



SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

"Hunting provides the principal incentive and revenue for conservation. Hence it is a force for conservation."

World Conservation Force Bulletin

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New Jersey Likely to Adopt Ban on Four of Big Five Trophies

In the March edition of *Conservation Force Bulletin*, we wrote about "Cecil's Law" in Connecticut, a state bill that would prohibit the import and possession (among other things) of Big Five hunting trophies.

At the end of April that bill passed out of the state Senate and is now being considered in the House. But that bill is the least of our current worries.

Last year, New Jersey State Senator Lesniak (admitted animal rights supporter) and Assemblyman Tim Eustace introduced two bills against hunting trophies. The first prohibited possession, transport, or import of Big Five trophies and other "priority species" (including species proposed to be listed under the ESA) in the state, and the second prohibited import, possession, etc. of Big Five trophies through airports or facilities run by the Port Authority of the states of New York and New Jersey. These incredible bills were passed by the New Jersey legislature, but "pocket vetoed" by the inaction of Governor Chris Christie. The bills would also have prohibited the possession or transport of any species listed as *vulnerable* or higher on the IUCN Red List. It should be noted that the IUCN is only an NGO, and not a governmental body.

The bills were reintroduced in a similar, slightly less egregious form this session. They sought to prohibit possession, import, etc. of Big Five trophies including IUCN Red Listed species, and again passed both Houses. Unfortunately Governor Christie took action this year – the wrong kind. On May 2, he "conditionally vetoed" both bills. In other words, he vetoed the bills but proposed amendments to make them acceptable. If the legislature accepts the amendments – and it is

DATELINE:
United States



John J. Jackson III

believed they will – then the bills become law.

Governor Christie's veto removed restrictions on prior possession of Big Five trophies and removed the Cape buffalo from the list of prohibited species. He also excepted the possession and import of Big Five trophies that are federally permitted and moving through

New Jersey. He left intact the ban on ownership, import, etc. of lion, leopard, elephant, and rhino trophies remaining in the state. He grandfathered those already in the state (not in transit through the state). The effect of these bills is to allow properly paper-worked trophies to pass through the state. However, after the bill becomes law, New Jersey hunters may not possess or import newly acquired lion, leopard, elephant or rhino trophies within the state.

Christie admitted the bills do not "outlaw trophy hunts conducted overseas," and "[t]here are significant questions whether such bans help or actually hurt wildlife conservation." Still, he concluded, "we can be confident that the body parts of endangered animals will no longer be welcome in New Jersey."

State Senator Raymond Lesniak (D), who sponsored the bills (S-977 and S-998), is an animal rightist and proud of it, though he has no wildlife experience or training. In 2016 the misguided

senator received the HSUS State Legislator Award for implementing Animal Protection Legislation. He has sponsored or co-sponsored legislation against hunting black bears (S-2369) (pending), horse slaughter (S-1976) (signed into law), Gestation Crates (S-1921), prohibition of tiger parts trade (S-945) (vetoed), and shark finning (S-1922) (pending). See his website at: <http://raymondlesniak.com/issues/animal-rights/>.

The Senator's Facebook page is most revealing:

"Victory Over Trophy Hunters!"

- State Senator Raymond Lesniak

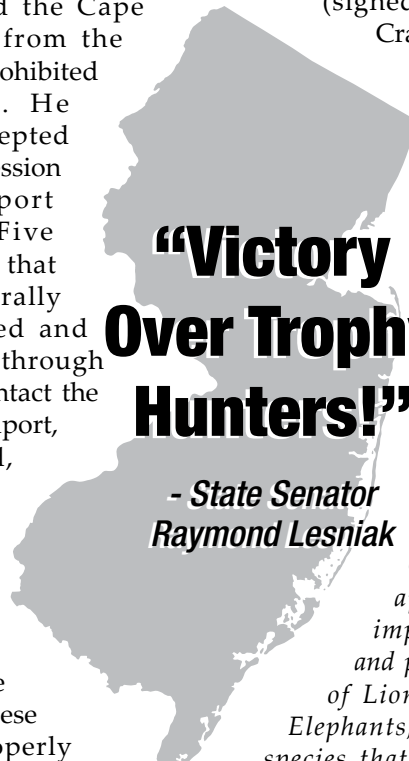
Much to my surprise and delight, Governor Christie has approved my ban on importing, transporting and possession of "trophies" of Lions, Tigers, Leopards, Elephants, Rhinos -endangered species that are prime targets of "trophy" hunters, with minor conditions that do not impair the effectiveness of the legalization.

