

International Wildlife Conservation Council
Draft Meeting Minutes
26-27 September 2018

The **International Wildlife Conservation Council** (Council) convened for a meeting at 1pm 26 October 2018 at the US Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, Falls Church, Virginia. In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 02-463, the meeting was open to the public throughout the meeting's duration.

Council members present: Bill Brewster (chair), Jenifer Chatfield (vice-chair), Ivan Carter, Jeffery Crane, Cameron HanAes, Peter Lewis Horn II, Chris Hudson, Mike Ingram, John Jackson, Keith Mark, Olivia Opre, Erica Rhoad, Denise Welker. Ex officio representation included: Andrea Travnicek (Department of Interior), Rowena Watson, (Department of State), and Jon Harrison (Department of State).

Summary Disclaimer:

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Day 1

Meeting was called to order by Council Chair Bill Brewster at 1pm.

Presentations

Introduction: Welcome and introductory remarks were provided by Council Chair Brewster.

Remarks: Andrea Travnicek introduced herself as Acting Department of Interior Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Department of Interior

Remarks: Rowena Watson introduced herself as a Foreign Affairs Affairs Officer from the US Department of State

Presentation: Hon Minister Pohamba Penomwenyo Shifeta – Minister of Environment and Tourism, Namibia: Sustainable Wildlife Management for the Benefit of People and Species

Commented on the geographic and population diversity of his country, with 58% living in rural areas, and the impressive network of 20 protected areas which cover 17% of the country's land. Protected areas are managed by Nature Conservation Wardens – they protect important species, and the constitution provides the foundation for policy and programs to safeguard the country's biodiversity for the benefit of future generations. This constitution is the basis for sustainable utilization of resources for all Namibians. The country has put into place policies that promote communal and commercial land which are distinct entities. Since the 1970s, wildlife has been translocated to the communal areas for the benefit of the citizens through trophy hunting and selling of wild game with permission of the Minister and geared towards sustainable use. These animals provide income, employment opportunity, and nutrition to the country. The country's conservation efforts require the community for success. Effective local management and reintroduction of wildlife has led to improvement in conservation efforts. Community

engagement counteracts poaching efforts, which along with habitat loss are the main contributors to species decline through the 1970s and 1980s. Sustainable use and community engagements are the hallmark of the country's conservation efforts leading to an improvement in capacity and an integration of wildlife management, and Namibia represents a success story in biodiversity. He offered examples from the country's rhino, elephant, cheetah, and lion conservation efforts as highlights, and stressed the importance of overarching management of these animal populations to its success. He commented on the important relationship between conservation and rural development, and understanding the complex interactions between rural citizens and wildlife. He closed by emphasizing that conservation is about managing natural resources sustainably in order to protect not only Namibia but the world. Ongoing challenges include market access for wildlife products, human-wildlife conflict, and poaching (especially elephants and rhinos). The international communities' focus should be on preventing crime, including prevention of poaching that occurs via community engagement, and the establishment and maintenance of law enforcement. In Namibia this includes an anti-poaching unit that is well-trained and effective. Both human and financial resources are needed to ensure animal protection. International cooperation is needed to influence specific markets such as rhino horn due to increased demand for these products. Education is ultimately needed to reduce perceived worth of these products.

A question was raised from Mr. Hudson regarding whether these communities were encouraged or forced to utilize these animals in specific ways (i.e. trophy hunting versus ecotourism). The Minister responded that all efforts were geared towards community benefit and demonstration of conservation and resource sharing. The government's role is to provide assistance, as long as these conditions are met, while the communities maintain agency. Mr. Hudson followed up by inquiring whether USFWS should encourage American hunters visiting Namibia. The Minister commented on the targeted trophy hunting decisions that are made with dangerous animals on a case-by-case basis. Americans are coming both for tourism and conservation hunting tourism.

