



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 March 2013

World Conservation Force Bulletin Enters Its 18th Year

The first issue of the *World Conservation Force Bulletin* appeared as an insert in *The Hunting Report* in January 1997. It is an educational bulletin voluntarily written without compensation, without missing a single issue in all these years. This is the 207th uninterrupted *Bulletin*. That first issue covered nine topics from the prohibition against gun ownership by anyone convicted for the misdemeanor crime of domestic violence to the IUCN's rejection of the membership application of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). It included the fact that Ducks Unlimited had crossed the billion dollar mark in conservation expenditures and that the implementing regulations for polar bear trophy imports were imminent.



John J. Jackson III

ify and describe the real forces at play. We will try to spend a little more time defining the terms and explaining the concepts for those that have not been readers from the beginning. So, please bear with us as we parenthetically retrace old steps in future issues. Someone has to do it and tell it like it is even if it is not all fun. For example, someone has to discover that all the lenient sections concerning recreational trophy trade have been deleted from the Import Wildlife Inspection section of the *Service Manual* used by

pro bono science and legal professional services to the hunting community date back to the early 80s, more than a decade before the formation of Conservation Force and over 30 years ago. We were hard set for the fight by the time of our double defeat of the antis' ESA proposal to list all African elephant as endangered and our successful suit against USFWS to compel the processing of elephant trophy import permits. There has been no looking back.

The initial cost of printing the *Bulletin* was borne by the International Professional Hunters Association (IPHA), Professional Hunters Association of South Africa (PHASA), Dallas and Houston Safari Clubs and International Game Foundation (IGF), then by IGF alone and now by Grand Slam Club/OVIS. Thank you all. ■

the US Fish & Wildlife Service and that a "seizure shall be preferred" clause has been inserted in their place. Someone has to expose the falsified scientific findings of the USFWS to protect administrations from feared political backlash due to allowing trophy imports. Someone has to dispel the misrepresentation that an ESA listing provides benefits for foreign species and expose how the negative impact of a listing can't be a consideration in the listing process, according to USFWS.

Conservation Force itself started taking shape at the same time as the *Bulletin*. It reached the point of formal incorporation as a 501(c)(3) public, charitable foundation in September of 1997, nearly 18 years ago. Our largely



First issue, January 1997

On Receiving The Peter Hathaway Capstick Hunting Heritage Award

In January, Chrissie and I received the *Peter Hathaway Capstick Hunting Heritage Award* at the Dallas Safari Club Convention's Saturday finale banquet and auction night. What an honor it was. This will no doubt be the greatest award of our lives. When else will we join the ranks of conservation heroes Teddy Roosevelt and Ian Player or that of organizations

like the Boone & Crockett Club?

In our joint acceptance speech we took turns stating how "fortunate we have been to be able to further what we care so very much about; to lead purposeful lives in the service of conservation, the natural world and our sporting way of life." We credited Conservation Force's founding board

members and our mentors who have passed on: Dr. Bart O'Gara, Baron Bertrand des Clers and Dr. James Teer. These mentors had nearly 150 years of conservation, education and hunting advocacy expertise. We also credited founding board member, and legendary pioneer of so many hunting destinations at the far corners of the globe, Bert Klineburger and our

newer board members Philippe Chardonnet, the lion and antelope specialist, Gerhard Damm, editor of *African Indaba*, in South Africa and Shane Mahoney, an expert on the "North American Model" and "Why conservation is important" and new Global Vice Chair of the Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group of IUCN – all invaluable members of Conservation Force's *think tank* which provides direction to the leaders of the hunting world. We emphasized that "most importantly, we are not by any means finished. We are celebrating tonight but believe me, there is a lot more to



Fiona Capstick presents John and Christie Jackson with the Peter Hathaway Capstick Hunting Heritage Award.

do for the sake of conservation."

We hope to have the video of the award presentation posted on Conservation Force's website under News and Alerts by the time you read this. See <http://www.conservationforce.org/news.html>. ■



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Mozambique and Cameroon Hippo Trade Suspended by CITES

At the January/February conventions some people, including hunting operators, did not know that the CITES Standing Committee had suspended all trade in hippopotamus from Mozambique and Cameroon in September 2012 until those countries demonstrate that the level of trade is sustainable. Hunters have been calling Conservation Force asking for an explanation of why their hippo trophies are not being shipped. The Law Enforcement Division of USFWS is reported to have walked the floor of the SCI Convention in Reno notifying hunting operators that were advertising hippo hunts. Many were surprised.

A system to review the level of trade of Appendix II species (species threatened or that may become threatened by trade) to ensure it is sustainable (not biologically detrimental to the survival of a trading country's population of the species) has evolved within the CITES system. It is called the Significant Trade Review Process (SIG). The objective is to keep Appendix II species from becoming Appendix I species. Appendix I species are those endangered by trade. Normally Appendix II species are those that are threatened or may become threatened if trade is not adequately controlled.

