

AFRICAN INDABA

Volume 8, Issue No 1

eNewsletter

January 2010

Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

John Jackson Recognized with International Statesman Award

Gray Thornton, President, Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF)

John J. Jackson, III redirected and wholly dedicated his life as a lawyer, writer, hunter and conservationist nearly four decades ago and has become one of the foremost champions of hunting and conservation through hunting around the world. This award recognizes his unequalled service and leadership to the hunting community in all corners of the globe. He is the man.

John is the past recipient of our *Excellence in Advocacy of Our Hunting Heritage Award*, 2002, for his "untiring support of our hunting heritage...effective at all political levels...worldwide." John is an international leader without narrow partisanship. He is founder and chairman of Conservation Force which gives counsel to a consortium of over 200 organizations which it serves to further our sporting way of life and wildlife and wild places. Conservation Force proactively advances or solves dozens of issues of importance every year.

John broadcasts that "sportsmen are the force" and he sees to it that we are recognized as the foremost conservationists. He has represented countries such as Mongolia and Namibia, and organizations from IPHA to the Inuvialuit Game Council in petitions, comments and litigation. He has served for over a decade on the Executive Council of the International Council of Game and Wildlife (CIC) in Budapest and as the President of its Commission on Sustainable Use; for two decades on the Board of the International Foundation for the Conservation of Wildlife (IGF) in Paris. He has long served on crucial specialist groups of IUCN in Gland, such as the Deer Specialist Group and the Antelope Specialist Group with Conservation Force initiatives from Thailand to Zambia. In the USA he is a life member of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, the Wildlife Management Institute and founding member of the AWCP. Conservation Force is a CITES International Observer and John has participated in its Conferences of the Parties, working groups and committees for nearly two decades. His species projects are as diverse as polar bear to elephant, African lion to argali and markhor. He is the recognized expert on the bio-political issues that affect them all.

He spearheaded the defeat of the proposal to list all ural on Appendix I of CITES and the defeat of the petition to list all Baja Peninsula sheep as endangered on the ESA. He inter-

vened on behalf of WSF to defeat the suit to list all argali as endangered that would have stopped their importation forever. He established the importation of Kashmir markhor and is in U.S. District Court challenging the denial of trophy imports of the renowned Suleiman markhor in the Torghar Project of Pakistan - on WSF's behalf, I might add. This past year alone he has obtained the release of hundreds of hunting trophies that had been detained or seized for ever increasing reasons. He is fighting for us and makes no apologies.

The reach of this superhero is worldwide. He helped found the concept of sustainable use, championed and helped coin "conservation hunting," personally authored the diplomatic CITES Resolutions facilitating export-import of hunting trophies and initiated the "enhancement strategy" under the ESA. Night and day he is championing our causes around the globe. He and his wife Chrissie are life members of WSF.

Jackson was recognized for his exceptional work with the International Statesman Award Wednesday evening February 3, 2010 during the WSF Opening Ceremonies/Exhibitor Welcome Banquet.

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For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

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Rhino Poaching: Legalizing Horn Trade May Be the Answer

Michael Eustace

South Africa has done a superb job in growing rhino numbers from about 100 in 1900, to 18,000 today. In the rest of Africa, rhino populations have declined from 100,000 in 1965, to 5,000 today. Poachers are now focusing on the main reservoir, South Africa.

South Africa has had 100 animals poached so far this year and a further 150 shot in disguised trophy hunts. Together with Zimbabwe losses, the total for the year is likely to exceed 300 animals.

This killing is absurd. South Africa can supply an equivalent amount of the horn being poached with horn collected annually from natural deaths alone. But we are not allowed to sell horn internationally as a result of a Cites (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) resolution passed in 1977.

The answer to the plight of the rhino may well not be in banning trade but rather in regulated horn sales. South Africa could do this by establishing a Central Selling Organization, as De Beers used to have, and by selling certified horn to approved buyers. If demand increases as a result of the establishment of a legal trade we have sufficient stockpiles together with horn generated from natural deaths to satisfy double the current volumes being poached for the next 10 years. In addition and in order to keep the rhinos in parks in their natural horned state, the private sector could harvest horn from rhino on game farms, which horn re-grows and this would extend supplies to 3 times the current illegal market volumes. Furthermore, the CSO will control the market and can raise the price if the market is strong and by so doing bring supply and demand into balance.

Hopefully the Chinese will welcome a legal trade that supplies the market in a sustainable way without the need to kill hundreds of rhino. The proceeds from the sales of, say, R400 million p.a., will go to conservation (rather than criminals) and also fund increased anti-poaching efforts and policing

of the illegal trade routes. This will increase the business risk of illegal traders as will the prospect of the CSO dropping prices from time to time as a strategy to damage any illegal supply routes.

But we need CITES approval. It is too late to get rhino horn trade on to the formal agenda for their next meeting in March 2010 but the issue needs to be discussed at this meeting and for member states to understand the problem and to consider supporting the probable solution. Kenya has an astonishing proposal on the agenda that promotes the destruction of horn stockpiles and we need to make clear during this debate, our position and the inappropriate nature of that proposal. Rhino protection is one of the most important conservation issues in Africa and South Africa, as the main player, needs to champion it. To wait for the next meeting in 2013 before promoting change

and putting in place the mechanisms for change, will just accommodate increased poaching. Current trends suggest that at least 1000 animals will be poached over the next 3 years and it could be much more as the rewards are enormous and the risks low. Poaching over vast areas is extremely difficult to control.

The mere prospect of a legal trade and a powerful CSO and increased policing should reduce the risk of participation by new and more sophisticated crime syndicates. Also, the enthusiasm for Far Eastern stockpiling of horn for speculative purposes, which is a current concern and a real threat for the future, should be reduced.

Banning horn trade over the past 30 years has clearly not been a winning strategy. A regulated trade that can satisfy the demand in a sustainable way without killing animals and which has an in-built growth rate related to increasing populations, would seem a better plan.

Africa: The Next Ivory Battle in the Making

Rolf D. Baldus

From 13th to 25th March 2010 representatives from 175 member countries of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as well as numerous non-governmental organizations will be debating in Doha, the capital of Qatar the up- or downlisting of endangered species. Although any decisions are relating to trade only, they will also have significant impact on nature conservation. For some countries, the decisions will be of major economic significance.



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