Presentation: Video: The Unheard Voice. The video outlined challenges related to human-animal conflict, examples of community improvement due to hunting, and the differences between legal hunting and poaching.

Subcommittee Reports:

Conservation: Denise Welker commented on the importance of smooth trophy-hunting import process and the importance of revenue generated by hunting, as well as the issue of human-animal conflict.

Anti-poaching: Ivan Carter commented on the importance of community benefit from support of legal hunting in terms of nutrition, anti-poaching efforts, and employment.

Communications: Olivia Opre commented on the importance of the Council as a fact-finding group, the need for perspectives of those who coexist with the wildlife, and the need to glean knowledge before they can provide recommendations to Secretary on communications

Chris Hudson spoke to 1) the ESA and whether its implementation assists with or interferes with range nation management programs, suggesting it's important to work cooperatively to support

range nation countries, and the question of the up-listing of foreign species; 2) technological innovations and web-based electronic applications for import/export process; 3) uniformity across 8 FWS import regions regarding import of trophies, and specifically discussed issue of shipping crates; 4) upcoming conference of the parties and the role of FWS in CITES, such as whether there could be an extension of CITES import permit from 6m to 1y at the recommendation of IWCC, as often the CITES import permit expires which creates import problems. He mentioned both import and export permits.

Presentation: Maxi Pia Louise (Namibian Association of Community Based Natural Resource Management Support Organization) presented on community conservation in Namibia, including history and future goals. She illustrated the wildlife loss and depletion in the 80s and 90s. She commented on the importance of ownership, where community members have a stake in their wildlife, and emphasized the voluntary nature of the conservancy framework. The vision of the Namibia CBNRM is to empower present and future generations to manage integrated wildlife and other natural resources as a recognized and valued rural development option. She emphasized that “if there is no management, there is no benefit.” The three pillars of the program are: natural resource management; institutional development; and governance, and business, enterprises, and livelihoods. She stressed the importance of monitoring, and the 650 game guards that safeguard the areas. Conservation achievements include increasing wildlife populations and large landscape connectivity. She offered the examples of lion range expansion in Northwest Namibia, as well as expansions of the elephant and black rhino populations. She emphasized the importance of wildlife corridors and expanding areas, gender empowerment, and utilizing Namibia’s comparative advantages in terms of landscapes, biodiversity, resources, cultural diversity, and efficient service industries. The industry is well regulated at the government level in terms of support, good laws, organization, community involvement, and security/infrastructure, and is based on democratic principles. She illustrated benefits to the community, that are influenced to a large part by hunting practices. She cited the elephant as the most expensive animal to hunt, and the lack of ability to import elephant trophies has resulted in decreasing U.S. hunters and loss of revenue/employment, and that hunting brings value to resources. Large challenges include human-wildlife conflict, drought, hunting issues, poaching, funding support, and land use struggles due to expanding agricultural use. She sees community conservation as the heart of Namibia’s continued development and seeks international support.

Olivia Opre asked whether other countries have asked Namibia for advice, and she responded that they have around 10 international visitors per month who come to learn about the monitoring systems.

Ivan Carter asked whether it was true if the visiting hunters stop coming, will poaching increase and wildlife, and she replied that she thought that was true, and that a significant goal is to increase employment in the community.

Denise Welker asked what the most valuable natural resource is in Namibia, and she replied that she thought it was the wildlife, but that this may change in 20-30 years.

Mr. Jackson asked about the funding to resolve human-wildlife conflict. She replied that they have an insurance system, and the government contributes money across the conservancies for

human-wildlife conflict. The money comes from a game public trust fund (coming from hunts and sale of wildlife), NGOs, and other sources.

Mr. Jackson asked what role the black rhino plays in the public trust fund. She replied that they do hunt rhino, but target the older, more aggressive animals. She stressed the importance of adaptation and updating quotas yearly.

