



“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

Game Hunting: A Question of Ethics

By Tony Sanchez Arino,

First Vice-President of the African Professional Hunters Association

(Tony Sanchez Arino is widely recognized as one of the greatest professional hunters of this century and has numerous awards recognizing it. He is also a noted author. I have been working hand in hand with Tony for more than a decade, first to save elephant hunting and more recently, to found and develop the African Professional Hunters Association. He has asked me to share these thoughts with you. - John J. Jackson, III.)

■ Protection does not mean prohibition. Hunting, properly controlled, is without any doubt the best way of ensuring the survival of all the species of game animals. A total ban on hunting will only mean digging the grave of the game animals because it denies the game the possibility of having a positive value, deprives them of being an asset within their environment and turns them into a problem and even a danger for those who have to live together with them. It is one thing to theorize from a distance of many thousands of miles and quite another to face the physical reality of daily life having to share the available space,

obviously insufficient for both men and animals. In those places where a total ban on hunting has been applied, the results have been extremely negative. The local people have had to put up with animals that not only cause



them headaches, economic loss and risks to human life, but provide no benefits at all. This situation naturally causes local people to react by trying by every possible means to get rid of this curse that plagues them. Con-

trolled sport hunting is the only hope game animals have of survival because they can finance their own future with the potential value from their sustainable use. Sacrificing a small number of animals through legally established annual quotas does not cause any damage to the population, and the great majority are protected by men who would look at them as a source of income. In some areas they are just about the only source. Even the most undeveloped people come to realize economic benefits that accrue to them once controlled hunting is applied to their region. It automatically makes them the best guardians of the different species, as the game represent a source of wealth and well being.... One silly utopia bandied about by the radical anti-hunting brigade is the proposition of a total ban against hunting. This would leave the animals at complete liberty to multiply indefinitely, out of control, and with no ben-

efits accruing from them, a little like going back to prehistoric times but now within the confines of a world which gets smaller every day for its inhabitants, whether intelligent or not, and where the struggle for a smaller plot of land is a constant fight. The income generated by game hunters through licenses, permits, taxes per animal shot, plus all the general spending generated by controlled hunting, apart from creating jobs in rural areas which are either isolated or considered wastelands, also benefit the game reserves and existing national parks and help the creation of new ones. Currently the income derived from tourism or photo-safaris serves, in general, only to fill the pockets of the local hotel trade, leaving very little to benefit the protection of wild life.... It is true that there also exists a downside to the practice of hunting. There are those who have no respect for the laws and commit every kind of hunting villainy, as if the animals had been created exclusively for their personal pleasure, in the way and time that suits them. It is essential to stop these criminals by putting together a united front of genuine hunters, ecologists, biologists and all those who love nature, in order to ensure that the relevant authorities rigorously apply the maximum legal penalties against those who break the law. However, these reprobates cannot be taken as an argument against hunting since they are two very different matters, one not having anything to do with the other.... One has to beware also of certain mini-celebrities who, from time to time, organize a crusade against hunting. Of course they do it to publicize themselves, but use the generosity and selflessness of others, mixed up with general public ignorance and emotional pressure, and present themselves as sort of “Apostles of Nature.” But what they really seek is self-promotion, suppressing the fact that the era of anarchy for the sporting hunter finished many years ago, along with the old days of the process of colonization. If today’s hunters can choose to shoot anything from a modest rabbit to an awesome elephant, it is because he is

legally entitled to do so, according to the laws which are in force everywhere. He is not a law-breaker or a sharpshooter.... For sure, anyone has the right to dislike hunting, but this does not include the right to insult, criticize or try to do harm to those who do hunt. Hunting is a lawful activity with a sacred heritage.... Controlled hunting is just and absolutely lawful and, without any doubt, the only way to help perpetuate all the different game animals world-wide, financing their own future through their potential value and worth. No one ought to feel any guilt if they remember always the old adage that says: “The true hunter kills to hunt, he does not hunt to kill.”

SPECIAL REPORT

News Analysis
Legal Action Looming
Over Cheetah Imports

It may be time to file suit against the Secretary of Interior and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS) for not issuing cheetah trophy import permits from Namibia. Some of the permits have been pending more than five years, and it has been nearly three years since the Office of Scientific Authority found that the import from Namibia would not be detrimental. We have been waiting on the Office of Management Authority for nearly 2½ years, where appeal of the permit denials have been stalled because of what we feel is an illegal practice and policy against issuance of trophy imports of species listed as endangered as well as USF&WS bias against developing-nation management. The US Endangered Species Act expressly provides for the issuance of the permits as do its implementing regulations issued by the USF&WS, but threats of suit by the anti-management animal extremists have apparently canceled out all the pleas and rights of the range nations, the experts, the landholders, the outfitters and sport hunters. This in turn has obstructed and complicated the Strategic Management Plan of the cheetah

JOHN J. JACKSON, III
Conservation Force



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Editor/Writer
John J. Jackson, III
Publisher
Don Causey

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Conservation Force
One Lakeway Center, Suite 1045
Metairie, LA 70002
Tel. 504-837-1233. Fax 504-837-1145.

