



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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IN REMEMBRANCE OF DR. GRAHAM CHILD

Dr. Graham Child passed away on Friday the 2nd of December, 2016 (1936-2016).

He was an affable and important mentor to me and many of today's leaders of sustainable use. He was far too important to let his death pass without mention. A book could easily be



Dr. Graham Child

written about just what he and I did together but his work extended way beyond that. With the help of his PhD. son, Brian Child, the world can keep on learning from this departed friend and practical leader of conservation.

Graham was appointed Director of the Department of National

Parks and Wildlife Management in Zimbabwe in 1971 and retired in 1986. He was one of the fathers of the CAMPFIRE PROGRAM that put the underlying community participation and devolution of control and ownership concepts to work which still holds so much promise today.

- John J. Jackson, III

The following obituary and tribute was written by fellow member of the IUCN Dr. Brian Child, Graham's son.

Wildlife Conservation: Dr. Graham Tamplin Child and The Emergence of a New Paradigm of Wildlife

By Dr. Brian Child

Southern Africa's pioneering approach to wildlife conservation differs radically from the colonial or North American models that govern wildlife for much of the planet. This approach rests on three principles: well-managed protected areas, a massive increase in private wildlife enterprises, and successfully applied community conservation.

A critical juncture was reached in the early 20th century, with concern over the loss of wildlife, such as American bison and southern Africa's elephant, caused by massive levels of hunting, often for the market. US President Theodore Roosevelt and many European colonial powers (through the London Conventions of 1900 and 1933) set in place prohibitive laws, intended to preserve and protect species for that time. These ideas still reverberate through conservation to this day: the banning of the commercial use of wildlife, placement of wildlife ownership in the hands of governments and wildlife agencies, and establishing national parks.

By the 1960s, these laws were out of date because the world was changing fast and the threat to wildlife was not market hunting, but its low value in the face of agricultural expansion and domestic animal husbandry. In only one place did these laws change, and that

was southern Africa, with Dr. Graham Child playing a bold and catalytic role in this shift.

Harold Tamplin Child, his father, survived two years on the Western Front in World War I to become a District Administrator and, later, to head African agriculture in Southern Rhodesia. Thus, Dr. Graham Child grew up in remote field stations, learning Shona and Ndebele, and absorbing the work ethic and culture of effective civil service. As a boarder at Plumtree School, way out in the bush on Zimbabwe's western border, Dr. Graham Child learnt (and still practices) that a man is measured by what he does, not by what he says. This alone singles him out from many current conservationists.

Serendipitously, he shared school dormitories and played sport against three young men who were already passionate about a new role for wildlife in marginal agricultural systems, even at school: **Bob Vaughan-Evans**, who was highly influential in Zimbabwe's quite extraordinary Department of Conservation and Extension; the practical **Peter Johnstone**, who pioneered game farming as early as 1959; and the political **Allan Savory**, who was an early leader in wildlife utilisation before making a name for himself in holistic resource management.

Dr. Graham Child was one of a

handful of rugged young men who rescued wildlife from the floodwaters of the Zambezi during Operation Noah, when Lake Kariba was being established. Being awarded a prestigious Beit Research Fellowship, he turned this opportunity into a PhD, studying the effects of excessive numbers of wildlife on shrinking habitats.

He then fell under the influence of extraordinary men: Reay H. N. Smithers of *Mammals of Southern Africa* (1996) fame, who developed the museum service of Southern Rhodesia as a centre of expertise in wildlife and history, and Thane Riney, an American and a prodigy of both Starker Leopold (Aldo Leopold's son) and Fraser Darling. Thane Riney led the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization's (FAO) African Special Project, a continent-wide effort to conserve wildlife and develop a wildlife industry in Africa in the 1960s. Graham always had a dog-eared copy of Leopold's *Sand County Almanac*, and it is interesting to wonder about the chain of events that leads from Aldo Leopold, through Graham and his mentors, to practical game ranching in southern Africa. In the mid-1960s, Graham was transferred to Chobe National Park, then a remote location a full day's drive from Victoria Falls. Working for FAO, he was responsible for a biological survey of much of Botswana, the modernising of Botswana's Department of Wildlife,

National Parks and Tourism, and worked closely with Alec Campbell, a dedicated anthropologist, archaeologist and naturalist, highly respected in Botswana.

