

Conversation Contents

Lion and elephant table

Attachments:

/9. 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

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
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:

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 Zimbabwean Government to ensure their compliance with our requirements for trophy importation.

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

Conversation Contents

Powerpoint for Secretary

Attachments:

/107. Powerpoint for Secretary/1.1 Presentation rev 4.pptx

Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)>

From: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)>
Sent: Sun Nov 19 2017 22:02:58 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Sheehan, Greg" <(b) (6)>@fws.gov
Subject: Powerpoint for Secretary
Attachments: Presentation rev 4.pptx

Here is the revised powerpoint for consideration by the Secretary.

Conversation Contents

Replacement Story

Attachments:

/109. Replacement Story/1.1 Replacement Story.docx
/109. Replacement Story/1.2 ATT00001

John Jackson (b) (6)

From: John Jackson <(b) (6)>
Sent: Sun Nov 19 2017 15:37:40 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Barbara Crown <barbara@huntingreport.com>
Subject: Replacement Story
Attachments: Replacement Story.docx ATT00001

Conversation Contents

Talking Points_MB draft

Attachments:

/111. Talking Points_MB draft/1.1 Talking Points_MB .docx
/111. Talking Points_MB draft/1.2 ATT00001

John Jackson (b) (6) >

From: John Jackson (b) (6)
Sent: Sun Nov 19 2017 14:51:17 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: Talking Points_MB draft
Attachments: Talking Points_MB .docx ATT00001

Greg, this is what my office did to date. Hope it helps.

Conversation Contents

Permits

Attachments:

/115. Permits/3.1 Elephant Lion Secretary presentation.pptx
/115. 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,

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.

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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

"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.

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Principle Deputy Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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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

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



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

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.

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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
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www.fws.gov/international

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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)

----- 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

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

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

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:

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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
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To: Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell
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<heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, Laury Parramore
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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: 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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Greg Sheehan
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202-208-4545 office
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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

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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

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

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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

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:

Are there press there?

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.

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Greg Sheehan
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US Fish and Wildlife Service
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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,

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

Greg Sheehan **(b) (6)** [@fws.gov](mailto:Greg Sheehan (b) (6)@fws.gov)

From: Greg Sheehan <**(b) (6)** [@fws.gov](mailto: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

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.

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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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Barbara W. Wainman
Assistant Director, External Affairs
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(202) 208-5256 (office)
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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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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.

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(202) 208-5256 (office)
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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 <laury_parramore@fws.gov>, Matthew Huggler <matthew_huggler@fws.gov>

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703-358-2649 (o)
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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
To: <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

powerpoint for tomorrow's presentation

Attachments:

/135. powerpoint for tomorrow's presentation/1.1 AWCF 2017 enhancement.pptx

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

From: "Vannorman, Tim" <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 08:24:44 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: powerpoint for tomorrow's presentation
Attachments: AWCF 2017 enhancement.pptx

Greg,

As mentioned in my last e-mail, I apparently volunteered us to do a presentation.

Attached is an updated presentation I gave 2 years ago that briefly discusses the ESA and our permitting process. I included slides on the new international wildlife council and how the Department and FWS strongly support hunting.

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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Conversation Contents

Zambia elephant findings

Attachments:

/138. Zambia elephant findings/1.1 GA Zambia elephants 2018.pdf
/138. Zambia elephant findings/1.2 2016-2017 GA Zambia African Elephant_9-12-17 (1).pdf
/138. 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
Attachments: 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: 1A, 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!



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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Conversation Contents

Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules

Attachments:

/145. Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules/1.1 signature9.jpg
/145. Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules/1.2 Petition for Rulemaking Repeal Special Rules 11-3-17.pdf
/145. Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules/2.1 signature9.jpg
/145. Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules/3.1 signature9.jpg
/145. Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules/3.2 Petition for Rulemaking Repeal Special Rules 11-3-17.pdf
/145. Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules/4.1 signature9.jpg
/145. Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules/4.2 Petition for Rulemaking Repeal Special Rules 11-3-17.pdf

"John J. Jackson, III" <jjj@conservationforce.org>

From: "John J. Jackson, III" <jjj@conservationforce.org>
Sent: Fri Nov 03 2017 15:08:05 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Office of the Secretary <OfficeoftheSecretary@ios.doi.gov>, <exsec@ios.doi.gov>
CC: Gregory Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov
Subject: Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules
Attachments: signature9.jpg Petition for Rulemaking Repeal Special Rules 11-3-17.pdf

Dear Secretary Zinke:

Attached please find a Comment and Petition to repeal the special rules requiring proof of enhancement for threatened-listed species, which in most cases have violated the provisions of Section 9(c)(2) of the Endangered Species Act. This was filed today on the docket for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Regulatory Reform, DOI-2017-003-0009.

Sincerely,

John J. Jackson, III

--



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

From: "Sheehan, Greg" (b) (6) @fws.gov
Sent: Sun Nov 05 2017 13:55:14 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "John J. Jackson, III" <jjj@conservationforce.org>

Subject: Re: Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules
Attachments: signature9.jpg

Thank you John. We will be evaluating these and other rules within the FWS related to wildlife permitting.

Thanks
Greg Sheehan

On Fri, Nov 3, 2017 at 5:08 PM, John J. Jackson, III <jjj@conservationforce.org> wrote:

Dear Secretary Zinke:

Attached please find a Comment and Petition to repeal the special rules requiring proof of enhancement for threatened-listed species, which in most cases have violated the provisions of Section 9(c)(2) of the Endangered Species Act. This was filed today on the docket for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Regulatory Reform, DOI-2017-003-0009.

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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

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

From: "Sheehan, Greg" (b) (6) @fws.gov
Sent: Sun Nov 05 2017 13:56:11 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: David Bernhardt (b) (6) @ios.doi.gov, Todd Willens <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, Jason Larrabee <jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules
Attachments: signature9.jpg Petition for Rulemaking Repeal Special Rules 11-3-17.pdf

FYI

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

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Date: Fri, Nov 3, 2017 at 5:08 PM
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Cc: Gregory Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov

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Office 202-208-4545
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Sent: Sun Nov 05 2017 14:02:29 GMT-0700 (MST)
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Cc: Gregory Sheehan <(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
Office 202-208-4545
Cell 202-676-7675

Conversation Contents

4(d) rules

Attachments:

/158. 4(d) rules/1.1 4d rule revision-African elephant_6 June 2016.pdf
/158. 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
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!



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

IUCN trophy program guidelines and other requested documents

Attachments:

/165. IUCN trophy program guidelines and other requested documents/1.1 African Leopard Petition (7.25.16) FINAL.pdf

/165. IUCN trophy program guidelines and other requested documents/1.2 2017 - 2019 sa wild lion finding.pdf

/165. IUCN trophy program guidelines and other requested documents/1.3 IUCN Guide on Trophy hunting as tool.pdf

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

From: "Bell, Gloria" <gloria_bell@fws.gov>
Sent: Wed Oct 11 2017 11:03:40 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: IUCN trophy program guidelines and other requested documents
Attachments: African Leopard Petition (7.25.16) FINAL.pdf 2017 - 2019 sa wild lion finding.pdf IUCN Guide on Trophy hunting as tool.pdf

Greg,

During our meeting yesterday, you requested documents related to the IUCN Species Survival Commission trophy program guidelines, how we incorporate these guidelines into our enhancement considerations, and the current petition for uplisting African leopards.

I have attached the petition and IUCN guidelines. I have also attached a copy of the South African wild/wild-managed lion finding for 2017, 2018, and 2019, which has a discussion of these guidelines and how our permit issuance criteria under 50 CFR 17.32 would be applied.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

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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Conversation Contents

Zimbabwe elephant import ban

John Johnson (b) (6) >

From: John Johnson (b) (6) >
Sent: Mon Dec 11 2017 12:04:39 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <(b) (6)@fws.gov>, <exsec@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Zimbabwe elephant import ban

Gentlemen: I am one of many hunters affected by the elephant import ban instituted by FWS in 2014.

I booked my elephant hunt in January of 2014 with Charlton McCallum Safaris for the Dande East Safari area to take place in April of 2015. After the elephant trophy ban was instituted in April I had the opportunity to either cancel or postpone my hunt, and chose not to do so. I was going for the experience of hunting an elephant bull, and I had seen, first hand, the benefit to the indigenous communities of sport trophy hunting in the Dande Safari area in 2011 when I went on a buffalo and plains game hunt. I was impressed by the attitude of the locals regarding the protection of the wildlife and I was astounded at how they valued virtually every part of the animal once they were killed. I am not aware of any part of the world that utilizes every scrap of a harvested animal with the exception of the intestinal contents. During my 2011 trip I had the opportunity to observe a hippo being taken by another hunter. After the hippo was taken he was dragged up on to a sandbar. The head and hide were removed and then the local village was allowed to butcher the animal for their consumption. This occurred at approximately 11:30 a.m. Upon returning to the location at 3:30 p.m. that same afternoon, the only evidence of the hippo remaining was a large bloody spot. Virtually every scrap of that animal was utilized by the local village.

I knew when I returned from my trip that many people were going to ask me why I chose to hunt an elephant. After taking him at about 11:45 that morning, we began the recovery at about 1 p.m. At 2:30 p.m. we left the scene, and returned the following morning at about 9:00 a.m. The only remains of the elephant were his penis, the stomach contents, and a couple of bones that did not have enough meat on them to even make soup with. I have both the recovery and the "day after" on a video that is only about 4 minutes long in total (the photographer used time lapse to film the entire process and then speed it up). No one who has ever viewed this video has questioned me about taking this elephant again. I was told by the local village elder that my elephant was going to feed at least sixty families for at least three months.

I am a veteran of the U.S. Army and a retired veterinarian. While I consider myself a strong conservative (and a dedicated Trump supporter) I do not think it is appropriate for FWS to have passed this ban without considering U.S. citizens who had invested their time and treasure to hunt in Africa.

Charlton McCallum Safaris publishes their books showing their investment in the local economies. These figures are available to the general public, thereby dispelling any incorrect information regarding how important hunter's dollars are to the sustainability of African wildlife. They also spend large sums of money on anti-poaching, which, next to habitat loss, is the largest danger to African wildlife.

My ivory still sits in Charlton McCallum's safe in Harare. I hope to be able to bring it home sometime soon.

Thank you for your consideraton.

John R. Johnson, D.V.M.

(b) (6)

Conversation Contents

trophy

Attachments:

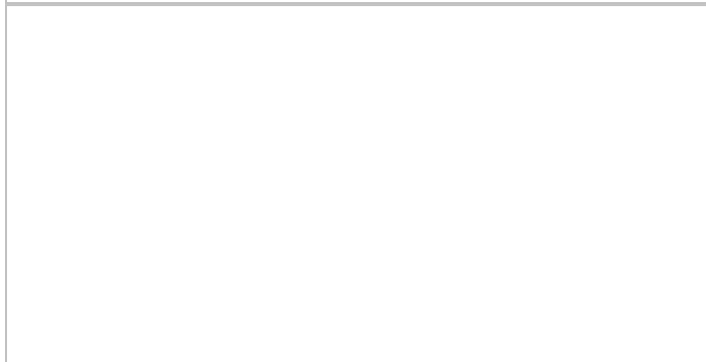
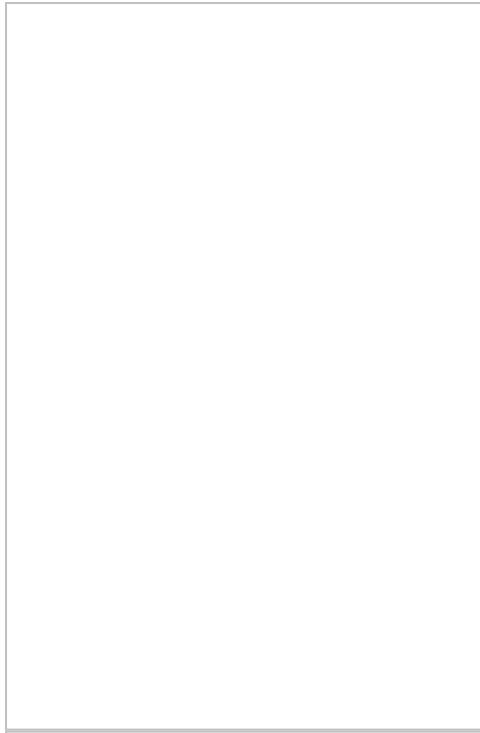
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/3. trophy/1.3 image003.jpg
/3. trophy/1.4 image004.jpg
/3. trophy/1.5 image005.png
/3. trophy/1.6 image006.jpg

<(b) (6)>

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Sat Nov 18 2017 14:48:58 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>
Subject: trophy
Attachments: image001.jpg image002.jpg image003.jpg image004.jpg
image005.png image006.jpg

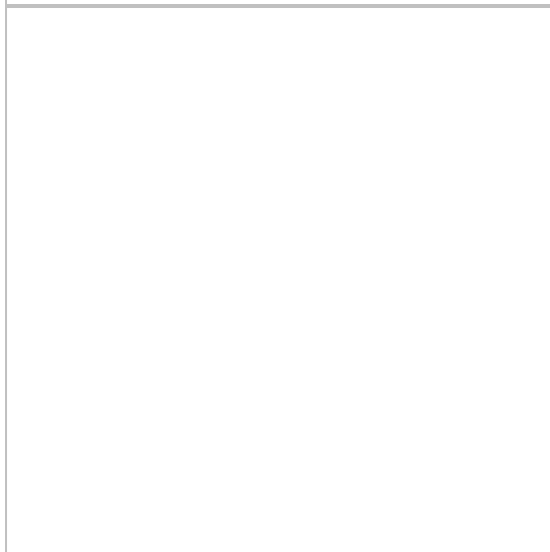
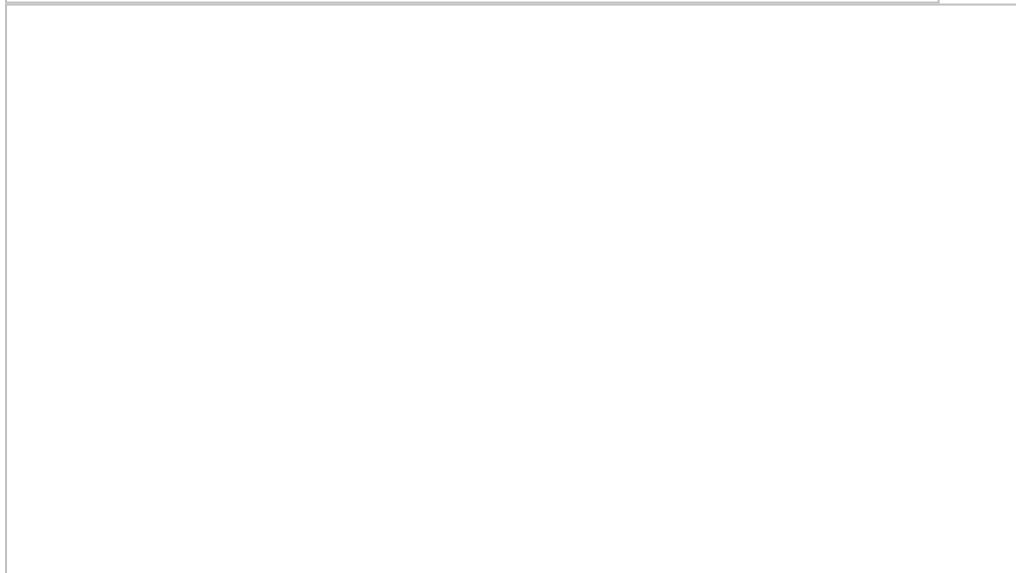
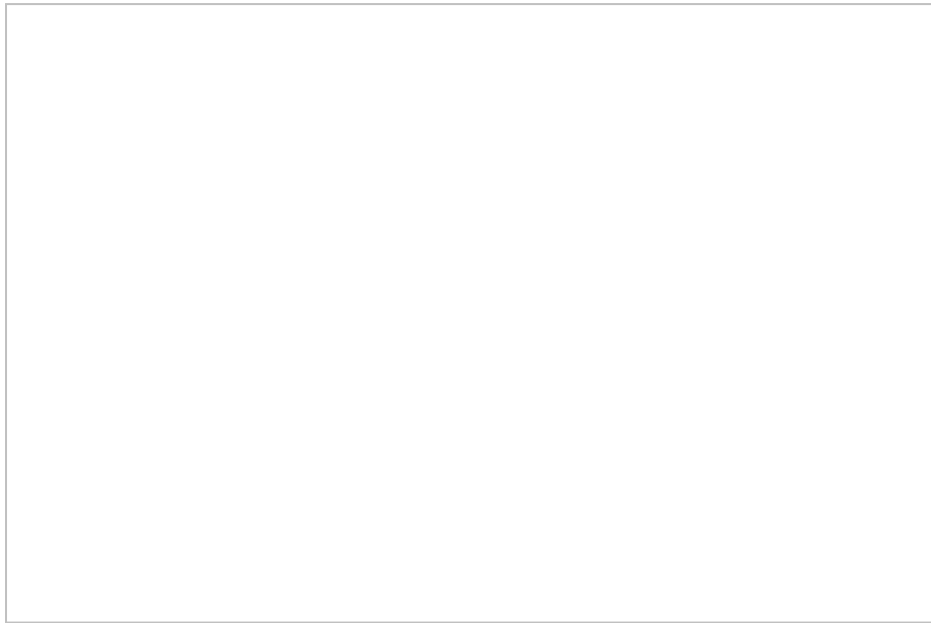
Dear Greg

The American people are furious and we demand FWS to stop trophy hunters from slaughtering elephants and lions, and stop the import of trophies from Africa NOW! We all know that hunters Don Jr and Eric Trump are behind this, and we need FWS to reverse these stupid pro-hunter policies and protect these amazing animals. Unlike the shoplifting black UCLA basketball players who have dishonored our great nation and must be banned from playing college or NBA hoops for their crimes, we are grateful to Trump for stopping elephant and lion trophy hunting imports, because this is the kind of trade and controversy we don't need. We demand the Trump boys to be patriotic and hunt Israeli agents and assets in America who did 911 and spy on Congress via Awan brothers, not wild animals.



FWS must stop issuing permits to import the remains of lions hunted in Zambia and Zimbabwe NOW because the [killing of Cecil the lion in Zimbabwe by a dentist from Minnesota](#) sparked global outrage, and we still remember. FWS must designate lions from Central and West Africa as “endangered” to stop hunters from shipping lion parts – whether a head, a paw or a lion skin – back to the US. We are enraged FWS began issuing permits to import lion trophies again on October 20, [ABC News](#) reported, and this must stop NOW. We reject the FWS lie that regulated hunting could help fund conservation efforts, because trophy hunting obviously fuels demand for more wild animal products. The number of lions in the wild is steadily decreasing due to loss of habitat, dropping 42% in 20 years, according to the African

Wildlife Foundation.



The lifting of elephant trophy ban was condemned as a "backwards step" by conservation charities, which warned elephant numbers were sharply declining due to poaching and a reduction in their territory. Trump is not a hunter and we demand that his sons stop promoting the hunting industry for their own selfish benefits because we did not vote for them, and we blast Ryan Zinke for establishing an International Wildlife Conservation Council because African Wildlife Foundation said the mandate and proposed

membership of the new board showed it was "focused on promoting the hunting industry, not conservation". The sons do not also rise, Trump must put country above children and ban lion, elephant and other wild animal trophies from Africa NOW!

This message and any attached document is sent privately in the public interest and may contain candid, open, and truthful advice, recommendations, opinions, proposals, and information that is privileged, proprietary, non-public and exempt from disclosure, confidential or otherwise protected by law, and may be subject to executive, diplomatic, judicial, clerical, deliberative process or other privilege and is intended solely for the recipient and not for disclosure or distribution. If you are not the intended recipient, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you are prohibited from reviewing, retransmitting, printing, copying, scanning, disseminating, uploading or otherwise using in any manner this email or any attachments to it. Please notify the sender immediately by email if you have received this email by mistake and delete this email from your system. Email transmission cannot be guaranteed to be secure or error-free as information could be intercepted, modified, corrupted, lost, destroyed, manipulated, incomplete, arrive late or contain viruses. The sender therefore does not accept liability for any errors, revisions or omissions in the contents of this message which arise as a result of email transmission or unauthorized disclosure or distribution.

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elephants

Attachments:

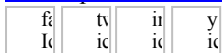
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/22. elephants/1.3 image003.png
/22. elephants/1.4 image004.png
/22. elephants/1.5 Talking Points Elephant Trophy Imports 11-22.docx

Jeff Crane <Jeff@sportsmenslink.org>

From: Jeff Crane <Jeff@sportsmenslink.org>
Sent: Thu Nov 30 2017 16:51:45 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: (b) (6) @fws.gov" (b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: elephants
Attachments: image001.png image002.png image003.png image004.png
Talking Points Elephant Trophy Imports 11-22.docx

A little long-winded from Jackson, but still has a lot of good info. Good luck!

Jeffrey S. Crane | President | Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
110 North Carolina Ave, SE | Washington, DC 20003
W: 202-543-6850 | F: 202-543-6853
www.sportsmenslink.org



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

Support of Elephant Trophy Imports from Zimbabwe and Zambia

Attachments:

/90. Support of Elephant Trophy Imports from Zimbabwe and Zambia/1.1 image001.jpg

Anthony Turiello <anthony@rescueair.com>

From: Anthony Turiello <anthony@rescueair.com>
Sent: Tue Nov 21 2017 11:45:10 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Support of Elephant Trophy Imports from Zimbabwe and Zambia
Attachments: image001.jpg

Dear Deputy Director Greg Sheehan

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 Bulyebe 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.]

