



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 January 2015

Two Recent Zimbabwe Elephant Workshops Should Prompt USFWS to Allow Hunting Trophy Imports Again

In November and December 2014, Conservation Force initiated and sponsored two elephant workshops in Zimbabwe to prepare an up-to-date National Elephant Action/Management Plan. The last Zimbabwe National Elephant Management Plan was adopted in 1997, 18 years ago. The need for review and adoption of a newer plan was the first thing we set our sights on when US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced its unexpected suspension of Zimbabwe elephant imports on April 4, 2014.

Once it was determined that a new national action plan was warranted, it became obvious that the CAMPFIRE Program communities, with 58 of the 60 Districts in Zimbabwe with more than 840,000 households, would benefit from their own preparatory elephant planning workshop before their representatives participated in the national workshop. Those communities cover more area of elephant habitat than national parks. Moreover, sport hunting is the backbone of CAMPFIRE, and the hunting of a small number of elephant contributes 70% of the CAMPFIRE program's total income. Elephant hunting is essential to the continued viability of CAMPFIRE and to the survival of elephant within the elephant range that CAMPFIRE provides. In fact, one determination made at the CAMPFIRE Workshop was that elephant would cease to exist in communal lands if the USFWS suspension is not lifted. This was repeated and confirmed at the following National Elephant Planning Workshop in December.

On 17 and 18 November 2014, the *CAMPFIRE Stakeholders' Workshop: Towards the Development of a New*

DATELINE:
Zimbabwe



John J. Jackson III

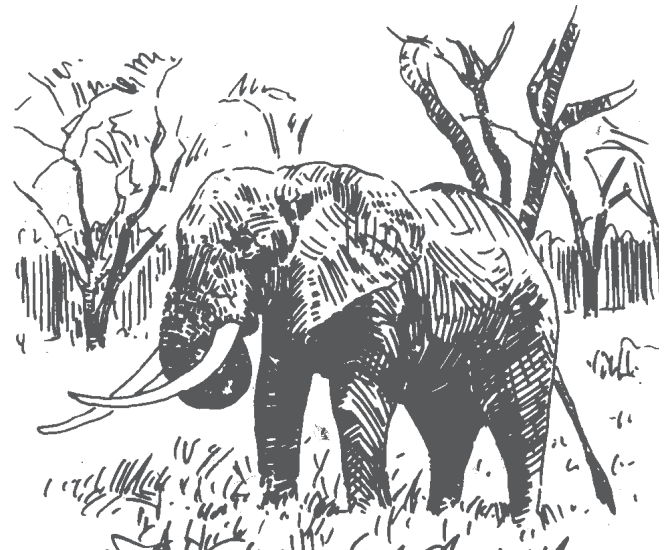
Director of the CAMPFIRE Association, more than a dozen District and Ward representatives and coordinators, a representative of WWF Zimbabwe, two safari operators (Clive Stockil of SAVE Valley Conservancy and Miles McCallum of Charlton McCallum Safaris), and many others. Conservation Force and Dallas Safari Club were represented by Regina Lennox, the new staff attorney at Conservation Force. SCI was invited and was represented by George Pangetti.

The workshop participants identified elephant issues and formulated recommendations for the National Workshop to be held December 2-4. The Chief Ecologist, Phillip Kuvawoga from the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA), summed the workshop up as "one of the best for 2014, and I've been to many. Good colleagues from all over, and a large amount of data was considered." He called the successful workshop "an early Christmas for a Parks guy."

Elephant Management Plan and Policy was held at Cresta Lodge in Harare. This first workshop was funded by Dallas Safari Club and Conservation Force, and was primarily planned and organized at Conservation Force's suggestion by CAMPFIRE Association Director Charles Jonga. It was well attended by the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA), Zimbabwe's Ministry of Environment, both the Board Chairman and

The *National Elephant Action Plan Workshop* was held December 2-4 in Hwange National Park. Everybody who was anybody was present or represented. This workshop, too, was initiated by Conservation Force, with funding in large part by Shikar Safari Club International (not to be confused with Safari Club International). I personally attended and presented at this workshop, which was organized and conducted under the auspices of the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA). The objective was to update Zimbabwe's 1997 National Elephant Management Plan with a new Action Plan that includes smart, clear goals, objectives and management options/actions and indicators that are measurable.

