

Making a Difference for Wildlife

Hundreds of local conservation projects are undertaken annually by SCI Chapters. They are reinforced by many notable conservation initiatives funded by the SCI Foundation.



Giant Sable Expedition

Cangandala National Park, Angola

Total Funds: \$45,000

TWENTY-SIX YEARS of civil war took its toll on the wildlife, as well as on the people, of Angola. Among the suspected casualties was the giant sable antelope. The only *SCI Record Book* entry for the species is from 1952, and the 1987 edition was already speculating its extinction.

However, in 2002, with the war seemingly at an end, the Kissama Foundation assembled an expedition* with funding provided by *SCI's Italian Chapter* to determine if the giant sable had survived. The Kissama Foundation, under the direction of Professor Wouter Van Hoven of the Center for Wildlife Management, University of Pretoria, has maintained a long-term interest in the species and in wildlife conservation within Angola.

On August 22, 2002, the team traveled from Pretoria, South Africa, to Angola's Cangandala National Park, where it sighted two adult bulls, as well as tracks and droppings of adults, juveniles and young, verifying that a breeding population existed. Later in the day, subadult animals were verified visually.

The goal of every hunter-conservationist is to leave the natural world a better place than he found it. The contribution of *SCI Italy* to the Kissama Foundation giant sable expedition exemplifies this spirit.

*It should be noted that in 1997, with an apparent cessation of hostilities in Angola, a group of *SCI Chapters* under the leadership of Anne and Bill Dodgson of *SCI Utah* raised funding for a similar expedition. A resumption of the war thwarted that attempt.

