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## “SERVING THE HUNTER WHO TRAVELS”

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*“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

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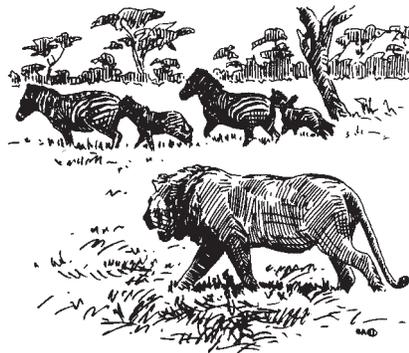
#### □ COP13: A Preview

### Will Lion Hunting Survive? And More....

**W**hen you read this I will probably still be at CITES' 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 13) in Bangkok, Thailand. The game species at issue there will include black rhino, leopard, crocodile, elephant and African lion. My next bulletin (November) will have a full report on this important Conference of the Parties.

Kenya's proposal to list the African lion on Appendix I is, of course, the greatest threat to the hunting community at this Conference of the Parties. We have expended every possible effort to defeat this proposal, which has come under a great deal of attack. In response to those attacks, Kenya has simply amended its proposal to address some of the points raised and stubbornly persisted. Kenya has been fortified by the Species Survival Network (SSN), a coalition of protectionist and animal rights organizations led by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). The SSN is circulating a "Fact Sheet" on the African Lion that fully

supports the Kenya lion proposal. HSUS, of course, along with the Fund for Animals, IFAW and other members of SSN, are against all forms of sporthunting but they don't mention that. Their position mimics Kenya's, or vice versa:



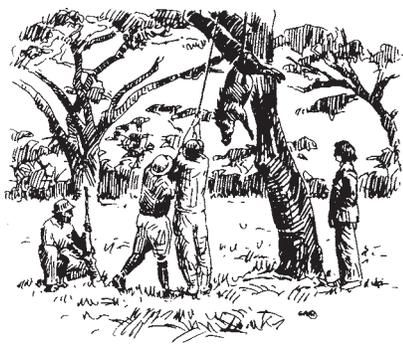
“An Appendix I listing will not prevent trophy hunting from taking place, but may assist in ensuring stricter regulation of this activity, encouraging more detailed research into the wild status of lions, and the sustainability of lion trophy hunting.... Appendix I

listing would also encourage importing Parties, prior to issuing an import permit, to ensure that trade in lion trophies will not be detrimental to the survival....” (SSN “AFRICAN LION FACT SHEET”)

We are proud to report that those opposing the Kenya proposal have been relying upon the *Chardonnet* lion population study, which is Conservation Force's population study of the African lion. That study is of 144 separate populations across Africa, in contrast to the "incomplete" estimate Kenya cites. That estimate looked at only 100 subpopulations and excluded most hunting reserves. For example, there are probably more lions in Tanzania alone than Kenya acknowledges to exist in all of Africa. Yet most of Tanzania's lion were not included in Kenya's figures.

Kenya carefully planned its proposal and even claims to support safari hunting. It argues that listing the lion on Appendix I and creating country-by-country safari hunting trade

quotas will only cause better country-by-country management. Conservation Force has made and mailed a videotape on the lion issue to the CITES delegates. The videotape explains the *Chardonnet* lion status review and the unique role of safari hunting plays in lion survival. The cover letter explains the drastic consequences that would flow from an Appendix 1 listing even if the listing is accompanied by quotas for hunting trophies. Few people understand the impact of the listing and even fewer people will admit they don't understand the effects listing will have. Conservation Force's letter explains that the USF&WS does not honor CITES trophy quotas. We cited many examples where an Appendix 1 listing had obstructed US import of trophies, including elephant, white rhino, leopard and markhor. Kenya's quota



argument has presented a challenge, but we anticipated it and have addressed it from the inception, just as we addressed Kenya's incorrect lion population figures. A large number of lion experts agree and align themselves with our position.

Though Kenya and the SSN persist in arguing that there has been a drastic decline in lions, our *Chardonnet* study and a film we commissioned, *Fate of the African Lion* (see box at right), have been a critical strategy. This expensive fight will leave Conservation Force's treasury bare. Moreover, we must host an all-of-Africa lion symposium this March if we are to stay ahead of the protectionists and animal rights interests. We most desperately need support. All contributions are tax deductible. Mail to Conservation Force, One Lakeway Center, 3900 N. Cause-

way Blvd., Suite 1045, Metairie, LA 70002-1746....