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The Hunting Report
9300 S. Dadeland Blvd., Suite 605
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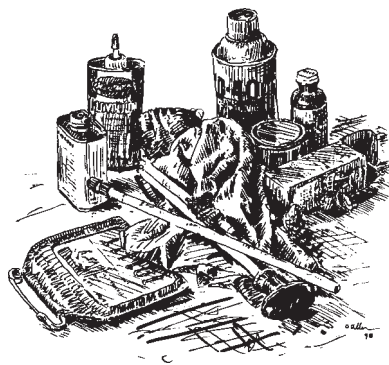
and unnecessarily added to its risk of extinction. This stalling has lasted much longer than the USF&WS's delayed response to the elephant or argali initiatives before suits were filed and much longer than the polar bear initiative before suit was threatened. Hardly a day has gone by that we have not worked on it over the past seven years. We have extended every courtesy and exhausted every alternative to litigation. If we don't litigate it, we may have lost without carrying the fight to an end. As we dig the trench holes before the battle begins, we ask for your support. Tax deductible contributions are needed by Conservation Force, Suite 1045, 3900 N. Causeway Blvd., Metairie, Louisiana, 7002-1746. Although the enormous quantity of legal services will be provided pro bono, we need money for expert witnesses, airfares, hotels, discovery, copying and other out-of-pocket costs that are expected to be at least \$25,000. Please call 504-837-1233 if you have any questions, but send a check if you really care.

SPECIAL REPORT

News Analysis
Peregrine Delisting
Merits Closer Look

All subspecies of the American Peregrine Falcon have been removed from the US Endangered Species Act after four years of review, 64 FR 46 541 (August 25, 1999). The 34-page long rule contains a number of precedent-setting determinations important to sportsmen and all resource users. Of special interest is the USF&WS statement that “[r]estoration (of a species)... within every area throughout its historical range is not required by the Act, is not required for recovery, nor was it a goal of any of the recovery plans ...(instead) the goal of a recovery program is to restore the species to a point at which protection under the Act is no longer required.” This point was made several times: For example, “[m]eeting or exceeding all of the specific recovery

goals for a listed species is not required by the Act before delisting can occur...[r]estoration ...within every area throughout its historical range is not required by the Act, nor is it required for recovery.” Of even more interest is the Service's response to the following issue raised by the protectionists who always demand more studies under the guise of caution.” “Issue 6 (raised by commentators): There are gaps in the scientific knowledge about American peregrine falcon biology. A population viability analysis was not done, and genetic diversity, viable population size, population dynamics, and long-term stability of populations have not been determined. Our Response (the USF&WS): A complete understanding of the biology of a species is not required to determine a species' conservation status under



the Act. Population viability analyses are important tools for attempting to quantify threats to a species, particularly those facing loss and fragmentation of habitat, and the consequences of conservation actions, as well as aiding in identifying critical factors for study, management and monitoring. These analyses are not always essential, however, to determine when a species has achieved recovery, particularly in the case of the American peregrine falcon. It is evident that recovery of this subspecies was largely achieved by eliminating the use of DDT (unrelated cause) and by successful management activities, including the reintroduction of captive-bred American peregrine falcons. Recovery goals established for the species were met or exceeded, with few exceptions.” In our words, infinite studies may be

useful and important, but they are not “essential.” It should also be noted that the falcon is still listed on Appendix I of CITES which restricts its international trade and that it remains fully protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as in the case of ducks, which regulates all possession and harvest.

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, DC

News... News... News
Congressional Caucus
Creating Task Forces

The Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus has grown to unprecedented size. It now has 330 members, 280 representatives in the House and 50 Senators. That is more than 60 percent of all of Congress, and it is bi-partisan. Its research and education-support organization, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF), has also evolved since its formation a decade ago. To improve its effectiveness and service to the sportsmen's community, specialized task forces are being established. The first was the Bowhunting Task Force co-chaired by Congressman Jim Barcia of Michigan and Congressman Duncan Hunter of California. It was begun in February. The second that has been formed is the Waterfowl/Wetlands Task Force, which will address many of the pressing problems, including waterfowl and wetland habitat of interest to waterfowl hunters. It is co-chaired by Congressmen Mike Thompson and Chip Pickering. These task forces are designed to focus on select sportsmen's issues and to better link those with common interests. At the recent Caucus and CSF annual banquet, Dallas Safari Club (a Bronze member of CSF), Houston Safari Club and Conservation Force (a Sustaining Member of CSF) together asked that the Caucus form an International task force to better consider, serve and represent those hunters and fishermen who travel the world over to hunt and fish. Other organizations that represent sportsmen who travel are expected to join in the request because of the

