

Conversation Contents

drafts for Secretary briefing

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/1. drafts for Secretary briefing/1.2 Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager.docx
/1. drafts for Secretary briefing/7.1 Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager public.docx
/1. drafts for Secretary briefing/7.2 Inf memo lion and elephant hunting 7-10-17 rev2.docx

"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Jul 10 2017 14:25:44 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, "Sheehan, Gregory" <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
CC: Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Subject: drafts for Secretary briefing
Attachments: Inf memo lion and elephant hunting 7-10-17 rev.docx Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager.docx

Greg,

Please find attached a one-page document and a longer briefing paper for tomorrow's briefing with the Secretary. I hope these hit the right notes, but please let me know if there is anything you'd like included that is missing, etc. I will check in this evening and again tomorrow morning to help however you see fit.

Best,

Craig

--

Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
International Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
ph: 703-358-2162
www.fws.gov/international

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Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>

From: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov
Sent: Mon Jul 10 2017 18:51:55 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
CC: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: drafts for Secretary briefing

Craig,

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I will literally arrive at the Secretary's office right at 3 pm if all goes well as I land back at Dulles Airport at 1:40 pm.

Please plan to take an explanatory lead on these after I do a brief introduction.

Thanks
Greg

Greg Sheehan, Acting Director
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Jul 10, 2017, at 2:26 PM, Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov> wrote:

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<Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager.docx>

Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Jul 10 2017 19:00:56 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris
CC: <charisa_morris@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman
<tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: drafts for Secretary briefing

Thanks Greg. Safe travels. We will work together to have it all set. See you there.

Craig

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 10, 2017, at 8:51 PM, Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov> wrote:

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Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>

From: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 11 2017 08:05:36 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov
"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
CC:
Subject: Re: drafts for Secretary briefing

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See you soon.

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"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 11 2017 08:12:49 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>
CC: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>, Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: drafts for Secretary briefing

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craig

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"Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>

From: "Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 11 2017 09:17:00 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
CC: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Re: drafts for Secretary briefing

More specifically, in light of the fact that certain external parties may be present, should we bring SOL?

On Tue, Jul 11, 2017 at 10:12 AM, Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov> wrote:

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--

Charisa.Morris@fws.gov | Chief of Staff, Office of the Director | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | 1849 C Street NW, Room 3348 | Washington, DC 20240 | (202) 208-3843 | For urgent matters, please dial cell: 301-875-8937

"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 11 2017 09:41:09 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
CC: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Re: drafts for Secretary briefing
Attachments: Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager public.docx Inf memo lion and elephant hunting 7-10-17 rev2.docx

Charisa,

Here's a one-pager that I would feel comfortable sharing with external stakeholders as well. Also, I am reattaching the briefing paper (which is still internal use only) with a few edits. There was reference to attachments that we are not providing in the previous version, which may be confusing. Addressed in this version.

craig

On Tue, Jul 11, 2017 at 11:17 AM, Morris, Charisa <charisa_morris@fws.gov> wrote:
| More specifically, in light of the fact that certain external parties may be present, should we

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Conversation Contents

Fwd: Trophy Hunting

Attachments:

/1. Fwd: Trophy Hunting/1.1 image001.jpg

/1. Fwd: Trophy Hunting/1.2 trophy hunting FACA comments (11.24.17) FINAL.pdf

Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>

From: Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Dec 07 2017 10:24:21 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
CC: barbara_wainman@fws.gov
Subject: Fwd: Trophy Hunting
Attachments: image001.jpg trophy hunting FACA comments (11.24.17)
FINAL.pdf

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Jones, Lisa" <lisa_m_jones@fws.gov>
Date: December 7, 2017 at 12:09:49 PM EST
To: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, Matthew Huggler <matthew_huggler@fws.gov>, Martin Kodis <martin_kodis@fws.gov>, Angela Gustavson <angela_gustavson@fws.gov>, Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>, Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov>, Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>, Tim Vannorman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, Edward Grace <edward_grace@fws.gov>, James Gale <james_gale@fws.gov>, "Kessler, Danielle" <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>, Amy Jonach <amy_jonach@fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Trophy Hunting

fyi....

Lisa Hummon-Jones
Congressional and Legislative Affairs Specialist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
703-358-2536 (o)
202-365-7255 (c)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Keisha Sedlacek** <ksedlacek@hslf.org>
Date: Thu, Dec 7, 2017 at 11:54 AM
Subject: Trophy Hunting
To: "lisa_m_jones@fws.gov" <lisa_m_jones@fws.gov>

Hi Lisa,

I just wanted to flag a few things for you. HSUS did a poll on trophy hunting and which revealed that voters by a margin of more than a margin of five to one, oppose allowing imports of elephant and lion trophies into the U.S. The poll was broken down by party line showing that the majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Non-partisan voters oppose trophy imports. The poll can be found [here](#) as well as a recent [blog](#) by Wayne Pacelle.

Additionally, Representative Buchanan put out a [press statement on lion trophies](#).

Lastly, Representative Grijalva released an [updated to his Trophy Hunting Report](#) that I just wanted to make sure saw. (See below). The report outlines while it is unnecessary to create the International Wildlife Council. We submitted comments (attached) objecting to the Council and will be submitting comments tomorrow putting forward a name for consideration to sit on the Council.

Best,

Keisha

December 7, 2017

Media Contact: Adam Sarvana

(202) 225-6065 or (202) 578-6626

**Rep. Grijalva Releases Updated Trophy
Hunting Report as Trump-Zinke Moves
Threaten Future of Multiple Endangered
Species**

Washington, D.C. – Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Raul M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) today released [an updated version](#) of a report on trophy hunting and endangered species protection that his staff initially released in 2016 in response to the tragic killing of Zimbabwe’s famed Cecil the Lion. The release comes in the wake of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s recent announcements that he plans to create a federal advisory committee to promote the hunting of imperiled wildlife and to allow the importation of elephant and lion trophies from several African countries.

The report, titled *Missing the Mark: African Trophy Hunting Fails to Show Consistent Conservation Benefits*, takes a hard look at the rationale for allowing Americans to import hunting trophies of threatened and endangered species. It finds that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service often grants import permits for trophies that do not meet the legal requirement of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species in the wild and makes a number of recommendations for improving the program.

The updated report is available at <http://bit.ly/2AkJju4>.

Among other findings, the report showed that some countries where these species are hunted have serious corruption problems that make it nearly impossible to verify information provided on the supposed conservation impacts of trophy hunts. This is a major concern in Zimbabwe, which consistently ranked as one of the most corrupt and unstable countries in the world even before the coup that deposed Robert Mugabe last month. While the recent decision to allow elephant trophies from Zimbabwe and neighboring Zambia has been put on hold, significant work needs to be done before imports can be allowed.

The report also sheds some light on the extremely wealthy demographic that travels from the United States to Africa to kill threatened and endangered animals for sport. For example, the estimated cost to hunt, kill, and import a white rhinoceros trophy from South Africa is at least twice the annual income of the average American family.

Grijalva issued the following statement:

“President Trump wants a taxpayer-funded public relations department for his rich, elitist sons for the same reason he hates the inheritance tax: he thinks the government works for his family. Our report lays out clear recommendations to clean up the trophy hunting industry and make sure our environmental laws don’t just help a privileged few. Secretary Zinke thinks the big game hunter fantasy lifestyle is the basis for real policy, and endangered species are going to suffer for it.”

Grijalva is the author of H.R. 502, a bill to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund that has 211 bipartisan cosponsors, but has not been granted a hearing by Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop. Last week, Grijalva and former Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus Chairman Mike Thompson (D-Calif.) introduced H.R. 4489, the Authorizing Critical Conservation for Sportsmen and Sportswomen (ACCESS) Act. ACCESS includes a host of titles with bipartisan support that are priorities for the sporting community and leaves out the anti-conservation and anti-gun safety provisions that sank Republicans' heavily partisan SHARE Act earlier this year.

#

Keisha Sedlacek

Senior Regulatory Specialist, Federal Affairs

Humane Society Legislative Fund

1255 23rd Street, NW, Suite 455

Washington, DC 20037

T: 202-955-3661

Conversation Contents

Permits

Attachments:

/6. Permits/3.1 Elephant Lion Secretary presentation.pptx
/6. Permits/4.1 Elephant Lion Secretary presentation.pptx

Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>

From: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Sent: Sat Nov 18 2017 07:38:21 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>, Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, gloria_bell@fws.gov, Jim Kurth <jim_kurth@fws.gov>, charisa_morris@fws.gov
Subject: Permits

Craig,

Until we get additional clarification on the intent and breadth of the Presidents decision to review "Big game Trophy decision" we have been asked to abstain from issuing any permits for both Lions and Elephants.

Will keep you apprised as I learn more.

Thanks, Greg

Greg Sheehan
Principle Deputy Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW, Room 3358
Washington, D.C. 20250
202-208-4545 Office
202-676-7675 Cell

Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Sat Nov 18 2017 07:48:24 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, "gloria_bell@fws.gov" <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Jim Kurth <jim_kurth@fws.gov>, "charisa_morris@fws.gov" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
CC:

Subject: Re: Permits

Ok, thanks. I have advised the permits branch.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2017, at 9:38 AM, Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov wrote:

Craig,

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"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Sat Nov 18 2017 13:01:59 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov
Subject: Re: Permits
Attachments: Elephant Lion Secretary presentation.pptx

Greg,

This is very much a work in progress both re: content and design, but I wanted to share this now for feedback so that I can pick it up in a few hours. I'm awaiting some updated permit data, so the slide re: permits issued/pending is a placeholder. Re: the current status of findings, I have them as both a table from our website and as bullets. I'd like to know which you prefer and I can remove the others. If you like the layout of the first slide, I can use that throughout. If you have other content to add and send back, I'll continue to flesh this out and get a more polished product back to you this evening.

craig

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From: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov>
Sent: Sat Nov 18 2017 14:07:12 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Permits
Attachments: Elephant Lion Secretary presentation.pptx

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Date: November 18, 2017 at 3:01:59 PM EST

To: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Permits

Greg,

This is very much a work in progress both re: content and design, but I wanted to share this now for feedback so that I can pick it up in a few hours. I'm awaiting some updated permit data, so the slide re: permits issued/pending is a placeholder. Re: the current status of findings, I have them as both a table from our website and as bullets. I'd like to know which you prefer and I can remove the others. If you like the layout of the first slide, I can use that throughout. If you have other content to add and send back, I'll continue to flesh this out and get a more polished product back to you this evening.

craig

On Sat, Nov 18, 2017 at 9:38 AM, Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov> wrote:

Craig,

Until we get additional clarification on the intent and breadth of the Presidents decision to review "Big game Trophy decision" we have been asked to abstain from issuing any permits for both Lions and Elephants.

Will keep you apprised as I learn more.

Thanks, Greg

Greg Sheehan
Principle Deputy Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
[1849 C Street NW, Room 3358](#)
Washington, D.C. 20250
202-208-4545 Office
202-676-7675 Cell

--

Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
International Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
ph: 703-358-2162
www.fws.gov/international

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Conversation Contents

Zambia elephant findings

Attachments:

- /7. Zambia elephant findings/1.1 GA Zambia elephants 2018.pdf
- /7. Zambia elephant findings/1.2 2016-2017 GA Zambia African Elephant_9-12-17 (1).pdf
- /7. Zambia elephant findings/1.3 ABOP21 Enhancement finding for Zambia elephant 2016 - 2018.pdf

"Bell, Gloria" <gloria_bell@fws.gov>

From: "Bell, Gloria" <gloria_bell@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Nov 09 2017 09:50:17 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov
CC: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>, "Vannorman, Tim" <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Subject: Zambia elephant findings
GA Zambia elephants 2018.pdf 2016-2017 GA Zambia African Elephant_9-12-17 (1).pdf ABOP21 Enhancement finding for Zambia elephant 2016 - 2018.pdf

Greg,

The findings for 2016-2018 Zambian elephant imports have been completed and are attached. We wanted to confirm if you're ok with us moving forward and issuing permits.

Thanks,
Gloria

Gloria Bell | Acting Assistant Director for International Affairs | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: IA, Falls Church, Virginia, 22041-3803, USA | 703-358-1767
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Learn more about [Diversity Change Agents](#).

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Vannorman, Tim <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Date: Wed, Nov 8, 2017 at 3:34 PM
Subject: Zambia elephant findings
To: Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>
Cc: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

Gloria,

As discussed, there is the enhancement finding and the non-detriment findings for 2016-2018
Zambian elephant imports. DSA made one finding for 2016-2017 and then a second to cover
2018.

It sounded like Greg was good with us moving forward, but wanted to confirm. I understand that
Greg is leaving for Texas today, so hopefully you have a chance to talk to him before he leaves.

Tim

--

Timothy J. Van Norman, Chief
Branch of Permits
Division of Management Authority
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(703) 358-2350

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species and their habitats!***



Conversation Contents

4(d) rules

Attachments:

/10. 4(d) rules/1.1 4d rule revision-African elephant_6 June 2016.pdf
/10. 4(d) rules/1.2 Listing two lion subspecies_final rule_23 Dec 2015.pdf

"Bell, Gloria" <gloria_bell@fws.gov>

From: "Bell, Gloria" <gloria_bell@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Oct 23 2017 14:12:25 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: 4(d) rules
Attachments: 4d rule revision-African elephant_6 June 2016.pdf Listing two lion subspecies_final rule_23 Dec 2015.pdf

Greg,

Per your request, the 4(d) rules for African elephant and two lion subspecies are attached below. The 4(d) rule for lion was done concurrently with the listing.

Gloria

Gloria Bell | Acting Assistant Director for International Affairs | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: IA, Falls Church, Virginia, 22041-3803, USA | 703-358-1767
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Learn more about [Diversity Change Agents](#).

Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov

From: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Oct 23 2017 22:42:32 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bell, Gloria" <gloria_bell@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: 4(d) rules

Thanks Gloria. I read those and will have language after walking over to ASFWP in the morning. Thanks Greg Greg Sheehan Principal Deputy Director US Fish and Wildlife Service 202-208-4545 office 202-676-7675 cell > On Oct 23, 2017, at 4:12 PM, Bell, Gloria <gloria_bell@fws.gov> wrote: > > Greg, > > Per your request, the 4(d) rules for African elephant and two lion > subspecies are attached below. The 4(d) rule for lion was done > concurrently with the listing. > > Gloria > > > Gloria Bell | Acting Assistant Director for International Affairs |

> U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service > 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: IA, Falls Church, Virginia, 22041-3803, USA | > 703-358-1767 > www.fws.gov/international | Sign up > > for > our e-newsletter to learn how we're working around the globe to protect > species and their habitats! > > [image: Stamp out extinction with the > Save Vanishing Species Stamp] > > *Learn more about Diversity Change Agents > .* > <4d rule revision-African elephant_6 June 2016.pdf> >

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Documents from CITES Briefing

Attachments:

/13. Fwd: Documents from CITES Briefing/1.1 US Implementation Report 2013-2015 FINAL.docx
/13. Fwd: Documents from CITES Briefing/1.2 factsheet-cites-cop17-2015.pdf
/13. Fwd: Documents from CITES Briefing/1.3 CoP17 FR Notice #4.pdf
/13. Fwd: Documents from CITES Briefing/1.4 CoP17 FR Notice #3.pdf
/13. Fwd: Documents from CITES Briefing/1.5 CoP17-Final Notice-WEB-tentative-US-positions_9-23_16.pdf
/13. Fwd: Documents from CITES Briefing/1.6 CITES Criteria-Res-09-24-R17.pdf
/13. Fwd: Documents from CITES Briefing/1.7 NDF-Res-16-07-R17.pdf

"Bell, Gloria" <gloria_bell@fws.gov>

From: "Bell, Gloria" <gloria_bell@fws.gov>
Sent: Wed Aug 30 2017 11:51:34 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Documents from CITES Briefing
US Implementation Report 2013-2015 FINAL.docx factsheet-cites-cop17-2015.pdf CoP17 FR Notice #4.pdf CoP17 FR Notice #3.pdf CoP17-Final Notice-WEB-tentative-US-positions_9-23_16.pdf CITES Criteria-Res-09-24-R17.pdf NDF-Res-16-07-R17.pdf

Attachments:

Greg,

Craig Hoover and Rosemarie Gnam briefed Aurelia last week on CITES and sent the items below as a follow-up. I thought you might find these informative. I'll send you the PowerPoint presentation separately.

Best,
Gloria

Gloria Bell | Acting Assistant Director for International Affairs | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: IA, Falls Church, Virginia, 22041-3803, USA | 703-358-1767
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Date: Mon, Aug 21, 2017 at 9:51 AM
Subject: Documents from CITES Briefing
To: Aurelia Skipwith <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Tasha Robbins <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov>, Rosemarie Gnam <rosemarie_gnam@fws.gov>, Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>

Dear Aurelia,

Thank you again for the time to talk with us about CITES and US implementation of the Convention. As you requested, please find below and attached the documents that you were interested in seeing.

1. New resolutions adopted at CoP17--these can be found at the following link (I didn't want to inundate you with so many pdf files): <https://cites.org/eng/res/index.php>
2. The last two FR Notices for CoP17--Attached. These include both the long and short versions of the final notice with all tentative US negotiating positions for the meeting.
3. Who attends CITES Standing Committee meetings for the US--full list of attendees can be found here (US participants on on pages 7-8): <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/66/Final%20list%20of%20participants.pdf>
4. The CoP public engagement fact sheet--Attached.
5. Our last CITES biennial report--Attached. Covers January 2013 - June 2015.
6. Resolution Conf. 16.7, Non-detriment findings--Attached.
7. Resolution Conf. 9.24, Criteria for amending Appendices I and II--Attached.

Thank you again. Let us know if you need anything else or have any other questions.

Best,

Craig

--

Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
International Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
ph: 703-358-2162
www.fws.gov/international

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Greg Sheehan (b) (6) [REDACTED]@fws.gov>

From: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) [REDACTED]@fws.gov>
Sent: Wed Aug 30 2017 18:47:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bell, Gloria" <gloria_bell@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Documents from CITES Briefing

Thank you Gloria. I received the PowerPoint and was able to go through it. Very good PowerPoint/presentation. See you soon. Thanks Greg Greg Sheehan Principal Deputy Director US Fish and Wildlife Service 202-208-4545 202-676-7675 cell > On Aug 30, 2017, at 1:51 PM, Bell, Gloria <gloria_bell@fws.gov> wrote: > > Greg, > > Craig Hoover and Rosemarie Gnam

briefed Aurelia last week on CITES and sent > the items below as a follow-up. I thought you
might find these > informative. I'll send you the PowerPoint presentation separately. > > Best, >
Gloria > > > Gloria Bell | Acting Assistant Director for International Affairs | > U.S. Fish &
Wildlife Service > 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: IA, Falls Church, Virginia, 22041-3803, USA | >
703-358-1767 > www.fws.gov/international | Sign up > > for > our e-newsletter to learn how
we're working around the globe to protect > species and their habitats! > > [image: Stamp out
extinction with the > Save Vanishing Species Stamp] > > ----- Forwarded message ----- >
From: Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov> > Date: Mon, Aug 21, 2017 at 9:51 AM >
Subject: Documents from CITES Briefing > To: Aurelia Skipwith <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov>
> Cc: Tasha Robbins <tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov>, Rosemarie Gnam <>
rosemarie_gnam@fws.gov>, Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov> > > Dear Aurelia, > > Thank
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As you requested, please find below and > attached the documents that you were interested in
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<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/66/Final%20list%20of%20participants.pdf> > > 4.
The CoP public engagement fact sheet--Attached. > > 5. Our last CITES biennial report--
Attached. Covers January 2013 - June > 2015. > > 6. Resolution Conf. 16.7, Non-detriment
findings--Attached. > > 7 > . Resolution Conf. 9.24, Criteria for amending Appendices I and > II--
Attached. > > Thank you again. Let us know if you need anything else or have any other >
questions. > > Best, > > Craig > > -- > Craig Hoover > Chief, Division of Management Authority
> International Affairs > U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service > 5275 Leesburg Pike > Falls Church, VA
22041-3803 > ph: 703-358-2162 > www.fws.gov/international > > *Sign up > > for > our e-
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> > > > > > > > >

Conversation Contents

drafts for Secretary briefing

Attachments:

/15. drafts for Secretary briefing/1.1 Inf memo lion and elephant hunting 7-10-17 rev.docx
/15. drafts for Secretary briefing/1.2 Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager.docx
/15. drafts for Secretary briefing/7.1 Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager public.docx
/15. drafts for Secretary briefing/7.2 Inf memo lion and elephant hunting 7-10-17 rev2.docx

"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Jul 10 2017 14:25:44 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, "Sheehan, Gregory" (b) (6) @fws.gov
CC: Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Subject: drafts for Secretary briefing
Attachments: Inf memo lion and elephant hunting 7-10-17 rev.docx Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager.docx

Greg,

Please find attached a one-page document and a longer briefing paper for tomorrow's briefing with the Secretary. I hope these hit the right notes, but please let me know if there is anything you'd like included that is missing, etc. I will check in this evening and again tomorrow morning to help however you see fit.

Best,

Craig

--

Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
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www.fws.gov/international

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Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>

From: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov
Sent: Mon Jul 10 2017 18:51:55 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
CC: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: drafts for Secretary briefing

Craig,

These look very good. Thank you for preparing them. Please work with Charisa to get those to the Department communications team in advance of the meeting. Please 14 hard copies of each of these for the meeting.

I will literally arrive at the Secretary's office right at 3 pm if all goes well as I land back at Dulles Airport at 1:40 pm.

Please plan to take an explanatory lead on these after I do a brief introduction.

Thanks
Greg

Greg Sheehan, Acting Director
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Jul 10, 2017, at 2:26 PM, Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov> wrote:

Greg,

Please find attached a one-page document and a longer briefing paper for tomorrow's briefing with the Secretary. I hope these hit the right notes, but please let me know if there is anything you'd like included that is missing, etc. I will check in this evening and again tomorrow morning to help however you see fit.

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<Inf memo lion and elephant hunting 7-10-17 rev.docx>

<Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager.docx>

Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Jul 10 2017 19:00:56 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov
Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris
CC: <charisa_morris@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman
<tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: drafts for Secretary briefing

Thanks Greg. Safe travels. We will work together to have it all set. See you there.

Craig

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 10, 2017, at 8:51 PM, Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov wrote:

Craig,

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<Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager.docx>

Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>

From: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 11 2017 08:05:36 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris
<charisa_morris@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman
<tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
CC:
Subject: Re: drafts for Secretary briefing

My flight (United 939) is delayed slightly and now scheduled to arrive at Dulles at 1:55 pm. Please be prepared to begin without me and let the attendees know that I apologize for being late.

See you soon.

Thanks

Greg

Greg Sheehan, Acting Director
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Jul 10, 2017, at 6:51 PM, Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov> wrote:

Craig,

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Craig

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Craig Hoover
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International Affairs
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<Inf memo lion and elephant hunting 7-10-17 rev.docx>

<Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager.docx>

"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 11 2017 08:12:49 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>
CC: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>, Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: drafts for Secretary briefing

Thanks Greg. Will do. Anyone else from here you want to attend? Happy to cover it all as needed, of course.

craig

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Principal Deputy Director
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<Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager.docx>

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Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
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Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
ph: 703-358-2162
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"Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>

From: "Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 11 2017 09:17:00 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
CC: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, Greg Sheehan
(b) (6) @fws.gov
Subject: Re: drafts for Secretary briefing

More specifically, in light of the fact that certain external parties may be present, should we bring SOL?

On Tue, Jul 11, 2017 at 10:12 AM, Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov> wrote:

Thanks Greg. Will do. Anyone else from here you want to attend? Happy to cover it all as needed, of course.

craig

On Tue, Jul 11, 2017 at 10:05 AM, Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov> wrote:
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202-676-7675 cell

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Charisa.Morris@fws.gov | Chief of Staff, Office of the Director | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | 1849 C Street NW, Room 3348 | Washington, DC 20240 | (202) 208-3843 | For urgent matters, please dial cell: 301-875-8937

"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 11 2017 09:41:09 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
CC: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov
Subject: Re: drafts for Secretary briefing
Attachments: Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager public.docx Inf memo lion and elephant hunting 7-10-17 rev2.docx

Charisa,

Here's a one-pager that I would feel comfortable sharing with external stakeholders as well. Also, I am reattaching the briefing paper (which is still internal use only) with a few edits. There was reference to attachments that we are not providing in the previous version, which may be confusing. Addressed in this version.

craig

On Tue, Jul 11, 2017 at 11:17 AM, Morris, Charisa <charisa_morris@fws.gov> wrote:
| More specifically, in light of the fact that certain external parties may be present, should we

bring SOL?

On Tue, Jul 11, 2017 at 10:12 AM, Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov> wrote:

Thanks Greg. Will do. Anyone else from here you want to attend? Happy to cover it all as needed, of course.

craig

On Tue, Jul 11, 2017 at 10:05 AM, Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov> wrote:

My flight (United 939) is delayed slightly and now scheduled to arrive at Dulles at 1:55 pm.

Please be prepared to begin without me and let the attendees know that I apologize for being late.

See you soon.

Thanks

Greg

Greg Sheehan, Acting Director
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Jul 10, 2017, at 6:51 PM, Greg Sheehan (b) (6) <[@fws.gov](mailto:(b)(6)@fws.gov)> wrote:

Craig,

These look very good. Thank you for preparing them. Please work with Charisa to get those to the Department communications team in advance of the meeting. Please 14 hard copies of each of these for the meeting.

I will literally arrive at the Secretary's office right at 3 pm if all goes well as I land back at Dulles Airport at 1:40 pm.

Please plan to take an explanatory lead on these after I do a brief introduction.

Thanks

Greg

Greg Sheehan, Acting Director
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Jul 10, 2017, at 2:26 PM, Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov> wrote:

Greg,

Please find attached a one-page document and a longer briefing paper for tomorrow's briefing with the Secretary. I hope these hit the right notes, but please let me know if there is anything you'd like included that is missing, etc. I will check in this evening and again tomorrow morning to help however you see fit.

Best,

Craig

--

Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
International Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
ph: 703-358-2162
www.fws.gov/international

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around the globe to protect species and their habitats!***



<Inf memo lion and elephant hunting 7-10-17 rev.docx>

<Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager.docx>

--

Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
International Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
ph: 703-358-2162
www.fws.gov/international

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--

[Charisa Morris@fws.gov](mailto:Charisa.Morris@fws.gov) | Chief of Staff, Office of the Director | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service |
1849 C Street NW, Room 3348 | Washington, DC 20240 | (202) 208-3843 | For urgent matters, please dial cell:
301-875-8937

--

Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
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5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
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Conversation Contents

Tanzania Consultative Forum

Attachments:

/149. Tanzania Consultative Forum/1.1 Invitation Letter_USFWS_Sheehan.pdf
/149. Tanzania Consultative Forum/1.2 AWCF 2017_Draft Agenda_5September2017 (1).pdf

"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Sep 14 2017 09:57:28 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, "Sheehan, Gregory" (b) (6) @fws.gov
CC: Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Subject: Tanzania Consultative Forum
Attachments: Invitation Letter_USFWS_Sheehan.pdf AWCF 2017_Draft Agenda_5September2017 (1).pdf

Greg,

As you may recall, I recently raised with you the possibility of your attending the African Wildlife Consultative Forum, co-hosted by the Government of Tanzania and Safari Club International Foundation, and scheduled for November 13-17. I know it may be a heavy lift in terms of approval, but we think it would be a very worthwhile meeting for you to attend. We typically attend to discuss ESA and CITES issues and to work with participating governments and other stakeholders to determine how legal obligations can be met.

Attached is an invitation and draft agenda for the meeting. We could also arrange additional opportunities for you to see our work in the region if that would add to the likelihood of approval.

Please let us know your thoughts and if you need anything else.

Best,

Craig

--

Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
International Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
ph: 703-358-2162
www.fws.gov/international

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Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>

From: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>
Sent: Fri Sep 15 2017 06:20:15 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
"Sheehan, Gregory" (b) (6) @fws.gov, Gloria Bell
<gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman
CC: <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris
<charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Tanzania Consultative Forum

Thank you Craig. I believe that the Foundation will reach out to DOI to request that I attend this meeting. It looks like it would be a huge assistance for me to continue to learn of these issues. Will let you know if I hear anything.

Thanks
Greg

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Sep 14, 2017, at 11:57 AM, Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov> wrote:

Greg,

As you may recall, I recently raised with you the possibility of your attending the African Wildlife Consultative Forum, co-hosted by the Government of Tanzania and Safari Club International Foundation, and scheduled for November 13-17. I know it may be a heavy lift in terms of approval, but we think it would be a very worthwhile meeting for you to attend. We typically attend to discuss ESA and CITES issues and to work with participating governments and other stakeholders to determine how legal obligations can be met.

Attached is an invitation and draft agenda for the meeting. We could also arrange additional opportunities for you to see our work in the region if that would add to the likelihood of approval.

Please let us know your thoughts and if you need anything else.

Best,

Craig

--

Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
International Affairs
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<Invitation Letter_USFWS_Sheehan.pdf>

<AWCF 2017_Draft Agenda_5September2017 (1).pdf>

September 7, 2017

Mr. Greg Sheehan
Acting Director
United States Fish & Wildlife Service



Invitation to the 15th African Wildlife Consultative Forum
Mt. Meru Hotel, Arusha, Tanzania 13-17 November 2017

The Government of Tanzania and Safari Club International Foundation (SCI Foundation) are pleased to invite you to the 15th African Wildlife Consultative Forum (AWCF) being held at the Mt. Meru Hotel in Arusha, Tanzania from 13-17 November 2017.

We would be honored to have you participate as Acting Director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Your attendance will greatly contribute to the success of this meeting and encourage high-ranking government officials from Africa to attend. The AWCF meeting is an opportunity to discuss African wildlife management issues with the local experts and stakeholders.

Please see the attached draft agenda for your use in requesting travel approval. The meeting will begin with private meetings between the Professional Hunting Associations and government delegates, followed by sessions focusing on African lion and leopard research and management, international trade, sustainable use policy, and other topics such as anti-poaching and human-wildlife conflict.

If you are able to attend, please be prepared to discuss the topics included in the attached draft agenda. A more complete agenda with a list of presentations will be circulated closer to the meeting date.

SCI Foundation is not able to sponsor the accommodation of meals and conference expenses for representatives of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Travel arrangements to and from Arusha, Tanzania must be made independently.

Please complete the attached registration form and RSVP to Joseph Goergen, SCI Foundation Conservation & Research Program Coordinator, at jgoergen@safariclub.org by September 28, 2017.

We look forward to your participation in discussing the future of Africa's wildlife.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren A. Sackman III".

