



“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

DATELINE: AFRICA

News... News... News
Antis Petition Listing
Of African Lion on ESA

On March 1, 2011, seven animal rights organizations filed a petition to list all African lion as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The organizations are the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), Humane Society International, The Born Free Foundation and its affiliate Born Free USA, Defenders of Wildlife and the Fund for Animals.

The petition acknowledges Dereck and Beverly Joubert for their “invaluable assistance on the petition.” The week before, the film *The Last Lions* premiered in Washington, DC. That is a National Geographic Entertainment production which credits HSUS as a financial contributor, among others. *The Last Lions* was produced by the Jouberts as well. Joubert is a radical anti-hunter who claimed a significant

role in eliminating lion hunting in Botswana and has tried to end all hunting there and would if he could have his way. The documentary was filmed in Botswana, Joubert’s longtime home base of operation.

The six-page petition cites statistics from a number of authoritative sources, much of which has arisen from



papers and documents developed in conjunction with efforts of the hunting community to conserve lion. It is our data. Nevertheless, most of the representations and conclusions made are dramatizations. For example, in 2008 the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classified the

lion as “vulnerable,” which is more equivalent to “threatened” under the ESA, not endangered, if equivalent at all. That was on the formula basis that lion may have declined up to 30 percent over two decades.

The anti’s petition goes on to state the lion’s “population size and range are in alarming and precipitous decline.” It then draws its own conclusion that lion have really declined 48.5 percent over 22 years, which is a position rejected by the IUCN Cat Specialist Group. Although some lion may still be in slight decline, it is not precipitous. Its total range and habitat are enormous due to the existence of hunting areas, as well as national and trilateral parks. The petitioners claim only five viable populations of lion exist, but should have said that no less than five populations of 1,000 to 5,000 in number exist, which are projected to exist over the long term.

The worst misrepresentations in the petition are about the effects if lion are listed. They misrepresent that the “listing of the entire subspecies as Endangered would meaningfully contribute to lion conservation” because it

“would allow the United States to support all range countries in their efforts to protect lion habitat and eliminate threats to the subspecies.” To the contrary, the habitat protection provisions of the ESA and other domestic benefits don’t apply to foreign listed species. The listing would not assist the foreign management authorities. However, it would over their objections, decimate their sustainable-use based conservation strategies and would itself cause a decline of most lion habitat and conservation funding.

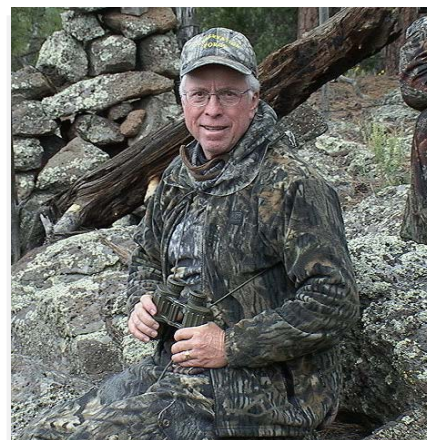
Five times in the six pages the petitioners suggest and state that the “listing would provide...an analysis of whether the import would in fact enhance the propagation or survival of the subspecies when trophies are imported.” To the contrary, it is not the practice or the policy of the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS) to permit hunting trophy imports of endangered listed species taken in the wild. Witness the continued denial of import permits for the leopard in Francophone Africa that are still listed as endangered, the wood bison, black rhino, endangered listed argali, Suleiman markhor, cheetah, etc. If the USF&WS will not grant permits for the Suleiman markhor taken in the world-renowned Torghar Project in Pakistan, enhancement permits can’t be done, much less permitted in sufficient quantity to generate the revenue to justify the current level of habitat. The treachery of this misrepresentation is most evident in the fact that these anti-hunting organizations have always been the first and most vociferous opponents of the issuance of enhancement permits for any endangered listed species when-

ever it has been suggested.

The petition also concludes that three of the 30 countries that had lion as recently as 2008 no longer have any today, which is not true as the related studies were only of select, protected populations within those countries.

The largest section of the petition is that related to “overutilization.” It includes the Republic of South African’s (RSA) lion export statistics and claims lion hunting harvest is increasing. Of course, there has been an attempted sell-off of ranched lion in RSA. No doubt lion harvests have been up in RSA in anticipation of closure of hunting of intensively managed lion.

