

---

# INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COUNCIL MEETING

---

DFW Airport Marriott South  
4151 Centreport Dr  
Fort Worth, Texas

**MARCH 14 – 15, 2019**

## Committee Members

		Andrea Travnicek	U.S. Department of the Interior ( <i>ex-officio</i> )
Bill Brewster	Former U.S. Congressman from Oklahoma	Jon Harrison	U.S. Department of State ( <i>ex-officio</i> )
Jenifer Chatfield	Congressional Science Fellow & ACZM board certified Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	Rowena Watson	U.S. Department of State ( <i>ex-officio</i> )
Paul Babaz	President of Safari Club International	<b>Members on the Phone</b>	
Chris Hudson	President of Chris C. Hudson, P.C.	Ivan Carter	Founder of the Ivan Carter Wildlife Conservation Alliance
John Jackson	President of Conservation Force	Peter Horn II	Author and Outfitter
Keith Mark	Host of MacMillian River Adventures	Denise Welker	Sport Hunter

## PROCESS SUPPORT

Eric Alvarez, Designated Federal Officer, Assistant Director — International Affairs, USFWS

Cade London, Policy Advisor to the Assistant Director for International Affairs, USFWS

Emma Gorenberg, AAAS fellow, International Affairs, USFWS

## MEETING PURPOSE

For the International Wildlife Conservation Council to hear presentations on species and habitats affected by poaching and other conservation barriers in order to initiate discussions on developing recommendations.

## MEETING OBJECTIVES

- To manage administrative matters in a public forum
- To hear from experts from around the U.S. and abroad regarding challenges to species conservation abroad.
- To receive input from the public at large regarding wildlife trafficking and poaching activities and enforcement

## SUMMARY DISCLAIMER:

While language was incorporated from many of the commenter's statements in this document, this language was used to summarize points, and is not to be considered verbatim dicta, unless otherwise indicated.

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Mr. Brewster called the council to order and allowed for introductions.
- The Council moved to adopt the meeting agenda.
- Council members introduced themselves to the public at the Chair's request.
- The Council noted DOI is in the process of appointing two new members to the Council.
- The Chair summarized the scope of the two previous Council meetings and noted that he and the Council were looking forward to the presenters ahead.

## PRESENTATIONS:

### **Presentation: Richard Sowry - South Africa National Parks. *Responsible Conservation Based Resource Use in Protected Wildlife Areas***

- Original IUCN definition of conservation - "wise sustainable use"
  - 3 key principles on a sustainable conservation model
    - Economic sustainability - livelihoods
      - Africa has broad economic diversity
    - Ecological sustainability - offtake or use
    - Social sustainability - ethical, responsible, aligns with rational society's norms and standards
  - Question from Council - are these in balance at Kruger? Mr. Sowry responded that this is the intent.
- Economic sustainability
  - Needs to cover the expenses of the wildlife management (roads, fences, counter-poaching)
  - Provide livelihoods and benefits for mankind to justify "land use as wildlife"
    - Without this have increase in poaching/bushmeat hunting
  - Needs a sustainable experience, otherwise tourists get bored
    - Humans lose interest in artificial/canned experience
  - Need to balance resource use by considering other land uses in the area
    - Discuss the offtake of key species such as lion in a multi-land use system to ensure that the right animal is harvested
- Ecological sustainability
  - Must be sustainable in both offtake or use of the resource
    - Involves the numbers of people required by the activity to generate sufficient income/benefit to maintain economic sustainability
  - Aspects to consider
    - Water consumption (e.g. by lodges)
    - Waste
    - Soil

