



“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

Symposium May Affect The Future Of Hunting

One of the most important programs this year, in fact in decades, is planned in October at the Zoological Society of London. It potentially is to be a milestone. Though it is about the impact that hunting has on wildlife and habitat, the symposium is expected to have a significant influence or impact on the future perception and role of hunting itself.

The symposium and resultant publication will for the first time look comprehensively at many issues, which are fundamental to an understanding of the role of recreational hunting in conservation and rural development. It will examine the key issues, ask the difficult questions and seek to present the answers to guide policy. Where the answers are not available, it will highlight gaps in our knowledge and lay out the research agenda for the next decade.

In the field of conservation, few activities attract more controversy or misunderstanding than hunting for recreational purposes. On the other hand, hunters insist that their activity is an important conservation tool, and

there is evidence to support this where careful management is in place. Hunting is also a significant economic activity and can in principle provide significant livelihood benefits in rural areas where opportunities are scarce. The question for conservation science is whether these potential benefits are



realized in practice. In addition, ethical concerns are raised about hunting methods and the morality of hunting for ‘pleasure,’ whatever its benefits.

From a biological perspective there are direct links between the removal of individual animals and the study of population dynamics, population ge-

netics, reproductive rates, life histories and ecology. In theory, the intensity of hunting can be made sustainable but in practice controlling it can be difficult. The role of biology in the search for sustainability is more limited than generally appreciated. At a global level, there has been no systematic attempt to review the impacts of recreational hunting or to provide an evidence-based assessment of its role in conservation and rural development. By focusing on examples of recreational hunting in different contexts in the symposium, we hope that scientists from a wide variety of backgrounds can themselves begin to separate the facts from conventional wisdom and pure myth.

The symposium is so important that Dallas Safari Club and Conservation Force have partnered to contribute \$20,000 (US) dollars to the program. The following letter summarizes well the nature of the program:

Dear John,

As Chair of the IUCN/SSC Sustainable Use Specialist Group I am writing formally to thank you for your generosity in supporting the forthcoming

Conference entitled “Recreational Hunting, Conservation and Rural Livelihoods” which will be held in London on 12th and 13th of October, together with the subsequent closed meeting which will discuss a number of initiatives that focus on standards and certification in recreational hunting.

This independent meeting is organized by the IUCN/SSC Sustainable Use Specialist Group. IUCN (The World Conservation Union) was founded in October 1948 and is the world’s largest conservation network. The Union brings together 82 States, 111 government agencies, more than 800 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and some 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries in a unique worldwide partnership. The meeting is held under the auspices of the Zoological Society of London. This famous institution, established in 1846, remains the vanguard of Euro-

pean zoological institutions and houses the Institute of Zoology, one of Europe’s pre-eminent research institutions. The proceedings of the meeting will be published by Blackwell Publishing, which is the world’s leading society publisher, partnering with 665 academic and professional societies. Blackwell publishes over 805 journals and 650 text and reference books annually, across a wide range of academic, medical and professional subjects.

All in all, the two day conference will, we believe, **bring recreational hunting into the academic mainstream, raising the profile of the issues and bringing them to the attention of the world in a way that has never been achieved before.** (emphasis added)

Most of your sponsorship will be used to bring many of the authors and presenters to the meeting and support their accommodation and living costs



JOHN J. JACKSON, III
Conservation Force

Gala President’s Dinner Planned For October 17

■ Past US President George Bush, Sr. has agreed to preside over a Gala Dinner to be held in Dallas, Texas, on October 17th, 2006. He chose the date. Past President Valery Giscard of France is also to be in attendance and presiding. Both are Patrons of the Wildlife Conservation Foundation of Tanzania that is holding the Gala Dinner in partnership with Dallas Safari Club, the Friedkin Foundation and Conservation Force.

These past presidents and organizations have thrown together for a one-of-a-kind event for a cause very important to hunters. That is to raise conservation and management funding for Tanzania. Tanzania is worthy of special attention and help. For starters, it has the largest remaining African lion population - perhaps more than all the rest of Africa combined (Balkus, Parker, et al). It also has more Cape buffalo than all of the rest of Africa combined. (AESG). It has the second largest elephant population, second only to Botswana. (ESG). And it has the most wild habitat set aside for hunting and conservation in all of Africa.

It has no equal.

For those reasons and more we are joining forces in an extraordinary gathering that promises to have some of the most prominent and important people in the world. Select people from across the nation and around the world will be in attendance. It is anticipated and designed to be one of the most exceptional dinners of its kind ever held in the hunting world. Cost to attend is \$500 per person.