Conservation Force and partners are preparing to contend with this petition if it survives the 90-day review. In that case we will probably have a 60-day period to file comments. We have to oppose this listing; else the lion will be reduced to vermin. The primary threats to the lion are loss of habitat and prey, conflict with livestock and humans, and poaching. The import of its trophies contributes to most of its existing habitat and prey, creates local tolerance and reduces poaching. In short, licensed, regulated hunting counters the forces harming the lion and the hunting community has become the Ducks Unlimited of the African Lion. The greatest threat to the long-term survival of the lion is the listing petition itself. We don’t need anymore listings like the cheetah. Please help by sending tax-deductible contributions to Conservation Force at PO Box 278, Metairie, LA 70004-0278; or contribute with a credit card online at <http://www.conservationforce.org/donateonline.html>.



JOHN J. JACKSON, III
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Briefly Noted

• **Success in Iran:** Conservation Force has been working on establishing trophy imports from Iran for over a decade. It has succeeded one small step at a time. Long ago, our effort began with an attempt to get a license for importation of museum exhibits, which was turned down flat because the wildlife authorities would receive license fees. The first breakthroughs were years later when Barbara Crown of *The Hunting Report* got the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) to concede that hunting, including the internal hunting licensing, was permissible for Americans. Nevertheless, it was made clear that import of the trophies had to be licensed by OFAC.

What followed were many attempts by Conservation Force to get OFAC licenses to import the trophies, all of which were declined. Finally, OFAC volunteered in simultaneous responses to Conservation Force and Gretchen Stark of Safari Outfitters that although import shipments could not be licensed, import carriage as “personally accompanied baggage” is authorized without a license. Separately, Conservation Force obtained an OFAC letter that established that transport of firearms for personal use to and from Iran is permissible when a US Department of State representative suggested clarification was necessary.

The news of Iran was all the rage at the two sheep conventions. We hope it is as promising as it appears. Dennis Campbell of GSC/OVIS has published a definitive book on the species and range of sheep and goats in Iran. He has been preparing the book for years. He can be contacted through GSC/OVIS at <http://www.wildsheep.org/contact/contact.html>.

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• **Scientists Recant Tipping Point Theory That Doomed the Polar Bear:** In the December issue of *Nature*, Steven C. Amstrup of the US Geological Survey and others issued a letter revising the model and the expected fate of the polar bear. This strikes at

the heart of the decision to list the bear on the ESA as well as the arguments of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that the bear should have been listed as endangered instead of threatened. (*Nature*, Vol. 468 at 955, entitled *Greenhouse gas mitigation can reduce sea-ice loss and increase polar bear persistence*.) Amstrup is the high priest behind the polar bear list-



ing, so his second thoughts are illuminating. He is joined in the letter by co-authors Eric T. DeWeaver, David C. Douglas, Bruce G. Marcot, George M. Durner, Cecilia M. Bitz and David A. Baily.

On the basis of projected losses of their essential sea-ice habitats, a United States Geological Survey research team concluded in 2007 that two-thirds of the world’s polar bears

could disappear by mid-century if greenhouse gas emissions continue, the letter reports. “A key question was whether temperature increases lead to proportional losses of sea-ice habitat, or whether sea-ice cover crosses a tipping point and irreversibly collapses when temperature reaches a critical threshold.” “It has been proposed that existing greenhouse gas emissions already have committed the earth to temperatures that will rise above the tipping point for loss of perennial Arctic sea ice.” That perception that nothing can be done was at the root of the listing on the ESA, as demonstrated when the general media proclaimed polar bear were “irreversibly doomed.”

This letter states that new model outcomes show “that increased habitat retention under greenhouse gas mitigation means that polar bears could persist throughout the century in greater numbers and more areas than the business-as-usual cases. Our general circulation model outcomes did not reveal thresholds leading to irreversible loss of ice; instead, a linear relationship between global mean surface air temperature and sea ice habitat substantiated the hypothesis that sea-ice thermodynamics can overcome albedo feedbacks proposed to cause sea ice tipping points. Our outcomes indicate that rapid summer ice loss in models and observations... (don’t represent) tipping-point behavior.”

“Instead of tipping-point behavior, recent observations and model outcomes illustrate great natural variability.... Future polar bear population sizes in at least the Convergent Ice Ecoregion and the Archipelago Ecoregion...could be equivalent to or even larger than at present.” With greenhouse gas mitigation combined with the best on-the-ground management practices, extinction was not the most probable outcome in any ecoregion.” Overall, if greenhouse gases “are mitigated polar bear can be maintained at sustainable numbers throughout the century.”

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 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.

GRAND SLAM CLUB  OVIS

This remodeling and resultant probability will prove interesting if the listing is remanded by the court, as we expect. The listing was in part based upon “doomsday” predictions, which is more alarming for what it reflects about our federal agencies and their

agendas than the status of polar bear. Oral arguments in the listing case were in February. A decision is expected at any time.

