>LH</p> <p>Not priority right now</p> <p>MJ</p> <p>? – any ideas who could do this?</p>
<p><b>6. Institutional arrangements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Agreed that this group (and others who wished to participate) would be an informal “Namibia Lead Working Group” (NLWG). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chairperson – Kenneth /Uiseb MEFT (he will need to clear this with MEFT management)</li> <li>○ Vice-Chair – Lorinda Hart (UNAM)</li> <li>○ Secretariate – Chris Brown and NCE</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. Any other business</b></p> <p>a. Holger Kolberg informed meeting that Piet Beytell would be interested to join the NLWG – he will be included in future correspondence.</p>	
<p><b>8. Close meeting</b></p> <p>There being no further business, all participants were thanked for their attendance and active participation and the meeting was closed at 16h35.</p>	