- Manipulation to provide a game product (artificial water holes and bush clearing to attract game)
- Vegetation
- Wildlife consumption
- Ecological conservation priorities (in order)
  - Soil and groundwater
  - Plant communities
  - Animal communities
- Ethical sustainability
  - Activities and practices need to align with a rational society's norms and values
  - Gave example of water use (dams and their impact, boreholes and extraction of groundwater)
  - Example of food - effects of crops/fruit production, meat production
    - Ecologically speaking we cannot afford to all be vegetarians due to modern cropping as "a state of erosion"
    - We need hooved animals on the land - when properly managed it's what keeps rangelands of the world sustainable and productive
  - Power and fuel - effects of coal mines and oil
  - Luxuries - diamonds and the minds where they are produced; rhino horn
- For the survival of mankind - resource use is unavoidable - how to set ethical standards?
  - Humans must have respect for wildlife
  - We should all be environmentalists and care about animal welfare
  - Prefers not to use "animal rights-ist," prefers "anti-resource use"
- How do we responsibly ensure fair chase principles
  - Manage off-road driving
  - Manage delivery and service vehicles
  - How many tourists to allow
  - Hunting should be conducted according to a set of rules and executed on foot
  - No aircraft unless looking for wounded animals, reduce wounding
  - Animal in natural habitat
- In a climax state of development there are two main ways of sustainably generating income from wildlife that maintain the wildness of both the wildlife and the land
  - Photographic/game viewing and hunting safaris
  - We need both if we are going to be able to justify and sustain wildlife as a viable land use going forward
  - Richard noted that the assumption that if you ban hunting it will be replaced by photographic safaris is incorrect
- Why is hunting necessary in the African context?

- Over 95% of foreign tourists want to go to Serengeti, Okavango, GKNP
  - Related to ease of access, regional stability, and marketing
- How to other areas sustain their wildlife?
- Not all habitat is productive enough for other alternatives
  - In South Africa - productivity decreases as you go farther north, and phototourism models are replaced with pure hunting model or both
- Stated that if you stop hunting it increases human-wildlife conflict; if communities receive no gain from elephants in region, they no longer tolerate elephants in the area
  
- Ethics of trophy hunting
  - Is it any less or more ethical than golf when you consider the resource use of watering a golf course and the other environmental expenses therein?
  - Whether it's hunting for meat or a trophy, an animal is harvested
  - The word trophy is inappropriate - the trophies are actually mementos of the hunt
  - Hunting is not a sport, it is an activity/past-time
  - Cape buffalo has 30x the value as a trophy vs. meat
  - Issue is whether it is done sustainably and ethically and whether the revenue generated from it is spent responsibly.
  
- Designing operating protocols
  - Understand the economic, ecological, and social impacts
  - Maximize positive and manage negative aspects
  
- How to design a functional operation protocol
  - Ngala private game reserve
  - Gave example of photographs of 35 vs. 55 year-old elephant - older animal can be sustainably removed
  - Protocol - no elephants hunted from breeding grounds, older animals, animals divided into classes due to tusk weight and age, offtakes generated for different classes
    - Also pertains to experience of the hunt
  - Includes photographic guides
  - Have an empowerment report, report on revenue generated/spent from hunting, offtake report
  - Question from Council: who pays for personnel? - Mr. Sowry said that the park pays - built into cost of hunt
  - What does this mean?
    - 15K USD in 12 years from a trophy buffalo
    - 80K - 3m USD in 50 years from a trophy elephant
    - 100K USD in 7 years from a trophy free ranging wild lion
  
- Discussed intensive breeding industry of lions (i.e. canned hunts)
  - Questionable ethics and economic sustainability

- Not natural by design, not fair chase, etc.
- Does not view it as sustainable and is opposed to it.
- Could justify buffalo, other species

**Presentation - Kurt Alt, Wild Sheep Foundation, Central Asia Conservation Initiatives.**  
*Summary of Projects in Kazakhstan and Sustainable Use*

- Wild Sheep Foundation's Current Activities
  - Working with IUCN species survival commission caprinae specialist group
  - Working to build in-country ownership and political will of stakeholders
  - Establishing wild sheep and wild goat population monitoring
  - Encouraging science-based sustainable legal harvest expectations
  - Monitoring seasonal habitat use and population movement patterns
  - Supporting the development of habitat conservation management and enhancement strategies
  - Disease monitoring of wild sheep and goats
  - Genetic monitoring of wild sheep and goats
  - Helping support the development of country-specific and species-specific conservation management fees
- Projects are short duration manager-to-manager exchanges
- As populations increase, Wild Sheep Foundation advocates for sustainable harvest opportunities and international trade (CITES) with focus on US, EU, and Central Asia
- The organization supports legal citizen hunting where countries are looking for it
- Presenters at the 7th World Mountain Ungulate Conference
  - Bozeman, Montana
  - Session on policies, laws, and CITES
- Kazakhstan Conservation Program Update
  - 5 subspecies of wild sheep in Kazakhstan
  - MOU with WSF, SCIF, and Kazakh tourism
  - Under CACI umbrella - project with biological justification for 3 argali - looking at potential for sustainable harvest
  - 6 TV programs about conservation and sustainable use in Kazakhstan
- 2019 Field Reviews and Key Meetings
  - May - field reviews/ministry meetings
  - September - Bishkek IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group
- On the ground actions - ground surveys in 3 geographic areas, November 2018
  - Hands-on necropsy training - instructional video and translated to Russian

