



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 2012

The National Survey Shows Increase in Hunters and Big Game Hunting

The Preliminary Findings of the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation was published in August 2012 with promising increases in numbers of hunters, anglers and wildlife-watching participants over the 2006 survey findings. This is the National Survey that is done every five years since 1955 and has the same methodology since 1991 (1991, 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011) so the results for the past 20

DATELINE:
United States



John J. Jackson III

years are comparable. The US Census Bureau collects the data for state wildlife agencies and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), which is coordinated by the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

In 2011, 13.7 million people 16 years old and older went hunting for an average of 21 days pursuing wild game. Overall hunting participation from 2006 to 2011 increased nine percent with the number of big game hunters up eight percent and migratory bird hunters up 13 percent. Hunters seeking other game increased by 92 percent, while small game hunters declined six percent, which the Agency does not treat as statistically significant. Hunters spent 34 billion dollars on trips with an average expenditure per hunter of \$2,484. Hunting expenditures were up 30 percent over the five-year period. Purchasers of hunting equipment increased 29 percent, land leasing and ownership was up 50 percent and trip-related spending was up 39 percent.

Looking at the 10-year trend, 2001-2011, overall hunting participation increased five percent. Big game hunting increased six percent, small game

hunting declined 17 percent and migratory bird hunting declined 13 percent. Total hunting expenditures increased 27 percent.

The survey report points out that the 13.764 million hunting participants in 2001 do not include 1.8 million six- to 15-year-olds that hunted and that "many individuals can be considered hunters and anglers even though they did not participate in 2011." Prior surveys have shown that individuals

who hunt or fish every three to five years still considered themselves hunters and anglers. This was a survey only of those 16 or over that had in fact participated in 2011.

The hard number of total hunters was 13.034 million in 2001; 12.510 million in 2006; and 13.674 million for 2011. Participation in 2011 was up five percent from 2001 and up nine percent from 2006.

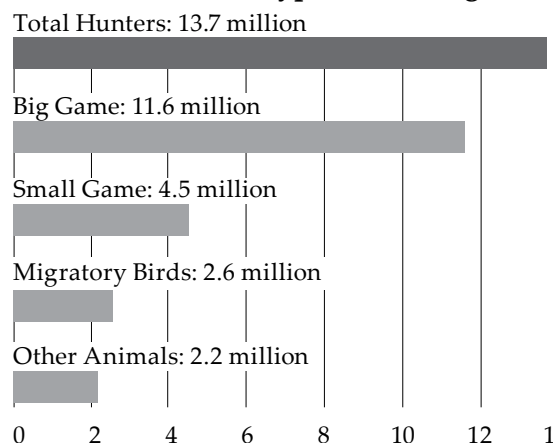
The number of big game hunters

(deer, moose, elk, bear, turkey, etc.) was 10.911 million in 2001; 10.682 million in 2006; and 11.570 million in 2011. It was up eight percent from 2006 and up six percent from 2001.

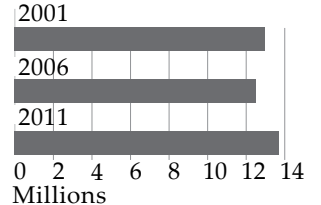
The largest segment of hunters is big game hunters, 84 percent in 2001 and 85 percent in both 2006 and 2011. Big game hunting has had an upward trend since the surveys began in 1955, except for an insignificant decline in 2006. Migratory waterfowl hunting has been down and up. It declined from 2.956 million to 2.588 million (-18 percent) from 2001 to 2011, but was up this survey from 2.298 million in 2006 to 2.588 million in 2011 – a 13 percent increase the past five years. Small game hunting participation continues to decline, but at a lesser rate. Participation was 5.484 million in 2001, 4.797 million in 2006 and down to 4.506 million in 2011. Small game hunting is still the second largest category of hunters.

