



“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

Report on the 10th CITES Conference: Harare, Zimbabwe, June 9 to 20, 1997

by John J. Jackson, III

The 10th Conference of the Parties of CITES (COP10), is definitely one to be celebrated. Sustainable use of wildlife resources was generally accepted to be necessary for the long-term conservation of wildlife, rather than the problem. Most delegates supported the idea, in speeches and in their votes, that bans on wildlife trade are extraordinary short-term measures and that the long-term survival of species is dependent upon the incentives and benefits arising out of their sustainable use and trade. Those of the “use it or lose it” persuasion outnumbered the protectionists who desire an end to trade of wildlife resources. The most common words that were heard in the daily debates were “sustainable use.”.... Trade in hunting trophies, specifically the export and import of trophies of non-resident (tourist) hunters, was even more highly regarded. The momentum of the worldwide campaign that provided the hunting victory in Ft. Lauderdale carried hunters through this

conference as well. Regulated, licensed recreational hunting by non-residents was widely favored as being an exceptionally beneficial form of sustainable use that was particularly low in risk. It was regarded as the most effective and efficient, if not the only means of furthering the conservation status of many species located outside of parks and similar protected areas.... Attacks by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) on CAMPFIRE because of CAMPFIRE’s dependence upon sport hunting brought anti-hunters into worse repute. It brought the conservation world to CAMPFIRE’s and Zimbabwe’s defense. The host nation, Zimbabwe, is one of the hunting capitals of the world. Its programs are renowned and modeled around the globe. This Conference was payday for all of the hard work done by Zimbabwe and its hunting allies over the past decade. CAMPFIRE support groups such as the African Resources Trust have skillfully supported CAMPFIRE to a level near perfection.... The

COP10 results were not happenstance. The Range Nations and indigenous people have become their own best representatives with particularly effective documentation and literature. The percent of hunting groups in attendance continues to increase at each new conference as well. The principal pro-hunting organizations officially registered were (in alphabetical order): African Resources Trust; Conservation Force, represented by Carlos Davidov and myself; F.A.C.E., which is Europe’s federation of hunters’ associations, representing 6.5 million members; the International Foundation for the Conservation of Wildlife; the four Regional Associations of Fish and Wildlife Agencies of the US, which had the largest delegation of any US organization other than anti-hunting HSUS and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW); the National Rifle Association, represented by Susan Lampson; the Wildlife Management Institute; Safari Club International; the International Wildlife Man-

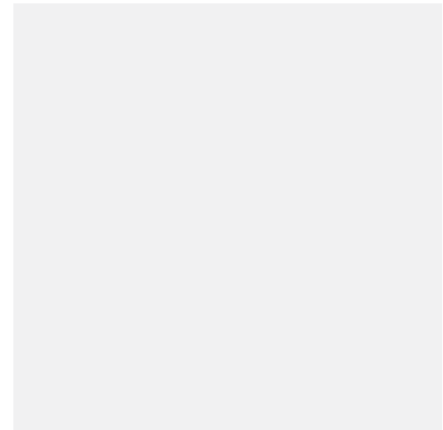
agement Consortium, represented by Eugene Lapointe; the CAMPFIRE Association; the Inuvialuit Game Council out of Canada; and the Wildlife Producers Association of Zimbabwe. Besides HSUS and IFAW, other anti-hunting organizations present included Humane Society International; the Humane Society of Canada, with their top-10 people including Wayne Pocelle, Teresa Telecky, Jeff Conin, John Grandy and Michael O’Sullivan; the Species Survival Network, which represents 50 animal rights organizations; Born Free Foundation; David Shepard Conservation Foundation; Friends of Animals; and the Environmental Investigation Agency, although they claim to not be anti-hunting. This was the largest CITES Conference ever held, with the most proposals and resolutions, attended by the most party nations (128 countries represented by 730 individuals and over 600 observers of non-governmental organizations). For the first time, government representatives outnumbered and outspoke non-governmental organization representatives. The next conference will be in Indonesia late in 1999.... Following are the issues that most directly affect sport hunting. First are those that will expand hunting opportunities; second are those that threatened hunting but were defeated; and third the one issue that was passed to restrict hunting of Kara Argali:

**Proactive Developments...
Those That Will
Expand Sport Hunting**

It is extremely important in my judgment that the sport hunting community be proactive, not just reactive or defensive. We need to see to it that resolutions and proposals are submitted that advance our interest, just as the other side does. Conservation Force initiated or contributed substantially to four proactive measures at COP10, including the creation of the markhor quota, the attempted jaguar quota, the leopard quota reform and the Higher Tax decision. Hopefully other hunting organizations will be-

come more proactive in the future.