- Formation of Kazakhstan Wildlife Foundation at the end of March 2019
- Map of populations and permit distribution - end of March 2019
  - No more than 2.5% harvest on any population
  - Repeat of fall Survey
- What makes projects work on the ground — people need to be involved:
  - Organizations must be co-managers with locals
  - Meaningful with sense of ownership
  - Respects the political will of local populace
  - Resources must be self-sustaining and economically viable
  - People need to have access to their resources

### **PANEL DISCUSSION (Q &A):**

- Question: with respect to profit/loss, does Kruger operate at profit/loss? Other areas?
  - Kruger has 2m hectares, but 6m hectares is wildlife land - 4m hectares needs to be able to generate revenue (hunting or photographic) - and is generally hunting because photographers prefer to be in Kruger.
  - Kruger runs on a profit - photographic
  - Next to Kruger is photographic/hunting zones
  - Areas in Mozambique that are photographic and operate at a loss however
  - Economically developed countries can maintain a National Park; but other less developed areas must have value with balanced revenue to maintain these areas.
- Question: do photo safaris occur in Kazakhstan?
  - There are initiatives in Tajikistan, but would not occur in Kazakhstan because does not have a prominent tourism sector in the same way
- With regards to the estimate of 100K for 7 years for a lion and other monetary values of wildlife species - can this be explained?
  - 7 year-old lion in reserve adjacent was sold in a hunt for 100K
  - It's also important to consider the lion's whole life - generating revenue from photographic safaris as well
  - The Council noted examples in Tanzania where 20 hunters go after 1 lion and each pay fee, generating 2 million dollars for 1 lion
- To what extent is animal predation a problem in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan?
  - Mr. Alt wrote a predatory-prey manual written with species specialists
  - There is predation from snow leopards, sometimes wolves, wild dogs, bears, Eurasian lynx – but it's is a pretty small amount
  - Mr. Alt noted that the countries harvests wolves on a regular basis
  - Habitat enhancement could be very beneficial with expanding populations

- The Council commented that Mr. Sowry does not like the term trophy, but difficult to talk about without using another term. There is a need to define what trophy means amongst ourselves and the populace, a new term needs to reflect that it is an animal past its prime. How can this be explained to the public?
  - PR programs are necessary
  
- Question: What would occur if FWS would ban trophy imports on wild sheep or if there were increased CITES limitations on argali?
  - Mr. Alt responded that there would be no program in Kazakhstan if this occurred
  - He notes that agriculture has huge impact on landscape - if you can't create programs with cultural interest in conservation, they won't be successful. Without financial gains, they have nothing to offer agriculture industry in terms of incentives
  - Comment from Mr. Sowry - in South Africa if hunting is banned, there would be cuts in anti-poaching efforts.
  
- Comment from Council that there is a perception that hunting is counter-intuitive to conservation. However, the Council commented that Wild Sheep Foundation is responsible for the survival of wild sheep in America, and hunting communities are responsible for survival of elephant and rhino in Africa
  - Kurt Alt noted that sustainable use/hunting is the way to pay for conservation, and there is no other way to create revenue for conservation of sheep and other species
  - WSF is a science-based conservation organization that supports the role of hunting
  - The Council also noted that Ducks Unlimited has saved wetlands through hunting-based revenues with the duck stamp program.
  