The number of fishing participants rose to 33.112 million, which was an 11 percent increase over 29.952 million in 2006, but not enough to reverse the 10-year trend from 24.067 million in 2001, which was -3 percent. Freshwater, Great Lakes and saltwater participation

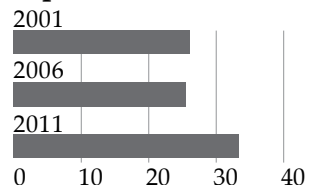
Total Hunters and Type of Hunting: 2011



Hunters: 2001-2011



Expenditures: 2001-2011



Source: USFWS 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation National Overview

were all up, eight, 17 and 15 percent respectively, in the past five years, but not enough to make the 10-year trend positive. The 10-year trend was down three, 10 and two percent respectively.

Overall fishing expenditures were down 11 percent from \$47,052,459 in 2006 to \$41,769,129 in 2011 while hunting expenditures were up 30 percent during the same five-year period. There is an overall decline in angling expenditures in the past 10 years, 2001-2011, of eight percent while hunting has had an increase of 27 percent during the same period, after adjustment to 2011 dollars.

There was a marginal increase in other wildlife associated recreation. Wildlife watching participation was up one percent from 71.132 million in 2006 to 71.776 million in 2011. The increase from 2001 to 2006 had been enough to

have a nine percent overall increase for the decade, 2001 to 2011.

In summary, the report states that 38 percent of all Americans 16 years and older participated in wildlife-related recreation in 2011 and spent 145 billion dollars. That is 90.1 million Americans with expenditures that "equates to one percent of gross domestic product: meaning one out of every \$100 of all goods and services produced in the US is due to wildlife related recreation."

The complete, final survey results are promised in November with much greater detail, including state-by-state data. The preliminary survey and the Final Report when issued can be viewed at <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/home.html> or on Conservation Force's website under News and Alerts at www.conservationforce.org. ■

South Africa's Protected Area Act of 2003 Hurts Wildlife & Habitats

By Ron Thomson
(The Chief Executive Officer of South African National Parks has wrongly come under attack from animal rights groups for allowing hunting in national parks. In fact, all extractive use has been prohibited since the passage of the Protected Area Act of 2003. Here Ron Thomson gives an example of the negative consequences of that 2003 Act.)



During the apartheid era in South Africa, Pilanesberg National Park in Bophuthatswana derived most of its income from hunting. The Park, in those days, carried 200 white rhinos, and approximately 20 were harvested every year. Ten bulls were hunted by high-fee-paying international hunters; the other 10 (mixed sexes) were captured and sold to game ranchers. The 10 white rhinos that were hunted were the backbone of 10 (senior) hunting-package deals (comprised of one white rhino, and about 10 other species), and these packages increased the value of the hunts (because many hunters came to take the rhino and they left the rest.) The hunting revenue (with very little expen-

diture) equated to the revenue brought in from 57,000 game viewing tourists in vehicles (with huge overhead costs).

When apartheid collapsed and South Africa took over Bophuthatswana again, the rhino population was reduced; more elephants were brought in, lions and wild dogs were introduced; and hunting was stopped. The new administration wanted "The Big Five" at any cost - for tourism. And the lions ate the disease-free buffalo (no foot-and-mouth disease and no corridor fever) which we (then) sold to game ranchers at R 250,000 each. And, in my opinion, the Park started to immediately degrade. The elephants (which in years gone by were ONLY seasonal visitors to the area) - now a permanent feature - caused the local extinction of the marula tree and Aloe ferox in the park; they opened up the thickets and woodlands considerably (to the detriment of a healthy black rhino population) and reduced the roosting and breeding places for the red-billed oxpecker (the dead fronds hanging below the heads of the forests of Aloe ferox plants that once existed there). Oxpeckers are the game animal's greatest ally against disease - because they keep the game clean of ticks (the biggest disease vector in any game reserve). All this



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happened just after I relinquished my post as director of Bophuthatswana National Park's board. So "all that glitters is not gold!" I believe that the 'secret for

survival' of Africa's national parks is to integrate the needs of the national park with the needs of the park's rural African neighbors - and that select hunting in the

national park should be the backbone to the scheme...and this comes from someone whose soul, for 53 years, has been STEEPED in the National Park ethos. ■

CIC President Bernard Lozé: "Banning Lion Hunting Endangers The Survival of Lions in the Wild!"

