



“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

Hurricane Katrina Threatens Conservation Force

My house and Conservation Force’s main office were in the heart of the area struck by hurricane Katrina. Both remain inaccessible and out of operation as I write this. Our staff is misplaced. They have completely lost their homes, possessions and motor vehicles. Our own home may not be salvageable. All appliancea and electronic devices must be discarded. Every wall must be gutted. Most of our personal possessions have been rendered worthless by water and mold. Everything on the first floor – everything- is absolutely finished. No one had insurance.

In five generations of living in New Orleans, never has my family experienced or anticipated such a devastating storm. Much worse than the media has captured, it defies the imagination. Over 125 miles wide, the storm had gusts of wind over 200 miles per hour. A friend called in the late night. He and his son screamed that they had just made one last desperate attempt to reach safety and were frightfully shocked to have the wind driven rain take the skin off of their faces. That was their last known phone call before

perishing in the torrent of waves and current in the night. They had been helping look after some Conservation Force property, but it was not the only property of Conservation Force lost that night. Three rooms of our home were full of Conservation Force documents and equipment. Our home was



really where most Conservation Force work has been done. Absolutely nothing is salvageable. Mountains of documents from the Argali litigation, prior CITES conferences, hunters rights research and so much more have been destroyed.

We fear that we’ve lost more than our friends and our possessions. Con-

servation Force itself is at risk after we’ve devoted so much of our lives to it. Whether or not Conservation Force maintains its leadership and productivity is now up to donors more than ever before. This time, Conservation Force needs help to survive at all. We’ve opened a temporary office at 300 Main Street, Natchez, Mississippi, 39120. Mail and contributions can be sent there at this time.

We’ve also taken steps to move our office within metro New Orleans. In four to six weeks, we expect to open a new, expanded office (no space left at home) at the cloverleaf on interstate highway I/10 that you saw all the refugees transit through on TV. They were helicopter-ed to that point of higher ground, then bused out from there.

We’d like to thank those friends around the nation who offered Chrissie and I a temporary place to reside and even offices. Those individuals include Lacy and Dorothy Harber, Barbara and Bill Strawberry, Bob & Marg Kern, Michael and Mary Jo Salmon, Mary and Warren Parker, Cheri and Russ Eby, Don Causey, Eugene Lapointe, George and Rebecca Flynn, Jackie and Charles

Harvey, Charles Leidheiser and Jeff Rann. It was heartening to receive the sincere offers, but we have had to stay close on hand to rebound more quickly. We would also like to recognize Lacy and Dorothy Harbor, Gerard Pasanisi of Tanzania, Bert Klineburger, Dallas Safari Club and Dallas Ecological Foundation, William Heubaum, Jerry Rubenstein, John Ellis, Brian Ham, Dan Dessecker, Karl and Carolyn Rathjean, Don Causey and a generous anonymous donor who have made extra contributions to Conservation Force because of the storm.

We have not let the storm deter us from Conservation Force’s mission. I attended the historic White House

“We are determined not to let the storm destroy Conservation Force, but our fate is in the hands of those who support us.”

Conference on Cooperation Conservation in St. Louis, Missouri, as the storm raged. I then attended the 96th Annual Meeting of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, where I serve on five committees and made four presentations. By the time you read this, I will be in Douala, Cameroon, at the first of the African lion conservation strategy meetings. We are determined not to let the storm destroy Conservation Force, but our fate is in the hands of those who support us.

Though the clock is ticking on Conservation Force, the Humane Society of United States and International

The Forces In Conservation Force

■ The name “Conservation Force” stands for three forces. First, that hunters and anglers are an indispensable force for wildlife conservation; second, that Conservation Force is a collaborative effort *combining forces* of a consortium of organizations; and third, that Conservation Force itself is a proactive force to be reckoned with because of its record of successes.

Fund for Animal Welfare have made a bundle on the storm. They reportedly have made high profile missions into the heart of the flooded areas and hacked into roofs to save some stranded pets. It indeed will be ironic if the storm destroys Conservation Force, but benefits them.

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

News... News... News

USFW&S Denies Permits For Black-Faced Impala

The US Fish & Wildlife Service has finally processed seven test import permits that Conservation Force filed for black-faced impala trophy imports from Namibia. The permits were denied, but with a silver lining in the denials that is very promising. Below, is a brief history of these permits and a rundown on the positive and negative significance of this development.

