



“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

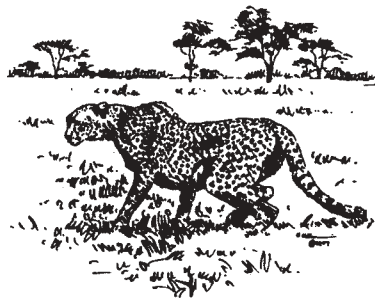
□ What You Need To Know About Trophy Imports

Namibian Cheetah, Black-Faced Impala and Cameroon Elephant Trophies

Trophies of cheetah, black-faced impala and Cameroon Elephant have not been importable. We've been leading the effort to establish importation of those trophies and have developed the following strategies. Conservation Force has three separate “enhancement” trust funds: one for conservation of cheetah in Namibia, one for black-faced impala in Namibia and one for elephant in Cameroon. The funds are used exclusively for the enhancement of the three species. 100 percent of the funds are dedicated to the conservation of the species in the respective countries, both to “enhance” the survival of the species through safari hunting and to document that enhancement for the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS) that administers the importation of hunting trophies of “threatened” and “endangered” species under the US Endangered Species Act (ESA).

A “special regulation” requires proof of enhancement to import elephant hunting trophies. In the early

1990's, yours truly established through litigation against the USF&WS that proof of “enhancement” was not necessary under CITES. The CITES Parties at COP9 in Fort Lauderdale confirmed that proof of “enhancement”



was not required. The Parties resolved that only a non-detrimental determination finding has to be made, and the exporting country's biological non-detrimental finding should be accepted unless there is specific good cause not to accept it. The scheme of

CITES is to have the exporting country make the biological findings, not the importing country. Nevertheless, the USF&WS prevailed in the end by adopting a “special rule” under the ESA (not CITES) requiring proof of enhancement. That was on the eve of yours truly establishing the importation of elephant hunting trophies from Cameroon. Consequently, we established a special “fund” in the hopes of demonstrating the “enhancement.” It helped me get those trophies imported in 1995 and again in 1997.

In 2001, the Service denied the importation permits for 1998 and 1999 (all others are still pending). In its reasons for denial of the 1998 and 1999 permits, the Service cited various concerns about the “fund.” To dispel all concerns, Conservation Force created its own fund that it operates. All of the trophy import applicants whose permits were denied in 1998 and 1999 have contributed \$500 to the new fund, even those who went on unguided *chasse libre* hunts. If you take an el-

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elephant and you hope to import your trophy, then you should make a \$500 “enhancement” donation to Conservation Force. We will send you an appropriate acknowledgment and include it in a periodic report to the USF&WS and all stakeholders. When you complete your import permit application before the hunt, state that you “pledge to pay \$500 to the Conservation Force Cameroon Elephant Conservation Fund if your hunt is successful.” Also, send us a copy of your permit application and the number it is assigned to help us make it all work.

The situation with cheetah and black-faced impala in Namibia is different. They are listed as “endangered” under the ESA, though the impala is not listed under CITES at all and there is a quota for cheetah under CITES. The ESA and Code of Federal Regulations expressly provide for import of “endangered” species when there is proof of “enhancement”. In the mid 90’s, you truly created a “Compact” within Namibia that included the payment by successful cheetah hunters of a conservation fee. The sum agreed upon was 1,000 Namibian dollars which monetary value diminished with time. The problem is, an unwritten policy within the USF&WS has prevented that agency from issuing permits for the import of an “endangered” species, despite provisions in the law allowing for the issuance of such permits. The USF&WS also denied the petition to downlist the cheetah from “endangered” to “threatened” that I had filed on behalf of Namibia and SCI. Both developments led to an understandable backlash within Namibia. Initially, there were motions within the Namibian Professional Hunter’s Association to abandon the “Compact.” In the end, however, a new and improved “Enhancement Agreement” was adopted between the Namibian Professional hunters Association and Conservation Force. It provides for the donation of \$1,000 (US) “on or before export” of the cheetah trophy. Of course, this “enhancement” donation is administered cost-free and expended exclusively on cheetah in Namibia. You should pledge to pay it in your import

permit application and copy us.

The black-faced impala program is modeled after that of cheetah but with one difference. The “enhancement” donation is to be paid by every successful hunter regardless of nationality immediately upon being successful. Unlike the cheetah, the payment does not await the export. It is to be paid then. If the particular landholder should fail to collect it, then Conservation Force will accept it directly. Should you file a trophy importation application before your hunt, pledge that you will pay it and cite the Conservation Force/NAPHA enhancement program. The “enhancement” donation is \$500 (US). It has been used to prepare a strategic management plan for the impala and various studies with our partners in Namibia. It will ensure the perpetuation of pure black-faced impala in Namibia forever.