Warren Sackman III
President, Safari Club International Foundation

CC. Tim van Norman

*This is a draft document subject to change

Sunday 12 November

- 1500 Registration
Welcome Reception
- 1900 Dinner at Hotel

Monday 13 November

- 0900 Government Meetings
Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa
Coordinator
 - National and Multilateral Issues
 - Finalize AWCF Agenda
- 0900 PH Association Business Meeting
Moderator: OPHASA Chair, SCI Guides & Outfitters Liaison
- 1230 Lunch
- 1330 Meetings Continue
- 1600 Private Meetings TBD
- 1900 Dinner meetings between Government and PH Associations

Tuesday 14 November

- 0900 **Session 1: Official Opening**
 - Tanzania Official: Ministry of Natural Resources
 - Tanzania Professional Hunting Associations
 - SCI Foundation President
 - SCI Foundation Conservation Chairman

Review of 2015 Action Items
Approval of Minutes from the 15th AWCF in South Africa
- 1000 **Session 2: African Lion Symposium**
Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa
Coordinator
Presentation:



Tanzania Lion Project

Mississippi State University, Carnivore Ecology Laboratory

Tanzania Lion Project

Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute

1230 Lunch

1330 Session 2: African Lion Symposium Continued

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:

Zambia Lion Project

University of California Los Angeles, Center for Tropical Research

1530 Break

1600 Session 2: African Lion Symposium Continued

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:

Discussion on Implementation of Research Results

1700 Close Day

1900 Dinner

Wednesday 15 November

0800 Session 3: African Leopard Symposium

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:

Zimbabwe Parks

1015 Break

1030 Session 3: African Leopard Symposium Continued

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:

1230 Lunch



1330 Session 4: International Trade and CITES

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:

U.S. Endangered Species Act and Importation Law

United Nations Environment Program

CITES MIKE Program

1515 Break

1530 Session 4: International Trade and CITES Continued

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:

Zimbabwe Lion Quotas

Mozambique Hippo Quotas

1700 Close Day

1900 Dinner

Thursday 16 November

0900 Session 5: Country Reports

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:

Tanzania

Botswana

Burkina Faso

Cameroon

Congo

Ethiopia

Malawi

1015 Break

1030 Session 5: Country Reports Continued

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:



**Mozambique
Namibia
South Africa
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe**

1230 Lunch

1330 Session 6: Anti-Poaching & Human-Wildlife Conflict

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:

Namibia Human-Wildlife Conflict Policy

Namibia Ministry of Environment & Tourism

**Mitigating Human-Wildlife Conflict and Increasing Community Benefits:
A Zimbabwe CAMPFIRE Case Study**

CAMPFIRE

IUCN Sustainable Use & Livelihoods Specialist Group

IUCN SULi Chair

Tanzania Selous Game Reserve Anti-Poaching Project

College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka

Namibia Anti-Poaching Project

Namibian Association of Conservancy Support Organizations

1515 Break

1530 Session 7: Discussion and Closing

1700 Close Day

1900 Dinner

Friday 17 November

0900 Field Trip: local community or hunting concession for discussion on management issues, wildlife challenges, quotas, anti-poaching, or other topics.

Travel



Conversation Contents

Fwd: FWS Bullets for S/AS meeting

"Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>

From: "Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 18 2017 07:36:11 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Greg Sheehan (b) (6) [REDACTED]@fws.gov, Jim Kurth
<jim_kurth@fws.gov>, Stephen Guertin
To: <stephen_guertin@fws.gov>, Casey Hammond
<casey_hammond@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: FWS Bullets for S/AS meeting

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Morris, Charisa <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Date: Tue, Jul 18, 2017 at 9:32 AM
Subject: FWS Bullets for S/AS meeting
To: "Foster, Maureen" <maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov>

Good morning! Please let me know if you need anything else!

- Greg Sheehan, acting director of the USFWS, will testify before the full House Committee on Natural Resources tomorrow at 10am on 5 bills to amend the ESA. This is the first presentation by the USFWS under the Trump Administration before Congress on the on ESA. Greg will lay out a new approach that focuses on relationships and partnerships with states and others. The hearing is expected to be well attended by members of the majority and minority.
- The USFWS is holding a Sportsmen Access Summit to explore hunting and fishing access issues with a range of key hunting and angling stakeholders and federal agencies, August 2017
 - As part of implementing the Secretary's call to advance conservation stewardship and outdoor recreation, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is organizing a Sportsmen Access Summit to bring together key sportsmen stakeholders and federal agencies to discuss issues and best practices for hunting and fishing access. The invitation-only summit will explore the following topics:
 - access on lands or through programs of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, other federal properties, and private lands
 - national programs with opportunities for revision or expansion
 - reducing regulation and evaluating habitat strategies.
 - We're excited to have Secretary Zinke kick-off the summit, which we are planning to pull together in early August, contingent on the Secretary's availability.
- Greg has been meeting with multiple industry partners over the past several weeks, including:
 - Ducks Unlimited Reception
 - The Nature Conservancy

- Amos Eno, Resources First Foundation
- Delta Waterfowl
- Greg Schildwachter
- Watershed Results, 6/29 & 7/13
- NFWF
- AFWA
- Kent Burton
- Partner
- National Environmental Strategies
- WAFWA
- Parker Moore Principal beveridge & Diamond, p.c.
- Kansas Farm Bureau
- Congressional Sportmen's Foundation
- Safari Club
- Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
- Nat'l Endangered Species act Reform Coalition
- National Alliance of Forest Owners

--

Charisa.Morris@fws.gov | Chief of Staff, Office of the Director | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | 1849 C Street NW, Room 3348 | Washington, DC 20240 | (202) 208-3843 | For urgent matters, please dial cell: 301-875-8937

--

Charisa.Morris@fws.gov | Chief of Staff, Office of the Director | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | 1849 C Street NW, Room 3348 | Washington, DC 20240 | (202) 208-3843 | For urgent matters, please dial cell: 301-875-8937

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Trophy Hunting

Attachments:

/6. Fwd: Trophy Hunting/1.1 image001.jpg

/6. Fwd: Trophy Hunting/1.2 trophy hunting FACA comments (11.24.17) FINAL.pdf

Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>

From: Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Dec 07 2017 10:24:21 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov>
CC: barbara_wainman@fws.gov
Subject: Fwd: Trophy Hunting
Attachments: image001.jpg trophy hunting FACA comments (11.24.17)
FINAL.pdf

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Jones, Lisa" <lisa_m_jones@fws.gov>
Date: December 7, 2017 at 12:09:49 PM EST
To: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, Matthew Huggler <matthew_huggler@fws.gov>, Martin Kodis <martin_kodis@fws.gov>, Angela Gustavson <angela_gustavson@fws.gov>, Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>, Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov>, Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>, Tim Vannorman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, Edward Grace <edward_grace@fws.gov>, James Gale <james_gale@fws.gov>, "Kessler, Danielle" <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>, Amy Jonach <amy_jonach@fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Trophy Hunting

fyi....

Lisa Hummon-Jones
Congressional and Legislative Affairs Specialist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
703-358-2536 (o)
202-365-7255 (c)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Keisha Sedlacek** <ksedlacek@hslf.org>
Date: Thu, Dec 7, 2017 at 11:54 AM
Subject: Trophy Hunting
To: "lisa_m_jones@fws.gov" <lisa_m_jones@fws.gov>

Hi Lisa,

I just wanted to flag a few things for you. HSUS did a poll on trophy hunting and which revealed that voters by a margin of more than a margin of five to one, oppose allowing imports of elephant and lion trophies into the U.S. The poll was broken down by party line showing that the majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Non-partisan voters oppose trophy imports. The poll can be found [here](#) as well as a recent [blog](#) by Wayne Pacelle.

Additionally, Representative Buchanan put out a [press statement on lion trophies](#).

Lastly, Representative Grijalva released an [updated to his Trophy Hunting Report](#) that I just wanted to make sure saw. (See below). The report outlines while it is unnecessary to create the International Wildlife Council. We submitted comments (attached) objecting to the Council and will be submitting comments tomorrow putting forward a name for consideration to sit on the Council.

Best,

Keisha

December 7, 2017

Media Contact: Adam Sarvana

(202) 225-6065 or (202) 578-6626

**Rep. Grijalva Releases Updated Trophy
Hunting Report as Trump-Zinke Moves
Threaten Future of Multiple Endangered
Species**

Washington, D.C. – Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Raul M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) today released [an updated version](#) of a report on trophy hunting and endangered species protection that his staff initially released in 2016 in response to the tragic killing of Zimbabwe’s famed Cecil the Lion. The release comes in the wake of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s recent announcements that he plans to create a federal advisory committee to promote the hunting of imperiled wildlife and to allow the importation of elephant and lion trophies from several African countries.

The report, titled *Missing the Mark: African Trophy Hunting Fails to Show Consistent Conservation Benefits*, takes a hard look at the rationale for allowing Americans to import hunting trophies of threatened and endangered species. It finds that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service often grants import permits for trophies that do not meet the legal requirement of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species in the wild and makes a number of recommendations for improving the program.

The updated report is available at <http://bit.ly/2AkJju4>.

Among other findings, the report showed that some countries where these species are hunted have serious corruption problems that make it nearly impossible to verify information provided on the supposed conservation impacts of trophy hunts. This is a major concern in Zimbabwe, which consistently ranked as one of the most corrupt and unstable countries in the world even before the coup that deposed Robert Mugabe last month. While the recent decision to allow elephant trophies from Zimbabwe and neighboring Zambia has been put on hold, significant work needs to be done before imports can be allowed.

The report also sheds some light on the extremely wealthy demographic that travels from the United States to Africa to kill threatened and endangered animals for sport. For example, the estimated cost to hunt, kill, and import a white rhinoceros trophy from South Africa is at least twice the annual income of the average American family.

Grijalva issued the following statement:

“President Trump wants a taxpayer-funded public relations department for his rich, elitist sons for the same reason he hates the inheritance tax: he thinks the government works for his family. Our report lays out clear recommendations to clean up the trophy hunting industry and make sure our environmental laws don’t just help a privileged few. Secretary Zinke thinks the big game hunter fantasy lifestyle is the basis for real policy, and endangered species are going to suffer for it.”

Grijalva is the author of H.R. 502, a bill to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund that has 211 bipartisan cosponsors, but has not been granted a hearing by Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop. Last week, Grijalva and former Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus Chairman Mike Thompson (D-Calif.) introduced H.R. 4489, the Authorizing Critical Conservation for Sportsmen and Sportswomen (ACCESS) Act. ACCESS includes a host of titles with bipartisan support that are priorities for the sporting community and leaves out the anti-conservation and anti-gun safety provisions that sank Republicans' heavily partisan SHARE Act earlier this year.

#

Keisha Sedlacek

Senior Regulatory Specialist, Federal Affairs

Humane Society Legislative Fund

1255 23rd Street, NW, Suite 455

Washington, DC 20037

T: 202-955-3661

Conversation Contents

Wildlife Trafficking Communications Strategy V2.docx

Attachments:

/9. Wildlife Trafficking Communications Strategy V2.docx/1.1 Wildlife Trafficking Communications Strategy V2.docx

Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

From: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Sent: Sun Dec 03 2017 17:36:34 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: (b) (6) @fws.gov
Subject: Wildlife Trafficking Communications Strategy V2.docx
Attachments: Wildlife Trafficking Communications Strategy V2.docx

This has had input from IA and LE so we can discuss tomorrow Sent from my iPhone

"Sheehan, Greg" (b) (6) @fws.gov

From: "Sheehan, Greg" (b) (6) @fws.gov
Sent: Sun Dec 03 2017 21:03:27 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Wildlife Trafficking Communications Strategy V2.docx

Lets talk in morning but we need to divide this into short, and longer term messaging. Ie what do we present this week as we move forward with some level of permitting, yet to be finalized. Versus how are we trying to reshape public opinions and attitudes about wildlife conservation, Also I suspect the International council charter will not change so we will need to work within those parameters.

A good start though and thank you and your team for working on this over the weekend.

Greg

On Sun, Dec 3, 2017 at 7:36 PM, Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov> wrote:
| This has had input from IA and LE so we can discuss tomorrow

--

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW, Room 3358
Washington, DC 20240

Office 202-208-4545
Cell 202-676-7675

Conversation Contents

Conservation and Hunting Ban Issues - Africa (Zimbabwe)

Pete Fick <petefick@gatorzw.com>

From: Pete Fick <petefick@gatorzw.com>
Sent: Thu Nov 23 2017 21:57:40 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <(b) (6) @fws.gov>, <exsec@ios.doi.gov>
CC: "Charles Davy" (b) (6), "Mazunga Safaris" <mazunga@mazsaf.com>
Subject: Conservation and Hunting Ban Issues - Africa (Zimbabwe)

Dear Secretary Zinke and Deputy Director Sheehan

For us in Africa we remain extremely concerned about foreign politics negatively affecting our conservation efforts of our wild life, so hopefully we can open up direct dialogue with both of you to furnish all facts pertaining to hunting and conservation in Zimbabwe. The Buby Valley Conservancy will also be forwarding you relevant data on that area, as I will be doing too. Please let us know whatever you need from our end.

Below is one of the various emails I sent to USFWS during mid 2016 (copied to various embassies) – they never acknowledged receipt of such or opened up any form of dialogue. Most distressing, they would not accept the thorough elephant survey completed by experts within Zimbabwe, which categorically showed a population of over 82 000 elephant, even though not all areas were surveyed. I myself spent 7 years within the Zimbabwe Department of National Parks during the early to mid 1980`s – back then highly experienced biologists/scientists worked out, after thorough research, that the entire country could handle a maximum of 35 000 elephant. There is less land available today than 30+ years ago for elephant. How much more factual and scientific evidence do we need to ?

As many of the key role players in conservation and hunting from Africa will be travelling to the United States in January, would it not be possible to arrange a meeting at your convenience with you between the Dallas and SCI conventions ? I expect that this could clear up many issues that you may have. I could get various role players from around Africa on board with this so please let me know.

Kind regards
Pete Fick

From: Pete Fick [mailto:petefick@gatorzw.com]
Sent: Wednesday, 15 June 2016 8:32 AM
To: Tim Van Norman (tim_vannorman@fws.gov)
Cc: mazunga@mazsaf.com; John.Culley@fco.gov.uk; 'PlemonsKL@state.gov'; 'CorkeyCT@state.gov'; 'Amanda.Mcgregor@international.gc.ca'; 'Severin.MELLAC@eeas.europa.eu'; 'Joel.Mcgregor@dfat.gov.au'; 'Michele.SHCIVO@eeas.europa.eu'; 'Tom.Oppenheim@fco.gov.uk'; 'PlemonsKL@state.gov'; 'Patrice.Laguerre@international.gc.ca'; 'MeyersRL@state.gov'
Subject: Lion Trophy Ban Buby Valley Conservancy (BVC.) USFWLS BAN.

Director USFWLS

Dear Tim

Please can you advise how far USFWS has got regarding the uplifting of the lion trophy ban ? We want to inform our US clients accordingly that are scheduled for hunts. Further the BVC needs to take a very serious look at our over populated lion numbers (last year`s count by Dr. Byron Du Preez was

approximately 530 lion and no doubt many more have been born since then.)

Sadly, since we posted on social media that we are looking for suitable homes for 200 excess lions the only suitable areas that could take lions are a couple of million acres mostly in Mozambique. However, these are hunting areas (that operators have done a great job in protecting and bringing the wild life back. One of these areas in the Zambezi Delta is flourishing with game but there no longer exists a single lion in the area). All have stated they would love to have lions but due to the ban are no longer interested, for obvious reasons. How ironic too that not one of the anti-hunting organizations such as Born Free, Lion Aid etc. have not contacted us to see if they could help – this really makes one wonder.

I am personally very concerned for the future of our lion population on the BVC – the area cannot afford to keep so many lions when there is zero monetary value on them. It is very obvious to us that our lions have killed 50% + of our giraffes (we used to have one of the largest giraffe populations in the country) and huge numbers of other species have been affected too, such as eland, sable, buffalo, cheetah, nyala etc.) It has and always will be BVC policy to manage the area to the best of our ability for all our wild life species (not just lions or rhinos).

Regrettably the loss of income from lion and elephant hunts is drastically affecting our rhino poaching operations (we have never lost an elephant to poaching and instead yearly we have more elephant breaking in rather than leaving our sanctuary, this year an extra 39 elephant have come in so far.) We have lost 5 rhino this year + another two were wounded. Last year we lost 32 rhino even though the BVC itself spent \$500K+ trying to save them . How sad too that no organizations/countries are coming forward offering us funds lost to combat the critical rhino poaching issue, especially the very countries that have affectively taken this income away from us.

As you are aware, the Zimbabwe Department of National Parks have implemented a very strict lion hunting policy that will effectively control any abuse of such species. A board consisting of various role players and scientists will ensure this is in fact controlled properly for the wellbeing of all our wild lions. You are further aware that our ZimParks main income is derived from sustainable and ethical hunting (certainly not ecotourism) so their own efforts to conserve the Parks areas are vastly hampered due to huge loss of income caused by these bans – not to mention the poor rural folks that suffer the most.

How interesting that every reporter/journalist that was anti-hunting prior to visiting the BVC have all seen the light and changed their stance totally once having seen the area first hand. I sincerely hope that the powers that may be in the US and other countries put their personal emotional and political agendas to the side and do the right thing for the actual wild life itself in our part of the world. It's a very sad fact that many of the people/governments that keep preaching their own ideals to save Africa's vast wild life species have actually become the largest threat to our wild life. Sadly many of the true conservationists on the ground are being penalized for having accomplished amazing conservation successes.

Tim, I would really appreciate it if you could advise us accordingly, regardless of USFWLS final decisions.

Respectfully
Pete Fick
BVC
Zimbabwe

"There's no substitute for honesty, ethics and fair chase."

c/o Mazunga Safaris
8 Norfolk Road
Hillside
Bulawayo
Zimbabwe

Office Telephone Number: +263-9-241425
Mobile Number: +263-772 278 779

Conversation Contents

Elephant Trophy Imports from Zimbabwe.

Attachments:

/16. Elephant Trophy Imports from Zimbabwe./1.1 DAPU 2017pdf.pdf

CMS <admin1@cmsafaris.com>

From: CMS <admin1@cmsafaris.com>
Sent: Tue Nov 21 2017 23:40:51 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "exsec@ios.doi.gov" <exsec@ios.doi.gov>
CC: (b) (6) @fws.gov" (b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Elephant Trophy Imports from Zimbabwe.
Attachments: DAPU 2017pdf.pdf

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Elephant trophies

"Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

From: "Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 14:23:56 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Elephant trophies

In case you are monitoring email we have reached out to DOI Communications and Heather and Gavin spoke at some length so she could understand these two issues which are connected really only by their Z. Hope you are having fun in Tanzania be safe.

Barbara W. Wainman
Assistant Director, External Affairs
US Fish and Wildlife Service
(202) 208-5256 (office)
(571) 471-4159 (cell)

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From: **Shire, Gavin** <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
Date: Mon, Nov 13, 2017 at 3:23 PM
Subject: Elephant trophies
To: Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov>, Matthew Huggler <matthew_huggler@fws.gov>

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Let me know if you have additional questions,

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703-346-9123 (c)
gavin_shire@fws.gov

Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov>

From: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 14:42:36 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

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Greg Sheehan
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US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

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703-346-9123 (c)
gavin_shire@fws.gov

"Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

From: "Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 14:56:30 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

With respect to Zimbabwe, International has not signed the Federal Register notice as it was to be signed by Tim and he is with you, but Zambia permits will be issued this week. DOI has decided no press release . I am checking with international now to see if it can be signed and I will check with DOI Communications to make sure they are ok with an announcement. Be right back to you.

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Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

From:

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Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 15:02:19 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

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gavin_shire@fws.gov

Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

From: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 15:20:00 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan **(b) (6)** @fws.gov
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

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Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov>

From: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Nov 14 2017 00:46:46 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

No

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Nov 14, 2017, at 1:02 AM, Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov> wrote:

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Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov

From: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Nov 14 2017 06:44:29 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

Tim verbally mentioned it in his presentation. He seems to believe everything is signed and will

be in reading room by Thursday.

This has been expected to be published for quite some time so I don't think it was really a surprise to anyone here.

Let me know if you here anything.

Thanks

Greg

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Zambia: This is a new finding and does not require a FR notice. This will be a soft rollout in the manner we did lion trophy imports from both these countries a few weeks ago (i.e., no news release). We will use the same if-asked statement adapted for elephants: "Legal, well-regulated sport hunting as part of a sound management program can benefit the conservation of certain species by providing incentives to local communities to conserve the species and by putting much-needed revenue back into conservation. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the hunting and management programs for African elephants in Zambia will enhance the survival of the species in the wild. This enhancement finding is required prior to allowing import of these trophies under our Endangered Species Act regulations. The finding applies to elephants hunted in Zambia during calendar years 2016, 2017 and 2018 and that meet all other applicable permitting requirements."

Let me know if you have additional questions,

G

Gavin Shire
Chief of Public Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
MS: EA
[5275 Leesburg Pike](#)
[Falls Church, VA 22041](#)-3803
703-358-2649 (o)
703-346-9123 (c)
gavin_shire@fws.gov

"Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

From: "Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Nov 14 2017 06:52:17 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan **(b) (6)** [@fws.gov](mailto:greg_sheehan@fws.gov)>
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

will do

Barbara W. Wainman
Assistant Director, External Affairs
US Fish and Wildlife Service
(202) 208-5256 (office)
(571) 471-4159 (cell)

On Tue, Nov 14, 2017 at 8:44 AM, Greg Sheehan **(b) (6)** [@fws.gov](mailto:greg_sheehan@fws.gov)> wrote:
Tim verbally mentioned it in his presentation. He seems to believe everything is signed and will be in reading room by Thursday.
This has been expected to be published for quite some time so I don't think it was really a surprise to anyone here.

Let me know if you here anything.

Thanks
Greg

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Nov 14, 2017, at 1:20 AM, Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov> wrote:

They really don't want press. They don't want an announcement but you and Tim

could talk about it in small groups. So I don't know how big this group is and if there are press there I don't think you want it in a PowerPoint slide. I know this is not very helpful. If you need to talk call me I am waiting to hear back from international if they can even get it signed to go to federal register.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 13, 2017, at 4:42 PM, Greg Sheehan (b) (6) [REDACTED]@fws.gov> wrote:

So we are good on these with DOI? We are here meeting with these governments now and planning to make these announcements tomorrow during a PowerPoint that Tim VanNornan is presenting. We want to use these if case studies of working together. These are not going to be a big surprise out in the hunting community as they believed we were going to announce Zimbabwe Elephants back in late August. Let's try not to let this turn into a big event upstairs as it is not much different than the lions determination. I believe Gavin's write up was good. Of course we may still get media inquires but are prepared to respond it sounds like.

Greg

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Nov 14, 2017, at 12:24 AM, Wainman, Barbara <barbara_wainman@fws.gov> wrote:

In case you are monitoring email we have reached out to DOI Communications and Heather and Gavin spoke at some length so she could understand these two issues which are connected really only by their Z. Hope you are having fun in Tanzania be safe.

Barbara W. Wainman
Assistant Director, External Affairs
US Fish and Wildlife Service
(202) 208-5256 (office)
(571) 471-4159 (cell)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Shire, Gavin** <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
Date: Mon, Nov 13, 2017 at 3:23 PM
Subject: Elephant trophies
To: Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift

<heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov>, Matthew Huggler <matthew_huggler@fws.gov>

I wanted you to be aware that in addition to the announcement on importing elephant trophies from Zimbabwe that we expect to make this week, we will also make a finding and start issuing import permits for elephant trophies from Zambia. There are some differences to be aware of (complicated by the fact that both countries begin with Z!).

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Let me know if you have additional questions,

G

Gavin Shire
Chief of Public Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
MS: EA
[5275 Leesburg Pike](#)
[Falls Church, VA 22041](#)-3803
703-358-2649 (o)
703-346-9123 (c)
gavin_shire@fws.gov

"Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

From: "Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

Sent: Thu Nov 16 2017 08:52:08 GMT-0700 (MST)
Jim Kurth <jim_kurth@fws.gov>, Steve Guertin
<stephen_quertin@fws.gov>, Greg Sheehan
(b) (6) @fws.gov
Subject: Fwd: Elephant trophies

Just for awareness and our call center is also fielding a ton of calls. We are keeping DOI communications in the loop.

Barbara W. Wainman
Assistant Director, External Affairs
US Fish and Wildlife Service
(202) 208-5256 (office)
(571) 471-4159 (cell)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gavin Shire** <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
Date: Thu, Nov 16, 2017 at 10:37 AM
Subject: Elephant trophies
To: Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov>, Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

FYI, we are getting considerable incoming from national and international media since SCI posted on their website: CNN, NBC, BBC, WaPo, About a call every 10 minuets. We are providing the statement and clearing up any misunderstandings regarding the ivory ban etc on background.

G

Sent from my iPhone

Conversation Contents

FW: IDEAS ON A NEW BLOCK ALLOCATION CONCEPT (edit rlg)[2][1].pdf

Attachments:

/22. FW: IDEAS ON A NEW BLOCK ALLOCATION CONCEPT (edit rlg)[2][1].pdf/1.1
IDEAS ON A NEW BLOCK ALLOCATION CONCEPT (edit rlg)[2][1].pdf

Chris Hudson (b) (6) >

From: Chris Hudson (b) (6)
Sent: Thu Nov 09 2017 14:49:47 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Gregory Sheehan" (b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: FW: IDEAS ON A NEW BLOCK ALLOCATION CONCEPT (edit rlg)[2][1].pdf
Attachments: IDEAS ON A NEW BLOCK ALLOCATION CONCEPT (edit rlg)[2][1].pdf

Dear Greg,

I hope you are well. Last week we spoke about the news from Tanzania and Minister of Tourism's (Hamisi Kigwangalla) decision to cancel all hunting leases and auction all hunting blocks within 60 days.

I promised to deliver to you the document that formed the basis for TAWA's new direction regarding the issuance of leases for hunting blocks. It is attached. It was circulated in 2016 and made its way to President Magufuli's desk. Many were surprised this past January when Alexander Songorwa, TAWA Director of Wildlife, renewed all hunting blocks for five year terms, because the general belief was that TAWA was going to implement the auction program. Surprise quickly turned to suspicion.

You may have seen this week that Songorwa was fired. (This is not the first time. [See, https://africageographic.com/blog/tanzania-sacks-wildlife-director-over-incompetence/](https://africageographic.com/blog/tanzania-sacks-wildlife-director-over-incompetence/) and <http://ippmedia.com/en/news/director-wildlife-relieved-duties-second-time>) Minister Kigwangalla has the full support of the President and the ire of TAHOA, TAWIRI and TPHA and the historically powerful voices within and without those organizations. I suspect they will all be lobbying hard next week, along with SCI, to preserve the status quo and minimize any disruption to the hunting industry. I posited the idea last week that wildlife, tourist hunting, and the USFWS might be best served by abstaining from that chorus.

The recent announcements are in response to the chronic corruption in the hunting block allocation process that has plagued Tanzania for decades. If you're looking for some reading material to put you to sleep on your flight next week, consider reading the book *Tourist Hunting In Tanzania*, IUCN Species Survival Commission, 1996. Officially there are 58 "sucky" blocks that are not presently leased. There are another twenty or thirty blocks that are leased but are not being hunted. I believe strongly there is opportunity there for emplacement of a transparent wildlife conservation structure that could span decades. But that is not likely to happen if the process is rushed. The TAWA directors are creating the rules for the auction as I write this. I believe the auction process would benefit from a delay in order to better publicize the

opportunity and to insure inclusion of appropriate incentives and milestones for any winning bidders. If you would like to discuss these matters or arrange a meeting with anyone in particular in TAWA, please call.

Thank you for your service to wildlife and hunting.

Very truly yours,
/s/
Chris Hudson

Conversation Contents

Tanzania Consultative Forum

Attachments:

/39. Tanzania Consultative Forum/1.1 Invitation Letter_USFWS_Sheehan.pdf
/39. Tanzania Consultative Forum/1.2 AWCF 2017_Draft Agenda_5September2017 (1).pdf

"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Sep 14 2017 09:57:28 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, "Sheehan, Gregory" <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
CC: Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Subject: Tanzania Consultative Forum
Attachments: Invitation Letter_USFWS_Sheehan.pdf AWCF 2017_Draft Agenda_5September2017 (1).pdf

Greg,

As you may recall, I recently raised with you the possibility of your attending the African Wildlife Consultative Forum, co-hosted by the Government of Tanzania and Safari Club International Foundation, and scheduled for November 13-17. I know it may be a heavy lift in terms of approval, but we think it would be a very worthwhile meeting for you to attend. We typically attend to discuss ESA and CITES issues and to work with participating governments and other stakeholders to determine how legal obligations can be met.

Attached is an invitation and draft agenda for the meeting. We could also arrange additional opportunities for you to see our work in the region if that would add to the likelihood of approval.

Please let us know your thoughts and if you need anything else.

Best,

Craig

--

Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
International Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
ph: 703-358-2162
www.fws.gov/international

[Sign up](#) for our e-newsletter to learn how we're working around the globe to protect species and their habitats!



Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>

From: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>
Sent: Fri Sep 15 2017 06:20:15 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
"Sheehan, Gregory" <(b) (6)@fws.gov>, Gloria Bell
<gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman
CC: <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris
<charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Tanzania Consultative Forum

Thank you Craig. I believe that the Foundation will reach out to DOI to request that I attend this meeting. It looks like it would be a huge assistance for me to continue to learn of these issues. Will let you know if I hear anything.

Thanks
Greg

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Sep 14, 2017, at 11:57 AM, Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov> wrote:

Greg,

As you may recall, I recently raised with you the possibility of your attending the African Wildlife Consultative Forum, co-hosted by the Government of Tanzania and Safari Club International Foundation, and scheduled for November 13-17. I know it may be a heavy lift in terms of approval, but we think it would be a very worthwhile meeting for you to attend. We typically attend to discuss ESA and CITES issues and to work with participating governments and other stakeholders to determine how legal obligations can be met.

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<Invitation Letter_USFWS_Sheehan.pdf>

<AWCF 2017_Draft Agenda_5September2017 (1).pdf>

Conversation Contents

FW: AFWA Letter of Support for HR 3668

Attachments:

/40. FW: AFWA Letter of Support for HR 3668/1.1 AFWALetter supporting HR 3668.pdf
/40. FW: AFWA Letter of Support for HR 3668/1.2 H.R. 3668.pdf
/40. FW: AFWA Letter of Support for HR 3668/2.1 AFWALetter supporting HR 3668.pdf
/40. FW: AFWA Letter of Support for HR 3668/2.2 H.R. 3668.pdf

Gary Taylor (b) (6)

From: Gary Taylor (b) (6)
Sent: Fri Sep 08 2017 10:42:39 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <mikefowlkes@utah.gov>
CC: "'Ron Regan'" <RRegan@fishwildlife.org>, "'Jen Mock Schaeffer'" <JenMock@fishwildlife.org>
Subject: FW: AFWA Letter of Support for HR 3668
Attachments: AFWALetter supporting HR 3668.pdf H.R. 3668.pdf

Hey Mike, I know that you are really busy, but it would be great if you could send the AFWA letter with a note of appreciation to Chairman Bishop, and emphasize how important Title XIX is to UT and all state f/w agencies. Please copy HNR Committee majority staff below who made this possible. Attached is HR 3668 so that you can read the Title XIX language. The bill hearing is Tuesday.

Much thanks and I look forward to seeing you in Snowbird! Best, gary

From: Gary Taylor (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2017 10:31 AM
To: 'Layden, Will'
Cc: 'Miller, Brandon'; 'Jen Mock Schaeffer'
Subject: AFWA Letter of Support for HR 3668

Hey Will, attached is the AFWA letter of strong support, with particular thanks for including Title XIX.

I have an AWCP letter of support in circulation for signatures; 22 national wildlife and hunting conservation organizations have signed thus far. The deadline for signatures is 12 noon Monday, so I will send you the letter shortly thereafter. I expect considerably more organizations to sign.

Much thanks for all that you do, and you can reach me at (b) (6). Best, gary

Gary Taylor (b) (6)

From: Gary Taylor (b) (6)
Sent: Fri Sep 08 2017 10:46:24 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <mikefowlkes@utah.gov>

CC: "Ron Regan" <RRegan@fishwildlife.org>, "Jen Mock Schaeffer" <JenMock@fishwildlife.org>
Subject: FW: AFWA Letter of Support for HR 3668
Attachments: AFWALetter supporting HR 3668.pdf H.R. 3668.pdf

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To: 'Layden, Will'
Cc: 'Miller, Brandon'; 'Jen Mock Schaeffer'
Subject: AFWA Letter of Support for HR 3668

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Conversation Contents

Fwd: Trophy Hunting

Attachments:

/1. Fwd: Trophy Hunting/1.1 image001.jpg

/1. Fwd: Trophy Hunting/1.2 trophy hunting FACA comments (11.24.17) FINAL.pdf

Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>

From: Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Dec 07 2017 10:24:21 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
CC: barbara_wainman@fws.gov
Subject: Fwd: Trophy Hunting
Attachments: image001.jpg trophy hunting FACA comments (11.24.17)
FINAL.pdf

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Jones, Lisa" <lisa_m_jones@fws.gov>
Date: December 7, 2017 at 12:09:49 PM EST
To: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, Matthew Huggler <matthew_huggler@fws.gov>, Martin Kodis <martin_kodis@fws.gov>, Angela Gustavson <angela_gustavson@fws.gov>, Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>, Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov>, Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>, Tim Vannorman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, Edward Grace <edward_grace@fws.gov>, James Gale <james_gale@fws.gov>, "Kessler, Danielle" <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>, Amy Jonach <amy_jonach@fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Trophy Hunting

fyi....