After years of preparatory work and *pro bono* legal services, Conservation Force filed seven trophy import permits for black-faced impala taken, or to be taken, in Namibia. Each of the hunters contributed, or pledged to contribute, \$500 exclusively to be spent on black-faced impala enhancement in Namibia. Those import permit applicants that had already taken a black-faced impala actually paid the \$500 US, and those who wanted to take one promised to pay the \$500 US. Conservation Force initiated the whole effort and provided free legal representation for each applicant. Conservation Force is a member of the Black-Faced Impala Committee of the Namibian Professional Hunters Association and independently contributes to every black faced impala conservation effort in Namibia. Moreover, Conservation Force, the import permit applicants and the Namibian Professional Hunters Association have collectively funded a draft up-to-date management plan for the black-faced impala (note the importance of this below).

The permit applications were based on three alternative basis. First, under the enhancement clause of the



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Endangered Species Act (ESA), because of the many ways that black faced impala survival depends upon and has been furthered by tourist hunters. Second, under a regulatory provision that expressly provides that culling of captive-bred listed species for ordinary management purposes such as population control legally constitutes “enhancement”. Third, under the bontebok exception in South Africa. Bontebok are captive-bred, “endangered-listed” game species pursued by the hunting community much like the black-faced impala.

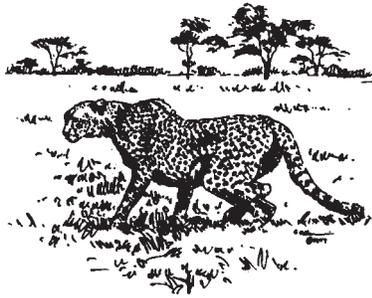
Though verbally we were assured that the permits looked promising, concern grew with the passage of time. Shortly before the last presidential election, we filed a Freedom of Information Act Request as a reality check to see what was done versus what was being said. What we learned was that nothing had been done whatsoever to begin the processing of the permits. We have been on the Service’s case ever since to grant or deny the permits but, regardless, to get on with it. If the Service was not satisfied, we needed to know the particulars. On the other hand, we were not going to wait forever.

One of the silver linings in the denials is, the Fish and Wildlife Service has specified the reasons for its denial, which is what we needed to proceed. The Permit Office of the Division of Management Authority has given one primary reason for denying the permits. They want Namibia to have an up-to-date management plan, and they want that plan to properly address the threats to the species from hybridization with common impala. Although the denials did not address, point for point, all of the experts’ opinions that the ESA itself was causing the hybridization between black-faced impala and common impala, it did ironically recognize hybridization as being so significant that the failure to deal with it in a management plan was reason to deny the permits. I hope the reader is following this “Catch-22”. The ESA is causing the hybridization because pure-bred impala trophies can’t be imported but Namibia must deal with that

before the ESA will permit the imports.

The silver lining is the fact that the authorities and Conservation Force have already completed a draft management plan, which prominently addresses the very issues the Service specifies it would like to see addressed before granting permits. The way seems clear to finish this successfully.

We are appealing the denials because of the important principals involved that go beyond the scope of this article. We will also continue Conservation Force’s Black-Faced Impala Initiative by re-submitting the existing permit applications when the draft plan is completed. The smart expenditure of the \$500 “enhancement” contributions from the hunters will also continue the NAPHA Black Faced Impala



Committee work and the submission of new black-faced impala applications should all help. We will continue our free representation until the job is done.

There is much more to this. We have a great deal of concern for the arms-lengths way the Service has handled the applications. Conservation Force’s objective is to use hunting as a force for conservation of listed game species. The Service has made no effort to partner, pursuant to its proposed new conservation partnership policy, nor has it cooperated for the conservation of these species pursuant to the Executive Order of the President demonstrated at the recent White House Cooperative Conservation Conference. We were given no information beforehand that the permits were to be denied, nor were we told why they were to be denied. If there was any corre-

spondence with Namibia, we were not told of it, or included in it. It’s time for a change. We are working on better partnering, too. This is just some of the many things Conservation Force is doing for you.

The only “endangered-listed” game species import permits that have been issued in the history of the ESA have been those for bontebok taken in South Africa. Bontebok survival has been advanced by managed captive breeding, culling of surplus males and related revenue from tourist hunting by Americans just like the black-faced impala of Namibia. We cited that fact as reason, or precedent, for approval of the seven black-faced impala permits. In its denial of the black-faced impala permits, the Service distinguishes the bontebok by pointing out that South Africa had an up-to-date management plan in effect that expressly addresses the threat of hybridization, which Namibia does not yet formally have for black-faced impala. Once again, the draft plan in Namibia for black-faced impala that the hunting industry and black-faced impala owners/breeders and ministry have been developing will close that gap.

