



“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

□ 2007 In Review

Conservation Developments

■ Once again it is time to review where we have been and where we are going. Here are some highlights of 2007, plus forecasts for 2008:

1.) The best development was the Presidential Executive Order recognizing the important recreational and conservation value of hunting and ordering all related federal agencies to facilitate and support domestic hunting. Just how great this order is will be determined in 2008 at an ordered workshop where a 10-year action plan will be conceived. On the last page of this bulletin is a ready-to-frame decorative copy of that historical document. You can put it up at the club, in your office or in your box for safekeeping.

2.) The USF&WS approved the pioneering markhor import permit from Chitral, Pakistan. This was the first new CITES Appendix 1 hunting trophy to be permitted import since Botswana elephant trophies in 1996. Its true significance will be determined in 2008 as trophy import applications for similar markhor conservancies are filed. Three more are to be taken in projects that truly demonstrate to the whole

world the unique conservation potential of hunting for critically endangered species of game in the developing world. The projects demonstrate that hunters are the heroes or the centerpiece pendant on the necklace of conservation. They also demonstrate that



the new USF&WS CITES trophy regulations are not an absolute barrier to importation in all cases.

3.) The release and return of all Namibia leopard trophies that were detained and/or seized because of the type tag that Namibia has long used stands out for two reasons. First, it is

exceptional to have Appendix 1 trophies released when there is a technical error, as too many hunters have learned. Second, it contributed to a regulatory change permitting post-import correction of government-level mistakes in the future. The new regulation for innocent permit holders also applies to Appendices II and III trophies as long as the owner is innocent in the error.

4.) The 14th Conference of the CITES Parties fortified the acceptance of hunting worldwide by the Secretary General's opening speech, the expansion of the leopard quota in Mozambique and initiation of a first-time leopard quota in Uganda. The strongest statement in the international community was the resounding defeat of Kenya when it insisted on a vote in its direct attack on the black rhino hunting quotas of Namibia and South Africa. Kenya had argued that trophy hunting should be permitted only as a last resort after exhaustion of all other alternatives.

5.) In November, after many years of work, Canadian authorities filed a pe-

tition officially asking the US to de-list the wood bison in the Yukon. The de-listing would permit the importation of wood bison taken in the Yukon into the US. The bison have far exceeded the recovery numbers envisioned by the Bison Recovery Team. Many conferences ago, the CITES Parties de-listed the wood bison to facilitate trophy hunting, but the US listing has prevented that from being effective. In early 2008, the USF&WS will make its initial finding if review is warranted, and will probably publish its final 12-month review within the year.

6.) The Constitutional illegality of the District of Columbia’s firearms regulations were confirmed by the federal appellate court. The US Supreme Court has accepted writs and is expected to finally determine if firearms fall in the “personal” rights category protected in the *Bill of Rights* in 2008.

7.) The most demanding development was the proposal to list the polar bear that was published in the last few days of 2006. It is amazing how much can occur in little more than a year. It may be the end of the world as we know it. The Canadian polar bear management regime is at risk. Far more than polar bears are at stake. If some have their way, it will be the end of the modern world in which we live. In 2008, demanding litigation will no doubt follow the final decision in January. Everyone may have to live with the misinterpretation of some ESA clauses. That may become a far greater *Pandora’s Box* of crises than speculation about the future status of the polar bear (the panda bear of global warming) that precipitated it all.

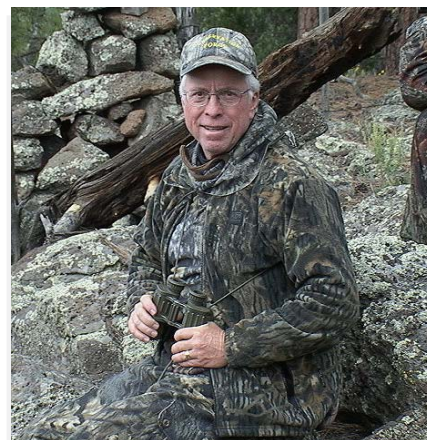
8.) In 2007, the Antis succeeded in demonizing the “use of hunting as a conservation tool” in developing countries. After exerting pressure for more than a decade on USAID to discourage any funding of projects associated with tourist hunting, HSUS succeeded in having language placed in the Report on the 2007 Foreign Appropriations Bill directing that no funds go to any program employing hunting as a tool for conservation. The LIFE plus project in Namibia involving 80 conservancies, nearly 50 mil-

lion acres of land and nearly 250,000 people was cut by millions in late 2007 and is to be prematurely terminated completely in early 2008. CAMPFIRE in Zimbabwe with its millions of people was cut-off four years ago. In 2008, this negative policy message to the developing world may be corrected or become the policy.