MINI-ARGUMENTS REFUTING FALSE FACTS

- There has never been a “ban” on elephant trophy imports from Zimbabwe. A negative enhancement finding was made in April 2014 that “suspended” the import of elephant trophies. The FWS’ negative 2015 enhancement finding stated repeatedly that once additional information was received, the negative finding would be reviewed and reversed (e.g., “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.”) A “ban” suggests a permanent prohibition; a “suspension” is a “temporary abrogation or withholding.” Zimbabwe’s elephant trophy imports were suspended.
- Lifting of the suspension was not a political decision. The decision should have been made in July 2015, when ZPWMA provided extensive additional documentation in response to a FWS questionnaire. The FWS requested “one more piece of information” at the CITES Conference of the Parties in September 2016. That information was provided in November 2016. No further information was needed, or requested. If the FWS had properly prioritized the issuance of elephant import permits—as they told ZPWMA they would at the CITES Conference of the Parties—the positive enhancement finding would have been made and these permits would have issued before the current Administration was in office.
- The import of elephant trophies from Zimbabwe should not have been suspended in the first place. In April 2014, the FWS announced the suspension based on an asserted “lack of information.” In contradiction to CITES Res. Conf. 6.7’s recommendation of notifying and consulting with range states before imposing stricter domestic measures, and the Endangered Species Act’s requirement of “encouraging foreign conservation programs,” 16 U.S.C. § 1537(b), the FWS shut down imports under an April 2014 negative enhancement finding that the FWS later admitted was wrong with respect to Zimbabwe’s elephant population and level of poaching. In fact, the correct estimate for Zimbabwe’s elephant population—almost 83,000—is 16,000 elephant higher than when the last, positive enhancement finding was made in 1997. That estimate is double the size of the elephant populations of Namibia and South Africa put together, yet the FWS maintains positive enhancement findings for the import of elephant trophies from Namibia and South Africa. The trophy import suspension was based on a mistaken concern that Zimbabwe’s elephant population had declined, and the FWS should have admitted the mistake and reversed the suspension immediately. The failure to do so suggests a political motivation, not a scientific one.
- Zimbabwe’s elephant population is not “the worst managed,” but is among the best. That Zimbabwe maintains a stable elephant population of over 83,000, despite a despotic government, poor economy, and exploding human population growth rate, is a testament to the country’s strong management. That number is almost 40% higher than in 1992, when the FWS confirmed the “threatened” listing of elephant, and almost 20% higher than in 1997, when the FWS made a positive enhancement finding authorizing the import of elephant trophies. This is due in part to ZPWMA being a parastatal separate and separately funded from the central government. It is also due to the commitment of Zimbabwe’s citizens to maintaining their elephant, notwithstanding the costs—over 40 rural Zimbabweans were killed by elephant from 2010 to 2015. Zimbabwe’s strong wildlife management is also demonstrated by recent IUCN Red List assessments of lion and giraffe, which indicated increasing populations of these species in Zimbabwe. The evidence demonstrates that Zimbabwe’s wildlife management, not only its elephant management, is succeeding.]
- Zimbabwe’s elephant management is not “poor”; it is state-of-the-art and written by one of the world’s foremost elephant experts. In response to the April 2014 suspension of elephant trophy imports, ZPWMA took to heart the FWS’ criticism that Zimbabwe’s then-current elephant management plan dated to 1997. Although that plan was adaptively implemented and monitored, it was admittedly dated. Zimbabwe immediately began the process of adopting a brand-new, state-of-the-art elephant management plan—basically, to satisfy the FWS. This included a year of stakeholder planning workshops: a preparatory meeting of representatives from Zimbabwe’s community-based natural resources management program, 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) in early 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 region in September 2015. Zimbabwe focused on regional planning because the four regions face different management challenges. Each planning workshop produced a regional elephant management plan that was incorporated into the final. The final document was drafted by a leading elephant scientist, and the process was monitored throughout by the IUCN’s African Elephant Specialist Group.
- Regulated hunting is not poaching. By definition, “regulated” hunting is regulated and lawful. It is carefully monitored by ZPWMA, and offtakes are recorded in a national database. Lawfully hunted ivory tusks are marked to show that they are lawful and note the year of harvest. Moreover, regulated hunting revenues underwrite most anti-poaching expenses in Zimbabwe and the rest of Southern

Africa, either by fees paid to government wildlife authorities that are used for law enforcement, or by operator-funded teams that patrol concessions and keep poachers out. Finally, revenue-sharing and contributions by hunting operators creates conservation incentives for rural communities most affected by wildlife, which disincentivizes poaching. For example, Zimbabwe's CAMPFIRE communities were receiving over \$1.6 million per year in revenues from elephant hunting prior to the import suspension. These funds allow for clinics and schools to be built, teachers' salaries to be paid, boreholes to be drilled, and so on. Hunting operators in Zambia are required to share at least 50% of harvested meat with rural communities. Many tons of meat can come from elephant hunts, to reduce the need and tolerance for bushmeat poaching and protect species in addition to elephant.

- Allowing imports of elephant trophies will not damage the government's efforts to control ivory trafficking. Elephant trophy imports have been authorized for Namibia and South Africa for the past three years, which demonstrates that a country may maintain lawful hunting and low poaching at the same time. In fact, according to the CITES MIKE data, the Southern African countries that depend upon regulated hunting as a conservation tool have the lowest Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephant (PIKE) rates in the world. PIKE, which is used to assess whether poaching levels are unsustainable, has never risen above the sustainability threshold in Southern Africa. PIKE at Zimbabwe's MIKE sites is well below that level. Moreover, national and international law requires the marking of ivory tusks taken as lawful hunting trophies, which clearly and visibly separates these lawful tusks from illegal ones.
- Photographic tourism is not a substitute in most hunting areas. Opponents argue that photographic tourism would be a better option than hunting. It is true that photo-tourism is available in some places; for example, some conservancies in Namibia benefit from photographic tourism revenues alone or a mixture of photo- and hunting tourism. But photo-tourism requires decent infrastructure and scenery, and dense enough wildlife populations to draw tourists. These may not be available in remote areas of a country without access to airports or other activities, and where the wildlife populations are not yet dense enough to ensure a sighting on a two-hour game drive. This is the situation in many CAMPFIRE Areas, where photographic tourism was tried ... and failed. In these areas, without the benefits of hunting, the habitat would be converted to agriculture and livestock. Benefits to the rural community stakeholders are less from photographic tourism than from tourist hunting.

Sincerely

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"Build a Legacy of Safety"

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Conversation Contents

Fwd: Good press -- op ed in the WSJ

John Jackson (b) (6)

From: John Jackson (b) (6)
Sent: Wed Nov 29 2017 02:17:07 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <suli@dggroups.org>
Subject: Fwd: Good press -- op ed in the WSJ

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Regina A. Lennox" <regina.lennox@conservationforce.org>
Date: November 29, 2017 at 10:34:47 AM GMT+2
To: "John J. Jackson, III" <cf@conservationforce.org>, John Jackson (b) (6), Matt Boquslawski <matt.boquslawski@conservationforce.org>, Marco Pani <(b) (6)>
Subject: Good press -- op ed in the WSJ

The Wall Street Journal

November 29, 2017 Wednesday

Section: Pg. A17

Length: 917 words

Byline: By Terry L. Anderson and Hannah Downey

(Opinion)

Body

The debate about hunting lions and elephants has just come roaring back. Earlier this month the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lifted a ban on importing lion and elephant trophies from Zimbabwe and Zambia. Just days later, after an outcry, President Trump reinstated it. "Put big game trophy decision on hold," Mr. Trump tweeted, "until such time as I review all conservation facts."

Although African lions and elephants are listed under the Endangered Species Act, Americans can import trophies from certain countries as long as the Fish and Wildlife Service determines that hunting will enhance the survival of the species in the wild. After several years of study, the agency determined that hunting these species in Zimbabwe and Zambia would benefit wildlife

conservation.

Environmental activists aren't reassured, and some pledged to sue. "The Trump administration must clearly and permanently halt imports of lion and elephant trophies to protect these amazing animals from extinction," said Tanya Sanerib, a senior attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity. Mr. Trump expressed similar concerns. "Will be very hard pressed to change my mind that this horror show in any way helps conservation of Elephants or any other animal," he tweeted.

The fear is that allowing trophy imports will lead to more killing of animals. To some extent, that's true. But encouraging more legal hunting could actually be a good thing for endangered wildlife.

Many opponents conflate trophy hunting with poaching. Pictures featuring dozens of elephants with their tusks, ears and feet dismembered may seem to represent the effects of all elephant hunting. In reality, such gruesome scenes are created by poachers who illegally kill elephants, usually to trade their parts in Asia, where demand for ivory is high. Where poaching occurs, it is often in conjunction with corruption in the wildlife-regulation system.

Poachers are often local Africans who lose crops, livestock and family members to marauding elephant herds. To them, wildlife is a liability to be avoided or killed rather than an asset to be protected. Poaching, not legal hunting, is what caused Africa's elephant populations to drop by 30% between 2007 and 2014.

Some argue that allowing hunters to import trophies will make it easier for poachers to market illegally killed animals. But bringing a trophy into the U.S. requires federal permits, and getting those from the Fish and Wildlife Service takes mounds of paperwork and months of careful processing.

In Zimbabwe, officials track and register all authorized hunts, identify the nationalities of the participants, and monitor the value and number of elephants harvested relative to the sustainable quota. With proper monitoring, poachers can be caught and wanton killing stopped.

When hunting is prohibited, wildlife bears the cost. Before Kenya banned hunting in 1977, it was home to 167,000 elephants. By 2013 the number had fallen to 27,000, all in protected areas such as national parks. That's because poaching the animals for bushmeat was rampant. A 2012 study found that eliminating hunting revenues can be bad for lion conservation because it can "reduce tolerance for the species among communities where local people benefit from trophy hunting, and may reduce funds available for anti-poaching."

When conducted responsibly, trophy hunting is both sustainable and profitable. Hunters pay not only for licenses but professional guides and their staffs. Money flows even to local councils that distribute proceeds to villagers. That turns wildlife from a liability into an asset.

Two decades ago, the village of Sankuyo, Botswana, signed on to a community-based natural-resource program that emphasized hunting. In 2010 the community earned nearly \$600,000 from the animals, including 22 elephants, hunted that year. The funds went to local projects, including to improve water and toilet access. Wildlife populations also increased. "When hunting was introduced," a wildlife-management expert named Brian Child told the New York Times in 2015, "we actually ended up killing less animals."

Sankuyo demonstrates that if hunting is to benefit wildlife, it must first benefit people. If political structures or corruption prevents local communities from benefiting from the presence of wildlife, there will be no motivation to fight poachers or find alternative resolutions to human-animal conflicts.

In 2014, however, Botswana banned trophy hunting. "Before, when there was hunting, we wanted to protect those animals because we knew we earned something out of them," one

villager told the Times. "Now, we don't benefit at all from the animals. The elephants and buffaloes leave after destroying our plowing fields during the day. Then, at night, the lions come into our kraals." Without legal hunting to give wildlife value, poaching and human-animal conflicts have increased, and dozens of people have been left jobless.

Though it is perhaps an uncomfortable reality, responsible hunting can promote wildlife conservation. It makes wildlife an asset to local communities, which secures the survival of at-risk species. If the Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that's the case in Zimbabwe and Zambia, a distaste for hunting shouldn't be enough to stand in the way.

Mr. Anderson is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and the Property and Environment Research Center in Bozeman, Mont. Ms. Downey is a research fellow at PERC.

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Conversation Contents

positive enhancement finding in Zimbabwe

Tom Whaley

(b) (6)

From: Tom Whaley (b) (6)
Sent: Mon Nov 27 2017 08:26:03 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
Subject: positive enhancement finding in Zimbabwe

Good day gentlemen!

I was just sending you a short note to brag on each of you for lifting the suspension of sport hunted elephant trophy imports in to the United States from Zimbabwe. This suspension was really hurting the wildlife anti poaching efforts in Zimbabwe. I witnessed proof of that with my own eyes in May of 2017, while I was on a hunt in Zimbabwe. On six separate occasions we found clear evidence of elephant poaching, it was a sad sight seeing a rotting carcass of an elephant that had been killed by poachers. They had just killed these elephants and cut the tusks away, leaving the rest of it to rot and waste. Quite a sad and sickening sight for sure! I asked the landowner about this and he told me that since the USFWS suspension was started in 2014, their funding for anti poaching was pretty much non-existent. This allowed the poachers to roam the land pretty freely, now that the suspension has been lifted the much needed funding for anti poaching efforts will make a positive difference in both Zimbabwe and Zambia.

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! Put simply, hunting revenues support anti poaching efforts across Zimbabwe's elephant range, and this is largely paid for by American elephant hunters! 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. These anti poaching efforts are funded predominantly by hunting revenue, and protect stable populations of elephant and the third largest black rhino population in the world.

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.

As you are well aware, there is a tremendous amount of "FakeNews" being published by all sorts of sources! Please do not allow President Trump or anyone else to be swayed by incorrect facts.

Thanks so much for all of your hard work and dedication to our wildlife!

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Conversation Contents

Please Support Elephant Trophy Imports

Randy Norris (b) (6)

From: Randy Norris (b) (6)
Sent: Mon Nov 27 2017 08:21:11 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <(b) (6)@fws.gov>, <exsec@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Please Support Elephant Trophy Imports

Dear Mr Sheehan and Mr Zinke

I would ask that you support the lifting of the suspension on the import of elephant trophies from Zimbabwe and Zambia. Both Countries have larger herds now than 25 years ago thanks in part to their governments management practices and the support of the local operators. This is because of better habitat, management and enforcement and as a side benefit it creates local jobs and provides food also to the locals. Without the revenue from big game hunters from the United States there will be an increase in poaching and a decrease in enforcement and management practices as these countries will not have the resources to provide these services.

Thank you for your consideration

Robert L. Hixson, Jr.

(b) (6)

Conversation Contents

Trophy Elephant Imports

Seth Ringer (b) (6)

From: Seth Ringer <(b) (6)>
Sent: Sun Nov 26 2017 07:59:47 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <officeofthesecretary@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Trophy Elephant Imports

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for the positive enhancement findings made by the US Fish & Wildlife Service for elephant from Zimbabwe and Zambia. Please help Honorable President Trump to understand all of the scientific evidence that has gone into the enhancement findings and not be swayed by falsehoods spread by the media and anti-hunting groups. Trophy elephant hunts are a powerful conservation tool that have to be utilized.

Sincerely,
Seth Ringer

(b) (6)

Conversation Contents

Elephant imports

"William L. Shores" <lshores@shorescpa.com>

From: "William L. Shores" <lshores@shorescpa.com>
Sent: Fri Nov 24 2017 04:20:10 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "(b) (6) [REDACTED]@fws.gov" <(b) (6) [REDACTED]@fws.gov>
Subject: Elephant imports

Good day sir.

I am writing to express my support for allowing the the import of elephants parts from Zimbabwe and Zambia.

I believe that any action to deny the import of these animals legally taken by sport hunters from these countries is showing an arrogance by the United States indicating that we, in the US, know more about management of elephants in those countries than the people in this countries know. How would we feel if Africans met to determine how species here in the US should be managed? What if they were telling us how to manage, for example, white-tailed deer? It would be absurd. It is equally absurd that we are attempting to do the same thing to them.

I am a veteran of many safaris, 25 to be exact. I have witnessed first hand the benefits of sport hunting. Let me briefly summarize:

- 1- Locals are employed by the safari companies.
- 2- Money from the safaris companies are used to help build school, clinics, roads, water holes, etc.
- 3- Anti-poaching units are employed by the safari companies . These patrol on a daily basis. Where these are present, poaching of wildlife is GREATLY reduced. I have personally seen the piles of snares, gins traps, etc that these units have collected in their patrols. It is amazing. Actually shocking.
- 4- Meat taken from sport hunted animals is distributed amount the local villages thus reducing the incentive for them to poach.

It is interesting that once one leaves a safari area and crosses into an area where no hunting is allowed, the Africans have killed virtually every living thing. I have seen this time and time again in the 29 years I have been going to Africa. Hunters and their dollars are the ONLY thing protecting the wildlife of Africa.

Make no mistake, it is POACHING that has reduced Africa's elephant populations not legal sport hunting.

There is a substantial amount of rhetoric surrounding the current U.S. administration's looming decision on the import ban applying to elephant and lion trophies. A lot of this rhetoric is based up emotions , not facts and is coming from those who do not understand Africa or African issues. As a result, I am taking this opportunity to summarize the guiding principles influencing sustainable and ethical hunters.

First and foremost, I support and advocate for the sustainable and ethical use of wildlife – utilizing wildlife's inherent value in the most pragmatic manner to promote wildlife conservation. I believe I am qualified to speak on this issue because I have spent a substantial portion of my life researching and supporting conservation issues around the world. I am heavily involved in conservation issues right now. In fact, I am an officer and board member of a conservation organization with projects in several African countries right now. Those projects are in Uganda, Congo, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa. These projects include many species including species that are not now and never will be sport hunted. For example, we are supporting the Lwiro Chimpanzee Reserve in the Congo.

It is critically important (and reasonable) to understand that there is a vast difference between poaching and legal hunting performed in a sustainable and ethical manner. Like all conservationists, I abhor poaching and poachers and everything they represent. I likewise abhor non-sustainable and unethical hunting. I only support sustainable and ethical hunting and I sincerely believe that hunting that follows sustainable and ethical principles can be an incredible conservation tool. It has been estimated that sport hunting areas extend over 1.4 million square kms in Africa; that is approximately 22% more land than is covered by national parks in Africa. Much of the sport hunting areas rely on sport hunting as their sole "land use." It is unclear how much of that land could be viable converted to solely photographic or non-consumptive tourism. Having been to many of these areas, I cannot imagine that many of them would appeal to the photographic types. They are too remote and too rough. However, if we arguably give up hunting in those areas, some other economic activity must replace the hunting activities in order to sustain the local countries and communities. It would indeed be ironic to lose 1.4 million square kilometers of wildlife land and eliminate wildlife to make room for crops and domestic livestock – cattle being the most common large animal on the planet by far. They roam in the millions across landscapes that were once wild and teeming with wild game.

Perhaps as bad, if not worse, are crops. The Africans clear the land of EVERYTHING. They plant for a year, two at the most. After that, they move to another parcel and repeat the same thing. Africa is being decimated by these practices WHERE HUNTING IS NOT ALLOWED. Why not instead support sustainable and ethical hunting that in turn promotes animal conservation in areas where wildlife is abundant (and in some cases overpopulated – such as is the case with elephants in Zimbabwe & Botswana). Additionally, hunting activities can and do feed people in local communities as noted above. Therefore hunting activities provide for both feeding local populations and supporting and promoting the inherent value of wildlife populations. I can send you pictures and videos of the locals Africans taking ALL of the meat from elephants that have been harvested. They take EVERYTHING. In many cases, it is the only sources of protein that they have. I am more than happy to do this. One memorable experience that I have is of an African male swimming across the Zambezi river (a river loaded with crocodiles) to get a piece of elephant meat the size of a fist. He was that protein starved that he would risk his life for a small piece of meat. People here in the US do not realize that Africa is far different than here. In the bush, there are no grocery stores or restaurants. Wildlife is where the majority of their protein comes from.

I therefore ask that each of you consider the following premises:

1. The Inherent Value in Wildlife Is a Conservation Tool –

Where geographic sub-regional wildlife populations exist in healthy and sustainable numbers, sustainable and ethical hunting practices support and promote the inherent value that exists in wildlife. This result is due to the economic influx generated by the financial outlays expended by hunters that have a direct, significant and immediate impact on the local countries and communities in which wildlife exists. This inherent wildlife value promotes continued conservation initiatives and efforts at the grassroots, local governmental and international NGO levels. It is critical, however, that the hunting activities are supported by scientifically researched and competently-executed conservation practices that focus primarily on wildlife population health and sustainability. In Africa, they have a saying that is universal, "if it pays, it stays."

2. Elephant Populations Are Not Equally Distributed – The African continent (Africa) is composed of 54 different countries and many diverse habitats and ecosystems. There are, in fact, geographic areas in Africa whose elephant populations have been poached to the brink of local extinction (also known as extirpation). Comparatively, many other geographic sub-regions in Africa (especially in many southern African countries) contain successful and thriving elephant populations – in fact, in certain regions these Elephant populations are overpopulated/overcrowded to the point where the local ecosystem cannot adequately support the elephant populations. Consequently, any reasonable person must at least consider maximizing the conservation value of such populations by benefiting the communities and countries which they inhabit. By providing value to the local countries and communities in which elephant populations thrive, elephant populations become inherently valuable assets to those countries and communities and therefore encourage conservation efforts for the benefit of those elephant populations – this model is equally applicable to all wildlife populations. There are areas that I have personally been to in Botswana and Zimbabwe that are severely overpopulated with elephants . They are destroying everything. In fact, some ecosystems are being altered forever having a huge negative impact on the species that live there, not to mention the crop damage they do.

3. No Meaningful Reduction in Legal Hunting Practices – The ban on elephant imports into the United States does not meaningfully change how many elephants are hunted in legal hunts. It does however, reduce the revenue generated to the local countries and communities in which the elephant populations live, thereby reducing the population's inherent value to those local countries and communities and thusly negatively impacting conservation efforts that support those elephant populations. Consequently, any reasonable person must at least consider maximizing the inherent value of elephant populations by supporting legal, sustainable, and ethical hunting as a viable conservation alternative that has yielded successful results in Europe, the United States, and many other regions in the globe.

In addition, I would like you to consider the following facts:

1- Zimbabwe has the second largest population of elephants in Africa at approximately 82,000. In 1900, it is estimated that Zimbabwe had 4,000 elephants. The current population is DOUBLE the targeted population for the country. It is 40% larger than when the FWS (in 92) determined to maintain the “threatened” listing under the ESA and 20% larger than the last time the FWS made a positive enhancement finding (in 97) prior to the 11.17 determination.

2- The hunting of elephants results in miniscule off takes of elephants annually. The annual quota is 500 bulls. This is not even enough to stop the already drastically over populated species from continuing to increase the population. While the percentage of the population of elephants taken by sport hunters varies by year, it is always less than 1/2 of 1%.

3-Zimbabwe's elephant management is governed by appropriate legislation and a state of the art management plan guided by some of the foremost experts in the world.

This has gotten a lot longer than I intended and I have more to say . Accordingly, I will not delve into Zambia.

What does this mean to the people of Zimbabwe? Why don't you see for yourself? The follow is a recent press release on this matter:

"CAMPFIRE ASSOCIATION PRESS STATEMENT ON LIFTING OF THE SUSPENSION OF ELEPHANT TROPHY IMPORTS INTO AMERICA

Zimbabwe's Community Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources

(CAMPFIRE) hails the recent decision by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to lift the suspension of elephant trophy imports into the United States of America. We encourage the USFWS and the President of the United States to stand by the decision to issue import permits for sport-hunted elephant trophies.

Trophy fees and meat from elephant incentivize CAMPFIRE communities to dedicate land as habitat for elephant and other wildlife. U.S. citizens represent the largest share of CAMPFIRE hunting clients. CAMPFIRE communities have been negatively impacted by the suspension of trophy imports, and we look forward to increased benefits, and therefore additional conservation incentives, with the lifting of the suspension.

CAMPFIRE enables local communities, especially those residing in areas where the level of human and elephant conflict is high, to benefit from wildlife through sport hunting. Since the suspension of elephant trophy imports in 2014, CAMPFIRE Association has cooperated fully and worked closely with the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority to provide the necessary information required by USFWS, and also participated in the development of a national Elephant Management Plan. Hunting generates about 90% of CAMPFIRE income, with elephant hunting contributing up to 70% of annual income. American hunters make up 60% of the clients in CAMPFIRE areas.

CAMPFIRE has a combined 2.4 million beneficiaries, made up of 200,000 households that are directly involved in the program. Another 600,000 households benefit indirectly from social services and infrastructure supported by wildlife related income. The size of wards that make up CAMPFIRE is approximately 50,000km² or 12.7% of the country, which is roughly equivalent to the size of the National Parks estate. Under CAMPFIRE, based on voluntary interest in participation by local communities, wildlife is found on land outside national parks. By choice, these communities and their Rural District Councils (RDCs) maintain varying sizes of land free from subsistence and commercial agriculture, or other economic activities such as gold panning and mining that negatively impact on wildlife management and the conservation of natural resources. CAMPFIRE is therefore making significant contributions to the protection of between 2 and 3 million hectares of land in Zimbabwe. Reports by Safari Operators under CAMPFIRE show that the suspension of elephant trophy imports in 2014 resulted in the cancellation of 108 out of 189 (57%) elephant hunts booked by US citizens. This translated to a sharp decline in income to the CAMPFIRE programme from US\$2.2m in 2013 to an average US\$1.7m in 2014 through to 2016, putting the conservation of elephant in these areas at huge risk.