Another parallel to the bontebok and now the black-faced impala, is the hunting of black rhino in South Africa

The Growing Cost Of Problem Animal Damage

■ Without hunting and trapping, the economic damage caused by wildlife would skyrocket from its current \$22 billion to \$70 billion per annum. All the facts for reference can be found in a May 2005 update of a report commissioned by the Animal Use Issues Committee of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The original report is entitled “Bears in the Backyard; Deer in the Driveway – 2004.” For more information or a full copy of the report, or update, contact Rachel Brittin, director of public affairs, 202-624-7744, rbrittin@iafwa.org; or Conservation Force. Conservation Force serves on the Animal Use Issues committee that sponsored the report and update.

and Namibia. Black rhino numbers in both countries are roughly equivalent in numbers to bontebok and also black-faced impala. The strategy behind the black rhino conservation has been to build up the captive population in appropriate protected areas, then to translocate the surpluses for captive breeding to private stakeholders. This is basically the same strategy used for the white rhino (not ESA-listed), bontebok (ESA-listed as “endangered”), and black-faced impala (also ESA-listed as “endangered”). Perhaps you can see the importance and relationships of all that Conservation Force is doing. What you see explained here and in monthly issues of *World Conservation Force Bulletin* over the past nine years is only a portion of what we do for the hunting community.

DATELINE: GREENLAND

News... News... News

WWF Opposes Opening Of Polar Bear Hunting

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) of Greenland issued a 72-page report in April 2005 severely criticizing Greenland’s conservation and nature protection. The report is entitled *The Big Four*, and is an update on a report issued in 2003 that criticized Greenland and its Commonwealth of Denmark. That report was called *Greenland’s International Obligation – a report on Greenland’s fulfillment of international conventions and agreements on nature protection, species, conservation, and wildlife management*. A copy of the report is available at: http://www.wwf.dk/db/files/greenland_report_1.pdf. The report claims and documents the deficiencies in Greenland’s management of (1) polar bears, (2) walrus, (3) narwhal, and (4) beluga.

WWF’s report analyzes the worldwide hunt of polar bear and states that it is on the “sound side of carrying capacity for the total polar bear world population. In Canada, the total harvest is 411 bears, which is less than the sustainable harvest level of 464 bear as assessed by the Polar Bear Spe-

cialist Group of the IUCN (PBSG).” This is not true of the bear Greenland shares with Canada. According to the report, the combined harvest of the population of bears shared between Canada and Greenland is annually 246 polar bears on average, but the sustainable harvest calculated by the PBSG is just 145 bears. “This means that the removal of bears is, in general, exceeding the carrying capacity by more than



60 percent.” WWF’s advice is to reduce the offtake in the Kane Basin, Baffin Bay and Davis Straight areas. These are the West Greenlandic populations of the bear, not the bear in East Greenland that are not over harvested.

WWF states that “[t]he polar bear are still hunted in an almost unregulated manner in Greenland. The sustainability of this cannot be guar-

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anteed since population knowledge is fragmentary. It will be impossible to set any meaningful hunting quotas before populations have been assessed. However, all current data points towards an over-harvested polar bear population in Western Greenland.” The report concludes, “Therefore recent proposals from the Greenlandic Board of Tourism to introduce trophy hunting on polar bears do not make much sense, since the sustainability of such hunting can not be guaranteed, given current population knowledge.”

Since the WWF report was published, Greenland has instituted many changes in its management of polar bears that correspond to the WWF recommendations. In all fairness to Greenland authorities, the Greenlandic Home Rule government had already submitted a draft executive order for the “sustainable management of polar bears” as early as May 2002 and the Department of Fisheries and Hunting was already finalizing a new executive order on the protection of polar bear to come into force July 1, 2005. The progressive changes have been made. Greenland’s new hunting quotas include ten (10) polar bear for tourist hunting. Tourist or nonresident hunting was not permitted before. Although the USF&WS and Marine Mammal Commission will not permit US hunters to import polar bear trophies from Greenland, the improved management may still benefit US hunters that have long awaited changes in Greenland to be able to import trophies from those bear populations Greenland shares with Canada. After years of work, we are closer to establishing the needed co-management agreements between Greenland and Canada that the Service has cited as the reason for its “deferral” of trophy imports from Canada. When all is done and there are co-management agreements between Canada and Greenland, it may still take the Service years to approve trophy imports from the Canadian areas that have been awaiting Greenland action. Even then, it will only be those taken in Canada that will be importable. _
John J. Jackson, III.