(After review, the CIC takes a clear position in favor of lion hunting.)

The present efforts by a number of European and US-based animal rights groups to stop selective and sustainable lion hunting is counterproductive for the survival of these magnificent large cats in the wild.

On a global scale, the lion population has decreased in recent years even though some populations remain in good shape at the local level. This decline also affects many national parks. The main reasons are habitat loss, competition with livestock husbandry, revenge killings by livestock herders, and a lack of proper wildlife management by the authorities, including anti-poaching. It should be noted that lions have fared much better in a number of gazetted hunting areas where more care is taken in their management and where the proceeds from lion hunting have been effectively used for conservation.

The countries and areas with the lowest conservation status of lions appear to be the ones without hunting! Two examples:

- Kenya lost most of its lion population since 1977 when it banned hunting. Less than 2,000 are remaining today. Tanzania in contrast always had lion hunting and still holds the largest population today with more than 15,000 lions in the wild. CITES parties should actually acknowledge and promote the Tanzanian model of lion conservation with sustainable hunting as one of the pillars of lion management.
- In the Far-Northern Province of Cameroon, the lion population of Waza National Park is on the verge



of extinction although no hunting has taken place for decades in the whole buffer zone and surrounding areas. By contrast in the Northern Province, far south of Waza National Park, the lion population has been maintained in the whole region, in particular in three national parks that are surrounded entirely and protected by operational hunting areas that act as (i) buffer zones against agricultural and pastoral encroachment and (ii) ecological corridors linking national parks.

Nowhere has legal lion hunting been the reason for lion populations going extinct. There are many practical conservation and governance problems in all lion range states that need to be resolved. All parties interested in lion survival should cooperate and seek for best lion management practices instead of fighting ideological battles against the sustainable use of natural resources, which is one of the pillars of the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD).

It is symptomatic of animal rights' organizations to ally themselves with certain wildlife administrations of a few African states that have no lion hunting and at the same time have a particularly poor track record in the conservation of lions. The same has happened with the elephant. The attempt to have the lion listed in Annex I at the next CITES Conference of the Parties is not in line with CITES scientific criteria for up-listing. The objective, rather, is simply to stop lion hunting. However, this would severely damage lion conservation in those states that

retain significant lion populations. An Appendix I listing would in principle not prohibit hunting. It risks, however, an import ban of lion trophies by some countries with resultant loss of hunting revenues. Lions breed fast and hunting them (1) provides a valuable means of using their natural habitats in a sustainable manner and (2) avoids that these wilderness areas are converted to intensive agriculture and mining, land deprived of biodiversity and other ecosystem services. Well-controlled and managed hunting generates social, cultural and economic benefits for lion protection. This creates



incentives for communities to protect them and adequate justification for politicians to resist land encroachment and to maintain or to set aside large tracts of wild land for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The tolerance of local communities for these large carnivores, which are often responsible for the loss of human life and predation of livestock, is indispensable for the survival of lions in the wild. The use of chemicals to poison lions is on the increase and reprisal killings are much higher than reported. If rural communities do not see any benefit from this resource, they will destroy it. Nobody is able to stop them; certainly not cash strapped governmental wildlife administrations. Living with lions is a cost to rural people – so why should they not benefit? The CIC therefore encourages not only national governments to maintain or improve local livelihoods from sustainable use of species, but also CITES to take rural livelihoods and poverty reduction through sustainable use of natural resources stronger into consideration in the future. A strategic cooperation between CITES and the

CBD would be beneficial to address this biodiversity-poverty conflict.