- Question from Dr. Watson: the State Dept and USAID have worked with government of Kazakhstan regarding snow leopards, has WSF had interactions with this issue?
  - Kurt Alt noted that what's good for argali sheep is good for snow leopards, and growing populations of argali sheep achieved through hunting supports snow leopard populations.
  - Africa analogy - species like snow leopards are viewed negatively due to conflict, similar to lion and conflict with game rancher, how can models be changed to give value to these species.
  - Kurt Alt noted that communities in Central Asia have different kind of access to wildlife, and they want legal access because they like to eat these species of argali
  
  - Question about whether situation is changing due to pending closure of Kyrgyzstan
    - WSF hoping that will not close

- Mr. Alt's understanding is that other issues may lead to a closure of Marco Polo sheep hunts, but the issue isn't about population numbers
- Question: what is the impact of US and EU import bans?
  - Mr. Sowry: In South Africa, it's the wildlife that suffers because of bans. However, he does believe that can gets the hunters to "clean up their act", but that it's bad policy.
  - Mr. Alt: If there is a serious biological issue that demanded a closure, he doesn't think that anyone in the sport hunting community would not support a ban, but thinks that these decisions are driven by social issues and norms instead of sound science.
    - Example of desert bighorn sheep in Mexico are Appendix II, even though the situation is similar to US
    - The Council noted that some countries do not want to downlist because of economic reasons, which takes away the biological need that CITES should be address
- Question: If you take Kruger as an example, how many conservation initiatives come close to this?
  - Mr. Sowry: The scale of the research, standing, and professionalism is not repeated at any other national park in Africa.
- Question: Kenya stopped hunting 40 years ago and only do photography, how much more wildlife do they have now?
  - Only two countries where wildlife numbers have increased: South Africa and Namibia – the common denominator to both countries is that you can own wildlife.

## PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED:

- **Presentation - Hannah Downey, Property and Environment Research Center. *A Free Market Approach Conservation in Africa***
- Overview of challenges on the African continent
  - Rapid economic growth - how does wildlife become a sound investment?
  - International influence: China is largest trade partner with investment in pipelines, rail lines, ports, and infrastructure with lack of concern for wildlife
  - Guinea – estimated that flooding could impact up to 1000 chimpanzees
    - How can development link successfully with conservation?
  - In the United States, what should we do in contrast to how China is exploiting the African continent?
    - Putting a dollar value on wildlife
    - Gives people some choice between conserving habitat or not
    - Funding for community projects often come from hunting funds

- Where wildlife and development can go hand in hand - the U.S. is in a position to make wildlife an asset valued domestically and internationally.
- Import bans impact the ability of people on the ground to monetize their wildlife
  - As a result, lands/waters get used for other purposes (e.g. electrical power, grazing, etc.). The loss of wildlife income goes to other interests. Absent a strong incentive to protect wildlife, poaching moves in.
- PERC recommends the Council update the US Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking
  - Remove language that identifies limiting elephant trophy imports as necessary for combating wildlife trafficking
  - Update the strategy recognize rural communities as a choke point in wildlife trafficking supply chains
  - Update the strategy to recognize international hunting as a tool for conservation
  - Explicitly recognize the value of market-based approaches to wildlife conservation
    - Right now strategy is more tied to law enforcement etc.
- PERC recommends improvements to the ESA
  - Improve the Endangered Species Act to streamline the permitting process for trophy imports
  - Potential Option: when a trophy is exported under a range nation's CITES quota, US permits should be given to the importer on a "shall issue" basis, unless compelling evidence shows the trophy was acquired illegally.
- **Presentation: Cory Mason - Dallas Safari Club. *Conservation Through Hunting***
  - Dallas Safari Club Mission: to ensure the conservation of wildlife management through public engagement, education, and advocacy for well-regulated hunting and sustainable use (comprised of 6.5K members)
  - DSC Foundation is the charitable arm of DSC that provides the majority of conservation gains
  - The DSC Frontline Foundation was created to provide financial assistance to provide financial assistance, eligible guides, professional hunters, anti-poaching staff, and game rangers who are seriously injured in the course of providing their professional services

