



“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

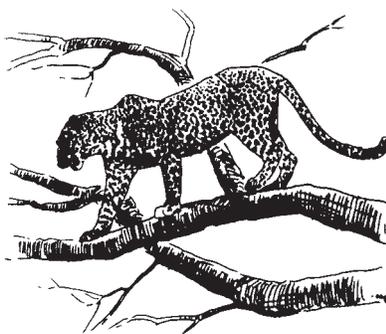
DATELINE: NAMIBIA

News... News... News Help Is Available On Seized Leopards

Conservation Force is providing free legal representation to all US hunters who have had their Namibia leopard trophies seized by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The USF&WS has been seizing leopard trophy imports from Namibia for the past six months, beginning in December of 2006. In typical form, the USF&WS has been penalizing the innocent hunter instead of timely corresponding with its CITES counterpart in Namibia. If your trophy has been seized, don't sign the forfeiture notice. If you sign it, you are waiving your rights and your trophy will be destroyed and you may still be fined or prosecuted for technically violating the law under the Lacey Act. Call John J. Jackson, III at Conservation Force and send the written “notice of seizure” to him.

The seizures are arising because of Namibia's use of metal tags that are wired on the skin instead of permanently attached, i.e., they are not per-

manently attached. The original CITES quota resolution for leopards contains a non-binding “recommendation” that leopard skins have permanent tags. The USF&WS does not have any present regulation requiring permanent tagging, but it does have a regulation that has been proposed that is expected to become law in June or July of this year,



2007. It first proposed the regulation in 2000. It is part of the same bundle of regulations that contains a prohibition against donations of Appendix I trophies, excludes the making of any utilitarian items by changing the “definition” of a trophy, and eliminates the return of trophies of Appendix I species when any technical error (such as tagging) occurs, etc.

“Recommendations” of CITES are not automatically binding. It is the position of the USF&WS that it can pick and choose which recommendations it chooses to give the force of law. Import of leopard is an extreme example in the new proposed regulations. The USF&WS will not accept leopard quotas set by the Parties of CITES at its conferences, but will mandate the permanent tagging recommendation contained in the same Quota Resolution. In effect, the USF&WS has divided the CITES Resolution to its liking and rejected the primary intent of the Parties.

It is hard to imagine the unlawful and infrequent fraudulent tagging of leopard by tag transfers being of any biological consequence whatsoever, given the low leopard quotas set by CITES. The USF&WS treats both tagging and the quota far more seriously than the true gravity of risk. On the other hand, CITES in recent years has even eliminated the need for special country reports on leopard trade, which is of little biological consequence. While the rest of the world is easing up, the USF&WS's International Affairs office is tightening up as never before.

The CITES authorities in Namibia, which is certainly one of the most responsible countries in the world as regards wildlife matters, claim to have used the wired-on tags for over a decade. There was no intergovernmental communication before the seizures began, nor was there any advisory to the hunting community. The proposed US regulation mandating permanently attached tags is not yet the law. The innocent hunter is made to bear the costs and the loss. This seems to be another example of the harsh regulatory attitude of the USF&WS towards international hunters and range nation programs.

It remains to be seen whether or not the USF&WS will destroy or return the trophies in this debacle. We here at Conservation Force are ready to go to the limit on this one. It is time to join forces and be a force.

DATELINE: BELGRADE

News Analysis

**All About The Latest
CIC General Assembly**

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) held its 54th General Assembly in Belgrade this year. The theme was “Passion for Wildlife Means Caring for People.” It was truly a world forum for conservation through sustainable hunting. Hunting experts and opinion leaders the world over joined together for five days to address every imaginable issue.

Conservation Force Board Members Shane Mahoney, Gerhard Damm and yours truly, John Jackson, serve on various commissions and on the Executive Committee. We were joined by PHASA President Stewart Dorrington, Rowland-Ward Chairman and author, Peter Flack, FAO Assistant Director General Jan Heino, Rolf Baldus, Gray Thornton and Ben Carter of Dallas Safari Club, FNAWS President Ray Lee, the CITES Secretariat’s Scientific Officer Steven Nash, FACE CEO Yves Lecocq, Chris Weaver of WWF in Namibia, Don Causey of the

Hunting Report and hundreds of others. The gathering was a great social event as well as a productive meeting.

The event began with a day-long workshop on carnivores. One interesting discovery arose about “Bruno” the bear. “Bruno” was the first bear to migrate into Germany in 170 years. Of course, the media and NGOs led everyone to believe that he should be saved and bears should be re-introduced. Ultimately, the problem bear had to be killed. The point of the story is that a survey of the German people was done that disclosed just the opposite of the perception created by the media and NGOs. By far, most people did not want bears and did not favor their re-introduction. It makes sense that people don’t want a bear in their own backyard, but that truth is not necessarily what is spouted by special interest groups and newspapers.