Presenter: Imani Richard Nkuwi – Director of Tourism and Business Services – Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority. He presented on the conservation status and related impacts of elephants and lion trophy ban to Tanzania. He outlined the history of trophy hunting in Tanzania, including changes in regulations over the past ~120 years and a profile of the hunting blocks in Tanzania, which covers 300,000km². Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) was created in response to a consistent trend in deterioration of the wildlife conservation in the areas previously managed by the Wildlife Division. It is responsible for sustainable management of wildlife resources and biodiversity. It retains revenue from sport hunting and photographic safaris and supports anti-poaching programs, capacity building, and dealing with human-wildlife conflicts. TAWA contributed to the establishment of the Wildlife and Forest Crimes Taskforce to coordinate anti-poaching operations, including rapid response teams that operate beyond game reserves. As a result, poaching levels of elephants have been reduced, and in many areas elephant populations are increasing. Study results indicate a stable population of lions in Tanzania. He illustrated the place of trophy hunting as an aspect of wildlife conservation in remote areas with limited infrastructure. He emphasized the importance of community involvement/benefit through a partnership mechanism through the Wildlife Management Areas. He also emphasized the obligation of the hunting operator to provide significant contributions to conservation and community support including anti-poaching operations, infrastructure, development, and community-development projects. He commented on the ban and restriction of imports of elephant and lion trophies, respectively, saying that he respects the restriction of imports. He however stated that changes to American policy on hunting have a detrimental impact to Tanzania, disabling their ability to manage their wildlife populations especially in financing conservation of wildlife and habitats. Vacancies at hunting blocks attract other land-users as driven by the community. He called for international cooperation in various ways, including opening of US markets to elephant and lion trophies.

Ivan Carter asked about newspaper reports from Tanzania to resettle some of the wildlife areas and whether these reports are true. Mr. Nkuwi responded that the growth of the Tanzanian population contributes to land-use competition for the 5% of land set aside for conservation. He spoke to the issue of roaming cattle for which 10% of the land is allotted.

Mr. Nkuwi commented on the hunter as a partner in conservation. Mr. Brewster commented on the remote nature of the hunting areas that make them poachable and not photographic, as well as the ways in which wildlife suffer from turning over of land to agriculture. Mr. Nkuwi commented on the importance on the habitat and its utilization for wildlife, and his concern over fragmentation. He invited again USFWS to rethink the decision of the ban and invited them to Tanzania.

Olivia Opre asked what the carbon footprint is of the phototourists coming to Tanzania. He commented that tourism employs 1 million individuals in Tanzania, with a potential for 5-8 times this number, and again encouraged influx of hunters from the US.

Public comment took place at the end of Day 1.

Day 2

Meeting was called to order by Council Chair Bill Brewster at 9am. Minutes from the previous IWCC meeting were approved by the Council.

Presentations

Presenter: Joseph Mbawia – Professor, Tourism Studies, Okavango Research Institute, University of Botswana. Dr. Mbawia presented on Sustainable Wildlife Utilization in Botswana, Hunting as a Conservation Tool. He spoke about the research themes and programs at ORI. 39% of the land in Botswana is kept for wildlife use. No hunting is done in protected areas, but is allowed in wildlife management areas. He outlined the types of hunting, and the opposing viewpoints in the hunting debate, as well as the history of natural resource and wildlife policy in Botswana and the importance of aligning conservation with rural development. Three frameworks informed hunting and conservation via community-based natural resource management (CBNRM): economic value, shifting management decisions from the government to the community (devolution), and collective proprietorship. Hunting in Botswana is practiced in controlled concession areas, which are small land units that are considered unsuitable for phototourism. Trophy hunting is controlled by a quota system that is able to respond to fluctuations in wildlife populations. He outlined the benefits of hunting in Botswana, including 75% of CBNRM hunting revenue being channeled back into communities, and improved involvement of communities in conservation programs through CBNRM.