In Botswana, Graham would spend months in the field, accompanied only by his Bushman trackers and local assistants. It was on one of these trips that he apprehended an elderly man poaching in the Kalahari. He was struck by the absurdity of the system – that this man, practising his age-old livelihood, was considered a criminal in the eyes of the law.

In 1971, at the age of 35, Graham was appointed to head the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management. Under his leadership, Zimbabwe became a global example of effective protected area management. Recognising the power of devolved management before its time, field wardens were held to high standards, and used their autonomy to do a great deal with limited resources, especially during the civil war, not least in providing decent housing and schooling to all 2,500 employees. Growing up in a country passionate about soil erosion and healthy environments, Graham had absorbed a deep knowledge of soil and water conservation, and Zimbabwe was one of the first countries to take a holistic approach to ecosystem conservation inside its national parks. Indeed, Graham took ecosystem health so seriously that he ordered the culling of over 30,000 elephants to protect habitats. Having been raised with many local farmers, and having researched and practised game cropping, he was acutely aware that wildlife on private land was in trouble. In his firm, pragmatic way, he recognised that the only way to reverse this negative trend was to “maximise the value of wildlife to the landholder.” With Archie Frazer, he rewrote the landmark *Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* (1975), boldly devolving to private landholders the right to use wildlife as profitably as they saw fit, providing use was humane. He did away with most government controls, believing them to be a hindrance to conservation, and instead placing his faith in Zimbabwe’s exceptional system of farm conservation ‘neighbourhood watches’ to prevent environmental abuses.

Indeed, two beliefs shine through Dr. Graham Child’s career: his belief in devolving power to ordinary farmers, communities and park managers to get work done effectively, and his confidence that the future of wildlife lay in making it more, not less, valuable, provided ownership rights were granted to landholders. Graham thus played a significant role in developing a vibrant civic society for the wildlife sector by actively empowering associations of wildlife producers, safari operators, professional hunters, anglers, kapenta fishermen, ivory manufacturers and falconers to take up responsibility for their own industries.

This belief extended to the indigenous communities. Well before Independence, Graham persuaded Parliament to return money from hunting and culling wildlife directly back to communities, attending Parliament proudly in his khaki National Parks shorts uniform.

He created change by fostering in his department a culture of always finding ways to do things cheaper and better for wildlife conservation, farmers and rural communities, even if it was radically different from the norm. It is no accident that Zimbabwe pioneered private wildlife conservation and then community conservation, with the Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) becoming a globally iconic template in the early 1990s.

Graham’s influence spread well beyond Zimbabwe, and was almost always through a team-based approach. Starting in the 1960s, he was one of a pioneering group of Wildlife Directors and scientists who met each year, challenged the status quo, and introduced radical new legislation in Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique and the provinces of South Africa that gave the ownership of wildlife back to farmers and, later, communities. He often mentions his partnership with Bernabe de la Bat, Head of Parks in Namibia, and with whom he schemed to change the way wildlife conservation is done in southern Africa. As one of two Regional Councillors for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), he convened major workshops at the World Parks Congress in Bali (1982) and Caracas (1992), convincing many



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conservationists that use and trade of wildlife was a powerful and legitimate means for transforming land back to wildlife. I still meet high-level people today who understand the importance of sustainable use because of Graham's influence at IUCN and CITES during these years. In many ways, Graham encouraged people at all levels and of all races to strive for a new way of conserving wildlife, by owning it, making it as profitable as possible, and by ensuring that this profit was returned to the people who lived with the wildlife,

regardless of colour.

His path-breaking ideas are captured in two books. The first, *Managing Protected Areas in the Tropics*, (1986) which he co-authored, reflects the professionalism for which he strived in Zimbabwe's parks agency. The second, *Wildlife & People: the Zimbabwean Success* (1995), even today remains both pragmatic and visionary, thus encapsulating Dr. Graham Child's paradigm-shifting contribution to wildlife conservation in southern Africa. ■

We owe much of the success of conservation in southern Africa to the ability of Graham, his colleagues in National Parks in Zimbabwe, and in the region. They figured things out realistically, challenged the status quo, and transformed the way things were done. Graham did not write wistfully about how conservation should be done, but explained new principles, and how and why he and others had made it work, where, globally, others had mostly failed. ■