unique needs and interests that are common to all. Undoubtedly such a task force would focus on laws and treaties such as the ESA and CITES, international governmental relations, international aid and related matters. If you support this idea, then make

sure the organizations you belong to belong to the CSF and have them drop a note to the CSF requesting that an international task force be formed and to be a member of it. Address it to The Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation, 303 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washing-

ton, DC 20003 or call 202-543-6850, fax 202-543-6853 or email: csf@sportsmenslink.org. To find out more about the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus visit the Web site of its House Co-Chair, Congressman Saxby Chambliss (GA) at www.house.gov/chambliss/sports.html.

Briefly Noted

All Urial Hunting At Risk: An organized effort is being made to end all urial hunting around the globe. The CITES authorities in Germany are proposing to list all urial on Appendix 1 of CITES. It has solicited the help of the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) Caprinae Specialist Group, particularly those academic biologists who were behind the listing of Argali sheep on the US Endangered Species Act. Numerous anti-hunting organizations have also formally urged the USF&WS to list all urial at the next Conference of the Parties to be held in April 2000 in Nairobi. If it is listed on Appendix 1, then sport hunters will need an import and export permit to bring their trophies home. This listing has been evolving over most of this decade, but sport hunting interests may not have adequately risen to the task despite the forewarnings. There are some urial population surveys that are soon to be undertaken in Pakistan that may be of help for that country’s urial. At Conservation Force’s suggestion, famed sheep biologist Dr. Raul Valdez has also written an opposition to the listing and the resultant compromise of the species conservation benefits through sport hunting. Conservation Force has filed formal complaints in the USA as well as in Europe against the CITES proposal through our representatives there. Nevertheless, the hunting of another overseas Caprinae is highly at risk.

Canada Lynx Listing Proposal: The comment period on the proposal to list the Lynx was extended to September 24, 1999. It was extended because of a new report completed by a team led by the Rocky Mountain Research Sta-

tion of the US Forest Service. The report can be retrieved on the Internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/rl>.

Another Hunter Harassment Law Upheld: New Jersey’s hunter harassment statute has been upheld. *Binkowski v. State*, 731 A.2d 64, June 1999. The Court held that the statute’s prohibition against physical interference with hunting did not violate a common form of protected expression and also that the statute advanced public safety and welfare which are legitimate state objectives.

Another Law Passed Against Gun Suits: Texas became the 12th state to prohibit local governmental bodies from filing lawsuits against gun and ammo manufacturers and dealers without the prior consent of the state legislature, Senate Bill 717.

Invasive Species: A trend has begun

that you can expect to hear a lot more about so this is a brief explanation of what is behind it. Its recent origin begins with the formation of the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group and their “Draft IUCN Guidelines for the Prevention of Biodiversity Loss due to Biological Invasion, October 1996. Then the Convention on Biological Diversity created a Task Force to deal with the issue. On February 3, 1999 President Clinton, by Executive Order 13112, established the Invasive Species Council composed of cabinet secretaries and federal agency members to prepare a national plan for dealing with invasive species. Most recently, the Animals Committee of CITES in June 1999 decided to lend their support to the effort of the others to control the trade of such alien species. This issue is here to stay and will be a new battleground for those involved with exotic or alien species that are perceived or can be represented to be invasive. This, of course, includes exotic or introduced game animals and fish. This means more federal and international regulations over state and local wildlife. It is just one of the many things Conservation Force monitors for your interest. We foresee a trend to strictly confine those species at the same time there will be growing ethics opposition to hunting them in those same confined and controlled spaces. The evolving definitions of which alien or exotic species are invasive will be important to some hunting interests. It is also more nationalization of wildlife management. The introduction of alien or exotic species generally arises from interstate and foreign commerce or trade that is traditionally within the the federal realm. - *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

MEMO

To: Jim Young, Print N Mail
From: Nilton Aquino, The Hunting Report
Re: October 1999 Issue of Conservation Force Supplement
Date: October 4, 1999

Jim,

Here's the October 1999 issue of the Conservation Force Supplement, to be inserted in The Hunting Report. Don't forget to insert John Jackson's picture on page 2. Please fax "blue lines" for approval ASAP.

Total print run is 4,050. That includes 3,837 copies for insertion into The Hunting Report (active circulation); 50 copies to be shipped directly to John Jackson; and the remaining 163 copies are to be shipped to us here in Miami. As usual, bill John Jackson for all costs relating to Conservation Force.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Nilton

P.S. Jim, please make sure JJ gets his 50 copies.