As recognized in the recent USFWS enhancement finding, the sharing of CAMPFIRE income has been satisfactory. An audit of CAMPFIRE income at community level for the period 2010-2015 was submitted in 2016 to USFWS to support the positive finding. At district level, wildlife income is used for administration, field patrols, monitoring of hunts, problem animal control, water provision, and fire management. Communities have drilled boreholes, constructed seasonal roads, erecting of fencing to keep out wildlife, purchase of tractors, and direct purchase of drought relief food. Children benefit from reduced walking distances through the construction of schools, procurement of learning materials, and payment of school fees from CAMPFIRE proceeds. Communities also benefit from meat in excess of the requirements of safari hunting operations, and from problem animal control.

Annual hunting quotas are granted based on the relative density of elephants in the neighbouring protected areas and those residing in the CAMPFIRE areas. The national trophy hunting quota is set at 0.3 – 0.5% of the overall population to maintain trophy quality at approximately 35kg (77lbs). The quality of hunting in CAMPFIRE areas remains good, and this is confirmed by repeated hunter arrivals each year, among other indicators. Zimbabwe's population of the African elephant, *Loxodonta africana*, is healthy and remains on Appendix II under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The IUCN Species Survival Commission's African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG)'s 2016 estimate of Zimbabwe's elephant population is around 83,000.

CAMPFIRE Association objects to the ill informed press reports and releases against the lifting of the suspension, including appeals to US authorities for its reinstatement. CAMPFIRE Association supports the lifting of the suspension, which will benefit our participating districts and wards. The sharing of hunting income creates a real incentive to protect elephant and other game species, even when these species negatively impact people living in CAMPFIRE areas. 139 people in CAMPFIRE areas have lost their lives from wildlife attacks, including elephant, since 2010. Over 7,000ha of crops were destroyed by elephant between 2010 and 2015 in 10 CAMPFIRE districts. With the minimum cash value of maize at US\$180/ton, the approximate loss to communities is between US\$500,000 – US\$1.0 million. These losses are endured by communities living in areas highly prone to drought and low rainfall, making the impact even more acute. Despite these losses, the poaching of elephant in CAMPFIRE areas is relatively low, with only 38 elephants poached since 2016 to the present. Effective local level anti-poaching operations through CAMPFIRE have resulted in the decline in elephant poaching in Mbire district from a peak of 40 cases in 2010 to only 5 so far in 2017.

The sustainability of hunting as a conservation tool, and its contribution to rural livelihoods is a reality in Zimbabwe. CAMPFIRE Association urges all conservationists, animal lovers and all institutions interested in the protection of wildlife to respect the livelihood choices of African communities, and to acknowledge that the protection of wildlife from poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking is more effective when rural people are allowed to exercise multiple options for the sustainable use of wildlife that they live with.

For more information, please contact:

Charles Jonga,

Director of CAMPFIRE Association,

Mukuvisi Woodlands, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Email: campfire@ecoweb.co.zw, Website: www.campfirezimbabwe.org

Sir, this was not a political decision. All information necessary to make the decision to reinstate the imports was given the the FWS BEFORE the elections. The FWS asked for nothing else. The decision could have been made before the election.

I know the people against the imports mean well. However, in reality, people like them are going to be the downfall of all African wildlife. I respectfully request that you allow the imports to continue .

Thank you for your time. As noted earlier, I am happy to provide any information which may help you.

William L. (Larry) Shores, CPA
Shores, Tagman, Butler & Company, PA
17 South Magnolia Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801
(407)872-0744 extension 214

Conversation Contents

Import ban on African ivory

Gregory Martin (b) (6)

From: Gregory Martin (b) (6)
Sent: Thu Nov 23 2017 12:02:08 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "(b) (6) @fws.gov" <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Import ban on African ivory

Dear Mr. Sheehan, I am writing to ask for your support in removing the ban on importing ivory from Zimbabwe and Zambia. The impact of this ban imposed by the previous administration has had some terrible consequences for both the wildlife and the people who are stakeholders, most especially in Zimbabwe. I have traveled to Zimbabwe a number of times and have seen first hand the benefits that controlled hunting as an industry has, versus the devastation of uncontrolled poaching. Keeping the ban in place will trigger more and more poaching of all wildlife, since there is greatly reduced resources to preserve and protect these animals. If the animals lack economic value, the poachers kill for profit and the locals kill to reduce competition for their cattle. The environment degrades from the over grazing, and the overall economy suffers from the loss of tourism and hunting industry dollars. Without hunters spending their money, there simply is no substitute source of anti-poaching resources. And the hunting industry's employment of locals in a country (Zimbabwe) with a 95% unemployment rate is at risk of being reduced to a negligible practice. The number of elephants taken by trophy hunters in a year is inconsequential to their population. But the money spent by those hunters is critically important. In Africa - as I'm sure you've heard many times - if it pays, it stays. Please support lifting the ban. Yours truly, Greg Martin Paradise Valley, Arizona

Conversation Contents

Conflict: Canadian Wildlife Service/Wild Sheep Foundation

"Sellars, Roslyn" <roslyn_sellars@fws.gov>

From: "Sellars, Roslyn" <roslyn_sellars@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Dec 07 2017 10:23:10 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg J Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Thomas Irwin <thomas_irwin@fws.gov>, "Morris, Charisa"
CC: <Charisa_Morris@fws.gov>, "Sellars* Roslyn"
<Roslyn_Sellars@fws.gov>
Subject: Conflict: Canadian Wildlife Service/Wild Sheep Foundation

Greg The January 18, Wild Sheep Foundation event conflicts with the meeting with Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) . You may recall the Canadian Wildlife Service senior leadership will be coming to DC for an all day meeting with you and our staff. Roslyn -----

----- From: "Greg, Sheehan"
<(b) (6)@fws.gov> Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 11:06 PM To: Gray Thornton
<gthornton@wildsheepfoundation.org> Subject: Re: WSF Speaker Hi Gray Of course I would
be honored to speak. I apologize for not responding back sooner. I will need to run this up the
the Secretary's office for approval on their end and will get that started now. Should hear back
within a week then confirm with you. Thanks Greg Greg Sheehan Principle Deputy Director U.S.
Fish and Wildlife Service 1849 C Street NW, Room 3358 Washington, D.C. 20250 (b) (6)
(b) (6) Office (b) (6) Cell On Nov 28, 2017, at 1:00 PM, Gray Thornton
<GThornton@wildsheepfoundation.org> wrote: Hello Greg, I returned Friday morning from
industry meetings in South Africa last week and was there post Zimbabwe/Zambia
announcements and the now infamous "Horror" Tweet. First, wanted to thank you for attending
the AWF meeting in Tanzania – that made a HUGE impact. Thank you! Second, I want you to
know that WSF FULLY supports the USFWS enhancement findings for elephant ivory
importation from Zimbabwe and Zambia. Let me know if a formal letter would be appropriate
and helpful. Third, I would like to cordially invite you to be the Keynote Speaker (20-30 minute
talk) at our Conservation Night Banquet Thursday, January 18, 2018 at the Peppermill Hotel in
Reno, Nevada during our 2018 Sheep Show convention. We would provide whatever is
appropriate/allowed by Fed rules (flights/rooms/etc.) We would be honored by your attendance
Greg. Thank you for your consideration and thank you for your leadership! Gray N. Thornton,
President & CEO Editor in Chief, Wild Sheep Magazine Chadwick Ram Society Member
Summit Life Member <1A65217E-8F1F-4C8E-B150-B74852E56846[1].png> Wild Sheep
Foundation 412 Pronghorn Trail Bozeman, MT 59718 www.wildsheepfoundation.org Find us at:
Facebook.com/WildSheepFoundation 406-404-8750 phone Join us January 18th – 20th, 2018
for Sheep Week! The premier mountain hunting and conservation convention in the world, "The
Sheep Show," returns to Reno, Nevada. Expo and Exhibits daily Thursday, Friday and Saturday
- Banquets and Special Permit Auctions Wednesday through Saturday

Conversation Contents

Powerpoint

Attachments:

/3. Powerpoint/1.1 Imports under ESA of Hunted animals.pptx

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

From: "Sheehan, Greg" <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Dec 05 2017 19:13:13 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Subject: Powerpoint
Attachments: Imports under ESA of Hunted animals.pptx

Charisa

This is a highly abbreviated powerpoint that I put together for the political meeting today. For members that don't really know much about the issue but wanted to have some understanding.

Greg

--

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

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

From: "Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Dec 05 2017 19:25:28 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Sheehan, Greg" <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Powerpoint

Thank you! And apologies for keeping you after a long day. You will enjoy the breakfast tomorrow. :-)

Thanks again,
Charisa

On Tue, Dec 5, 2017 at 8:13 PM, Sheehan, Greg <(b) (6)@fws.gov> wrote:
Charisa

This is a highly abbreviated powerpoint that I put together for the political meeting today. For members that don't really know much about the issue but wanted to have some understanding.

Greg

--

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

--

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

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

From: "Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Dec 05 2017 19:38:16 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Sheehan, Greg" <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Powerpoint

I see what you mean about the slides. While it provides great context and explanation of the issue, it doesn't provide "current status" text for Jason to use tomorrow. I may try to huddle with Gloria/Barbara/you tomorrow before 9:15 to get a couple of bullets with salient status bites, though Jason (as you mentioned) may already have these on the tip of his tongue.

On Tue, Dec 5, 2017 at 8:25 PM, Morris, Charisa <charisa_morris@fws.gov> wrote:

Thank you! And apologies for keeping you after a long day. You will enjoy the breakfast tomorrow. :-)

Thanks again,
Charisa

On Tue, Dec 5, 2017 at 8:13 PM, Sheehan, Greg <(b) (6)@fws.gov> wrote:
Charisa

This is a highly abbreviated powerpoint that I put together for the political meeting today. For members that don't really know much about the issue but wanted to have some understanding.

Greg

--

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

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--

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8937

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

From: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Dec 05 2017 22:15:06 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Powerpoint

I think we will not get into salient points at this moment. Better to drop the item off of the agenda.

In fact I suggest that we do so.

Thanks

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 Dec 5, 2017, at 9:38 PM, Morris, Charisa <charisa_morris@fws.gov> wrote:

I see what you mean about the slides. While it provides great context and explanation of the issue, it doesn't provide "current status" text for Jason to use tomorrow. I may try to huddle with Gloria/Barbara/you tomorrow before 9:15 to get a couple of bullets with salient status bites, though Jason (as you mentioned) may already have these on the tip of his tongue.

On Tue, Dec 5, 2017 at 8:25 PM, Morris, Charisa <charisa_morris@fws.gov> wrote:

Thank you! And apologies for keeping you after a long day. You will enjoy the breakfast tomorrow. :-)

Thanks again,
Charisa

On Tue, Dec 5, 2017 at 8:13 PM, Sheehan, Greg <(b) (6)@fws.gov>

wrote:

Charisa

This is a highly abbreviated powerpoint that I put together for the political meeting today. For members that don't really know much about the issue but wanted to have some understanding.

Greg

--

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

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Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>

From: Charisa Morris <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Sent: Wed Dec 06 2017 05:21:37 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Powerpoint

10-4

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 6, 2017, at 12:15 AM, Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov> wrote:

I think we will not get into salient points at this moment. Better to drop the item off of the agenda.

In fact I suggest that we do so.

Thanks

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 Dec 5, 2017, at 9:38 PM, Morris, Charisa <charisa_morris@fws.gov> wrote:

I see what you mean about the slides. While it provides great context and explanation of the issue, it doesn't provide "current status" text for Jason to use tomorrow. I may try to huddle with Gloria/Barbara/you tomorrow before 9:15 to get a couple of bullets with salient status bites, though Jason (as you mentioned) may already have these on the tip of his tongue.

On Tue, Dec 5, 2017 at 8:25 PM, Morris, Charisa
<charisa_morris@fws.gov> wrote:

Thank you! And apologies for keeping you after a long day. You will enjoy the breakfast tomorrow. :-)

Thanks again,
Charisa

On Tue, Dec 5, 2017 at 8:13 PM, Sheehan, Greg
<(b) (6)@fws.gov> wrote:

Charisa

This is a highly abbreviated powerpoint that I put together for the political meeting today. For members that don't really know much about the issue but wanted to have some understanding.

Greg

--

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

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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

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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

Conversation Contents

Lion and elephant table

Attachments:

/5. 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

Fwd: Interview request from the New York Times

Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Dec 04 2017 14:01:29 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>, zack_gambill@fws.gov
Subject: Fwd: Interview request from the New York Times

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rachel Nuwer <(b) (6)>
Date: December 4, 2017 at 3:56:24 PM EST
To: Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>, "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Interview request from the New York Times

Story just went up online: <http://nyti.ms/2ihMGXe>

On Thu, Nov 30, 2017 at 7:00 PM, Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov> wrote:
Both

G

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 30, 2017, at 6:58 PM, Rachel Nuwer <(b) (6)> wrote:

Hi Gavin,

Could you help clarify one thing for me? I'm confused about whether the memorandum and/or announcement pertained solely to Zimbabwe or to both Zim and Zambia? Basically, I need to ensure that this sentence reads correctly: "The United States Fish and Wildlife Service last month moved to allow elephant hunters to bring home trophies from animals killed in Zimbabwe [AND ZAMBIA?]."

Thank you
Rachel

On Tue, Nov 28, 2017 at 3:27 PM, Shire, Gavin

<gavin_shire@fws.gov> wrote:

Yes, the Nov 16 memo is the finding.

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](tel:703-358-2649) (o)
[703-346-9123](tel:703-346-9123) (c)
gavin_shire@fws.gov

On Tue, Nov 28, 2017 at 3:21 PM, Rachel Nuwer

<[\(b\) \(6\)](#)> wrote:

Thanks, Gavin. By the finding do you mean the memorandum from Nov 16? Or if not, could you send the finding over, please?

On Tue, Nov 28, 2017 at 3:17 PM, Shire, Gavin

<gavin_shire@fws.gov> wrote:

At this point, anything regarding data and data collection that is not in the finding itself would require a FOIA request, which likely would not be doable in the time you have.

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](tel:703-358-2649) (o)
[703-346-9123](tel:703-346-9123) (c)
gavin_shire@fws.gov

On Tue, Nov 28, 2017 at 3:10 PM, Rachel Nuwer

<[\(b\) \(6\)](#)> wrote:

Hi Gavin,

Thank you for getting back to me. If an interview won't work out, would it be possible to provide me with information about the data collection methods and with the data itself on which the decision to reopen trophy trade with Zim was based?

Thank you
Rachel

On Tue, Nov 28, 2017 at 3:08 PM, Shire, Gavin

<gavin_shire@fws.gov> wrote:

Rachael,

I'm sorry for the delay in responding. At this point, it looks like we're not going to be able to provide anyone for an interview in the time frame you have. If that changes, I'll be sure to contact you directly.

Regards,

Gavin

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 Tue, Nov 28, 2017 at 2:03 PM, Rachel Nuwer

<(b) (6)> wrote:

Hello - checking back in on this.

On Mon, Nov 27, 2017 at 8:42 AM, Rachel Nuwer

<(b) (6)>:

Thanks, Craig!

Gavin, please let me know what you need from me in order to get a quick call lined up. The story is due on Thursday.

Rachel

On Mon, Nov 27, 2017 at 1:38 PM, Hoover, Craig

<craig_hoover@fws.gov> wrote:

Rachel,

I'm copying Gavin Shire here, as I shared your inquiry with him. He can respond to you directly.

Best,

craig

On Mon, Nov 27, 2017 at 7:44 AM, Rachel Nuwer

<(b) (6)> wrote:

Hi Tim,

I just received Craig's out of office reply. Would you be able to help with this interview request? It would be great if we could include a FWS voice in the story. Please see below for details.

Thank you
Rachel

On Mon, Nov 27, 2017 at 12:42 PM, Rachel Nuwer

<(b) (6)> wrote:

Hello,

Checking back in on this interview request.

Rachel

On Thu, Nov 23, 2017 at 1:45 PM, Rachel Nuwer (b) (6) wrote:

Dear Craig,

My name is Rachel Nuwer. I'm a New York-based freelance science journalist and I'm writing a piece for the NY Times' Science section on what we know - based on evidence - about how trophy hunting does or does not benefit conservation of elephants, lions and other megafauna. I was hoping it would be possible to arrange a phone interview with you for sometime next Monday-Wednesday to discuss how the USFWS goes about assessing this, especially in terms of the recent announcement about elephant trophies imported from Zimbabwe. Please let me know if this would be possible.

Thank you,
Rachel

--

Rachel Nuwer
Science journalist
www.rachelnuwer.com

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Rachel Nuwer
Science journalist
www.rachelnuwer.com

--

Rachel Nuwer
Science journalist
www.rachelnuwer.com

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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

[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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Rachel Nuwer
Science journalist
www.rachelnuwer.com

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Science journalist
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Rachel Nuwer
Science journalist
www.rachelnuwer.com

Conversation Contents

Zimbabwe & Zambia Elephant & Lion Import Permits

Richard Meyer (b) (6)

From: Richard Meyer (b) (6)
Sent: Fri Dec 01 2017 14:40:47 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <(b) (6)@fws.gov>, <exsec@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Zimbabwe & Zambia Elephant & Lion Import Permits

Dear Secretary Zinke and Deputy Sheehan:

Having recently hunted in Zambia and Zimbabwe, I believe it is imperative to the conservation of their elephant and lion populations that the Fish & Wildlife service issue permits to U.S. citizens to import their elephant and lion trophies from these countries.

Zimbabwe and Zambia desperately need the revenue from American hunters to support their wildlife conservation programs. Removal of Robert Mugabe as president renews hopes that funds from hunting activities will go for the intended conservation programs and not to corrupt politicians.

If African wildlife cannot contribute to the African economy, it will be a nuisance to the population and result in its extermination. Raymond Bonner did an extensive economic evaluation of benefits of big game hunting in Africa in At the Hand of Man published in 1993.

Failure of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to issue permits for legally taken hunting trophies from these countries will have the unintended consequence of the extermination of those species.

Thank you for your consideration.

Richard Meyer
Attorney at Law
104 N 7th St
Estherville, IA 51334

Conversation Contents

elephants

Attachments:

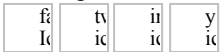
/10. elephants/1.1 image001.png
/10. elephants/1.2 image002.png
/10. elephants/1.3 image003.png
/10. elephants/1.4 image004.png
/10. elephants/1.5 Talking Points Elephant Trophy Imports 11-22.docx

Jeff Crane <Jeff@sportsmenslink.org>

From: Jeff Crane <Jeff@sportsmenslink.org>
Sent: Thu Nov 30 2017 16:51:45 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "(b) (6)"@fws.gov" <(b) (6)"@fws.gov>
Subject: elephants
Attachments: image001.png image002.png image003.png image004.png
Talking Points Elephant Trophy Imports 11-22.docx

A little long-winded from Jackson, but still has a lot of good info. Good luck!

Jeffrey S. Crane | President | Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
110 North Carolina Ave, SE | Washington, DC 20003
W: 202-543-6850 | F: 202-543-6853
www.sportsmenslink.org



Conversation Contents

Fwd: Revised if-asked media Q&A

Attachments:

/28. 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

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

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Draft if-asked media Q&A

Attachments:

/29. 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 (703-485-6500) - 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

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

Conversation Contents

Powerpoint for Secretary

Attachments:

/67. Powerpoint for Secretary/1.1 Presentation rev 4.pptx

Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)>

From: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) >
Sent: Sun Nov 19 2017 22:02:58 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Sheehan, Greg" <greg_j_sheehan@fws.gov>
Subject: Powerpoint for Secretary
Attachments: Presentation rev 4.pptx

Here is the revised powerpoint for consideration by the Secretary.

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Trophy import decision on hold

Attachments:

/68. Fwd: Trophy import decision on hold/1.1 image1.PNG

Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>

From: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>
Sent: Sun Nov 19 2017 20:52:34 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: (b) (6) @fws.gov
Subject: Fwd: Trophy import decision on hold
Attachments: image1.PNG

What does this mean?!!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Danielle Kessler <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>
Date: November 19, 2017 at 10:08:38 PM EST
To: "Monroe, Nancy" <nancy_monroe@fws.gov>
Cc: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, Matthew Huggler <matthew_huggler@fws.gov>, Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov>, Danielle Brigida <danielle_brigida@fws.gov>, David Yeargin <david_yeargin@fws.gov>, Doug Hobbs <doug_hobbs@fws.gov>, Marty Kodis <martin_kodis@fws.gov>, Chris Tollefson <chris_tollefson@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Trophy import decision on hold

Just wanting to be sure that everyone had seen the latest Tweet

image1.PNG

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2017, at 3:26 PM, Monroe, Nancy <nancy_monroe@fws.gov> wrote:

Correct. We are not engaging via social or on the web site until we hear from Zinke's office.

On Sat, Nov 18, 2017 at 2:17 PM, Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov> wrote:

Congressional meeting cancelled but we will likely get lots of questions. I don't think we are authorized to say anything more than

the secretary has said are we.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2017, at 8:32 AM, Matthew Huggler
<matthew_huggler@fws.gov> wrote:

I expect we will also get inquiries from Congress and our partners. The former has already asked for a briefing next week and I know Doug was getting calls.

Gavin - When (if) we get any additional direction from the Department please let us all know. In the meantime, is the Department taking all incoming? Do we have a final if-asked statement?

Thanks,

- Matt

On Nov 18, 2017, at 8:20 AM, Gavin Shire
<gavin_shire@fws.gov> wrote:

I can't keep up with these people!!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Heather Swift
<heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Date: November 18, 2017 at 7:08:54 AM EST
To: Paul Ross
<paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Gavin Shire
<gavin_shire@fws.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Trophy import decision on hold

Please do not engage on social

Heather Swift
Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

On Nov 17, 2017, at 10:18 PM, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

+Rebecca who I accidentally left off this chain.

If answers are developed and approved for these questions, I'm sure she will need them for social.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 17, 2017, at 9:01 PM, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

TY

Heather Swift
Press
Secretary
Department of
the Interior

On Nov 17,
2017, at 8:58
PM, Gavin
Shire
<gavin_shire@fws.gov>
wrote:

1.
Why
is
this
being
put
on
hold?
Is it
because
of
the
coup
in
Zimbabwe
or
public

pressure?

2.

Does

this

apply

to

both

Zambia

and

Zimbabwe

or

just

the

latter?

3.

Does

this

also

apply

to

your

recent

lion

findings

too?

4.

Is

this

a

result

of

PDD

Sheehan's

recent

visit

to

Africa?

5.