Lisa Hummon-Jones
Congressional and Legislative Affairs Specialist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
703-358-2536 (o)
202-365-7255 (c)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Keisha Sedlacek** <ksedlacek@hslf.org>
Date: Thu, Dec 7, 2017 at 11:54 AM
Subject: Trophy Hunting
To: "lisa_m_jones@fws.gov" <lisa_m_jones@fws.gov>

Hi Lisa,

I just wanted to flag a few things for you. HSUS did a poll on trophy hunting and which revealed that voters by a margin of more than a margin of five to one, oppose allowing imports of elephant and lion trophies into the U.S. The poll was broken down by party line showing that the majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Non-partisan voters oppose trophy imports. The poll can be found [here](#) as well as a recent [blog](#) by Wayne Pacelle.

Additionally, Representative Buchanan put out a [press statement on lion trophies](#).

Lastly, Representative Grijalva released an [updated to his Trophy Hunting Report](#) that I just wanted to make sure saw. (See below). The report outlines while it is unnecessary to create the International Wildlife Council. We submitted comments (attached) objecting to the Council and will be submitting comments tomorrow putting forward a name for consideration to sit on the Council.

Best,

Keisha

December 7, 2017

Media Contact: Adam Sarvana

(202) 225-6065 or (202) 578-6626

**Rep. Grijalva Releases Updated Trophy
Hunting Report as Trump-Zinke Moves
Threaten Future of Multiple Endangered
Species**

Washington, D.C. – Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Raul M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) today released [an updated version](#) of a report on trophy hunting and endangered species protection that his staff initially released in 2016 in response to the tragic killing of Zimbabwe’s famed Cecil the Lion. The release comes in the wake of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s recent announcements that he plans to create a federal advisory committee to promote the hunting of imperiled wildlife and to allow the importation of elephant and lion trophies from several African countries.

The report, titled *Missing the Mark: African Trophy Hunting Fails to Show Consistent Conservation Benefits*, takes a hard look at the rationale for allowing Americans to import hunting trophies of threatened and endangered species. It finds that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service often grants import permits for trophies that do not meet the legal requirement of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species in the wild and makes a number of recommendations for improving the program.

The updated report is available at <http://bit.ly/2AkJju4>.

Among other findings, the report showed that some countries where these species are hunted have serious corruption problems that make it nearly impossible to verify information provided on the supposed conservation impacts of trophy hunts. This is a major concern in Zimbabwe, which consistently ranked as one of the most corrupt and unstable countries in the world even before the coup that deposed Robert Mugabe last month. While the recent decision to allow elephant trophies from Zimbabwe and neighboring Zambia has been put on hold, significant work needs to be done before imports can be allowed.

The report also sheds some light on the extremely wealthy demographic that travels from the United States to Africa to kill threatened and endangered animals for sport. For example, the estimated cost to hunt, kill, and import a white rhinoceros trophy from South Africa is at least twice the annual income of the average American family.

Grijalva issued the following statement:

“President Trump wants a taxpayer-funded public relations department for his rich, elitist sons for the same reason he hates the inheritance tax: he thinks the government works for his family. Our report lays out clear recommendations to clean up the trophy hunting industry and make sure our environmental laws don’t just help a privileged few. Secretary Zinke thinks the big game hunter fantasy lifestyle is the basis for real policy, and endangered species are going to suffer for it.”

Grijalva is the author of H.R. 502, a bill to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund that has 211 bipartisan cosponsors, but has not been granted a hearing by Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop. Last week, Grijalva and former Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus Chairman Mike Thompson (D-Calif.) introduced H.R. 4489, the Authorizing Critical Conservation for Sportsmen and Sportswomen (ACCESS) Act. ACCESS includes a host of titles with bipartisan support that are priorities for the sporting community and leaves out the anti-conservation and anti-gun safety provisions that sank Republicans' heavily partisan SHARE Act earlier this year.

#

Keisha Sedlacek

Senior Regulatory Specialist, Federal Affairs

Humane Society Legislative Fund

1255 23rd Street, NW, Suite 455

Washington, DC 20037

T: 202-955-3661

Conversation Contents

Fwd: AFWA voting

Attachments:

/2. Fwd: AFWA voting/1.1 Final AFWA 2016-2018 Committees.pdf
/2. Fwd: AFWA voting/1.2 AFWA Committee Handbook_2015.pdf

Jerome Ford <jerome_ford@fws.gov>

From: Jerome Ford <jerome_ford@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Dec 05 2017 14:28:17 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov, Jim Kurth <jim_kurth@fws.gov>, Stephen Guertin <stephen_guertin@fws.gov>
CC: Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>, Michael Gale <michael_gale@fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: AFWA voting
Attachments: Final AFWA 2016-2018 Committees.pdf AFWA Committee Handbook_2015.pdf

FYI

Jerome E. Ford
Assistant Director
Migratory Birds Program

Begin forwarded message:

From: Judith Scarl <jscarl@fishwildlife.org>
To: Jerome Ford <jerome_ford@fws.gov>
Cc: "Johnson, Mike" <mike_j_johnson@fws.gov>, Ken Richkus <ken_richkus@fws.gov>, "Sarah Mott (Sarah_P_Mott@fws.gov)" <Sarah_P_Mott@fws.gov>, "Gordon, David" <david_gordon@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: AFWA voting

I'm attaching the AFWA Committee Handbook; the list of Committees, Subcommittees, and Working Groups starts on page 9. I'm also attaching the 2016-2018 Committee Roster, which lists each Committee (but not Subcommittee/Working Group) and our most recent roster.

Hope this helps!

Dr. Judith Scarl
Coordinator, North American Bird Conservation Initiative
<http://www.nabci-us.org/>
Bird Conservation Program Manager, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
1100 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20002

(202) 838-3475
www.fishwildlife.org

From: Jerome Ford [mailto:jerome_ford@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 4:06 PM
To: Judith Scarl <jscarl@fishwildlife.org>
Cc: Johnson, Mike <mike_j_johnson@fws.gov>; Ken Richkus <ken_richkus@fws.gov>; Sarah Mott (Sarah_P_Mott@fws.gov) <Sarah_P_Mott@fws.gov>; Gordon, David <david_gordon@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: AFWA voting

That clears up a few things for me.

Is there an organization chart of all the committees and sub-committees which you could be share?

Thanks.

Jerome E. Ford
Assistant Director
Migratory Birds Program

On Jan 25, 2017, at 3:59 PM, Judith Scarl <jscarl@fishwildlife.org> wrote:

Hi Jerome, Mike, Ken, Sarah, and Dave,
Thanks for an interesting and productive meeting today- I enjoyed discussing NABCI with all of you.

I wanted to make sure I had provided the correct information about AFWA Committee membership and voting, so I checked with several other staff members, and we went through AFWA's By-Laws and our Committee Handbook to find the answers. Let me also note that there is currently a Past President's Task Force working to clarify the language in our by-laws and Committee handbook, because the answers to some of these questions are not currently straightforward.

Membership in Working Groups and Subcommittees is technically defined by the parent Committee's Chair. Working Groups and Subcommittees must be Chaired by "a fish and wildlife agency member," which is generally interpreted to mean a state member.

AFWA has several different categories of membership, and AFWA Committees, including the Bird Conservation Committee, are open to different types of members, including federal agencies and NGOs. Each agency gets one vote on a Committee that it is on; Jerome Ford is listed as the only USFWS member of the Bird Conservation Committee. (So, Jerome, you can sit at the table!) However, the Committee Chair can call for a vote that is limited to agency members, and this is interpreted as state agency members- so there are circumstances under which only states can vote. It is fair to assume that USFWS has a vote in any Committee it is a member of, unless otherwise specified.

Are you more or less confused than you were before? Whew.
Jude

Dr. Judith Scarl
Coordinator, North American Bird Conservation Initiative
<http://www.nabci-us.org/>

Bird Conservation Program Manager, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
1100 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20002
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Conversation Contents

Tanzania Consultative Forum

Attachments:

/7. Tanzania Consultative Forum/1.1 Invitation Letter_USFWS_Sheehan.pdf
/7. Tanzania Consultative Forum/1.2 AWCF 2017_Draft Agenda_5September2017 (1).pdf

"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Sep 14 2017 09:57:28 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, "Sheehan, Gregory" <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
CC: Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Subject: Tanzania Consultative Forum
Attachments: Invitation Letter_USFWS_Sheehan.pdf AWCF 2017_Draft Agenda_5September2017 (1).pdf

Greg,

As you may recall, I recently raised with you the possibility of your attending the African Wildlife Consultative Forum, co-hosted by the Government of Tanzania and Safari Club International Foundation, and scheduled for November 13-17. I know it may be a heavy lift in terms of approval, but we think it would be a very worthwhile meeting for you to attend. We typically attend to discuss ESA and CITES issues and to work with participating governments and other stakeholders to determine how legal obligations can be met.

Attached is an invitation and draft agenda for the meeting. We could also arrange additional opportunities for you to see our work in the region if that would add to the likelihood of approval.

Please let us know your thoughts and if you need anything else.

Best,

Craig

--

Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
International Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
ph: 703-358-2162
www.fws.gov/international

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Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>

From: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>
Sent: Fri Sep 15 2017 06:20:15 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
"Sheehan, Gregory" (b) (6) @fws.gov, Gloria Bell
<gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman
CC: <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris
<charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Tanzania Consultative Forum

Thank you Craig. I believe that the Foundation will reach out to DOI to request that I attend this meeting. It looks like it would be a huge assistance for me to continue to learn of these issues. Will let you know if I hear anything.

Thanks
Greg

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Sep 14, 2017, at 11:57 AM, Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov> wrote:

Greg,

As you may recall, I recently raised with you the possibility of your attending the African Wildlife Consultative Forum, co-hosted by the Government of Tanzania and Safari Club International Foundation, and scheduled for November 13-17. I know it may be a heavy lift in terms of approval, but we think it would be a very worthwhile meeting for you to attend. We typically attend to discuss ESA and CITES issues and to work with participating governments and other stakeholders to determine how legal obligations can be met.

Attached is an invitation and draft agenda for the meeting. We could also arrange additional opportunities for you to see our work in the region if that would add to the likelihood of approval.

Please let us know your thoughts and if you need anything else.

Best,

Craig

--

Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
International Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
ph: 703-358-2162
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<Invitation Letter_USFWS_Sheehan.pdf>

<AWCF 2017_Draft Agenda_5September2017 (1).pdf>

Conversation Contents

FW: Botswana hunting ban study

Attachments:

/10. FW: Botswana hunting ban study/1.1 Mbaiwa (2017). Effects of the safari hunting tourism ban on rural livelihoods and wildlife conservation in Northern Botswana (1).pdf

"Seidman, Anna" <aseidman@safariclub.org>

From: "Seidman, Anna" <aseidman@safariclub.org>
Sent: Mon Sep 04 2017 12:49:33 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "(b) (6)" <(b) (6)@fws.gov> <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: FW: Botswana hunting ban study
Attachments: Mbaiwa (2017). Effects of the safari hunting tourism ban on rural livelihoods and wildlife conservation in Northern Botswana (1).pdf

Greg: Attached is a published article written by a researcher in Botswana that describes the harmful consequences of the shutdown of hunting in Botswana. Anna Anna M. Seidman Director of Litigation Director of Government Affairs Safari Club International 501 2nd Street NE Washington, D.C. 20002 202-543-8733
aseidman@safariclub.org<mailto:aseidman@safariclub.org> "Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'Press On' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race." Calvin Coolidge
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Greg Sheehan (b) (6)@fws.gov

From: Greg Sheehan (b) (6)@fws.gov
Sent: Mon Sep 04 2017 13:32:04 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Seidman, Anna" <aseidman@safariclub.org>
Subject: Re: Botswana hunting ban study

Thank you Anna. I will take a look at it now. Greg Greg Sheehan Principal Deputy Director US Fish and Wildlife Service 202-208-4545 office 202-676-7675 cell > On Sep 4, 2017, at 2:53 PM, Seidman, Anna <aseidman@safariclub.org> wrote: > > Greg: > > Attached is a published article written by a researcher in Botswana that describes the harmful consequences of the shutdown of hunting in Botswana. > > Anna > Anna M. Seidman > Director of Litigation > Director of Government Affairs > Safari Club International > 501 2nd Street NE > Washington, D.C. 20002 > 202-543-8733 > aseidman@safariclub.org<mailto:aseidman@safariclub.org> > > "Nothing

in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'Press On' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race." > > > Calvin Coolidge > > > This transmittal may be a confidential attorney-client communication or may otherwise be privileged or confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this transmittal in error. Any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of the contents of this e-mail is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify us immediately. > >

>

Conversation Contents

Lion and elephant table

Attachments:

/8. Lion and elephant table/1.1 lion and elephant table.docx

Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Dec 04 2017 18:32:52 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
CC: Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Subject: Lion and elephant table
Attachments: lion and elephant table.docx

> Greg, > > Attached is a table that I hope is responsive. I limited it to lions and elephants as I can't think of any other species for which the current state of play is different from what it was in the last administration. I attempted to describe each country and lion/elephant status during 2009-16 and current. The biggest change, of course, is that the lion listing went into effect Jan. 22, 2016, which means that what was previously allowed was no longer authorized unless/until we made a positive ESA finding. > > Happy to discuss or revise as you see fit. > > craig

Greg Sheehan (b) (6)@fws.gov

From: Greg Sheehan (b) (6)@fws.gov
Sent: Mon Dec 04 2017 21:45:34 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
CC: Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Lion and elephant table

Thank you Craig. I believe that will work based on the limited guidance I received. Please stay tuned tomorrow morning as we may need additional information. Greg Greg Sheehan Principal Deputy Director US Fish and Wildlife Service 202-208-4545 office 202-676-7675 cell On Dec 4, 2017, at 8:32 PM, Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov> wrote: >> Greg, >> >> Attached is a table that I hope is responsive. I limited it to lions and elephants as I can't think of any other species for which the current state of play is different from what it was in the last administration. I attempted to describe each country and lion/elephant status during 2009-16 and current. The biggest change, of course, is that the lion listing went into effect Jan. 22, 2016, which means that what was previously allowed was no longer authorized unless/until we made a positive ESA finding. >> >> Happy to discuss or revise as you see fit. >> >> craig >

Conversation Contents

Wildlife Trafficking Communications Strategy V2.docx

Attachments:

/14. Wildlife Trafficking Communications Strategy V2.docx/1.1 Wildlife Trafficking Communications Strategy V2.docx

Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

From: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Sent: Sun Dec 03 2017 17:36:34 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: (b) (6) @fws.gov
Subject: Wildlife Trafficking Communications Strategy V2.docx
Attachments: Wildlife Trafficking Communications Strategy V2.docx

This has had input from IA and LE so we can discuss tomorrow Sent from my iPhone

"Sheehan, Greg" (b) (6) @fws.gov

From: "Sheehan, Greg" (b) (6) @fws.gov
Sent: Sun Dec 03 2017 21:03:27 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Wildlife Trafficking Communications Strategy V2.docx

Lets talk in morning but we need to divide this into short, and longer term messaging. le what do we present this week as we move forward with some level of permitting, yet to be finalized. Versus how are we trying to reshape public opinions and attitudes about wildlife conservation, Also I suspect the International council charter will not change so we will need to work within those parameters.

A good start though and thank you and your team for working on this over the weekend.

Greg

On Sun, Dec 3, 2017 at 7:36 PM, Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov> wrote:
| This has had input from IA and LE so we can discuss tomorrow

--

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW, Room 3358
Washington, DC 20240

Office 202-208-4545
Cell 202-676-7675

Conversation Contents

Permits

"Gambill, Zachariah" <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov>

From: "Gambill, Zachariah" <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Nov 28 2017 07:37:12 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Tim Vannorman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>, "Sheehan, Greg" <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: Permits

Good morning,

Could you please put together the numbers of permits we have issued, backlogged, and applications pending for Zimbabwe elephants, and lions.

If you could also include South Africa and Namibia, what would be much appreciated.

Respectfully,

--

Zack Gambill
Advisor to FWS
U.S. Department of the Interior
[1849 C Street, NW](#) -- MIB Room 3351
Washington, DC 20240
office: 202-208-4416

NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.

Tim Vannorman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>

From: Tim Vannorman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Nov 28 2017 07:49:31 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Gambill, Zachariah" <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov>
CC: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>, "Sheehan, Greg" <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Permits

Zack

Currently in our senior staff meeting. I will send you the information as soon as the meeting ends (10:30 ish)

Tim

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 28, 2017, at 9:37 AM, Gambill, Zachariah <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Could you please put together the numbers of permits we have issued, backlogged, and applications pending for Zimbabwe elephants, and lions.

If you could also include South Africa and Namibia, what would be much appreciated.

Respectfully,

--

Zack Gambill
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[1849 C Street, NW](#) -- MIB Room 3351
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office: 202-208-4416

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"Gambill, Zachariah" <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov>

From: "Gambill, Zachariah" <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Nov 28 2017 09:06:01 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Tim Vannorman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
CC: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>, "Sheehan, Greg" <[\(b\)\(6\)@fws.gov](mailto:(b)(6)@fws.gov)>
Subject: Re: Permits

Sounds good. Thanks!

On Tue, Nov 28, 2017 at 9:49 AM, Tim Vannorman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov> wrote:

Zack

Currently in our senior staff meeting. I will send you the information as soon as the meeting ends (10:30 ish)

Tim

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 28, 2017, at 9:37 AM, Gambill, Zachariah <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

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If you could also include South Africa and Namibia, what would be much appreciated.

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Zack Gambill
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Zack Gambill
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U.S. Department of the Interior
[1849 C Street, NW](#) -- MIB Room 3351
Washington, DC 20240
office: 202-208-4416

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"Vannorman, Tim" <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>

From: "Vannorman, Tim" <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Nov 28 2017 14:11:20 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Gambill, Zachariah" <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov>
CC: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>, "Sheehan, Greg" (b) (6) @fws.gov
Subject: Re: Permits

Zack,

I am sorry for the delay in getting this information back to you.

Zimbabwe elephants:

Between October 2016 to present, we have issued 20 import permits for Zimbabwe elephants. All of these trophies, however, would have been taken before May 12, 2014, when our previous negative finding went into effect.

We have denied 8 applications for Zimbabwe elephants. All of these trophies would have been taken between May 12, 2014 and January 21, 2016, when our new positive finding went into effect.

We currently have 33 applications pending for elephants taken on or after January 21, 2016.

Zimbabwe lions:

We have issued 18 permits to import lions from Zimbabwe. Thirteen of these were trophies taken in 2016, four for 2017 trophies, and one for a trophy to be taken in 2018.

We have not denied any applications.

We currently have 5 applications pending for lions taken after January 1, 2016.

Trophies taken before January 2016 would be considered "pre-Act" under the ESA and would therefore not require import permits.

Namibian elephants:

Since the 4(d) rule for elephant was amended in 2016, we have issued 96 permits to import Namibian elephants. We have had a positive enhancement finding in place from Namibia since the early 2000s. It was only after the 4(d) rule was revised where import permits required (prior to that imports could occur with only a CITES export permit from Namibia).

We currently have 7 applications pending for Namibian elephants.

We have not denied any Namibian elephant applications.

Namibian lions:

We have one pending application for a lion to be taken in 2018.

We have not issued or denied any applications.

South African elephants:

Since the 4(d) rule for elephant was amended in 2016, we have issued 76 permits to import South African elephants. We have had a positive enhancement finding in place from South Africa since the early 2000s. It was only after the 4(d) rule was revised where import permits required (prior to that imports could occur with only a CITES export permit from Namibia).

We currently have 8 applications pending for South African elephants.

We have not denied any South African elephant applications.

South African lions:

Captive bred -

We have denied 10 applications for captive-bred lions taken in South Africa. Trophies taken before January 21, 2016, when the ESA listing went into effect could be imported without an ESA import permit.

Wild/wild-managed lions -

We have issued 14 permits for the import of wild/wild-managed lions from South Africa. Trophies taken before January 21, 2016, when the ESA listing went into effect could be imported without an ESA import permit.

If you have more questions, please let me know.

Tim

On Tue, Nov 28, 2017 at 9:37 AM, Gambill, Zachariah <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Could you please put together the numbers of permits we have issued, backlogged, and applications pending for Zimbabwe elephants, and lions.

If you could also include South Africa and Namibia, what would be much appreciated.

Respectfully,

--

Zack Gambill
Advisor to FWS
U.S. Department of the Interior
[1849 C Street, NW](#) -- MIB Room 3351
Washington, DC 20240
office: 202-208-4416

NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.

--

Timothy J. Van Norman, Chief
Branch of Permits
Division of Management Authority
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(703) 358-2350

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Conversation Contents

Fwd: Revised if-asked media Q&A

Attachments:

/43. Fwd: Revised if-asked media Q&A/1.1 Trophy hunting TPs II IA edits.docx

"Gambill, Zachariah" <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov>

From: "Gambill, Zachariah" <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov>
Sent: Fri Nov 24 2017 11:45:19 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Sheehan, Greg" (b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Revised if-asked media Q&A
Attachments: Trophy hunting TPs II IA edits.docx

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Matthew Huggler** <matthew_huggler@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Nov 24, 2017 at 1:44 PM
Subject: Fwd: Revised if-asked media Q&A
To: zachariah_gambill@fws.gov

FYI

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Shire, Gavin" <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
Date: November 24, 2017 at 12:49:25 PM EST
To: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Cc: "Vannorman, Tim" <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, Matthew Huggler <matthew_huggler@fws.gov>, Danielle Kessler <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>, Danielle Brigida <danielle_brigida@fws.gov>, Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Revised if-asked media Q&A

Attached with combined edits from IA.

G

Gavin Shire
Chief of Public Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
MS: EA

5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
703-358-2649 (o)
703-346-9123 (c)
gavin_shire@fws.gov

--

Zack Gambill
Advisor to FWS
U.S. Department of the Interior
[1849 C Street, NW](#) -- MIB Room 3351
Washington, DC 20240
office: 202-208-4416

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Conversation Contents

Fwd: Draft if-asked media Q&A

Attachments:

/44. Fwd: Draft if-asked media Q&A/1.1 Trophy hunting TPs II hoover.docx

"Gambill, Zachariah" <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov>

From: "Gambill, Zachariah" <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov>
Sent: Fri Nov 24 2017 11:07:31 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Sheehan, Greg" (b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Draft if-asked media Q&A
Attachments: Trophy hunting TPs II hoover.docx

Q and A portion from Comms.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Fri, Nov 24, 2017 at 12:31 PM
Subject: Fwd: Draft if-asked media Q&A
To: zachariah_gambill@fws.gov

More edits.

Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Date: November 24, 2017 at 12:30:15 PM EST
To: "Vannorman, Tim" <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Cc: "Shire, Gavin" <gavin_shire@fws.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, Matthew Huggler <matthew_huggler@fws.gov>, Danielle Kessler <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>, Danielle Brigida <danielle_brigida@fws.gov>, Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Draft if-asked media Q&A

My additional suggested edits in the attached.

craig

On Fri, Nov 24, 2017 at 12:23 PM, Vannorman, Tim <tim_vannorman@fws.gov> wrote:

Gavin,

Here are my comments. If you have questions, give me a call ((b) (6)) - I am at home today and about to run some errands.

Tim

On Fri, Nov 24, 2017 at 12:04 PM, Shire, Gavin <gavin_shire@fws.gov> wrote:

Please use the attached instead. I thought of two additional questions, which I added to the end.

G

Gavin Shire
Chief of Public Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
MS: EA
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
703-358-2649 (o)
703-346-9123 (c)
gavin_shire@fws.gov

On Fri, Nov 24, 2017 at 11:54 AM, Shire, Gavin <gavin_shire@fws.gov> wrote:

We are on a very tight timeline here, so please send me your fatal flaw edits ASAP. Including everyone on this initial email so we are all in step with each other, but if I've left anyone off, please forward.

OCO: these need the OK from our international program folks before this goes anywhere further.

G

Gavin Shire
Chief of Public Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
MS: EA
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
703-358-2649 (o)
703-346-9123 (c)
gavin_shire@fws.gov

--

Timothy J. Van Norman, Chief
Branch of Permits
Division of Management Authority
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(703) 358-2350

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--

Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
International Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
ph: 703-358-2162
www.fws.gov/international

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Zack Gambill
Advisor to FWS
U.S. Department of the Interior
[1849 C Street, NW](#) -- MIB Room 3351
Washington, DC 20240
office: 202-208-4416

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Conversation Contents

Draft

Attachments:

/56. Draft/1.1 Draft Statement on Zimbabwe 11-21-17.docx

"Gambill, Zachariah" <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov>

From: "Gambill, Zachariah" <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov>
Sent: Wed Nov 22 2017 12:42:31 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Todd Willens <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, "Sheehan, Greg" <(b) (6) @fws.gov>, Jason Larrabee <jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Draft
Attachments: Draft Statement on Zimbabwe 11-21-17.docx

--

Zack Gambill
Advisor to FWS
U.S. Department of the Interior
[1849 C Street, NW](#) -- MIB Room 3351
Washington, DC 20240
office: 202-208-4416

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Conversation Contents

Elephant Importation

samuel noble <(b) (6)>

From: samuel noble (b) (6)
Sent: Tue Nov 21 2017 11:26:15 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: (b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Elephant Importation

Mr, Sheehan,

November 21, 2017

Deputy Director Greg Sheehan: (b) (6) @fws.gov
Secretary Ryan Zinke: exsec@ios.doi.gov

TALKING POINTS IN SUPPORT OF ELEPHANT TROPHY IMPORTS FROM ZIMBABWE AND ZAMBIA

ELEPHANT TROPHY IMPORTS HAVE NEVER BEEN “BANNED,” AND THE POSITIVE ENHANCEMENT FINDINGS ARE BASED ON THE BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION RECEIVED IN 2014-2016

- There has been no “ban” on elephant trophy imports. In April 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) “suspended” the import of elephant trophies from Zimbabwe due to a lack of information. Zimbabwe’s Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA) responded to two questionnaires from the FWS in April 2014 and December 2014. However, in March 2015, the FWS extended the suspension, finding information was still lacking. The negative enhancement finding dated March 2015 repeatedly affirmed, “The suspension ... could be lifted if additional information on the status and management of elephants in Zimbabwe becomes available, including utilization of revenue generated through sport-hunting by U.S. hunters, which satisfies the conditions of the 4(d) special rule under the ESA.” In July 2015, May 2016, and November 2016, ZPWMA responded to additional FWS questions. The November 2017 positive enhancement finding is based on these later responses and thousands of pages of supporting documents, including Zimbabwe’s National Elephant Management Action Plan, 2014 countrywide elephant population surveys, 2014-2016 actual and projected budget data, 2014 and 2015 offtakes and 2016 quota data, 2014-2016 CAMPFIRE data, and much more.
- Issuing import permits for elephant trophies from Zimbabwe was not a political decision by this Administration. In September 2016, before the election occurred, the FWS had already indicated to ZPWMA that the suspension would be lifted. ZPWMA was told by the Chief of Permits that the FWS needed “only one more piece of information,” a prioritization of the new Elephant Management Plan, before the negative enhancement finding could be reversed. That prioritization was provided on November 8, 2016, before the election results were in. At the end of 2016, the FWS should have made the positive enhancement finding, but was admittedly sidetracked by an influx of thousands of new permit applications due to the listing of rosewood (used extensively in musical instruments and furniture) on the CITES Appendixes effective

January 2017.

- Similarly, there has been no “ban” on the import of elephant trophies from Zambia. In October 2011, the FWS made a positive enhancement finding to authorize the import of regulated elephant hunting trophies from Zambia. However, 2013 and 2014, Zambia’s wildlife authority suspended hunting to obtain more current wildlife population information. In 2015, Zambia’s government lifted the hunting suspension, and set a conservative quota of 80 elephant. In August 2016, the Chief of Permits sent an email indicating that the FWS was trying to issue import permits for elephant trophies from Zambia before the CITES Conference of the Parties in September 2016, based on an April 2015 Non-Detriment and Enhancement Finding the FWS received from Zambia’s wildlife authority. However, the FWS ran out of time. At the Conference of the Parties, the Chief of Permits indicated that elephant permits from Zambia would likely issue before the end of the year. Again, because of the new rosewood permits, that enhancement finding was put on a back burner.

ZIMBABWE’S ELEPHANT POPULATION IS THE SECOND-LARGEST IN AFRICA

- In 1900, it was estimated that Zimbabwe had a national population of 4,000 elephant. Since then, the population has grown to over 82,000 (a twenty-fold increase). The current population is double the target national population established in the 1980s, almost 40% larger than in 1992, when the FWS determined to maintain the Endangered Species Act (ESA) “threatened” listing, and almost 20% larger than in 1997, when the last positive enhancement finding was made (before November 2017). Elephant sub-populations in Zimbabwe are generally considered stable or increasing.

- North-West Matabeleland: This population is estimated at 54,000, and is most densely located in Hwange National Park (45,000 elephant). In 1928, the estimated elephant population in Hwange was 2,000.
- Sebungwe: This population is estimated at 3,500 and has declined since 2001 due to human population expansion into a previously unsettled area. The human population exploded from 45,000 in 1950 to over 700,000 in 2013, which explains the decline in the elephant population. Due to the expansion of human settlement and unlike other major elephant ranges in Zimbabwe, the habitat in this area is fragmented.
- Mid-Zambezi Valley: This area has an estimated elephant population of about 12,000. That population declined since the 2001 countrywide survey, and it is believed the decline is due to cross-border poaching and perhaps, the cross-border movement of elephants during the survey. Anti-poaching is a major component of the Zambezi Valley/Mana Pools Regional Elephant Management Action Plan, and recently the area has been chosen as a CITES MIKES site with an ongoing project.
- South-East Lowveld: Most of this population inhabits Gonarezhou National Park, whose population has been growing consistently at 5% per annum over 20 years. This region’s sub-population is estimated at 13,000 elephant between the Park, surrounding communal areas, and nearby private conservancies.

ZAMBIA’S ELEPHANT POPULATION IS STABLE

- Zambia’s elephant population inhabits seven sub-regions covering National Parks and Game Management Areas. According to the 2016 African Elephant Status Report, Zambia’s elephant population is estimated at over 21,000. This is generally considered stable over the past 25 years, and is stable compared to Zambia’s population in 1992, when the FWS determined to maintain elephant as “threatened” listed. However, several population surveys indicating an estimate closer to 30,000 were not included in the 2016 African Elephant Status Report, and Zambia’s wildlife authority estimates the country’s population at more than 30,000.