It is shameful that animal rightists from developed and relatively wealthy countries endeavor to deprive poor local communities in African countries to benefit from lions and other wildlife on their land.

It is regrettable, but typical, that in their battle against sustainable hunting some animal rights activists resort to a dubious use of literature and misinterpretation of scientific publications. A particular UK-based organization with a strong protectionist agenda has addressed British and EU parliamentarians in an attempt to convince them that they should advocate the banning of the import into the EU of legal lion trophies.

In their blog the organization claims that several publications, which have

been co-authored by a CIC-member and which present a critical analysis of cases of corruption and of hunting management in need of improvement, allow the conclusion to be made that hunting per se is detrimental to the well-being of wildlife populations. Quite to the contrary, the authors conclude that in the case of practical deficits, the solution is reform of the hunting industry. Hunting bans only deteriorate the situation further. In one of the publications mentioned, the authors explicitly say that: "without the income generated from tourist hunting, many important wildlife areas would cease to be viable." This is quite contrary to what the blog claims.

The CIC is dedicated to sustainable hunting in line with the CBD. Such hunting is a strong instrument to ensure that large tracts of land are

kept under conservation regimes, despite the competition with land uses that have negative environmental impacts; has conserved wildlife, even if hunting management regimes sometimes needed reform and hunting practices needed improvement.

The CIC promotes a critical analysis and debate on sustainable hunting in order to achieve and safeguard best practices. The CIC would like to see the animal rights organizations show the same willingness to critically analyze the results of their protectionist campaigns, which are, more often than not, negative for conservation and wildlife.

At the 59th General Assembly in Cape Town, the CIC will continue its debate on best practices of hunting and how sustainable hunting in line with the CBD principles can contribute to the survival of Africa's unique wildlife. ■

Update on Our Freedom of Information Act Suits

In late August, Conservation Force filed suit in Federal District Court in Washington, DC to compel the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS) to produce the administrative record of the markhor downlisting petition filed by the Torghar Project in Pakistan in 1999. In the Markhor I suit to compel the processing, the USF&WS never produced the administrative record. Instead, it filed a motion to dismiss on the basis that more than six years had passed; therefore the time limit had passed. The District Court granted the government's motion, so we filed a second petition to downlist, which is progressing after filing markhor suits II and III. We also appealed the District Court dismissal, which appeal has been fully briefed and will be orally argued this fall. The Freedom of Information Act request was to obtain the administrative record for the first petition to downlist to see what really happened when all the promises were being made for nearly a

decade. USF&WS did not respond to the FOIA request and did not respond to a second warning letter that suit would be filed.

Another suit is being drafted to compel the production of the minutes of meetings within the USF&WS with high-level Department of Interior leadership where the staff biologists were persuaded to reverse their positive enhancement findings and deny the wood bison and markhor import permit approvals. In the wood bison suit the communication

was claimed to be privileged and in Markhor II, it was not included because it was said not to have been considered in the decision-making process. We are going after the information in a FOIA request. Our job is not done until the decision-making is transparent, scientifically-based and truthful. When we began the "enhancement" suits, we never imagined that some would falsify the scientific findings to avoid positive findings that might be controversial to protectionists or themselves. ■

Conservation Force Weathers Hurricane Isaac

We have had a lot of inquiries about Hurricane Isaac. The hurricane moved in slow then would not move on and away. Although it shut Conservation Force's office down for a week without electricity, the office fared well in the storm with only minimal damage. We were back up and running within a week. Chris Davis, our Chief of Staff,

had his home flooded and lost both his cars. We are trying to show him some consideration in flexing his hours and paid him a small bonus to help out.

We apologize to everyone affected by the delay and disruption in communications. Thank you for all the inquiries that we could not respond to. – John J. Jackson, III.

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