Appendix II also includes lookalike species that are listed to protect another species that is listed on Appendix I. The hippo was originally listed on Appendix II not because of its status but because its tusks may become a substitute for Appendix I elephant ivory.

Several years ago, Cameroon and Mozambique were sent a written inquiry by the CITES Secretariat at the recommendation of the Animals Committee (AC) that had selected the species for SIG review. The two countries did not respond adequately. After warnings, last March the Animals Committee recommended suspension of Cameroon and Mozambique's hippo trade, and in July the Standing Committee (SC) acted on that AC recommendation through the Secretariat that issued the two Notices of suspension of trade on September 25, 2012. We attended both the AC and SC meetings and reported on the developments to "insiders" but did not have space to report it here.

Member states of CITES like the United States will refuse the imports until the countries satisfy the Secretariat of CITES that the trade is not detrimental/it is sustainable. The Secretariat will then issue a notice of withdrawal of the suspension and trade will resume.

We fully expected that to have already occurred, but it has not.

The resumed trade normally permits trophies already taken before or after the suspension period. That means hunters who have taken hippo before or during the noticed suspension should be able to import their hippo trophies when the respective exporting country satisfies the Secretariat that is implementing the suspension. This can occur in a couple of months but has not occurred yet. Both countries were issued warning notices before the suspension. They must now document that their hippo quota is sustainable before trade resumes.

Cameroon was supposed to reply to the Secretariat by January 4, 2012 (more

than a year ago), but had not filed a response when the Standing Committee met in July 2012. (See SC62 Doc. 27.1 (Rev.1) and issued Notice No. 2012/059 September 25, 2012 on CITES website at www.cites.org/eng/notif/valid.php.)

Mozambique had filed a report from a 2008 National Survey of all of its species, which was not adequate without further explanation. According to the September notice issued by the Secretariat, more information is needed

...including details of methodologies employed; and...[j]ustification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which it has been established that the quantities of H. amphibious (hippo) exported were not detrimental to the survival of the

species and in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a) and 3.

In July 2012, Mozambique had made “no response” to this inquiry while the CITES trade database showed that Mozambique exported specimens of hippo in 2009 and 2010, including 204 teeth and 151 trophies that warranted the significant trade review. Of course, that CITES trade data itself may be incorrect, as is often the case. Single teeth have been misunderstood to be full trophies in the past. The Mozambique CITES Management Authority needs to respond. Until it does, it may not be prudent for hunters to take hippo in either country. ■

Final Findings of National Survey Reports A Record Number of Big Game Hunters

In the October issue of the *Bulletin* we reported on the *preliminary* findings of the *National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, but waited for the publication of the *Final Report* for our own analysis. The National Survey is conducted every five years by the US Census Bureau, collecting data for state wildlife agencies and the Association of Fish Wildlife Agencies. Conservation Force has always tracked the number and growth of “big game hunters” reported in the survey, as well as the comparative, per capita field days of those hunters and their relative share of the American Conservation paradigm. We continue to point out the unique role of big game hunting and its strength and importance.

The 2011 survey confirms the continued popularity of big game hunting. It is the most popular class of hunting, and it continues to have a positive growth trend. There are more big game hunters today than at any time since 1986 when the survey methodology (comparability) changed. It is likely to be the *greatest number of big game hunters in history*. The hunting that is perceived by some to be the most under attack is actually doing the best among classes of hunting and is at a record high.

Though the early methodology from 1955 to 1986 did not provide comparable numbers, big game hunting had a growth

trend in every single survey under that earlier methodology. That trend has continued. Since there has been overall growth since the new methodology began (1991), the 2011 survey reflects more big game hunters than ever. There was a small, “statistically insignificant” decline in big game hunters in the early 2000s, but that has been completely offset by the overall growth. From the comparable period of 1991 to 2011, the number of big game hunters has grown. There has been a six percent increase over the past decade, 10,911 (2001) to 11,570 (2011). Moreover, big game hunters constitute 85 percent of all hunters.

What about time in the woods (days of participation)? No group of hunters, anglers or wildlife watchers had more days of participation time per capita (per individual) in the outdoors. Big game hunters are the foremost outdoorsmen and women if time in the natural world is the measure (18.3 days per capita). They are followed by freshwater anglers (16.5 days per capita) and wildlife watchers (14.9 days of participation for wildlife watchers with less for observing wildlife, feeding wildlife and photography wildlife subcategories in descending order).

