



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 October 2016

New Jersey Trophy Ban Case Successfully Closed

Federal District Judge Freda Wolfson signed the winning Order and Judgment against the State of New Jersey on 29 August and closed the case. The total life of the trophy ban was 90 days from the Governor's signature until the judgment that held its application to federally permitted, exempted or regulated trophies was preempted and void. The illegal ban was signed by the Governor on 1 June, we filed suit on 8 July and the judgment was signed on 29 August. This was all we could hope for.

The court order and underlying



John J. Jackson, III

law is being broadcasted widely to ward off similar legislation in other states that has been planned or is brewing. That is now our task. That was the reason for our focused rush. As I write this I am at the annual Association of Fish and Wildlife

Agencies (AFWA)

in Philadelphia

to further carry

the message

to the Legal, Sustainable

Use, International Affairs,

Legislative and other relevant

committees with copies of

the Court Order and Judgment. I

have taxidermist John Janelli of New

Jersey (leads Conservation Force's Taxidermist's for Conservation Division) with me touting the importance of the case, the role of trophies, taxidermy and taxidermist in conservation history, and much more. We want this to be the first and last state passing a Cecil ban against the import or possession of African hunting trophies. The ban would have unwittingly obstructed trophies that

the FWS has found enhances

the survival of those species,

thus it was obstructing the

enhancement. Enhancement

is the highest threshold in

the conservation-wildlife

management world.

We thank taxidermist John

Janelli and the other plaintiffs that we

recruited as plaintiffs for the good of the

whole community and those behind the

scenes in New Jersey. Without them we

could have been mired in standing

issues and the attending delays or

dismissal. Though this case was resolved

under the Supremacy Clause of the US

Constitution (acts of US Congress

supersede those of the states) without

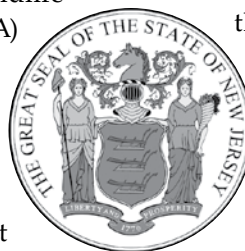
reaching the underlying conservation

merits, conservation has been served.

The three-month obstruction of the

enhancement of the Big Four has been

nulled and voided. ■



USFWS Makes Necessary Non-Detriment Findings for Import of Tajikistan Markhor

In August the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Division of Scientific Authority made the necessary non-detriment scientific findings for the import of three more markhor trophies from Tajikistan. Conservation Force filed and has been checking up on these import applications for many months. This is the second year that imports are approved for these Appendix I CITES listed species that are not listed under the ESA. The programs are community based and follow the Pakistan Model that is so renowned. The populations are on the rise thanks to licensed hunting, of course. ■

IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawaii (WCC)

Conservation Force has just returned from the 10-day IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC), 1-10 September.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has a specialist network of over 16,000 experts, 1,066 NGO Member organizations, and 217 governments. It's mission is to "Influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and

ecologically sustainable."

The WCC is the single largest gathering of organizations and experts dedicated to the conservation of nature. This global conservation summit sets the conservation agenda for the next four years until the next Congress is held in 2020. At this meeting there were over 10,000 registered participants



Opening Ceremony at IUCN in Hawaii.

from 192 countries. There were 100 motions, 40 elections and many dozens of workshops and knowledge exchanges. The morning activity planning meetings began at 7 am, and the contact groups on contentious motions/issues extended to 10:30 pm. It is not for vacationers.

There were too many issues of importance to

conservation to cite here, but there were a few of particular interest to hunters. A motion was passed against hunting of captive bred lion in South Africa. It calls for legislation against the practice and states that hunters regard the practice as "an ethically repugnant embarrassment."

Another highly debated motion (Motion 90) sought to ban all lead ammunition world-wide. Conservation Force was involved in this debate in a working group for months before the WCC started and through the last day. We amended key wording with the help of Rick Patterson, the Executive Director of The Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufactures' Institute (SAAMI). Rick attended as a technical advisor and representative of Conservation Force. SAAMI is an association of the leading manufacturers of firearms, ammunition and components. SAAMI was founded in 1926 at the request of the federal government and tasked with: Creating and publishing industry standards for safety, interchangeability, reliability and quality. Coordinating technical data. Promoting safe and responsible firearms use. SAAMI supports science-based solutions to the many issues related to firearms, ammunition and components. SAAMI also funded Aldo Leopold in his day. We had the top-gun, but the promoters of the motion did not care about bullet performance or costs, just the "feel good" elimination of all lead.

We succeeded in adding wording limiting the motion to the "phasing out" of lead "shot" in "wetlands" and "ammunition" to other areas where it's a "particular risk" to scavengers but only when it is feasible and an alternative has been developed. Believe me, that was a laborious task. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Deb Hahn), Dallas Safari Club Foundation (a new IUCN Member organization), SCI Foundation (just admitted to membership), the CIC (Tamas Marghescu), FACE (Dr. David Scallan of FACE was exemplary), the Canadian Wildlife Service (Basile Vanhavre), The Game Rangers Association of Africa (Tim Snow), International Association for Falconry & Conservation of Birds of Prey (Janusz Sielicki) and others were in the grueling word-for-word fight. The final motion is a far cry from all

ammunition.