Contributions to the cheetah, black-faced impala and Cameroon enhancement funds are voluntary. They should be tax-deductible because Conservation Force is a 501 (c) (3) public charitable foundation and the funds are expended exclusively on the conservation of the respective species. The funds are expended collaboratively with the ministries, professional hunters associations and other stakeholders. The more hunters who donate to the funds, the greater the conservation force can be. The additional conservation revenue arising from the safari hunting of the species should be recognized as “enhancement” warranting importation of the trophies. Then it will gain momentum and give the animals greater conservation value. The more hunters, the greater the fund and the greater the enhancement.

We welcome all contributions to the enhancement funds by all interests. Anyone can contribute at any time, but it is unlikely to work if most of those who hunt don’t know or care enough to make the special enhancement contributions. As the fund builds, the USF&WS will be placed in an untenable position if it doesn’t issue trophy importation permits that, in turn, will fuel the fund. Thanks is due to those who have pre-paid.

JOHN J. JACKSON, III
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World Conservation Force Bulletin

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Publisher

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□ Book Review

Embracing the Earth's Wild Resources By Eugene Lapointe

■ Eugene Lapointe has written an insightful book about the conflict between true conservationists and protectionists in the international arenas. Eugene was Secretary General of the United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) for more than nine years. He has had a ring-side seat over the past 30 years and provides an uncommon, insider's view of what it is all about. Here we share some of that insight.

Eugene explains what is behind all the major conflicts like whaling, sealing and the turtle and ivory trade. He also addresses “the demonization of hunting.” This includes an explanation of how international animal rights organizations succeeded in closing grizzly bear hunting in British Columbia. He explains that the protectionists “possess the resources and strategic skills to overcome elected governments... and (to) impose their new age philosophies on unsuspecting people.” Their victory in British Columbia (though it was short lived), “resulted from careful strategic planning by wealthy, multi-national animal rights businesses, skilled and experienced in the global art of war.” “It is simply staggering to consider the depth of resources available to animal rights organizations... The key lesson in the case of the British Columbia grizzly is understanding human behavior and the ancient principles of warfare that underlie the tactics of animal rights organizations. Sustainable users must counter these with new strategic alliances of capable forces, to forewarn and defend the interests of wildlife users, rural and indigenous people throughout the world.”

He cites Conservation Force and Safari Club International as the two hunters' organizations that provide “strong support for conservation in the international arena.” “We should also mention the important conservation and management roles played by hunt-

ing organizations. The great majority of hunters are amongst the finest conservationists and the majority of traditional and sport hunters have far more respect for the species they hunt than those exploiting the same species for fund-raising purposes do.”

He explains the “dire consequences of animal rights on human rights.” The “defining belief” of the preservationists or protectionists “political movement is a radical redefinition of man's place on earth and his relationship to nature.” “It is now a powerful political movement whose breadth and scope rival the growth of Christianity or Islam.” It has culminated in the “hijacking” of international treaties by protectionist NGOs. “The present trend to grant special



rights to animals by government and NGOs is done at the expense of humans and their own rights.” The preferences for animals over man “have resulted in international procedures, definitions of terms, and abuses of semantics that place man in constant conflict with his own existence.” (Emphasis added). It's the “trivialization of human rights.”

He explains that “the opponents of sustainable use are filled with guile, with trickery, with deceit. And they are wealthy. Individual animal rights and activist protectionist groups have assets exceeding the budgets of many governments. Collectively, they are wealthier than all but a few governments.” He identifies each of the organizations that make up the protection-

ists that are opposed to conservation as we know it. The Species Survival Network (SSN) “is the international coalition comprised of all the major and wealthiest NGOs of the world who have one thing in common: They are all opposed to the use of wild resources.” The Humane Society of the United States “serves as its international secretariat.” “The net yearly income of SSN members exceeds one billion USA dollars.” (Emphasis added.) The SSN consists of “the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Animal Welfare Institute, Defenders of Wildlife, Earth Island Institute, Environmental Investigation agency, Greenpeace, the Humane Society of the United States, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, World Society for the Protection of Animals, etc..... Their rhetoric, whether presented individually or commonly, is carefully crafted in such a way as to present themselves as environmentalists, conservationists, or welfarists, who seek to protect species for future generations. But forget it: They are all animal rights zealots, strongly opposed to the use of wild animals, even the most abundant species. For them, the rights of animals have taken precedence over human and sovereign rights. Their fund-raising activities and strategies, even when conducted individually, are the same: Make emotional appeals for funds to save an endangered - according to their own, mostly suspect science - species by creating a villain in the form of a barbarian nation, community or individuals responsible for this catastrophic situation.... Of course, they use mainly charismatic animals for their fund-raising templates: whales, elephants, sea turtles, tigers, etc. remain their major money-getters. But with so many NGOs cloning themselves and having to share the income pie, a solution had to be found, as a few charismatic species could not feed so many NGOs. The

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solution found was simple: Bring new species, which in the past were not very attractive, to the charismatic level. This is why bears started appearing on the charismatic list.”