ELEPHANT HUNTING OFFTAKES IN ZIMBABWE ARE SUSTAINABLE

- **Zimbabwe maintains a CITES export quota of 1,000 tusks from 500 bull elephants. A national quota of 500 elephants represents only 0.6% of a population of 82,630 elephant. Actual hunting offtakes are considerably lower, have a negligible impact on the overall population rate, and have declined in the past three years due to the import suspension.**

Average Hunting Offtakes 2010-2013 (% of Total Elephant Population): 228 (0.276%)

2013 Hunting Offtakes (% of Total Elephant Population): 258 (0.312%)

2014 Hunting Offtakes (% of Total Elephant Population): 162 (0.196%)

2015 Hunting Offtakes (% of Total Elephant Population): 075 (0.091%)

ELEPHANT HUNTING OFFTAKES IN ZAMBIA ARE NEGLIGIBLE

- **In 2013 and 2014, Zambia suspended regulated tourist hunting to obtain a better sense of national wildlife population trends. In 2015, Zambia set a conservative export quota of 160 tusks from 80 bull elephants. Zambia maintained the quota of 80 elephants in 2016 and 2017. A national quota of 80 elephants represents less than 0.4% of a population of 21,967 elephant. Actual hunting offtakes are negligible and have no impact on the national population rate.**

2015 Hunting Offtakes (% of Total Elephant Population): 03 (0.014%)

2016 Hunting Offtakes (% of Total Elephant Population): 12 (0.055%)

ELEPHANT MANAGEMENT IN ZIMBABWE IS GUIDED BY APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION AND A STATE-OF-THE-ART MANAGEMENT PLAN

- **Governing Law: The Zimbabwe Parks and Wild Life Act provides the regulatory mechanism for ZPWMA and its programs. The Act created ZPWMA as a parastatal authority apart from the central government and established a separate fund, apart from the Central Treasury, to sustain ZPWMA's operations. The Act sets harsh penalties for elephant-related offenses, and was amended in 2010 to impose a nine-year minimum sentence for the first offense of elephant poaching. Under the Parks and Wild Life Act, Rural District Councils and other land holders are granted "appropriate authority" to benefit directly from wildlife. Under this legislation, land holders are encouraged to maintain and increase wildlife populations because they retain the benefits of sustainable use of that wildlife.**

- **Elephant Management Plan: Elephant are managed according to the Zimbabwe National Elephant Management Plan (2015-2020). The plan incorporates specific action items, deliverables, deadlines, and responsible parties. It is an adaptive management plan utilizing prioritization of targets measured by key components, strategic objectives, and outputs. The plan focuses on five major components: Protection and Law Enforcement; Biological Monitoring and Management; Social, Economic, and Cultural Framework; Building Conservation Capacity; and Program Management. The National management plan is supplemented by four regional plans that utilize the same framework to address the unique challenges for each major elephant range in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe's elephant management planning process was kicked off by the FWS' elephant trophy import suspension. ZPWMA held a year of stakeholder planning workshops, including a preparatory meeting of representatives from CAMPFIRE in November 2014; a national elephant management planning workshop in December 2014; an elephant management planning and anti-poaching workshop in Mana Pools (Zambezi Valley range) in March-April 2015; an elephant management planning workshop in the Sebungwe range in May 2015; and an elephant management planning**

workshop in the South East Lowveld range in September 2015.

ELEPHANT HUNTING IN ZIMBABWE GENERATES CONSERVATION BENEFITS THAT SATISFY THE “ENHANCEMENT” STANDARD: Although hunting offtakes are negligible, elephant hunting fees create extensive conservation incentives in Zimbabwe.

- **Habitat:** Hunting areas in Zimbabwe represent ~130,000 km² of protected habitat. This represents over four times the size of Zimbabwe’s National Parks (~28,000 km²). Healthy elephant populations require large tracts of habitat; the areas set aside for regulated hunting are therefore essential to the elephant’s continued survival.
- **Management and Enforcement Revenues:** Revenues generated from tourist hunting conducted on state lands comprised approximately 20% of ZPWMA’s revenue stream in 2014. Over \$6.2 million in trophy fees came from elephant hunts, with \$5 million accruing to ZPWMA to reinvest in elephant protection and species management. Over 50% of that revenue came from U.S. clients. Almost 80% of ZPWMA’s operating budget is allocated towards law enforcement in the form of staff costs and patrol provisions. ZPWMA employs 1,500 active field rangers. Put simply, hunting revenues support anti-poaching efforts across Zimbabwe’s elephant range—and this is largely paid for by American elephant hunters.
- **Operator Anti-Poaching:** In addition to supporting ZPWMA’s enforcement capacity, hunting operators deploy their own anti-poaching units to police the Safari Areas and fund community game scouts in CAMPFIRE Areas. For example, a small sample of 14 individual operators surveyed by the Safari Operator Association of Zimbabwe spend \$957,843 on anti-poaching in 2013 and deployed 245 anti-poaching scouts. One specific operator, Charlton McCullum Safaris (CMS) in the Dande Safari Area and Mbire Communal Area, spends on average \$80,000-\$90,000 in patrol and equipment costs and anti-poaching rewards. From 2010 to 2016, CMS’ efforts led to an 82% decline in elephant poaching in an import border region. As another example, the Save Valley and Buby Valley Conservancies together spend over \$1 million on anti-poaching each year. These anti-poaching efforts are funded predominately by hunting revenue, and protect stable populations of elephant and the third-largest black rhino population in the world.
- **Regional Anti-Poaching:** According to the CITES “Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants” (MIKE) program, poaching in the Southern African countries that allow regulated tourist hunting, including Zimbabwe, is lower than anywhere else on the continent and has never reached an unsustainable level. This stands in stark contrast to the West and Central African countries that do not rely upon tourist hunting as a conservation tool.
- **Community Benefits:** Zimbabwe’s CAMPFIRE program is the pioneering community-based natural resource management program in Africa. The program allows rural communities to financially benefit from wildlife, thereby incentivizing the use of communal land as wildlife habitat, and the protection of wildlife in the form of increased tolerance of destructive wildlife. An estimated 77,000 households rely on CAMPFIRE benefit from CAMPFIRE. 90% of CAMPFIRE revenue is generated from regulated hunting, and 70% of this comes from elephant hunting. Thus, prior to the import suspension, elephant hunting generated over \$1.6 million per year for CAMPFIRE communities and was reinvested in the construction of classrooms and clinics, the installation of water infrastructure and solar powered facilities, the purchase of vehicles for anti-poaching support, compensation for destruction of crops or livestock by dangerous game, and other benefits that improve the livelihoods of the rural communities living in CAMPFIRE Areas. These benefits offset the damage caused by game species: from 2010 to 2015, elephant destroyed 7,495 hectares of crop fields in CAMPFIRE communities and claimed the lives of approximately 40 people.

ELEPHANT MANAGEMENT IN ZAMBIA IS UP-TO-DATE AND GENERATES SUBSTANTIAL BENEFITS TO ENCOURAGE RECOVERY OF THE SPECIES

- **Governing Law:** The **Zambian Wildlife Act No. 14 of 2015** is the guiding legislation for elephant protection and management. This cutting-edge law consolidated the prior wildlife authority into a government Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), to address the funding concerns and shortfalls experienced by the prior authority. DNPW is made up of a Wildlife Law Enforcement Unit with over 1,250 rangers; a Conservation Unit; an Infrastructure Development Unit; and a Community-Based Natural Resource Management Unit to oversee the development of conservation planning in Game Management Areas.

- **Management and Enforcement Revenues:** Between 2010 and 2012, regulated hunting revenues accounted for approximately 32% of the operating budget funding for Zambia's wildlife authority. With a potential to generate nearly \$1 million in elephant hunting fees, in 2015 and 2016, these fees totaled only \$150,000, due mainly to import restrictions. This amount was divided between DNPW and the Community Resource Boards in Game Management Areas (GMA). DNPW uses this revenue for range salaries and resource protection, as well as management surveys, staff training, and other activities. Approximately 75% of DNPW's expenditures are for anti-poaching, and Zambia's Wildlife Law Enforcement Unit conducted over 10,500 anti-poaching patrols in 2015, involving an average of 5,878 staff per quarter and 237,028 patrol days.

- **Habitat:** Hunting areas in Zambia (~180,000 km²) provide almost three times the amount of protected habitat compared to the country's National Parks (~64,000 km²).

- **Community Benefits:** In GMAs, elephant license fees are divided equally between the DNPW and the GMA's Community Resource Board, and 20% of concession fees also accrue to the Board. In 2015 and 2016, approximately \$1.36 million in hunting fees was distributed to the Boards, as well as \$10,000 per concession paid by the hunting operator. Under the new Wildlife Law, Boards must invest those funds as follows: 45% towards wildlife protection and patrols, 35% towards community improvement projects such as construction of schools, clinics, and water infrastructure, and 20% towards administrative costs. Written concession agreements between the operators, DNPW, and the community Boards usually obligate the concessionaire to make further communities investments, such as constructing a classroom and paying a teacher's salary. Operators in 13 blocks were obligated to spend over \$1.1 million in community infrastructure development and 3.4 million in community lease and other payments for the duration of their leases.

- **Game Meat Distributions:** Moreover, under Zambian law, at least 50% of harvested game meat must be donated and distributed to local communities. A 2015 study found that operators in three GMAs contributed an average of 6,000 kilograms of harvested meat per season, and estimated that operators across all GMAs could provide ~130 tons of much-needed protein annually. This reduces the incentive for bush meat poaching in these areas bordering and buffering Zambia's National Parks.

- **Operator Anti-Poaching:** Hunting operators' concession agreements with DNPW and the Community Resource Board identify mandatory anti-poaching obligations and expenditures. At present, 75 Boards employ over 750 wildlife scouts and 79 support personnel, at a monthly cost of over \$38,800. Those scouts are paid for by revenues from tourist hunting. A small sample of four operators spent over \$201,000 on anti-poaching in 2015, to fund community scouts and fund and equip their own operator anti-poaching teams. This anti-poaching support is largely paid for by U.S. hunters, as over half of all hunting clients in Zambia are from the U.S.

[**Note:** Supporting documents for each of these points is available by contacting Conservation Force, cf@conservationforce.org. These Talking Points largely rely on the responses of ZPWMA and DNPW to FWS information requests and supporting documents provided as part of those responses as well as individual hunting operator enhancement reports, reports of the CAMPFIRE Association, and publicly available IUCN documents.]

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Samuel E. Noble, Jr., B.S., B.A., J.D.

Noble LLC

Noble Trucking LLC

Noble Logistics LLC

Elbon Farms LLC

Conversation Contents

Draft statement for review

"Shire, Gavin" <gavin_shire@fws.gov>

From: "Shire, Gavin" <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Nov 21 2017 11:12:04 GMT-0700 (MST)
Matthew Huggler <matthew_huggler@fws.gov>, Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, Greg Sheehan
To: (b) (6) @fws.gov, Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>, Tim Vannorman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Subject: Draft statement for review

Following the civil unrest there and the resignation today of President Mugabe, we have revised our determination on the importation of hunted elephant and lion trophies from Zimbabwe. We are suspending the importation of any trophies from these animals hunted after November 14, 2017 – the commencement of the unrest – until we can be certain that the Zimbabwe government is able to carry out the conservation and management measures that formed the basis of our original findings. Trophies already hunted prior to that date may still be considered for importation into the United States. We will also closely monitor the actions of the Zambian Government to ensure their compliance with our requirements for trophy importation.

G

Gavin Shire
Chief of Public Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
MS: EA
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
703-358-2649 (o)
703-346-9123 (c)
gavin_shire@fws.gov

"Huggler, Matthew" <matthew_huggler@fws.gov>

From: "Huggler, Matthew" <matthew_huggler@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Nov 21 2017 11:20:40 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Shire, Gavin" <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>, Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>, Tim Vannorman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
CC: <(b) (6) @fws.gov>, Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>, Tim Vannorman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>

Subject:

Re: Draft statement for review

I have a couple minor edits on this version. Will discuss with our folks.

Matthew C. Huggler
Deputy Assistant Director - External Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: EA
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
(703) 358-2243 (office)
(202) 460-8402 (cell)

On Tue, Nov 21, 2017 at 1:12 PM, Shire, Gavin <gavin_shire@fws.gov> wrote:

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gavin_shire@fws.gov

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Elephant trophies

"Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

From: "Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 14:23:56 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov
Subject: Fwd: Elephant trophies

In case you are monitoring email we have reached out to DOI Communications and Heather and Gavin spoke at some length so she could understand these two issues which are connected really only by their Z. Hope you are having fun in Tanzania be safe.

Barbara W. Wainman
Assistant Director, External Affairs
US Fish and Wildlife Service
(202) 208-5256 (office)
(571) 471-4159 (cell)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Shire, Gavin** <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
Date: Mon, Nov 13, 2017 at 3:23 PM
Subject: Elephant trophies
To: Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov>, Matthew Huggler <matthew_huggler@fws.gov>

I wanted you to be aware that in addition to the announcement on importing elephant trophies from Zimbabwe that we expect to make this week, we will also make a finding and start issuing import permits for elephant trophies from Zambia. There are some differences to be aware of (complicated by the fact that both countries begin with Z!).

Zimbabwe: This is a reversal of a previous decision and (for reasons too complicated to explain here) requires a *Federal Register* notice. We are therefore going to be conducting limited outreach including a news bulletin. You will see these today.

Zambia: This is a new finding and does not require a FR notice. This will be a soft rollout in the manner we did lion trophy imports from both these countries a few weeks ago (i.e., no news release). We will use the same if-asked statement adapted for elephants: "Legal, well-regulated sport hunting as part of a sound management program can benefit the conservation of certain species by providing incentives to local communities to conserve the species and by putting much-needed revenue back into conservation. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the hunting and management programs for African elephants in Zambia will enhance the survival of the species in the wild. This enhancement finding is required prior to

allowing import of these trophies under our Endangered Species Act regulations. The finding applies to elephants hunted in Zambia during calendar years 2016, 2017 and 2018 and that meet all other applicable permitting requirements."

Let me know if you have additional questions,

G

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gavin_shire@fws.gov

Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>

From: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 14:42:36 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

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Greg

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Nov 14, 2017, at 12:24 AM, Wainman, Barbara <barbara_wainman@fws.gov> wrote:

In case you are monitoring email we have reached out to DOI Communications and Heather and Gavin spoke at some length so she could understand these two issues which are connected really only by their Z. Hope you are having fun in Tanzania be safe.

Barbara W. Wainman

Assistant Director, External Affairs
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(202) 208-5256 (office)
(571) 471-4159 (cell)

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From: **Shire, Gavin** <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
Date: Mon, Nov 13, 2017 at 3:23 PM
Subject: Elephant trophies
To: Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov>, Matthew Huggler <matthew_huggler@fws.gov>

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Let me know if you have additional questions,

G

Gavin Shire
Chief of Public Affairs
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gavin_shire@fws.gov

"Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

From: "Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 14:56:30 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

With respect to Zimbabwe, International has not signed the Federal Register notice as it was to be signed by Tim and he is with you, but Zambia permits will be issued this week. DOI has decided no press release . I am checking with international now to see if it can be signed and I will check with DOI Communications to make sure they are ok with an announcement. Be right back to you.

Barbara W. Wainman
Assistant Director, External Affairs
US Fish and Wildlife Service
(202) 208-5256 (office)
(571) 471-4159 (cell)

On Mon, Nov 13, 2017 at 4:42 PM, Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov> wrote:

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Date: Mon, Nov 13, 2017 at 3:23 PM

Subject: Elephant trophies

To: Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell

<russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift

<heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, Laury Parramore

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gavin_shire@fws.gov

Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

From:

Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 15:02:19 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

Are there press there?

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 13, 2017, at 4:42 PM, Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov> wrote:

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To: Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
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Let me know if you have additional questions,

G

Gavin Shire
Chief of Public Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
MS: EA
[5275 Leesburg Pike](#)
[Falls Church, VA 22041](#)-3803
703-358-2649 (o)
703-346-9123 (c)
gavin_shire@fws.gov

Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

From: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 15:20:00 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan **(b) (6)** @fws.gov
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

They really don't want press. They don't want an announcement but you and Tim could talk about it in small groups. So I don't know how big this group is and if there are press there I don't think you want it in a PowerPoint slide. I know this is not very helpful. If you need to talk call me I am waiting to hear back from international if they can even get it signed to go to federal register.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 13, 2017, at 4:42 PM, Greg Sheehan (b) (6) <[REDACTED]@fws.gov> wrote:

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Of course we may still get media inquires but are prepared to respond it sounds like.

Greg

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Nov 14, 2017, at 12:24 AM, Wainman, Barbara <barbara_wainman@fws.gov> wrote:

In case you are monitoring email we have reached out to DOI Communications and Heather and Gavin spoke at some length so she could understand these two issues which are connected really only by their Z. Hope you are having fun in Tanzania be safe.

Barbara W. Wainman
Assistant Director, External Affairs
US Fish and Wildlife Service
(202) 208-5256 (office)
(571) 471-4159 (cell)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Shire, Gavin** <gavin_shire@fws.gov>

Date: Mon, Nov 13, 2017 at 3:23 PM

Subject: Elephant trophies

To: Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov>, Matthew Huggler <matthew_huggler@fws.gov>

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703-346-9123 (c)
gavin_shire@fws.gov

Greg Sheehan <greg_j_sheehan@fws.gov>

From: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Nov 14 2017 00:46:46 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

No

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Nov 14, 2017, at 1:02 AM, Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov> wrote:

Are there press there?

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 13, 2017, at 4:42 PM, Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov> wrote:

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202-208-4545 office
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Subject: Elephant trophies

To: Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell

<russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross

<paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift

<heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

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703-346-9123 (c)
gavin_shire@fws.gov

Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>

From: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Nov 14 2017 06:44:29 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

Tim verbally mentioned it in his presentation. He seems to believe everything is signed and will

be in reading room by Thursday.

This has been expected to be published for quite some time so I don't think it was really a surprise to anyone here.

Let me know if you here anything.

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"Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

From: "Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Nov 14 2017 06:52:17 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

will do

Barbara W. Wainman
Assistant Director, External Affairs
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Date: Mon, Nov 13, 2017 at 3:23 PM
Subject: Elephant trophies
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<heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

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703-346-9123 (c)
gavin_shire@fws.gov

"Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

From: "Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

Sent: Thu Nov 16 2017 08:52:08 GMT-0700 (MST)
Jim Kurth <jim_kurth@fws.gov>, Steve Guertin
<stephen_quertin@fws.gov>, Greg Sheehan
(b) (6) @fws.gov
Subject: Fwd: Elephant trophies

Just for awareness and our call center is also fielding a ton of calls. We are keeping DOI communications in the loop.

Barbara W. Wainman
Assistant Director, External Affairs
US Fish and Wildlife Service
(202) 208-5256 (office)
(571) 471-4159 (cell)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gavin Shire** <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
Date: Thu, Nov 16, 2017 at 10:37 AM
Subject: Elephant trophies
To: Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov>, Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

FYI, we are getting considerable incoming from national and international media since SCI posted on their website: CNN, NBC, BBC, WaPo, About a call every 10 minuets. We are providing the statement and clearing up any misunderstandings regarding the ivory ban etc on background.

G

Sent from my iPhone

Conversation Contents

Zambia elephant findings

Attachments:

/104. Zambia elephant findings/1.1 GA Zambia elephants 2018.pdf
/104. Zambia elephant findings/1.2 2016-2017 GA Zambia African Elephant_9-12-17 (1).pdf
/104. Zambia elephant findings/1.3 ABOP21 Enhancement finding for Zambia elephant 2016 - 2018.pdf

"Bell, Gloria" <gloria_bell@fws.gov>

From: "Bell, Gloria" <gloria_bell@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Nov 09 2017 09:50:17 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov
CC: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>, "Vannorman, Tim" <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Subject: Zambia elephant findings
GA Zambia elephants 2018.pdf 2016-2017 GA Zambia African Elephant_9-12-17 (1).pdf ABOP21 Enhancement finding for Zambia elephant 2016 - 2018.pdf

Greg,

The findings for 2016-2018 Zambian elephant imports have been completed and are attached. We wanted to confirm if you're ok with us moving forward and issuing permits.

Thanks,
Gloria

Gloria Bell | Acting Assistant Director for International Affairs | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: IA, Falls Church, Virginia, 22041-3803, USA | 703-358-1767
www.fws.gov/international | [Sign up](#) for our e-newsletter to learn how we're working around the globe to protect species and their habitats!



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----- Forwarded message -----
From: Vannorman, Tim <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Date: Wed, Nov 8, 2017 at 3:34 PM
Subject: Zambia elephant findings
To: Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>
Cc: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

Gloria,

As discussed, there is the enhancement finding and the non-detriment findings for 2016-2018
Zambian elephant imports. DSA made one finding for 2016-2017 and then a second to cover
2018.

It sounded like Greg was good with us moving forward, but wanted to confirm. I understand that
Greg is leaving for Texas today, so hopefully you have a chance to talk to him before he leaves.

Tim

--

Timothy J. Van Norman, Chief
Branch of Permits
Division of Management Authority
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(703) 358-2350

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species and their habitats!***



Conversation Contents

drafts for Secretary briefing

Attachments:

/175. drafts for Secretary briefing/1.1 Inf memo lion and elephant hunting 7-10-17 rev.docx
/175. drafts for Secretary briefing/1.2 Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager.docx
/175. drafts for Secretary briefing/7.1 Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager public.docx
/175. drafts for Secretary briefing/7.2 Inf memo lion and elephant hunting 7-10-17 rev2.docx

"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Jul 10 2017 14:25:44 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, "Sheehan, Gregory" (b) (6) @fws.gov
CC: Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Subject: drafts for Secretary briefing
Attachments: Inf memo lion and elephant hunting 7-10-17 rev.docx Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager.docx

Greg,

Please find attached a one-page document and a longer briefing paper for tomorrow's briefing with the Secretary. I hope these hit the right notes, but please let me know if there is anything you'd like included that is missing, etc. I will check in this evening and again tomorrow morning to help however you see fit.

Best,

Craig

--

Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
International Affairs
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www.fws.gov/international

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Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>

From: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov
Sent: Mon Jul 10 2017 18:51:55 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
CC: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: drafts for Secretary briefing

Craig,

These look very good. Thank you for preparing them. Please work with Charisa to get those to the Department communications team in advance of the meeting. Please 14 hard copies of each of these for the meeting.

I will literally arrive at the Secretary's office right at 3 pm if all goes well as I land back at Dulles Airport at 1:40 pm.

Please plan to take an explanatory lead on these after I do a brief introduction.

Thanks
Greg

Greg Sheehan, Acting Director
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Jul 10, 2017, at 2:26 PM, Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov> wrote:

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<Inf memo lion and elephant hunting 7-10-17 rev.docx>

<Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager.docx>

Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Jul 10 2017 19:00:56 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov
Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris
CC: <charisa_morris@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman
<tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: drafts for Secretary briefing

Thanks Greg. Safe travels. We will work together to have it all set. See you there.

Craig

Sent from my iPhone

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Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>

From: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 11 2017 08:05:36 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
CC:
Subject: Re: drafts for Secretary briefing

My flight (United 939) is delayed slightly and now scheduled to arrive at Dulles at 1:55 pm. Please be prepared to begin without me and let the attendees know that I apologize for being late.

See you soon.

Thanks

Greg

Greg Sheehan, Acting Director
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Jul 10, 2017, at 6:51 PM, Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov> wrote:

Craig,

These look very good. Thank you for preparing them. Please work with Charisa to get those to the Department communications team in advance of the meeting. Please 14 hard copies of each of these for the meeting. I will literally arrive at the Secretary's office right at 3 pm if all goes well as I land back at Dulles Airport at 1:40 pm.

Please plan to take an explanatory lead on these after I do a brief introduction.

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On Jul 10, 2017, at 2:26 PM, Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov> wrote:

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Please find attached a one-page document and a longer briefing paper for tomorrow's briefing with the Secretary. I hope these hit the right notes, but please let me know if there is anything you'd like included that is missing, etc. I will check in this evening and again tomorrow morning to help however you see fit.

Best,

Craig

--

Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
International Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
ph: 703-358-2162
www.fws.gov/international

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<Inf memo lion and elephant hunting 7-10-17 rev.docx>

<Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager.docx>

"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 11 2017 08:12:49 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>
CC: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>, Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: drafts for Secretary briefing

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craig

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"Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>

From: "Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 11 2017 09:17:00 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
CC: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, Greg Sheehan
(b) (6) @fws.gov
Subject: Re: drafts for Secretary briefing

More specifically, in light of the fact that certain external parties may be present, should we bring SOL?

On Tue, Jul 11, 2017 at 10:12 AM, Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov> wrote:

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craig

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--

Charisa.Morris@fws.gov | Chief of Staff, Office of the Director | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | 1849 C Street NW, Room 3348 | Washington, DC 20240 | (202) 208-3843 | For urgent matters, please dial cell: 301-875-8937

"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 11 2017 09:41:09 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
CC: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov
Subject: Re: drafts for Secretary briefing
Attachments: Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager public.docx Inf memo lion and elephant hunting 7-10-17 rev2.docx

Charisa,

Here's a one-pager that I would feel comfortable sharing with external stakeholders as well. Also, I am reattaching the briefing paper (which is still internal use only) with a few edits. There was reference to attachments that we are not providing in the previous version, which may be confusing. Addressed in this version.

craig

On Tue, Jul 11, 2017 at 11:17 AM, Morris, Charisa <charisa_morris@fws.gov> wrote:
| More specifically, in light of the fact that certain external parties may be present, should we

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Conversation Contents

**CORRECTED: Invitation to Attend Sportsmen Access Ramp-Up Summit -
Wednesday, August 2, 2017**

"Sheehan, Greg" (b) (6) @fws.gov>

From: "Sheehan, Greg" <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 25 2017 15:38:34 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
BCC: Gregory_sheehan@fws.gov
Subject: CORRECTED: Invitation to Attend Sportsmen Access Ramp-Up Summit - Wednesday, August 2, 2017

On behalf of Secretary of the Interior Ryan K. Zinke, I cordially invite you to join me and the Secretary's team for what we are calling a Sportsmen Access Ramp-Up Summit. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is hosting this event as part of our broad commitment to sportsmen issues and implementing Secretary's Order 3347 – Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation (Order). The Secretary signed the Order on his first day in office to show the Department of the Interior's commitment to advancing conservation stewardship, improving game and habitat management, and increasing outdoor recreation opportunities, particularly for hunters, anglers, and sportsmen.

At this gathering of leaders from conservation organizations and industry, we will roll up our sleeves and share stories about the problems with and best practices for hunting and fishing access. The conversation will help enrich our efforts to increase opportunities for hunters, anglers, and sportsmen across the country. The purpose of the meeting is to share information from participants and not to develop consensus on any policy matter. Please join us for this historic and exciting event to work for sportsmen in America and our public lands.

The details of the event are as follows:

Wednesday, August 2, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Stewart Lee Udall Main Interior Building
South Penthouse (7th Floor)
1849 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20240

This event is by invitation only and RSVPs are requested. Please RSVP to the Service's point of contact for this Summit, Mr. Michael Gale, at (202) 208-4923 or Michael_Gale@fws.gov.

Greg

--

Greg Sheehan, Acting Director
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW, Room 3358
Washington, DC 20240
Office 202-208-4545

"Seidman, Anna" <aseidman@safariclub.org>

From: "Seidman, Anna" <aseidman@safariclub.org>
Sent: Wed Jul 26 2017 09:22:12 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Michael_Gale@fws.gov" <Michael_Gale@fws.gov>
CC: "gregory_sheehan@fws.gov" <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, "Sellars, Roslyn" <roslyn_sellars@fws.gov>
Subject: FW: CORRECTED: Invitation to Attend Sportsmen Access Ramp-Up Summit - Wednesday, August 2, 2017

Dear Mr. Gale:

Safari Club International's President, Paul Babaz, will be out of the country on August 2nd and our CEO, Rick Parsons is unable to travel from Tucson to attend the meeting. We would like to designate others to attend on behalf of SCI. Would that be permissible and if so, is there a limit on the number of individuals who can attend on behalf of an organization?

Thank you. I look forward to your response.

Anna

Anna M. Seidman
Director of Government Affairs
Director of Litigation
Safari Club International
501 2nd Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20002
aseidman@safariclub.org
202-543-8733

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'Press On' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race."

Calvin Coolidge

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From: roslyn_sellars@fws.gov [mailto:roslyn_sellars@fws.gov] **On Behalf Of** Sheehan, Greg
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 2:39 PM
Subject: CORRECTED: Invitation to Attend Sportsmen Access Ramp-Up Summit - Wednesday, August 2, 2017

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Greg

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Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW, Room 3358
Washington, DC 20240
Office 202-208-4545

"Gale, Michael" <michael_gale@fws.gov>

From: "Gale, Michael" <michael_gale@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Jul 27 2017 08:44:47 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Seidman, Anna" <aseidman@safariclub.org>
CC: "gregory_sheehan@fws.gov" <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, "Sellars, Roslyn" <roslyn_sellars@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: CORRECTED: Invitation to Attend Sportsmen Access Ramp-Up Summit - Wednesday, August 2, 2017

Thank you Anna for your phone call this morning.

Yes, surrogates from your organization's leadership team are most welcome, and we are asking organizations to send one representative just so that we can have good, broad representation from groups and constituencies that care about this important issue.

Please let me know if you have any questions and who you would like to designate as a

surrogate.

cheers,

Michael

On Wed, Jul 26, 2017 at 11:22 AM, Seidman, Anna <aseidman@safariclub.org> wrote:

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Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW, Room 3358
Washington, DC 20240
Office 202-208-4545

--

Michael Gale

Special Assistant, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

202.208.4923 (office)
571.982.2158 (cell)

Conversation Contents

Elephant data

Attachments:

- /3. Elephant data/1.1 ABOP21 Enhancement finding for Zambia Elephants 2016 through 2018 (1).pdf
- /3. Elephant data/1.2 2017 Nov 16 Zimb Ele Enh.pdf

"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Fri Nov 17 2017 10:23:37 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Sheehan, Gregory" (b) (6) @fws.gov, Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>
CC: Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>, Danielle Kessler <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Subject: Elephant data
Attachments: ABOP21 Enhancement finding for Zambia Elephants 2016 through 2018 (1).pdf 2017 Nov 16 Zimb Ele Enh.pdf

Greg,

Here are the data you requested.

Zambia: 2017 quota is 160 tusks and other parts from 80 animals; In recent previous years, they have not met or exceeded this quota (18 in 2015).

Zambia population estimate for 1989 was 18,000. 2002 estimate was 25,000. 2008 estimate was 26,400 +/- 4400. 2014 estimate was 21,760 +/- 4523.

Zimbabwe: 2017 quota is 1000 tusks as trophies from 500 animals; In recent previous years, they have not met or exceeded this quota (371 in 2014; 312 in 2015).

Zimbabwe population estimate for 2007 was 99,107, with 84,416 classified as definite. 2012 estimate was 100,291, with only 47,366 classified as definite; 2016 estimate was 82,630 +/- 8589.

Both full findings are attached.

Craig

--

Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
International Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

ph: 703-358-2162

www.fws.gov/international

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Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>

From: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>
Sent: Sat Nov 18 2017 07:29:28 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
"Sheehan, Gregory" <g(b) (6)@fws.gov>, Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>, Danielle Kessler <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
CC:
Subject: Re: Elephant data

Thank you Craig. This data was helpful in my discussions on this matter. Do we have any information available that lists the trends of elephant populations in each of the African countries. I realize that counts vary by country and by year, and that they are often best estimates as survey techniques vary, but anything you have would be appreciated. This weekend would be best if that information is reasonably accessible.

Thanks
Greg

Greg Sheehan
Principle Deputy Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW, Room 3358
Washington, D.C. 20250
202-208-4545 Office
202-676-7675 Cell

On Nov 17, 2017, at 12:24 PM, Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov> wrote:

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<<https://twitter.com/USFWSIntl>>

<ABOP21 Enhancement finding for Zambia Elephants 2016 through 2018 (1).pdf>

<2017 Nov 16 Zimb Ele Enh.pdf>

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From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
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"Sheehan, Gregory" <(b) (6)@fws.gov>, Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>,
CC: Danielle Kessler <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, Michelle Gadd <michelle_gadd@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant data

Greg,

Below is a google drive link to the 2016 IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group African Elephant Status Report. It's a huge file, and way more than you need, but there are population estimates and comparison to previous estimates for each range state. The Exec Summary also contains a good summary of the current status. Copying Michelle here too in case she can help with more specific questions. Let us know what else you need.

Craig

 [AfESG African Elephant Status Report 2016.pdf](#)

On Sat, Nov 18, 2017 at 9:29 AM, Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov> wrote:

Thank you Craig. This data was helpful in my discussions on this matter. Do we have any information available that lists the trends of elephant populations in each of the African countries. I realize that counts vary by country and by year, and that they are often best estimates as survey techniques vary, but anything you have would be appreciated. This weekend would be best if that information is reasonably accessible.