Of course, there is Congressional protection of lead ammunition in the USA. My own personal experience and conviction after years of hand loading and testing many thousands of rounds is that a combination of copper jacketed and lead is the best performing bullet, with the best- ballistics and presents only a minute poison risk to game or hunters. It's performance and costs are unsurpassable. Lead bullets do what a bullet is supposed to do. Bullets with a combination of lead perform better, wound and waste less and do so more quickly. "Quick kill means skill" to me, and I want a bullet with the best possible performance.



IUCN World Conservation Congress, Hawaii-session on Animal rights versus Welfare.

This is what expert Bryan Litz, with whom I consulted, opined in response to the questions: What is the advantage of lead? What are we losing if we substitute lead? Answer: "As a ballistics expert and bullet designer who's looked at many materials I like to say: 'God put lead on this planet to make bullets with! It's the perfect material due to its uniformity, availability (costs), and most of all, its density.

Density is the key thing that makes lead a superior material for bullets. Given the same caliber and length bullet, a lead bullet will WEIGH more, and that in fact gives it a higher Ballistic Coefficient (BC). Higher BCs enable shooters to hit their targets in a wider range of field uncertainties and deliver more energy/lethality on target due to the greater retained velocity of a high BC bullet.

The Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission of IUCN (SULI of SSC) had a full schedule of interesting



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activities. One was Conservation, Animal Welfare and Animal rights: Tensions and Synergies. In what is called a Knowledge Cafe individuals from divergent organizations were surprised to learn that they agreed on some issues and indeed may be able to join forces for the good of conservation when confronted with field decision issues. Example: Is it ethical to control feral cats that are eating endangered birds?

SULI also had an elaborate workshop entitled Does Hunting Have A Future - Conservation Incentives and Community Livelihoods in a Changing World. It proved to be a positive description of exemplary cases of conservation through hunting from all corners of the globe. We were especially proud of the speakers and programs described because nearly all were Conservation Force partners from the polar bear in Canada to the markhor



Dan Ashe, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service speaking at IUCN in Hawaii

in Tajikistan.

SULI also had a closed, day-long strategic planning session for the next four years. Shane Mahoney of Conservation Force's Board and his own

evolving organization, Conservation Visions, and I are both members and attended.

Conservation Force is a member organization of the IUCN. Conservation Force and its Board members are also members of the SULI Specialist Group, Antelope Specialist Group, Deer Specialist Group, and Cat Specialist Group, and monitors others like the Polar Bear, Elephant and Caprinae Specialist Groups. Conservation Force Board Member Philippe Chardonnet co-chairs the Antelope Specialist Group and recently formed the Buffalo Specialist Group and was holding a meeting on Cape Buffalo in Namibia while the WCC was being held. These groups of experts are the foremost experts in the world. Too few hunting representatives join and participate in the specialist groups as I have for more than two decades. ■

Cecil Rally a Flop

The July 30, 2016 rally "to remember Cecil The Lion and stop animal cruelty worldwide..." was not all that was promised. The promoters advertised "IMAGINE a day where thousands of animal lovers gathering at their own city centers and public spaces making a statement and speaking against trophy hunting..." Well the main rally in Washington, DC had so few people attend that they were all invited up on the stage - and they all fit on the stage! Really small turnout.

The climatic Cecil incident may go down in history, but the hype surrounding it is not the money-producer animal rightist, welfarist and even some scientific and academic communities had jumped to capture. So far there is a great deal of effort but no evidence that Cecil will save the lion by calling attention to the plight of the lion and igniting "billions" in new revenue. This lion is not roaring money as many wished. What little money is being raised appears to be going largely to the wrong people and organizations, and it pales in comparison to the value of hunting that is being mischaracterized as one of the threats to be eliminated. It is disturbing if not disgusting to watch the fundraising antics often

laden with cheap shots at hunters. How dare they! Yet, as long as there is hunting, there will be lion. The lion needs hunters and hunting. By far the hunting community provides the most habitat and prey base, management and anti-poaching budget revenue and has been and continues to be essential to lion survival.

That said, it does not appear that USFWS's International Affairs will

respond to the pending lion trophy import permit applications until after the CITES CoP ending in early October and the current hunting season. Believe me, we continue to work on it.

My advice is to hold on because we will get through this ESA transitional period. Remember the elephant, white and then black rhino, crocodile, polar bear, wood bison, argali, markhor, et al. Many if not all are better off today

New Jersey Senator Lesniak Proposes New Elephant Ban in the State

The primary sponsor of the New Jersey trophy ban – now held to be preempted under the ESA – is back, with a new animal rights bill.