Sportspersons, hunting and fishing days *combined*, spent an average of 22.3 days of participation afield. This is a

higher average than either hunting or fishing alone because of the number of “sportspersons” that do both. Hunting (all kinds) exceeded the fishing average per capita days of participation largely because of big game hunting. Those trips are away-from-home trips, unlike wildlife watching wild bird observers who average 110 days of birding at home in 2011. We don’t count wildlife watching at home as days afield because it is literally “at home.” Away-from-home “birders” averaged only 13 days. The away-from-home (one mile) wildlife watchers, which are observing, photographing and feeding combined, averaged 14.9 days afield. Away-from-home “observers” participated 13.5 days per capita (268,798 ÷ 19,808); away-from-home photographers participated 8.9 days per capita (110,459 ÷ 12,354); away-from-home feeders participated 10.9 days of participation per capita (59,255 ÷ 5,399.) The obvious conclusion is big game hunters do spend the most time *afield* of all “wildlife associated recreationalists” (the term for hunters, fishermen and wildlife watchers) in the outdoors. This is despite the shortened seasons and ever-growing hunting restrictions, such as mandatory hunter education and harvest limits.

We might be remiss not to discuss the declining percentage of hunters compared to the overall increase in the US population and, second, compare

that to fishing and to wildlife watching, which are declining even worse as a percentage of the population. That said, I for one don't want hunters' numbers to keep pace with this population growth. Shortened seasons, lower quotas, competition and prices are already enough of a problem. We need to recruit to maintain numbers, not increase numbers to keep pace with excessive population growth.

Since 1991 (first comparable methodology), "sportspersons" have declined from 21 percent of the population to 16 percent with anglers declining from 19 percent to 14 percent of US population and hunters declining from seven percent to six percent over

those 20 years. Wildlife watching overall (including those "at home") has fared much worse. It has declined from 40 percent of the population in 1991 to 30 percent in 2011. The wildlife watchers away from home have slid from 16 percent of the population to nine percent over the past 20 years, while those around the home have declined from 39 percent to 29 percent. Unquestionably, hunting is faring *the best* of the wildlife recreational activities and big game hunting is not declining as a percentage of the US population at all.

In summary, today there are a record number of big game hunters, they spend more per capita time outdoors than any other category or subcategory

of wildlife recreationalists. Overall, hunting numbers are again growing while hunting as a percentage of the US population is faring better than angling and all forms of wildlife watching.

When hunters ages five to 16 are included, there were 15.72 million hunters in 2011 (13.7 + 2.2). This category of youth increased 14 percent from 2006 while anglers declined six percent and total wildlife watchers declined seven percent. This hunting segment growth exceeds the US population growth rate.

You can download a copy of the final report on Conservation Force's website at www.conservationforce.org/news.html or at wsfrprograms.fws.gov. ■

2012 Zambia Elephant Trophy Imports Approved

In January, the USFWS finally issued elephant trophy import permits for Zambia for the year 2012. Permits have been granted for all the hunters that Conservation Force was assisting. If there are any hunters who have not filed an application, they should file now.

The Division of Scientific Authority (DSA) had made a positive non-detriment finding during the summer, which is a finding that the elephant tourist hunting was sustainable. The delay was the need for the Division of Management Authority (DMA) to make an "enhancement finding" under its ESA special rule for elephant trophies. The Zambia authorities had furnished a great deal of information documenting the

special purpose of the elephant quota to reduce human/elephant conflict and also the large percentage of the hunting fees being directed to the communities. The DMA wanted more proof of enhancement than that. It wanted to know what the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) did with its own share of the elephant hunting revenue that furthered elephant conservation. The 2010-11 approval was based upon the condition that there would not be further US import approval until ZAWA furnished the additional information.

Conservation Force tracks both the DSA and DMA determinations through Freedom of Information Act requests. We in turn furnish the information to the

ZAWA authorities so they know better what to do.

The 2012 approval was on a year-by-year basis. For approval in the future, the ZAWA authorities will have to provide what was done towards elephant with the revenue. Unfortunately, the concession applicants for the 19 hunting concessions that are closed for 2013 were informed that there would not be an elephant quota in 2013, so elephant are not included in their tenders. No reason was provided, and the director of ZAWA did not respond to Conservation Force's inquiries. When Zambia tourist hunting reopens, it may be without elephant hunting. ■

General H. Norman Schwarzkopf Passes

General H. Norman Schwarzkopf died on December 27, 2012. He was a featured speaker at SCI when I was President Elect in 1995 and again when I was President in 1996. He continued his supporting appearances at



SCI for a decade after that. For those who never heard him speak at an SCI function or at the Weatherby Foundation Award Dinner, let me repeat his opening statement:

I am a hunter. I have always been a hunter and I will not apologize to anyone for being a hunter....

He also advised hunters "to give a little back." Indeed, hunters can and should be proud and certainly should not apologize to anyone. Big game hunting has never been more popular – never. Hunting should also be as relevant a force for conservation as ever it has been.. ■

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