



“SERVING THE HUNTER WHO TRAVELS”

“Hunting provides the principal incentive and revenue for conservation. Hence it is a force for conservation.”

Special To The Hunting Report
World Conservation Force Bulletin

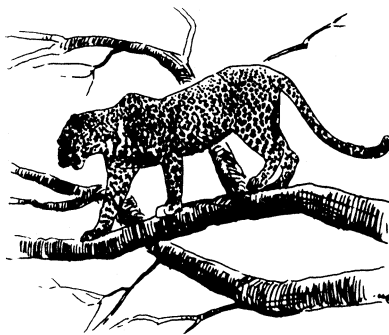
by John J. Jackson, III

DATELINE: AFRICA

News... News... News
“Technicality” Halts
Import Of Leopard

The CITES Secretariat issued a notice temporarily suspending the import of leopard hunting trophies on December 29, 1999. The notice was for leopards taken in Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia because those three countries had failed to file a required annual report that was due detailing the number of skins being exported. Leopard trophy import permits that have already been issued are still valid. The probable effect of the suspension notice is that importing nations will not issue any new import permits until the CITES Secretariat notifies them that the late reports have been received. The problem should be resolved before this goes to print. It is only a technical requirement and has little relationship to the status and in-country management of the species. Despite the fact

the leopard is listed, it is one of the most numerous cats in the world and its status is secure in the three countries that were late in filing their reports. Late reporting has always been a common occurrence, so at the last CITES Conference (COP 10 in Harare 1997) the parties passed a



resolution (Res. 10.14) expressly authorizing this kind of suspension to get more timely reporting. The Secretariat wasted no time in flexing its new muscle. Tanzania has a quota of 250, Zambia 300 and Zimbabwe 500. The Secretariat sent each of the countries a notice of their delinquency in November to no avail.

DATELINE: WASHINGTON DC

News Analysis
Comments Filed On
Markhor Downlisting

In January, we filed comments in Washington asking the US Fish & Wildlife Service to downlist the straight-horned markhor in Pakistan from endangered to threatened and not list as endangered any other subspecies of markhor. The world renown markhor conservation program in the Baluchistan Province of Pakistan is dependent upon tourist hunting that has been the incentive behind its development and the generator of its revenue. At the 10th Conference of the Parties in 1997, the CITES Parties created a quota for shipment of the trophies but the listing of this subspecies as “endangered” in the US has prevented their import into the US. Test import permits were filed but the Humane Society of the United States and Fund for Animals filed a joint opposition and formal notice of its “intent to file a lawsuit challenging” any deci-

sion issuing permits. The HSUS alleged that it has 6.8 million members and claimed that “[t]he removal of even one animal from the population will further reduce the genetic variability which could, in turn, cause a detriment to the survival of the species.” At CITES in 1997, the support for the trophy quota was epic. Pakistan’s delegate stated that denial of the quota would deny it the “single most effective conservation tool at our disposal.” Japan’s delegation agreed and said that a quota for trophies would help “provide a stronger incentive” for the markhor’s conservation. Saudi Arabia said that the quota for hunting would “benefit the local community a great deal and lead to conservation of the species.” Zimbabwe likened it to its own successful CAMP-FIRE PROGRAM. The UK, which had made the original proposal that listed the markhor on CITES Appendix 1 at COP 8, stated that it never intended to prevent the hunting program and that it now supported the quota because it “would be beneficial.” In fact, the records from that conference state that “they (Pakistan) were reassured that Appendix 1 listing would not prevent such hunting.” Indonesia supported the quota because it was biologically insignificant and the local community would benefit from the resultant conservation of the species and its habitat. Singapore said that the trophy hunting was a form of “good ecotourism” and it would help reduce the rangers’ anti-poaching costs. Uganda said that “this is the basis upon which conservation should be done” and reminded participants that the local people ultimately would determine

the survival of the species. China complimented Pakistan on its program. Delegates from Yemen, South Africa, Brazil, Egypt, Zambia, Russia, Nepal and other nations all felt strongly and spoke up in uncommon unison in favor of creating a quota. The US delegation made a floor statement in general agreement that the proposed quota was a “conservative one and certainly not detrimental” but added that stricter domestic legislation (meaning the US Endangered Species Act) might still prevent the trophy imports into the US. That comment was on-the-mark. The purpose of the pending downlisting petition is the removal of that “stricter domestic” obstacle. Once again, the “endangered” listing of a foreign species is more of an obstacle to a species’ conservation than a benefit to it. The Endangered Species Act listing has prevented the import of the trophies the CITES quota was created to facilitate. The comment supporting the ESA downlisting that we filed in January was jointly submitted in behalf of Dallas Safari Club, Dallas Ecological Foundation, Houston Safari Club, African Safari Club of Florida, OVIS, the Louisiana Chapter of SCI, ISHA, GAMECOIN, the Orange County Chapter of SCI, the International Foundation for the Conservation of Wildlife (Paris), the European Bureau of Conservation and Development (Brussels), CIC and Conservation Force.