Those violating the law will be guilty of a third degree crime and fines up to \$75,000. The law will be effective Monday, May 26 when the Senate on May 9 and the Assembly on May 26 concur with the governor's conditions.

New Jersey is a major hub for imports and transportation of body parts of endangered species. Our ban will send a strong message to those who would endanger the very existence of these majestic animals to avoid bringing their "trophies" into New Jersey and better yet, give it up entirely."

On May 9th the Senate did pass the bills amended as the Governor prescribed.

The primary sponsor of the



Assembly version of the bills, A-2447 and A-2510, was Assemblyman Tim Eustace (Democrat). He is also the primary sponsor of a bill to remove black bear from the list of game animals ("There shall be no open season for black bear"), A3527 that has not yet passed. See his website at: www.facebook.com/drtimeustace/.

Luckily, bans this extreme are (so far) rare in the USA. Conservation Force is tracking bills that affect a hunter's ability to import and possess a lawfully harvested trophy. We are updating our website to include a tracking map that will allow the user to see the status of this legislation at a click.

Most states (so far) do not have pending legislation that implicate hunting trophies. Fewer than half (~21) have bills in varying stages of the process seeking to prohibit the *commercial* trade in ivory and rhino horn. Although a few of these bills have loose terminology [and

Conservation Force is working to address this], the clear intent of these bills is *not* to ban lawful imports of personal, *non-commercial* trophies. At this time, most states are *not* unfriendly to Big Five hunters.

But there are three exceptions: (1) "Cecil's Law" in Connecticut; (2) the bills in New Jersey discussed above; and (3) "Cecil's Law" pending in New York State. Like the New Jersey bill, it would prohibit the possession, import, transport, etc. of Big Five trophies both in the state in general and at Port

Authority property. The clear purpose of such bills is to ban trophies and disrupt licensed, regulated hunting in Africa.

These New Jersey bills do *not* incorporate exceptions for federally permitted imports by New Jersey residents – which likely means they should be found illegal if challenged in Court as preempted under the ESA. But still, that these bills have been submitted and even approved by the legislatures of two states is concerning for those who support hunting as part of the conservation paradigm of Africa, Central Asia – and in fact, the U.S.

Conservation Force will continue to track and fight these bills alongside other sustainable use supporters. Hunters in Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York should take action to contact their legislators and to oppose these bills. On the whole, the hunting community needs to work harder and more effectively to

"There shall be no open season for black bear."

- Assemblyman Tim Eustace

make the distinction between unlawful trafficking and licensed, regulated hunting clearer, and to make the habitat protection, anti-poaching, wildlife management, and poverty reduction benefits of lawful hunting more widely known. Except for avowed animal rightists, state legislators are not necessarily anti-hunting. But they are being misled to believe they are doing the right thing when they are really undermining some of the most important and advanced conservation activities in the world. ■

Statement to the Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking

On April 15th I attended the Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking in the Department of Interior Auditorium in Washington DC I had formally been nominated to be made a member of the Advisory Council but the CEO of WildAid was selected. I learned of this in an announcement during the meeting that morning. I did register to make an oral statement, which was also submitted in writing. The written submission follows. Conservation Force has

also made a similar statement to the European Commission.

Sustainable Hunting Is Sustainable Funding for Anti-Poaching
John J. Jackson, President of Conservation Force

Members of the Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking:

Conservation Force thanks you for the important work you are doing and the attention you bring to the fight against poaching and wildlife trafficking. These are



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EDITOR/WRITER
John J. Jackson, III

PUBLISHER
Barbara Crown

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Conservation Force
3240 South I-10 Service Road West, Suite 200
Metairie, LA 70001
Tel. 504-837-1233 Fax 504-837-1145
www.ConservationForce.org

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serious threats to listed species. Combating these threats takes commitment, and deserves the financial, political, and moral support of the US government as well as private industry and NGOs. Conservation Force is doing its part by financially supporting on-the-ground anti-poaching efforts, including by providing equipment, training and funding for rewards.