Thanks
Greg

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On Nov 17, 2017, at 12:24 PM, Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov> wrote:

Greg,

Here are the data you requested.

Zambia: 2017 quota is 160 tusks and other parts from 80 animals; In recent previous years, they have not met or exceeded this quota (18 in 2015).

Zambia population estimate for 1989 was 18,000. 2002 estimate was 25,000. 2008 estimate was 26,400 +/- 4400. 2014 estimate was 21,760 +/- 4523.

Zimbabwe: 2017 quota is 1000 tusks as trophies from 500 animals; In recent previous years, they have not met or exceeded this quota (371 in 2014; 312 in 2015).

Zimbabwe population estimate for 2007 was 99,107, with 84,416 classified as definite. 2012 estimate was 100,291, with only 47,366 classified as definite; 2016 estimate was 82,630 +/- 8589.

Both full findings are attached.

Craig

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<ABOP21 Enhancement finding for Zambia Ele^{ph}ants 2016 through 2018 (1).pdf>

<2017 Nov 16 Zimb Ele Enh.pdf>

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United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: IA
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/AIA/DMA

NOV 16 2017

Memorandum

To: The File

From: Chief, Branch of Permits 

Date:

Subject: Enhancement Finding for African Elephants Taken as Sport-hunted Trophies in Zimbabwe On or After January 21, 2016 and On or Before December 31, 2018.

The African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and is regulated under an ESA section 4(d) special rule [50 CFR 17.40(e)]. The 4(d) special rule gives the requirements for the import of sport-hunted trophies. Under paragraph 17.40(e)(6)(i)(B), in order for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to issue a threatened species permit under 50 CFR 17.32 authorizing the import of a sport-hunted elephant trophy, the Service must make a determination that the killing of the trophy animal will enhance the survival of the species. After evaluating the available data as of the date of this finding on elephant hunting in Zimbabwe in 2016, 2017, and 2018, including information provided by the Government of Zimbabwe, current applications to import sport-hunted elephant trophies, interested individuals and organizations, and other information available to the Service, under the regulatory requirements provided by 17.40(e)(6)(i)(B), the Service is able to make a determination that the killing of the trophy animal in Zimbabwe, on or after January 21, 2016 and on or before December 31, 2018, will enhance the survival of the African elephant. Applications to import trophies hunted during this time period will be considered to have met the enhancement requirement unless we issue a new finding based on available information. The Service may replace this finding at any time this finding no longer reflects the available information consistent with the regulatory requirements. The Service reviews each application received for import of such specimens and evaluates the information provided in the application as well as other information available to the Service on the status of the elephant population and

the total management program for elephants in the country to ensure that the program is promoting the conservation of the species. Each application to import sport-hunted elephant trophies must also meet all other applicable permitting requirements before it may be authorized, including the issuance criteria in 50 CFR 13.21.

General Considerations:

In evaluating whether the killing of the trophy animal will enhance the survival of African elephants in accordance with 50 CFR 17.40(e)(6)(i)(B), the Service considers the permit issuance criteria outlined in 50 CFR 17.32(a)(2). These include, in addition to the general permitting criteria in 50 CFR 13.21(b):

- (i) Whether the purpose for which the permit is required is adequate to justify removing from the wild or otherwise changing the status of the wildlife sought to be covered by the permit;
- (ii) The probable direct and indirect effect that issuing the permit would have on the wild populations of the wildlife sought to be covered by the permit;
- (iii) Whether the permit, if issued, would in any way, directly or indirectly, conflict with any known program intended to enhance the survival probabilities of the population from which the wildlife sought to be covered by the permit was or would be removed;
- (iv) Whether the purpose for which the permit is required would be likely to reduce the threat of extinction facing the species of wildlife sought to be covered by the permit;
- (v) The opinions or views of scientists or other persons or organizations having expertise concerning the wildlife or other matters germane to the application; and
- (vi) Whether the expertise, facilities, or other resources available to the applicant appear adequate to successfully accomplish the objectives stated in the application.

As with all permit applications submitted under 50 CFR 17.32(a), the individual requesting authorization to import a sport-hunted elephant trophy bears the burden of providing information in their application showing that the activity meets the requirements for issuance criteria under 50 CFR 17.32(a). In some cases, such as for import of sport-hunted trophies, it is not always possible for the applicant to provide all of the necessary information needed by the Service to make a positive determination under the ESA to authorize the activity. In such cases, the Service may consult with the range country and other interested parties to the extent practicable to obtain necessary information. The Service has the discretion to make the required findings on sport-hunted elephant trophy imports on a country-wide basis, although individual import permits will be evaluated and issued or denied for each applicant. While the Service may make enhancement findings for sport-hunted elephant trophy imports on a country-wide basis, the Service encourages the submission of information from individual applicants. We

rely on the information available to the Service and may rely on information from sources other than the applicant when making a permitting decision.

Neither the African elephant 4(d) rule nor 50 CFR 17.32(a)(2) specify what would constitute the enhancement of survival of a species regarding the authorization for the importation of an African elephant sport-hunted trophy. Therefore, when making a determination of whether the killing of the trophy animal will enhance the survival of African elephants, the Service examines the overall conservation and management of the species in the country where the specimen originated and whether that management addresses the threats to the species (*i.e.*, that it is based on sound scientific principles and that the management program is actively addressing the current and longer term threats to the species). In that review, we evaluate whether the import contributes to the overall conservation of the species by considering whether the biological, social, and economic aspects of a program from which the specimen was obtained provide a net benefit to the species and its ecosystem.

As stated in previous findings, in evaluating whether the killing of the trophy animal will enhance the survival of African elephants within a country, the Service looks at a number of factors. We evaluate whether a country has a valid national or regional management plan and if the country has the resources and political will to enact the plan. If there is a plan, what government entities implement the plan and how often is it reviewed and updated? Does the plan have clear, achievable objectives? Are the objectives measurable and are they being achieved? Is there an adaptive management approach within the plan so that enacting agencies can quickly respond to changing environmental or social issues?

The Service also evaluates the status of the elephant population within a country and trends over time. Particularly, we are interested in population numbers, sex and age-class distribution, and mortality rates (both natural and human-induced). Are standardized surveys being conducted and, if so, what are the timing, census methodology, and coverage? Since elephant populations can move across international borders, what level of cooperation is there between neighboring countries in management and surveying efforts for shared populations? How is poaching accounted for within survey efforts?

The Service takes into account all forms of offtake when evaluating population viability and sustainability, including human-elephant conflicts, problem animal control, poaching, and sport-hunting. While recognizing that there may be limited resources available for elephant management, the Service considers what national policies are in place to address human-elephant conflicts and problem elephant control. Is there a policy on culling surplus animals and removal of nuisance animals? Does domestic harvesting of elephants occur for local consumption or use? The amount of protected area either set aside for elephants or managed for elephant populations and the level of protection provided are also important in the Service's evaluation of whether imports of trophies could be authorized.

Finally, the Service considers the country's sport-hunting program and whether it contributes to the conservation and management of the species. Is the hunting program scientifically based and

has it been incorporated into national/regional management strategies, particularly in light of data on population numbers and trends and levels of utilization (both legal and illegal)? Are the funds generated by hunters going directly to in-situ conservation and management efforts or deposited into a general treasury fund? How are hunting quotas distributed? If there are concession areas, how are they managed and allocated? Do U.S. hunters, through their participation in the hunting program, contribute funds used to help address management needs of the species, and are those funds utilized in a meaningful manner?

In short, the Service is looking to determine if a country has sufficient numbers of elephants to support a hunting program, if the country has a management plan and adequate laws and regulations to effectively implement a hunting program, and if the participation of U.S. hunters in the program provides a clear benefit to the species to meet the requirements for the import of sport-hunted trophies under paragraph 17.40(e)(6)(i)(B).

The Service's approach to enhancement findings for the importation of sport-hunted trophies of African elephants is consistent with the purpose and intent of the ESA. Well-managed trophy hunting can benefit conservation by generating funds to be used for conservation, including for habitat protection, population monitoring, wildlife management programs, and law enforcement efforts. We are, of course, aware that not all trophy hunting is part of a well-managed, well-run program, and we evaluate import of sport-hunted trophies carefully to ensure that all legal requirements are met before allowing import.

We note that our approach is also consistent with the approach provided in the *IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Guiding Principles on Trophy Hunting as a Tool for Creating Conservation Incentives, Ver. 1.0* (IUCN SSC 2012). The SSC document provides useful principles and sets out guidance from international experts in the field on the use of trophy hunting as a tool for "creating incentives for the conservation of species and their habitats and for the equitable sharing of the benefits of use of natural resources" (IUCN SSC 2012, p. 2) and recognizes that recreational hunting, particularly trophy hunting, can contribute to biodiversity conservation and more specifically, the conservation of the hunted species. The SSC document lays out the following five guiding principles:

(a) *Biological sustainability*: The hunting program cannot contribute to the long-term decline of the hunted species. It should not alter natural selection and ecological function of the hunted species or any other species that share the habitat. The program should not inadvertently facilitate poaching or illegal trade in wildlife by acting as a cover for such illegal activities. The hunting program should also not manipulate the ecosystem or its component elements in a way that alters the native biodiversity.

(b) *Net Conservation Benefit*: The biologically sustainable hunting program should be based on laws, regulations, and scientifically based quotas, established with local input, that are transparent and periodically reviewed. The program should produce income, employment, and other benefits to create incentives for reducing the pressure on the target species. The program should create benefits for local residents to co-exist with the target species and

other species. It is also imperative that the program is part of a legally recognized governance system that supports conservation.

(c) *Socio-Economic-Cultural Benefit*: A well-managed hunting program can serve as a conservation tool when it respects the local cultural values and practices. It should be accepted by most members of the community, involving and benefiting local residents in an equitable manner. The program should also adopt business practices that promote long-term economic sustainability.

(d) *Adaptive Management: Planning, Monitoring, and Reporting*: Hunting can enhance the species when it is based on appropriate resource assessments and monitoring (e.g., population counts, trend data), upon which specific science-based quotas and hunting programs can be established. Resource assessments should be objective, well documented, and use the best science available. Adaptive management of quotas and programs based on the results of resource assessments and monitoring is essential. The program should monitor hunting activities to ensure that quotas and sex/age restrictions of harvested animals are met. The program should also generate reliable documentation of its biological sustainability and conservation benefits.

(e) *Accountable and Effective Governance*: A biologically sustainable trophy-hunting program should be subject to a governance structure that clearly allocates management responsibilities. The program should account for revenues in a transparent manner and distribute net revenues to conservation and community beneficiaries according to properly agreed decisions. All necessary steps to eliminate corruption should be taken and to ensure compliance with all relevant national and international requirements and regulations by relevant bodies such as administrators, regulators and hunters.

We explained in our final rule revising the 4(d) Rule for the African elephant, 81 FR 36388, 36394 (June 6, 2016) that, “[w]hen a trophy hunting program incorporates the following Guiding Principles, IUCN considers that trophy hunting can serve as a conservation tool: Biological sustainability; net conservation benefit; socio-economic-cultural benefit; adaptive management—planning, monitoring, and reporting; and accountable and effective governance. We support this approach.”

Summary of 2014 and 2015 Findings for Zimbabwe:

On April 4, 2014, the Service announced an interim suspension of imports of sport-hunted elephant trophies taken in Zimbabwe during the 2014 season. This finding was revised on April 17, 2014, primarily to clarify that the suspension applied only to elephants hunted on or after April 4, 2014. The decision to establish an interim suspension of imports of elephant trophies from Zimbabwe was due to the Service having insufficient information on the status of elephants in Zimbabwe and on Zimbabwe’s current elephant management program to make an enhancement finding. On July 17, 2014, the Service found that the import of elephant trophies

taken in Zimbabwe in 2014 on or after April 4, 2014, would be suspended; this finding was revised on July 22 to make non-substantive corrections. The decision to uphold the suspension on July 17, 2014, was due to the Service being unable to make an enhancement finding even after receiving additional materials from Zimbabwe's Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA) and others. The Service decided on March 26, 2015, to continue the July 2014 suspension until such time as the Service can determine that the importation of sport-hunted elephant trophies from Zimbabwe meet the criteria under the regulations at 50 CFR 17.40(e)(3)(iii)(C). [The criteria are now found at 50 CFR 17.40(e)(6)(i)(B), following the Service's final rule revising the 4(d) Rule for the African elephant, 81 FR 36388, 36394 (June 6, 2016). The requirement for an enhancement finding has remained the same.] The Service's March 26, 2015, decision was again due to the Service being unable to make an enhancement finding even after receiving additional materials from Zimbabwe's Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA) and others.

Prior to April 4, 2014, the Service had limited information regarding the elephant population in Zimbabwe, its management, and how U.S. hunters were contributing to the enhancement of the species within Zimbabwe. Due to this limited information, the Service determined that it did not have sufficient information to make the required determination under paragraph 17.40(e)(3)(iii)(C), and therefore announced an interim suspension on April 4, 2015 (revised on April 17), until such time as sufficient information was obtained that would allow the Service to make the required finding. On April 4, 2014, the Service also sent a letter to Zimbabwe requesting information regarding the status of elephants in Zimbabwe and the hunting program. On April 17, 2014, the Director-General of ZPWMA sent a response to the Service inquiry. Several weeks later, the Service received a number of documents, copies of Zimbabwean laws, and other supporting documentation that was referenced in the ZPWMA response. In addition, since that time, the Service has received additional supporting information from individuals and associations connected to the hunting industry in Zimbabwe or southern Africa and U.S.-based conservation and hunting nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). The Service also delivered a second letter, dated October 31, 2014, to ZPWMA while attending the 13th Annual African Wildlife Consultative Forum in Ethiopia. This letter requested clarification of information submitted to the Service, and also requested additional information to address questions that were raised from our review of available information. The Service received a response to this inquiry on December 10, 2014.

Based on the information provided, the Service determined in 2014 and 2015 Zimbabwe's national elephant management plan consisted primarily of two documents: *The Policy and Plan for Elephant Management in Zimbabwe* (1997) and *Elephant Management in Zimbabwe, third edition* (July 1996). Although the documents provided a well-developed list of goals and objectives, there was no information in these documents on how to achieve or fulfill these goals and objectives, nor did there appear to be any subsequent updates of the documents or reports that provided any indication of progress on fulfilling these management goals and objectives. Without management plans with specific goals and actions that are measurable and reports on the progress of meeting these goals, the Service could not determine if ZPWMA was implementing the general goals and objectives that appear in *Elephant Management in Zimbabwe* and *The*

Policy and Plan for Elephant Management in Zimbabwe. In December 2014, a workshop, hosted by ZPWMA, was held at the Hwange Safari Lodge, Zimbabwe, to discuss revisions to the management plans, particularly to establish clearer goals and measurable outcomes. It appeared that the participants of the workshop agreed on a framework for a revised management plan that maintained the original 1997 long-term vision and the three target goals (i.e., maintain at least four demographically and genetically viable populations; maintain or increase elephant range; maintain numbers/densities of elephants at levels that do not adversely impact biodiversity conservation goals while contributing to economically viable and sustainable wildlife-based land uses). The participants also began work on identifying strategic objectives and outputs, as well as recognizing some key activities, and starting to identify key performance indicators. Additional work was required to finalize the revised management plan. Once this work was completed, the Service explained that it would have an opportunity to evaluate the revised plan to determine if, in conjunction with other management actions, the criteria under 50 CFR 17.40(e)(3)(iii)(C) have been met. However, based on the information available to the Service in March 2015, there was not any information indicating that Zimbabwe was implementing, on a national scale, appropriate management measures for its elephant populations.

One concern expressed in the April 2014 and July 2014 findings was whether management of elephants in Zimbabwe was based on accurate population estimates. According to the *IUCN SSC African Elephant Database report 2013 Africa*, the elephant population in Zimbabwe in 2007 was estimated to be 99,107, and in 2012, it was estimated at 100,291. However, these estimates were primarily based on older surveys, some of which dated back to 2001. In 2014, a nationwide survey was conducted in Zimbabwe as part of the Pan African Elephant Aerial Survey. Preliminary results from the survey indicated that the overall estimated population of elephants in Zimbabwe was 82,000 to 83,000, approximately 20 percent lower than the 2012 estimate. There was an increase in two of the subpopulations within Zimbabwe (North West Matabeleland Region - 2001 estimate of 49,312 elephants, and 2014 estimate of 53,949; Gonarezhou National Park – 2013 estimate of 10,151 elephants, and 2014 estimate of 10,722), but a decline in the other two subpopulations (Mid Zambezi Valley – 2014 estimate of 12,211 elephants, down from 19,297 in 2001; Sebungwe Region – 2014 estimate of 3,634, compared to 13,988 in 2001). With the recent survey, we explained in 2015 that ZPWMA should have more accurate population estimates for each subpopulation to establish appropriate off-take levels to maintain a healthy population of elephants.

According to information provided to the Service for its 2015 finding, Zimbabwe had a methodology, including participation from a number of stakeholders, for establishing annual hunting quotas for all areas of the country. However, while the described methodology appeared to be based on sound wildlife management principles, the Service continued to have fundamental questions regarding how quotas were specifically established and how overall off-take, such as poaching and problem animal control, were taken into account, or to what degree biological factors were taken into consideration (as opposed to economic and societal considerations). As the Service explained, the quota setting process utilized by ZPWMA may take into consideration the issues raised in the Service's finding; however, without documentation of the system providing an explanation of the system used and describing the calculations, the Service was

unable to determine if sport-hunting quotas were reasonable or beneficial to elephant populations and, therefore, whether sport-hunting was enhancing the survival of the species.

The Zimbabwean Parks and Wild Life Act has established the regulatory mechanism for the ZPWMA and its programs, and also provides for substantial penalties for the unlawful possession of or trading in ivory. In addition, the General Laws Amendment Act (No. 5) of 2010 provides for mandatory imprisonment of not less than 9 years for poaching. If properly enforced, it appears these penalties would be a sufficient deterrent for poachers. However, based on the information available to the Service in 2015, we did not have a good understanding of the ZPWMA's annual operational budget, how much money is generated by elephant hunting, or how these funding levels impact the ability of ZPWMA to adequately implement the Parks and Wild Life Act or to carry out day-to-day management activities or anti-poaching efforts. In January 1996, the Government of Zimbabwe approved the establishment of the Parks and Wild Life Conservation Fund, a statutory fund responsible for financing operations directly from wildlife revenues. However, revenues generated through sport-hunting conducted on State and private lands are primarily used to finance ZPWMA, and only limited additional funding is available from appropriated funds from the Zimbabwe government or outside funding from NGOs. While the Service did receive additional information from ZPWMA and other sources on the revenue generated through hunting (in general) and other sources (in general), we still lacked sufficient information on revenue generated through elephant hunting, particularly from U.S. hunters. The Service explained that it was possible that additional documentation could be provided to substantiate claims that revenue from U.S. hunters generated through elephant hunting provides a significant benefit to elephants in the wild, but until such time, we were unable to determine if these claims are accurate.

In 1989, Zimbabwe established the Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) to encourage reduction in human-elephant conflicts through conservation-based community development and to provide an economic incentive to improve community tolerance of wildlife, including elephants. At the time, the CAMPFIRE program was the model for community-based conservation efforts in several other African countries and was identified as an innovative program. Under a community-based conservation program, like CAMPFIRE, rural communities should benefit from revenue generated by sport-hunting. With increased human-elephant conflicts on Communal lands, sport-hunting may be an important tool that gives these communities a stake in sustainable management of the elephant as a natural and economic resource and provides the enhancement that would meet the U.S. criteria for authorizing imports of trophies. Much of the information provided to the Service in advance of our 2015 finding focused on the benefits U.S. hunters provided to CAMPFIRE activities and community-based wildlife management. However, the information did not provide a clear connection between hunting revenues coming from U.S. hunters (e.g., how much is generated for communities), and indicated that over time, the management of wildlife and benefits provided through CAMPFIRE may have declined. The Service noted that it appeared that these concerns were expressed during the November 2014 CAMPFIRE Stakeholder's Workshop held in Zimbabwe. The discussions and recommendations touched on the effectiveness of the CAMPFIRE concept and its relationship to tourist hunting. Participants at the workshop

appeared to have made a good start at addressing issues raised by representatives of Rural Development Councils (RDCs), as well as the need for CAMPFIRE to face challenges with limited resources and capacity. It was recognized that there needed to be strong involvement with ZPWMA and safari operators since CAMPFIRE is in areas where there have been both elephant population declines and increased poaching. While we noted that the Service's concerns expressed in our earlier 2014 findings regarding community-based wildlife management had not been sufficiently addressed in the information provided to the Service for our 2015 finding, there did appear to be movement in better defining the role that CAMPFIRE and community-based wildlife management can play in elephant management, particularly in association with U.S. hunters.

As was stated in the July 2014 and March 2015, findings, there are clearly "bright spots" of elephant conservation efforts being carried out by non-governmental entities and individuals in Zimbabwe that are providing a benefit to elephants. Individual safari outfitters and landowners have established their own management efforts, including anti-poaching activities, on areas under their control, either through ownership of the land or leases. These entities have made significant strides to ensure the long-term survival of elephants on their lands. These efforts, however, had been adversely affected by unilateral or seemingly arbitrary actions taken by the central government or RDCs, such as land redistribution activities, which minimize conservation efforts, and reduced lease durations. These "bright spots" were not numerous enough, in and of themselves, to overcome the problems facing Zimbabwe elephant populations or to support a finding that sport hunting throughout Zimbabwe would enhance the survival of the species. While additional information was provided since for our 2015 finding, much of this information only expanded on areas already identified in previous submissions. The Service noted, however, that two workshops involving multiple safari outfitters and leaseholders were scheduled for the beginning of 2015 to identify and address outstanding issues faced by the safari outfitters. It was the stated hope of the Service that these workshops would be successful and act as a springboard for similar workshops throughout Zimbabwe.

Based on the information available to the Service in 2015 on government efforts to manage elephant populations, efforts to address human-elephant conflicts and poaching, and the state of the hunting program within the country, and without current data on population numbers and trends being incorporated into a national management strategy or plan, the Service was unable to make a finding that sport-hunting in Zimbabwe is enhancing the survival of the species and that imports of trophies would meet the criteria established under the Act for African elephants.

Basis for 2016, 2017, and 2018 Finding for Zimbabwe:

Following the Service's March 26, 2015 finding, on May 12, 2015, Service Assistant Director for International Affairs Bryan Arroyo sent a letter to the Honorable Saviour Kasukuwere, (formerly) Zimbabwe's Minister of Environment, Water and Climate, outlining the concerns the Service still had regarding elephant trophy imports from Zimbabwe. The letter identified six areas of concern: the lack of a current management plan; the current population status of elephants in Zimbabwe; poaching levels and prevention; regulations and enforcement concerns;

the sustainable utilization of elephants in Zimbabwe; and the utilization of hunting revenues.

On July 20, 2015, the ZPWMA sent a letter responding to the May 12 letter. The letter addresses each of the questions outlined in the May 12 letter and included a draft version of the Action Plan for Elephant Conservation and Management in Zimbabwe (2015-2020). In January 2016, the Service received the final version of the Action Plan that had been approved and signed by the Director-General of ZPWMA Edson Chidziya, on January 20, 2016, and the Honorable Oppah Muchinguri-Kashiri, Minister of Environment, Water and Climate on January 21, 2016.

On April 4, 2016, the Service sent an e-mail to ZPWMA requesting clarification of the funding priorities for the 2015-2020 management plan. We received a response on May 9, 2016, but it did not clarify what ZPWMA's funding priorities were in 2016 or beyond. In September 2016, during the 17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, the Service met with representatives from Zimbabwe to further discuss the current status of the Service's evaluation of importation of elephant trophies. As a result of those conversations, the Service received a letter dated November 8, 2016, with supplemental information regarding Zimbabwe's elephant management plan priorities. Further, on January 27, 2017, the Service received a letter from ZPWMA containing a report, "The Role of Trophy Hunting of Elephants in Support of the Zimbabwe CAMPFIRE Program: December 2016" that more fully discussed the source and amount of revenue generated between 2010 and 2015 through the CAMPFIRE program, the current role of CAMPFIRE, and how revenue generated by elephant hunting has been utilized within communal areas over this 6 year period and into the future.

This finding is the result of an analysis of information available to the Service as of the date of this finding, having considered all of the information that has been obtained by the Service since 2014, including information on Zimbabwe's current management plan; the current population status of elephants in Zimbabwe, including poaching levels; regulations and enforcement concerns, such as anti-poaching efforts; the sustainable utilization of elephants in Zimbabwe; and the utilization of hunting revenues.

Management Plans: In its April 4, 2014, letter, the Service asked whether Zimbabwe had a current national management plan for elephants. In the ZPWMA response, Zimbabwe responded that the "management plan" consisted primarily of The Policy and Plan for Elephant Management in Zimbabwe (1997) and Elephant Management in Zimbabwe, third edition (July 1996). In addition, ZPWMA stated that they also implement other plans: "The African Elephant Action Plan" (CoP15 Inf. 68), SADC Protocol on Wildlife, and Elephant and Rhino Security Plan. In the ZPWMA response, ZPWMA stated that all of the protected areas in Zimbabwe have "specific aspects of elephant monitoring programs that are implemented and reviewed on an annual basis." ZPWMA stated that information on the status of the elephant is derived from aerial surveys, water hole counts, walking transects, visitor observation, and ranger-based monitoring. In addition, ZPWMA stated that they are regularly monitoring the status of the elephant population, including poaching, at two sites through the CITES "Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants" (MIKE) program.

While Elephant Management in Zimbabwe provides a historical review of elephant status in Zimbabwe prior to 1996, it primarily focuses on intentional reduction of elephant populations through culling rather than on maintenance or increase of populations under threat. Although the Service recognizes the potential role of culling as part of a management program, Elephant Management in Zimbabwe is largely irrelevant as a management plan given its age and because it does not establish specific measurables or management actions that need to be taken. The document does state that when managing elephant males for sport hunting, it is essential to account for all adult males removed from a population, including animals taken through problem animal control and poaching.

The Policy and Plan for Elephant Management in Zimbabwe was the outcome of a “Zimbabwe Elephant Management Framework” workshop held on January 13, 1997, in Harare. The document summarizes the issues that were affecting elephant populations in Zimbabwe at the time, and recommends policy statements on elephant management. While the document states a clear goal and establishes ten objectives with management actions identified, it does not provide a methodology to meet the objectives or complete management actions. Without a plan to take specific actions to meet the objectives, or at least a clear framework on how adaptive management efforts would be monitored to ensure that they are meeting the stated objectives, it is not clear to the Service how the document would serve as a “management plan.” Other documents provided by ZPWMA in response to our inquiries, e.g. “The African Elephant Action Plan” (CoP15 Inf. 68), SADC Protocol on Wildlife, and Elephant and Rhino Security Plan also establish broad policy goals and objectives, but provide very little with regard to specific management actions or measurables.

Either as an outcome of our 2014 negative finding or internal discussions, ZPWMA recognized that The Policy and Plan for Elephant Management in Zimbabwe was out of date and did not address key elements that had changed since 1997. To address this, ZPWMA held a three-day workshop at Hwange Safari Lodge (December 2-4, 2014) to review Zimbabwe’s elephant management regime. The workshop was attended by the ZPWMA Director General, the Permanent Secretary for Environment, Water and Climate, members of the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Board, Executive Directors of Rural District Councils, and various NGOs. Both the Permanent Secretary and the Director General acknowledged at the workshop that the 1997 management plan was outdated and had been overtaken by events at the global, regional, and local levels and cannot address current challenges.

The workshop participants agreed on a framework for an upcoming management plan. The proposed revised management plan had the same long-term vision of the 1997 plan and basically the same target goals (i.e., maintain at least 4 demographically and genetically viable populations; maintain or increase elephant range; maintain numbers/densities of elephants at levels that do not adversely impact biodiversity conservation goals while contributing to economically viable and sustainable wildlife-based land uses). The workshop participants identified the beginnings of strategic objectives and outputs, as well as some key activities. The outcome of the workshop was the starting point for reevaluating Zimbabwe’s management program. However, according to the Proceedings, there was insufficient time at the workshop to complete the section on means of verifying the key performance indicators. A schedule was agreed upon: by Dec. 15, 2014,

ZPWMA would appoint a drafting team to write up the management plan; the 1st draft of the plan would be ready by Jan. 30, 2015; the Elephant Management Plan Coordinating Committee would be convened by ZPWMA by Feb. 28, 2015; Final draft of management plan by April 30, 2015; and Operational annual management plans for 4 sub-regions by May 30, 2015.

While this schedule was not followed closely, since the December 2014 workshop, significant work has been done to develop a revised elephant management plan. As an outcome of this workshop, the participants identified that each of the four primary elephant ranges needed a regional plan to address specific challenges in each area. A workshop was held at the end of April 2015, to discuss an anti-poaching strategy for Mana Pools National Park, the results of which was later expanded to cover the mid-Zambezi Valley region. Likewise, in May and September 2015, workshops were held in Sebungwe and the South East Lowveld, respectively, to develop action plans for each region. An anti-poaching workshop for Hwange National Park was held in June 2015 and, according to ZPWMA, was combined with the management plan for the park to develop the basis for an action plan for Northwest Matabeleland.

As a result of these various workshops, and other efforts ZPWMA and their collaborators put into developing a revised national management plan, the Zimbabwe National Elephant Management Plan (2015-2020) (EMP) was approved for implementation by the Director-General of ZPWMA and the Minister, Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate, on January 20, 2016, and January 21, 2016, respectively. The revised elephant management plan addresses the challenges identified by the 2014 workshop participants and concerns identified by the Service about the failure of Zimbabwe's former management plan to identify specific action items, deliverables, and deadlines. The revised EMP incorporates an adaptive management framework with higher-level targets, with key components, strategic objectives, and outputs. Each key component has management actions that can be measured and verified through "Key Performance Indicators." A set deadline for each action was identified. These measurables allow ZPWMA to monitor the success of the new management plan and, through an adaptive management approach, address newly emerging concerns and long-term management needs.

The EMP focuses on five major components: Protection and Law Enforcement; Biological Monitoring and Management; Social, Economic, and Cultural Framework; Building Conservation Capacity; and Coordination, Collaboration, and Program Management. While addressing elephants on a national basis, the plan also contains annexes with regional management plans for each of the four main elephant populations in Zimbabwe. Differences in management requirements and regional challenges were addressed in the actions and indicators of each regional plan. The intent of the EMP, and its regional components, is to provide for accountability, transparency, and effective implementation. The EMP calls for the establishment of a national elephant manager position tasked with directing elephant management in Zimbabwe. The plan calls for the creation of a National Elephant Management Committee and four range-specific committees to review progress and oversee implementation.

The EMP (page 31) states that the plan "is an ambitious plan" and that the implementation would "require more human and financial resources than are currently available for the conservation and management of elephants in Zimbabwe." Recognizing that ZPWMA may not currently have

adequate resources to implement the Plan as drafted, and that well-prioritized implementation of the plan in a manner to enable elephant sport hunting that benefits the survival of African elephants in Zimbabwe could still help serve as the basis for a finding of enhancement, the Service requested on April 4, 2016, that ZPWMA identify its priorities for implementation and progress in implementation. On May 9, 2016, the Service received a response from (former) Director-General Chidziya. Unfortunately, Mr. Chidziya's response did not identify any priorities. It was not until the Service was able to meet with representatives of the Zimbabwe government and ZPWMA in South Africa in September 2016 that we were able to discuss the issue further. As a result, the Service received a letter dated November 8, 2016, that contained a document, apparently drafted between August 2016 and the end of October 2016, titled "The Zimbabwe National Elephant Supplementary Management Plan (2015-2020)" (the Supplement). This document identified four priority areas: Law Enforcement, Biological monitoring and management, Investigations/Intelligence, and the appointment of an Elephant Manager. The document identified that a national Elephant Manager has been hired (but did not identify how long the manager had been in place) and is currently working with ZPWMA personnel, regional intergovernmental agencies, private sector, and nongovernmental organizations to begin implementing the EMP. The Supplement also emphasized law enforcement and training to combat poaching and ivory trafficking. According to the document, as of August 2016, more than \$1 million had been spent on priority activities. In addition, the document contained a summary on the status and progress, as of August 2016, of action items identified in the EMP for each of the four regions. While the summary does indicate that there are clearly areas where additional actions should be carried out, it does reflect a concerted effort on the part of ZPWMA and its partners since the EMP was signed into effect January 21, 2016, to implement the EMP in a manner to enable elephant sport hunting that benefits the survival of African elephants in Zimbabwe now and to make progress toward full implementation that achieves further benefits for elephants from sport hunting going forward.