Elephants: The elephants in Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe were downlisted to Appendix II. This should mean that trophy import permits for elephant trophies from those three countries will no longer be needed after September 18, 1997 (90 days after COP10). I have requested a formal opinion from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on this because the Endangered Species Act (ESA) expressly provides that import permits for trophies shall not be required for Appendix II species that are listed as threatened under the ESA. More than 75 percent of the voting delegates voted in favor of the downlisting. There was overwhelming agreement that those elephants had never been at risk of endangerment; that well regulated sustainable use would generate badly needed conservation revenue and incentives - noted to be more than the donor agencies had delivered despite promises; that it would allow for the best disposition of the growing stockpiles of ivory; and that those particular countries should be rewarded for their model programs and good management, not punished. A continued total ban was said to be an admission of failure by CITES. It was also widely felt that the total ivory ban effectiveness was getting thin. It takes more than a ban to save a species, witness the black rhino and tiger. There is a dangerous tendency to treat a species as saved upon the mere enactment of a ban. Now it will be necessary to have real recovery focus and strategy. The limited commercial ivory trade that is authorized is very restricted. There is to be nearly a two-year delay before the ivory sales commence. It is only to be trade to Japan for use exclusively within Japan. It is for select ivory in a set amount. The revenue is to be used exclusively for elephant conservation. The only significant opposition and reservations expressed were based upon concerns that the legal trade in ivory would both cause and conceal illegal trade in other countries. Of course that will be monitored and is bound to be an issue at the next Conference, COP11. It is an experimen-



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tal, first adaptive step in the search for a long-term solution for African elephant conservation that can be monitored and amended as necessary. **Markhor:** A quota of six markhor trophies per year from Pakistan was “adopted by consensus.” “Consensus” means there was not enough opposition voiced from the floor to require a vote, and “enough opposition” was generally deemed to be three or more opponents. Pakistan said it had at least 4,500 markhor, that sport hunting would provide an incentive for their conservation and that tourist hunting is the “single most effective conservation tool at our disposal.” Over a dozen countries spoke in favor of the quota and in support of its underlying concept. Only HSUS opposed the consensus with a statement that the population continues to decrease and that “it is an act of faith, not of science” to create a quota.

Canada Wood Bison: This species was downlisted from Appendix I to II by consensus. This will not be of any immediate benefit to US hunters because the wood bison is also listed as endangered on the ESA list. Due to the Cheetah Initiative, the USFWS is in the process of reviewing its longstanding practice (25 years) of not allowing the import of endangered species taken by sport hunters. That change in policy may provide a window of opportunity in select programs and perhaps for bison.

Collared Peccary of Mexico: These animals were completely delisted expressly for the purpose of facilitating export of trophies for non-resident sport hunting development in Mexico.

African Leopard Quota Reform: The interpretation of leopard quotas has been changed to allow more leopard to be exported in a particular year. A country’s quota will now be used to correspond to the year that the leopard is taken rather than the year the trophy is exported. This will free up trophies that are being held this year in South Africa and Zimbabwe because their export appeared to exceed the annual quotas. It will prevent such bottlenecks in the future that arise when trophies are not exported in the

year they are taken. The quota will now more closely track the species’ actual harvest as well as management. Conservation Force participated as a member of the special working group that generated this reform at the specific request of several African country delegations. The countries of South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia were represented on the group.

Inclusion of Higher Tax: A “decision” was passed by consensus that when species are being considered for listing, the negative consequences of their listing should be seriously weighed, such as the loss of benefits that the species derives from its use, and that trade is an important aspect that should be considered. When an otherwise technically correct listing interferes with management programs



that are benefitting the conservation status of a species, that definitely needs to be heavily weighed before the species is listed. This may seem self-evident to conservation-minded sportsmen, but in the past the very concept that trade could be beneficial was not an adoptable proposition in CITES circles, much less a factor to be considered. This is another proactive resolution introduced by Namibia for which we are all indebted.

Tanzania Crocodile: Tanzania’s proposal for a crocodile quota of 100 trophies plus an extra 1,000 for problem animal control was adopted by consensus. The extra 1,000 will be commercially traded to make the best use of them after they are killed to protect human life. In that connection, it’s worth noting that more than 351 people were killed and another 280 were

wounded by Nile Crocodile between 1989 and 1995 in Tanzania.

**Proposals Defeated...
Those That Would Have
Curtailed Sport Hunting**

The measures that would have restricted hunting outnumbered those intended to advance hunting. Nevertheless, nearly every measure against hunting was defeated:

Multiple Proposals to Uplift Bear: The proposals to list all the European, Eurasian, Caucasian and Asian bear on Appendix I were vociferously debated. Only the elephant, whale and rhino proposals took as much time or paper. The bear uplifting proposals each had to be put to a formal vote. They were soundly defeated by a vote of more than 2-to-1 against the upliftings.

Bear Discussion: The agenda item to discuss the trade in bear parts because it is alleged to be a “serious global problem” evolved into a rather harmless recommendation that nations themselves voluntarily monitor and regulate their own bear parts trade to insure it does not become unsustainable. This is a great success considering the extent of the misinformation campaign that has been waged the past few years claiming that the bear parts trade threatens all of the bear of the world. In reality, most bear populations worldwide are increasing or stable. This is sure to be a major issue at the next Conference and is high on the agenda of the protectionists. The Antis had more bear than elephant materials at their booths. Their material is designed and crafted to create the false impression that all bear are at risk and declining due to a runaway demand for gall bladders. It is a hoax that will need to be refuted. In reality, a reduction in the lawful supply of bear parts will increase unlawful trade demand that is now being satisfied from lawful harvest. The Antis may create a problem by reducing the supply in relation to the demand.

