



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 September 2011

## Important Developments at 25th Meeting of the CITES Animals Committee

The CITES Animals Committee met in Geneva, Switzerland, on July 18-22, 2011, and yours truly attended. There were at least six agenda items and actions of direct and immediate importance to the safari hunting industry:

- Two proposals were made concerning the status of the **AFRICAN LION**. One was to review the African lion in the significant trade review process to see if its trade was excessive, and the second was a request by the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS) to urgently review the listing of the lion to determine if it is listed correctly or should be uplisted.
- Canada recommended that the **MOUNTAIN LION** be reviewed for its listing status, and the USF&WS joined in to add the lion in the United States. The USF&WS reported that its review of the bobcat demonstrated it should be kept on Appendix II.
- Mexico reported, and the Committee accepted Mexico's recommendation, that **JAGUAR** should be kept on Appendix I.
- The non-detriment finding for **HIPPOTAMUS** being exported from Cameroon, Ethiopia and Mozambique is to be reviewed in the significant trade review process.

The Animals Committee is one of the two technical, scientific advisory committees of CITES. The other is the Plants Committee. They meet between the CoPs, which are held every three years (175 country Parties). The two

### DATELINE: Switzerland

NEWS...NEWS...NEWS



John J. Jackson III

scientific committees meet annually. At this meeting there were more than 17 substantive items on the agenda, more than 200 participants and at least 12 intersessional working groups were agreed upon.

I usually attend these intersessional meetings between the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, CoPs, as the representative of Conservation Force, which is an *International NGO Observer*, INGO. Of course, Conservation Force represents many other organizations, some of which are qualified observers themselves,

such as IPHA, which is also an INGO and, in the past, CIC, which is an *Intergovernmental Observer*, IGO. At this meeting CIC was represented by the immediate Past Secretariat

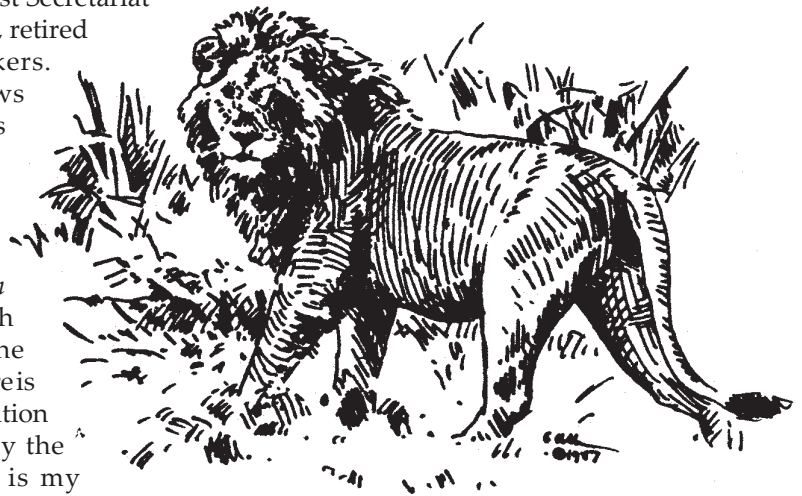
General of CITES, retired Willem Wijnstekers. That is good news in itself. CIC's prestigious new representative has just authored the 7th Edition of *The Evolution of CITES*, which is the Bible of the Convention if there is one. The latest edition was published by the CIC. Following is my report on developments at

the Animals Committee meeting that are of concern to hunters and our industry:

**African Lion Averts Double Reviews:** The USF&WS "recommended that the Committee add *Panthera leo* (African lion) as a high priority for review, to

be conducted before the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties." Kenya positioned itself to conduct the periodic listing review before arrival at the meeting, and the anti-Species Survival Network (SSN), mail campaigned for Kenya before the meeting started. The moment the recommendation was orally introduced by the USF&WS, Kenya volunteered to conduct the review. The new Chairman of the Committee responded "excellent" without a pause. Tanzania and most of the southern African countries were not in attendance, so there was little that could be done by NGOs. South Africa's representatives did intervene and insist that all lion range states be allowed to participate in the review of the lion's listing. Namibia then intervened, offered, and was accepted as the co-chair of the review group. That is the best that could be done.

