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**For Immediate Release**

## **World Conference Success in Windhoek – Experts discuss Ecologic and Economic Benefits of Hunting**

WINDHOEK, Namibia--The World Symposium on **The Ecologic and Economic Benefits of Hunting**, held on 14-17 September 2009, was organized and hosted by the World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities. More than 60 representatives from 20 countries attended. The primary purpose was to exchange the latest information regarding research, studies, remarks and debate on the role that hunting plays in the ecological and economic health of countries throughout the world

The conference brought together leading scientists and professionals, along with government officials and industry and shooting organization representatives from around the world. Their diverse backgrounds and perspectives made for lively debate and a positive exchange of information.

At the opening session, Minister Willem Konjore speaking on behalf of the President of Namibia, His Excellency President Pohamba, said **“Our wildlife is a natural resource, which we have proved, if managed properly through game ranching and utilized sustainably through fee-based trophy hunting, has the potential to develop into one of our country’s most valuable renewable assets.”**

Twenty-six presentations were made during the symposium. Scientific studies on Hunting and Habitat, Wildlife Management and The Economics of Hunting were reviewed. Technical reports, data on environmental and economic impacts, methods of wildlife management and new concepts concerning the role of hunting were all presented.

“We sincerely hope that the presentations and the report, which we will publish, will further convince policy makers throughout the world of the vital contribution hunting makes to both preservation of the environment and local economies,” said Ted Rowe, the President of the WFSA.

The major conclusions of the conference included:

1. Hunting ensures wildlife populations are in balance with the ecosystem
  - a. Hunting has been proven to protect endangered species
2. Hunting requires and supports clean and healthy ecosystems for the benefit of all
  - a. Hunting is 30 times more beneficial than photo safaris
3. Hunting has a huge economic impact particularly important to rural communities
  - a. Hunting is a critically important tool in the fight to end poverty

The Hon. Nandi-Netumbo Ndaitwah, Minister of Environment and Tourism for Namibia, pointed out in the closing ceremony that **“Historically, hunting is one of the most important economic activities all over the world,” and further supported the conclusions of the Symposium when she said, “I wish you all the best with your future endeavour in promoting sport hunting internationally.”**

The World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities believes this conference will serve as the major reference point to help legislators and hunting organizations to work together.

For more information please contact:

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The WFSA is an association of hunting, sport shooting and firearms industry trade organizations. Founded in 1996, the WFSA represents over one hundred million sport shooters throughout the world. The WFSA was recognized as an official UN NGO in 1998.