He described motivations behind the January 2014 Botswana safari hunting ban. These included wildlife decline caused by hunting, poaching, human encroachment, habitat fragmentation, drought, and fires. He outlined the loss of revenue to communities and discussed the influx of elephants from other countries, resulting in vegetation and crop destruction, escalating human-wildlife conflict, and a changed community perception of conservation. He discussed the negative effect of poverty on conservation efforts, and that 15% of safari hunting revenues come from only 1% of tourist arrivals. He outlined conclusion that sustainable trophy hunting has a place in CBNRM, and that selective hunting practices need to occur to manage elephant and buffalo populations in Botswana. Maintenance of buffer zones and animal corridors can manage human-wildlife conflict to halt elephant movements into agricultural land. He discussed the importance of considering a socio-ecological and ecological framework together, and that local communities cannot be alienated from wildlife benefits. He discussed the militarization of conservation, and that command-control does not yield the best results and has failed to yield better results prior to CBNRM development. He noted that the 1977 ban on safari hunting in Kenya resulted in a 40% decline in wildlife populations. He concluded by saying that phototourism is an important contributor to GDP but is not an answer on its own.

Mr. Brewster commented on the degradation of the habitat by elephants, and asked what the plans are to further control elephant populations as only 400 elephant permits were issued prior to the ban. Dr. Mbawia replied that this decision would come from the government, and a proposal has been discussed to reduce the population by 3000 per year until they reach the 60,000 original population (now currently over 250,000). He also discussed translocation to other countries as well as sterilization, but that further scientific investigation is needed.

Dr. Mbawia commented on the lack of a census for lions etc., but that the numbers have likely increased and that there is a need for a census for the cats in Botswana.

Mr. Hudson asked what the plan is for overpopulation, and whether the policy will be that 150K elephants to starve to death. Dr. Mbawia commented that there needs to be scientific investigation and pointed towards translocation as a possibility.

Mr. Brewster commented on the difficulty in finding countries that want to accept these animals.

Presentation: **The Minister of Education from Botswana** gave an impromptu presentation. He discussed the current position of the Botswana government. He stated that he chairs the Parliamentary Conservation Caucus, and that his government is in agreement with IWCC stance. He relayed frustration from communities regarding the lack of local control over wildlife. He cited human-wildlife conflict as the largest problem in Botswana. He stated that the President has initiated efforts to communicate with stakeholders regarding the issues, and that that he supports hunting as a management tool in the country and as providing alternative economic activities for those who are suffering from the human-wildlife conflict. He closed by stating that conservation cannot be achieved without the communities, and that true ownership needs to be determined to facilitate compensatory alternative economic opportunities.

Ivan Carter commended the leaders from these countries for learning from each other.

The Minister commented on phototourism as an elitist practice, and that the government has not ensured that the communities are involved in the industry. He commented on the need to work with the communities to ensure that elephants feel safe to return to the forest to relieve pressure on the delta.

Presentation: Rose Mandisodza-Chikerema – Chief Ecologist with Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority. She described the Wildlife Governance in Zimbabwe, with the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority acting as a quasi-government agency which reports to the Ministry of Environment, Tourism, and Hospitality. The Parks and Wildlife Act of 2001 provides for protection of plants and wildlife. Wildlife in Zimbabwe is regarded as a national asset to be used sustainably. The ZPWMA is self-funded through revenue from the Parks Estate user fees (from hunting and fishing), and these funds are directed back into law enforcement, anti-poaching efforts, research and monitoring, management planning, and hunting supervision. She stated that sustainable wildlife management means that the wildlife should pay for their upkeep, as wildlife conservation is an alternative land use option that competes with livestock and crop production. The ZPWMA manages one of the largest estates which includes 50,000 km² which represents 13.1% of the country's land mass. There are 11 national parks (with no