On 12 September State Senator Raymond Lesniak introduced bill S2508 to ban use of elephants in traveling animal acts in the state. This is defined to include carnivals, circuses, petting zoos, rides, and similar events in which animals are used for "the entertainment ... of an audience" where the animals had to travel to or from the performance. (Presumably, the law would not apply to a show at a zoo or animal park where the elephant lives.) The bill imposes civil fines on violators.

The bill immediately passed by a 3-2 vote out of the Senate Economic Growth Committee, which Lesniak chairs. According to press reports, if the bill passes New Jersey would become the first state in the country to ban elephant performances in traveling shows and circuses.

The bill is called "Nosey's Law." "Nosey" is said to be "an elephant who is virtually crippled by arthritis, and who is forced to travel the country to give rides at fairs, flea markets and other events."

In a statement announcing the bill, Lesniak compared "Nosey" to "Cecil," calling her "a symbol for suffering that human beings sometimes make animals go through." ■

than when their listings initially disrupted trophy imports, excepting the polar bear due to the MMPA. Hunters can be proud; these species depend upon you. Conservation Force

pledges to see this through. We are the champions of trophy importation and have been working night and day to reestablish lion trophy importation. We keep filing and supporting test import

permit applications as fast as our time and resources allow. We have three contractors in the field. We will keep working for lion conservation and trophy imports. ■

Former Secretary General of CITES Calls for Support for Sustainable Use

As this issue went to press Conservation Force's team was on its way to CITES. Eugene Lapointe expresses our own feelings at this critical point in time:



Eugene Lapointe

During my eight years as secretary-general of CITES and, since then, as president of the International Wildlife Management Consortium (IWMC), I have never wavered in my belief that it is only viable management programmes of all the world's wildlife and marine resources that can bring true conservation. I am also convinced that these programmes will only properly succeed if their benefits are used in favour of the livelihood of local populations. Fundamentally, I believe in restoring the balance between human beings and wildlife on planet Earth – one that I experienced as a child growing up in the Canadian wilds where I hunted and fished for food for our family.

Ours is not the prevailing or even the popular view. So extensive has been the eco-colonialists' capture of the conservation community, and so deep are their pockets and extensive their access to the media, that you seldom hear a different viewpoint in the mainstream media. Like the arrogant and paternalistic imperialists of the past, eco-colonialists believe that the environmental strictures that they have mapped out are morally superior to any other approaches. Much like their religious and economic counterparts of a few hundred years ago, this excessive form of environmentalism will not hesitate to demand that national governments and international bodies

support their viewpoint – or punish those countries or organizations stepping out of line.

This is precisely what happened with Zimbabwe's Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE), which incorporates managed hunting as a way of generating economic benefits for local communities. In particular, through CAMPFIRE, sport hunters from the USA play a significant role in establishing a balance between local communities and elephants. This brings in much-needed income and encourages communities to regard the species as worthy of sustainable use – to be, therefore, respected and conserved. However, since the 2014 suspension of elephant imports by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) – after a misleading campaign in the American media – CAMPFIRE's revenue has dropped, putting the future of this important, community-based conservation programme at real risk.

As CoP17 approaches, the Zimbabwean example is particularly pertinent because it is an example of how the animal rights communities of the global North use their muscle to get the global South into line when it comes to wildlife trade. But the intersection between livelihood and food security, and conservation is crucially important in Southern Africa and the many other countries in the world where the 870 million people officially designated as hungry today live...

We live in a time of sweeping

statements, arguments with little or no nuance and a desire for ordinary people to "do good" in ways that don't challenge their comfort zones. In this context it is difficult to compete with the loud, populist view that all wildlife trade should be banned. This argument taps into a well of human emotions – and also into a clutch of celebrities looking for a cause. Celebrities are the worst disease in conservation. What good is a success story like the vicuña of South America (where an endangered animal is now thriving together with legal trade in the animal's fibre) when you have celebrities making big statements about banning all trade in wildlife? Celebrities should stick to humanitarian issues where they can make a difference, and stay out of conservation.

I would urge all South Africans, both ordinary folk and members of the conservation community, to be aware of the wolf as we head into CoP17. Be wary of those who style themselves as saviours of the planet, raising huge amounts of funding for their organizations in the process. Give celebrities who support them a wide berth. Instead, welcome the best of us in the conservation community who ask you to share your knowledge and work with us to establish programmes that benefit humans and wildlife. Most of all, make your stories known. Be brave enough to stand up and go against the prevailing view if you believe the sustainable use of wildlife will benefit your community. Both humans and wildlife have rights, and the time to re-establish the proper balance between the two has come.... ■

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