More than that, Conservation Force supports the hunting operators and clients who provide the first line of defense against poaching and illegal trafficking and generate the largest source of sustainable funding for wildlife and habitat protection.

In the US, hunting and angling revenues and fees contribute 80% (or more) of wildlife management and law enforcement budgets for state fish and wildlife agencies. Hunters and anglers historically have been, and continue to be, the largest contributors to wildlife conservation. Through taxes and license fees alone, they have contributed more than \$10 billion dollars.

In Africa, most everyday wildlife management and anti-poaching costs are funded by safari hunting. Who pays 80% of the regular anti-poaching bills in Tanzania? Tourist safari-hunters, mostly Americans. Similarly in Zimbabwe, over 75% of conservation land under private, community and state tenure depends entirely on safari hunting revenues to fund anti-poaching and wildlife management efforts. On the whole, over 70% of Zimbabwe's hunting clientele is American, but in the private conservancies where the world's third largest population of black rhino resides, 90% of hunting clients are US citizens. Anti-poaching in these conservancies is wholly funded by hunting revenues and donations. Put starkly, US clients protect these black rhinos from the poacher's bullet and axe.

Safari hunting not only generates anti-poaching revenue, it underwrites the most habitat. Who or what is the source of most wild land in Tanzania? Licensed, regulated hunting by tourist safari hunters – largely American. The wildlife habitat dedicated for hunting in Tanzania is approximately 304,000 km², while the country's national parks cover 58,000 km². In other words, hunting areas are over



Meeting of President's Trafficking Task Force

five times greater with far more lion and prey than the national parks. How much does that matter? Tanzania's parks alone are one-third bigger than Kenya's parks and reserves – so just imagine how much habitat has been saved in Tanzania through sustainable use in the form of licensed, regulated sport hunting.

Similarly, in Zimbabwe, three-quarters of the total area under wildlife-based land use and conservation (~107,000 km²) falls under safari hunting as the primary or only source of revenue. The vast majority of this land occurs in arid agro-ecological regions unsuitable for agricultural use. The best use for the land is wildlife, but there must be some incentive to keep wildlife on the land, and there must be some funding to keep the poachers off it. Tourist safari hunting fills this role.

In Namibia, the great majority of community conservancies depend on hunting to keep the doors open, the lights on ... and 95+% of the second largest population of southwestern black rhino protected (as well as developing populations of African lion and increasing populations of elephant).

This point was made clear in a recent study where the authors evaluated benefits to the conservancies of safari hunting compared to photo-tourism. They found the value of the benefits from each use was fairly equal, but the distribution of the benefits differed. Hunting revenues tended to benefit the conservancy operations and the community as a whole, while tourism wages tended to benefit individual employees. The authors then simulated what would happen to the conservancies if either photo-tourism or hunting revenue disappeared. They discovered that the accrual of benefits made a difference.

If photo-tourism income were eliminated, approximately 80% of conservancies with a current positive

cash flow could still cover their operational costs (59% of 50 conservancies). However, if hunting were banned and hunting revenue eliminated, the reverse was true. Approximately 80% of conservancies with a current positive cash flow would then have to shut down. Only 8 of 50 (16%) could maintain an income greater than their operational expenses.

Approximately 50,000 km² of habitat would be at risk of conversion to other uses.

The study confirms that licensed, regulated hunting provides essential funding for conservation in Africa. Its importance cannot be overstated – it literally supports the lion's share of anti-poaching, habitat and community benefits. Yet there are calls to ban safari hunting among certain groups and even in the media. Much of this criticism, such as the airline bans on transport of "Big Five" trophies, stems from an asserted concern for stopping poaching and wildlife trafficking. Apparently, some are confused between licensed, regulated hunting and poaching. Obviously, these two are very different – one is sustainable and provides essential benefits; one is illegal, immoral, and unsustainable. It is theft.

