



SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

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

World Conservation Force Bulletin

www.conservationforce.org April 2014

Illegal Wildlife Trade and Poaching

There are a host of reactions in both the United States and the European Union to the reported upsurge in poaching and illegal trade of wildlife. President Obama's Executive Order creating both an *Illegal Wildlife Trafficking Task Force* and an *Advisory Council* conspicuously left out membership of the hunting community, but not the animal rights and protectionist groups. Consequently, many of the suggestions have been aimed at lawful, regulated trade rather than poaching and unlawful trade. Of course, licensed, regulated hunting and trade generates budget revenue for anti-poaching and crucial anti-poaching incentives for local people. Hunting operators also directly and indirectly reduce and help control poaching. In fact, the regulated hunting community is the foremost anti-poaching force in the world as hunting leadership has been for thousands of years. From the very inception, wildlife management has included anti-poaching ("Ancient Asian societies" – Raul Valdez, *Exploring Our Ancient Roots*). We are the real experts.

Conservation Force itself has funded many millions of dollars of poaching control in pass-through donations. Conservation Force's activities have tripled anti-poaching funding in Pakistan, doubled rhino anti-poaching revenue in Namibia, and routinely generates 200 to 500 thousand dollars a year in anti-poaching through partnerships with hunting



DATELINE:
United States



John J. Jackson III

operators across Africa. For example, we facilitate over \$100,000 annually through the Cullman & Hurt Foundation in Tanzania as well as up to \$300,000 for the Tanganyika Wildlife Foundation in Tanzania. It is well documented that the presence of hunting operators itself deters poaching and provides alerts to authorities. The absence of operators is like leaving your house open and empty – it is an invitation for thieves to move in.

Conservation Force's partner, CIC, will hold a Global Summit entitled *Hunters United Against Wildlife Crime* at the beginning of its AGM in Milan, Italy on April 24, 2014.

The Professional Hunters Association of South Africa, PHASA, has begun collecting \$500 from all rhino hunting

and rhino darting safaris for rhino anti-poaching as contributions to and through Conservation Force in a new rhino anti-poaching strategy.

Conservation Force is also forming an anti-poaching partnership with all the Republic of South Africa and Mozambique hunting operators surrounding Kruger National Park to contain the rhino poaching in and around the park. It will be a ring or circle of added protection.

Of course, the funds from the recent black rhino auction at Dallas Safari Club's convention resting in Conservation Force's trust account are dedicated to control of poaching and closely related conservation measures in Namibia.

We hope to showcase these growing anti-poaching partnerships in these pages in the future. One exemplary project is the Dande Anti-Poaching Unit we have just partnered with in Zimbabwe. View the following brochure and their website at <http://cmsafaris.com/african-elephant-research/dande-anti-poaching.htm>. ■



HELP US TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE OUR WILDLIFE

THE PLIGHT OF POACHING

In 2010 Charlton McCallum Safaris took over the Dande East ('East') and the Dande Safari Area ('DSA') we soon realized that rampant poaching was something that needed to be dealt with much more effectively. The National Parks staff in the DSA were doing a decent job. However the community scouts in the East, with no incentives and seldom getting paid were an ineffective unit.

The East was considered a depleted area, only good for early season crop raiding elephant bulls from Mozambique. The primary reason for this was that the previous hunting operator only hunted the early season for elephant. Then pulling out for the rest of the year leaving it wide open to uncontrolled poaching.

In 2009 CMS enlisted the help of Dr. Russell Taylor to carry out a 'capacity study' in the East. His theoretical results were amazing and he estimated that the area could safely hold 1000 buffalo, 500 kudu, 500 sable etc.

With this in mind as soon as our contract started in 2010, we immediately formed the DANDE ANTI POACHING UNIT (DAPU). To date our full time teams in the East have picked up over 5000 snares and have arrested over 60 poachers (in four years). The game has rebounded strongly which is extremely gratifying. In 2013 we took over Dande North ('North') once again unifying it with the DSA and discovered the same sad story existed with the North. As of 2014 DAPU now supports both the East and North community scouts. The crux of the matter is that DAPU has now out grown our small company and we simply cannot afford to keep up the financial effort. Expenses and incentives paid out keep increasing, but we have to continue with our anti poaching!

CMS will continue funding the bulk of all expenses, however we hope your contributions will assist us to expand DAPU, ultimately improving the Dande North and East hunting concessions for the benefit of all hunters to come and the local communities.

You can contribute to DAPU by sending a check to Conservation Force (see back of pamphlet).
As a suggestion \$20 per hunting day - **it is tax deductible!**

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Would you like to assist us in ending the poaching? Donate a monetary amount for CMS to allocate as needed or sponsor a game scout. Any donation, no matter the amount, will help in the fight against poaching and will be greatly appreciated. To make a donation, see the back of this brochure.