DATELINE: AFRICA

News Analysis
Status Of The Lion
In Scientists’ Sights

The chairman of the Cat Specialist Group (john suggest you add following) within the International Union of Concerned Naturalists (IUCN) reports that “lions are heavily persecuted outside of reserves by livestock owners...and [h]abitat is being fragmented.” The guesstimates for lion range from 30,000 to 100,000 for all of Africa. The Cat Specialist Group has formed a new working group to ensure that the African lion

Our Website Is Ready!

(conservationforce.org)

- Conservation Force has established a web site at conservationforce.org. It has a special section on the Role and Value of Hunting, a section for hunters that travel within the USA and a section for international hunters. It links to all the agencies and organizations a sportsman could ever want.

JOHN J. JACKSON, III
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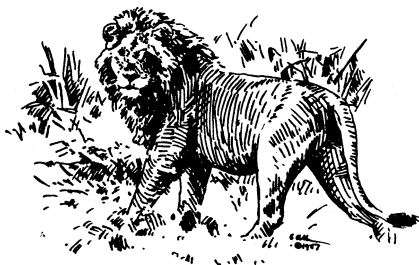
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does not “go the way of the tiger.” The group emphasizes that the lion is not considered at risk at this time, though its future status may be. This past October, 18 lion specialists gathered in South Africa, formed a Lion Working Group and drafted a “far-reaching plan to examine the situation throughout sub-Saharan Africa.” The Cat Specialist Group Chairman says the group envisages two formal meetings. The first will be a workshop to prepare a survey to determine lion status in central and west Africa, based on the initial data collection. This will be followed by a larger conference for detailed discussion of lion issues on a continental basis. There is no suggestion that the African lion is currently in danger of extinction in the wild. Hunting, which became a major threat to the tiger as the population dwindled, may also affect some lion populations. The Lion Working Group has recommended high priority to working out ways to ensure that trophy hunting is conservation-oriented, including developing quotas that do not harm lion population viability. This is a challenge to the hunting community. Tiger hunting had to be banned because of a conservation crisis. Hunting organizations and individual hunters must now cooperate with conservationists to ensure the lion’s future. This is an important moment in the history of wildlife conservation. The African lion is a symbol of wild Africa. Action to ensure its future survival is vital - now! The chair of the Cat Specialist Group has asked for input from

Conservation Force, which has been monitoring developments and has several large cat projects, including a lion study in the Okavango. We welcome any and all information anyone has about the status of lion, particularly in western and central Africa. Please send it to Conservation Force at Suite 1045, 3900 North Causeway Blvd., Metairie, LA 70002. Fax 504-837-1145. E-mail: jjw-no@worldnet.att.net.

SPECIAL REPORT
News Analysis
Beware Internal Fight
Over Game Farming



The hunting of privately-owned game animals on ranches or farms has long been controversial. Normally, the area is enclosed to protect the private owner’s investment which adds to the controversy. In some instances the game animals are local species, normally perceived to be property of the public at large until reduced to possession by capturing or

harvesting pursuant to the local game regulations. In other instances, the game animals are exotic species from foreign lands that some people think are less desirable than native species and other people even represent to be invasive, alien species. In many states the ownership and use of privately-owned game is governed by agricultural authorities rather than wildlife and fish departments. There is often conflict between those two agencies over the division of authority and policy. These controversies are not new. Anti-hunters search for and target all such controversy, then take full credit for any restrictions or reductions in hunting that result from the fray within the hunting community. The Canadian hunting community is currently in the fray. In Saskatchewan, there are at least 14 game ranches with paying hunter clients, according to the Agricultural Ministry that regulates it. Alberta has not allowed it, but now the 400-member Alberta Elk Association with at least 20,000 elk is lobbying to change the law to allow paid hunting on what they call “cervid hunting preserves.” The Alberta agricultural minister is quoted as saying that there probably is not enough public support to allow it. Simultaneously, the very idea of it is under attack at this time in Ontario, according to Thomas Pigeon of the Canadian Outdoor Heritage Alliance. Anti-hunters are taking full credit and also being blamed as the fight within the hunting community unfolds.

Briefly Noted

IPHA-Related News: Conservation Force helped IPHA (International Professional Hunters Association) hold its “First Shot” program before the Dallas Safari Club convention in early January. There were many more professional hunters and hunting companies participating this year. The association voted to hold it again next year before the first convention of the season to give members’ clients the first

choice (e.g., “first shot”) at booking. Next year, the program is expected to be conducted immediately before the SCI Convention in Las Vegas and simultaneous with the Weatherby Award dinner.... On another matter, the IPHA Executive Committee and membership voted to have me register IPHA and represent them at the 11th Conference of the Parties of CITES in April in Nairobi, Kenya. It is another service

provided by Conservation Force that will be representing organizations worldwide, from Conseil International du Chasse (CIC) in Europe to Dallas Safari Club (DSC) in Texas. IPHA officer Beth Jones (Levitz) and IPHA also helped Conservation Force provide a complementary hotel room for the new Director of Hunting in the Cameroon Ministry during the SCI Convention in Reno.