Conservation Force Adds Another Staff Attorney to Its Team

On 16 January, 2017 Attorney Matt Boguslawski became a full-time paid member of Conservation Force's proactive team of conservation advocates. Matt is the young lawyer that we engaged in Tanzania over the summer and early fall to complete a volunteer audit of the books and records of 27 Tanzania hunting operators to document the unmeasured anti-poaching, habitat, prey-base and community benefits of safari hunting. He was the first to discover the surrender of concessions (now more than 70 concessions have been forfeited with the loss of habitat greater than twice that of national parks) caused largely by USFWS trophy import permitting practices and delays. He was also one of the joint Conservation Force-IPHA team members that attended CITES CoP 17 and represented hunters' conservation interests so well.



John J. Jackson (left) and Matt Boguslawski.



Matt Boguslawski at CITES CoP 17 in Pretoria.

Matt graduated Cum Laude in political science and global studies

in 2012, then obtained a Doctor of Jurisprudence graduate degree in 2015 and completed the Texas Bar over the summer. He speaks Swahili, Afrikaans, and Spanish. He has also been a professional hunter in both Tanzania (licensed) and South Africa.

Conservation Force could not afford to hire Matt, but it also could not afford to miss this opportunity to engage a young attorney and professional hunter with such passion and commitment for the cause.

We have to budget and give our best effort to make it work. It is time we added another attorney as part of

Conservation Force's five- and 10-year plans to establish a well-trained team of specialists to lead Conservation Force long into the future.

The pace and level of Conservation Force's work will not any longer allow us to wholly rely upon volunteer professionals and experts alone. For certain, Conservation Force's long-term plan provides that the core team will be paid professionals with true and tested commitment to hunting as the primary force for conservation. Conservation Force is renowned for doing the heavy lifting and will continue to do so. ■

Deadline for Filing Annual Reports for ESA Listed Exotic Wildlife

This is a reminder that the deadline for filing Annual Reports for Captive Breeding and Take permits with FWS' Management Authority is March 31, 2017. It is a condition on the face of those permits. It is most definitely necessary if ranchers intend to renew permits when they are up for renewal. Regarding renewal, permit holders must remember that their renewal application must be received by FWS more than 30 days before the date of expiration of the permit being renewed. If that is not

done the permit will expire on its face expiration date. On the other hand, if the permit holder files the renewal form more than 30 days before it expires, then the permit continues in effect until the FWS renews it, which can be many months. Cover yourself by filing early.

Please copy Conservation Force by email or postal mail with a copy of your Annual Report when you file it. A copy of the Annual Report form and permit renewal forms (captive breeding authorization and take permit)

are available from Conservation Force at: <http://www.conservationforce.org/ranching-for-restoration>.

Conservation Force's Ranching for Restoration Program is one of its signature projects. In 2016 Conservation Force funded or pledged to fund more than \$100,000 in projects in Chad for restoration of dama gazelle (recovery planning and population surveying) and Namibia's Caprivi Strip for red lechwe for annual surveying over the next decade. ■

Peter Hathaway Capstick Hunting Heritage Award

Brenda and Larry Potterfield of Midway USA were awarded the Peter Hathaway Capstick Hunting Heritage Award at the Dallas Safari Club Convention. This very deserving couple has been the recipient of many awards and is among the most generous contributors to the defense of



Brenda and Larry Potterfield accepting the Capstick Award at DSC.



Brenda and Larry Potterfield.

the Second Amendment and the NRA and to youth outdoor education programs in partnership with America's leading hunting organizations. The

Potterfields have also been important supporters of Conservation Force's education and conservation advocacy activities. ■

Mongolia Argali Populations Stable and Increasing

In October 2016 survey of eight repeat survey sites in Mongolia documented more observed argali in seven of the eight sites than observed in 2013. The increase was 29 percent in observed numbers. A total

of 2,297 argali were observed, which is 519 more than in 2013. The authors of the survey report, Michael R. Frisina & K. H. Zoright, conclude that a "comparison to earlier surveys indicates Mongolia's argali populations

are stable to slightly increasing, production and lamb survival good, and all male classes (I, II, III, IV) are well represented." The quotas in Mongolia "appear to remain conservative." ■

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