The "periodic review" of the listing status of a species is to ensure



it is properly listed. In the case of the African lion it certainly will not lead to it being de-listed from Appendix II as all wild cats of the world are on Appendix II. The review will either show that it should remain on Appendix II or lead

to a Committee recommendation and ultimate proposal to uplist African lion to Appendix I. This will be yet another country-by-country review of the status of the African lion, but this one under the auspices of Kenya. Who trusts Kenya? It is not clear what the USF&WS was thinking, but it is clear what the SSN intends to get from its mail campaign that Kenya head the review: an uplisting to Appendix I. A lot of time and energy will have to be put into production of reports on a nation-by-nation basis. Philippe Chardonnet of IGF and Conservation Force will no doubt play a leading role if Kenya permits. Even though it is more work and expense, we are much better prepared than a few years ago due to the regional workshops, surveys and growing number of national management plans. In fact, this is our opportunity to show all the work we have been doing. The wildcard is whether Namibia's co-chairmanship can provide true balance.

The African lion was also on the list of species for possible review of its trade as being significant and warranting a demonstration from all exporting countries that their trade was not excessive. Perhaps because lion was to be reviewed in the Periodic Review process, the lion was not added to the significant trade review process and will not be reviewed. It may have been abusive to subject the range countries to both a significant trade review process and periodic review of the lion's listing at the same time. There was some dispute behind closed doors whether both a significant trade review and a periodic review of the listing could be conducted at the same time. We kept circulating a longstanding Resolution that concurrent reviews were not appropriate, but there were different interpretations. The antis were satisfied with a periodic review to be conducted and reported by Kenya, so they let slide the suggestion that the sustainability of lion trade needed to be reviewed as excessive in addition to the listing status.

**Periodic Review of Mountain Lion/Puma Listing:** Canada volunteered to conduct the listing status of cougar, and the

United States "agreed to contribute to this review as a range state of the species (*Puma concolor cougar* and *Puma concolor coryi*)." Some cougar are on Appendix I and others are on Appendix II. Canada's are on Appendix I, so a downlisting would facilitate trade in that subspecies population with importing countries around the world.

The range of puma/mountain lion extends from Alaska (rare) south to Chile. It has the largest geographic range of any terrestrial mammal in the Western Hemisphere. It was eradicated east of the Rocky Mountains, but in the western United States the population recovered and its range has extended. It has increased in western states and dispersed as far as the Midwest. The USF&WS listed the Eastern Cougar as **Endangered** in 1973 but in March of this year completed a five-year review that confirmed the East's mountain lions to officially be extinct. That status review can be downloaded from <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/ECougar>. The IUCN treats the remaining puma/cougar as of "Least Concern."

**Bobcat Maintained as Listed on Appendix II:** The USF&WS reported on its completed review of the listing of the bobcat. The Committee accepted the USF&WS report that the Periodic Review of the listing demonstrated that the bobcat



SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

## World Conservation Force Bulletin

EDITOR/WRITER  
John J. Jackson, III

PUBLISHER  
Barbara Crown

Copyright ©2011 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 proadvocacy 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 S I-10 W Serv Road  
Metairie, LA 70001  
Tel. 504-837-1233 Fax 504-837-1145  
[www.ConservationForce.org](http://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. 305-670-1361 Fax 305-670-1376

Remember to favor Conservation Force's Corporate Sponsors:

**FAUNA & FLORA**

[www.faunaandflora.com/](http://www.faunaandflora.com/)

**Hornady**

[www.hornady.com/](http://www.hornady.com/)

All are the leaders in their fields.

[www.conservationforce.org](http://www.conservationforce.org)

should be maintained on Appendix II as a look-alike species. Though the research demonstrated the biological status was secure, it resembles an endangered lynx in Europe, i.e. a lookalike. That is the end of the effort of the States, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and cooperating USF&WS to downlist America's bobcat at this point in time. The US proposal to de-list the bobcat over the past few Conferences has failed due to opposition from Mexico and the European Union. Over time, the bureaucratic CITES paperwork from the listing costs American sportsmen who fund the state wildlife and fisheries departments many millions of dollars.

**Jaguar Maintained as Listed:** Mexico's report on the Periodic Review of the listing of all jaguar concluding that the jaguar should remain on Appendix I was accepted by the Committee. Uruguay intervened in disagreement with Mexico's reported conclusion that jaguar were currently threatened by hunting for the fur trade. Uruguay pointed out that conflict with cattle farming was the threat today to jaguar, and the sale of fur was secondary. Nonetheless, the Committee accepted the report as presented.