9.) It’s no secret that Bush has failed to permit the adoption of the ESA “enhancement policy” proposed by the USF&WS early in the Administration. That change in practice would permit US importation of hunting trophies of “endangered” listed game species to encourage and reward select foreign programs that enhance the survival of the listed species in the wild. For those of us in Conservation Force, it could be a lifetime of work down the drain. In 2008, the Administration will have its last chance to authorize the better, more contemporary practices. We’ve just learned that in 2008 Namibia will finally allocate black rhino permits. Wood bison and Torghar project markhor (Suleiman), black-faced impala and other permits have long been pending without approval or denial, awaiting the proposed change in policy.

10.) In 2007, the International Section of the USF&WS adopted the most draconian internal CITES regulations of any nation in the world. Everyone fought them over two Administrations for seven years with some small success. In 2008, they will be tested, interpreted and applied. Time will tell if leopard floating-bone jewelry and elephant-hair bracelets will be seized or not as the definition of trophies is changed to exclude “functional” items. That’s not all. The new regulations are in direct derogation of all the CITES Resolutions covering trophies which, quite frankly, the Parties of CITES intended to correct the practices of the International Section of the USF&WS.

It may seem that this has been the worst year for US international hunters ever. It has been. Nevertheless, the Executive Branch of the US is not the only problem front. Botswana closed its lion hunting late in 2007. China remains closed. The Paraguay Jaguar



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World Conservation Force Bulletin

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Publisher

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Project has been cancelled by a new government. Tanzania was on the verge of closure. In Zambia, the professional hunters have rejected the lion aging approach and consequently have had their lion quotas cut back. Additionally, those same PHs continue to op-

pose the opening of elephant hunting. In 2008, import permits for those elephant will come to the fore and be processed under the new regulations of the USF&WS. In 2008 the trophy import permits for cheetah from Namibia, elephant from Mozambique,

Cameroon and Zambia, and black-faced impala from Namibia should all finally be granted or denied.

Events in 2008 will determine the real impact of most events in 2007. Welcome to this important year. – *John J. Jackson, III.*

NAPHA Conservationist of the Year Award

■ In late November I was honored to receive the *Conservationist of the Year* Award from the Namibian Professional Hunters Association:

“John has been serving Namibia since 1989. He won the lawsuit that established the US importation of Namibia’s elephant trophies.

“At the request of Minister Niko Bessinger, he began the *Black-faced Impala* and *Cheetah Initiatives* to import those trophies into the USA. Both continue to this day, and John serves on both the *Predator* and *Black-faced Impala Committees* of NAPHA.

“John filed Namibia’s *Petition* to downlist the cheetah. Though the petition was ultimately denied, the denial recognized Namibia’s achievements, defined exactly what more had to be done and invited a re-filing. He helped devise Namibia’s *National Cheetah Management Strategy*, the *Cheetah Enhancement Fund* and he helped fund many on-the-ground cheetah projects. He has done the same with the black-faced impala and its *Enhancement Fund* and *National Management Plan*.

“For over a decade, John has been filing and appealing over 100 trophy US import permits for both cheetah and black-faced impala as a free public service. He has taken them through every level of appeal. Today, import of both species rests with the Director of the USF&WS after exhaustion of all administrative proceedings – all done as a free public service by John.

“John spearheaded the adoption of the “*Namibian Resolutions*” of CITES. Those are the *Quota Resolution* and the *Non-detriment Resolution* exempting hunting trophies from the trade ban applicable to all other Appendix 1 species. Those are the two

primary hunting resolutions of CITES.