One of the first presentations, and certainly one of singular importance, was on the preliminary 2014 aerial survey results of the GREAT ELEPHANT CENSUS, Paul G. Allen Project. The results show the Zimbabwe elephant population to be approximately 82,000-83,000 excluding the Bubyne and Save Valley Conservancies. This is marginally 6% below the estimated 88,000 elephant in Zimbabwe's last countrywide aerial survey with a similar methodology in 2001. This 6% difference is not considered



significant in an estimated population this size. Instead, it is generally considered stable. This is more elephant than when USFWS made its last *enhancement* finding in 1997. Then, the most recent census was made in 1995, estimating only 66k elephant countrywide.

Under the 1997 Management Plan, Zimbabwe maintains four viable elephant populations. They are 1.) Northwest Matabeleland (which includes Hwange National Park), 2.) Sebungwe Region, 3.) Lower Zambezi Valley in the north, and 4.) Gonarezhou in the southeast. Zimbabwe's largest population in Hwange National Park has grown to more than 40,000 elephant and continues to grow, a fact which Zimbabwe authorities have represented to both USFWS and the US Congress. The total NW Matabeleland population is up 10% since 2001. This population, taken together with the adjoining population in Botswana, comprises the largest elephant population in the world. This is where the nominal cyanide poisoning occurred that caused rumors of out-of-control poaching. In reality, collaboration between the local hunting operator and Zim Parks made short work of the poachers and poaching. The local hunting operator there has his own 12-man anti-poaching team and regularly flies that quadrant of Hwange National Park. Also, Zim Parks (ZPWMA) has installed a permanent anti-poaching outpost in the area. Experts venture that the population in Hwange is four or more times greater than management objective. We were elated to get the confirmation that the population is all or more than it is represented to be. Zim Parks has been doing something right!

The second growing population is Gonarezhou National Park. This population has been steadily growing for 20 years and has more than doubled since the last national aerial survey in 2001 to more than 11,000. This is up 134% from 2001 and the incline has been steady. It has increased from 5k in 2001 to 11k today.

The other two elephant population areas are down. The Lower Zambezi Valley population is down from 2001 (19k in 2001 to 14.5k today) and the worst, the Sebungwe Region, is down 75% (14-15k in 2001 to 3.5k today).

The new 2014 National Management Plan in draft provides for the creation of a national elephant coordinator, as did the CAMPFIRE workshop. It also provides for the creation of a national committee and four regional committees to meet regularly and create and implement regional plans under the new national plan framework. Zim Parks is not waiting for the workshop reports or the completion of the new national action plan. Planning began for regional workshops in the two declining areas, Sebungwe and Zambezi Valley, at the national workshop. Already an action planning workshop is scheduled for 26-29 January in Zambezi Valley. The Tashinga Initiative Trust, directed by Lynne Taylor (www.thetashingainitiative.org) is spearheading this early effort with Zim Parks, African Wildlife Foundation, local safari operators including Charlton McCallum Safaris, local CAMPFIRE communities, and others. Lynne Taylor is the wife of Dr. Russell Taylor, one of the expert presenters at the national workshop.

A second regional planning workshop for Sebungwe is scheduled in two parts. The first initial meeting in early February, and a second, more comprehensive workshop in late February. This one is being spearheaded by Richard Maasdorp, also an expert presenter at the national workshop on 2-4 December.

The most serious decline to be covered by the regional workshops is in the Sebungwe region. Conservation Force has already committed to cover half the cost of the upcoming meeting for this important target region that has had the greatest losses in its elephant populations.

In short, the national action plan framework of objectives is being implemented before the plan itself has been completed. It is already being stepped down to planning in the regions with elephant decline. There should be a final Zim Parks National Elephant Action Plan and two to four regional action plans adopted and being implemented in 2015.

The conservation importance of the elephant hunting in Zimbabwe cannot be overstated. The elephant hunting is the largest single source of revenue



SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

World Conservation Force Bulletin

EDITOR/WRITER

John J. Jackson, III

PUBLISHER

Barbara Crown

Copyright ©2014 by Dagga Boy Enterprises LLC. ISSN 1052-4746. This bulletin on hunting-related conservation matters is published periodically free of charge for subscribers to The Hunting Report, 12182 SW 128 Street, Miami, FL 33186. All material contained herein is provided by famed wildlife and hunting attorney John J. Jackson, III with whom The Hunting Report has formed a strategic alliance. The purpose of the alliance is to educate the hunting community as well as pro-advocacy of hunting rights opportunities. More broadly, the alliance will also seek to open up new hunting opportunities worldwide and ward off attacks on currently available opportunities. For more information on Conservation Force and/or the services available through Jackson's alliance with The Hunting Report, write:

Conservation Force
3240 South I-10 Service Road West, Suite 200
Metairie, LA 70001
Tel. 504-837-1233 Fax 504-837-1145
www.ConservationForce.org

For reprints of this bulletin or permission to reproduce it and to inquire about other publishing-related matters, write:

The Hunting Report
12182 SW 128 Street
Miami, FL 33186
Tel. 1-800-272-5656 Fax 305-253-5532

*Remember to favor
Conservation Force's Corporate Sponsor:*



www.hornady.com/

The leader in their field.

to Zim Parks and the largest source of income to the CAMPFIRE Association and the communities it represents. It is the largest single source of income to the safari industry's operators and professional hunters in Zimbabwe, some of which provide half a million dollars a year to local communities and poaching control. For example, Charlton McCallum Safaris has provided \$750,210 to CAMPFIRE in their Zambezi Valley Safari Area in the past two years. Lodzi Hunters has provided \$531,000 to CAMPFIRE in the past two years in Matabeleland. Above and beyond their CAMPFIRE contributions, both operate serious anti-poaching teams.

With the moratorium on elephant hunting in Botswana implemented in 2014, Zimbabwe would and could provide the greatest volume of elephant hunting in Africa if imports into the USA were allowed. Before the suspension, Zimbabwe was producing a larger percentage of elephant imports than Tanzania, which has had a lower quota and extra restrictions on tusk weight and dimensions, and Zimbabwe had a larger number of elephant exports than South Africa and Namibia combined. Zimbabwe has the second largest remaining elephant population in all of Africa, second to Botswana, now that Tanzania's elephant population has reportedly been more than halved by uncontrolled poaching. Without

Zimbabwe there is little elephant hunting left in Africa for Americans.

Moreover, Zimbabwe is a real hunting nation and the founder of the modern concept of both sustainable use and communal-based natural resource management, CBNRM. USFWS has long recognized Zimbabwe's leadership. In 1990 when the CITES Appendix I listing became effective, Zimbabwe was the only country initially allowed elephant trophy imports by USFWS. The others followed by two or more years and only after successful litigation by yours truly. Also, when USFWS denied the antis' petition to list the African elephant as endangered in 1992, 57 FR 35473, it cited Zimbabwe's CAMPFIRE Program, which had extended the range of elephant in Zimbabwe, as the kind of strategy that could ensure the long-term survival of elephant.

"An additional 20 percent of the surface area of Zimbabwe has become dedicated to wildlife management since 1980 because of the Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE). This program is an important new-political-economic-sociological institution that has developed an environmental ethic, restored the perception of wildlife as a valuable resource, advocated wildlife management as an adjunct to subsistence agriculture, and encouraged the conservation of natural ecosystems

and wildlife habitats on tribal trust lands (Anon, 1990)."

-57 FR 35473, Page 12.

"The AECCG Review (1991) suggests these are feasible when political stability exists and if sufficient financial support arises. The long term goals are to balance wildlife and human needs. This requires that sufficient returns be realized from the sustainable utilization of wildlife so that wildlife conservation is easily perceived as an important land use. The CAMPFIRE program in Zimbabwe is an excellent example of a social program built on values obtained from the sustainable utilization of wildlife resources."

-57 FR 35473, Page 18.

We have too few safari hunting destinations today and too few elephant hunting destinations.

Special accolades go to Shikar Safari Club International for its support of the National Elephant Planning Workshop and support of Conservation Force in both Zimbabwe and Tanzania since the April 4 suspensions. Shikar has really stepped up to the plate in both elephant and African lion conservation. No organization is their equal. We are honored and privileged to enjoy their trust, confidence and support at this critical period in the history of modern safari hunting. But for Shikar, a great deal of safari hunting could be lost and buried in this short, damaging interval. ■

Iconic Conservation Hero Ian Player Passes

On November 30, 2014, Ian Player died surrounded by his family. He was 87 years old. His lifelong work ethic drove him to continue his conservation work to the very end. Ian was considered the pioneer of rhino recovery in Southern Africa, which he credited in large part to the safari hunting community. The safari community awarded Ian the coveted *Peter Hathaway Capstick Hunting Heritage Award* in 2008 at the Dallas Safari Club Convention. I was privileged to work with Ian on a few occasions. Most recently, Ian appeared at length in a DVD on the white rhino's recovery from a few hundred animals to



From Left to right: John Jackson, Ian Player and Brian March at PHASA Conference, RSA, November 2006.