Another special program was jointly put on by the CIC and Gerhard Damm of *African Indaba*. That included organized presentations and reviews of trophy hunting, hunting trophies and trophy recording. The dialogue is a large part of the June issue of *African Indaba* which covers the three subjects in depth. In the May issue, you can read articles by Stewart Dorrington and Peter Butland, President and President-Elect of PHASA; Peter Flack, Chairman of Rowland Ward; Raymond Lee of FNAWS; Douglas Yajko, Chairman of the SCI Trophy Records Committee; and Jack Reneau, Director of Boone and Crockett Club’s Big Game Records. The distribution of *African Indaba* is supported by CIC and Conservation Force. It can be found at <http://www.africanindaba.co.za>; or on Conservation Force’s website at <http://www.conservationforce.org>. What Gerhard has achieved is a sound analysis of all three – trophy hunting, hunting trophies and trophy recording – which we can’t possibly duplicate here. Nevertheless, the work is done and can be found on the web. Other notable developments at the CIC meeting were:

• Gerhard Damm and CIC’s experts provided a written strategy to reopen



JOHN J. JACKSON, III
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sound tourist hunting in China. China had a four person delegation at CIC led by Dr. Chundong Wang. The CIC’s Commission on Sustainable Use also appointed Ray Lee of FNAWS as a specialist expert of the Commission to help advise and reopen the hunting in China.

- Stewart Dorrington was added as a Vice President of the Sustainable Use Commission because of his extraordinary leadership of PHASA, as well as a special new transformation project he has helped spark for black economic empowerment (BEE) in South Africa. That is the *Madikwe Corrdior* project which will provide opportunities and land for the training of black professional hunters and the conduct of tourist hunting by those trained.

- The CIC’s Commission on Sustainable Use also issued an *Analysis of Proposals and Matters of CITES COP14, The Hague*. This bears special importance because of CIC’s connection to the EU countries that have a 27-country block vote at CITES. Yours truly is the President of that Commission and consequently a member of the Executive Committee of CIC – an organization with growing importance. The CIC had a leadership role in virtually all of the workshops over the past few years designed to ensure the sustainability of tourist hunting.

The 55th meeting next year promises to be particularly exciting! That meeting is to be in Marrakech, Morocco, the 21st through the 26th of April, 2008. If you wish to join and attend, contact Chrissie Jackson of Conservation Force at cjackson@bellsouth.net; or 504-837-1233. Chrissie heads the US delegation of CIC.

SPECIAL REPORT

News... News... News New Conservation DVD Is Getting Attention

Conservation Force Board Member Shane Mahoney has created a remarkable DVD with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. It’s entitled *Opportu-*

nity for All. The DVD is about the North American Model, specifically the roots and role that hunters and anglers have played in wildlife conservation in America. It is the world’s foremost user-pay system.

Those that have heard Shane speak know his passionate style. The DVD has been selected as a finalist in the International Wildlife Film Festival in Missoula, Montana. The Executive Director of the Film Festival said, “Shane is an amazing storyteller with a hypnotic voice.” The DVD contains a deluge of stunning wildlife and habitat footage. It’s worth viewing for the amazing photography itself.

The film took two years to complete and has been shown at the State Assembly of Sportsmen Caucuses and most recently at CIC’s 54th General



Assembly in Belgrade. At the CIC Conference, other hunter-conservation leaders from around the world were incited and pledged to use it as a model to make their own films about the sportsmen’s role in the historical development of conservation in their own respective countries – from the Republic of South Africa to the United Kingdom.

As well as a Board Member of Conservation Force, Shane is the Chief of Wildlife Ecosystem Research, Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Division, Canada. He has recently succeeded in creating a Canadian Section in the Wildlife Society. He is a candidate for Vice President of The Wildlife Society and thus the Presidency of The Wildlife Society in 2009. We are proud to have him as a part of Conservation Force.

An order of the DVD is \$11.99 each from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation’s membership services at 1-800-225-5355 (membership is not necessary); or online at www.elkfoundation.org. Cost for 50 or more is only \$6.00 each through Jennie Wright – also at 1-800-225-5355; or jwright@rmef.org.

DATELINE: THE HAGUE

News Analysis CITES Meeting: The Latest Developments

When you read this I will probably still be at the CITES 14th Conference of the Parties in The Hague. There are a few developments worth noting now.