“John has been among the leaders of the sustainable use movement from its inception. He attended the first IUCN meeting on sustainable use in Caracas in 1992, through the recent meetings on sustainable hunting in Geneva, Brussels, the United Kingdom, Port Elizabeth and around the world. He is the President of the *Sustainable Use Commission* of the intergovernmental CIC in Budapest and serves on CIC’s Executive Counsel. He serves on the Sustainable Use Committees of both the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and The Wildlife Society.

“After the elephant fights, John began the *Enhancement Initiative* to both amend the US Endangered Species Act and also to reform the way it is administered so that hunting can be used as a tool to save ‘endangered’ listed game species. He established the

right to import into the US horn from “endangered” listed black rhino removed from live rhino in darting safaris. The *Enhancement Initiative* is the cause of the USF&WS recently adopting regulations governing the tagging of imported black rhino trophies and may ultimately lead to the US importation of those trophies.

“In another success, John began the *Namibian Crocodile Initiative*, filed the test permits and persuaded and assisted the downlisting of Namibia’s Crocodile for importation into the US.

“Today, John is also the Governmental Affairs Representative of Dallas Safari Club. Together, they are providing important and substantial financial support to the *LIFE plus Conservancy Project* of Namibia. They also began the effort to save its USAID funding that is under direct attack by animal rights groups lobbying in the US Congress to stop USAID from being used as a ‘tool for wildlife conservation’.

“This year John handled all the seizures of Namibia’s leopard trophies when the USF&WS stopped accepting the tags.

“John presently serves on two NAPHA Committees, four IUCN Specialist Groups, three committees of The Wildlife Society, five committees of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, ten boards of directors, represents 125 organizations and foundations including eight outfitters and/or P.H. associations and much more.

“Elephant, cheetah, black-faced impala, leopard, crocodile, rhino, sustainable use, CITES, ESA, conservancies, CBNRM... in all, 18 years of serving Namibia. He is a true champion to Namibia.”

Conservation Force Sponsor

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Executive Order

Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of this order is to direct Federal agencies that have programs and activities that have a measurable effect on public land management, outdoor recreation, and wildlife management, including the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, to facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting opportunities and the management of game species and their habitat.

Section 2. Federal Activities. Federal agencies shall, consistent with agency missions:

- (a) Evaluate the effect of agency actions on trends in hunting participation and, where appropriate to address declining trends, implement actions that expand and enhance hunting opportunities for the public;
- (b) Consider the economic and recreational values of hunting in agency actions, as appropriate;
- (c) Manage wildlife and wildlife habitats on public lands in a manner that expands and enhances hunting opportunities, including through the use of hunting in wildlife management planning;
- (d) Work collaboratively with State governments to manage and conserve game species and their habitats in a manner that respects private property rights and State management authority over wildlife resources;

(e) Establish short and long term goals, in cooperation with State and tribal governments, and consistent with agency missions, to foster healthy and productive populations of game species and appropriate opportunities for the public to hunt those species;

(f) Ensure that agency plans and actions consider programs and recommendations of comprehensive planning efforts such as State Wildlife Action Plans, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and other range-wide management plans for big game and upland game birds;

(g) Seek the advice of State and tribal fish and wildlife agencies, and, as appropriate, consult with the Sporting Conservation Council and other organizations, with respect to the foregoing Federal activities.

Section 3. North American Wildlife Policy Conference. The Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality (Chairman) shall, in coordination with the appropriate Federal agencies and in consultation with the Sporting Conservation Council and in cooperation with State and tribal fish and wildlife agencies and the public, convene not later than 1 year after the date of this order, and periodically thereafter at such times as the Chairman deems appropriate, a White House Conference on North American Wildlife

Policy (Conference) to facilitate the exchange of information and advice relating to the means for achieving the goals of this order.

Section 4. Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Resource Conservation Plan. The Chairman shall prepare, consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations, in coordination with the appropriate Federal agencies and in consultation with the Sporting Conservation Council, and in cooperation with State and tribal fish and wildlife agencies, not later than 1 year following the conclusion of the Conference, a comprehensive Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Plan that incorporates existing and ongoing activities and sets forth a 10-year agenda for fulfilling the actions identified in section 2 of this order.

Section 5. Judicial Review. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right, benefit, trust responsibility, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush
The White House
August 16, 2007