Cameroon Developments: Speaking of Cameroon, that country seems to be back on track. The new Director of Hunting is able, articulate and motivated. He has already instituted enough improvements that the EU is once again permitting the import of elephant hunting trophies from Cameroon. The Ministry has also begun permanently allocating hunting blocks, which is widely considered a better practice than what has existed. An elephant workshop is planned in March to further the implementation of the country's elephant management plan. Many months ago Conservation Force began facilitating this in response to a letter from the director in which he explained his plans and assured us of his intentions. We have been acting as a liaison between the Director and the US Fish & Wildlife Service and others to reestablish the import of Cameroon elephant trophies and continue the development of Cameroon as an important safari hunting destination.

Roadless Forest Issue: The State of Idaho has filed a suit against the Forest Service for not extending its comment period and not providing background information on its announced plan to preserve 50 million acres of roadless areas in federal forest. Apparently, President Clinton is trying to complete the plan before leaving office, while Idaho wants more information because “[a] permanent moratorium on Forest Service road development will have a devastating impact on timber communities in Idaho” according to the Idaho officials, who claim 8 million acres in Idaho would be subject to the new policy. Meanwhile, one Conservation Force supporter expressed concern about his perception of our position on the proposed closures. He guides bear hunts out of a boat in Alaska and does not want any roads. Let me clarify that we have not taken a position for or against the closure policy. We have it under review, have expressed some considerations from the hunter's point of view (both favoring and disfavoring the closures) and advised readers of the issues. The comment we filed at

this early “scoping” stage was purposefully limited to our concern that denial of hunter access not become part of a national policy. There are 8.5 billion dollars of fishing and 6.125 billion dollars of hunting in our federal forests that we want to protect. That arises from 46.8 million fishing days of participation and 27.8 million hunting days of participation. It is the



191 million acres open to hunting that we want to keep open. We may not take a position any stronger than that. Make no mistake - we favor wild places but also appropriate access for management and recreation. Though we still have this controversial measure under review and are largely limiting ourselves to monitoring and reporting of it to readers, we most certainly don't favor new roads in

Alaska's unique bear habitat. The issue at this time is the nationwide policy in our forest.

Habitat Conservation: Apropos of the above, Conservation Force has been asked to become a member of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance that is being lead by Wildlife Forever, the Wildlife Management Institute, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation and other sportsmen's groups to insure the perpetuation of our forest because of its recreational value. We support saving wild places as well as wildlife. In fact, we were donated our first “conservation easement” as a nonprofit conservation organization in December. A large landowner permanently donated to Conservation Force all rights to ever develop his land, which insured its preservation for hunting and fishing forever. There is a special tax law provision that promotes the donation of the development right of land to appropriate organizations in perpetuity. The donor-landowner gets a tax write-off for the value of the donation. For supporters of wild places and wildlife, the donations are a win-win. Conservation Force is now directly protecting wild lands for hunting as well as hunting to conserve wildlife.

Weatherby Foundation International: The Weatherby Foundation for the first time presented two special recognition awards at its award banquet. The awards were given in “honor and appreciation of the outstanding achievements in hunting preservation and wildlife conservation” of the Klineburger brothers, Bert and Chris. Bert Klineburger, of course, has been a Board Member of Conservation Force from the beginning and helped inspire the creation of Conservation Force. As for the award winner this year, the deserving hunter is my dear friend Pete Papac who is a contributing member of Conservation Force and has long helped with our conservation efforts across the globe. Among other things, he served as a member of the now defunct SCI Renewal Wildlife Resources Committee (RWR) that achieved so much for conservation and hunting. - *John J. Jackson, III.*

Conservation Force Sponsor

The *Hunting Report* and Conservation Force would like to thank International Foundation for the Conservation of Wildlife (IGF) for generously agreeing to pay all of the costs associated with the publishing of this bulletin. IGF was created by Weatherby Award Winner H.I.H Prince Abdorreza of Iran 20 years ago. Initially called The International Foundation for the Conservation of Game, IGF was already promoting sustainable use of wildlife and conservation of biodiversity 15 years before the UN Rio Conference, which brought these matters to widespread public attention. The foundation has agreed to sponsor *Conservation Force Bulletin* in order to help international hunters keep abreast of hunting-related wildlife news. Conservation Force's John J. Jackson, III, is a member of the board of IGF and Bertrand des Clers, its director, is a member of the Board of Directors of Conservation Force.



International Foundation for
the Conservation of Wildlife