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• **Plains Bison Listing Petition Denials:** A petition to list all plains bison

in the USA as “threatened” was denied. The USF&WS made a negative 90-day finding. Therefore, it announced, “We are not initiating a status review in response to this petition.” The 11-page finding can be found at 76 FR 10299, February 24, 2011.

The petition by two private individuals was filed on June 22, 2009. For those interested in the African lion listing proposal; this provides some idea of how long it takes for the agency to make a 90-day finding - 20 months.

The Agency found the “population trends of wild plains bison in conservation herds appear to be stable to increasing in recent years. The number of conservation herds also continues to increase.... The current population of wild plains bison is estimated to be 20,500 animals in 62 herds.” Apparently there are also 400,000 to 500,000 in 6,400 commercial herds. Nearly all are stable or increasing.

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• **The Osprey Filming Company:** Conservation Force has awarded The Osprey Filming Company and The Hunter Proud Foundation, its principle supporter, the Communications Excellence Award. Osprey has just completed a DVD on the Torghar Conservation Project in Pakistan in partnership with Conservation Force. The DVD is being distributed by the Wild Sheep Foundation, Grand Slam/Ovis, IPHA and Conservation Force. It is the most up-to-date documentary of its kind on this world renowned project. It is to be premiered during the CIC Assembly in St. Petersburg, Russia in May.

This is one of a series of films produced by Osprey for Conservation Force. Two others that were distributed to thousands of CITES attendees were *The Fate of the African Lion*, produced in 2004, and *Tembo: Use or Lose*, produced in 2010.

The film is appropriately titled *A Dream Deferred* because the project can't reach its potential until import of the trophies are permitted into the United States, the largest tourist hunting market. Only then will it generate the greatest revenue to the benefit of the markhor and the people that determine its survival.— *John J. Jackson, III.*

□ **Andre de Kock P.H. Memorial Family Fund**

■ Andre de Kock, one of the most senior professional hunters at Robin Hurt Safaris, was killed on February 18.

This is a true tragedy. Robin Hurt said, “He will be much missed by us all around the campfire. A superb hunter and conservationist, Andre, who did so much for wildlife with his clients, did not deserve such an end.” Many of Andre’s clients have provided support for the Robin Hurt Foundation/Conservation Force projects that over the years have constructed 58 schools, 12 medical dispensaries and untold numbers of wildlife and community projects.

Jonathan Howells, Andre’s son-in-law, is the Managing Director of Robin Hurt Safaris Tanzania, Ltd. To make this murder in the field more tragic, Andre left his wife, Lesley and two small, dependent children: one-year-old Mathew and four-year-old Kelly. He also left his eldest daughter Clair, his son-in-law Jonathan and their two children. Conservation Force is privileged to having been chosen as the conduit for a fund created to educate Andre’s young children - the **Andre de Kock P.H. Memorial Family Fund**. We have the accounting, banking and administration capacity to do that and, of course, are long-time partners with Robin Hurt in the Cullman & Hurt Community Wildlife Project and Robin Hurt Foundation, in which yours truly is a Board Member and Treasurer.

The two Foundations have always maintained excellent relations with the local communities. For example, more than 50 schools have been constructed and 12 medical dispensaries. Millions of dollars of contributions have been passed through Conserva-

tion Force over the years for the loyal local communities. The murderers in this instance are most definitely felt to be outsiders on a poaching raid.

All donations should be made payable to “Conservation Force” and designated for Andre’s children’s education, “Andre’s Fund.” Conservation Force is a 501(c)(3) public charity. This means that contributors will be able to get the maximum level tax deduction for any donation they may wish to make for this compelling cause. Conservation Force is not assessing any fee whatsoever, so it is a full pass-through for the children.

Donations may be mailed to Conservation Force, PO Box 278, Metairie, LA 70001-0278 USA, or made by credit card online at <http://www.conservationforce.org/donateonline.html>. You will be sent an acknowledgment for tax purposes. The donation must be made out to “Conservation Force.” You are welcome to copy Robin Hurt at robin.anthony.hurt@gmail.com, Andre’s son-in-law Jonathan Howells at jonathan.howells@robinhurt.co.tz and Chrissie Jackson, Secretary of Conservation Force, at cjackson@conservationforce.org.

Michael Angelides, the Secretary General of the Tanzania Professional Hunters Association, is acting as Conservation Force’s agent in Tanzania to accept cash and smaller donations from fellow PHs to avoid multiple international banking fees. He can be contacted at secretary@tzpha.com. Feel free to copy Chrissie Jackson at cjackson@conservationforce.org when you do.

This is indeed a worthy cause. The whole community shares this loss.