If

this

decision

was

made

by

biologists

based

on

science,

what

is

the

administration's

ability

to

overturn

it

and

on
what
basis
6.
Will
you
open
a
full
public
comment
period?
7.
Did
you
inform
SCI
and
other
hunting
groups
prior
to
this
announcement?

G

Sent
from
my
iPad

On
Nov
17,
2017,
at
8:50
PM,
Heather
Swift
<heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
wrote:

Gavin,
what
do
you
think
are
some
of
the
questions

I'll
get?

Heather
Swift
Press
Secretary
Department
of
the
Interior

On
Nov
17,
2017,
at
8:46
PM,
Gavin
Shire
<gavin_shire@fws.gov>
wrote:

Should
we
take
our
homepage
posting
down
with
the
revised
release?

Sent
from
my
iPad

On
Nov
17,
2017,
at
8:18
PM,
Heather
Swift
<heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
wrote:

Issuing

a
statement
soon.
Will
send
when
I
have
final.

Heather
Swift
Press
Secretary
Department
of
the
Interior

On
Nov
17,
2017,
at
8:17
PM,
Paul
Ross
<paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>
wrote:

All-

Just
making
sure
you
saw
this: [https://twitter.com/
realDonaldTrump/status/
931685146415255552](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/931685146415255552).

Sent
from
my
iPhone

--

Nancy S. Monroe
Chief, Division of Marketing Communications
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

703-358-2613 (office)

202-430-7759 (mobile)

nancy_monroe@fws.gov

www.fws.gov

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Conversation Contents

Replacement Story

Attachments:

/69. Replacement Story/1.1 Replacement Story.docx

/69. Replacement Story/1.2 ATT00001

John Jackson (b) (6) >

From: John Jackson (b) (6) >
Sent: Sun Nov 19 2017 15:37:40 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Barbara Crown <barbara@huntingreport.com>
Subject: Replacement Story
Attachments: Replacement Story.docx ATT00001

Conversation Contents

Talking Points_MB draft

Attachments:

/70. Talking Points_MB draft/1.1 Talking Points_MB .docx
/70. Talking Points_MB draft/1.2 ATT00001

John Jackson (b) (6) >

From: John Jackson (b) (6)
Sent: Sun Nov 19 2017 14:51:17 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: Talking Points_MB draft
Attachments: Talking Points_MB .docx ATT00001

Greg, this is what my office did to date. Hope it helps.

Conversation Contents

Elephant data

Attachments:

/71. Elephant data/1.1 ABOP21 Enhancement finding for Zambia Elephants 2016 through 2018 (1).pdf
/71. 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

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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" <(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>
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:

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.

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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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<<http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=m55c7tjab&p=oi&m=1109842295756&sit=xuh7is8gb&f=e7b4b07a-db5e-4e42-a2db-9b122d99f7b2>>

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species and their habitats!*

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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>

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

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Sat Nov 18 2017 08:49:02 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>
"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

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

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Both full findings are attached.

Craig

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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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<<http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=m55c7tjab&p=oi&m=1109842295756&sit=xuh7is8gb&f=e7b4b07a-db5e-4e42-a2db-9b122d99f7b2>>

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<<http://www.facebook.com/usfwsinternationalaffairs>>

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

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

<2017 Nov 16 Zimb Ele Enh.pdf>

--
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: Sat Nov 18 2017 14:42:34 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant data

Craig.

I am working from home and I cannot use google drive from home as I'm using my home PC. Is that file too large to make an attachment as a PDF without using google drive?

Thanks
Greg

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

202-676-7675 cell

On Nov 18, 2017, at 10:49 AM, Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov> wrote:

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Craig

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

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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

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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).

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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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<<http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=m55c7tjab&p=oi&m=1109842295756&sit=xuh7is8gb&f=e7b4b07a-db5e-4e42-a2db-9b122d99f7b2>>

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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>

--

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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Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Sat Nov 18 2017 15:22:36 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant data

It is. You should find it if you search on iucn African elephant status report 2016.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2017, at 4:42 PM, Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov> wrote:

Craig.

I am working from home and I cannot use google drive from home as I'm using my home PC. Is that file too large to make an attachment as a PDF without using google drive?

Thanks
Greg

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

On Nov 18, 2017, at 10:49 AM, Hoover, Craig <craig_hoover@fws.gov> wrote:

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Craig

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

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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:

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.

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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
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[5275 Leesburg Pike](#)
[Falls Church, VA 22041-3803](#)
ph: 703-358-2162
www.fws.gov/international

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<<http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=>

[m55c7tjab&p=oi&m=1109842295756&sit=xuh7is8gb&f=e7b4b07a-db5e-4e42-a2db-9b122d99f7b2>](https://www.facebook.com/usfwsinternationalaffairs)

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our e-newsletter to learn how we're working around the globe to protect species and their habitats!*

<<http://www.facebook.com/usfwsinternationalaffairs>>

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

From: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)>@fws.gov>
Sent: Sat Nov 18 2017 15:45:30 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant data

Working on edits to the PP.
Guessing no deer tonight.

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
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"Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Sat Nov 18 2017 15:55:31 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Elephant data

No deer. Saw four does/fawns.

Mary Cogliano is still compiling permit and application info.

I'm ready to jump back in, but don't want to duplicate effort.

How can I help?

On Sat, Nov 18, 2017 at 5:45 PM, Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov> wrote:
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Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
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Conversation Contents

Permits

Attachments:

/72. Permits/3.1 Elephant Lion Secretary presentation.pptx

/72. 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.

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

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

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Conversation Contents

Permits status

Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

From: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>
Sent: Fri Nov 17 2017 20:05:04 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: (b) (6) @fws.gov, gregory_sheehan@fws.gov
CC: Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Subject: Permits status

Greg, We issued all three Zambia permits on November 13. We have 31 pending Zimbabwe permit applications. None have been issued. Just saw Secretary Zinke's statement on CNN.
Craig Sent from my iPhone

Conversation Contents

AD Meeting Notes 11.13.17

Attachments:

/84. AD Meeting Notes 11.13.17/1.1 20171113 AD Meeting.docx

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

From: "Gale, Michael" <michael_gale@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Nov 14 2017 12:31:01 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "FWS Directorate & Deputies" <fwsdirectanddep@fws.gov>
Zachariah Gambill <zack_gambill@fws.gov>, Charisa Morris
<charisa_morris@fws.gov>, Kashyap Patel
CC: <kashyap_patel@fws.gov>, "Foster, Maureen"
<maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: AD Meeting Notes 11.13.17
Attachments: 20171113 AD Meeting.docx

Hello,

Attached are the notes from the AD Meeting on Monday, November 13, 2017.

cheers,

Michael

--

Michael Gale

Deputy Chief of Staff (Acting), Director's Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

202.208.4923 (office)
571.982.2158 (cell)

Conversation Contents

Fwd: AWCF Final Agenda

Attachments:

/85. Fwd: AWCF Final Agenda/1.1 image001.png

/85. Fwd: AWCF Final Agenda/1.2 AWCF 2017_Agenda_13November2017_FINAL.pdf

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

From: "Vannorman, Tim" <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 08:09:59 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
CC: Samuel Friberg <samuel_friberg@fws.gov>, SveomHK@state.gov
Subject: Fwd: AWCF Final Agenda
Attachments: image001.png AWCF
2017_Agenda_13November2017_FINAL.pdf

All,

Attached is the final agenda for the meeting.

Greg - I made an off-hand comment to the organizers about the possibility of FWS giving a presentation about the ESA, but did not hear back on that offer UNTIL seeing the agenda. They have scheduled a presentation tomorrow morning on the ESA. I have a powerpoint ready that we can give if you are willing. I am fine with doing most of the presentation. I will e-mail it to you.

If you are comfortable with us giving the presentation, we can move forward. If you would like to cancel it, I will let the organizers know.

Tim

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

From: Goergen, Joseph <jgoergen@safariclub.org>

Date: Mon, Nov 13, 2017 at 9:36 AM

Subject: AWCF Final Agenda

To: "fredrick.ligate@mnrt.go.tz" <fredrick.ligate@mnrt.go.tz>, (b) (6) "
(b) (6) >, "malan.lindique@met.gov.na" <malan.lindique@met.gov.na>,
(b) (6) "fmangwanyanya@zimparks.org.zw"
<fmangwanyanya@zimparks.org.zw>, (b) (6) "
(b) (6) "mtjiane@environment.gov.za"
<mtjiane@environment.gov.za>, "okumalo@environment.gov.za"
<okumalo@environment.gov.za>, (b) (6) "
(b) (6) >, "danene@arugamelodges.com"
<danene@arugamelodges.com>, (b) (6) "
<ceo@tahao.org" <ceo@tahao.org>, "president@phasa.co.za" <president@phasa.co.za>,
<contact@gametrails.ug" <contact@gametrails.ug>, (b) (6) "
<(b) (6) >

"efundira@makuti.co.zw" <efundira@makuti.co.zw>, "rosenfels@voafrica.com" <rosenfels@voafrica.com>, (b) (6) (b) (6) >, Phil Minnaar <phil@bwana-game.com>, "j.belant@msstate.edu" <j.belant@msstate.edu>, (b) (6) >, (b) (6) >, (b) (6) >, "maxi@nacso.org.na" <maxi@nacso.org.na>, "mike@dmstz.com" <mike@dmstz.com>, (b) (6) >, (b) (6) >, Marco Pani (b) (6) >, "salome.gasabile@nuruagency.com" <salome.gasabile@nuruagency.com>, "cfoley@wcs.org" <cfoley@wcs.org>, "julian.blanc@unep.org" <julian.blanc@unep.org>, (b) (6) >, "gerald.bigurube@fzs.org" <gerald.bigurube@fzs.org>, "hdulle@mwekawildlife.ac.tz" <hdulle@mwekawildlife.ac.tz>, (b) (6) >, "p.chardonnet@fondation-igf.fr" <p.chardonnet@fondation-igf.fr>, (b) (6) >, (b) (6) >, "warbingt@ualberta.ca" <warbingt@ualberta.ca>, "tim_vannorman@fws.gov" <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, "michel.allard@friedkintz.com" <michel.allard@friedkintz.com>, "alm@cats-nets.co.tz" <alm@cats-nets.co.tz>, Geofreys Matipano <gmatipano@zimparks.org.zw>
Cc: "Sackman, Warren" (b) (6) >, "Maki, Alan" (b) (6) >, Matthew Lewis <mlewis@safariclub.org>, George Pangeti (b) (6) >, John Boretsky (b) (6) >, Helen Angelides <helen@dmstz.com>

Dear AWCF Attendees,

Attached please find the final agenda for the 15th AWCF meeting this week, as tentatively approved in plenary today. Please forward this agenda to your colleagues who may not be copied here. I apologize I do not have everyone's email address. A limited number of hard copies will also be printed.

If you have a presentation, please forward me the file or I can assist with uploading it to a flash drive. Thank you.

First for Wildlife,

Joe

Joseph Goergen

Conservation & Research Program Coordinator

Safari Club International Foundation

501 2nd St. NE

Washington, DC 20002

[\(202\) 609-8171](tel:2026098171) | jgoergen@safariclub.org



--
Timothy J. Van Norman, Chief
Branch of Permits
Division of Management Authority
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(703) 358-2350

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

From: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)>@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 10:51:35 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Vannorman, Tim" <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
CC: Samuel Friberg <samuel_friberg@fws.gov>, "SveomHK@state.gov" <SveomHK@state.gov>
Subject: Re: AWCF Final Agenda

Tim. I just landed. I would like to go over the presentation with you before it is given. I should be in my hotel room in 90 minutes or so. Let's meet then. Thanks Greg
Greg Sheehan Principal Deputy Director US Fish and Wildlife Service 202-208-4545 office 202-676-7675 cell > On Nov 13, 2017, at 6:10 PM, Vannorman, Tim <tim_vannorman@fws.gov> wrote: > > All, > > Attached is the final agenda for the meeting. > > Greg - I made an off-hand comment to the organizers about the possibility > of FWS giving a presentation about the ESA, but did not hear back on that > offer UNTIL seeing the agenda. They have scheduled a presentation tomorrow > morning on the ESA. I have a powerpoint ready that we can give if you are > willing. I am fine with doing most of the presentation. I will e-mail it > to you. > > If you are comfortable with us giving the presentation, we can move > forward. If you would like to cancel it, I will let the organizers know. > > Tim > > ----- Forwarded message ----- > From: Goergen, Joseph <jgoergen@safariclub.org> > Date: Mon, Nov 13, 2017 at 9:36 AM > Subject: AWCF Final Agenda > To: "fredrick.ligate@mnrt.go.tz" <fredrick.ligate@mnrt.go.tz>, " > (b) (6) " (b) (6) >, "malan.lindique@met.gov.na" < > malan.lindique@met.gov.na>, (b) (6) >

"fmanqwanya@zimparks.org.zw" <fmanqwanya@zimparks.org.zw>, " >
(b) (6) < >
(b) (6) >, "mtjiane@environment.gov.za" <> mtjiane@environment.gov.za>,
"okumalo@environment.gov.za" <> okumalo@environment.gov.za>, "(b) (6)"
(b) (6) > "(b) (6)" < "(b) (6)" >,
"danene@arugamelodges.com" <> danene@arugamelodges.com>, "(b) (6)"
(b) (6) >, " > ceo@tahao.org" <ceo@tahao.org>, "president@phasa.co.za" <
> president@phasa.co.za>, "contact@gametrails.ug" <contact@gametrails.ug>, " >
(b) (6) < "(b) (6)" >, "(b) (6)" <>
(b) (6) >, "efundira@makuti.co.zw" <efundira@makuti.co.zw>, " >
rosenfels@yoafrica.com" <rosenfels@yoafrica.com>, "(b) (6)" >
(b) (6) >, Phil Minnaar <phil@bwana-game.com>, " >
j.belant@msstate.edu" <j.belant@msstate.edu>, "(b) (6)" <>
(b) (6) < "(b) (6)" >
(b) (6) >, "maxi@nacso.org.na" <> maxi@nacso.org.na>,
"mike@dmstz.com" <mike@dmstz.com>, "(b) (6)" >
< "(b) (6)" >, Marco Pani (b) (6) >, " >
salome.gasabile@nuruagency.com" <salome.gasabile@nuruagency.com>, " > cfoley@wcs.org"
<cfoley@wcs.org>, "julian.blanc@unep.org" <> julian.blanc@unep.org>,
(b) (6) < "(b) (6)" >, > "gerald.bigurube@fzs.org"
<gerald.bigurube@fzs.org>, " > hdulle@mwekawildlife.ac.tz" <hdulle@mwekawildlife.ac.tz>, " >
(b) (6) > " > p.chardonnet@fondation-igf.fr"
<p.chardonnet@fondation-igf.fr>, " > (b) (6) (b) (6)"
(b) (6) < >
"warbingt@ualberta.ca" <> warbingt@ualberta.ca>, "tim_vannorman@fws.gov"
<tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, " > michel.allard@friedkintz.com" <michel.allard@friedkintz.com>,
" > alm@cats-nets.co.tz" <alm@cats-nets.co.tz>, Geofreys Matipano <>
gmatipano@zimparks.org.zw> > Cc: "Sackman, Warren" <(b) (6)>, "Maki,
Alan" <> (b) (6) >, Matthew Lewis <mlewis@safariclub.org>, George Pangeti <>
(b) (6) >, John Boretsky (b) (6) >, Helen Angelides <>
helen@dmstz.com> > > > Dear AWCF Attendees, > > > Attached please find the final agenda
for the 15th AWCF meeting this week, > as tentatively approved in plenary today. Please
forward this agenda to > your colleagues who may not be copied here. I apologize I do not have
> everyone's email address. A limited number of hard copies will also be > printed. > > > If
you have a presentation, please forward me the file or I can assist with > uploading it to a flash
drive. Thank you. > > > First for Wildlife, > > Joe > > > *Joseph Goergen* > > Conservation
& Research Program Coordinator > > Safari Club International Foundation > > 501 2nd St. NE >
> Washington, DC 20002 > > (202) 609-8171 | jgoergen@safariclub.org > > > > > > -- >
Timothy J. Van Norman, Chief > Branch of Permits > Division of Management Authority > U.S.
Fish and Wildlife Service > (703) 358-2350 > > > *Sign up > > for > our e-newsletter to learn
how we're working around the globe to protect > species and their habitats!* > >

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

Weekly report and fishbites

Attachments:

/87. Weekly report and fishbites/1.1 11.7.17 FishBites 11.docx

/87. Weekly report and fishbites/1.2 11.8.2017 WEEKLY REPORT.docx

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

From: "Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Nov 09 2017 15:12:48 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "FWS Directorate & Deputies" <fwsdirectanddep@fws.gov>
Subject: Weekly report and fishbites
Attachments: 11.7.17 FishBites 11.docx 11.8.2017 WEEKLY REPORT.docx

Good afternoon-

Please see the attached FWS Weekly Secretarial Report and Fishbites.

Have an extraordinary day,
Charisa

--

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

Zambia elephant findings

Attachments:

/88. Zambia elephant findings/1.1 GA Zambia elephants 2018.pdf
/88. Zambia elephant findings/1.2 2016-2017 GA Zambia African Elephant_9-12-17 (1).pdf
/88. 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
Attachments:

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: 1A, 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

Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules

Attachments:

/90. Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules/1.1 signature9.jpg
/90. Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules/1.2 Petition for Rulemaking Repeal Special Rules 11-3-17.pdf
/90. Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules/2.1 signature9.jpg
/90. Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules/3.1 signature9.jpg
/90. Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules/3.2 Petition for Rulemaking Repeal Special Rules 11-3-17.pdf
/90. Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules/4.1 signature9.jpg
/90. Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules/4.2 Petition for Rulemaking Repeal Special Rules 11-3-17.pdf

"John J. Jackson, III" <jjj@conservationforce.org>

From: "John J. Jackson, III" <jjj@conservationforce.org>
Sent: Fri Nov 03 2017 15:08:05 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Office of the Secretary <OfficeoftheSecretary@ios.doi.gov>, <exsec@ios.doi.gov>
CC: Gregory Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules
Attachments: signature9.jpg Petition for Rulemaking Repeal Special Rules 11-3-17.pdf

Dear Secretary Zinke:

Attached please find a Comment and Petition to repeal the special rules requiring proof of enhancement for threatened-listed species, which in most cases have violated the provisions of Section 9(c)(2) of the Endangered Species Act. This was filed today on the docket for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Regulatory Reform, DOI-2017-003-0009.

Sincerely,

John J. Jackson, III

--



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

From: "Sheehan, Greg" <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Sent: Sun Nov 05 2017 13:55:14 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "John J. Jackson, III" <jjj@conservationforce.org>

Subject: Re: Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules
Attachments: signature9.jpg

Thank you John. We will be evaluating these and other rules within the FWS related to wildlife permitting.

Thanks
Greg Sheehan

On Fri, Nov 3, 2017 at 5:08 PM, John J. Jackson, III <jjj@conservationforce.org> wrote:

Dear Secretary Zinke:

Attached please find a Comment and Petition to repeal the special rules requiring proof of enhancement for threatened-listed species, which in most cases have violated the provisions of Section 9(c)(2) of the Endangered Species Act. This was filed today on the docket for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Regulatory Reform, DOI-2017-003-0009.

Sincerely,

John J. Jackson, III

--



--

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

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

From: "Sheehan, Greg" <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Sent: Sun Nov 05 2017 13:56:11 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: David Bernhardt <(b) (6)@ios.doi.gov>, Todd Willens <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, Jason Larrabee <jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules
Attachments: signature9.jpg Petition for Rulemaking Repeal Special Rules 11-3-17.pdf

FYI

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

From: **John J. Jackson, III** <jjj@conservationforce.org>
Date: Fri, Nov 3, 2017 at 5:08 PM
Subject: Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules
To: Office of the Secretary <OfficeoftheSecretary@ios.doi.gov>, exsec@ios.doi.gov
Cc: Gregory Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>

Dear Secretary Zinke:

Attached please find a Comment and Petition to repeal the special rules requiring proof of enhancement for threatened-listed species, which in most cases have violated the provisions of Section 9(c)(2) of the Endangered Species Act. This was filed today on the docket for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Regulatory Reform, DOI-2017-003-0009.

Sincerely,

John J. Jackson, III

--



--

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

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

From: "Sheehan, Greg" <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Sent: Sun Nov 05 2017 14:02:29 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules
Attachments: signature9.jpg Petition for Rulemaking Repeal Special Rules 11-3-17.pdf

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

From: **John J. Jackson, III** <jjj@conservationforce.org>
Date: Fri, Nov 3, 2017 at 5:08 PM
Subject: Comment and Petition to Repeal FWS Special Rules
To: Office of the Secretary <OfficeoftheSecretary@ios.doi.gov>, exsec@ios.doi.gov
Cc: Gregory Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>

Dear Secretary Zinke:

Attached please find a Comment and Petition to repeal the special rules requiring proof of enhancement for threatened-listed species, which in most cases have violated the provisions of Section 9(c)(2) of the Endangered Species Act. This was filed today on the docket for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Regulatory Reform, DOI-2017-003-0009.

Sincerely,

John J. Jackson, III

--



--

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

FWS Weekly Secretarial Report and Fishbites

Attachments:

/91. FWS Weekly Secretarial Report and Fishbites/1.1 FishBites 10.31.17.docx
/91. FWS Weekly Secretarial Report and Fishbites/1.2 WEEKLY REPORT
10.31.17.docx

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

From: "Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Nov 02 2017 15:55:59 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "FWS Directorate & Deputies" <fwsdirectanddep@fws.gov>
Subject: FWS Weekly Secretarial Report and Fishbites
Attachments: FishBites 10.31.17.docx WEEKLY REPORT 10.31.17.docx

Good afternoon!

Please see the attached, and let me know if you have any questions.

Have an extraordinary day!
Charisa

--

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

4(d) rules

Attachments:

/95. 4(d) rules/1.1 4d rule revision-African elephant_6 June 2016.pdf
/95. 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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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

findings

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

From: "Bell, Gloria" <gloria_bell@fws.gov>
Sent: Wed Oct 11 2017 14:39:04 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
CC: Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>, "Vannorman, Tim" <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Subject: findings

Greg,

We anticipate having the following positive ESA enhancement findings:

Zimbabwe lion - Oct 12
Zambia lion - Oct 16
Zambia elephant - Oct 27

Let us know if you have any questions.

Best,
Gloria

Gloria Bell | Acting Assistant Director for International Affairs | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: 1A, Falls Church, Virginia, 22041-3803, USA | 703-358-1767
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Conversation Contents

Tanzania Consultative Forum

Attachments:

/104. Tanzania Consultative Forum/1.1 Invitation Letter_USFWS_Sheehan.pdf
/104. 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 <(b) (6)>@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
CC: <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Tim Van Norman
<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
www.fws.gov/international

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<Invitation Letter_USFWS_Sheehan.pdf>

<AWCF 2017_Draft Agenda_5September2017 (1).pdf>

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.

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Keisha Sedlacek

Senior Regulatory Specialist, Federal Affairs

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Conversation Contents

positive enhancement finding in Zimbabwe

Tom Whaley <tom@loganwhaley.com>

From: Tom Whaley <tom@loganwhaley.com>
Sent: Mon Nov 27 2017 08:26:03 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
Subject: positive enhancement finding in Zimbabwe

Good day gentlemen!