Because this Advisory Council directs so much attention to combating wildlife trafficking, we ask that you take the lead in clearing up this confusion. Do not add to the confusion. To conclude with Teddy Roosevelt, founder of the US national parks: "In a civilized and cultivated country wild animals only continue to exist at all when preserved by sportsmen. The excellent people who protest against all hunting, and consider sportsmen as enemies of wildlife, are ignorant of the fact that in reality the genuine sportsman is by all odds the most important factor in keeping the larger and more valuable wild creatures from total extermination."

The modern hunter remains the most important factor in the recovery of wildlife populations, and the most critical barrier between wildlife and extinction. We respectfully request that the Council confirm this key role for licensed, regulated hunting in its future publications and recommendations. Please be careful when making representations. ■

Scientists Finally Disclose Cecil Not Lured from Park

WILDCRU, The Wildlife Conservation Research Unit based at Oxford University that collared and satellite tracked Cecil has just published an article revealing that Cecil was not lured out of the Hwange National Park by Dr. Palmer and/or his PH. It also discloses that Cecil was in a core area he occupied outside of the park when hunted. The lion's home range was far outside of the park.

To quote the article by David W. Macdonald, et al. Cecil: A Moment or a Movement? Analysis of Media Coverage of the Death of a Lion, Panthera Leo. Animals 2016, 6, 26; doc: 10.3392, the lion had been collared and satellite tracked since 2009. Cecil was one of "65 lions

that were hunted on the land surrounding the Protected Area, 45 of them were equipped with tracking devices."

"It was reported (incorrectly) to have been lured by bait out of the park..." The lion was hunted on bait out of the park. The lion

was hunted on a bait, but not lured from the park as some media accounts have implied; the area was part of the lion's normal range. The ranch where the hunt took place was within the "home range" of the lion during the prior months (April, May, June) until arrowed July 1st at approximately 22:00. The hunt finished "approximately 250 cm from where he was initially wounded." That was 9 am the next morning.

Analysis: The lion's "home range" from April until hunted on July 1 was as much outside of the park as in the park. He was not "lured out of the park by dragging bait from the park..." That was wholly fabricated in the early reports and

continues to be misrepresented today. That inflammatory fabrication was heightened by other false reports that are not noted in the article. One media source was threatened with government sanctions for misrepresentations. Another story about the killing of Jericho, "Cecil's Brother" by another hunter within the park was also wholly concocted. Jericho was not the brother of Cecil. Jericho was not killed at all, and therefore not "killed by a hunter in the park."

The false report that one of Cecil's cubs had been killed was also alarming. The cub was not likely to have been Cecil's and still survives today.

There was the suggestion by all that the killing of a collared lion was in itself illegal. Not so; most lion taken for over a decade in the area were collared, 45 of the 65. One of the purposes of the collaring research was to determine the causes of the morality of the pride lion.

Editorial and social media both carried the message that lion were in danger of extinction. Not true by any stretch of the imagination. The lion quota was extremely low, cautionary, and scientifically based. The local



(Photo credit: Daughter#3/Wikimedia Commons under CC Share Alike 2.0)

communities and hunting operators had been incentivized by the safari hunting revenue to shepherd the lion as potential trophies instead of livestock-eating vermin. Yours truly had made an in-person appeal to the conservancy land owners adjoining the park to take down the livestock fences, eliminate the cattle, and let the lions grow to be more valuable trophies. But for that approach Cecil may have never been born, and surely would not have lived to a scruffy old 13 years of age. Following the suggested changes, the lion population in the park increased from 300-400 to 800 with a growing "resident population" outside of the park boundaries at the time Cecil was taken.

There should no longer be any doubt that fabrications, apparent illegality, and ignorance made "a perfect storm" that otherwise would not have been a rational reaction. Let's hope that lion conservation and the good people that must tolerate lion don't bear the costs of the fabricated storytelling. ■

The ranch where the hunt took place was within the "home range" of the lion

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It has been too long since we have given the first tier of supporters of Conservation Force credit for their contributions to all that we do. The three organizations that **by far** contribute the most to Conservation Force, in the order of those that have given most for the longest (19 years) are **Dallas Safari Club, Wild Sheep Foundation and Shikar Safari Club International Foundation**. Believe me, every donation counts and is important, but we would not exist but for these big three that are in a class above all others. Thank you. ■

Conservation Force Sponsor

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