more than 20,000, and the role that regulated sport hunting played in that recovery. The film, entitled *The White Rhino – A Conservation Success Story*, was made by Osprey Film Company and edited by Zig Macintosh and myself. Conservation Force distributed several thousand copies of the DVD at a CITES Conference of the Parties where Kenya was once again challenging the export of white rhino trophies from South Africa due to the extreme poaching. Ian was unapologetic about the important role of hunting- all captured on film. He was the older brother of Gary Player, the famous golf pro. ■

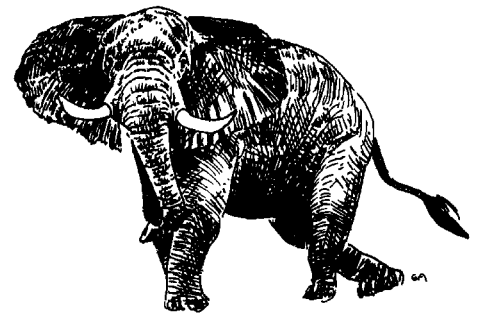
Status Report on Elephant Import Suspensions

In mid-December, Conservation Force filed its third set of comments opposing the import suspension of elephant hunting trophies from Zimbabwe. This supplemental comment included documentation of the two elephant planning workshops described above and the scheduling of the two Regional Workshops to be held in January and February. We also provided the new elephant population census information. We believe that this comment warrants the lifting of the suspension for both 2014 and 2015. It is not smart to continue the suspension because "enhancement" has been demonstrated and the suspension reduces and reverses that enhancement that is essential for elephant survival. We argued that the suspension was a "mistake" based upon misinformation and negative speculation. Conservation Force has provided hard scientific data

on the status of those elephant, initiated the update of the national management plan and provided data on the crucial financial benefits of the hunting. A new finding by USFWS is expected in early January, if not sooner.

Conservation Force also filed the final appeal of several test import permits for Tanzania elephant taken in 2014. We asked to make an oral argument before the Director, but have received no response to that request and must presume at this point that the appeal will be decided without oral argument. The decision for those 2014 import permits and the determination for 2015 are both expected in early January. Tanzania is doing everything right, so we expect the determination to turn on the preliminary results of the *Great Elephant Census*. That survey is completed but the results have not yet been released. No doubt it must

show a stable or increasing population. We have reason to believe that poaching has been turned around and may have come under control as much as two years ago. The survey will hopefully show that the operators and the Chief Warden in the Selous are reporting far less poaching. Moreover, on October 30th, Tanzania's Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism published its 95-page *National Strategy to Combat Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade*. ■



Trophy Seizures and Forfeitures by USFWS Continue

In 2014 Conservation Force tried again to get the Director of USFWS, Dan Ashe, to change back the seizure practices of USFWS. We spoke with him and followed up with a letter and attachment of the offending language in the USFWS *Service Manual* issued by Director's Order. We have received no courtesy response. Seizure and forfeiture for any kind of irregularity remains the preferred course of Law Enforcement instead of lesser and

more equitable alternatives in the *Service Manual* that are preempted by the Director's Order.

Recently, some old and some new permitting irregularities have plagued the hunting community. CITES export permits from Liberia continue to be a problem with the inexperienced authorities in that country. The CITES authority was not signing the export permit at time of issuance because they felt the endorsement signature at the time of export was

sufficient signature. Of course, permits must be signed twice: at the time of issuance and at the time of export. Elephant hair bracelets from Tanzania were seized and ordered forfeited when they were not expressly included on an import permit. Elephant parts were seized when the export permit incorrectly had them purpose coded as "Personal" instead of as hunting trophies – after the recent change of the term "trophy" to once again include worked items. Other unique seizures are still in litigation or in administrative review by DOI Solicitors. Conservation Force's most recent chart, *How to Avoid U.S. Trophy Seizures and Forfeitures* (October 2014), can be found at www.conservationforce.org/pdf/TROPHY%20PROBLEM%20CHECKLIST%20-%20NEWEST.pdf ■



Conservation Force Sponsor

Grand Slam Club/Ovis generously pays all of the costs associated with the publishing of this bulletin. Founded in 1956, Grand Slam Club/Ovis is an organization of hunter/conservationists dedicated to improving wild sheep and goat populations worldwide by contributing to



GRAND SLAM CLUB/OVIS

game and wildlife agencies or other non-profit wildlife conservation organizations. GSCO has agreed to sponsor Conservation Force Bulletin in order to help international hunters keep abreast of hunting-related wildlife news. For more information, please visit www.wildsheep.org.