commercial harvesting), 16 safari areas (for hunting), 9 recreational parks around water sources, and 14 botanical reserves to propagate endangered plants. The national parks and safari areas border one another, and the national parks provide animals that are harvested in safari areas. There are also areas that are protected by private sources, such as Bubyee and Save which used to be cattle ranching areas, communal areas (CAMPFIRE), and forestry land. In total, the parks estate and private land represents 26% of the total land area. She illustrated hunting as a conservation tool exercised via an adaptive management system, including selective trophy hunting of less reproductively important animals, setting quotas and tracking trophies with an online system, and implementing specific species management plans for elephant, cheetah, wild dog, and crocodile for elephant, cheetah, wild dog, and crocodile. She acknowledged the partnership with Conservation Force which assisted in the elephant management plan.

Coordinators monitor the implementation of these plans for elephants, and elephant management committees investigate resource protection, poaching, and resource protection, which are reported to the national committee. These plans are in place or being developed for many species. A lion management plan was done in 2006 using money from local NGOs, and they are hoping for an updated plan in November. A crocodile management plan was recently approved by the board.

CITES Scientific Authority NDFs are compiled for all key species, and they share these documents with colleagues and USFWS. They assess the effects of trade, utilization, and of removal of these species. They are currently carrying out a leopard survey, which should be done before the rainy season.

She illustrated how Zimbabwe conducts participatory quota setting, which include workshops by a team of ZPWMA ecologists throughout the regions via a participatory approach involving all stakeholders. Quotas consider CITES national quotas, trophy quality data, stakeholder information, national aerial survey results, research and monitoring, property size, management regimes, sustainable offtake percentages that are species-specific, poaching, conflict hotspots, and age, and are specific to ecoregion. She illustrated lions as an example.

An age based quota was set for lions in 2013, as removal of lions prior to 4-5 years results in loss of reproductively important animals. They set an age-based quota at 7 or above. This was based in part on international scrutiny and pressure from markets for non-detrimental sources. They want sustainable populations, high quality trophies, and face growing pressure from markets. A point system is utilized that rewards or deters trophy kills based on age (hunting animals >7 years are rewarded; <4 punished with additional fees). In 2013, the majority of animals were less than 4 years when they were killed, whereas now the majority of animals are greater than 6 years.

In the case of elephants, 83,000 elephants live in PAs, representing the world's second largest elephant population. In the past five years, less than 150 trophy bulls were hunted, which is under the CITES quota of 500 and represents 0.18% of the total population. 45,000 elephants were culled between 1960 and 1989 as large populations were having a negative impact on high-canopy woody plants, but culling is no longer performed. She cited that culling is no longer

beneficial due to the ivory ban preventing financial gain. Culling also resulted in increased elephant aggression.

The country has a low rate of elephant poaching, and hunting offtakes has resulted in 0.2-0.3% of the population. The country is not hunting to meet the CITES quota, and rather are hunting sustainably. She illustrated CBNRM and CAMPFIRE, which was a response to unsustainable hunting practices and succeeded due to USAID partnership. This program was designed to stimulate long-term sustainable use of resources with 2.5 million beneficiaries and 3-5 million hectares of protected land (12.7% of country). 55% of income is allocated to the communities, with 26% to activity costs, and 15% to administration. Rural district councils influence decision-making, which is in agreement with an EU review which recommended decision-making be devolved to the village level. In 2008, it was recommended that communities have their own bank accounts to receive payment from safaris, with mixed success.

Since 2013, CAMPFIRE income has declined from a 1999 peak of 2.5 million. She stated that the ban of ivory imports from Zimbabwe to the US has caused this decline. American clients constitute 76% of hunters, and changes in policy regarding hunting have a direct impact on the people. The majority of income comes from the elephants by far (7 million), then buffalo (2 million) leopards (532,000), hippos, crocodiles, and lions. The majority of CAMPFIRE funds social services. She commented that losses from human-wildlife conflict are not compensated, and illustrated key examples of conflict (crop damage, killed livestock, human deaths), as this is not sustainable.