Dallas Safari Club is expected to mail invitations by late July. All contributions are tax deductible and are to be made payable to Conservation Force, a 501 (c) 3 charitable foundation. Dallas Safari Club, Conservation Force and the Friedkin Foundation are absorbing all of their own out-of-pocket costs for the worthy cause and extraordinary event.

Mark your calendar now for October 17th and/or make a deductible donation through Conservation Force designating it for the *Gala Dinner for Tanzania*. This is one of the most important events of this year. Please plan to come and let’s have fun.



“SERVING THE HUNTER WHO TRAVELS”

World Conservation Force Bulletin

Editor/Writer

John J. Jackson, III

Publisher

Don Causey

Copyright 2005© by Oxpecker Enterprises Inc. ISSN 1052-4746. This bulletin on hunting-related conservation matters is published periodically free of charge for subscribers to *The Hunting Report*, 9300 S. Dadeland Blvd., Suite 605, Miami, FL 33156-2721. 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
One Lakeway Center, Suite 1045
Metairie, LA 70002
Tel. 504-837-1233. Fax 504-837-1145.
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
9300 S. Dadeland Blvd., Suite 605
Miami, FL 33156-2721.
Tel. 305-670-1361. Fax 305-670-1376.

during the four day period. Many if not most of these individuals will be from developing countries. Your support will be formally acknowledged at the invitation-only session which starts on Saturday 14th October. It will also be clearly acknowledged in the brochure for the meeting which will be handed out to participants on the 12th of October, and in the acknowledgement section of the resultant book.

Jon Hutton MA, D.Phil.

Director, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre United Nations Environment Program 219 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK

Tel: + 44 1223 277314 extension 200

Fax: + 44 1223 277365

The International Council of Game and Wildlife Management, CIC, is also to hold a planning meeting on “Why we hunt” the day before on October 11. Yours truly is the President of the CIC’s Commission on Sustainable Use (CSU) and Conservation Force Board Member Shane Mahoney is a Vice President. Shane and I with the other members of the CSU, will develop a traveling symposium on the importance of hunting to hunters in human terms aside from its conservation value and service to the world. Our objective is to make hunting so morally relevant and important that it can better withstand the endless attacks the future may hold.

DATELINE: NAMIBIA

**News... News.... News
Progress Reported On
Black Faced Impala**

Progress continues in the effort to establish the importation of trophies of black faced impala. The draft black faced impala management plan has been revised and is being circulated at the highest level of government in Namibia for final approval and adoption. Simultaneously, yours truly has appealed the denial of the seven “test” import permit applications to the Director of the US Fish & Wildlife Service. That is scheduled for oral argument before the Director

in early July.

Readers may remember that trophy import permit applications were filed by Conservation Force on behalf of seven prominent US trophy hunters as part of Conservation Force’s *Black Faced Impala Initiative*. After several years, the permit applications were denied by the Service primarily on the grounds that the Service could not find “enhancement” as it had with the “bontebok” in RSA because Namibia did not have a management plan for the “endangered” species comprehensively addressing its hybridization with common impala. That hybridization is considered the primary threat to the species today.

Fortunately, Conservation Force and the Namibian Professional Hunters Association’s Black Faced Impala



Committee in partnership with the Namibian Ministry of Environment had already drafted such a plan at the time the permits were denied. Conservation Force petitioned the Service to “reconsider” the permits. A “reconsideration” is the first level of appeal within administrative agencies of the US Government such as the Department of Interior and its US Fish & Wildlife Service. Again, the permits were denied by the Service for the same but more succinctly stated reasons. The permits are to be denied until Namibia adopts a formal management plan directly preventing and containing the hybridization that threatens the species.

Conservation Force appealed the denials to the Director which is the last level to appeal a denial administratively. We also asked and were granted

an oral hearing before the Director of the US Fish & Wildlife Service and were granted an extension of time until July.

It remains to be seen if Namibia can finalize the adoption of its management plan before the appeal is argued orally. The plan is again being re-revised by Tammie Matson, PhD, as a result of its third passage through the Ministry and is soon to be presented to the Cabinet of Namibia’s government. If the plan is adopted in time we hope to win the appeal before the Director. If it is not adopted in time, then we have to convince the Director of the US Fish & Wildlife Service that it is an adaptive process and that all of the work that has been done constitutes enhancement, i.e., the \$500 (US) contributions by each hunter, the funding by NAPHA, the funding by Conservation Force - the whole effort which is much too long to list here. One must remember that ordinary culling in captive herds is a necessary husbandry practice and that US Fish & Wildlife Service regulations on their face have long recognized the reduction of excess males as necessary and “enhancement”. This is independent of all of the work that we have been doing and is another stand-alone reason these initial permits may be granted. Of course, we favor the long-term use of tourist hunting as a force for Conservation.