Population Status: To manage any population to ensure an appropriate population level and determine whether sport-hunting is having a positive effect on the survival of African elephants, it is vital to have sufficient data on population numbers and population trends to base management decisions. Without current population data, it is not clear how one can calculate the number to offtake. Without information on population demography and mortality, it is not possible to determine accurately what impact hunting, in conjunction with other offtakes, including problem animal control and poaching, is having on Zimbabwe's elephant population. At the time the Service made its April and July 2014 findings, there did not appear to be sufficient data on the population status of elephants within Zimbabwe. According to the IUCN SSC African Elephant Database report "2013 Africa", the elephant population in Zimbabwe in 2007 was estimated to be 99,107, of which 85% (84,416) was classified as "definite", although less than 1% of these animals were identified by aerial or direct counts, and only 0.3% (291) was classified as "speculative". While the total population in 2012 was estimated at 100,291, only 47% (47,366) was classified as "definite" and 45% (45,375) was classified as "speculative." Only 304 "definite" animals were counted by aerial or ground counts (less than 1% of the definite animals), while 41,840 of these animals were counted through sample counts or dung counts, a less accurate methodology than properly conducted aerial surveys, and the remaining 5,222 were estimated through "other guesses." In a November 3, 2014, letter to the Service, the IUCN/SSC African

Elephant Special Group (AfESG) stated that data had been inadvertently left out of the 2013 provisional report. Specifically, a 2007 survey of Hwange National Park which added an additional 30,000 elephants to the “definite” category (from the “speculative” category), while not changing the overall population estimate. In addition, according to information provided by ZPWMA, two surveys were conducted in 2012-2013 in Save Valley Conservancy and in Gonarezhou National Park (and surrounding areas). In Aerial Survey of the Larger Herbivores, Save Valley Conservancy, Zimbabwe, a report compiled in September 2013 by the Technical Advisory Committee of the Save Valley Conservancy, 1,538 elephants were counted. Based on nine years of aerial surveys (2004-2010 and 2012-2013), not all of which covered all of the Save Valley Conservancy, there appears to have been a short-term increase in elephant population density of 9.5%.

In 2014, the Pan African Aerial Elephant Survey (<http://www.greatelephantcensus.com/>), or the Great Elephant Census (GEC), was carried out over a significant portion of the savanna elephant’s range in Africa. The GEC developed standardized survey methodology to establish a consistent continent-wide population basis line. However, it is important to emphasize that Zimbabwe did not modernize its elephant survey method nor did it conduct surveys comparable to the rest of the continent during the GEC. The surveys, approved by the organizers of the GEC, that were conducted used the same methodology, coverage, and transects that have been used since the 1960s in Zimbabwe. The results of this approach is that, while the surveys did not calculate a new baseline, or a more accurate population value, Zimbabwe was able to replicate past surveys that is comparable to past iterations to determine relative population trends over time. In 2015, confirmed results from the GEC reported an estimate for elephant abundance in Zimbabwe to be 82,304 individuals (73,715-90,893), with a total carcass ratio of 7.8%. This was a 6% decrease from the 2001 population estimate. It should be noted, however, that a carcass ratio of greater than 8% generally indicates a declining population.

In African Elephant Status Report – 2016, the AfESG estimated Zimbabwe’s elephant population at $82,630 \pm 8,589$ across a range of $81,228 \text{ km}^2$. According to this report, Zimbabwe maintains the second-largest elephant population in Africa. The population is most concentrated in the North West Matabeleland and South East Lowveld ranges. There was an estimated increase in population for Northwest Matabeleland from $49,310 \pm 7,051$ in 2001 to $53,991 \pm 7,711$ in 2014. There were no significant differences in totals, but the carcass ratio in 2014 was 7% compared to 3% in 2001. According to the report, the 2014 estimate for Sebungwe (northern Zimbabwe) was $3,407 \pm 1,215$ compared to $15,024 \pm 2,133$ in 2006. The observed carcass ratio of 30% indicated an unsustainably high offtake with almost no elephants left in the communal areas, with the main surviving sub-population in Matusadona and Chizarira National Parks and the Chirisa Safari Area. There was also a decrease in estimates for the Lower Zambezi Valley from $11,656 \pm 2,259$ in 2014, compared to $19,297 \pm 2,527$ in 2003. However, the report stated that the observed carcass ratio of 6% is not as high as one would expect given the rate of population reduction and might suggest that the level of poaching has reduced in recent years.

Although Zimbabwe chooses not to use the same survey methodology that other countries used during the 2014 GEC, the results of the GEC, and subsequent survey data reported in the 2016 AfESG report, provided more reliable data and a better basis for establishing management

priorities than previous surveys and guesses. Prior to the GEC survey, ZPWMA had stated that the national elephant population was approximately 100,000 animals. This determination was based on guesses and old population estimates, many of which were over 10 years old, and was used to establish quotas or to facilitate management decisions. While establishing the EMP was paramount to improving Zimbabwe's elephant management regime, it was only by incorporating the current population estimates into the framework of the EMP that more effective management would be possible. The targets and goals of the EMP have taken these more reliable population estimates into consideration when establishing hunting offtakes to implement the EMP.

Regulations and Enforcement: The regulatory mechanisms for ZPWMA and its programs were established primarily under the Parks and Wild Life Act 1996 (amended), but also include a number of other laws and regulations. The Parks and Wild Life Act include sections on virtually every aspect of ZPWMA, including requirements for annual financial audits and reporting to the central government. The law also provides for substantial penalties for the unlawful possession of or trading in ivory. The first offense carries a minimum of 5 years and a maximum of 15 years in prison. The second offense carries a minimum prison term of 7 years and a maximum of 15 years. However, according to the response from ZPWMA to our April 4, 2014, inquiry, the General Laws Amendment Act (No. 5) of 2010 provides for a mandatory imprisonment of not less than nine years for poaching.

In January 1996, the Government of Zimbabwe approved the establishment of the Parks and Wild Life Conservation Fund that provides for financing wildlife operations directly from revenues generated through wildlife-related activities. The funding for ZPWMA is therefore coming from revenue generated through sport hunting conducted on state and private lands, concession leases, National Park visitor fees, and other wildlife related fees. While there have been requests by ZPWMA for funding from the central treasury in the past, to our knowledge, no other significant government funding has been provided, and only limited outside funding from NGOs or other governments appears to be available.

In response to the Service's May 12, 2015, letter, ZPWMA sent a letter on June 20, 2015, with additional information on their elephant hunting program. While the document did not specifically identify the amount of revenue generated from elephant hunting, it did state that in 2014, \$5,072,493 was generated as hunting revenue. The document went on to state that historically 54% of the hunting market in Zimbabwe is made up of US hunters. Assuming the historical average provided by ZPWMA, US hunters may have contributed approximately \$2.74 million of the total hunting revenue for 2014. The document estimated that 2015 revenues from hunting would increase to \$6.2 million in 2015. While the document did not provide updated estimates on the role of U.S. hunters, it did assume the role of U.S. hunters would remain consistent with historical averages absent the fact that the Service was not approving the importation of elephant trophies at that time. ZPWMA stated that they had an operating budget of \$25.7 million for 2014 and (budgeted) \$34.1 million in 2015. According to this document, ZPWMA had revenue equaling \$26.4 million in 2014 and estimated revenue of \$35.5 million for 2015. While the Service did not receive information regarding ZPWMA's full 2016 or 2017 budget or the estimated revenue, we did receive information that as between January 2016 and August 2016, ZPWMA had spent \$1.010 million on the implementation of the EMP. In addition,

we received more specific information regarding revenue generated in the communal areas that were managed by CAMPFIRE (see Revenue Utilization section below).

According to “The Role of Trophy Hunting of Elephant in Support of the Zimbabwe CAMPFIRE Program – December 2016”, a report the Service received on December 17, 2016, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, has established the Tourism Receipts Accounting System (TRAS) that required all outfitters to submit returns listing the revenue generated for hunting activities. This system has been in place for several years, but required manual analysis of the data to extract information on hunting revenue. In January 2015, a web-based system (TRAS2) was introduced that links Safari Operators, ZPWMA Authority, Taxidermists, Shipping Agents, International Marketing Agents and Reserve Bank. Under this system all authorized hunts are registered allowing for the capture of hunting data, such as the origin of clients, value of trophies and hunts, and area hunted, to monitor hunting quota utilization and track hunted trophies. According to the December 2016 report, the Exchange Control Division of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe and the ZPWMA are now able to:

1. Assess regional price differentials of similar hunts and the reasons thereof;
2. Present TRAS2 system updates and reports to the users, including international marketing agents;
3. Engage with international marketing agents of sport hunting;
4. Obtain relevant insights on governing of the hunting sector; and
5. Come up with an effective mechanism to fully account for export proceeds from the hunting sector.

This system would be very beneficial in obtaining data in the future on how funds generated by elephant hunting in Zimbabwe, particularly from U.S. hunters, are utilized to enhance the survival of the species.

One concern expressed by the Service in its previous findings was whether ZPWMA was responding to the apparent poaching crisis facing Zimbabwe. One particular concern was the poisoning event in Hwange. Based on communication from ZPWMA, as well as information received from NGOs, ZPWMA specifically responded to the threat of poaching in Hwange by improving radio communications, adding aerial surveillance, and holding 35 public awareness meetings in the area. ZPWMA has also stepped up its anti-poaching nationally by adopting a number of “Urgent Measures” (as identified in ZPWMA’s July 2015 letter). ZPWMA has acted to increase poaching penalties, criminalize the use of cyanide in poaching, increase air surveillance of protected areas, collaborate with national law enforcement and military agencies to raise a national concern regarding elephant poaching, and improve intelligence-sharing across international borders. According to available information, ZPWMA has also held a judiciary awareness program to support better implementation of relevant poaching laws and penalties throughout prosecution and sentencing. As shown in the July 2015 Response, most of ZPWMA’s budget (77%) is allocated for staff costs and patrol provisions. These expenditures reportedly fund anti-poaching efforts throughout the elephant range. ZPWMA reportedly has a staff of 1,504 active field rangers and has stated that there is an intent to increase this number. According to “The Zimbabwe National Elephant Supplementary Management Plan (2015-2020)”, over 80% of spending under the new EMP has been on law enforcement (anti-poaching) and training, with law

enforcement identified as the top priority going forward.

The Parks and Wildlife Act Chapter 20:14 devolved authority to manage and benefit from wildlife on communal and private lands to the landholders. Although the Service raised questions on how successful this approach would be in previous findings, the Zimbabwe government has established dialogue and collaborated with NGOs, landowners, and safari area concessionaires to improve elephant management and anti-poaching efforts. According to their July 2015 response to the Service, and supported by the report on the implementation of the EMP provided in November 2016, ZPWMA is engaging private players in co-management in some areas and entering into long-term lease agreements (10-25 years) to manage some protected areas. In certain areas, ZPWMA is reportedly partnering with safari operators; in others, they partner with non-profits, such as the Tashinga Initiative in the Zambezi Valley and WWF in the Hwange-Sanyati Biological Corridor.

On November 12, 2015, a stakeholders conference was held in Harare. The meeting was called by Minister Mrs. Opah Muchinguri-Kashiri, Minister of Environment, Water and Climate, as the chairperson of a multi-ministerial cabinet committee established to look into the poaching crisis within Zimbabwe. In attendance were the Minister of Tourism and Hospitality, and the Minister of Rural Development, Preservation of Culture and Heritage. Other delegates included the Permanent Secretaries from the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture, representatives from the Zimbabwe National Army, the Air Force, the Zimbabwe Republic Police, Rural District Councils, NGO's, industry and civil society. The conference, partially funded by the African Wildlife Foundation, noted that Zimbabwe needed to reinstate a level of custodianship over wildlife to the local level and give communities and land owners broad user rights. It also noted the need to review the efficiencies of the private wildlife sector, community wildlife programs, and ZWPMA. A number of recommendations were made at the conference including addressing resource concerns of rangers in the field; evaluate how CAMPFIRE is interacting with local communities; and building greater trust between various ministries and agencies to address sport hunting issues. The Minister also called for establishing regular meetings of stakeholders to ensure that there is continual movement in addressing identified issues.

While no information was provided on whether these stakeholder meetings are proceeding as called for by the Minister, the Service was informed by AWF that they have established, and partially fund, the Environment and Wildlife Advisory Committee (EWAC) for the Minister. According to AWF, this committee will advise the Minister and provide technical assistance to ZWPMA. AWF stated that the November conference was the first of its kind to bring together such a wide array of ministries and agencies and, according to AWF, will greatly improve the wildlife industry in Zimbabwe.

At the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in 2013, the report on ETIS (CoP16 Doc. 53.2.2) expressed concerns about Zimbabwe in regard to illegal trade in ivory. The report stated that, as a group, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Namibia, were in the middle range, when compared to 64 other consumer or producer countries of elephant ivory, in terms of the mean number of seizures identified, but ranked fifth in the measure of scale, indicating most of the seizures were in the 10-100 kg class (i.e., an average number of seizures that were predominately

smaller in size). The report noted that 65% of the ivory trade between 2006 and 2011 had occurred since 2009, indicating that illegal ivory trade is increasing. Governance indicators were mixed, with a much lower than average World Bank “rule of law” score, but the second highest law enforcement ratio of any group of countries evaluated.

At the 17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in 2016, the “Report on the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS)” (CoP17 Doc. 57.6) reflected that there were some improvements in Zimbabwe. As in the previous report, the document grouped Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe together in terms of their level of government oversight and capacity. These countries regularly report data to ETIS. In terms of all data that implicate these countries in an ivory seizure, this southern African grouping reflects middle range values in terms of mean number of seizures and the mean weight of ivory seized. The measure for assessing the presence of organized crime stands at zero which, according to the document, is indisputably a good sign. Governance indicators are mixed, however, with the rule of law score problematic and suggesting the presence of corruption, but the relatively high law enforcement ratio partially mitigates that concern. As reported in earlier ETIS reports, Zimbabwe was the country that pulls the rule of law score down, indicating far greater governance challenges exist in that country. The domestic ivory market score is low, reflecting the complete absence of a market in Botswana and a very low level of trade in Namibia. Again, Zimbabwe is the exception with the tenth largest ivory market of any country in this analysis. While not directly addressed in the two ETIS reports, there is some evidence of corruption or collusion within the wildlife sector. It was revealed in 2016 that there was not adequate control of its rhino horn stockpile, and the former Director General Edson Chidziya was recently fired over the loss of a significant number of rhino horns. While this event raises concerns over ZPWMA’s ability to maintain control over stockpiles and other resources, it should also be acknowledged that there are mechanisms in place, that were utilized, to address such governance issues.

Sustainable Use: According to the AfESG 2016 report, poaching for ivory has escalated in the past 10 years and has become a major problem in Zimbabwe. Poaching impacts are highest in the north of the country, particularly in the Sebungwe Region. However, at the same time, concerns have been expressed about the impact of high numbers of elephants on vegetation and other biodiversity in protected areas, particularly in areas with elephant densities higher than 0.5 elephants per km² (some areas of Zimbabwe have densities higher than 1 elephant per km²). These two apparently opposing factors (uncontrolled poaching that may adversely affect elephant populations in some areas of Zimbabwe and overutilization of habitat by high numbers of elephants in other parts of Zimbabwe) previously raised concerns by FWS on what would constitute a sustainable utilization of elephants in Zimbabwe.

In previous findings, the Service did not have sufficient information regarding offtake in Zimbabwe, including basic information like the number of elephants that have been sport-hunted annually. For both the 2014 and 2015 hunting seasons (January – December), Zimbabwe had established an annual export quota of 500 elephants (1000 tusks). This is the same quota that

Zimbabwe has reported to the CITES Secretariat since 2004. Likewise, for 2016 and 2017, Zimbabwe has reported the same annual export quota to the Secretariat. It is unclear, given the improved population data now available to Zimbabwe and the revised management plan that specifically recognizes the use of population data when establishing quotas, why Zimbabwe maintains the same CITES export quota year to year. While the Service will request additional insight into Zimbabwe decision not to amend the voluntary quota provided to the CITES Secretariat before making a 2018 finding, unlike what was available to the Service when it made its previous findings, there is now clear information that Zimbabwe has not reached this export quota in the past and is unlikely to do so in the future given the new management efforts under the EMP. In ZPWMA's July 20, 2015, response, a chart was provided that identified the level of offtake between 2010 and 2014, as well as approximately six months of 2015. Based in this response, the average of 215 sport-hunted elephant trophies was taken each year between 2010 and 2014, with the first half of 2015 (75 trophies) being consistent with this annual average (between 2011 and 2013, the average off-take was 260 annually (274, 247, and 258, respectively), so a lower offtake in 2010 (134 trophies) and 2014 (162 trophies) made a significant difference in average annual offtake). Over this period, there were 57 and 23 animals culled in 2010 and 2011, respectively. According to ZPWMA, the number of live exports were low, with a total of 11 live elephants exported in 2012 and 2014 (however, according to the WCMC trade database, Zimbabwe reported the export of 3 live elephants in 2011, 18 in 2012, and 27 in 2015).

Of the five years of data (2009-2013) ZPWMA provided in their April 17, 2014, response, an average of 190 elephants were identified as being poached annually. In 2009 and 2010, there was an average of 111 elephants poached; however, between 2011 and 2013, the average more than doubled to 243 elephants. According to the information received in July 2015, 293 elephants were poached in 2013, including the 105 elephants poisoned in Hwange National Park. However, according to more recent information, the number of elephants poached in 2014 declined to 194, with 70 being identified as poached in the first 6 months of 2015. This identified decline was also corroborated by data presented at CoP17 (CoP17 Doc. 57.6).

While the number of elephants taken as problem animals was not elucidated in material provided by ZPWMA in 2014, their July 20, 2015, response did provide more details. Over a 5-year period (2010 to 2014), an average of 76 elephants was taken annually. There was a spike in 2012 of 173 animals, but other years the annual offtake was reportedly between 44 and 61 animals annually. The July 20, 2015, document also provided more information regarding natural mortality rates. According to this information, between 2010 and 2014, there was a spike of natural mortality in 2011 (1,015 mortalities), 2012 (1,373), and 2014 (1,981), with a five-year average of 940 animals (although the reported natural mortality in 2010 and 2013 was substantially lower, which raises questions regarding the reliability of the 2010 and 2013 figures). The partial data for 2015 (455 reported mortalities) is consistent with average annual mortality rate of 940 animals.

Taking into consideration all of the reported offtake between 2010 and 2014, there was an average offtake of approximately 1,500 animals. Based on this average and the reported population estimates coming from the 2014 GEC, Zimbabwe appears to be experiencing approximately 2% offtake of their elephant population. Even if the annual export quota was 500 elephants, based on the most recent survey data, the hunting offtake would be less than 1% of the total population

(noting, of course, that hunting offtake is typically focused on a select group of larger, tusked elephants). With the reported average hunting offtake of 215 trophies, as reported in 2015, the hunting offtake would be approximately 0.2% of the total population.

In our previous findings, the Service raised concerns about how quotas were established and allocated among safari outfitters and landowners. According to information from ZPWMA, as well as information provided by many of the comments received by the Service from safari outfitters and professional hunters associations, the principal form of utilization of the elephant in Zimbabwe is sport hunting. According to ZPWMA, quotas established in previous years (before the EMP) were set to maximize the sustainable production of high-quality trophies without detriment to the population. It appeared that the national export quota of 500 elephants was the goal to reach when establishing quotas for each hunting area, as opposed to determining the best quota to facilitate management goals for those areas. According to the material provided to the Service in 2014 and 2015, it appears that the complete quota of 500 elephants was allocated proportionally to each area based on recommendations from ZPWMA ecologists, field staff, safari operators, other stakeholders, and technical specialists through “multiple stakeholders participatory quota setting.” Then, on an annual basis, stakeholders use available population data to propose a particular quota for an area to a Quota Setting Workshop. At this workshop, it is determined if the proposed quota should be adopted or modified in relation to other proposed quotas. Factors that are apparently considered each year include population estimates, growth rates of populations, size of hunting areas, status of habitat, and target elephant population size.

With the establishment of the EMP, there is a more systematic, scientifically-based approach to establish national quotas. According to a presentation made by the Zimbabwe elephant coordinator at a workshop in South Africa at the end of November 2016, Zimbabwe looks at a number of factors. While they are still starting with the quota identified to the CITES Secretariat (500 elephants), they are not immediately dividing this quota between all of the hunting areas. Instead, they are taking into consideration the results of the 2014 survey and subsequent surveys, results from research efforts, the size of the hunting area in relation to elephant habitat requirements, illegal off-take and other forms of off-take, how the hunting areas are managed in relation to land use or fencing, human-wildlife conflicts that have occurred previously, and recommended sustainable off-take levels developed based on ecological assessments of the hunting area. This information is then further evaluated in light of other species within the hunting area, past elephant trophy quality, and community benefits of proposed harvests.

The proposed quota is then discussed at stakeholder workshops in each of the four elephant regions. This process is presented in the District Quota Setting Toolbox and the Quota Setting Manual, published in 2000 and 1997, respectively, that were discussed in previous Service findings. The significant difference between how the quotas were set previously and the methodology carried out now is the weighted input of elephant ecologists and managers. While stakeholder interests are considered, the final quota determination is made by ZPWMA ecologists to ensure the quotas are assessed at a sustainable level, having negligible impact on the population. According to their July 2015 response, ZPWMA reduced the starting number from 500 to 300. For 2016, they stated that they were raising the starting point for determining a national quota to 400. However, based on the 2014 census data, a quota of 400 elephants would

constitute 0.49% of the total population of over 82,000. It should be noted that to date, the annual trophy harvest of 215 elephants is well below this value and therefore would account for less than a 0.49% off-take (It should be noted, however, that the proportional off-take of trophy animals would be higher when considering that trophy hunting is targeting a specific sub-group of the total population).

Revenue Utilization: On communal lands in Zimbabwe, the protection of elephants falls primarily under the Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE), which encourages reductions in human-elephant conflicts through conservation-based community development. The program was established in 1989 as a means of providing an economic incentive and return to rural communities while encouraging tolerance for the elephant and sustainable use of natural resources. This program has been the model for community-based conservation efforts in several other African countries and identified as an innovative program in the past. Under this program, there are currently 29 Rural District Councils (RDCs) that have been granted Appropriate Authority status under the Parks and Wild Life Act. Based on several CAMPFIRE documents presented to the Service, between 12 and 16 RDCs with exploitable wildlife resources make up the core of the CAMPFIRE program.

According to the Revised CAMPFIRE Revenue Sharing Guidelines, which were incorporated into the Constitution of the CAMPFIRE Association in 2007, at least 55% of generated revenue from hunting should be devolved to producer communities, no more than 26% and 15% for management and overhead at RDC level, respectively, and 4% as a levy to the CAMPFIRE Association. According to an undated document (but presumably produced in late 2014, since it references data from 2014 but does not include any references to 2015 data) produced by CAMPFIRE (CAMPFIRE report undated) at least 10 RDCs comply with the Revenue Guidelines. As reported in this document, data were presented in an October 2013 report stating an estimated US\$2,496,349 was generated by 15 RDCs in 2012 from hunting revenue. While this report states that 5 out of 13 RDCs contributed 84% of the hunting revenue, the supporting table to this statement does not reflect this number. Further, the report states that an assessment of 18 main CAMPFIRE districts allocated hunting quotas for 2014 shows that 106 out of 167 bull elephant hunts were booked by U.S. hunters and that elephant hunting contributes more than 70% of the income to the CAMPFIRE program, and that 90% of all CAMPFIRE revenue comes from all hunting.

The CAMPFIRE report (undated) stated that in the Community Based Natural Resources Management Stocktaking Assessment Report by Mazambani and Dembetembe (2010) [Service does not have a copy of this report], between 1989 and 2006, US\$88.9 million in gross revenue was realized by key stakeholders in the CAMPFIRE program. Of this revenue, 55% went to safari outfitters, 23.4% to producer communities, 19.8% to RDCs, and 1.8% to the CAMPFIRE Association. (The Service has no additional documentation or information to validate these figures.)

On 17-18 November 2014, a workshop titled “CAMPFIRE Stakeholder’s workshop: Towards the Development of a New Elephant Management Plan and Policy” was held in Zimbabwe. The

discussions and recommendations touched on the effectiveness of the CAMPFIRE concept and its relationship to tourist hunting. At the workshop, Charles McCallum Safari reported that they had contributed over \$349,000 to CAMPFIRE wards and the RDC in 2013 – U.S. elephant hunters contributed 40% of this total (\$132,870). In 2014, the total was up to \$400,995 but contributions due to U.S. hunters dropped to 27% (\$100,800) – all elephant hunting was only 32% of the total (\$118,425). It appears that the workshop may have been a good starting point to address issues faced by RDCs and to improve the effectiveness of CAMPFIRE. However, according to Conservation Force, represented at the workshop, CAMPFIRE needed to find a balance between a large elephant population and human population pressures, as well as ensure that revenue from tourist hunting and other resource uses flows to local communities. The 2014 Pan African survey results confirmed that elephant populations in the Zambezi Valley and in Sebungwe have decreased significantly. These areas include communal land. The declines indicate that the persistence of elephants in these areas may be in question in future years if the trend is not halted or reversed.

In a November 11, 2015, presentation by CAMPFIRE to the 14th African Wildlife Consultative Forum in South Africa, it was reported that new CAMPFIRE Revenue Sharing Guidelines have been established where revenue are paid by Safari Operators within CAMPFIRE communities directly into community controlled bank accounts, not through RDCs. CAMPFIRE areas would receive 100% of trophy fees for all animals hunted. The communities within the RDC would receive 55% of CAMPFIRE income for their projects, while 41% would be provided to the Rural District Councils for field patrols, monitoring of hunts, problem animal control, water, fire management, and district development. The remaining 4% would be given to the CAMPFIRE Association to coordinate the program and represent its interests at all levels. However, on average, 52% (below required 55%) went to communities, 44% (vs 41% required) went to councils, and 4% to the CAMPFIRE Association.

According to this presentation, the total income of all hunting in 2014, within CAMPFIRE areas that were surveyed, was \$2,102,007, compared to \$2,229,910 in 2013. It was stated that, on the average, elephant hunting contributed 54% (\$1,138,375) of the total hunting income in 2014. Only one district, Matobo, did not generate any income from elephant hunting. Hwange district generated 100% of its income from elephant hunts. Average revenue was \$82,475 per district, but one district, Matobo, generated \$0 and Tsholotsho generated \$381,500. Based on the actual division of the revenue, communities received \$1,100,643, RDC received \$917,283, and CAMPFIRE Association received \$84,080 from all hunting related activities in 2014.

Reports received since 2014 indicate that funds have been invested in projects that benefit the communities overall, such as building classrooms or clinics; purchasing farm equipment; rehabilitating water supplies; purchasing vehicles used in wildlife monitoring and anti-poaching; installing solar power; and other infrastructure improvements. The purpose behind CAMPFIRE is to stimulate the long-term development and sustainable use of natural resources in Zimbabwe's communal areas. By linking these tangible benefits to the protection of wildlife within the communal areas, CAMPFIRE can provide a clear connection to rural residents for the

protection of wildlife, including elephants. Its infrastructure also creates jobs for conservation officers and in monitoring programs, as well as employing game scouts.

In September 2016, the Service received information regarding efforts to review the CAMPFIRE program, which is being supported by the EU through a 12 million Euros contribution. The review was to start in February 2016 and last for 18 months, with a report by the end of 2017. The review was stated to be an effort to develop an improved policy, regulatory, and institutional framework for CAMPFIRE. While this review is still under way and the Service has not received any information on the potential outcome of the review, this appears to be a significant move forward in addressing issues that have been raised about CAMPFIRE, such as their support to communities to better manage wildlife resources and equitably utilize their financial resources.

“The Role of Trophy Hunting of Elephant in Support of the Zimbabwe CAMPFIRE Program – December 2016,” a report the Service received on December 17, 2016, contained a recent audit of nine CAMPFIRE districts that receive funds from elephant hunting. In these districts, approximately 60% of the allocated elephant quota (approximately 114 elephants/year of the annual average quota of 180 elephants) has historically been utilized and the majority of hunters (53%) originate from the United States. These U.S. hunters have contributed US\$9 million toward the CAMPFIRE Program during 2010-2015, compared to US\$8 million from hunters from 40 other nations. Based on this report, approximately 25% of Zimbabwe’s people are receiving incentives to conserve wildlife and prevent anti-poaching through CAMPFIRE. Between 1994 and 2012, CAMPFIRE generated US\$39 million of which US\$21.5 million was allocated to communities and used for resource management (22%), household benefits (26%), and community projects (52%). According to this report, about 90% of CAMPFIRE revenue comes from hunting, with elephant hunting contributing up to 70% of annual revenue.

According to the report, a total of 1,087 elephants have been allocated on quotas to the nine CAMPFIRE areas since 2010. The distribution of this quota among the nine CAMPFIRE areas is dictated by the relative density of elephants in the neighboring protected areas and those residing in the CAMPFIRE areas. Tsholotsho, for example, which borders the southern boundary of Hwange National Park, was allocated 158 elephants (or approximately 26/year) while Hwange, Binga and Hurungwe CAMPFIRE Areas, which do not border onto areas of high elephant densities, received approximately 10 elephants/year. Over the six years, Tsholotsho (99%), Mbire (71%) and Chiredzi (68%) have successfully utilized their allocated quotas while areas such as Hurungwe (20%) and Binga (26%) have utilized a smaller percentage of their allocated quotas. Based on this information, and information in the “Supplement”, approximately 53% of all sport-hunted elephant trophies taken annually in Zimbabwe were hunted CAMPFIRE areas.

As stated earlier, to fully account for earnings in the hunting sector, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe established the Tourism Receipts Accounting System (TRAS) and its web-based system, TRAS2 to links Safari Operators, ZPWMA, Taxidermists, Shipping Agents, International Marketing Agents and Reserve Bank. Under this system all authorized hunts are registered allowing for the capture of hunting data (origin of clients, value of trophies and hunts,

area hunted etc.), monitoring hunting quota utilization and tracking hunted trophies. Outfitters that operate hunting concessions in CAMPFIRE Areas are required to deposit copies of the TRAS2 form with the CAMPFIRE Office in their respective RDCs/Wards. Each Office is therefore able to extract data on daily rates, trophy fees and other incidental revenues. These data confirm the major role of American hunters to the CAMPFIRE program who contribute 52% of the overall income, but do not break down this contribution to species hunted, such as elephants.