Mr. Brewster commented on the animals hunted vs. the CITES quota of 500 elephants, and that the carrying capacity that is lower than the current population. He commented on the use of sport hunting as population and control and asked how they are planning to handle their population. Ms. Mandisodza-Chikerema touched on culling as an option, as well as internal translocations leading to better distribution (from NW to SE). Mr. Brewster commented on the 133 human and 867 livestock deaths with the majority of livestock deaths coming from hyenas, and that this illustrates the problem of human-animal conflict. She replied that in remote areas, human-wildlife conflicts would continue driving locals to eliminate animals unless they can derive benefits from them.

Rowena Watson from the Department of State questioned the correlation of the ivory ban with decrease in hunting revenue. She stated that the ivory ban should not be conflated with trophy import restrictions, and Mandisodza-Chikerema clarified that she had meant that trophy import restriction is decreasing hunting, not the ivory ban.

Mr. Jackson commented on the ban of import of female lions and asked for comment given that there was destruction of female lions in the country, and asked for the biological basis for the ban. She responded that it was not a ban, but they stopped hunting females because of the population decline. Right now export of female lions is occurring from one conservancy (Bubye Valley) due to growing population. Mr. Jackson commented that that population was achieved due to trophy hunting. He commented on the proposed "Cecil Act" which would ban import of lion and elephant trophies from Zimbabwe, and asked whether this would be detrimental as so

many hunters are American and would reduce revenue to local communities. She concurred that this would be detrimental.

Mr. Jackson commented on the growth of the program and whether she considered CAMPFIRE a success. Mandisodza-Chikerema responded that she does.

Mr. Brewster commented that he does not appreciate when Congress imposes their views on managing African wildlife versus relying on African expertise (in response to the Cecil Act).

Presentation: Craig Spencer – Chief Warden representing the Black Mambas anti-poaching unit in Balule National Park and Greater Kruger National Park. “Building Resilience for Wildlife Areas Sustainable Approach to Wildlife Security in Sub-Saharan African Context.”

Mr. Spencer presented a video on South African conservation efforts. The video illustrated Black Mambas in the Greater Kruger National Park that are in place to combat poaching, which especially affected their rhino population. The all-female unit patrols the fence and locating poaching attempts, dismantles snares, and searches cars for illegal wildlife products. They employ women from the Maseke tribe, which counters the overall unemployment in the community.

He stated that he has recently stepped down from his role as chief warden to pursue the Black Mamba model. He highlighted the difference between conservation and preservation, and that free-ranges are a luxury. The mission is to make the GKNP the most difficult, undesirable, and risky area to poach, and to develop a proud, sympathetic, and patriotic community on the borders. The mission is to build environmental patriotism to counter the social decay and false economy. There is a three tiered program including him, the Black Mambas, and armed guards. The program helps to create education opportunities in the communities. He discussed trophy hunting provides many opportunities for the community. He is against militarization of the units, as this promotes militarization of the poaching units.

The program needs to address the complex needs (invasive species, mines, etc.) and harness the ability to support diverse interests in the community. Consumptive and non-consumptive communities should not compete. He highlighted the loss of 10% of grazing land to infrastructure that needs to be co-managed. Transparency is critical to the rest of the world.

He cites his personal preference would be not to hunt, but that he does not have other options for support. He spoke to the importance of role models in the community that are paid appropriately by the wildlife community. He outlined the monitoring and research efforts to understand where the wildlife assets are so that the women can be deployed strategically, and monitor wildlife crime through gunshot tracking, acoustic detection, and cameras. These make up the PROTECT model (Protective Routine Observation Theory Enforcing Conservation Techniques). He cited the importance of building resilience for wildlife areas in Africa by building a patriotic community for wildlife, creating tangible returns for the communities, and supporting of local industry including consumptive uses. He closed by stating he is not a hunter but that he supports hunting as playing a role in conservation.

Mr. Brewster commended the program.