- DSC has a conservation advisory board providing subject matter expertise with both regional and global perspectives on needed research, program development, and advocacy.
- DSC became a member of IUCN in 2015
- North American model - recovered numerous wildlife species from near extinction - wildlife managed using science
  - Pittman-Robertson allocation to States - 86% of operating budgets come from hunter's dollars
  - Texas parks and wildlife - 37 million dollars came from P-R, 57 million from selling hunting licenses; 94 million from hunting
  - Pollinator management, soil management - gets scientists on the ground to do conservation work
  - Wildlife should be managed using sound science
- IUCN notes that *"in many parts of the world indigenous and local communities have chosen to use trophy hunting as a strategy for conservation of their wildlife and to improve sustainable livelihoods"*
  - Stressed importance of choice for communities to use their wildlife.
- Greatest challenges with African continent
  - Habitat loss - human population growth
  - Bushmeat
  - Poaching
  - Politics and Western Influence - emotion over science
  - Population growth and urban sprawl
- Habitat loss
  - Commercial and subsistence farming
  - Commercial mining and unregulated logging
- Habitat conversion – absent hunting concessions, there's a risk of habitat replacement by cattle and/or agriculture
- Bushmeat and poaching
  - Bushmeat - varies from the individual trying to feed family to commercial bushmeat crisis
  - Organized poaching syndicates target and threaten pangolins, elephants, rhinos, and other species
  - Less wildlife habitat means more human - wildlife conflict
- Politics and Western Influence

- Social media driving uninformed messages - iconic African species targeted
- Media not objectively reporting (language like to “hunt down” or “to kill” an animal)
- Feeling that wildlife policies are increasingly driven by politics, not science
- Case study of Zimbabwe elephants
  - Zimbabwe elephant herd of 83K with a carrying capacity of 35K
  - Over capacity of elephants led to habitat destruction
  - In 2014 USA stopped elephant import from Zimbabwe resulting in a loss of key revenue to both safari operators and Zimbabwe National Parks used to fight anti-poaching
  - Safari operators and Zimbabwe National Parks continue to face financial issues as a result of difficulty exporting trophies. As such, Elephant poaching and habitat loss continues
- Example of the closure of a Tanzanian safari company
  - If the past three years, a safari company in Tanzania has raised 2.4 million for anti-poaching which has vanished with its closure
  - Loss of funding means that park staff cannot be paid
  - Donated safaris raised money for lion research, but other initiatives have since stopped
- Impacts of hunting on local communities
  - Hunting in Africa directly generates over \$300 million
  - Hunting in South Africa alone generates \$130 million
  - Average in-country spending is \$26,000
  - Safari operators in Tanzania able to support anti-poaching and local communities project \$9.8 million in donations and support
  - Over 285,000 pounds of game meat distributed last year in Zimbabwe
- Benefits to rural communities
  - Employment (camp staff, trackers, skimmers, game scouts, etc)
  - Infrastructure development (schools, medical clinics, etc)
  - Water
  - Protein
- Photo tourism and hunting
  - Both industries provide economic benefits and conservation value wildlife
  - Photo safaris primarily take place in NPS
    - High density of game populations
    - Well developed road systems, infrastructure, and water sources
    - Luxury camps
  - Hunting safaris take place in remote areas

- Low density of game populations
- Very little infrastructure
- Economic incentives to rural Africans
  
- DSC foundation provides grants to fund critical wildlife research needs and conservation initiatives:
  - DSCF continues to support Zambezi Delta Safaris to help fund the anti-poaching patrol over the Zambezi Delta. Chairman Brewster noted that 24 lions have been moved into Zambezi successfully with hunting dollars.
  - DSCF continues to support the Dande anti-poaching unit in Zimbabwe and provides funds to Old Nyika Safaris in support of anti-poaching patrols etc. in Tanzania
  - Hunters are providing the lion's share of funding for these anti-poaching initiatives
  
- Ivan Carter Wildlife Conservation Alliance-Giraffe conservation is focused on expanding giraffe populations
  - 8 giraffe captured to create satellite population
  - First release of West African giraffe to establish a new population
  
- Reducing human:wildlife conflict
  - DSC foundation provides grants to provide education to locals regarding wildlife conservation
  - Southern African Wildlife College: DSCFs grant to SWAC continues long standing support for the training program targeted at individuals from historically disadvantaged communities
  
- Example of Pakistan allowing hunting of Markhor
  - Downlisting in IUCN is proof of success
  - Downlisting allowed legal import
  - DSC thinks this is an example of conservation success through hunting that's not being appropriately covered by U.S. media.