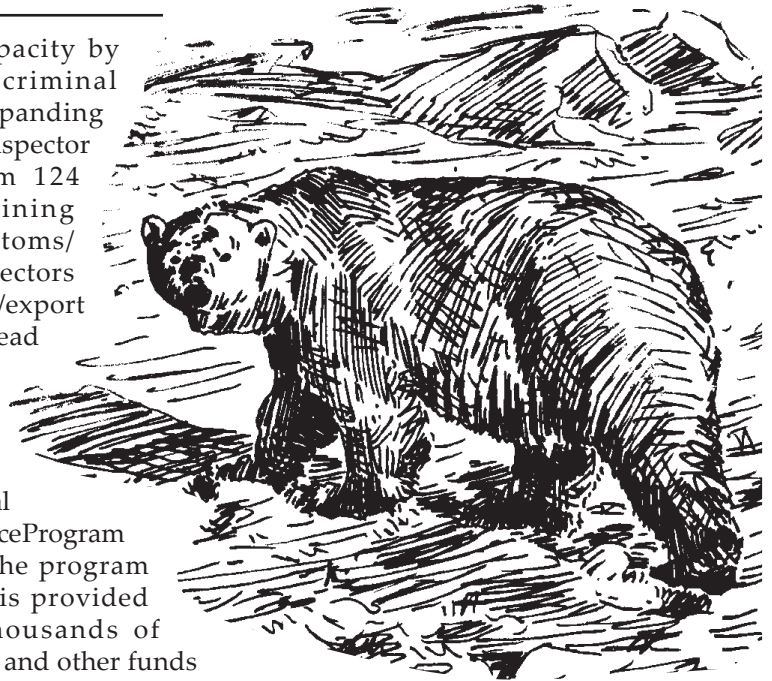
**Cameroon and Mozambique Hippo Trade of "Possible Concern":** The Committee accepted the recommendation of the Significant Trade Working Group that Cameroon and Mozambique's hippo exports were of "possible concern" because of the level of trade and unknown status of hippo in those countries. What this means is the Secretariat of CITES will mail a questionnaire to those countries to justify their non-detriment findings for their trade and which must be answered within 90 days. This is the *significant trade review* process for Appendix II species, SIG. If the countries are not responsive, the suspension of trade will follow in due course. It is advisable for safari hunting interests in those two countries to see that their government authorities respond and to provide what assistance they can. The level of trade must be demonstrated to be sustainable since it has been selected for review.

**Other Matters of Interest:** In the North American Regional Report, the USF&WS reported enhancing its "CITES

enforcement capacity by hiring 23 new criminal investigators, expanding the ranks of its inspector workforce from 124 to 140 and training all new US Customs/Agriculture inspectors on CITES import/export requirements. (Read that as US requirements.)

The US also reported on its International Technical Resistance Program (ITRP). That is the program in which HSUS is provided hundreds of thousands of dollars of USAID and other funds to parade around the world with and in association with the USF&WS as an expert in an array of subjects, including "alternatives" to use, trade, and how to set sustainable quotas/make non-detriment findings for trade.

Conservation Force uncovered this USF&WS collaboration with HSUS



through recent Freedom of Information Act requests.

On the more positive side, Canada reported it is "actively participating in the development of a range-wide action plan for polar bears with the polar bear range state countries (US, Russia, Greenland and Norway)." As an aside, this will bring us one step closer to importing polar bear trophies from select populations in the future under the "enhancement" section of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Readers will recall that Conservation Force has filed enhancement permits, and the USF&WS denied them, citing the need for a recovery or action plan. That is in litigation. Canada took note and is developing such a plan.

Conservation Force served on several of the Working Groups. One of those new working groups that will conduct its business intersessionally is the Capacity-Building Program for science-based quota setting. We will see what added value we can contribute. All of our work is not defensive and remedial.