The International Professional Hunters Association, IPHA, is proving its worth by sending two delegates this time. Debbie Peake of the Botswana Management Association and Almut Kronsbein, the Executive Director of the Namibian Professional Hunters Association are attending on behalf of IPHA. These two professionals will gain experience that will benefit their associations and the whole hunting community for years to come. IPHA is an “International Observer,” as is Conservation Force. IPHA is a full “supporting organization” of Conservation Force. Conservation Force will hold a daily meeting to help coordinate and advise the two ladies. The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) is also sending a delegation, but it is an intergovernmental as well as international organization because of its more than 30 country members. The three organizations will coordinate closely throughout the meeting. Yours truly is a representative of all three.

Early news is that Tanzania has withdrawn its proposal to downlist and trade its elephant. That proposal may have changed the status quo, but that now is only speculation. The CITES Secretariat has recommended the US proposal to downlist the US bobcat in its public recommendations, which raises hopes that it will be downlisted.

□ Guest Editorial

What Do You Say To A Liberal Intellectual Who Has Never Hunted?

By Randall L. Eaton, Ph.D.

■ Who is the greatest conservationist in the history of the world? The answer is, “The best known hunter in the history of the world,” Teddy Roosevelt. What few people know is that he was the first man to write about women’s rights, the subject of his senior thesis at Harvard. The paradox perplexes ecofeminists.

Does hunting teach violence? What do you think Jimmy Carter and Nelson Mandela would say? They both received the Nobel Peace prize – and both are avid hunters.

In a questionnaire survey I did of 2,000 hunters, average age of 55, 97% male, I asked what events in their lives opened their hearts and engendered compassion in them. Taking the life of an animal for food ranked right up there with death of a loved one and becoming a parent.

Does hunting teach compassion? Michael Gurian, best-selling author of *The Wonder of Boys*, says in my TV production (“Respect and Responsibility: The Truth About Kids Who Hunt”) that, “Hunting teaches compassion.”

In the same production, Dr. Don Trent Jacobs, revolutionary educator and author of *Teaching Virtues* (across the curriculum), states, “Hunting is the ideal way to teach young people universal virtues including patience, generosity, courage, fortitude and humility.” He defines humility as knowing you are part of something greater than yourself. At one time, Jacobs directed the largest wilderness center in the world for juvenile delinquents.

The most successful program ever conducted for juvenile delinquents was at the School for Urban and Wilderness Studies in southern Idaho. For 13 years, groups of boys went into the wilderness with nothing but a sleeping bag and a pocketknife. Their only food was what they could gather or catch and kill. According to follow-up surveys conducted one year after they left, 85 percent of the boys had not

gotten into trouble during that year. Dr. Wade Brackenbury, who led the boys, is convinced that it was taking the lives of small animals for food that had the greatest influence on the boys’ transformation.

Dr. Helen Smith of Knoxville wrote *Scarred Hearts*. She is a leading authority on violent kids (who kill).



In an interview in “Respect and Responsibility,” she said Columbine never would have happened if those boys had been properly mentored in hunting and shooting.

In the same production, Dr. Jim

Rose, adolescent neuropsychologist at the University of Wyoming, says “Hunting teaches self-control and respect for life,” and, “Learning to use a firearm teaches responsibility.”

Dr. Scott Cutting, a psychologist in South Carolina, successfully used shooting to heal young men of serious aggression.

Gurian, Jacobs, Smith and Rose all highly recommend and endorse hunting and shooting for youth.

Which of the following well-known Americans were hunters?

- Thomas Jefferson
- John James Audubon
- David Thoreau
- Teddy Roosevelt
- George Eastman
- John Steinbeck
- Aldo Leopold
- Clark Gable
- Ernest Hemmingway
- Jimmy Stewart
- Jimmy Carter

That’s right, all of the above.

Conservation Force Sponsor

Grand Slam Club/Ovis generously pays all of the costs associated with the publishing of this bulletin. Founded in 1956, Grand Slam Club/Ovis is an organization of hunter/conservationists dedicated to improving wild sheep and goat populations worldwide by contributing to game and wildlife agencies or other non-profit wildlife conservation organizations. GSCO has agreed to sponsor *Conservation Force Bulletin* in order to help international hunters keep abreast of hunting-related wildlife news. For more information, please visit www.wildsheep.org.

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Did you know that hunters were the original environmental conservationists and they still lead in that field? Did you know that 700,000 members of Ducks Unlimited have successfully conserved 12 million acres of wildlife habitat to the benefit of the entire living community of North America? That the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has conserved over four million acres and re-introduced elk throughout its former range in the Midwest and Eastern United States? That there are more wild turkeys and deer in the US than at any time in history?

While the rest of the environmental community is waging rear-guard actions, the hunting community is on the offensive. The truth is that hunting is a model for sustainability. -
Randall L. Eaton, Ph.D.