In addition to determining the future of lion hunting, COP 13 will also separately decide whether Namibia and the Republic of South Africa can have black rhino safari hunting trophy quotas. Neither country has internally allowed black rhino trophy hunting to date. A favorable vote by CITES will no doubt provide the acceptance those two countries have desired from the world conservation community before beginning black rhino hunting. Denial of the request by the Parties of CITES will probably only delay black rhino hunting and trophy trade for now. We have been working with Namibian and South African interests on this for several years and feel that the opening of hunting and trophy trade (export-imports) is inevitable because of the groundwork that has been laid and

#### THE FATE OF THE AFRICAN LION

■ Osprey Film Company of Zimbabwe has made a film for Conservation Force critically analyzing every point in the Kenya lion proposal. *The Fate of the African Lion* criticizes Kenya's past and present lion population figures, as well as its management practices; and, it goes on to praise the more representative and comprehensive *Chardonnet* population estimates, while highlighting the special role of safari hunting in lion conservation. Conservation Force has distributed the video to CITES delegates, experts and management authorities in preparation for CITES COP13. We still have some in stock in NTSC and PAL formats, which are available for \$20, plus \$4 shipping and handling in the US. To order, contact us at 504-837-1233. E-mail: . Or, send \$24 to Conservation Force, One Lakeway Center, 3900 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite 1045, Metairie, LA 70002-1746. A special thanks is due Osprey Film Company for its highly skillful filmmaking and assistance. We had a small window of time, and Osprey did a superb job. – *John J. Jackson, III.*

**JOHN J. JACKSON, III**  
*Conservation Force*



“SERVING THE HUNTER WHO TRAVELS”

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good conservation practices of both countries. Get ready.

The Conference will also probably authorize an increase in the leopard hunting quotas in both Namibia and South Africa as both countries have requested. We have also assisted with those requests and have used Tanzania's leopard quota request from the last conference as a model.

Also at issue this year is a request by Namibia to downlist its Nile crocodiles to Appendix II. That request arises from Conservation Force's initiative to import those trophies. The pending trophy import permits that we have been processing as a public service should not be necessary if those crocodile are downlisted. The US Endangered Spe-

cies Act (ESA) has a special provision for species listed as "threatened" on the ESA when simultaneously listed on Appendix II of CITES, (Dingell Amendment). Namibia is doing a last-minute population survey suggested by some commenters to its proposal. That survey is expected to be completed in the nick of time. In reality, Namibia's crocodile population is part of a larger crocodile population in that region that has already been downlisted.

Zambia also has requested a quota for its crocodile, which the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS) has not permitted to be imported for a number of years. At this point, the Secretariat of CITES (the office that administers CITES for the UN) has advised that no

quota is needed because Zambia's crocodiles have already been unconditionally downlisted to Appendix II. This opinion surprised USF&WS, which had been representing that Zambia had to renew its quota before crocodile trophy imports would be allowed. Conservation Force has formally asked USF&WS for its official position in light of the Secretariat's statement. Zambia's crocodiles were downlisted to Appendix II some time ago with a prescribed quota that then later expired. If the Secretariat is correct, Zambia does not need a quota and no import permit is needed for trophies unless the USF&WS chooses to be more restrictive under the ESA. This issue should be resolved at the Conference.

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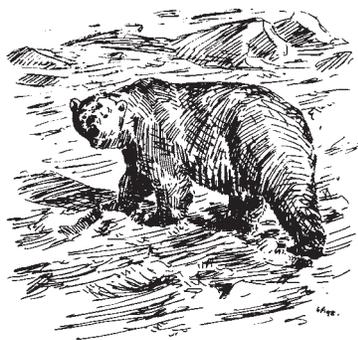
### Briefly Noted

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## FIV In Lions, Polar Bears As A Resource, And More...

**FIV In Lions:** The threat of Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) in African Lions has been exaggerated. The Cat Specialist Group and African Lion Working Group of IUCN have finally issued a formal "Fact Sheet" to refute the misrepresentations about the effects of the virus in Africa. The "Fact Sheet" flatly states that "FIV infection in wild African lions has not been associated with overt clinical signs and there is no evidence that FIV infection results in increased mortality." It states that FIV has "possibly" existed in African lions for "many thousands of years" but there is no evidence that it causes lions infected by it to die. It cites the well-studied Serengeti and Kruger National Parks as examples of places with lion populations that have long been infected without serious effects. FIV also does not make lions more susceptible to, or increase their mortality from, other diseases. When the lions in Serengeti National Park contracted canine distemper virus (CDV) in 1994, the FIV-infected lion "were no more likely to die from the CDV than animals that were not infected with FIV. In addition, the Serengeti lion population has doubled over the past 10 years, so these lions are clearly vigorous despite the ubiquity of the (FIV) virus."

This refutes the allegations about FIV made by Kenya in an early version of its lion-listing proposal. It wholly refutes the alarming misrepresentations made by some expatriate lion researchers in Botswana. Several years ago, Conservation Force itself completed a desktop literature survey to refute the claims by some in Botswana that FIV was a threat there.



Our study established that FIV is ancient and best known for its lack of effect on cats. We published the negative results in this bulletin. IUCN'S "FIV In Lions: A Fact Sheet" should help end the misleading hype that has been spread worldwide by the media. Contact us if you would like a copy of the new IUCN "Fact Sheet."

**Polar Bear As A Resource:** At the third

Northern Resource Forum in Yellowknife last month, Professor George W. Wenzel of McGill University in Montreal presented a paper on the use of polar bears as a resource. His observations about tourist hunting of polar bears are interesting.