Only after exhausting the administrative appeal process before the Director do we then have the right to proceed to US Federal District Court to challenge the legality and rationale of the US Fish and Wildlife Service denials. The merits of the potential litigation depends on the written reasons for the denials and what documents are in the administrative record at the conclusion of the process. It may be a hard call whether or not to litigate, but hopefully not necessary.

If we don’t prevail this time, then in lieu of litigation we must and will file the seven permits again when Namibia adopts the plan that is now undergoing final review and adoption. Re-filing is an enormous amount of work. Conservation Force has just wired \$3,600 (US) to NAPHA’s *Black*

Faced Impala Enhancement Fund account for the finishing touches on the draft plan by contractor Tammie Matson before it is presented to the Cabinet. This sum is above and beyond the \$500 each US hunter/permit applicant contributed and the sums NAPHA added to the account itself. We will shortly be orally arguing those special contributions are acts of “enhancement”. At all times, NAPHA, MET and

Conservation Force have partnered in this determined initiative. No effort is being spared. Each has played a critical role. Yours truly initiated the whole process years ago and serves on NAPHA’s three-member Black Faced Impala Committee.

This is the kind of important but laborious expert work that Conservation Force does as a public service for the hunting conservation world and

developing countries and their communities. We need your help. Contributions to Conservation Force are tax deductible, as we are a 501 (c) 3 public charitable foundation. All of the services of yours truly and Conservation Force have been provided free. Hopefully others will finally step up to the plate to help with this worthwhile initiative. This is just the tip of the iceberg of what all we do for you.

Briefly Noted

News from Namibia: The Namibian Professional Hunter’s Association, NAPHA, has a new CEO and Namibiais soon to have two new hunting concessions. Almut Kronsbein was selected from 26 applicants and four finalists as NAPHA’s CEO. Almut is a superb choice. We have worked with her for years and know of her experience, knowledge, and dedication to the tasks. NAPHA has also hired two additional staffers, Carlin Sobotta and Natasha Sheldon. Congratulations are in order for all three.

Latest On Polar Bear Suit: In anticipation of a promised settlement, the Federal Court in San Francisco signed an *Order to Stay Proceedings For 90 Days*. The US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Center for Biological Diversity and Greenpeace have represented to the court that they can settle the matter. Since the 90 day finding that polar bear warranted listing review under the ESA, the one remaining issue is a determination or settlement agreement on the date of the twelve-month deadline for making findings.

HSUS Up to NO Good: Conservation Force has learned that the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) filed a Freedom of Information Request (FOIA) with the United States Agency for International Development (US AID) “for all mid-term or final reviews, evaluations, or assessments, including all environmental impact assessments” of eleven (11) programs being funded overseas. According to HSUS, the “primary purpose for requesting these records is to obtain information about policies and activities relating to

threatened and endangered species conservation and management and sport hunting...”

The HSUS asked for waiver of fees for the costs of copies with a revealing statement. “The HSUS believes that this satisfies the criteria for fee waiver or reduction for the following reasons...The disclosure of the requested records would be to the primary benefit of the general public...This is evidenced by such reports such as the 1997 publicly-disseminated report ‘CAMPFIRE: A Close Look at the Costs and Consequences’.”

What the HSUS is referring to is its anti-hunting campaign in 1997 to cut the CAMPFIRE Program off from its US AID funding in US Congress.

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

Though it lost that campaign against CAMPFIRE, it won in another sense. The attack in 1997 and even this FOIA request today has had a chilling effect on programs embracing sustainable use or hunting. For example, we know of cases in which US Fish and Wildlife Service employees have advised biologists to steer clear of hunting programs if they hope to receive any US AID funding. That perception is wrong, but it may as well be true if people believe it. Worse, some at US AID believe it. This is a negative consequence of the attack on US AID funding of CAMPFIRE that exists and undermines international development because Congress has not sent a clear enough message to US AID administrators that hunting is not taboo.

Whether or not HSUS turns up any dirt from their request, they are negatively impacting the hunting and conservation world because of those that over-react and because of misconceptions and rumors that evolve after such FOIA requests.

Conservation Force has done its own FOIA. WE know exactly what 11 programs HSUS is researching, and we are obtaining the same documents they have been provided. We can’t do it all. We need Congress to step in to expressly confirm its support of utilizing sustainable use, in the form of hunting, as an acceptable and even proven and desirable means of furthering developments in undeveloped nations. We need to correct the misperceptions that are retarding international developments. – *John J. Jackson, III.*