Jenifer Chatfield commented on the precarious position of the women and asked for comment on their unarmed status. He commented that the women work on the periphery, and if weapons were visible that poachers would need to respond in kind to defend themselves. He stated that poachers want to operate undetected. He also does not want to put the women in the position of having to utilize their weapons psychologically. She pressed further about the women being in danger, and he responded that the biggest risk is from the wildlife, and of the importance of the women being chosen and protected by their communities.

Presentation: Rocky McBride – Big cat researcher and houndsman for South American and North American cat species. “Jaguars in conflict.” He discussed the history of eradication and relocation programs in Texas for big cats. He outlined the Florida Panther Project between 1982-2018, including the hounds utilized to locate the panther trails.

The project is funding partially through the sale of license plates fueling a 16 million dollar Panther Trust. He has caught or recaptured over 600 Florida Panthers. He participated in a Venezuela jaguar study between 1993-1995 and another in Brazil in 2014-2016. He outlined Project Jaguar in Paraguay between 2002-2018. The study was funded by sports hunters who participate in the captures, and operated with a permit from the Paraguayan government.

Captures were conducted in parks and private land throughout the country, with GPS technology utilized to improve tracking. Recently, they have been relocating problem jaguars (set by standards. He is in favor of targeted hunting to manage these animals, but that currently it is difficult to obtain the permitting to support this. He cited habitat loss as the main problem in these areas, which will continue. 95% of land is in the private domain, with 16 million cattle, 6 million people, and very large rural ranches leading to significant killing of cattle, and carcasses create a draw for poaching. 95% of the cattle killed were calves or weaned calves, with 20% annual predation of the calf crop, and 180,000/year loss on one ranch between 2009-2015.

Challenges to the jaguar conflict include habitat loss, competition for prey base, weak institutions, lack of funds, government corruption, and lack of government cooperation with landowners. Conflict can be minimized via fences, better cattle management, and economic incentives for landowners to protect prey base and predators through legal hunting. He mentioned recently signed hunting laws for CITES Appendix II listing which is sitting on the President’s desk. He stated that jaguars can support high losses due to their reproductive rate, and that he believes the jaguar population is robust.

Mr. Brewster commented that the cats are dependent on the prey base, and that a better prey base would prevent cattle predation. He commented that money into the community via hunting will encourage better law enforcement and support of the prey base growth. Mr. McBride agreed and commented on the formation of Hunters Paraguay that wants to join an affiliate in Dallas similar to Safari Club. He commented that the administration should recognize the needs of landowners even though it’s a controversial topic due to the long term ban.

Mr. Brewster asked for a clarification on the 1000 jaguars mentioned and whether 200-300 are killed by hunters, which Mr. McBride confirmed.

Mr. Jackson commented that repatriation is an issue in Africa due to other countries not wanting to accept the animals. He asked if the ESA is in the way of repatriation of Jaguars and would it be beneficial for jaguars to be downlisted in the ESA. Mr. McBride responded yes, and that landowners don't want jaguars eating the deer, and that they don't want an ESA-listed species on their property. He states that CITES is weak in the country due to lack of staffing (only one person can issue a CITES permit in Paraguay), and that NGOs are capitalizing on fear of extinction being used as a money-making scheme. WCS and WWF are working in Paraguay and their support is needed.

Mr. Jackson commented on positive effects of hunting on other species and stated that Panthera is showing that the snow leopard in Tajikistan is doing well due to hunting.

Council Discussion

Ivan Carter commented that the last presentation highlighted the uniformity of messages between all of the presentations in terms of decision-making and needs, and that the stumbling-block to implementation is regulation from the 1st world.

- Mr. Brewster concurred and commented on his appreciation of a science-based appreciation for wildlife conservation
- Mr. Jackson commented on the emphasis on the rural people and community support as necessary for wildlife conservation and highlighted the CAMPFIRE program

Public Comment followed this discussion. After, the Council was adjourned.