Urial: The recommendation by Germany that all of the urial in the world be treated as being on Appendix I was

rejected with the result that only India's urial are to be considered to be on Appendix I. The original intent when India's urial were listed was the underlying initial issue. Now that the other urial are not considered listed at this time, Germany has pledged to file a formal proposal to list the others at the next Conference or even before by mail. There is a growing misconception that all urial are endangered or threatened that must be refuted. All parties were asked not to export them if their export is detrimental.

Banteng: The proposal to list the Asian Banteng on Appendix I was withdrawn due to opposition.

Wild Asian Buffalo: The proposal to list it on Appendix I was withdrawn due to opposition.

Pere David's Deer: The proposal to list it on Appendix II was withdrawn due to opposition.

Justification of Export Quotas: Israel's proposal to require exporting nations to provide documented scientific justification to the satisfaction of importing nations' authorities before importing nations would allow trophy imports was vigorously opposed in debate and consequently withdrawn.

Other Decisions...

Jaguar, Kara Tare Argali, White Rhino and More

Jaguar: Venezuela voluntarily withdrew its jaguar quota proposal before it was debated because of protectionist pressure on its ministry. Nevertheless, it had substantial support. Venezuela promised to renew its proposal for a trophy hunting import/export quota at COP11. Carlos Davidov's Jaguar Darting Initiative was credited with greatly advancing the conservation status of the species by the Venezuela Director during his withdrawal speech.

Kara Tare Argali: This subspecies of argali was listed on Appendix I without opposition or oral debate, i.e., by consensus. The subspecies is already listed as "Endangered" under the ESA and both the US and European Union prohibit import of its trophies. It was thought to be imprudent to oppose it

as only 100 are believed to exist yet hunts are being advertised and booked regardless. The trophies may be imported in the future if a program is developed that satisfies the non-detriment requirements of importing nations.

South African White Rhino: The white rhino of South Africa came within one vote of being downlisted and may have been downlisted had it been by secret vote as were most of the other sensitive issues. The growing surplus of white rhino in South Africa is said to be too great to be absorbed by sport hunting and live trade so their downlisting may be an issue at COP11. Of course, trophy import permits have not been necessary since COP9 in Ft. Lauderdale.

And Finally.... Many matters were deferred to the Animals Committee with the intent of preparing them for resolution at COP11, including the development of guideline criteria for sustainable use, more bear parts trade evaluation, more urial listing consideration, jaguar quota development, etc. The European Union generally voted in a block with the Netherlands stating the EU position on the floor. Most of the sensitive issues were voted on

by secret ballot. Another first is that Congressman Don Young of Alaska conducted a hearing before and another will be conducted after the Conference to ascertain the basis of the USFWS positions on the issues and the justification in each instance. Such oversight is long overdue. It is doubtful that the forefathers of the US Constitution ever intended for the USFWS to effect international relations. Turtle and rattlesnake proposals were also made by the USFWS over the objections of state authorities in the US that are responsible for species management within the US. CITES has become a method for the USFWS to get around the authority of states to manage resources. The snake and turtle proposals were requested by animal rights organizations. In each instance they were rejected or withdrawn in the face of stiff opposition at COP10. Perhaps the USFWS went too far when it tried to burden the developing world with internal domestic management differences about species not really in jeopardy due to trade. Thanks is due to those who pledged to support or contribute to my attendance at COP10, including the International Foundation for the Conservation of Wildlife, the Louisiana Chapter of SCI, Houston Safari Club, Dallas Safari Club, the Northwest Chapter of SCI, the Utah Chapter of SCI, the Central Louisiana Chapter of SCI, Safari Outfitters, Inc., Gary Bogner, the Alamo Chapter of SCI, the Guides and Outfitters Association of British Columbia, the British Columbia Wildlife Federation, the National Taxidermy Association and Jackson, Jackson & Wyble, L.L.C. The networking relationships and materials collected at COP10 will continue to be of benefit to the hunting community for years to come.... The conference began with the President of Zimbabwe asking for "encouragement of sustainable utilization and development" and ended with the CITES Secretariat summarizing the Conference as being the "success of reason over emotions." Reason and reality governed the proceedings at this Conference as a result of years of focused effort. - *John J. Jackson, III.*

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MEMO

To: Jim Young, Print N Mail
From: Elaina Panozzo, Hunting/Angling Reports
Re: July 1997 - Supplement to The Hunting Report
Date July 2, 1997

Jim,

Here's the file for the July 1997 Supplement to The Hunting Report. Please note that it does NOT go with U.S. Hunting, it only gets inserted with The Hunting Report. Print run is 3,950 (3,844 circulation plus 106 overs.) Please fax blue lines for approval ASAP. Thanks!

Elaina