Eugene explains the fund raising tactics of the protectionists and umbilical connection of fund raising to the protectionist movement. Fund-raising tactics used by extremists opposed to resource use generally carry the following basic elements, a sort of “Tried and True” formula adaptable to a host of situations:

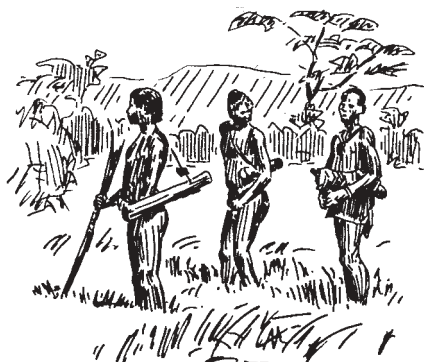
- Gloomy, graphic, even shocking images (blood in the water, a whale splashing, a dying elephant or even better, a whale being flensed).
- An easy-to-remember, catchy bumper-sticker slogan (Save the elephant: Don’t buy ivory.).
- A human villain (a barbarian responsible for the drama described in the picture).
- An emotional appeal (only YOU can help save the whales for the enjoyment of your children).
- An open or hidden threat (the quality of your life will be affected).

There is usually one more element - a charismatic wildlife species. These animals have some sort of innate appeal that evokes deeply emotional responses in urbanites far removed from a true sense of nature. It is certainly easier to get money to adopt a whale than a rat, for instance. By humanizing categories of animals and dehumanizing human beings, you cleverly create super rights for animals, which now possess human characteristics.

Eugene is critical of the protectionist role the United States has often played within the CITES arena. He accuses the USA-led international community of making “irrational demands”... “for more and more studies, further documentation, details and commitments, all of which have resulted in fewer and fewer human rights. As well, the animals in question have benefited little from the campaigns that claim to ‘protect’ them.” That was true of the Elephant Trophy Import Guideline fight yours truly successfully lead against the USF&WS in the 90’s. Countries’ programs are often

held hostage by the bureaucratic demands of the Developed World, which are often driven by threats of legal action by protectionists.

Eugene makes a plea for the traditional communities (native people, aboriginal, rural communities, etc.) that are “most important” to achieving conservation. “One effect of colonialism is a diminished respect for



these cultures, and a Western tendency to overlook their elemental wisdom.” Yet “[t]heir support for true conservation mechanisms is easy to understand. This is their livelihood, their life that so often defines who they are as a people. This is their profound belief, even their religion. Sustainability of their resources has guaranteed their past, is supporting their present, and

Conservation Force Sponsor

The Hunting Report and Conservation Force would like to thank International Foundation for the Conservation of Wildlife (IGF) for generously agreeing to pay all of the costs associated with the publishing of this bulletin. IGF was created by Weatherby Award Winner H.I.H Prince Abdorreza of Iran 25 years ago. Initially called The International Foundation for the Conservation of Game, IGF was already promoting sustainable use of wildlife and conservation of biodiversity 15 years before the UN Rio Conference, which brought these matters to widespread public attention. The foundation has agreed to sponsor *Conservation Force Bulletin* in order to help international hunters keep abreast of hunting-related wildlife news. Conservation Force’s John J. Jackson, III, is a member of the board of IGF and Bertrand des Clers, its director, is a member of the Board of Directors of Conservation Force.



International Foundation for the
Conservation of Wildlife

will assure their future.” Such groups are “divided and marginalized” in what Eugene describes as “cultural racism.” “Yet, without the local populations’ constant involvement, no genuine conservation efforts will ever succeed, regardless of what private groups and politicians from developed countries say or do.” Protectionists are causing both human and conservation “tragedies.”

Eugene has devoted his life to conservation and profoundly realizes that “the utilization of renewable natural resources is essential to human survival.” He is a firm believer in sustainable use, which he defines “is simply to use a resource in such a way that it can be maintained indefinitely.” “It is the very demand for its (a resource’s) use that brings it value.” Moreover, “we tend to place little or no value on a resource for which we have no use.... But sustainability has an inherent economic dimension as well. The economic value of the resource is another incentive for mankind to ensure that it is sustained in its environment.” “To deny the use of a wildlife resource is not only totally irrational, but inevitably detrimental to its conservation.... It is clear that sustainable use is the strongest implement in conservation’s tool chest.... The international community must realize that banning trade and closing legal markets is not progressive conservation, but an anachronistic approach that does more harm than good. The people of developed nations have benefited from the use of their resources and are wealthier and healthier as a result. There is no ethical justification to deny people of less developed countries those same opportunities.” “Activities such as...trophy hunting and so on should be considered legitimate economic incentives supporting vital local livelihoods. Often nothing else exists.”

The book is entitled, *Embracing the Earth’s Wild Resources*, and it can be obtained from the World Conservation Trust that Eugene heads. Orders should be directed to IWMC World Conservation Trust, 3 Passage de Montrimond, 1006 Lausanne, Switzerland. – *John. J. Jackson, III.*