Professor Wenzel states "no animal holds as significant a place in Canadian Inuit Culture as the polar bear." It has always been culturally important, but its economic importance leapt the 1980's. Sporthunting is a "highly non-traditional use of polar bears that has arisen from economic necessity." A significant growth in sporthunting (guided hunting of nonresidents) began in 1982-83 and "correlates almost exactly with the collapse of the seal-skin economy across NWT." Though guided hunting "is seen today as the most monetarily rational use of local polar bear quotas," the rise of the non-resident share of the hunting quotas did not emerge before the mid-1980's.

It is worth noting, Professor Wenzel writes, that annual polar bear quotas did not change much from 1970 to 2000. The quota varied from 400 to 445, with a high of 445 in 1976-84 and a low of 400 in 1998-2000. The number allocated to sporthunting was only three to seven per annum until the early

## “Serving The Hunter Who Travels”

80's when the seal market collapsed. Then, the nonresident allocation was increased to 50 or more per year. A decade later, when the US Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) was reformed in the mid 90's, the portion of the quota allocated to tourist sport hunting nearly doubled again to a high of 86 in 1995 and 92 in 1997. Nevertheless, the allocation of polar bears today to tourist hunting remains only 16 to 20 percent of the overall annual quota of 400 per annum. (A high of 92 bears out of a quota of 400.)

Sport hunting has “assumed a role... in the livelihoods of Inuit that may be larger than at any time in the past,” the professor writes, noting that the Inuit still reserve 80% percent of their quota for themselves. What the paper does not state is that the MMPA still prevents imports from many areas with significant polar bear populations. The overall percentage of the quota allocated to tourist hunting would be greater if imports from additional areas were approved by the USF&WS.

The USF&WS recently communicated to Conservation Force that its determination of polar bear trophy imports from the Gulf of Boothia is now awaiting the outcome of new co-management agreements currently being renegotiated in Nunavut. Conservation Force has had a petition pending to permit trophy importation from that area since the long-awaited population study warranting it was completed several years ago. The higher population estimate is apparently not sufficient in itself to warrant permitting. After this, it may be something else! Former Congressman Jack Fields, who authored the reform of the MMPA, would be calling the service to the table had he not retired from Congress. He made it clear on the Congressional Record that he never intended to put the USF&WS in the position of imperialistically judging Canada's polar bear management regime. We blame Senator John Kerry for the problem we have today importing polar bears. In a Conference Committee, Kerry “personally” tried to remove trophy imports altogether from the re-authorization of MMPA. There is not one iota of doubt that he was

acting as a linebacker for HSUS when he singlehandedly tried to stop the hunting community's reform of the MMPA. The interest he was representing is as telling as the vehemence of his personal opposition to importation of the hunting trophies.

**African Indaba Newsletter:** Conservation Force's African newsletter written by Conservation Force Board Member Gerhard Damm is now available online. It is available on Conservation



Force's website, (Click on “News”); and at its own site [www.africanindaba.netfirms.com](http://www.africanindaba.netfirms.com). It is free of charge.

*African Indaba* is an e-newsletter for hunter-conservationists and all others who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural

resources. Hard copies are distributed to select management authorities and educational institutions across Africa by Conservation Force, but are not otherwise available.

If you wish to receive the newsletter free by e-mail, send an email to: [gerhard@muskwa.co.za](mailto:gerhard@muskwa.co.za). Please include your name, full address, e-mail address and organization.”

*African Indaba* is published every two months. The latest issue (September, 2004; Vol. 2, Issue No. 5) contains 16 pages covering 20 topics of interest to those who seriously care about Africa. It is “dedicated to the people and wildlife of Africa.”

Gerhard Damm is a valuable and trusted board member of Conservation Force, who serves without pay, as we all do. Gerhard is point man for Conservation Force's African-Wide Lion Symposium being planned for March, 2005. Perhaps not surprisingly, there are many enlightening articles on the African lion in the recent issues of *African Indaba*.

**Cullman & Hurt Community Wildlife Project:** The most recent issue of the Cullman & Hurt project newsletter has just been published and distributed by Conservation Force. It too is available on Conservation Force's website ([www.conservationforce.org](http://www.conservationforce.org)). Click on “News.” Yours truly is on the Board of Trustees and has been elected Treasurer of the Trust. This remarkable program has built 26 schools, six medical dispensaries and a police station. It also operates two anti-poaching patrols and much more. It is a world-renowned model.

The passing of Joseph Cullman has caused a serious problem, as he was the founder and principal benefactor of the project. However, the project will continue. It must. Conservation Force is the fiduciary for the trust, which makes contributions to it tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Right now, Safari Company Operator Robin Hurt is carrying all the cost himself. We invite and welcome new benefactors for this worthwhile program. Just contact me directly at 504-837-1233; or by e-mail at: [JJJ@conservationforce.org](mailto:JJJ@conservationforce.org). – *John J. Jackson, III.*

### 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