A special thanks goes to those organizations that help provide support for Conservation Force's professional volunteers to participate in CITES including IPHA, PHASA, GOABC, DSC, HSC, WSF, GS/OVIS, Shikar Safari Club International Foundation, and the African Safari Club of Florida. Pope & Young has just joined that list of supporters for the 2011-12 period. ■

### 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](http://www.wildsheep.org).*



**GRAND SLAM CLUB/OVIS**

# Abusive Use of Polar Bear Drowning Misinformation

**T**op of the news in *The New York Times* and across the nation is the Interior Department Inspector General's investigation of Dr. Charles Monnett and his suspension. Dr. Monnett is the Interior Department scientist who reported spotting a drowned female polar bear and two cubs offshore of Alaska and then broadcasted a ridiculous extrapolation that 27 bears must have drowned in a storm. He was a flyover observer on an unrelated periodic whale survey. He did not stop to actually examine the bears, was only speculating as to the cause of their death, and his extrapolation that 27 bears in total may have drowned did not include the fact that no other presumed drowned bears were observed by him or anyone, that the cubs would have drowned because their mother drowned, or that they were relatively close to shore, etc. Accidental deaths are not extrapolated that way.

His observation and questionable extrapolation was one of the pillars behind the polar bear listing determination. It was cited by the US Fish &

Wildlife Service (USF&WS) in its proposal and listing and regularly quoted by the Center for Biological Diversity and many others with an agenda. Al Gore cited it in his 2006 book about global warming as proof that polar bear had been drowning in significant numbers while swimming between the increasing distances between ice habitats during the early summer without saying it was only early summer.

Here at Conservation Force we have our own take on this, as we have watched it evolve from the inception. Bear do drown in **horrific** sea storms and **always have**. It should be noted that they don't sink and are excellent swimmers. The distance the presumed mother and two cubs had to swim in this instance is of absolutely no consequence to polar bear, and the distance to the closest shore was negligible.

The fact that there was a horrific, uncommon storm was not ever included or acknowledged in the USF&WS listing decision. The extrapolation that 27 bears must have drowned and the reliance upon that to bootstrap the listing

and Al Gore's book on global warming was scientifically indefensible. It is not simply "shoddy science" as reported in *The New York Times*. It reeks of bias and its acceptance in the listing process more than suggests that a global warming-related agenda, not the polar bear's current and future status, was of primary interest. It should have been rejected as not meaningful from the outset.

This is one of the issues that Conservation Force, and Conservation Force alone, raised in its comments and litigation challenging the listing. Though the District Court deferred to the expertise of the Agency as a judicial policy to refrain from second guessing Agency decisions, this was a too often cited pillar of the listing decision that should have been suspect from the inception. Why and how could the Agency unconditionally cite the misinformation in support of its listing decision? The fact that the initial report was later published in a peer-reviewed journal demonstrates the politics hiding behind the cloak of science. ■

## Cheetah Import Permits Denied Again

**O**n July 28, 2011 the Division of Management Authority of the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS) denied Conservation Force's Request for Reconsideration of the 2003 denials of various cheetah trophy applications to import cheetah hunting trophies. The permit applicants have 45 days to appeal the denial to the new Director of USF&WS.

We know from prior discussions with high-ranking officials in the Agency and above that these denials are a policy decision. The policy and practice of not granting trophy import permits for endangered listed species regardless of the merits drives the fact-finding that supports the denial. Yes, more agenda-driven science! The foremost authorities in the world have supported the ESA downlisting as well as the CITES trophy quota for cheetah and import of trophies into the USA. The Agency and Department of

Interior raved about the program in Namibia and promised to grant the permits on numerous occasions in public and private. This all demonstrates that the rationale for the denials is subterfuge under the cloak of management and science. A sample or two from the new level of denials demonstrates the point.

The Agency stated, "We have been unable to determine that any portion of the fees derived from these exports is used for cheetah conservation." To the contrary, the Agency has been provided documentation of \$1,000 US dollar contributions per hunter that the hunting community used to fund the Strategic National Action Strategy, fund cheetah surveys, etc.

The Agency also accused the Namibia Professional Hunting Association of not doing its part: "The NPHA has provided no updated information on their program, and recent

discussions between the NPHA and the Service did not include this topic." This is a decade after the cheetah in issue were taken and after years of broken promises to grant the imports that were the underlying incentives for the program. The so-called "Service" killed the program itself and knows that all too well, so why the subterfuge?

The Agency went on to say: "For both the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 season, the cheetah trophy take exceeded the quota to the extent that the professional hunters association asked to have the season closed. The Service is therefore unable to find..." This event is approximately a decade after the cheetah in issue were taken. NAPHA should be commended for its preventative recommendation, not criticized.

Other reasons in the denials are worse, but space does not permit more examples. Where and when does it end? ■