CMS would like to thank you in advance for helping us continue this good cause that has resulted in Dande being one of the most sought after valley safari areas.

Keep up to date with projects and initiatives set up by Charlton McCallum Safaris,
visit DAPU on our website:

www.cmsafaris.com



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Tel: (504) 837-1233
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Conservation Force Solves Liberia Trophy Import Problems

In October 2012, US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Law Enforcement began detaining trophies imported from newly opened Liberia. They detained some and formally seized others. In effect, it became a blockade. Conservation Force has done all that it could for the past 16 months to determine the reason for the seizures, to prevent the forfeitures during the

interim, and to clear the apparent USFWS blockade of all trophies being imported from Liberia. Case-by-case, the logjam of problems was finally cleared in the first few months of 2014.

The problems have been identified and all but one hunter's trophies have been released. The first and worst problem was that USFWS Law

Enforcement thought the hunting was illegal because it had been closed and the CITES trophy export permits had a number of errors and omissions. This was made worse by the refusal of Law Enforcement to even respond to inquiries about why trophies were being detained and/or seized. Under the provisions of the *Service Manual* the inspector is supposed to provide

a detailed narrative when a trophy is detained and a second detailed narrative in the *Notice of Proposed Seizure and Forfeiture*. USFWS Service Manual, Part 443 (Law Enforcement), Chapter 1 (Wildlife Inspection Policy and Procedures) 1.15, 1.16, 1.17 and 50 CFR 14.53, Detention and refusal of clearance, 12.11 and 12.23 – all require a narrative explaining “why” the detention or seizure and also mandate certain deadlines for providing “why” the import is refused. That was not provided in any of the cases, and the seizing agent would not respond to phone messages and emails. This was made worse by a change in both the Regional Solicitor and the Resident Agent in Charge of Law Enforcement. The whole thing was handled very poorly by the Service. Because there was no descriptive narrative of the factual basis of the alleged general violations of law, the errors in the export

permitting could not be identified or corrected. Liberia issued amended export permits that were not accepted because there was no USFWS narrative explanation of why the export permits were considered invalid, if that was the problem at all.

The permitting problems were omissions that were rather simple to correct had they been identified. They arose only because the Liberian CITES authorities had no experience with export of hunting trophies. The Law Enforcement tone, speculation and accusations that hunting was not open and that the authorities were acting fraudulently only made resolution more difficult.

Conservation Force was concerned that the trophy blockade would discourage the experimental opening of hunting in Liberia, thus we did everything we could to identify and solve the problems. All (legal

representation has been a free, public service to the US hunters and Liberia because of the importance to the hunting and conservation community. Had we not intervened, most of the trophies would have been forfeited. But for the petitions for remission that Conservation Force filed, there would be no explanation of the detentions and seizures (though a year late) so that Liberia and the hunting community could take corrective measures. The trophies that were detained indefinitely without proper notice or explanation would no doubt have been seized and forfeited as well.

The caveat to hunters and their brokers is that **export permits from newly opened countries must be examined space-by-space for completeness and errors**. CITES export permitting requires experience. Of course, USFWS Law Enforcement performance did not help. ■

Elephant Hair and Skin Bracelets Importable

In March, USFWS issued import permits for bracelets made of the sole of elephant feet/skin of a sport hunted elephant taken in Tanzania (Appendix I of CITES). This is an important breakthrough for hunters taking elephant in Tanzania or any other country where elephant remain on Appendix I, such as Zambia, when and if Zambia reopens.

It should be understood that the Division of Management Authority (DMA) issued a CITES import permit. The DMA did not say an import permit was not necessary. Instead, DMA required a separate import application and fee than that for the ivory and other unworked parts being imported as hunting trophies. The bracelets are not treated as trophies because they are “worked” or “crafted,” so USFWS requires separate import permit applications.

USFWS has published a proposed regulation to treat such crafted parts as trophies, but it has not been finalized. We were concerned that crafted parts of an Appendix I species would not be permitted since applications for import of scrimshawed/crafted elephant tusks have been denied in the past, though we don’t know how such an application would be treated today.

It should be pointed out that elephant



bracelets from Republic of South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe, where elephant are on Appendix II, also require an import permit for the “worked” bracelet, even though an import permit is not appropriate for the unworked parts that are considered “trophy” parts. The downlisting of those elephant to Appendix II is only as trophies, which USFWS maintains excludes crafted parts. If the part is not a “trophy” because it has been crafted, then that part remains on Appendix I, thus an import permit is necessary just like in Tanzania and Zambia where even trophies are on Appendix I (not downlisted with an annotation).

We presume that bracelets of elephant hair will be treated the same as those approved skin bracelets from the soles of elephant feet. The same is true of elephant feet and bones made into useful or decorative items. ■

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