**Presentation: Peyton West - Frankfurt Zoological Society.** *Biodiversity loss and the importance of buffer zones in Africa*

- Biggest threat facing conservation is lack of land and what is happening with hunting blocks
  - 100+ hunting blocks have been abandoned
  
- Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) Operations
  - Prioritizes biodiversity and wildness: 50+ projects in Serengeti, in Zambia for 30+ there. FTZ focuses on protecting areas for the long-term
  - Prioritizes reduce human-wildlife conflict

- Focused on long-term practical relationship with the government and on-the-ground engagement in protected areas
- Biggest threat to biodiversity is habitat loss
  - Protected areas are the “cornerstone of biodiversity conservation”
  - There’ve been significant decreases in elephant range, even in some protected areas.
  - Citrus agriculture, livestock, bushmeat poaching, and tourism are all threats
  - As Richard noted in his presentation, photo tourism impacts the environment as well.
- Buffer zones: a gradient of protection around the core site
  - These zones are essential to the protection of a national park
  - National park is part of a greater system of protected areas, and many are buffered by hunting concessions.
- FZS is concerned with making it feasible for people and governments to keep the land for conservation
- Serengeti National Park, Tanzania
  - FZS has a technical advisory role with TANAPA
  - The Serengeti National Park is a part of a much larger ecosystem, buffered by a number of conservation areas.
  - Driven by migration of 1m+ animals
- Maswa Example:
  - Adjacent to most important rhino populations - growing and live on the edge of the park
  - With \$2 million people living around the Serengeti, there’s a critical need for functional buffer zones
  - Excellent conservation on the ground in the Southern part of Maswa - law enforcement, community engagement, wildlife is safe
  - However, the Northern part of Maswa has illegal burning of charcoal, cattle, and erosion inside of the reserve. There’s little anti-poaching and TANAPA has no communication with the concession holder there
  - Rhinos moving into this northern area are high risk of poaching
  - Hunters abandoning their blocks, and president has just issued an order that wildlife authorities examine each protected area in the country to see if they still contribute to conservation, and if not, recommended that they be given back to the communities for agriculture and other uses
  - Converting concessions into national parks isn’t a perfect answer either. Five game reserves officially transformed into national parks. However, these national park designations don’t necessarily come with funding, and often result in less protection than they had previously.

- Zambia Example:
  - North Langwa National Park
  - Only black rhino population in Zambia
  - Significant anti-poaching successes
  - Work closely with the authorities and have input into management decisions
  - Operational area extends into the hunting areas
  - Strong working relationship and able to coordinate work with authorities
  - Communities have the ability to change the land use if they want to - if hunting communities not in adherence, community may decide they don't want them there anymore
  - Where coordination is good - low poaching, lots of animals, communities happy
  - When it's not, the opposite happens
  - One of the communities barred the hunting community because they didn't feel that they were benefiting
  - There is a land grab going on in the area where people are pretending to be hunting and bidding on the blocks, but actually are extractive industries
  
- Zimbabwe Example:
  - Gonarezhou National Park
  - Massive elephant population - 12K elephants in a park that is 52,000 km
  - Part of the transboundary engagement connecting to Kruger etc.
  - Surrounded by community land, much of which is used for hunting
  - Gonarezhou has a negative feedback loop problem - too many elephants - beyond carrying capacity
    - Elephants need buffer zones, but they aren't using the buffer zones because they know they're used for hunting.
    - To hunt elephants, you have to be close to the park - peripheral hunting
    - Elephants are even less likely to go to the periphery
  - The National Park is looking ways to create elephant corridors to help spread the elephants out
    - Inside park, facing resource depletion and competition
    - Outside park, facing hunters on the periphery
  - Because communities aren't benefiting, they are less tolerant of elephants and want to put up fencing
    - A fence would damage entire ecosystem and there is no hunting – a lose/lose situation
    - Independent of the trophy ban in 2014 – a park ranger hasn't been hired in 12 years, only rangers in park are employed by ZSL
  
- With these case studies in mind, moving forward:
  - It doesn't benefit wildlife to put a blanket ban on wildlife hunting. Punishing those doing conservation well in order to penalize those doing it poorly is bad policy.