I was just sending you a short note to brag on each of you for lifting the suspension of sport hunted elephant trophy imports in to the United States from Zimbabwe. This suspension was really hurting the wildlife anti poaching efforts in Zimbabwe. I witnessed proof of that with my own eyes in May of 2017, while I was on a hunt in Zimbabwe. On six separate occasions we found clear evidence of elephant poaching, it was a sad sight seeing a rotting carcass of an elephant that had been killed by poachers. They had just killed these elephants and cut the tusks away, leaving the rest of it to rot and waste. Quite a sad and sickening sight for sure! I asked the landowner about this and he told me that since the USFWS suspension was started in 2014, their funding for anti poaching was pretty much non-existent. This allowed the poachers to roam the land pretty freely, now that the suspension has been lifted the much needed funding for anti poaching efforts will make a positive difference in both Zimbabwe and Zambia.

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! Put simply, hunting revenues support anti poaching efforts across Zimbabwe's elephant range, and this is largely paid for by American elephant hunters! 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. These anti poaching efforts are funded predominantly by hunting revenue, and protect stable populations of elephant and the third largest black rhino population in the world.

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.

As you are well aware, there is a tremendous amount of "FakeNews" being published by all sorts of sources! Please do not allow President Trump or anyone else to be swayed by incorrect facts.

Thanks so much for all of your hard work and dedication to our wildlife!

Sincerely,
Tom Whaley
600 Shadowood Dr
Marshall, TX 75672

(b) (6)

Conversation Contents

Please Support Elephant Trophy Imports

Randy Norris (b) (6)

From: Randy Norris (b) (6) >
Sent: Mon Nov 27 2017 08:21:11 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <(b) (6)@fws.gov>, <exsec@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Please Support Elephant Trophy Imports

Dear Mr Sheehan and Mr Zinke

I would ask that you support the lifting of the suspension on the import of elephant trophies from Zimbabwe and Zambia. Both Countries have larger herds now than 25 years ago thanks in part to their governments management practices and the support of the local operators. This is because of better habitat, management and enforcement and as a side benefit it creates local jobs and provides food also to the locals. Without the revenue from big game hunters from the United States there will be an increase in poaching and a decrease in enforcement and management practices as these countries will not have the resources to provide these services.

Thank you for your consideration

Robert L Hixson, Jr.
P O Box 816028
Dallas, Tx 75381

Conversation Contents

Letter to US Fish and Wildlife on Importation of Elephant Trophies from Zambia

Attachments:

/22. Letter to US Fish and Wildlife on Importation of Elephant Trophies from Zambia/1.1
Response to US Fish and Wildlife on Elephant Trophies.pdf

Paul Zyambo (b) (6)

From: Paul Zyambo (b) (6) >
Sent: Mon Nov 27 2017 05:42:56 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: Letter to US Fish and Wildlife on Importation of Elephant Trophies from Zambia
Attachments: Response to US Fish and Wildlife on Elephant Trophies.pdf

Dear Sir,

Please receive the attached letter from the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and Arts, Zambia for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Zyambo
Director-Department of National Parks and Wildlife

Conversation Contents

Trophy Elephant Imports

Seth Ringer <(b) (6)>

From: Seth Ringer (b) (6)
Sent: Sun Nov 26 2017 07:59:47 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <officeofthesecretary@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Trophy Elephant Imports

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for the positive enhancement findings made by the US Fish & Wildlife Service for elephant from Zimbabwe and Zambia. Please help Honorable President Trump to understand all of the scientific evidence that has gone into the enhancement findings and not be swayed by falsehoods spread by the media and anti-hunting groups. Trophy elephant hunts are a powerful conservation tool that have to be utilized.

Sincerely,
Seth Ringer
13862 SE 46th Ave
Summerfield, FL 34491

Conversation Contents

Elephant Trophy imports from Zimbabwe and Zambia

<kirkwinward@comcast.net>

From: <kirkwinward@comcast.net>
Sent: Sat Nov 25 2017 10:09:47 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Elephant Trophy imports from Zimbabwe and Zambia

Dear Deputy Director Sheehan,

I am writing to thank you for your positive enhancement finding for elephant from Zimbabwe and Zambia. I believe the decision was based on sound biological data and is a critical decision for the future of elephant conservation. I know from your work with the DWR in my home state of Utah that you are well aware that the harvest of such a small number of elephants will have no meaningful impact on elephant populations, but that the money generated from regulated hunting will have a huge positive conservation impact on current and future elephant populations as it provides much needed funds and incentives for habitat preservation, anti-poaching efforts, local community benefits, and game management. Please do all you can to encourage President Trump to not be misled by the false arguments of the radical anti-hunting organizations and to allow imports to resume.

Thanks for all you do for Wildlife and Sportsmen,

Kirk Winward

Conversation Contents

elephant positive enhancement finding

Mroczkiewicz Steve USDM <steve.mroczkiewicz@syngenta.com>

From: Mroczkiewicz Steve USDM <steve.mroczkiewicz@syngenta.com>
Sent: Fri Nov 24 2017 09:43:02 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "(b) (6)"@fws.gov" <"(b) (6)"@fws.gov>
Subject: elephant positive enhancement finding

Dear Mr. Sheehan,

I've been an avid supporter of President Trump and his administration and have been very pleased by many of his and his administration's actions, among them the original acceptance of the positive enhancement finding made by the USFW for Zambia and Zimbabwe elephant. So I was greatly concerned and disappointed when I heard of the possible block to this action.

I am a lifelong hunter and a Ph.D. scientist. I have modest financial means and will never travel to Zambia or Zimbabwe to hunt elephant. In fact, I'm not sure I would want to even if I could afford it. As a hunter and conservationists, however, I fully support those who have the means and desire to hunt any species that can benefit from hunter-generated revenue and sound wildlife management principals. These elephant populations clearly fit that model.

As a scientist I have been dismayed over the last several years at the number of enormously important decisions made in the name of science while flying in the face of science. The listing of polar bears due to something that could theoretically happen, years in the future, according to computer climate models, was perhaps the pinnacle of emotional and anti-science management decisions. As a scientist, it offended me. You are no doubt more aware than I how many similar examples have occurred in recent years, so I'll refrain from listing more of them. But if the scientific community is going to stand up to policies with far-reaching implications that are based upon emotion while ignoring science, it must include issues within the realm of wildlife management and not just climate change, fuel exploration, etc. Science does not and never should have favorite causes.

Please express my gratitude to President Trump for the strides he's made thus far, including installing an administration that accepted the positive elephant enhancement finding. Please also do whatever you can to see this through.

Respectfully,

Steve Mroczkiewicz, Ph.D.
Attica, IN

Conversation Contents

I Support the Elephant Decision

Tim Macmanus <tim@safaritime.com>

From: Tim Macmanus <tim@safaritime.com>
Sent: Thu Nov 23 2017 12:23:39 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: I Support the Elephant Decision

Deputy Director Sheehan,

I just want you to know that I support the US Fish and Wildlife Service finding to allow import of elephant trophies from Zimbabwe and Zambia. That finding was based on science and not emotion. I appreciate the members of the FWS who worked on this finding and their courage in following facts and not emotion.

Appreciate your hard work to restore freedom and sustainable use to our National Parks and Forests across this great land of ours.

Adios,

Tim

Tim Macmanus
O - 972-769-8866
C - 972-977-4590
Have a Fantastic Day!
Proverbs 3.5-6

Conversation Contents

Import ban on Afrian ivory

Gregory Martin <tamu72@msn.com>

From: Gregory Martin <tamu72@msn.com>
Sent: Thu Nov 23 2017 12:02:08 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "(b) (6)"@fws.gov" <(b) (6)"@fws.gov>
Subject: Import ban on Afrian ivory

Dear Mr. Sheehan, I am writing to ask for your support in removing the ban on importing ivory from Zimbabwe and Zambia. The impact of this ban imposed by the previous administration has had some terrible consequences for both the wildlife and the people who are stakeholders, most especially in Zimbabwe. I have traveled to Zimbabwe a number of times and have seen first hand the benefits that controlled hunting as an industry has, versus the devastation of uncontrolled poaching. Keeping the ban in place will trigger more and more poaching of all wildlife, since there is greatly reduced resources to preserve and protect these animals. If the animals lack economic value, the poachers kill for profit and the locals kill to reduce competition for their cattle. The environment degrades from the over grazing, and the overall economy suffers from the loss of tourism and hunting industry dollars. Without hunters spending their money, there simply is no substitute source of anti-poaching resources. And the hunting industry's employment of locals in a country (Zimbabwe) with a 95% unemployment rate is at risk of being reduced to a negligible practice. The number of elephants taken by trophy hunters in a year is inconsequential to their population. But the money spent by those hunters is critically important. In Africa - as I'm sure you've heard many times - if it pays, it stays. Please support lifting the ban. Yours truly, Greg Martin Paradise Valley, Arizona

Conversation Contents

Elephant Imports from Zimbabwe and Zambia

Mary Ann Justus <john.justus@icloud.com>

From: Mary Ann Justus <john.justus@icloud.com>
Sent: Thu Nov 23 2017 07:17:14 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Elephant Imports from Zimbabwe and Zambia

Dear Deputy Director Sheehan, I wrote you earlier in the week urging you to do all you can to keep President Trump from overturning the positive enhancement findings for Elephant hunting by USFW. I am sure the President and yourself are being inundated by anti-hunting organizations to stop the legal hunting of Elephants in these countries. I wanted to provide some scientific facts to support the continued legal hunting of Elephants from these countries. First, overall populations of Elephants from these countries is stable or in the case of Zimbabwe is increasing. Drammatically, in fact. The number of Elephant in Zimbabwe has increased from about 4,000 animals in 1990 to over 82,000 today. Secondly, the number of Elephants taken legally by hunters in these countries is extremely small, almost negligible, while the revenues generated by legal hunting contribute millions of dollars for anti-poaching, community development, provide much needed protein for local villages etc. This money allows Elephants to flourish in their native habitat, not just in the national parks which make up just a small portion of the country. It is clear, when there is value associated from these Elephants that comes from hunting, the local communities do their part to protect the species. I have seen that myself. Finally, both of these countries have sound regulations in place to ensure that legal hunting of Elephants will enhance the overall populations of Elephants. Besides, there are not that many hunters that have the desire and can also afford the cost of an Elephant hunt. This is not a complaint. it is simply that these large fees are required to provide the necessary funding to provide the enhancement needed. I only mention this because it will not be a case where "the flood gates will open" to large numbers of Elephant hunters and resulting increase in animals taken. That number will remain small. I do hope in the end, that facts will be used to make this determination. i am a hunter and likely biased in my opinion. However, when the facts are reviewed, there is no question that legal hunting of a small number of Elephants does enhance overall populations. All we as hunters ask is that this decision is made based on facts, with the species in mind and not based on emotion or dislike for us as hunters. Best regards, John Justus

Conversation Contents

Please allow ivory import from Zimbabwe

Kadi Burkhalter <(b) (6)>

From: Kadi Burkhalter (b) (6)
Sent: Wed Nov 22 2017 15:05:01 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <(b) (6)>@fws.gov
Subject: Please allow ivory import from Zimbabwe

Director 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 ~130,000km² 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 Bulyebe 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.]

MINI-ARGUMENTS REFUTING FALSE FACTS

- **There has never been a “ban” on elephant trophy imports from Zimbabwe.** A negative enhancement finding was made in April 2014 that “suspended” the import of elephant trophies. The FWS’ negative 2015 enhancement finding stated repeatedly that once additional information was received, the negative finding would be reviewed and reversed (e.g., “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.”) A “ban” suggests a permanent prohibition; a “suspension” is a “temporary abrogation or withholding.” Zimbabwe’s elephant trophy imports were suspended.

- **Lifting of the suspension was not a political decision.** The decision should have been made in July 2015, when ZPWMA provided extensive additional documentation in response to a FWS questionnaire. The FWS requested “one more piece of information” at the CITES Conference of the Parties in September 2016. That information was provided in November 2016. No further information was needed, or requested. If the FWS had properly prioritized the issuance of elephant import permits—as they told ZPWMA they would at the CITES Conference of the Parties—the positive

enhancement finding would have been made and these permits would have issued before the current Administration was in office.

- The import of elephant trophies from Zimbabwe should not have been suspended in the first place. In April 2014, the FWS announced the suspension based on an asserted “lack of information.” In contradiction to CITES Res. Conf. 6.7’s recommendation of notifying and consulting with range states before imposing stricter domestic measures, and the Endangered Species Act’s requirement of “encouraging foreign conservation programs,” 16 U.S.C. § 1537(b), the FWS shut down imports under an April 2014 negative enhancement finding that the FWS later admitted was wrong with respect to Zimbabwe’s elephant population and level of poaching. In fact, the correct estimate for Zimbabwe’s elephant population—almost 83,000—is 16,000 elephant higher than when the last, positive enhancement finding was made in 1997.

That estimate is double the size of the elephant populations of Namibia and South Africa put together, yet the FWS maintains positive enhancement findings for the import of elephant trophies from Namibia and South Africa. The trophy import suspension was based on a mistaken concern that Zimbabwe’s elephant population had declined, and the FWS should have admitted the mistake and reversed the suspension immediately. The failure to do so suggests a political motivation, not a scientific one.

- Zimbabwe’s elephant population is not “the worst managed,” but is among the best. That Zimbabwe maintains a stable elephant population of over 83,000, despite a despotic government, poor economy, and exploding human population growth rate, is a testament to the country’s strong management. That number is almost 40% higher than in 1992, when the FWS confirmed the “threatened” listing of elephant, and almost 20% higher than in 1997, when the FWS made a positive enhancement finding authorizing the import of elephant trophies. This is due in part to ZPWMA being a parastatal separate and separately funded from the central government. It is also due to the commitment of Zimbabwe’s citizens to maintaining their elephant, notwithstanding the costs—over 40 rural Zimbabweans were killed by elephant from 2010 to 2015. Zimbabwe’s strong wildlife management is also demonstrated by recent IUCN Red List assessments of lion and giraffe, which indicated increasing populations of these species in Zimbabwe. The evidence demonstrates that Zimbabwe’s wildlife management, not only its elephant management, is succeeding.]

- Zimbabwe’s elephant management is not “poor”; it is state-of-the-art and written by one of the world’s foremost elephant experts. In response to the April 2014 suspension of elephant trophy imports, ZPWMA took to heart the FWS’ criticism that Zimbabwe’s then-current elephant management plan dated to 1997. Although that plan was adaptively implemented and monitored, it was admittedly dated. Zimbabwe immediately began the process of adopting a brand-new, state-of-the-art elephant management plan—basically, to satisfy the FWS. This included a year of stakeholder planning workshops: a preparatory meeting of representatives from Zimbabwe’s community-based natural resources management program, 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) in early 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 region in September 2015. Zimbabwe focused on regional planning because the four regions face different management challenges. Each

planning workshop produced a regional elephant management plan that was incorporated into the final. The final document was drafted by a leading elephant scientist, and the process was monitored throughout by the IUCN's African Elephant Specialist Group.

- Regulated hunting is not poaching. By definition, "regulated" hunting is regulated and lawful. It is carefully monitored by ZPWMA, and offtakes are recorded in a national database. Lawfully hunted ivory tusks are marked to show that they are lawful and note the year of harvest. Moreover, regulated hunting revenues underwrite most anti-poaching expenses in Zimbabwe and the rest of Southern Africa, either by fees paid to government wildlife authorities that are used for law enforcement, or by operator-funded teams that patrol concessions and keep poachers out. Finally, revenue-sharing and contributions by hunting operators creates conservation incentives for rural communities most affected by wildlife, which disincentivizes poaching. For example, Zimbabwe's CAMPFIRE communities were receiving over \$1.6 million per year in revenues from elephant hunting prior to the import suspension. These funds allow for clinics and schools to be built, teachers' salaries to be paid, boreholes to be drilled, and so on. Hunting operators in Zambia are required to share at least 50% of harvested meat with rural communities. Many tons of meat can come from elephant hunts, to reduce the need and tolerance for bushmeat poaching and protect species in addition to elephant.

- Allowing imports of elephant trophies will not damage the government's efforts to control ivory trafficking. Elephant trophy imports have been authorized for Namibia and South Africa for the past three years, which demonstrates that a country may maintain lawful hunting and low poaching at the same time. In fact, according to the CITES MIKE data, the Southern African countries that depend upon regulated hunting as a conservation tool have the lowest Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephant (PIKE) rates in the world. PIKE, which is used to assess whether poaching levels are unsustainable, has never risen above the sustainability threshold in Southern Africa. PIKE at Zimbabwe's MIKE sites is well below that level. Moreover, national and international law requires the marking of ivory tusks taken as lawful hunting trophies, which clearly and visibly separates these lawful tusks from illegal ones.

- Photographic tourism is not a substitute in most hunting areas. Opponents argue that photographic tourism would be a better option than hunting. It is true that photo-tourism is available in some places; for example, some conservancies in Namibia benefit from photographic tourism revenues alone or a mixture of photo- and hunting tourism. But photo-tourism requires decent infrastructure and scenery, and dense enough wildlife populations to draw tourists. These may not be available in remote areas of a country without access to airports or other activities, and where the wildlife populations are not yet dense enough to ensure a sighting on a two-hour game drive. This is the situation in many CAMPFIRE Areas, where photographic tourism was tried ... and failed. In these areas, without the benefits of hunting, the habitat would be converted to agriculture and livestock. Benefits to the rural community stakeholders are less from photographic tourism than from tourist hunting.

Sent from my iPhone

Conversation Contents

Elephant and Lion Importation into the USA

Keith Atcheson <keith@atcheson.com>

From: Keith Atcheson <keith@atcheson.com>
Sent: Wed Nov 22 2017 13:54:20 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "(b) (6)"@fws.gov" <(b) (6)"@fws.gov>
Subject: Elephant and Lion Importation into the USA

Dear Mr. Sheehan,

I'm writing to ask for your support in allowing elephant and lion trophy importation from Zimbabwe and Zambia for American hunters.

Our business has sent thousands of hunters to African countries for over 50 years and I've personally completed over 50 safaris myself. I believe we are very qualified and truly understand the African model of hunting, conservation, preservation and how it works. African countries do not enjoy the North American Conservation model that are funded nicely by hunters and fisherman buying licensing and sporting equipment under programs like the PR Act and others.

Africa is quite the opposite. There is no middle class. Most residents cannot own firearms or buy licenses to go hunting because the possibility does not even exist. Most areas that support healthy elephant and cat populations are heavily financially supported by worldwide hunters that pay large daily rates and trophy fees to local governments, communities, outfitters, guides, professional hunters etc... American hunters are a majority of this funding. These funds support local conservation and anti-poaching programs that actually teach people not to poach and give a value to game animals that live in areas where they co-exist with humans. It raises money for trained game guards and small game departments. Funds are also allocated to help with rural schools, hospitals and community health clinics.

If hunters are not allowed to import Lion and Elephant back into the USA it will stop many hunters from going in the first place and its extremely damaging to the very species we are all trying to protect. The anti-hunting community contributes 0 dollars into conservation and preservation of many worldwide species.

Please encourage Director Zinke and President Trump to consider the greater good for the species we all love and continue importation of well managed species like Elephant and Lion. If our government listens only to the social media hysteria line of the uninformed and ignorant anti-hunting movement it will result in far greater damage to elephant and lion populations and many other species that co-exist symbiotically.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Keith Atcheson
Jack Atcheson & Sons Inc.
Worldwide Hunting Consultant
MT. Outfitter Since 1983 Lic. #180
NRA Life Member
3210 Ottawa Street
Butte, MT. 59701
406-782-2382
www.atcheson.com

Conversation Contents

Hunted Elephant Importation - Letter from The Wildlife Society

Attachments:

/45. Hunted Elephant Importation - Letter from The Wildlife Society/1.1
TWS_ElephantImportLetter_FINAL_2017.11.22.pdf
/45. Hunted Elephant Importation - Letter from The Wildlife Society/2.1
TWS_ElephantImportLetter_FINAL_2017.11.22.pdf

Keith Norris <knorris@wildlife.org>

From: Keith Norris <knorris@wildlife.org>
Sent: Wed Nov 22 2017 08:29:40 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
Subject: Hunted Elephant Importation - Letter from The Wildlife Society
Attachments: TWS_ElephantImportLetter_FINAL_2017.11.22.pdf

Please see the attached letter from The Wildlife Society regarding the importation of elephant trophies from Zimbabwe, Zambia, and other African countries. The letter supports science-based policies that promote sustainable use of wildlife, and recognizes that hunting can enhance wildlife conservation efforts.

Best,

Keith

Keith Norris, AWB®
Director, Wildlife Policy & Programs
The Wildlife Society

425 Barlow Place, Suite 200
Bethesda, MD 20814
301.897.9770 x309
301.530.2471 (fax)
www.wildlife.org
keith.norris@wildlife.org

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

From: "Bell, Gloria" <gloria_bell@fws.gov>
Sent: Wed Nov 22 2017 08:33:22 GMT-0700 (MST)
Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>, Matthew Huggler
<matthew_huggler@fws.gov>, Craig Hoover
To: <craig_hoover@fws.gov>, "Vannorman, Tim"

<tim_vannorman@fws.gov>

Subject:

Fwd: Hunted Elephant Importation - Letter from The Wildlife Society

Attachments:

TWS_ElephantImportLetter_FINAL_2017.11.22.pdf

FYI

Gloria Bell | Acting Assistant Director for International Affairs | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: 1A, 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!



Learn more about [Diversity Change Agents](#).

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

From: **Keith Norris** <knorris@wildlife.org>

Date: Wed, Nov 22, 2017 at 10:29 AM

Subject: Hunted Elephant Importation - Letter from The Wildlife Society

To:

Please see the attached letter from The Wildlife Society regarding the importation of elephant trophies from Zimbabwe, Zambia, and other African countries. The letter supports science-based policies that promote sustainable use of wildlife, and recognizes that hunting can enhance wildlife conservation efforts.

Best,

Keith

Keith Norris, AWB®

Director, Wildlife Policy & Programs
The Wildlife Society

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Conversation Contents

Zambian Elephant imports to USA

Laura duplooy (b) (6) >

From: Laura duplooy <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wed Nov 22 2017 06:52:33 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: (b) (6) @fws.gov>, <exsec@ios.doi.gov>, John du Plooy (b) (6)
Subject: Zambian Elephant imports to USA

For the attention of: Secretary Zinke & Deputy Director Greg Sheehan

Dear Sirs

RE: ELEPHANT AND LION IMPORTS TO THE USA

This email is written in regards to the current unknown status regarding future imports of sport hunted elephant trophies into USA, and the potential implications this may also have on the importation of other species such as lion.

It is requested that this decision is done not on emotion but on scientific data and actual facts. The negative effects caused as a result of closing imports to USA, and thereby effectively preventing the small but significant off take by US hunters of elephant and other species affected by such decisions, will be long lasting and devastating for the rural people and the wildlife in Zambia.

