

International Wildlife Conservation Council
Subcommittee Notes
15 March 2019

- Conservation Subcommittee
 - Mr. John Jackson distributed two documents, one of which was related to the African Lion Working group of CITES, the other was a report from the Botswana Government.
 - The group discussed the importance of protecting habitat, recognizing that where hunting concessions often offer buffer zones to national parks, these habitats are at risk of degradation due to governments seeking to convert their land use to agriculture/grazing or other more lucrative uses.
 - The group discussed the critical importance of highlighting the different impacts of tourism, including photo tourism, so that consumers who book trips to Africa can have an understanding of their impacts and a better understanding of the important balance hunting provides (i.e. lower footprint since there are fewer hunters for a significant financial return to conservation).
 - The group discussed ways to ensure that sustainability was a priority for these landscapes.
 - The group requested to receive additional documentation from Mr. Richard Sowry related to park management to use in their deliberations.
 - The group discussed the importance of utilizing science-based decision-making
 - The group discussed the importance of USFWS permitting processes reflecting the importance of hunting in conservation

- Trafficking Subcommittee
 - The group discussed the importance of effective community engagement in source markets, noting that when locals are not engaged, wildlife becomes more of a liability than an asset and these groups will often allow poachers to remove animals.
 - The group discussed hound tracking methods and noted that these methods have been effective in the past.

- The group also discussed bushmeat trade, and pointed out that the full committee would do well to consider this threat as a part of its recommendations. Bushmeat trade is as much of a risk to animals as poaching and harder to stamp out since it's also tied to subsistence living.
 - A comment was made regarding the importance of how the issues discussed by the subcommittee overlap with security, law enforcement, and other concerns relating to trafficking
 - The group discussed the current status of USFWS attachés and relayed a desire to add more, which is currently reflected by the 5 more that in the process of being added
 - The group discussed the status of import restrictions - white rhino, elephants, and ivory were specifically mentioned
- Communications Subcommittee
 - The chair, Mr. Keith Mark, discussed preparing a written statement to be submitted to the full committee and then, if approved by vote, to be sent to the DFO to send to the Department to share.
 - It was pointed out that the Council cannot make a press statement on behalf of the Department, and thus the Department would need to consider the statement and potentially make adjustments based on its policies.
 - The subcommittee chair agreed to work with Council members as appropriate to fineness the language such that it accurately reflected their concerns and convictions associated with the poaching and conservation crisis in Africa.
- Policy Subcommittee
 - The Policy subcommittee discussed extending the validity of import permits to 1-2 years to prevent expiry of the permit while in transit
 - The Policy subcommittee discussed asking the DFO to acquire information for the full committee to discuss related to the length of time an import permit is good for.
 - The subcommittee chair, Mr. Chris Hudson, discussed challenges with trophies having to move through Europe and other ports of entry while making their way to

the U.S. At each port, there's a potential for things to be held up. As such, a number of trophies don't make it to ports of entry in the U.S. before their permits expire and the trophy is lost. The issue of communication between USDA-APHIS and USFWS regarding trophy imports was raised

- The chair asked for the DFO to acquire and share with the full committee when they next meet how many trophies are in transit where-in their permits expire.
- The subcommittee discussed whether issues regarding current restrictions can be raised at the upcoming CITES COP.