- Almost all of the areas around national parks are hunting concessions
- Even if hunting concessions were turned into photo tourism blocks, the impacts of photo-tourism may cause same challenges as hunting concessions in terms of wildlife movement
- Protected areas work
  
- Governments need to recognize that it is not reasonable to expect wildlife to pay for itself, they need to be willing to step in
  
- As hard as it may be to accept, locals are willing to poison their wildlife if they view them as threats (e.g. lions)
  
- Most protected areas are underfunded
  - American government, global philanthropists and German government need continue support

#### **PANEL DISCUSSION (Q &A):**

- Question: In Omo valley in Ethiopia, landscapes threatened by Chinese roads, what kind of consensus is there to protect what's left and how do you sell it?
  - Ms. Downey: outside groups and governments should have a stake in other resources to come into play; for example states giving rangers money for damage done by wolves
  
- Question: In areas where elephants are beyond carrying capacity, we have de facto strategy of overpopulation. Is starving animals to death an ethically humane way to manage this?
  - Ms. West: possibility for cycling in ecosystem, but highly unlikely. She feels like biggest concern is opening corridors to allow for elephant movement
  
- Question: Is there funding and policy initiatives to open corridors?
  - Ms. West: there's a significant need for funders and private investors. If we connect to two adjacent PAs in Mozambique, that would make a huge improvement. To her knowledge Mozambique is very open to this.
  
- Question: With regards to habitat degradation - how do we handle the habitat situations other than encourage governments to set up reserves? How do we work with governments to support wildlife conservation?
  - Ms. West: It's important to prioritize where resources will go in wildlife conservation – focus on where you can have the most impact and drive resources to those needs first.
  - Question - What is status of elephant population in Selous?
    - Ms. West: No increase in elephants in Selous

- Question what feedback are getting with market-based approach, etc, what groups approached
  - Ms. Downey: Catherine Semser is lead - working with various hunting groups on the ground in Africa, she will follow-up for the Council with this information [THIS INFORMATION IS NOW ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE]
  
- The day concluded with public comment.

## **DAY 2:**

- The council began the day with subcommittee meetings, a summary of which is available on the council's website at [www.fws.gov/iwcc](http://www.fws.gov/iwcc)
  
- Upon returning to full committee, the Council noted the need for more technical speakers from FWS International Affairs to explain the details of their programs and permitting to the Council.
- The Council noted that as before, these presentations were important demonstrations of organizations working in countries affected by wildlife trafficking and poaching.
  - While not a recommendation, the Council expressed an interest in the U.S. reviewing certain policies as part of a broad-based conservation policy.
    - Positive impact on preservation of habitat and local communities
    - Due to certain constraints, there are immediate, devastating impacts on communities
    - Decision must be made based on facts, in compliance with CITES and contain an accountability requirement
  
  - The Council decided to prepare a draft press release to send through the DFO to the Department. Andrea Travnicek noted that DOI would need to have the final say on what any press release looked like coming from the Department.
  
- The chair noted that IWCC will deliver a recommendation to the Secretary of soon. He noted too that the Council has Solicited comments from a vast array of conservation groups - include all of the groups who were invited to participate
  
- The Council expressed disappointment that many organizations whose viewpoints the Council values were unable to present or attend. The chair noted that he welcomes the perspectives of other Conservation organizations and encourages them to attend next time.

- Keith Mark requested a motion to record all invited organizations be included in the official record. The Council approved the motion.
- Report from Conservation Subcommittee Committee.
  - The subcommittee applauded the presenters. The committee requested additional materials on National Park management from Mr. Sowry and that these materials be made available to the Council and the public. The subcommittee did not have recommendations for the full committee at this time.
- Report from Trafficking Subcommittee
  - The subcommittee discussed the importance of working with local organizations to combat trafficking and poaching. The subcommittee did not have recommendations for the full committee at this time.
- Report from Communications Subcommittee
  - Mr. Mark submitted his statement to the Council formally
  - Chairman Brewster appreciated the formal statement and agreed that it's important that the Council speak with one voice, and that it's important members not speak on behalf of the Council out of session.
- Report from Policy Subcommittee
  - The subcommittee requested that the Council ask FWS to investigate how often expired permits result in reissuance or confiscation of the trophies.
  - Motioned that the Council make the request for such information. Motion passed unanimously, and the Chairman requested that information regarding expiry of CITES permits
- The Committee was adjourned after public comment.