Please note that:

Safari hunting in Zambia is done based on scientifically supported quotas regulated by strict laws (Zambia Wildlife Act No 14 of 2015)

All aspects of the hunting concession agreements and quotas are reviewed annually.

Animal populations are regularly counted, and monitoring of the Zambian wildlife estate is constantly being done.

The Zambian elephant population is stable and has been so for the past twenty-five years. The Zambian Department of National Parks estimates the population at around 30,000 elephant with 2016 African Status Report putting the elephant population in excess of 21,000.

National off take of elephant is less than 0.4% of the population and is considered negligible with no effect on the species population.

Zambia has risen to the challenge of meeting all that has been asked of it in regards to USFW expectations.

Income to the wildlife department and the communities is being reduced to less than one fifth of its potential on key species such as elephant due to importation restrictions. With 75% expenditure on anti poaching the increase in income by allowing imports would increase training, equipment, manpower and technology in the fight against an ever more difficult and sophisticated poaching problem.

Legally hunted ivory, that is stamped, documented and monitored, will not affect the US government's ability to fight illegal poached ivory.

The Chifunda community gets 50% of the trophy fee with 45% of this in anti poaching and wildlife protection, 35% to community welfare projects and 20% for administration and other costs.

).Almost all the edible meat that is available from the hunting is donated to the community. This is delivered free of charge on a rotation basis so that all members throughout the game management area benefit. This helps to reduce the need for subsistence poaching to feed hungry families.

To give a bit of background Muchinga Adventures Ltd is:

A Zambian family owned safari-hunting company that operates in Chifunda GMA, North Luangwa, Zambia through a Hunting Concession Agreement. This agreement runs for seven years.

Bound by a strong code of ethics and hunting practices.

Meeting and exceeding all obligations and requirements of the hunting concession agreement to both the wildlife and the community of Chifunda GMA. As a result the operations and income derived from hunting give support, or contribute, in some capacity to the betterment of the lives of more than 2100 families and in excess of 10,000 children many of whom are living in extreme poverty.

As a company we respect the partnership the hunting concession agreement forms that upholds the right to earn an income from the resources on the land by the traditional leaders and their people, this is encompassed in the Zambian Lands Act. The income from elephant and lion hunting forms a significant part of the revenue that is raised each year and allows for a tolerance of these species that often hurt people, destroy property and are considered a pest. The community has regularly said without the financial

incentives and benefits derived from hunting they would be unable to prevent the people from destroying and poisoning the wildlife in retaliation for lost crops and livestock.

A destroyed crop from an elephant means that a family or group of families may face starvation. In contrast the one elephant hunted in Chifunda GMA in September 2017:

Fed over 1000 people for a month

Raised revenue to support anti poaching efforts to protect the rest of the elephant population

Supported educational programs that help the people live in tolerance with these animals.

This elephant was an old male, a member of a group that were crop raiding and the incidents of conflict have reduced significantly with the harvesting of this one elephant.

Contributed to the income of the Chifunda Community through revenue sharing of the trophy fee and concession fees which funds community projects and anti poaching

Contributed to the income of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife to ensure monitoring, regulation and protection of the species nationwide

In 2013 and 2014 Zambia closed most but not all of its hunting blocks and put a suspension on elephant, lion and leopard hunting. USFW did not close the importation of Zambian elephant, nor was a communication to this effect ever issued. Sport hunted elephant, from a conservative national quota of 80, were imported from 2011 and 2012 to USA. A Non detrimental enhancement finding for Zambian elephant in April 2015 led to the written indication from the Chief of Permits that import permits were expected shortly in August 2016.

In this same period of many hunting areas being closed the expected revenue and support from the photographic and non hunting communities to replace the loss of income, anti poaching effort, community welfare and protection of the wildlife was never forthcoming. In Chifunda GMA a photographic bush camp was opened in 2014 and the total revenue earned for each year has never exceeded US\$350 to the community with two people employed.

The sad reality is that many hunting blocks are in remote areas of the country with limited infrastructure and as such any investment from non hunting entities are unlikely to be photographic or in the interests of sustainable and long term viability of wildlife populations.

We had one of our US clients go and spend a day in the North Luangwa National Park

earlier this year, he asked to leave early because he saw more animals in the hunting block than the national park which is heavily protected due to the presence of the rhino. This is an indication that the hunting block is not only working using hunting as a conservation tool but the wildlife are thriving under this management program.

Below is what Muchinga Adventures Ltd and hunting has done in one Zambian hunting concession in one year. This is still on going for 2017. Without the financial support from the hunting and especially lion, leopard and elephant we will not be able to operate and continue this support to a community that need it and a wildlife population that is scientifically proven through constant monitoring and regulation to be healthy with hunting.

We ask that you keep sport hunted elephant imports to US open. Your consideration of the facts and the impact of this decision on large numbers of people are appreciated.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any queries or questions regarding this email. I am happy to furnish your office with any documentary evidence regarding Chifunda GMA.

Kind regards

Laura du Plooy

Muchinga Adventures Ltd - Director (Zambia)

Tel: +260 977 774815

**SUMMARY OF 2017 CHIFUNDA GMA PLEDGES, OBLIGATIONS AND DONATIONS:
(AS OF 9 NOVEMBER 2017)**

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT/VALUE
28/12/2016	Tourism License for 2017	K6000
7 March 2017	Hunting Concession fees – Receipt 7362310	K860,973
18 Jan 2017	Outfitter license 1111 – Receipt 7137819	US\$3500

13/1/2017	Resident PH – John du Plooy license 0519	K2500
13/1/2017	Training of Zambian PH Apprentice – Nyambe Sandema – 0046	K833.40
28 March 2017	Performance Bond lodged with DNPW	Completed
09/11/17	60% trophy fees: completed as of 9/11/17 US\$162,060 spent on NRHL making this 76% of the quota value with 5 safaris still scheduled to be done	US\$162,060 and continuing
Jan 2017	Tax clearance up to date	completed
1/6/17	ZICCTA License RFM/SAT/1759	K4166.70
22/3/17	Public Liability Occupiers Insurance DAAAPH0001861704	completed
1/5/2017	Employ Liaison Officer – A Nkoma	On employment contract
12/8/17	\$20,500 to CRB as per Hunting Concession Agreement per annum 1. US\$10,000 wired 27 July 2017 2. US\$10,500 wired 12 August 2017 For projects to better the whole community	US\$20,500
12 June 2017	Bush camp maintenance/ assistance to the local community to run their own tourism business	US\$5,000
29/9/2017	K10,000 fire management: Paid as: 1. K7800 – 24 May 2017 2. K2200 – 29 September 2017	K10,000
29/9/2017	K20,000 Infrastructure development: Paid as: 1. K13,000 – 27/4/2017 2. K7000 – 29 September 2017	K20,000
20/10/2017	K60,000 law enforcement Paid as: i. K12,562.50 – 9 June 2017 ii. K4586 – 10/6/2017 iii. KK7808.56 – 5/7/17 iv. K1960.40 – 5/7/17 v. K8,753.30 – 12 July 2017 vi. K12,000 – 11 October 2017 vii. K13,002.42 – 20/10/17	K60,673.18
5/7/17	Extra anti poaching:	K11,175 plus vehicle

	i. village sweep x14 ii. arrest of poacher x21 iii. lion skin x1 recovered iv. leopard skin x2 recovered v. elephant ivory recovered x1 vi. grysbok skin recovered x2 vii. hartebeest tail recovered x1 viii. wildebeest tail x1 recovered ix. illegal firearm recovered x12	and transport support
12/7/2017	K10,000 wildlife resource monitoring	K10,000
24/5/2017	Establish safari camp – employment to community of more than 120 people	K15,750
24/5/2017	Fly camp (tented) – employment to community	K10,200
	80% of camp staff from Chifunda	Done
	Meat distribution – throughout year (approx 12 tons of meat)	Done
24/5/2017	Teacher x2 – paid wages for two extra teachers at the school – this is educating more than 120 extra children	K19,200
30/4/2017	Meeting with CRB at start of season. Sponsored by Muchinga Adventures	K1000
	Meeting with CRB at close of season -	Pending
30/6/2017	Vehicle donated – landcruiser	US\$20,000
12/9/17	Submission of leopard and lion data to DNPW	Completed
4/09/2017	Football league support (keeping the youth busy to prevent poaching)	K4500
20/10/17	Football league support	K3500
11/10/17	Cultural ceremony support	K1000
9/10/17	Scholarship 2017 for tertiary education – DNPW member from Chifunda in wildlife, conservation, education or medicine	K19,200
8/8/17	Painted the house of HRH Chief Chifunda	K4500
27/7/17	Tyres donated for landcruiser	K4000
8/9/17	Support for medical treatment to adult female victim mauled by lion	K3500
24/7/2017	Leopard destroyed 10 goats – community member relief to prevent retaliation against leopard	K1000
27/4/2017	Support to HRH Chief Chifunda (phone communications and to assist with carrying out duties)	K5000
20/1/2017	Education assistance to DNPW member (P Sakanga)	K3500
20/1/2017	CRB Chairperson medical assistance	K1500
2017	The company has provided full time employment to more than 50 people through camp staff, administration and support to	

	operations. Four staff members were sent to do and passed a university course in early 2017 as part of the commitment to skills and development training of the community.	
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In red being what the company has done over and beyond its hunting concession agreement and statutory obligations.

Conversation Contents

Letter of Support for lion and elephant imports from Zambia

Attachments:

/48. Letter of Support for lion and elephant imports from Zambia/1.1 image002.jpg

Gavin Robinson (b) (6)

From: Gavin Robinson (b) (6)
Sent: Wed Nov 22 2017 02:29:55 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <(b) (6)@fws.gov>, <exsec@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Letter of Support for lion and elephant imports from Zambia
Attachments: image002.jpg

Good Morning Mr. Secretary Zinke, and Deputy Director Sheehan

On behalf of the Professional Hunters Association of Zambia (PHAZ) we fully support you in your decision to allow the import of legally hunted lion and elephant from the Republic of Zambia for the calendar years of 2016,2017 and 2018.

We are fully aware that this decision was derived at, from your good offices, after many years of fact finding and enhancement findings on the role of safari hunting in the crucial conservation of lion and elephant here in Zambia. Therefore good sirs i again extend our full support to your decision in allowing imports that we all know will provide the very funds, as paid by your american hunters, to ensure the survival of the many animals that remain. After a carefully selected trophy animal is legally and ethically hunted within the borders of Zambia and as per the laws of our country and the ethics set out not only by our association but by all professional hunters worldwide, that trophy should be allowed import into the USA.

Our association, although sovereign, is a part of something much bigger than ourselves in the form of the Safari Club International, The Operators and Professional Hunters of Africa (OPHA), Conservation Force (CF) and many more - where we all strive to ensure our members adhere and follow the most professional conduct when on safari, Not only Sirs are our members Professional Hunters but they are Professional Conservationists in the truest sense of form. They are out there in the field monitoring the game, providing immediate service to anti poaching and have a deep love of not only the fauna but also the flora and the continued well being of all those creatures and plants.

Therefore your recent announcement of the allowing of trophy imports into the United States of America (USA) was a much heralded victory for us in the conservation of the remaining wildlife in our country, Zambia.

Unfortunately the anti-conservationists used some key words like, trophy and Sport hunting and emotional video footage to place your President in a difficult situation - hence his message to put your scientific and fact based decision on 'hold'. This type of situation is not uncommon here in our third world countries, so really it comes as no shock to us, however like all courses of action that follow this type of situation, it now comes the responsibility of your good office Mr

Secretary, ably supported by your FWS department, and our associations support to you - that you kindly explain the science and the facts behind your conclusion to the highest office in your country.

I am very confident Mr Secretary that once you have explained this and provided the data and facts that the FWS have collected over the past years it will undoubtedly and irrevocably prove that funds paid by American hunters directly lead to the conservation and well being of not only the precious wildlife in Zambia but also the community living with in the area and the entire bio diversity of that area as well.

All too often these anti - conservationists have grouped together illegal (poaching) and legal hunting in the same category - you Sirs are no fools to this very bad misconception - we (you and us) are promoting the legal off take and ethical manner in which it is done for the betterment and sustainability of the wildlife, this is basic management and conservation, they are however grouping us with the illegal trade, that we know and are fighting every day, that is decimating our flora and fauna here in Zambia.

Furthermore as evidence to support our support of your office in this matter, the following points and facts gathered can be raised, all extracts from other papers we have presented on this,

Regulated hunting is not illegal - it is provided for in the Wildlife Act of 2015, there are permits and payments that have to be met prior to a safari even commencing, once these are met the safari is deemed legal as per the laws of the republic of Zambia. there is a huge difference between a legal safari and an illegal act against wildlife - we are and have only ever promoted the legal and ethical hunting of licensed game here in 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 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.

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 OFF TAKES 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 off takes are negligible and have no impact on the national population rate.

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

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

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.
- Photographic tourism is not a substitute in most hunting areas. Opponents argue that photographic tourism would be a better option than hunting. It is true that photo-tourism is available in some places; for example, some conservancies in Namibia benefit from photographic tourism revenues alone or a mixture of photo- and hunting tourism. But photo-tourism requires decent infrastructure and scenery, and dense enough wildlife populations to draw tourists. These may not be available in remote areas of a country without access to airports or other activities, and where the wildlife populations are not yet dense enough to ensure a sighting on a two-hour game drive, Zambia does yet have the infrastructure for these to operate in more remote areas, therefore all photographic is currently only present around the little infrastructure we do have.

Once again be rest assured you have our support, together in the fight to conserve Zambian wildlife, we thank you very much Mr. Secretary for your tremendous effort already displayed to help us and we ask for your continuing support, having visited your great country we are well aware of how much land you set aside for parks and hunting and we are no strangers to the remarkable story of not only the whitetail and waterfowl in the US but all your flora and fauna, we too can make such a difference in Zambia for the future generations, if given a chance.

Best Regards

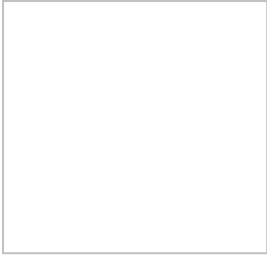
Gavin Robinson

(b) (6)

President
Zambia Polo Association (ZPA)
Lusaka
Zambia

Chairman
Professional Hunters Association of Zambia (PHAZ)
(b) (6)

www.phazambia.com



P Before printing this mail make sure it is completely necessary.

THE ENVIRONMENT IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS!

Conversation Contents

Elephant Trophy Imports from Zimbabwe.

Attachments:

/50. 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

Support for USFW on Elephant Imports

Attachments:

/51. Support for USFW on Elephant Imports/1.1 Letter to Mr. Sheehan.docx

<lr@stopallpoaching.org>

From: <lr@stopallpoaching.org>
Sent: Tue Nov 21 2017 18:39:30 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Support for USFW on Elephant Imports
Attachments: Letter to Mr. Sheehan.docx

Mr. Sheehan,

Please find attached my letter representing International Wildlife Crimestoppers support for the efforts of USFW concerning the latest determination on Elephant imports from Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Sincerely,

Lewis Rather

Executive Director
International Wildlife Crimestoppers
PO Box 2925
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
(830)998-8725
www.wildlifecrimestoppers.org

Conversation Contents

Lion and Elephant imports

GCI <wojo@gci.net>

From: GCI <wojo@gci.net>
Sent: Tue Nov 21 2017 16:14:00 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Lion and Elephant imports

Mr. Deputy Director, I urge you to do whatever is in your power to support the use of science and not politics when it comes to the approval of importation of Lion and Elephant from African Range States that have demonstrated sustainable resource development such as Zimbabwe and Zambia. This decision should rest with US F& W and not the loudest voice on social media or the White House. Sincerely James M Wojciehowski (907) 350-1859

Conversation Contents

Zambia and Zimbabwe Trophies

Eric Rau <eer@edsdrilling.com>

From: Eric Rau <eer@edsdrilling.com>
Sent: Tue Nov 21 2017 15:04:19 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: Zambia and Zimbabwe Trophies

Mr. Sheehan,

I write to urge you to renew...allow...and permit the import of elephant and lion trophies from Zimbabwe and Zambia.

I won't bore you with repeating talking points except to say that the evidence is clear that hunting provides real value to the animal populations...and an income to the countries that can't be replaced by tourism, photography safaris and the like.

Without hunting, anti-poaching will dwindle to an ineffective close as the animals disappear.

Without hunting, the animals in Zambia and Zimbabwe will disappear despite the professional management of the herds as documented for USFWS.

I urge your support and actions to allow import of these trophies and close by thanking you for your consideration.

Eric E. Rau
3583 Massey Ford Rd.
Union, MO 63084
636.239.4748 ext #2, work.

Conversation Contents

Elephant and Lion Imports from Zambia and Zimbabwe

Mary Ann Justus (b) (6)

From: Mary Ann Justus (b) (6) >
Sent: Tue Nov 21 2017 13:10:35 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <(b) (6)@fws.gov>
Subject: Elephant and Lion Imports from Zambia and Zimbabwe

Dear Deputy Director Sheehan, My name is John Justus. I am an avid hunter, but more importantly a conservationist. While people may call me a "murderer" or worse, they cannot deny the value that sustainable hunting brings to the long term health and growth of wildlife populations. Unfortunately, recent decisions to close hunting in various locations throughout the world has not been based on science but rather political pressures from anti-hunting groups who do understand why we hunt or spend the time to understand the role sustainable hunting plays in wildlife conservation. We are now faced with a threat by President Trump to overturn recent rulings by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and ban the import of Elephant and Lions legally taken in Zambia and Zimbabwe. Our hope, as hunters, is that he takes the time to understand the benefits that hunting plays in enhancing the populations of these species. We are confident that if President Trump bases his decision on facts, rather than political pressures, the continued import of these species taken legally will be allowed. A ruling to ban these imports will in effect stop the sustainable hunting and therefore the resulting conservation benefits that hunting provides. Without the revenues flowing back to the communities from hunting, wildlife has no value. The result will be a major decline, if not the elimination of these important species in Zambia, Zimbabwe as well as other African countries. Sincerely, John R. Justus

Conversation Contents

Support of Elephant Trophy Imports from Zimbabwe and Zambia

Attachments:

/58. Support of Elephant Trophy Imports from Zimbabwe and Zambia/1.1 image001.jpg

Anthony Turiello <anthony@rescueair.com>

From: Anthony Turiello <anthony@rescueair.com>
Sent: Tue Nov 21 2017 11:45:10 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Subject: Support of Elephant Trophy Imports from Zimbabwe and Zambia
Attachments: image001.jpg

Dear Deputy Director Greg Sheehan

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 Bulyebe 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.]

MINI-ARGUMENTS REFUTING FALSE FACTS

- There has never been a “ban” on elephant trophy imports from Zimbabwe. A negative enhancement finding was made in April 2014 that “suspended” the import of elephant trophies. The FWS’ negative 2015 enhancement finding stated repeatedly that once additional information was received, the negative finding would be reviewed and reversed (e.g., “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.”) A “ban” suggests a permanent prohibition; a “suspension” is a “temporary abrogation or withholding.” Zimbabwe’s elephant trophy imports were suspended.
- Lifting of the suspension was not a political decision. The decision should have been made in July 2015, when ZPWMA provided extensive additional documentation in response to a FWS questionnaire. The FWS requested “one more piece of information” at the CITES Conference of the Parties in September 2016. That information was provided in November 2016. No further information was needed, or requested. If the FWS had properly prioritized the issuance of elephant import permits—as they told ZPWMA they would at the CITES Conference of the Parties—the positive enhancement finding would have been made and these permits would have issued before the current Administration was in office.
- The import of elephant trophies from Zimbabwe should not have been suspended in the first place. In April 2014, the FWS announced the suspension based on an asserted “lack of information.” In contradiction to CITES Res. Conf. 6.7’s recommendation of notifying and consulting with range states before imposing stricter domestic measures, and the Endangered Species Act’s requirement of “encouraging foreign conservation programs,” 16 U.S.C. § 1537(b), the FWS shut down imports under an April 2014 negative enhancement finding that the FWS later admitted was wrong with respect to Zimbabwe’s elephant population and level of poaching. In fact, the correct estimate for Zimbabwe’s elephant population—almost 83,000—is 16,000 elephant higher than when the last, positive enhancement finding was made in 1997. That estimate is double the size of the elephant populations of Namibia and South Africa put together, yet the FWS maintains positive enhancement findings for the import of elephant trophies from Namibia and South Africa. The trophy import suspension was based on a mistaken concern that Zimbabwe’s elephant population had declined, and the FWS should have admitted the mistake and reversed the suspension immediately. The failure to do so suggests a political motivation, not a scientific one.
- Zimbabwe’s elephant population is not “the worst managed,” but is among the best. That Zimbabwe maintains a stable elephant population of over 83,000, despite a despotic government, poor economy, and exploding human population growth rate, is a testament to the country’s strong management. That number is almost 40% higher than in 1992, when the FWS confirmed the “threatened” listing of elephant, and almost 20% higher than in 1997, when the FWS made a positive enhancement finding authorizing the import of elephant trophies. This is due in part to ZPWMA being a parastatal separate and separately funded from the central government. It is also due to the commitment of Zimbabwe’s citizens to maintaining their elephant, notwithstanding the costs—over 40 rural Zimbabweans were killed by elephant from 2010 to 2015. Zimbabwe’s strong wildlife management is also demonstrated by recent IUCN Red List assessments of lion and giraffe, which indicated increasing populations of these species in Zimbabwe. The evidence demonstrates that Zimbabwe’s wildlife management, not only its elephant management, is succeeding.]
- Zimbabwe’s elephant management is not “poor”; it is state-of-the-art and written by one of the world’s foremost elephant experts. In response to the April 2014 suspension of elephant trophy imports, ZPWMA took to heart the FWS’ criticism that Zimbabwe’s then-current elephant management plan dated to 1997. Although that plan was adaptively implemented and monitored, it was admittedly dated. Zimbabwe immediately began the process of adopting a brand-new, state-of-the-art elephant management plan—basically, to satisfy the FWS. This included a year of stakeholder planning workshops: a preparatory meeting of representatives from Zimbabwe’s community-based natural resources management program, 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) in early 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 region in September 2015. Zimbabwe focused on regional planning because the four regions face different management challenges. Each planning workshop produced a regional elephant management plan that was incorporated into the final. The final document was drafted by a leading elephant scientist, and the process was monitored throughout by the IUCN’s African Elephant Specialist Group.
- Regulated hunting is not poaching. By definition, “regulated” hunting is regulated and lawful. It is carefully monitored by ZPWMA, and offtakes are recorded in a national database. Lawfully hunted ivory tusks are marked to show that they are lawful and note the year of harvest. Moreover, regulated hunting revenues underwrite most anti-poaching expenses in Zimbabwe and the rest of Southern

Africa, either by fees paid to government wildlife authorities that are used for law enforcement, or by operator-funded teams that patrol concessions and keep poachers out. Finally, revenue-sharing and contributions by hunting operators creates conservation incentives for rural communities most affected by wildlife, which disincentivizes poaching. For example, Zimbabwe's CAMPFIRE communities were receiving over \$1.6 million per year in revenues from elephant hunting prior to the import suspension. These funds allow for clinics and schools to be built, teachers' salaries to be paid, boreholes to be drilled, and so on. Hunting operators in Zambia are required to share at least 50% of harvested meat with rural communities. Many tons of meat can come from elephant hunts, to reduce the need and tolerance for bushmeat poaching and protect species in addition to elephant.