Local conservation efforts: As was identified in our previous findings, Conservation Force and other commenters emphasized the economic impact of the suspension to local conservation efforts being carried out by individual landowners and leaseholders, safari outfitters, and conservancies. In our previous findings, we acknowledged that there were “pockets” of conservation work being carried out. It is now evident that after our 2014 and 2015 findings, due to greater efforts by ZWPMA and NGOs, there has been an increased effort by land owners and leaseholders to take a greater effort in addressing conservation needs of elephants and the habitat that they rely on. As stated previously, a number of regional and national workshops were held in 2014 and 2015 that promote a greater public-private partnership. While ZWPMA stated in 2014 that legislation was in place to decentralize management of wildlife within Zimbabwe, it does not appear that efforts were actually initiated until the workshops that were held after our original 2014 finding and the completion of the EMP in January 2016. In addition to the regional and national workshops that have been convened between ZWPMA and safari operators throughout Zimbabwe, there have been meetings targeting specific conservation needs with operators in the Lower Zambezi Valley and South East Lowveld. In addition, there appears to be a greater effort on the part of ZWPMA to put mechanisms into place to support these efforts. This has been reflected in collaboration between ZWPMA, WWF, Friends of Hwange, and other stakeholders on law enforcement efforts and funding conservation efforts in Northwest Matabeleland. In the Lower Zambezi Valley, ZWPMA has established joint ventures with WWF, Zambezi Society, the Tashinga Initiative, and other organizations to carry out anti-poaching efforts. Awareness campaigns to education local communities on wildlife conservation have been expanded in the South East Lowveld Northwest Matabeleland.

The Parks and Wildlife Act Chapter 20:14 devolved authority to manage and benefit from wildlife on communal and private lands to the landholders. Although the Service raised concerns about this approach in previous findings, there appears to have been an increase in working with NGOs, landowners, and safari area concessionaires to improve elephant management and anti-poaching efforts. According to their July 2015 response to the Service, and supported by the report on the implementation of the EMP provided in November 2016, ZPWMA is engaging private players in co-management in some areas and entering into long-term lease agreements (10-25 years) to manage some protected areas. In certain areas, ZPWMA is reportedly partnering with safari operators; in others, they partner with non-profits, such as the Tashinga Initiative in the Zambezi Valley and WWF in the Hwange-Sanyati Biological Corridor.

Evaluation:

As explained earlier in General Considerations, the Service evaluates a number of factors to

determine whether the killing of the trophy animal taken in a range country will enhance the survival of African elephants under 50 CFR 17.40(e)(6)(i)(B). The Service evaluates applications in accordance with the African elephant 4(d) rule and the permit issuance criteria outlined in 50 CFR 17.32(a)(2). In evaluating each of these criteria the Service has considered the information currently available to the Service as of the date of this finding on elephant hunting in Zimbabwe in 2016, 2017, and 2018, including information provided by the Government of Zimbabwe, current applicants to import sport-hunted elephant trophies, interested individuals and organizations, and other information available to the Service. In accordance with the regulatory requirements, the Service is able to make a determination that the killing of the trophy animal in Zimbabwe, on or after January 21, 2016 and on or before December 31, 2018, will enhance the survival of the African elephant. Therefore, with the information currently available, applications to import trophies hunted during this time period will be considered to have met this requirement unless we issue a new finding based on available information. In accordance with the 4(d) rule for the African elephant, 50 CFR 17.40(e), the Service will review each application received for import of such specimens on a case-by-case basis and each application also needs to meet all other applicable permitting requirements before it may be authorized. On an ongoing basis and as it evaluates each application, the Service will continue to monitor the status of the elephant population, the total management program for elephants in the country to ensure that the program is promoting the conservation of the species, and whether the participation of U.S. hunters in the program provides a clear benefit to the species. Accordingly, the Service may modify its determination based on available information consistent with the regulatory requirements. Further discussion for each of the criteria follows:

17.32(a)(2)(i): Whether the purpose for which the permit is required is adequate to justify removing from the wild or otherwise changing the status of the wildlife sought to be covered by the permit:

Zimbabwe has adequate legislation in place and on January 21, 2016, adopted the Zimbabwe Elephant Management Plan 2015-2020 (EMP), with regional components, which has clear objectives, action items, and measurables to more effectively monitor and evaluate elephant populations and management and facilitate a more systematic management regime. Further, ZWPMA has demonstrated through recent reports that the EMP, while somewhat constrained due to limited resources, is being implemented. Overall beginning January 21, 2016, while there are still concerns over the ability to fully implement the EMP, ZPWMA has provided a well-designed elephant management plan to incorporate an adaptive approach to management that considers regional variation in elephant management requirements. There is no doubt that efforts must continue in implementing the EMP to ensure adequate management of elephants in each of the four regions within Zimbabwe, but to date ZPWMA appears to have established a strong mechanism for national elephant management and has documented that identified targets and measurables are being achieved in a manner to enable elephant sport hunting that benefits the survival of African elephants in Zimbabwe now and is making an effort to make progress toward full implementation that achieves further benefits for elephants from sport hunting going forward.

The Pan African Elephant Aerial Survey, or Great Elephant Census (GEC), that was conducted in Zimbabwe in 2014, and became available in 2015, has provided ZPWMA a better elephant baseline population abundance estimate to assess future off-take quotas, management efforts, and anti-poaching activities. Although Zimbabwe did not conform to the new methods that GEC hoped to establish as the new standard, they opted to conduct surveys using other methods which were not necessarily more accurate but were directly comparable to previous surveys. While the revised population data was available in 2015, as well as other survey data obtained after the 2014 GEC it was not until implementation of the EMP in January 2016 that the data was fully incorporated into a systematic management regime. From information provided by ZPWMA in late 2016, it is clear that this population data has been incorporated into the implementation of the EMP and establishing scientifically defensible hunting quotas.

ZWPMA stated that U.S. hunters historically contribute approximately \$3 million annually through all hunting activities. ZWPMA, as well as other commenters, has stated that elephant hunting is the key component of the hunting industry since the species is the primary draw for U.S. hunters to Zimbabwe. For the most part, the central Zimbabwean Government does not directly allocate treasury funds to ZPWMA. Therefore, the vast majority of funding for ZPWMA must come from hunting revenues. The same is true for CAMPFIRE. With the implementation of TRAC2, ZPWMA and CAMPFIRE can now better document and track revenue generated through sport hunting and how it is utilized. For the 2014 and 2015 hunting seasons, the Service received limited evidence to support a positive enhancement finding. With information provided by ZPWMA in 2016 in response to additional inquiries from the Service, as well as meetings with ZPMWA officials in late 2016, there are now accounting mechanisms in place that document hunting revenue.

According to the information provided to the Service in late 2014 and 2015, Zimbabwe has established hunting quotas for all areas of the country. However, it was not until late 2015 and 2016 that the Service received more specific information on how these quotas are established, including how other forms of offtake, such as poaching and problem animal control, were taken into account. Further, it was not until the EMP was signed into effect January 21, 2016 that the Service could have confidence that ZWPMA had in place effective mechanisms to establish scientifically based hunting quotas that took into consideration other forms of off-take to ensure the sustainable utilization of their elephant population.

Since our findings in 2014 and 2015, CAMPFIRE has provided significantly more information on how their programs support the conservation of elephants and provide benefits to and promote greater tolerance of wildlife in rural communities. While the program has come under criticism in recent years relating to excessive retention of generated funds by district councils and diminished benefits to communities and elephants, strides are being taken to address these concerns. An overarching analysis of CAMPFIRE, supported by a grant of 12 million Euros from the EU, is currently being conducted and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2017. While this review is still under way and the Service has not received any information on the potential outcome of the review, significantly more information has been provided to the Service in regard to how funds are utilized and the basis for hunting off-takes.

As stated in the previous findings, there have been “bright spots” regarding elephant conservation efforts, particularly those carried out by non-governmental entities that are providing a benefit to elephants. Since our 2014 and 2015 findings, there appear to be strong indications that the efforts of private landowners and consortiums to management elephants within their areas of control have received greater support from ZWPMA and the Zimbabwe government. There is increased support from the Central Government and Rural District Councils to expand and support local conservation efforts and evidence that local conservation efforts are meeting management deficiencies that were identified previously by the Service.

Based on the information currently available to the Service, we believe that these efforts will continue through the remainder of 2017 and 2018 to address Zimbabwe’s national and regional management issues, including monitoring the current population status of elephants, addressing poaching levels and prevention, and the appropriate utilization of hunting revenues that the Service identified in its previous Zimbabwe findings. Therefore, based on the information available to the Service and provided that elephants harvested in the 2016, 2017, and 2018 season were properly permitted and in compliance with international, national and provincial regulations, we find that the requirements of 17.32(a)(2)(i) is met.

17.32(a)(2)(ii): The probable direct and indirect effect that issuing the permit would have on the wild populations of the wildlife sought to be covered by the permit:

As a national management plan with regional management components, the EMP is extensive and addresses many aspects of elephant conservation and management. As reviewed above, the EMP provides a history of the relevant legislation in regard to elephant conservation and puts the current efforts into context. Objectives for elephant conservation are articulated in the EMP with clear goals identified. The monitoring plans have scientifically sound methodologies. While it is recognized that Zimbabwe does not currently have sufficient resources to fully implement the EMP, it has identified priority areas that have been established and are being implemented. To date ZPWMA appears to have established a strong mechanism for national elephant management and have documented that identified targets and measurables are being achieved in a manner to enable elephant sport-hunting that benefits the survival of African elephants in Zimbabwe from January 21, 2016, to present and is making an effort to make progress toward full implementation that achieves further benefits for elephants from sport-hunting going forward. Based on the information currently available to the Service, we have confidence that these efforts will continue in 2017 and 2018.

Evaluating the information provided by the Zimbabwe government and other sources, it appears that the elephant hunting program in Zimbabwe will address the concerns that were identified by the Service in our previous findings. Therefore, the management of elephants in Zimbabwe contributes to the on-going survival of the species.

Provided that the off-take of elephants continues to be monitored and the actions identified in the EMP be implemented, and that effective measures are taken to limit the illegal offtake of

elephants from poaching and offtake due to conflict with people, the participation of U.S. hunters in elephant hunts would provide an indirect benefit to wild populations by helping to support the ongoing management of the species. Therefore, based on the information available to the Service, the probable direct and indirect effect that issuing an import permit for a legally hunted elephants would have on the species would be a net positive.

17.32(a)(2)(iii): Whether the permit, if issued, would in any way, directly or indirectly, conflict with any known program intended to enhance the survival probabilities of the population from which the wildlife sought to be covered by the permit was or would be removed:

As stated above, Zimbabwe is monitoring and controlling the harvest of elephants through the EMP. The issuance of import permits for elephants legally hunted in Zimbabwe would not conflict with any programs intended to enhance the survival probability of the species in Zimbabwe. As with all aspects of an adaptive management approach to managing a species, the Service will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the hunting program to ensure that it continues to provide the stated benefits to elephants.

Therefore, based on the information available to the Service, the issuance of import permits for legally hunted elephants would not conflict with any known conservation programs.

17.32(a)(2)(iv): Whether the purpose for which the permit is required would be likely to reduce the threat of extinction facing the species of wildlife sought to be covered by the permit:

In some parts of Zimbabwe, elephant populations remain robust. In three of the four primary areas where elephants are found, population numbers exceed the desired density established by stakeholders in the EMP and resulting in significant modification of plant communities. A major component of the EMP is to manage elephant populations at a level that supports the biodiversity of the habitat and associated wildlife, as well as address poaching issues that have been a significant issue in the recent past. As identified in the EMP, with increased monitoring and oversight of elephant management efforts at both the national and regional level, the legal hunting activities that U.S. hunters would be involved in would contribute to reducing the threat of extinction of elephants by supporting ongoing management efforts. This legal hunting off-take must be evaluated in light of other off-takes, including poaching, to ensure that populations of elephants, particularly in the Sebungwe, are adequately maintained.

Therefore, based on the information available to the Service, the purposes for which import permits would be issued would likely reduce the threat of extinction facing elephants in Zimbabwe.

17.32(a)(2)(v): The opinions or views of scientists or other persons or organizations having expertise concerning the wildlife or other matters germane to the application:

Based on our review of comments provided to the Service since our 2014 finding, as well as information obtained through personal conversations and literature, there is a general agreement

that hunting, done properly and well managed, would not have an adverse effect on elephant populations. Researchers and others with substantial knowledge of elephant management have stated that, whether or not they support hunting in general, they see that benefits can be had through a scientifically based hunting program for elephants.

The IUCN Guiding Principles on Trophy Hunting as a Tool for Creating Conservation Incentives (Ver.1.0, August 2012) state that well-managed trophy hunting can “assist in furthering conservation objectives by creating the revenue and economic incentives for the management and conservation of the target species and its habitat, as well as supporting local livelihoods” and, further, that well-managed trophy hunting is “often a higher value, lower impact land use than alternatives such as agriculture or tourism.” Lindsey et al. (2007), in their paper on the economic and conservation significance of the trophy hunting industry in sub-Saharan Africa, state their belief that, from a conservation perspective, “the provision of incentives which promote wildlife as a land use is the single most important contribution of the trophy hunting industry.” In addition, they note that trophy hunting generates revenues in areas where alternatives, such as ecotourism, may not be viable. More recently, Di Minin et al. (2016) assert that trophy hunting “strongly contributes” to conservation in sub-Saharan Africa, where large areas currently allocated to use for trophy hunting support important biodiversity. They also note that, if revenue cannot be generated from trophy hunting, these natural habitats will be converted to other forms of land use. While recognizing that the degree to which trophy hunting contributes to conservation is a subject of debate, Mallon (2013), in his report on trophy hunting of CITES-listed species in Central Asia, states that “well-run hunting concessions have an economic interest in maintaining the resource (*i.e.*, conserving the species) so will also aim to manage the area to conserve high-quality habitat that supports high numbers of the hunting species, and also to prevent unregulated use by others (poaching, overgrazing).” Naidoo et al. (2015) describe the complementary benefits of tourism and hunting to communal conservancies in Namibia.

We have reviewed a number of comments from NGOs and the public opposing hunting any elephants. This opposition, however, is primarily based on the perceived ethics of hunting. While these comments are an indication of concerns from some members of the public over hunting, they are not germane to our review process.

Therefore, based on the information available to the Service, there is sufficient support by scientists and other persons or organizations having expertise that the well-managed, legal harvest of elephants, and the subsequent import of these trophies, would not have an adverse effect on the species, but can further efforts to conserve the species in the wild.

17.32(a)(2)(vi): Whether the expertise, facilities, or other resources available to the applicant appear adequate to successfully accomplish the objectives stated in the application:

Based on our understanding of the hunting program within Zimbabwe, U.S. hunters must be accompanied by a professional hunter on land that is being managed either by the landowner, concessionaire or representatives of the communal land where the hunt occurs. Although the U.S. may not have the expertise to ensure adequate and proper management of elephants on that

land, the professionals associated with the hunt have the expertise and resources to successfully accomplish the management goals of the EMP. Along with oversight established by the ZWPMA, there are expertise and facilities available to U.S. hunters to accomplish the stated objective of their application that the killing of an elephant in Zimbabwe whose trophy is intended for import into the United States would enhance the survival of the species in the wild. Therefore, based on the information available to the Service, that applicants that are hunting on properly permitted reserves that carry out their management practices in accordance with national and provincial regulations, have the expertise, facilities, or other resources available to them to successfully accomplish the objective their application; i.e., the long-term survival of elephants in Zimbabwe. In its evaluation of each application, the Service will further ensure that this criterion, along with the other criteria, is met by each applicant before issuing an import permit.

Given the significant amount of information that has been presented to the Service over the last three years, it can be difficult to clearly see how efforts in Zimbabwe since the 2015 finding have resulted in a clear improvement in the overall management of elephants to the point that the importation of elephant trophies by U.S. hunters would enhance the propagation or survival of the species. Therefore, the following comparison table is being provided to summarize the improvements and where we hope to see additional progress, as discussed more fully above.

Issue	2015 Finding	Present Finding
Management Plan	<p>Zimbabwe’s elephant management plan consisted of two primary documents drafted in 1996 and 1997. Although the documents provided a well-developed list of goals and objectives, there was no information on whether these goals and objectives had been met or could be met. Statements from ZPWMA that the plans were outdated and needed to be revised supported this view. In December 2014, ZPWMA hosted a workshop to review Zimbabwe’s Elephant Conservation Policy and Management Plan. The workshop participants agreed on a framework for the revised management plan with the same long-term vision of the 1997 plan, similar target goals, and the beginnings of strategic objectives and outputs, as well as some key activities. However, there was insufficient time at the workshop to complete the revised plan. At the</p>	<p>On January 21, 2016, Zimbabwe adopted the Zimbabwe National Elephant Management Plan (EMP) that replaced <u>The Policy and Plan for Elephant Management in Zimbabwe (1997)</u> and <u>Elephant Management in Zimbabwe, third edition (July 1996)</u>. The EMP incorporates an adaptive management framework with higher-level targets, with key components, strategic objectives, and outputs. Each key component has management actions that can be measured and verified through “Key Performance Indicators.” A set deadline for each action was identified. These measurables allow ZPWMA to monitor the success of the new management plan and, through an adaptive management approach, address newly emerging concerns and long-term management needs. The EMP addresses the challenges identified by the 2014 workshop participants and concerns identified by the Service about the</p>

	<p>time of the 2015 finding, the work had not been completed and the plan had not been adopted by the Zimbabwe government.</p>	<p>previous management plans. The EMP was developed as an outcome of several national and regional workshops that included government officials, NGOs, Rural community leaders, and safari outfitters and landowners.</p>
<p>Population Status</p>	<p>In the 2014 findings, the Service found that Zimbabwe did not have adequate data to determine the elephant population levels in the four primary elephant areas. In 2014, the Pan African Elephant Aerial Survey was conducted in Zimbabwe and preliminary findings reported a preliminary estimate of between 82,000 and 83,000 elephants. This represented a 6% decline since 2001 surveys.</p> <p>The 2015 finding concluded that if a better elephant baseline population abundance estimate were to be used as part of a revised national management plan to assess future off-take quotas, management efforts, and anti-poaching activities, that Zimbabwe could establish scientifically defensible hunting quotas. If this were done, the Service would have a better basis to re-evaluate our determination not to authorize elephant trophy imports.</p>	<p>The 2014 Pan African Elephant Aerial Survey, available in 2015, provided ZPWMA with a better elephant baseline population abundance estimate to assess future off-take quotas, management efforts, and anti-poaching activities. Confirmed results from the GEC reported an estimate for elephant abundance in Zimbabwe to be 82,304 individuals (73,715-90,893), with a total carcass ratio of 7.8%. While this represented a 6% decline in the 2001 population estimate, the estimate is based on more accurate and more recent survey data then was available to Zimbabwe previously.</p> <p>The IUCN AfESG <u>African Elephant Status Report – 2016</u> estimated Zimbabwe’s elephant population at 82,630 ± 8,589 across a range of 81,228 km².</p> <p>The results of the 2014 GEC, and subsequent survey data reported in the 2016 AfESG report, being utilized in the EMP and quota setting, is more reliable and provide a better basis for establishing management priorities than previous surveys and guesses.</p>
<p>Regulation and Enforcement</p>	<p>The 2015 finding confirmed that the Zimbabwe laws and regulations in place to address elephant</p>	<p>As identified in the 2015 finding, the Service still finds that if properly implemented, the ZPWMA regulatory</p>

<p>management are sufficient provided they were appropriately implemented, but it was not clear if or to what extent ZPWMA was able to successfully implement them.</p> <p>While the Parks and Wild Life Conservation Fund provides for financing wildlife operations directly from revenues generated through wildlife related activities, no other government funding was provided, and only limited outside funding from NGOs or other governments appeared to be available. Therefore, appropriate utilization of funds was necessary. The Service concluded that proper accounting mechanisms need to be in place to document hunting revenue and how it was being used to support elephant conservation efforts. While ZPWMA stated that elephant hunting contributes in excess of US\$14 million annually and that approximately 30% of ZPWMA's revenue was from hunting, we did not have adequate information about how much money is generated by elephant hunting, particularly from U.S. hunters, how these funds are distributed, or how these funds impact the ability of ZPWMA.</p> <p>Both of the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) reports at the 15th and 16th Meetings of the Conference of the Parties to CITES expressed concerns about Zimbabwe, specifically regarding illicit ivory trade. The reports noted the existence of organized criminal activities within Zimbabwe, including reports of the involvement</p>	<p>mechanisms for managing elephants appears to be adequate. The key issue in the 2015 finding was whether there is an adequate mechanism in place to reliably document the financial benefits US hunters are providing for elephant conservation to demonstrate that U.S. hunters, through their participation in the hunting program, contribute funds to address management needs of the species, and that the funds were utilized in a meaningful manner.</p> <p>Since the 2015 finding, the Service has received information regarding the Tourism Receipts Accounting System (TRAS) and its web-based system (TRAS2) under which the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, can now track all revenue generated through hunting activities. Under this system, all authorized hunts are now being registered allowing for the capture of hunting data, such as the origin of clients, value of trophies and hunts, and area hunted, to monitor hunting quota utilization and track hunted trophies. This system will provide data that was not previously easily obtained and, presumably, greatly improve the tracking of hunting revenue.</p> <p>One concern expressed by the Service in its previous findings was whether ZPWMA was responding to the apparent poaching crisis facing Zimbabwe. Based on communication from ZPWMA, as well as information received from other sources, ZPWMA has also stepped up its anti-poaching nationally by adopting a number of "Urgent Measures". As shown in the July 2015 Response, most of ZPWMA's budget (77%) is allocated for staff costs and patrol provisions.</p>
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	<p>of politicians, military personnel, and Chinese nationals in illicit wildlife trade. The CoP15 report stated that the law enforcement effort ratio within the three countries grouped for the analysis had dropped to 40%, a decline of 4% from the CoP14 analysis, and was attributed to the situation in Zimbabwe. The CoP16 report indicated that Governance indicators were mixed, with a much lower than average World Bank “rule of law” score, again contributed to Zimbabwe.</p> <p>The Service received several statements from Zimbabwean safari outfitters that stated that the large number of US hunters in Zimbabwe were a major deterrent to poaching. However, the Service was not provided any evidence to support this statement.</p> <p>The 2015 finding did recognize, however, that it was possible the various meetings and workshops that occurred in December 2014 and in 2015 might lead to a clearer understanding of funding levels and the utilization of ZPWMA revenue or result in improved mechanisms for demonstrating that U.S. hunters, through their participation in the hunting program, contribute funds to address management needs of the species, and that the funds were utilized in a meaningful manner.</p>	<p>These expenditures reportedly fund anti-poaching efforts throughout the elephant range. ZPWMA reportedly has a staff of 1,504 active field rangers and has stated that there is an intent to increase this number. According to “The Zimbabwe National Elephant Supplementary Management Plan (2015-2020)”, over 80% of spending under the new EMP has been on law enforcement (anti-poaching) and training, with law enforcement identified as the top priority going forward.</p> <p>With the adoption of the EMP in January 2016, it appears that ZPWMA has the mechanism to successfully implement these laws and regulations. Moreover, ZPWMA has a mechanism in place to monitor the effects of the EMP and adapt to changing environmental and social factors that would adversely affect elephant populations within Zimbabwe.</p> <p>The “Report on the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS)” (CoP17 Doc. 57.6) reflected that there were some improvements in Zimbabwe. As in the previous report, the document grouped Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe together in terms of their level of government oversight and capacity. These countries regularly report data to ETIS. In terms of all data that implicate these countries in an ivory seizure, this southern African grouping reflects middle range values in terms of mean number of seizures and the mean weight of ivory seized. The measure for assessing the presence of organized crime stands at zero which, according to the document, is indisputably a good sign. Governance indicators are mixed, however, with the rule of law score</p>
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		<p>problematic and suggesting the presence of corruption, but the relatively high law enforcement ratio partially mitigates that concern. As reported in earlier ETIS reports, Zimbabwe was the country that pulls the rule of law score down, indicating far greater governance challenges exist in that country than others in the group.</p>
<p>Sustainable Utilization</p>	<p>According to the information provided for the 2015 finding, Zimbabwe had established hunting quotas for all areas of the country. However, the Service did not receive adequate information regarding offtake, including how hunting quotas were established and whether other forms of offtake, such as poaching and problem animal control, were taken into account in establishing these quotas.</p> <p>Further, the Service had limited information to what extent biological factors are taken into consideration (as opposed to economic and societal considerations). While there was information that supported ZPWMA statements that the full quota is not actually met each year, we did not get complete information on how many trophies were taken annually. At the time the Service made its finding in 2015, we determined that without more definitive population data, it was difficult to determine whether these numbers, combined with other offtake, was sustainable. We had fundamental questions regarding how the number of elephants to be hunted in an area is decided. In addition to questions about how the overall offtake is</p>	<p>According to the information provided to the Service in late 2014 and 2015, Zimbabwe had established hunting quotas for all areas of the country. However, it was not until late 2015 and 2016 that the Service received more specific information on how these quotas are established, including how other forms of offtake, such as poaching and problem animal control, were taken into account. Further, it was not until the EMP was signed into on January 21, 2016, that the Service had confidence that ZWPMA had in place effective mechanisms to ensure long-term sustainability of its elephant population.</p> <p>For 2016 and 2017, Zimbabwe established the same annual export quota of 500 elephants and reported that quota to the CITES Secretariat. While the Service will request clarification before making a finding for the 2019 hunting season as to why Zimbabwe maintains the same voluntary export quota as it has since 2004, given the improved population data now available to Zimbabwe and the revised management plan that specifically recognizes the use of population data when establishing quotas, there is now clear information that Zimbabwe has not reached this export quota in the past and is unlikely to do so in the future given the current</p>

	<p>determined, we also had not received an adequate explanation on how the quota is allocated geographically.</p>	<p>management efforts.</p> <p>According to ZPWMA, quotas established before the EMP were set to maximize the sustainable production of high-quality trophies without detriment to the population. With the establishment of the EMP, there is a more systematic, scientific approach to establish national quotas. While ZPWMA still currently starts with the quota of 500 elephants, they are not immediately dividing this quota between all of the hunting areas. Instead, they are taking into consideration the results of the 2014 survey and subsequent surveys, results from research efforts, the size of the hunting area in relation to elephant habitat requirements, illegal off-take and other forms of off-take, how the hunting areas are managed in relation to land use or fencing, human-wildlife conflicts that have occurred previously, and recommended sustainable off-take levels developed based on ecological assessments of the hunting area. This information is then further evaluated in light of other species within the hunting area, past elephant trophy quality, and community benefits of proposed harvests.</p>
<p>Revenue Utilization by rural communities</p>	<p>Based on information the Service had when making its previous findings, CAMPFIRE has provided conservation benefits in the past and improved tolerance of wildlife in rural communities. However, the program has come under criticism relating to excessive retention of generated funds by district councils, resulting in diminished benefits to communities and elephants. While sport hunting may be an important tool that gives these communities a stake in sustainable management of</p>	<p>Since our findings in 2014 and 2015, CAMPFIRE has provided more information on how their programs support the conservation of elephants and provide benefits to and promote greater tolerance of wildlife in rural communities, including new efforts to improve the effectiveness of CAMPFIRE and new revenue sharing guidelines. An overarching analysis of CAMPFIRE, supported by a grant of 12 million Euros from the EU, is currently being conducted and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2017. While</p>

	<p>the elephant as a natural and economic resource and offsets the costs of conflict with wildlife, without current information on how funds are utilized and the basis for hunting off-takes, the Service was unable to confirm whether revenue generated through sport hunting actually provided an incentive to local communities to conserve elephants.</p>	<p>this review is still under way and the Service has not received any information on the potential outcome of the review, more information has been provided to the Service regarding how funds are utilized and the basis for hunting off-takes.</p>
<p>Local conservation efforts</p>	<p>As was stated in the 2014 finding, the Service acknowledged that there were “bright spots” regarding elephant conservation efforts, particularly those carried out by non-governmental entities that are providing a benefit to elephants in some areas. We had received statements from several sources that emphasized the economic impact of the suspension to local conservation efforts being carried out by individual landowners and leaseholders, safari outfitters, and conservancies. In our 2015 finding, the Service recognized that effective conservation work is being carried out in some independently managed areas; however, it was unknown whether and to what extent these individuals would reduce their conservation efforts based on the inability of U.S. hunters to import a sport-hunted trophy. In addition, the information available to the Service on the conservation work being carried out by non-governmental entities was limited, and is not the norm for Zimbabwe as a whole. The Service recognized that without support from the Central Government and Rural District Councils, these efforts were not likely to be successful or to</p>	<p>Since our 2014 and 2015 findings, there are strong indications that the efforts of private landowners and consortiums to manage elephants within their areas of control have received greater support from ZPWMA and the Zimbabwe government. The Parks and Wildlife Act Chapter 20:14 devolved authority to manage and benefit from wildlife on communal and private lands to the landholders. There now appears to be a greater effort on the part of ZPWMA to work with NGOs, landowners, and safari area concessionaires to improve elephant management and anti-poaching efforts. According to their July 2015 response to the Service, and supported by the report on the implementation of the EMP, ZPWMA is engaging private players in co-management in some areas and entering into long-term lease agreements (10-25 years) to manage some protected areas. In certain areas, ZPWMA is reportedly collaborating with safari operators; in others, they collaborate with non-profits, such as the Tashinga Initiative in the Zambezi Valley and WWF in the Hwange-Sanyati Biological Corridor. There is increased support from the Central Government and Rural District Councils to expand and support local conservation efforts and there is evidence that local conservation efforts</p>

	compensate for the management deficiencies described above.	are meeting management deficiencies that were identified previously by the Service.
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Conclusion:

The issue before us, in accordance with the 4(d) rule for African elephants, is whether the killing of a trophy animal in Zimbabwe would enhance the survival of the species. In short, as previously explained, the Service is assessing whether Zimbabwe has sufficient numbers of elephants to support a hunting program, if the country has a management plan and adequate laws and regulations to effectively implement a hunting program, and if the participation of U.S. hunters in the program provides a clear benefit to the species to meet the requirements for the import of sport-hunted trophies under paragraph 17.40(e)(6)(i)(B).

Since our 2014 and 2015 findings, Zimbabwe has carried out a number of actions at the national level and in collaboration with regional and local communities and interested partners on the ground that together demonstrate a clear interest in and concrete efforts toward establishing a better management regime and providing greater support for conservation efforts to enable elephant sport hunting that provides a clear benefit to the survival of African elephants in Zimbabwe.

Importantly, on January 21, 2016, Zimbabwe adopted the National Elephant Management Plan, with regional components, to more effectively monitor and evaluate elephant populations and management. The National Elephant Management Plan has clear objectives, action items, and measurables to facilitate a more systematic management regime than was previously established in Zimbabwe. Further, ZPWMA has demonstrated through recent reports that the effort to implement the EMP, while somewhat constrained due to limited resources, is being implemented. There is no doubt that efforts must continue in implementing the EMP to ensure adequate management of elephants in each of the four regions within Zimbabwe, but to date ZPWMA appears to have established a strong mechanism for national elephant management and has documented that identified targets and measurables are being achieved in a manner to enable elephant sport hunting that benefits the survival of African elephants in Zimbabwe now and is making an effort to make progress toward full implementation that achieves further benefits for elephants from sport hunting going forward.

The Pan African Elephant Aerial Survey that was conducted in Zimbabwe in 2014, although it utilized the same methodology used by Zimbabwe since the 1960s, did provide ZPWMA with a better elephant baseline population abundance estimate to assess future off-take quotas, management efforts, and anti-poaching activities. ZPWMA has demonstrated it is incorporating these data for these purposes through the EMP. Having up to date information and population estimates was a critical first step in the process of establishing scientifically defensible hunting

quotas.

While ZPWMA had established hunting quotas for all areas of the country in the past, it was not until late 2015 and 2016 with the implementation of the EMP, that the Service received more specific information on how these quotas are established, including how other forms of offtake, such as poaching and problem animal control, were taken into account. Further, it was not until the EMP that the Service could have confidence that ZWPMA had in place effective mechanisms to establish scientifically based hunting quotas that took into consideration other forms of off-take to ensure the sustainable utilization of their elephant population.