- Allowing imports of elephant trophies will not damage the government's efforts to control ivory trafficking. Elephant trophy imports have been authorized for Namibia and South Africa for the past three years, which demonstrates that a country may maintain lawful hunting and low poaching at the same time. In fact, according to the CITES MIKE data, the Southern African countries that depend upon regulated hunting as a conservation tool have the lowest Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephant (PIKE) rates in the world. PIKE, which is used to assess whether poaching levels are unsustainable, has never risen above the sustainability threshold in Southern Africa. PIKE at Zimbabwe's MIKE sites is well below that level. Moreover, national and international law requires the marking of ivory tusks taken as lawful hunting trophies, which clearly and visibly separates these lawful tusks from illegal ones.
- Photographic tourism is not a substitute in most hunting areas. Opponents argue that photographic tourism would be a better option than hunting. It is true that photo-tourism is available in some places; for example, some conservancies in Namibia benefit from photographic tourism revenues alone or a mixture of photo- and hunting tourism. But photo-tourism requires decent infrastructure and scenery, and dense enough wildlife populations to draw tourists. These may not be available in remote areas of a country without access to airports or other activities, and where the wildlife populations are not yet dense enough to ensure a sighting on a two-hour game drive. This is the situation in many CAMPFIRE Areas, where photographic tourism was tried ... and failed. In these areas, without the benefits of hunting, the habitat would be converted to agriculture and livestock. Benefits to the rural community stakeholders are less from photographic tourism than from tourist hunting.

Sincerely

Anthony Turiello
CEO
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"Build a Legacy of Safety"

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Please Allow Elephant/Lion Imports to support conservation of the species

"Oropallo, Michael A." <MOropallo@barclaydamon.com>

From: "Oropallo, Michael A." <MOropallo@barclaydamon.com>
Sent: Tue Nov 21 2017 11:27:39 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "(b) (6)"@fws.gov" <(b) (6)"@fws.gov>
Subject: Please Allow Elephant/Lion Imports to support conservation of the species

- **There has never been a “ban” on elephant trophy imports from Zimbabwe.** A negative enhancement finding was made in April 2014 that “suspended” the import of elephant trophies. The FWS’ negative 2015 enhancement finding stated repeatedly that once additional information was received, the negative finding would be reviewed and reversed (e.g., “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.”) A “ban” suggests a permanent prohibition; a “suspension” is a “temporary abrogation or withholding.” Zimbabwe’s elephant trophy imports were suspended.
- **Lifting of the suspension was not a political decision.** The decision should have been made in July 2015, when ZPWMA provided extensive additional documentation in response to a FWS questionnaire. The FWS requested “one more piece of information” at the CITES Conference of the Parties in September 2016. That information was provided in November 2016. No further information was needed, or requested. If the FWS had properly prioritized the issuance of elephant import permits—as they told ZPWMA they would at the CITES Conference of the Parties—the positive enhancement finding would have been made and these permits would have issued before the current Administration was in office.
- **The import of elephant trophies from Zimbabwe should not have been suspended in the first place.** In April 2014, the FWS announced the suspension based on an asserted “lack of information.” In contradiction to CITES Res. Conf. 6.7’s recommendation of notifying and consulting with range states before imposing stricter domestic measures, and the Endangered Species Act’s requirement of “encouraging foreign conservation programs,” 16 U.S.C. § 1537(b), the FWS shut down imports under an April 2014 negative enhancement finding that the FWS later admitted was wrong with respect to Zimbabwe’s elephant population and level of poaching. In fact, the correct estimate for Zimbabwe’s elephant population—almost 83,000—is 16,000 elephant higher than when the last, positive enhancement finding was made in 1997. That estimate is double the size of the elephant populations of Namibia and South Africa put together, yet the FWS maintains positive enhancement findings for the import of elephant trophies from Namibia and South Africa. The trophy import suspension was based on a mistaken concern that Zimbabwe’s elephant population had declined, and the FWS should have admitted the mistake and reversed the suspension immediately. The failure to do so suggests a political motivation, not a scientific one.
- **Zimbabwe’s elephant population is not “the worst managed,” but is among the best.** That Zimbabwe maintains a stable elephant population of over 83,000, despite a despotic government, poor economy, and exploding human population growth rate, is a testament to the country’s strong management. That number is almost 40% higher than in 1992, when the FWS confirmed the “threatened” listing of elephant, and almost 20% higher than in 1997, when the FWS made a positive enhancement finding authorizing the import of elephant trophies. This is due in part to ZPWMA being a parastatal separate and separately funded from the central government. It is also due to the commitment of Zimbabwe’s citizens to maintaining their elephant, notwithstanding the costs—over 40 rural Zimbabweans were killed by elephant from 2010 to 2015. Zimbabwe’s strong wildlife management is also demonstrated by recent IUCN Red List assessments of lion and giraffe, which indicated increasing populations of these species

in Zimbabwe. The evidence demonstrates that Zimbabwe's wildlife management, not only its elephant management, is succeeding.]

- **Zimbabwe's elephant management is not "poor"; it is state-of-the-art and written by one of the world's foremost elephant experts.** In response to the April 2014 suspension of elephant trophy imports, ZPWMA took to heart the FWS' criticism that Zimbabwe's then-current elephant management plan dated to 1997. Although that plan was adaptively implemented and monitored, it was admittedly dated. Zimbabwe immediately began the process of adopting a brand-new, state-of-the-art elephant management plan—basically, to satisfy the FWS. This included a year of stakeholder planning workshops: a preparatory meeting of representatives from Zimbabwe's community-based natural resources management program, 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) in early 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 region in September 2015. Zimbabwe focused on regional planning because the four regions face different management challenges. Each planning workshop produced a regional elephant management plan that was incorporated into the final. The final document was drafted by a leading elephant scientist, and the process was monitored throughout by the IUCN's African Elephant Specialist Group.
- **Regulated hunting is not poaching.** By definition, "regulated" hunting is regulated and lawful. It is carefully monitored by ZPWMA, and offtakes are recorded in a national database. Lawfully hunted ivory tusks are marked to show that they are lawful and note the year of harvest. Moreover, regulated hunting revenues underwrite most anti-poaching expenses in Zimbabwe and the rest of Southern Africa, either by fees paid to government wildlife authorities that are used for law enforcement, or by operator-funded teams that patrol concessions and keep poachers out. Finally, revenue-sharing and contributions by hunting operators creates conservation incentives for rural communities most affected by wildlife, which disincentivizes poaching. For example, Zimbabwe's CAMPFIRE communities were receiving over \$1.6 million per year in revenues from elephant hunting prior to the import suspension. These funds allow for clinics and schools to be built, teachers' salaries to be paid, boreholes to be drilled, and so on. Hunting operators in Zambia are required to share at least 50% of harvested meat with rural communities. Many tons of meat can come from elephant hunts, to reduce the need and tolerance for bushmeat poaching and protect species in addition to elephant.
- **Allowing imports of elephant trophies will not damage the government's efforts to control ivory trafficking.** Elephant trophy imports have been authorized for Namibia and South Africa for the past three years, which demonstrates that a country may maintain lawful hunting and low poaching at the same time. In fact, according to the CITES MIKE data, the Southern African countries that depend upon regulated hunting as a conservation tool have the lowest Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephant (PIKE) rates in the world. PIKE, which is used to assess whether poaching levels are unsustainable, has never risen above the sustainability threshold in Southern Africa. PIKE at Zimbabwe's MIKE sites is well below that level. Moreover, national and international law requires the marking of ivory tusks taken as lawful hunting trophies, which clearly and visibly separates these lawful tusks from illegal ones.
- **Photographic tourism is not a substitute in most hunting areas.** Opponents argue that photographic tourism would be a better option than hunting. It is true that photo-tourism is available in some places; for example, some conservancies in Namibia benefit from photographic tourism revenues alone or a mixture of photo- and hunting tourism. But photo-tourism requires decent infrastructure and scenery, and dense enough wildlife populations to draw tourists. These may not be available in remote areas of a country without access to airports or other activities, and where the wildlife populations are not yet dense enough to ensure a sighting on a two-hour game drive. This is the situation in many CAMPFIRE Areas, where photographic tourism was tried ... and failed. In these areas, without the benefits of hunting, the habitat would be converted to agriculture and livestock. Benefits to the rural community stakeholders are less from photographic tourism than from tourist hunting.

Partner

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Conversation Contents

Elephant Importation

samuel noble (b) (6) m>

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

Zimbabwe

Attachments:

/62. Zimbabwe/1.1 image001.gif

Chad Arnette <chad.arnette@kellyhart.com>

From: Chad Arnette <chad.arnette@kellyhart.com>
Sent: Tue Nov 21 2017 11:11:53 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "(b) (6)"@fws.gov" <(b) (6)"@fws.gov>, "exsec@ios.doi.gov" <exsec@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Zimbabwe
Attachments: image001.gif

Deputy Director Sheehan and Secretary Zinke:

I, along with other informed sportsman, am dismayed at comments made by President Trump in the last few days regarding the importation of lion and elephant trophies from Zimbabwe. President Trump is clearly uninformed and has been incredibly irresponsible in his commentary. Below are the facts. To the extent President Trump maintains his current, uninformed position, and to the extent the FWS follows suit, he will undoubtedly harm the very wildlife he purports to protect. And he will certainly no longer have my support in any of his endeavors. Thank you for considering the below information.

Chad Arnette
Partner

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Description: Kelly
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TELEPHONE (817) 878-3561
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- 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 Bulyebe 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.]

MINI-ARGUMENTS REFUTING FALSE FACTS

- **There has never been a “ban” on elephant trophy imports from Zimbabwe.** A negative enhancement finding was made in April 2014 that “suspended” the import of elephant trophies. The FWS’ negative 2015 enhancement finding stated repeatedly that once additional information was received, the negative finding would be reviewed and reversed (e.g., “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.”) A “ban” suggests a permanent prohibition; a “suspension” is a “temporary abrogation or withholding.” Zimbabwe’s elephant trophy imports were suspended.
- **Lifting of the suspension was not a political decision.** The decision should have been made in July 2015, when ZPWMA provided extensive additional documentation in response to a FWS questionnaire. The FWS requested “one more piece of information” at the CITES Conference of the Parties in September 2016. That information was provided in November 2016. No further information was needed, or requested. If the FWS had properly prioritized the issuance of elephant import permits—as they told ZPWMA they would at the CITES Conference of the Parties—the positive enhancement finding would have been made and these permits would have issued before the current Administration was in office.
- **The import of elephant trophies from Zimbabwe should not have been suspended in the first place.** In April 2014, the FWS announced the suspension based on an asserted “lack of information.” In contradiction to CITES Res. Conf. 6.7’s recommendation of notifying and consulting with range states before imposing stricter domestic measures, and the Endangered Species Act’s requirement of “encouraging foreign conservation programs,” 16 U.S.C. § 1537(b), the FWS shut down imports under an April 2014 negative enhancement finding that the FWS later admitted was wrong with respect to Zimbabwe’s elephant population and level of poaching. In fact, the correct estimate for Zimbabwe’s elephant population—almost 83,000—is 16,000 elephant higher than when the last, positive enhancement finding was made in 1997. That estimate is double the size of the elephant populations of Namibia and South Africa put together, yet the FWS maintains positive enhancement findings for the import of elephant trophies from Namibia and South Africa. The trophy import suspension was based on a mistaken concern that Zimbabwe’s elephant population had declined, and the FWS should have admitted the mistake and reversed the suspension immediately. The failure to do so suggests a political motivation, not a scientific one.
- **Zimbabwe’s elephant population is not “the worst managed,” but is among the best.** That Zimbabwe maintains a stable elephant population of over 83,000, despite a despotic

government, poor economy, and exploding human population growth rate, is a testament to the country's strong management. That number is almost 40% higher than in 1992, when the FWS confirmed the "threatened" listing of elephant, and almost 20% higher than in 1997, when the FWS made a positive enhancement finding authorizing the import of elephant trophies. This is due in part to ZPWMA being a parastatal separate and separately funded from the central government. It is also due to the commitment of Zimbabwe's citizens to maintaining their elephant, notwithstanding the costs—over 40 rural Zimbabweans were killed by elephant from 2010 to 2015. Zimbabwe's strong wildlife management is also demonstrated by recent IUCN Red List assessments of lion and giraffe, which indicated increasing populations of these species in Zimbabwe. The evidence demonstrates that Zimbabwe's wildlife management, not only its elephant management, is succeeding.]

- **Zimbabwe's elephant management is not "poor"; it is state-of-the-art and written by one of the world's foremost elephant experts.** In response to the April 2014 suspension of elephant trophy imports, ZPWMA took to heart the FWS' criticism that Zimbabwe's then-current elephant management plan dated to 1997. Although that plan was adaptively implemented and monitored, it was admittedly dated. Zimbabwe immediately began the process of adopting a brand-new, state-of-the-art elephant management plan—basically, to satisfy the FWS. This included a year of stakeholder planning workshops: a preparatory meeting of representatives from Zimbabwe's community-based natural resources management program, 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) in early 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 region in September 2015. Zimbabwe focused on regional planning because the four regions face different management challenges. Each planning workshop produced a regional elephant management plan that was incorporated into the final. The final document was drafted by a leading elephant scientist, and the process was monitored throughout by the IUCN's African Elephant Specialist Group.
- **Regulated hunting is not poaching.** By definition, "regulated" hunting is regulated and lawful. It is carefully monitored by ZPWMA, and offtakes are recorded in a national database. Lawfully hunted ivory tusks are marked to show that they are lawful and note the year of harvest. Moreover, regulated hunting revenues underwrite most anti-poaching expenses in Zimbabwe and the rest of Southern Africa, either by fees paid to government wildlife authorities that are used for law enforcement, or by operator-funded teams that patrol concessions and keep poachers out. Finally, revenue-sharing and contributions by hunting operators creates conservation incentives for rural communities most affected by wildlife, which disincentivizes poaching. For example, Zimbabwe's CAMPFIRE communities were receiving over \$1.6 million per year in revenues from elephant hunting prior to the import suspension. These funds allow for clinics and schools to be built, teachers' salaries to be paid, boreholes to be drilled, and so on. Hunting operators in Zambia are required to share at least 50% of harvested meat with rural communities. Many tons of meat can come from elephant hunts, to reduce the need and tolerance for bushmeat poaching and protect species in addition to elephant.
- **Allowing imports of elephant trophies will not damage the government's efforts to control ivory trafficking.** Elephant trophy imports have been authorized for Namibia and South Africa for the past three years, which demonstrates that a country may maintain lawful hunting and low poaching at the same time. In fact, according to the CITES MIKE data, the Southern African countries that depend upon regulated hunting as a conservation tool have the lowest Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephant (PIKE) rates in the world. PIKE, which is used to assess whether poaching levels are unsustainable, has never risen above the sustainability threshold in Southern Africa. PIKE at Zimbabwe's MIKE sites is well below that level. Moreover, national and international law requires the marking of ivory tusks taken as lawful hunting trophies, which clearly and visibly separates these lawful tusks from illegal ones.
- **Photographic tourism is not a substitute in most hunting areas.** Opponents argue that photographic tourism would be a better option than hunting. It is true that photo-tourism is available in some places; for example, some conservancies in Namibia benefit from photographic tourism revenues alone or a mixture of photo- and hunting tourism. But photo-tourism requires decent infrastructure and scenery, and dense enough wildlife populations to draw tourists. These may not be available in remote areas of a country without access to airports or other activities, and where the wildlife populations are not yet dense enough to ensure a sighting on a two-hour game drive. This is the situation in many CAMPFIRE Areas, where photographic tourism was tried ... and failed. In these areas, without the benefits of hunting, the habitat would be converted to agriculture and livestock. Benefits to the rural community stakeholders are less from photographic tourism than from tourist hunting.

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Conversation Contents

FW: Botswana hunting ban study

Attachments:

/108. 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) @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. > >

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Conversation Contents

Fwd: Zambia: resident hunting permit management

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

From: "Bell, Gloria" <gloria_bell@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Dec 18 2017 09:15:55 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6)@fws.gov>, Jim Kurth <jim_kurth@fws.gov>, Stephen Guertin <stephen_guertin@fws.gov>
CC: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, Craig Hoover <craig_hoover@fws.gov>, "Vannorman, Tim" <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Zambia: resident hunting permit management

FYI - Additional info from US Embassy Lusaka on management of wildlife and hunting by Zambia.

Gloria Bell | Acting Assistant Director for International Affairs | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: 1A, Falls Church, Virginia, 22041-3803, USA | 703-358-1767
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Vannorman, Tim <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Date: Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 10:41 AM
Subject: Re: Zambia: resident hunting permit management
To: "Gadd, Michelle" <michelle_gadd@fws.gov>
Cc: Dirck Byler <dirck_byler@fws.gov>, Richard Ruggiero <richard_ruggiero@fws.gov>, Gloria Bell <gloria_bell@fws.gov>, Danielle Kessler <danielle_kessler@fws.gov>, Rosemarie Gnam <rosemarie_gnam@fws.gov>, Pamela Scruggs <pamela_scruggs@fws.gov>, Laura Noguchi <laura_noguchi@fws.gov>, "Hoover, Craig" <craig_hoover@fws.gov>

Thanks Michelle for the update.

It would be good to know if the lack of a resident hunting season this year was due to mismanagement OR unsustainable hunting practices in the past. Two completely different issues.

Tim

On Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 10:28 AM, Gadd, Michelle <michelle_gadd@fws.gov> wrote:
Additional info from US Embassy Lusaka on questionable management of wildlife and hunting by Zambia. -mg

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

From: **Hamlyn, Gunner G** <Hamlyngg@state.gov>

Date: Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 10:22 AM

Subject: RE: Letter from Ministry RE: Elephant hunting

To: "Gadd, Michelle" <michelle_gadd@fws.gov>, "Newcomer, Edward (FWS)" <ed_newcomer@fws.gov>

Cc: "Newcomer, Edward L" <NewcomerEL@state.gov>

Hi all,

One more item I forgot to note – in 2017 DNPW did not open the annual resident hunting season. The last few years saw such a demand that DNPW introduced a lottery system in 2016 because their sustainable hunting quotas of about 1,100 animals (mainly ungulates, monkeys, and warthog) across the country for residents were met with more than 2,000 applications. Some people applied for a 2016 license simply to be able to sell it on to another resident. In past years the season has lasted June to December, however in 2016 mismanagement led to opening the season late in 2016, from October 10 to December 31. DNPW noted to me that the new lottery system alone led to the delay, and offtake was very light as the rains started early last year.

<https://www.daily-mail.co.zm/national-parks-introduces-raffle-selection-for-resident-hunting-licences/>

In the photo, the gentleman squatting on the left is the Ministry of Tourism and Arts public relations officer.

This year DNPW quietly failed to announce resident hunting season at all, and a firearms vendor the RSO office deals with noted that the bottom has fallen out of the resident hunting rifle market as a result. DNPW has not given a reason as to why they never opened the season, however depleted stocks, following an ample rainy season no less, has been given as a guess by one contact. In 2016 for non-resident trophy hunting, the year after a dry rainy season, the only species which had their full quotas met were genets (2 tags) and monitor lizard (1 tag). Out of a total quota for all species of 3,234 non-resident tags, only 1957 were filled by 428 non-residents. That 428 actually includes 81 Zambian residents hunting for trophies, often professional hunters holding tags for client use.

Regardless of the reasons behind it, which I'll verify with DNPW after the new year, the fact remains that through either unsustainability of past hunting practices or mismanagement, resident hunting did not occur this year in Zambia.

Regards,

Gunner Hamlyn

From: Gadd, Michelle [mailto:michelle_gadd@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 3:50 PM
To: Newcomer, Edward (FWS)
Cc: Hamlyn, Gunner G; Newcomer, Edward L
Subject: Re: Letter from Ministry RE: Elephant hunting

Thanks Gunner, very well articulated. Don't know if you've seen Conservation force's year end letter about 'false facts' - I will send it along.

This is helpful. I have sent it to the DMA and DSA and International Deputy Asst. Director. - mg

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 4:40 AM, Newcomer, Ed <ed_newcomer@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi Gunner,

Thanks so much for forwarding this with your comments. Much appreciated. I will share with the FWS Office of Law Enforcement chain of command.

Have a good weekend.

Yours,

Ed

Ed Newcomer

Senior Special Agent

Law Enforcement Attaché for Southern Africa

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Office of Law Enforcement

United States Embassy - Gaborone, Botswana

newcomerel@state.gov

ed_newcomer@fws.gov

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+267-71-367-559 (Botswana Cell)

+1-310-678-4889 (US Cell)

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 1:23 AM, Hamlyn, Gunner G <HamlynGG@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Ed and Michelle,

After the recent media reports regarding the Administration's back-and-forth over elephant trophy importation, Zambia's Ministry of Tourism and Arts Permanent Secretary Liya Mutale sent the Embassy a CC of this letter, which also went to the FWS Director. As we're not sure how that was transmitted, I wanted to ensure you were aware of it. Apologies for not sending it earlier, I've been on home leave and just got back on Sunday.

A little background to consider:

- * Elephant trophy fees to GRZ are \$10,000 each, so the "potential" to have upwards of \$1million in elephant hunting fees is assuming about 100 trophies a year, or a nearly ten-fold increase from offtake in 2017 and above the voluntary quota of 80. It's about three elephants per GMA, which would each have to have tusks over 5 feet and/or over 32lbs.

- * The assertion that import restrictions impacted offtake is possible, though it's also possible there simply aren't enough trophy-quality elephants in GMAs as they are poached out. This year Kafue NP has had 17 elephants poached that GRI is aware of - and it's rare to see an elephant with large tusks in any park as the result of poaching. Similarly for impala, a game rancher once told me that Zambia hasn't had a trophy quality impala for years as they aren't worth raising on ranches and are poached in the wild too easily so never make it to trophy size.

- * DNPW told CRBs this year that they would not be getting community payments this year. It's not in the national budget for next year, either. Hunting outfitters, as with tour operators, often ensure communities see dividends without involving government, but trophy fees rarely make it back to the communities.

- * Game meat is predominately sold for income by rural people, not for local consumption. An estimated 1,100 metric tons annually is produced by rural communities for sale in cities. There is a very high likelihood that the meat from elephants is passed off as bushmeat from any number of animals and sold to middle class families in Lusaka, Ndola, and Livingstone.