Since our findings in 2014 and 2015, CAMPFIRE has provided significantly more information on how their programs support the conservation of elephants and provide benefits to and promote greater tolerance of wildlife in rural communities. While the program has come under criticism in recent years relating to excessive retention of generated funds by district councils and diminished benefits to communities and elephants, strides are being taken to address these concerns. An overarching analysis of CAMPFIRE, supported by a grant of 12 million Euros from the EU, is currently being conducted and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2017. While the Service has not received any information on the potential outcome of the review, significantly more information has been provided to the Service in regard to how funds are utilized and the basis for hunting off-takes.

As stated in the previous findings, there have been “bright spots” regarding elephant conservation efforts, particularly those carried out by non-governmental entities that are providing a benefit to elephants. Since our 2014 and 2015 findings, there appear to be strong indications that the efforts of private landowners and consortiums to management elephants within their areas of control have received greater support from ZWPMA and the Zimbabwe government. There is increased support from the Central Government and Rural District Councils to expand and support local conservation efforts and evidence that local conservation efforts are meeting management deficiencies that were identified previously by the Service.

Further Actions:

The Service currently has a number of applications pending for the import of elephant trophies taken in Zimbabwe in 2016 and for import of elephant trophies taken or to be taken in 2017 and 2018. Based on the Service’s determination, applications for permits currently pending before the Service for import of trophies taken in Zimbabwe on or after January 21, 2016 and on or before December 31, 2018, will be considered to have met the enhancement requirement. The Service will complete its review of each application to determine whether they meet all other applicable permitting requirements, and if so, issue the required import permit. In order to assist the Service in its ongoing efforts to assess whether imports of elephant trophies may meet the enhancement requirement in 2019 and beyond, the Service will send a letter to ZPWMA requesting the following information:

- An up-to-date report on the progress that has been made implementing the Zimbabwe

Elephant Management Plan (2015-2020), including the status of each action item identified in the plan and progress on meeting the goals of that action.

- A report generated through the TRAS2 system identifying hunting revenue for 2016 and 2017, and to the extent available, 2018. In addition, an accounting of the funds generated by each of the US hunters who hunted elephants in 2016 and 2017, and up to date in 2018 that a letter is sent requesting the report. This accounting should be broken down by hunter (hunter's name would be redacted) and should include money provided to ZPWMA, CAMPFIRE, or other agencies. (A similar report will be requested from each hunter for comparison).
- Annual reports on implementation of the elephant plan, including budgets allocated for elephant management and specific activities undertaken for anti-poaching and reduction of human-elephant conflict.
- Additional information on elephant distribution and population trends with respect to land custodianship/land use.
- An explanation of how Zimbabwe sets its voluntary CITES export quota each year and why it has been consistently 500 elephants between 2004 and 2017. Further, if this export quota remains the same for 2018, an explanation for this continuation in 2018.
- Specific information on the 2017 quota set for each of the four major elephant populations and how the quota was distributed between communal areas, concession, and safari companies. In addition, information on the quota set for the 2018 hunting season and any explanation on why it was maintained/decreased/ increased.
- Information on the continued cooperation and coordination between ZPWMA, CAMPFIRE, landowners, safari outfitters, and NGOs to implement continued conservation benefits for elephants in Zimbabwe.

Further, the Service will be requesting a copy of the EU funding review of CAMPFIRE that will reportedly be finalized by the end of 2017.

Conversation Contents

Tanzania Consultative Forum

Attachments:

/6. Tanzania Consultative Forum/1.1 Invitation Letter_USFWS_Sheehan.pdf
/6. Tanzania Consultative Forum/1.2 AWCF 2017_Draft Agenda_5September2017 (1).pdf
/6. Tanzania Consultative Forum/3.1 Invitation Letter_USFWS_Sheehan.pdf
/6. Tanzania Consultative Forum/3.2 AWCF 2017_Draft Agenda_5September2017 (1).pdf

"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Sep 14 2017 09:57:28 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, "Sheehan, Gregory" <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
CC: Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Subject: Tanzania Consultative Forum
Attachments: Invitation Letter_USFWS_Sheehan.pdf AWCF 2017_Draft Agenda_5September2017 (1).pdf

Greg,

As you may recall, I recently raised with you the possibility of your attending the African Wildlife Consultative Forum, co-hosted by the Government of Tanzania and Safari Club International Foundation, and scheduled for November 13-17. I know it may be a heavy lift in terms of approval, but we think it would be a very worthwhile meeting for you to attend. We typically attend to discuss ESA and CITES issues and to work with participating governments and other stakeholders to determine how legal obligations can be met.

Attached is an invitation and draft agenda for the meeting. We could also arrange additional opportunities for you to see our work in the region if that would add to the likelihood of approval.

Please let us know your thoughts and if you need anything else.

Best,

Craig

--

Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
International Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
ph: 703-358-2162
www.fws.gov/international

[Sign up](#) for our e-newsletter to learn how we're working around the globe to protect species and their habitats!



Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>

From: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>
Sent: Fri Sep 15 2017 06:20:15 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
"Sheehan, Gregory" <(b) (6)@fws.gov>, Gloria Bell
<gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman
CC: <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris
<charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Tanzania Consultative Forum

Thank you Craig. I believe that the Foundation will reach out to DOI to request that I attend this meeting. It looks like it would be a huge assistance for me to continue to learn of these issues. Will let you know if I hear anything.

Thanks
Greg

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Sep 14, 2017, at 11:57 AM, Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov> wrote:

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<Invitation Letter_USFWS_Sheehan.pdf>

<AWCF 2017_Draft Agenda_5September2017 (1).pdf>

"Sheehan, Gregory" <(b) (6) @fws.gov>

From: "Sheehan, Gregory" <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Sep 18 2017 13:08:15 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Roslyn Sellars Cell <roslyn_sellars@fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Tanzania Consultative Forum
Attachments: Invitation Letter_USFWS_Sheehan.pdf AWCF 2017_Draft Agenda_5September2017 (1).pdf

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Date: Thu, Sep 14, 2017 at 11:57 AM
Subject: Tanzania Consultative Forum
To: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, "Sheehan, Gregory" <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
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--
Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW, Room 3358
Washington, DC 20240
202-208-4545

September 7, 2017

Mr. Greg Sheehan
Acting Director
United States Fish & Wildlife Service



Invitation to the 15th African Wildlife Consultative Forum
Mt. Meru Hotel, Arusha, Tanzania 13-17 November 2017

The Government of Tanzania and Safari Club International Foundation (SCI Foundation) are pleased to invite you to the 15th African Wildlife Consultative Forum (AWCF) being held at the Mt. Meru Hotel in Arusha, Tanzania from 13-17 November 2017.

We would be honored to have you participate as Acting Director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Your attendance will greatly contribute to the success of this meeting and encourage high-ranking government officials from Africa to attend. The AWCF meeting is an opportunity to discuss African wildlife management issues with the local experts and stakeholders.

Please see the attached draft agenda for your use in requesting travel approval. The meeting will begin with private meetings between the Professional Hunting Associations and government delegates, followed by sessions focusing on African lion and leopard research and management, international trade, sustainable use policy, and other topics such as anti-poaching and human-wildlife conflict.

If you are able to attend, please be prepared to discuss the topics included in the attached draft agenda. A more complete agenda with a list of presentations will be circulated closer to the meeting date.

SCI Foundation is not able to sponsor the accommodation of meals and conference expenses for representatives of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Travel arrangements to and from Arusha, Tanzania must be made independently.

Please complete the attached registration form and RSVP to Joseph Goergen, SCI Foundation Conservation & Research Program Coordinator, at jgoergen@safariclub.org by September 28, 2017.

We look forward to your participation in discussing the future of Africa's wildlife.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren A. Sackman III".

Warren Sackman III
President, Safari Club International Foundation

CC. Tim van Norman

*This is a draft document subject to change

Sunday 12 November

- 1500 Registration
Welcome Reception
- 1900 Dinner at Hotel

Monday 13 November

- 0900 Government Meetings
Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa
Coordinator
 - National and Multilateral Issues
 - Finalize AWCF Agenda
- 0900 PH Association Business Meeting
Moderator: OPHASA Chair, SCI Guides & Outfitters Liaison
- 1230 Lunch
- 1330 Meetings Continue
- 1600 Private Meetings TBD
- 1900 Dinner meetings between Government and PH Associations

Tuesday 14 November

- 0900 **Session 1: Official Opening**
 - Tanzania Official: Ministry of Natural Resources
 - Tanzania Professional Hunting Associations
 - SCI Foundation President
 - SCI Foundation Conservation Chairman
 - Review of 2015 Action Items
 - Approval of Minutes from the 15th AWCF in South Africa
- 1000 **Session 2: African Lion Symposium**
Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa
Coordinator
Presentation:



Tanzania Lion Project

Mississippi State University, Carnivore Ecology Laboratory

Tanzania Lion Project

Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute

1230 Lunch

1330 Session 2: African Lion Symposium Continued

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:

Zambia Lion Project

University of California Los Angeles, Center for Tropical Research

1530 Break

1600 Session 2: African Lion Symposium Continued

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:

Discussion on Implementation of Research Results

1700 Close Day

1900 Dinner

Wednesday 15 November

0800 Session 3: African Leopard Symposium

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:

Zimbabwe Parks

1015 Break

1030 Session 3: African Leopard Symposium Continued

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:

1230 Lunch



1330 **Session 4: International Trade and CITES**

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:

U.S. Endangered Species Act and Importation Law

United Nations Environment Program

CITES MIKE Program

1515 Break

1530 **Session 4: International Trade and CITES Continued**

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:

Zimbabwe Lion Quotas

Mozambique Hippo Quotas

1700 Close Day

1900 Dinner

Thursday 16 November

0900 **Session 5: Country Reports**

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:

Tanzania

Botswana

Burkina Faso

Cameroon

Congo

Ethiopia

Malawi

1015 Break

1030 **Session 5: Country Reports Continued**

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:



**Mozambique
Namibia
South Africa
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe**

1230 Lunch

1330 Session 6: Anti-Poaching & Human-Wildlife Conflict

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:

Namibia Human-Wildlife Conflict Policy

Namibia Ministry of Environment & Tourism

**Mitigating Human-Wildlife Conflict and Increasing Community Benefits:
A Zimbabwe CAMPFIRE Case Study**

CAMPFIRE

IUCN Sustainable Use & Livelihoods Specialist Group

IUCN SULi Chair

Tanzania Selous Game Reserve Anti-Poaching Project

College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka

Namibia Anti-Poaching Project

Namibian Association of Conservancy Support Organizations

1515 Break

1530 Session 7: Discussion and Closing

1700 Close Day

1900 Dinner

Friday 17 November

0900 Field Trip: local community or hunting concession for discussion on management issues, wildlife challenges, quotas, anti-poaching, or other topics.

Travel



September 7, 2017

Mr. Greg Sheehan
Acting Director
United States Fish & Wildlife Service



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Zimbabwe Parks

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1030 Session 3: African Leopard Symposium Continued

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:

1230 Lunch



1330 Session 4: International Trade and CITES

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:

U.S. Endangered Species Act and Importation Law

United Nations Environment Program

CITES MIKE Program

1515 Break

1530 Session 4: International Trade and CITES Continued

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:

Zimbabwe Lion Quotas

Mozambique Hippo Quotas

1700 Close Day

1900 Dinner

Thursday 16 November

0900 Session 5: Country Reports

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:

Tanzania

Botswana

Burkina Faso

Cameroon

Congo

Ethiopia

Malawi

1015 Break

1030 Session 5: Country Reports Continued

Moderator: Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources, SCI Foundation Africa

Coordinator

Presentation:



**Mozambique
Namibia
South Africa
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe**

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**Mitigating Human-Wildlife Conflict and Increasing Community Benefits:
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CAMPFIRE

IUCN Sustainable Use & Livelihoods Specialist Group

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Namibian Association of Conservancy Support Organizations

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1530 Session 7: Discussion and Closing

1700 Close Day

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Friday 17 November

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Travel



Conversation Contents

Fwd: FYI, SFRC s/c on Zimbabwe today at 2pm

"Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

From: "Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Dec 12 2017 15:00:52 GMT-0700 (MST)
Greg Sheehan <greg_j_sheehan@fws.gov>, Jason Larrabee
<jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster
To: <maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov>, Charisa Morris
<charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: FYI, SFRC s/c on Zimbabwe today at 2pm

FYI thought you might be interested in what came up from the hearing today before Senate Foreign Relations re: elephants

Barbara W. Wainman
Assistant Director, External Affairs
US Fish and Wildlife Service
(202) 208-5256 (office)
(571) 471-4159 (cell)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kodis, Martin** <martin_kodis@fws.gov>
Date: Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 4:57 PM
Subject: Re: FYI, SFRC s/c on Zimbabwe today at 2pm
To: Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, John Tanner
<john_tanner@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

Folks, fyi, Lisa said both Senator Udall brought up combating wildlife trafficking with Stephanie Sullivan (State) at the Zimbabwe hearing as follows:

Udall: Talked about what the enhancement findings did, the timing of their announcement with the coup, followed by the President's tweets. Expressed his support for the President's intervening. Talked about his interest in CWT efforts. Concerned that this Administration's findings will undermine CWT work. Does Zimbabwe have adequate institutional controls to properly manage wildlife?

Sullivan: Decision being reviewed by FWS/DOI. In terms of stability, it needs to be wait and see approach. State Dept engaging actively with new government, civil society, other actors on the ground. Too early to say what the level of stability is.

Udall: Given the upheaval, can the government currently regulate hunting of wildlife such as elephants and lions in a manner that will prevent illegal wildlife trafficking?

Sullivan: While there has been upheaval, there is also continuity if you look at cabinet currently in place. This remains an area for U.S. policy to look at, and also the Zimbabwe ecotourism industry. They're looking to diversify their economy. Opportunity to bring in more American tourists. We'll have to wait and see how they manage. Could also be a part of security sector reforms that we look at.

Thanks,

Marty

On Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 11:39 AM, Kodis, Martin <martin_kodis@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi John and Micah.

As Lisa told Micah yesterday, State Department is testifying at a hearing today at 2:00pm in SFRC Africa Subcommittee (Flake is the chairman, Booker is ranking member) on "The Future of Zimbabwe". Lisa referred State Dept congressional affairs to Micah for advice on any talking points related to sport hunting of elephants/lions in Zimbabwe.

Stephanie Sullivan, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Bureau of African Affairs at State Dept is the witness. She's the only federal witness. There are 3 non-federal witnesses on a 2nd panel.

<https://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/the-future-of-zimbabwe-121217>

A few minutes ago we got calls from Senator Flake's and Senator Udall's (who is also on the Subcommittee) staff looking for information on the enhancement finding made just before the coup. We referred them to the Federal Register where information is publicly available. We suspect the calls are primarily to have background for the senators in case the subject comes up.

We'll monitor the hearing and let you know if wildlife issues come up at the hearing.

Marty

--

Martin Kodis
Chief, Division of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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[Falls Church, VA 22041](#)

[703-358-2241](tel:703-358-2241) ph
[703-358-2245](tel:703-358-2245) fax

--

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Conversation Contents

Fwd: Elephant trophies

"Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

From: "Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 14:23:56 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Elephant trophies

In case you are monitoring email we have reached out to DOI Communications and Heather and Gavin spoke at some length so she could understand these two issues which are connected really only by their Z. Hope you are having fun in Tanzania be safe.

Barbara W. Wainman
Assistant Director, External Affairs
US Fish and Wildlife Service
(202) 208-5256 (office)
(571) 471-4159 (cell)

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From: **Shire, Gavin** <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
Date: Mon, Nov 13, 2017 at 3:23 PM
Subject: Elephant trophies
To: Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
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Let me know if you have additional questions,

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gavin_shire@fws.gov

Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>

From: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 14:42:36 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

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Greg

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Nov 14, 2017, at 12:24 AM, Wainman, Barbara <barbara_wainman@fws.gov> wrote:

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Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 14:56:30 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

With respect to Zimbabwe, International has not signed the Federal Register notice as it was to be signed by Tim and he is with you, but Zambia permits will be issued this week. DOI has decided no press release . I am checking with international now to see if it can be signed and I will check with DOI Communications to make sure they are ok with an announcement. Be right back to you.

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From:

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Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 15:02:19 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

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From: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 15:20:00 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <[g\(b\) \(6\)@fws.gov](mailto:g(b) (6)@fws.gov)>
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

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Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov>

From: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Nov 14 2017 00:46:46 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

No

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
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Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov

From: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Nov 14 2017 06:44:29 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

Tim verbally mentioned it in his presentation. He seems to believe everything is signed and will

be in reading room by Thursday.

This has been expected to be published for quite some time so I don't think it was really a surprise to anyone here.

Let me know if you here anything.

Thanks

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Zambia: This is a new finding and does not require a FR notice. This will be a soft rollout in the manner we did lion trophy imports from both these countries a few weeks ago (i.e., no news release). We will use the same if-asked statement adapted for elephants: "Legal, well-regulated sport hunting as part of a sound management program can benefit the conservation of certain species by providing incentives to local communities to conserve the species and by putting much-needed revenue back into conservation. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the hunting and management programs for African elephants in Zambia will enhance the survival of the species in the wild. This enhancement finding is required prior to allowing import of these trophies under our Endangered Species Act regulations. The finding applies to elephants hunted in Zambia during calendar years 2016, 2017 and 2018 and that meet all other applicable permitting requirements."

Let me know if you have additional questions,

G

Gavin Shire
Chief of Public Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
MS: EA
[5275 Leesburg Pike](#)
[Falls Church, VA 22041](#)-3803
703-358-2649 (o)
703-346-9123 (c)
gavin_shire@fws.gov

"Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

From: "Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Nov 14 2017 06:52:17 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant trophies

will do

Barbara W. Wainman
Assistant Director, External Affairs
US Fish and Wildlife Service
(202) 208-5256 (office)
(571) 471-4159 (cell)

On Tue, Nov 14, 2017 at 8:44 AM, Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov> wrote:
Tim verbally mentioned it in his presentation. He seems to believe everything is signed and will be in reading room by Thursday.
This has been expected to be published for quite some time so I don't think it was really a surprise to anyone here.

Let me know if you here anything.

Thanks
Greg

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Nov 14, 2017, at 1:20 AM, Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov> wrote:

They really don't want press. They don't want an announcement but you and Tim

could talk about it in small groups. So I don't know how big this group is and if there are press there I don't think you want it in a PowerPoint slide. I know this is not very helpful. If you need to talk call me I am waiting to hear back from international if they can even get it signed to go to federal register.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 13, 2017, at 4:42 PM, Greg Sheehan (b) (6) [REDACTED]@fws.gov> wrote:

So we are good on these with DOI? We are here meeting with these governments now and planning to make these announcements tomorrow during a PowerPoint that Tim VanNornan is presenting. We want to use these if case studies of working together. These are not going to be a big surprise out in the hunting community as they believed we were going to announce Zimbabwe Elephants back in late August. Let's try not to let this turn into a big event upstairs as it is not much different than the lions determination. I believe Gavin's write up was good. Of course we may still get media inquires but are prepared to respond it sounds like.

Greg

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Nov 14, 2017, at 12:24 AM, Wainman, Barbara <barbara_wainman@fws.gov> wrote:

In case you are monitoring email we have reached out to DOI Communications and Heather and Gavin spoke at some length so she could understand these two issues which are connected really only by their Z. Hope you are having fun in Tanzania be safe.

Barbara W. Wainman
Assistant Director, External Affairs
US Fish and Wildlife Service
(202) 208-5256 (office)
(571) 471-4159 (cell)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Shire, Gavin** <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
Date: Mon, Nov 13, 2017 at 3:23 PM
Subject: Elephant trophies
To: Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift

<heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov>, Matthew Huggler <matthew_huggler@fws.gov>

I wanted you to be aware that in addition to the announcement on importing elephant trophies from Zimbabwe that we expect to make this week, we will also make a finding and start issuing import permits for elephant trophies from Zambia. There are some differences to be aware of (complicated by the fact that both countries begin with Z!).

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Let me know if you have additional questions,

G

Gavin Shire
Chief of Public Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
MS: EA
[5275 Leesburg Pike](#)
[Falls Church, VA 22041](#)-3803
703-358-2649 (o)
703-346-9123 (c)
gavin_shire@fws.gov

"Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

From: "Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

Sent: Thu Nov 16 2017 08:52:08 GMT-0700 (MST)
Jim Kurth <jim_kurth@fws.gov>, Steve Guertin
<stephen_quertin@fws.gov>, Greg Sheehan
(b) (6) @fws.gov
Subject: Fwd: Elephant trophies

Just for awareness and our call center is also fielding a ton of calls. We are keeping DOI communications in the loop.

Barbara W. Wainman
Assistant Director, External Affairs
US Fish and Wildlife Service
(202) 208-5256 (office)
(571) 471-4159 (cell)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gavin Shire** <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
Date: Thu, Nov 16, 2017 at 10:37 AM
Subject: Elephant trophies
To: Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov>, Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

FYI, we are getting considerable incoming from national and international media since SCI posted on their website: CNN, NBC, BBC, WaPo, About a call every 10 minuets. We are providing the statement and clearing up any misunderstandings regarding the ivory ban etc on background.

G

Sent from my iPhone

Conversation Contents

Question re: Zimbabwe

"Cassidy, Benjamin" <benjamin_cassidy@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Cassidy, Benjamin" <benjamin_cassidy@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Nov 15 2017 17:03:39 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Jason Larrabee <jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov>, "Gambill, Zachariah" <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov>, "Wynn, Todd" <todd_wynn@ios.doi.gov>
CC:
Subject: Question re: Zimbabwe

Good evening Greg,

Hope you are having a good flight home. I assume you saw the news today about the Zimbabwe government being overthrown. Will this impact the roll out of announcements re: permits?

Thank you for your consideration,

Ben

--

Benjamin J. Cassidy
Department of the Interior
Immediate Office of the Secretary
Senior Deputy Director for External and Intergovernmental Affairs

benjamin_cassidy@ios.doi.gov
(202) 208-4219 w

Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>

From: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Nov 16 2017 00:50:57 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Cassidy, Benjamin" <benjamin_cassidy@ios.doi.gov>
Jason Larrabee <jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov>, "Gambill, Zachariah" <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov>, "Wynn, Todd" <todd_wynn@ios.doi.gov>
CC:
Subject: Re: Question re: Zimbabwe

Hi Ben

I was with quite a few Zimbabwe officials, a couple high ranking, while at my meetings. I talked specifically with them about this matter, among other discussion items. While political turmoil is

always unsettling I don't believe that any were particularly worried about losing their jobs or having any changes in their wildlife management programs, that have broad support nationally. I think this is generally perceived as an advancement to getting a new president in place. As you may have seen that has now already been agreed to by the president.

Will let you know if I hear more.

Thanks
Greg

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Nov 16, 2017, at 1:03 AM, Cassidy, Benjamin <benjamin_cassidy@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Good evening Greg,

Hope you are having a good flight home. I assume you saw the news today about the Zimbabwe government being overthrown. Will this impact the roll out of announcements re: permits?

Thank you for your consideration,

Ben

--

Benjamin J. Cassidy
Department of the Interior
Immediate Office of the Secretary
Senior Deputy Director for External and Intergovernmental Affairs

benjamin_cassidy@ios.doi.gov
(202) 208-4219 w

Benjamin Cassidy <benjamin_cassidy@ios.doi.gov>

From: Benjamin Cassidy <benjamin_cassidy@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Nov 16 2017 05:05:29 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov
CC: Jason Larrabee <jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov>, "Gambill, Zachariah" <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov>, "Wynn, Todd" <todd_wynn@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Question re: Zimbabwe

Thank you very much for the insight, Greg.

Please note all emails sent and received are subject to the Freedom of Information Act

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 16, 2017, at 12:51 AM, Greg Sheehan (b) (6) <[REDACTED]@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi Ben

I was with quite a few Zimbabwe officials, a couple high ranking, while at my meetings. I talked specifically with them about this matter, among other discussion items. While political turmoil is always unsettling I don't believe that any were particularly worried about losing their jobs or having any changes in their wildlife management programs, that have broad support nationally. I think this is generally perceived as an advancement to getting a new president in place. As you may have seen that has now already been agreed to by the president.

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Greg Sheehan
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202-208-4545 office
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Benjamin J. Cassidy
Department of the Interior
Immediate Office of the Secretary
Senior Deputy Director for External and Intergovernmental Affairs

benjamin_cassidy@ios.doi.gov
(202) 208-4219 w

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Zimbabwe coup

"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Wed Nov 15 2017 06:15:43 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Sheehan, Gregory" <(b) (6)@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Danielle Kessler <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>, Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov>, Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>, Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Richard Ruggiero <richard_ruggiero@fws.gov>, "Cogliano, Mary" <mary_cogliano@fws.gov>
CC:
Subject: Fwd: Zimbabwe coup

Greg/Tim,

I'm sure you're already aware of this, but sharing just in case. My suggestion is that we continue to closely monitor the situation and gather information on possible impacts on current wildlife management, but that it doesn't at this point affect our findings for elephants or lions. Any other thoughts or info to share?

Best,

craig

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Danielle Kessler** <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>
Date: Wed, Nov 15, 2017 at 7:15 AM
Subject: Zimbabwe coup
To: Craig Hoover <Craig_Hoover@fws.gov>, Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov>

Well, this is unfortunate timing...

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/15/mugabe-family-military-takes-control-zimbabwe-mnangagwa>

Sent from my iPhone

--

Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
International Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
ph: 703-358-2162
www.fws.gov/international

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Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov

From: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Sent: Wed Nov 15 2017 07:02:08 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, Danielle Kessler <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>, Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov>, Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>, Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Richard Ruggiero <richard_ruggiero@fws.gov>, "Cogliano, Mary" <mary_cogliano@fws.gov>
CC:
Subject: Re: Zimbabwe coup

Hi Craig

We are here with several folks from the Zimbabwe government. While there is a coup under way it is believed by these staff(as our conversations this morning) that it will likely be quick and not result in any major changes in environmental staffing or programs.

Of course we will continue to monitor but at at this point it doesn't appear that this unrest will have many impacts to the wildlife management program, regardless of the final resolution.

Greg

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Nov 15, 2017, at 4:16 PM, Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov> wrote:

Greg/Tim,

I'm sure you're already aware of this, but sharing just in case. My suggestion is that we continue to closely monitor the situation and gather information on possible impacts on current wildlife management, but that it doesn't at this point affect our findings for elephants or lions. Any other thoughts or info to share?

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Danielle Kessler <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>
Date: Wed, Nov 15, 2017 at 7:15 AM
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<laury_parramore@fws.gov>

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Sent from my iPhone

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Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
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"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Wed Nov 15 2017 07:34:19 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, Danielle Kessler <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>, Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov>, Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>, Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Richard Ruggiero <richard_ruggiero@fws.gov>, "Cogliano, Mary" <mary_cogliano@fws.gov>
CC:
Subject: Re: Zimbabwe coup

Thanks Greg. We will stay the course. Safe travels back.

craig

On Wed, Nov 15, 2017 at 9:02 AM, Greg Sheehan <[\(b\) \(6\) @fws.gov](mailto:(b) (6) @fws.gov)> wrote:
Hi Craig

We are here with several folks from the Zimbabwe government. While there is a coup under way it is believed by these staff(as our conversations this morning) that it will likely be quick and not result in any major changes in environmental staffing or programs.

Of course we will continue to monitor but at at this point it doesn't appear that this unrest will have many impacts to the wildlife management program, regardless of the final resolution.

Greg

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

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I'm sure you're already aware of this, but sharing just in case. My suggestion is that we continue to closely monitor the situation and gather information on possible impacts on current wildlife management, but that it doesn't at this point affect our findings for elephants or lions. Any other thoughts or info to share?

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From: **Danielle Kessler** <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>

Date: Wed, Nov 15, 2017 at 7:15 AM

Subject: Zimbabwe coup

To: Craig Hoover <Craig_Hoover@fws.gov>, Laury Parramore <laury_parramore@fws.gov>

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Sent from my iPhone

--

Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
International Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
[5275 Leesburg Pike](https://www.fws.gov/leesburg)
[Falls Church, VA 22041-3803](https://www.fws.gov/fallschurch)
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[Sign up](#) for our e-newsletter to learn how we're working around the globe to protect species and their habitats!



--

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Conversation Contents

Elephant Communications

"Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

From: "Wainman, Barbara" <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 14:36:16 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: Elephant Communications

DOI Communications wants no release on the Zimbabwe elephant issue so we will just have an if asked statement but I am confident we will be asked as this is reversing a previous decision. But we will follow their guidance.

Barbara W. Wainman
Assistant Director, External Affairs
US Fish and Wildlife Service
(202) 208-5256 (office)
(571) 471-4159 (cell)

Conversation Contents

Elephants

Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov

From: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov
Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 02:32:52 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, zachariah_gambill@fws.gov, charisa_morris@fws.gov, Jim Kurth <jim_kurth@fws.gov>, Stephen Guertin <stephen_guertin@fws.gov>, Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Subject: Elephants

Gloria, If the approvals for Zambia elephants are completed and we can begin issuing permits then please begin Monday. That is predicated on 1. This issuance does not conflict with the announcement of the Zimbabwe findings, which apparently is not a problem. Only the Zimbabwe elephants need to be listed in the federal register as I understand it. 2. Barbara has a similar formal media response for elephants just as she did for lions. Essentially we have evaluated the plans and they are consistent with regulations. Barbara please let Laura Rigas know as well. Zack, please let Downey, Jason, Peg Romanic, and Todd know. This does not require a formal DOI review and surnaming process or a federal register notice. Gloria please add those notifications onto the website as you did the lions but no big public notice or fanfare. Unless there are unknown problems I will assume these will begin issuance by COB on Monday. Thanks for all your good work everyone, Greg Greg Sheehan Principal Deputy Director US Fish and Wildlife Service 202-208-4545 office 202-676-7675 cell

Conversation Contents

Re: Appeal of Denial of Permit Applications PRT-04846C and PRT-04205C and Request for Oral Argument

Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Jul 03 2017 06:09:14 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Sheehan, Gregory" (b) (6) @fws.gov
CC: Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, Bryan Arroyo <bryan_arroyo@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Appeal of Denial of Permit Applications PRT-04846C and PRT-04205C and Request for Oral Argument

Greg, Thanks for the message. On this we agreed to get on your calendar and brief you on Zimbabwe more broadly, and then you could decide whether to accept their offer or deal with the appeal in writing only. We will set up the briefing ASAP. You might just respond to Regina that you are getting briefed on the issue and will get back to them. Best, Craig Sent from my iPhone > On Jul 2, 2017, at 10:48 PM, Sheehan, Gregory (b) (6) @fws.gov wrote: > > Hi Craig > > So I know we discussed the background of the importation program a bit but > I'm not sure where we landed on this issue but I am not sure if I still owe > a reply to this email. Any thoughts? > > Thanks > Greg > > > ----- Forwarded message ----- > From: Regina A. Lennox <regina.lennox@conservationforce.org> > Date: Tue, Jun 27, 2017 at 12:28 PM > Subject: Appeal of Denial of Permit Applications PRT-04846C and PRT-04205C > and Request for Oral Argument > To: gregory_sheehan@fws.gov > Cc: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>, "John J. Jackson, III" <jjj@conservationforce.org> > > > Dear Director Sheehan: > > We write to appeal the denial of the referenced permit applications, which > seek to import lawfully hunted elephant trophies from Zimbabwe. > > We respectfully request oral argument on this appeal. We look forward to > explaining the enhancement generated for the elephant by regulated tourist > hunting in Zimbabwe and summarizing the extensive documentation provided by > Zimbabwe's wildlife management authority, Conservation Force, and others in > support of this showing. > > Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions about this > appeal. The attached documents were also sent today by Federal Express. > > Kind regards, > > Regina A. Lennox > *Conservation Force* > 3240 S I-10 Service Road W, Suite 200 > Metairie, Louisiana 70001 USA > 504-837-1233 (office) > 919-452-8652 (cell) > regina.lennox@conservationforce.org <Regina.lennox@conservationforce.org> > > > > -- > Greg Sheehan, Acting Director > Principle Deputy Director > US Fish and Wildlife Service > 202-208-4545 > > >