If you have any questions, please let me know,

Gunner Hamlyn

--

Gunner Hamlyn

Wildlife Conservation Coordinator

U.S. Embassy Lusaka

HamlynGG@State.gov<mailto:HamlynGG@State.gov>

Ph: +260-211-357-445

Mobile: +260-966-864-001

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Conversation Contents

Re: New RIN assignments

"Patel, Kashyap" <kashyap_patel@fws.gov>

From: "Patel, Kashyap" <kashyap_patel@fws.gov>
Sent: Tue Nov 14 2017 08:59:07 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Craghead, Anissa" <anissa_craghead@fws.gov>
Michael Gale <michael_gale@fws.gov>, Susan Wilkinson
CC: <susan_wilkinson@fws.gov>, Megan Apgar
<megan_apgar@ios.doi.gov>, Jim Kurth <jim_kurth@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: New RIN assignments

Hi Anissa,

I talked to Jim. Go ahead and do whatever needs to be done so we can make the fall agenda. These dates seem to have the least consternation among everyone involved and they don't us from executing even faster than these targeted dates.

Please let us know if anything threatens our ability to publish in the fall agenda.

Thanks so much for looking out for us!
Kashyap

On Tue, Nov 14, 2017 at 7:49 AM, Craghead, Anissa <anissa_craghead@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi, Kashyap. Are the projected publication dates for RINs 1018-BC93, 1018-BC94, and 1018-BC95 settled? I ask because the longer it takes to settle on dates, the greater the chance that these RINs will not appear, or could appear with incorrect information, in the Fall unified agenda.

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Timing of RINS - seeking DO approval

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

From: "Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu Nov 09 2017 15:52:26 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov, Jim Kurth <jim_kurth@fws.gov>, Stephen Guertin <stephen_guertin@fws.gov>
CC: Zachariah Gambill <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov>, Michael Gale <michael_gale@fws.gov>, Kashyap Patel <kashyap_patel@fws.gov>
Subject: Timing of RINS - seeking DO approval

Good afternoon-

At this point, I have the following to suggest to Greg as reasonable timelines, per the ADs:

1018-BC93 (Compatibility Regulations Pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997): **03/00/2018**

1018-BC94 (Revising the Endangered Species Act Section 4(d) Rule for the African Elephant): **04/00/2018**

1018-BC95 (Revising the Endangered Species Act Section 4(d) Rule for the African Lion): **2/00/2017**

These timelines are based on staff work needed (revisions PLUS EAs if necessary) and surname deadlines. As a reminder, we need final dates to put into the system to fully process these RIN requests. Kashyap, please confirm DO-approved dates with Anissa Craighead.

Thanks!
Charisa

--

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

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

From: Greg Sheehan <(b) (6) @fws.gov>
Sent: Sun Nov 12 2017 13:29:27 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Jim Kurth <jim_kurth@fws.gov>, Stephen Guertin <stephen_guertin@fws.gov>, Zachariah Gambill

CC: <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov>, Michael Gale
<michael_gale@fws.gov>, Kashyap Patel
<kashyap_patel@fws.gov>

Subject: Re: Timing of RINS - seeking DO approval

Thanks Charisa

I believe that even with the EA process (if needed) and surname process that we could accelerate these dates by several weeks each.

Please reprioritize these in the workload to identify what can be placed on temporary hold to move these more quickly.

Kashyap please email me achievable revised timelines and anticipated needs for EA work and what that would entail on each.

Thanks

Greg

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

On Nov 9, 2017, at 5:53 PM, Morris, Charisa <charisa_morris@fws.gov> wrote:

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

From: "Gale, Michael" <michael_gale@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 09:31:43 GMT-0700 (MST)

To: Gary Frazer <Gary_Frazer@fws.gov>, Shaun Sanchez <shaun_sanchez@fws.gov>, Cynthia Martinez <cynthia_martinez@fws.gov>, Gina Shultz <Gina_Shultz@fws.gov>, Gloria Bell <Gloria_Bell@fws.gov>, Richard Ruggiero <richard_ruggiero@fws.gov>
CC: Kashyap Patel <kashyap_patel@fws.gov>, Jim Kurth <jim_kurth@fws.gov>, Stephen Guertin <stephen_guertin@fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Timing of RINS - seeking DO approval

Hello ES, Refugees, and IA,

Here is the email chain with Greg's request to adjust the timelines for the latest round of RINS.

Please let Kashyap Patel know of the revised timelines you're working on. We want to be able to provide Jim and Steve this information this week to give to Greg when he returns. It sounds like what makes sense is to have a bulleted timeline of when the product will be drafted, submitted to the Director's Office, and etc. through the process leading up to a targeted publication date.

Thanks,

Michael

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

From: **Greg Sheehan** (b) (6) [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fws.gov>
Date: Sun, Nov 12, 2017 at 3:29 PM
Subject: Re: Timing of RINS - seeking DO approval
To: "Morris, Charisa" <charisa_morris@fws.gov>
Cc: Jim Kurth <jim_kurth@fws.gov>, Stephen Guertin <stephen_guertin@fws.gov>, Zachariah Gambill <zachariah_gambill@fws.gov>, Michael Gale <michael_gale@fws.gov>, Kashyap Patel <kashyap_patel@fws.gov>

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Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
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--

Michael Gale

Deputy Chief of Staff (Acting), Director's Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

202.208.4923 (office)
571.982.2158 (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

Fwd: Revised if-asked media Q&A

Attachments:

/1. 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

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

Trophy hunting TPs

Q. How does the U.S. engage in conservation of African wildlife and wildlife around the world?

A. The U.S. is committed to the conservation of endangered and threatened wildlife globally. We employ a comprehensive strategy that includes scientific monitoring and research, international law enforcement collaboration to eliminate poaching, funding for conservation programs that protect habitat, and support for local in-country education programs.

The U.S. is one of 182 nations (plus the European Union) that is signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), a global treaty that protects species from illegal or unsustainable international trade.

Q. Why do we allow the import of hunted elephants and other iconic species at all?

A. Well managed trophy hunting has been demonstrated as a valuable conservation tool. It can provide much needed funds to stop poaching to supply illegal wildlife trade, protect habitat from deforestation and unregulated grazing practices, and generate millions of dollars to benefit conservation and support local economies. All these benefits help the long-term conservation of elephants and other threatened and endangered animals. Independent organizations such as the Wildlife Society and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) have stated that well-managed hunting can benefit species.

Q. How do you know that hunting in these countries is well managed?

A. In order for U.S. citizens to bring elephant and lion trophies back from these countries into the U.S., we are obligated to determine that the activity enhances the conservation of the species in the wild. These are called enhancement findings and are made by Fish and Wildlife Service biologists. These findings are often made at a national level, based on information provided by the government of that country and other sources documenting that status of the species, population trends, how the species and hunting program is managed, how revenues generated from hunting are put back into conservation, and other relevant information.

Q. Many people have a visceral reaction to hunting lions and elephants. Shouldn't we just stop supporting it altogether?

A. We recognize that some people feel strongly that hunting elephants and lions is unnecessary and incompatible with their values. We do not dismiss those concerns; however, our mission is to conserve species in the long term so that our children and future generations can live on a planet where elephants, lions and other animals still roam. Well-managed trophy hunting programs can help achieve that goal and help combat the real threats to elephants and lions – habitat loss and poaching for the illegal wildlife trade.

Q. The President described trophy hunting as a horror show. Today's decision does little to change that. What does the President think of this decision?

A. [DOI to respond]

Q. What was the President's role in today's decision?

A. The decision to suspend the positive finding for the import of trophy elephants and lions from Zimbabwe was made by Service personnel concerned that the political instability there makes it uncertain whether the Zimbabwe government can implement the conservation and management activities that formed the basis for the decision to allow trophy imports into the U.S. Like the positive findings made initially, this was a scientific decision, not a political one.

Q. Donald Trump Jr. is a trophy hunter. What influence did he/the President have on the original decision to allow elephant trophy imports from Zimbabwe and Zambia?

A. None. This was a decision made solely by Service personnel.

Q. Why did this Administration reverse the Obama-era ban on trophy elephant imports from Zimbabwe to begin with?

A. There was no Obama-era "ban" and it was not reversed. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists periodically review information from nations around the world to determine whether their hunting programs provide conservation benefits to the species that are being hunted. In 2014, the Service did not have sufficient information to demonstrate that Zimbabwe's elephant hunting program enhanced the survival of the species in the wild. As such, imports of elephant trophies were not authorized, as required under U.S. laws, pending subsequent review.

Since we made our negative findings, the country provided information demonstrating that their conservation and management program for elephants was providing a benefit, and so Service biologists were able to make a "positive enhancement finding" for elephants in that country. Unfortunately, between the time that this finding was made and the publication of the finding in the Federal Register, there was a change in the government in Zimbabwe leading to political instability, prompting the Service to suspend that positive finding until such time as we can be certain that the Zimbabwe government is able to carry out the conservation measures that formed the basis of the Service's finding.

Q. Why is the finding only being suspended for Zimbabwe elephants and lions and not Zambian elephants and lions or other species in other countries too?

A. The finding for Zimbabwe was suspended due to political instability there. There has been no change in the governance or wildlife conservation and management programs in any other country, and so no changes are being made to any other findings. We continue to closely monitor the political situation and management activities of other countries to ensure they are carrying out the conservation measures that formed the basis of our positive findings.

Q. How many permits have been issued for Zimbabwe since the finding was made, before it was suspended today? How many are pending? What about Zambia?

A. We have not yet issued any permits since the positive finding was made for Zimbabwe elephants. We have 33 permit applications pending. Other permits have been issued as follows:

Zambia lions: 18 issued; 1 pending

Zambia elephants: 7 issued; 1 pending

Zimbabwe lions: 19 issued; 5 pending

The vast majority of these permits apply to hunts that have already taken place.

Q. What is the elephant population/trend in Africa? Zimbabwe? Zambia?

A. According to the IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group, overall, the African elephant population has been declining, almost exclusively due to commercial poaching to supply the illegal ivory trade. Most of these losses have been in Tanzania and Central Africa. The Zambia elephant population was estimated at 18,000 in 1989, 25,000 in 2002; 26,400 +/- 4400 in 2008; and 21,760 +/- 4523 in 2014.

The Zimbabwe elephant population was estimated at 99,107, with 84,416 classified as definite in 2007; 100,291, with only 47,366 classified as definite in 2012; and 82,630 +/- 8,589 in 2016.

Q. Why is there no public process for enhancement findings?

A. The enhancement findings are made as part of the review of permit applications received by the Service and is based on information from applicants and the country where the proposed activity would take place. We verify that information, but there is no requirement for public input in this process. Enhancement findings are made for dozens of species from dozens of countries for a variety of reasons, including hunting, scientific research, museums, etc.

Q. At the same time that the Service made a negative finding for elephants hunted in Zimbabwe in 2014 and 2015, it also made a negative finding for elephants from Tanzania. Is a revised finding likely to be forthcoming for Tanzania any time soon?

A. We are currently reviewing information provided by Tanzania and expect to make a finding in coming weeks.

Conversation Contents

Fwd: AWCF Final Agenda

Attachments:

/2. Fwd: AWCF Final Agenda/1.1 image001.png

/2. Fwd: AWCF Final Agenda/1.2 AWCF 2017_Agenda_13November2017_FINAL.pdf

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

From: "Vannorman, Tim" <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 08:09:59 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov
CC: Samuel Friberg <samuel_friberg@fws.gov>, SveomHK@state.gov
Subject: Fwd: AWCF Final Agenda
Attachments: image001.png AWCF
2017_Agenda_13November2017_FINAL.pdf

All,

Attached is the final agenda for the meeting.

Greg - I made an off-hand comment to the organizers about the possibility of FWS giving a presentation about the ESA, but did not hear back on that offer UNTIL seeing the agenda. They have scheduled a presentation tomorrow morning on the ESA. I have a powerpoint ready that we can give if you are willing. I am fine with doing most of the presentation. I will e-mail it to you.

If you are comfortable with us giving the presentation, we can move forward. If you would like to cancel it, I will let the organizers know.

Tim

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

From: Goergen, Joseph <jgoergen@safariclub.org>

Date: Mon, Nov 13, 2017 at 9:36 AM

Subject: AWCF Final Agenda

To: "fredrick.ligate@mnrt.go.tz" <fredrick.ligate@mnrt.go.tz>, (b) (6)
(b) (6), "malan.lindique@met.gov.na" <malan.lindique@met.gov.na>,
(b) (6), (b) (6), "fmangwanyanya@zimparks.org.zw"
<fmangwanyanya@zimparks.org.zw>, (b) (6), (b) (6),
(b) (6), (b) (6), "mtjiane@environment.gov.za"
<mtjiane@environment.gov.za>, "okumalo@environment.gov.za"
<okumalo@environment.gov.za>, (b) (6), (b) (6),
(b) (6), (b) (6), "danene@arugamelodges.com"
<danene@arugamelodges.com>, (b) (6), (b) (6),
(b) (6), "ceo@tahao.org" <ceo@tahao.org>, "president@phasa.co.za" <president@phasa.co.za>,
(b) (6), "contact@gametrails.ug" <contact@gametrails.ug>, (b) (6),
(b) (6), (b) (6), (b) (6)

"efundira@makuti.co.zw" <efundira@makuti.co.zw>, "rosenfels@yoafrica.com" <rosenfels@yoafrica.com>, (b) (6) Phil Minnaar <phil@bwana-game.com>, "i.belant@msstate.edu" <i.belant@msstate.edu>, (b) (6) "<(b) (6)>.", (b) (6) <cjong(b) (6)> (b) (6) "maxi@nacso.org.na" <maxi@nacso.org.na>, "mike@dmstz.com" <mike@dmstz.com>, (b) (6) (b) (6) >, Marco Pani <(b) (6)>, "salome.gasabile@nuruagency.com" <salome.gasabile@nuruagency.com>, "cfoley@wcs.org" <cfoley@wcs.org>, "julian.blanc@unep.org" <julian.blanc@unep.org>, (b) (6) (b) (6) >, "gerald.bigurube@fzs.org" <gerald.bigurube@fzs.org>, "hdulle@mwekawildlife.ac.tz" <hdulle@mwekawildlife.ac.tz>, (b) (6) "p.chardonnet@fondation-igf.fr" <p.chardonnet@fondation-igf.fr>, (b) (6) (b) (6) "warbingt@ualberta.ca" <warbingt@ualberta.ca>, "tim_vannorman@fws.gov" <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, "michel.allard@friedkintz.com" <michel.allard@friedkintz.com>, "alm@cats-nets.co.tz" <alm@cats-nets.co.tz>, Geofreys Matipano <gmatipano@zimparks.org.zw>
Cc: "Sackman, Warren" (b) (6) "Maki, Alan" (b) (6) Matthew Lewis <mlewis@safariclub.org>, George Pangeti (b) (6), John Boretsky <jboretsky@spinn.net>, Helen Angelides <helen@dmstz.com>

Dear AWCF Attendees,

Attached please find the final agenda for the 15th AWCF meeting this week, as tentatively approved in plenary today. Please forward this agenda to your colleagues who may not be copied here. I apologize I do not have everyone's email address. A limited number of hard copies will also be printed.

If you have a presentation, please forward me the file or I can assist with uploading it to a flash drive. Thank you.

First for Wildlife,

Joe

Joseph Goergen

Conservation & Research Program Coordinator

Safari Club International Foundation

501 2nd St. NE

Washington, DC 20002

[\(202\) 609-8171](tel:2026098171) | jgoergen@safariclub.org



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

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



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

From: Greg Sheehan (b) (6) @fws.gov
Sent: Mon Nov 13 2017 10:51:35 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Vannorman, Tim" <tim_vannorman@fws.gov>
CC: Samuel Friberg <samuel_friberg@fws.gov>, "SveomHK@state.gov" <SveomHK@state.gov>
Subject: Re: AWCF Final Agenda

Tim. I just landed. I would like to go over the presentation with you before it is given. I should be in my hotel room in 90 minutes or so. Let's meet then. Thanks Greg
Greg Sheehan Principal Deputy Director US Fish and Wildlife Service 202-208-4545 office 202-676-7675 cell > On Nov 13, 2017, at 6:10 PM, Vannorman, Tim <tim_vannorman@fws.gov> wrote: > > All, > > Attached is the final agenda for the meeting. > > Greg - I made an off-hand comment to the organizers about the possibility > of FWS giving a presentation about the ESA, but did not hear back on that > offer UNTIL seeing the agenda. They have scheduled a presentation tomorrow > morning on the ESA. I have a powerpoint ready that we can give if you are > willing. I am fine with doing most of the presentation. I will e-mail it > to you. > > If you are comfortable with us giving the presentation, we can move > forward. If you would like to cancel it, I will let the organizers know. > > Tim > > ----- Forwarded message ----- > From: Goergen, Joseph <jgoergen@safariclub.org> > Date: Mon, Nov 13, 2017 at 9:36 AM > Subject: AWCF Final Agenda > To: "fredrick.ligate@mnrt.go.tz" <fredrick.ligate@mnrt.go.tz>, " > (b) (6) (b) (6) >, "malan.lindique@met.gov.na" < > malan.lindique@met.gov.na>, "(b) (6) >, >

"fmanqwanya@zimparks.org.zw" <fmanqwanya@zimparks.org.zw>, " >

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"mtjiane@environment.gov.za" <> mtjiane@environment.gov.za>.

"okumalo@environment.gov.za" <> okumalo@environment.gov.za>, (b) (6)

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"danene@arugamelodges.com" <> danene@arugamelodges.com>, (b) (6)

(b) (6), " > ceo@tahao.org" <ceo@tahao.org>, "president@phasa.co.za" <

> president@phasa.co.za>, "contact@gametrails.ug" <contact@gametrails.ug>, " >

(b) (6)

(b) (6) >, "efundira@makuti.co.zw" <efundira@makuti.co.zw>, " >

rosenfels@yoafrica.com" <rosenfels@yoafrica.com>, (b) (6) " >

(b) (6), Phil Minnaar <phil@bwana-game.com>, " >

j.belant@msstate.edu" <j.belant@msstate.edu>, (b) (6) <>

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

, "maxi@nacso.org.na" <> maxi@nacso.org.na>.

"mike@dmstz.com" <mike@dmstz.com>, (b) (6) " >

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salome.gasabile@nuruagency.com" <salome.gasabile@nuruagency.com>, " > cfoley@wcs.org"

<cfoley@wcs.org>, "julian.blanc@unep.org" <> julian. (b) (6)

(b) (6) > "gerald.bigurube@fzs.org"

<gerald.bigurube@fzs.org>, " > hdulle@mwekawildlife.ac.tz" <hdulle@mwekawildlife.ac.tz>, " >

(b) (6) > p.chardonnet@fondation-igf.fr"

<p.chardonnet@fondation-igf.fr>, " > (b) (6)

(b) (6)

"warbingt@ualberta.ca" <> warbingt@ualberta.ca>, "tim_vannorman@fws.gov"

<tim_vannorman@fws.gov>, " > michel.allard@friedkintz.com" <michel.allard@friedkintz.com>.

" > alm@cats-nets.co.tz" <alm@cats-nets.co.tz>, Geofreys Matipano <>

gmatipano@zimparks.org.zw> > Cc: "Sackman, Warren" (b) (6) "Maki,

Alan" <> (b) (6), Matthew Lewis <mlewis@safariclub.org>, George Pangeti <>

(b) (6) >, John Boretsky <jboretsky@spinn.net>, Helen Angelides <>

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drive. Thank you. > > > First for Wildlife, > > Joe > > > *Joseph Goergen* > > Conservation

& Research Program Coordinator > > Safari Club International Foundation > > 501 2nd St. NE >

> Washington, DC 20002 > > (202) 609-8171 | jgoergen@safariclub.org > > > > > > -- >

Timothy J. Van Norman, Chief > Branch of Permits > Division of Management Authority > U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service > (703) 358-2350 > > > *Sign up > > for > our e-newsletter to learn

how we're working around the globe to protect > species and their habitats!* > >

Sunday 12 November

1500 Registration
1900 Dinner at Hotel

Monday 13 November

0900 Government Meetings
Moderator: SCI Foundation Africa Coordinator
National and Multilateral Issues
Finalize AWCF Agenda
0900 PH Association Business Meeting
Moderator: OPHAA Chair, SCI Guides & Outfitters Liaison
1230 Lunch
1330 Report Back
1600 Private Meetings TBD
1700 Welcoming Reception
1900 Dinner at Hotel

Tuesday 14 November

0900 **Session 1: Official Opening**
Moderator: SCI Foundation Africa Coordinator
Permanent Secretary of Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism
SCI Foundation President
SCI Foundation Conservation Chairman

Review of 2015 Action Items
Approval of Minutes from the 15th AWCF in South Africa
Approval of Agenda
OPHAA Meeting Report

1015 Break



1030 **Session 2: International Policy**

Moderator: SCI Foundation Africa Coordinator

Presentation:

United States Endangered Species Act

Acting Director, United States Fish & Wildlife Service

Group Discussion

1230 Lunch

1330 **Session 3: African Lion Symposium – Tanzania**

Moderator: SCI Foundation Africa Coordinator

Presentation:

Tanzania Lion Project

Director, Carnivore Ecology Laboratory, Mississippi State University

Director, Serengeti Wildlife Research Center, TAWIRI

Lion Hunting in Tanzania: Analysis between 2011 and 2017

Principal Wildlife Officer CITES, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism

Director, IGF Foundation

Panel Discussion – Tanzania

1515 Break

1530 **Session 4: African Lion Symposium – Country Reports (Government, PH)**

Moderator: SCI Foundation Africa Coordinator

Presentation:

Zimbabwe Non-Detriment Finding

Wildlife Management Consultant

Cameroon

Congo

Ethiopia

Mozambique

Namibia

South Africa

Tanzania

Uganda

Zambia

Zimbabwe

Group Discussion: Implementation of Research

1700 Close Day

1900 Dinner (Tables Grouped by Country)



Wednesday 15 November

0900 Session 5: African Leopard Symposium – Country Reports

Moderator: SCI Foundation Africa Coordinator

Presentation:

Tanzania Leopard Project

WCS Tanzania, TAWIRI

Zambia Non-Detriment Finding

Wildlife Management Consultant

Cameroon

Congo

Ethiopia

1015 Break

1030 Session 6: African Leopard Symposium – Country Reports

Moderator: SCI Foundation Africa Coordinator

Presentation:

Mozambique

Namibia

South Africa

Uganda

Zambia

Zimbabwe

Group Discussion: Implementation of Research

1230 Lunch

1330 Session 7: International Policy

Moderator: SCI Foundation Africa Coordinator

Presentation:

Sustainable Use and International Conventions: CITES and CMS

Director of Conservation, SCI Foundation, with CMS and CITES Parties

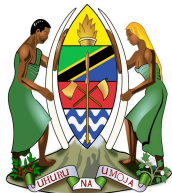
Panel Discussion

1515 Break

1530 Session 8: Hunting & Conservation

Moderator: SCI Foundation Africa Coordinator

Presentation:



The Conservation Equation: Economic Contributions of Hunting-Related Tourism in Eastern and Southern Africa

Director of Conservation, SCI Foundation

International Conservation Coalition (Crucial to Conservation/C2C)

Guides & Outfitters Liaison, SCI

Marketing/Promotion of Conservation and Socio-Economic Benefits of Hunting

Namibia

Tanzania

Panel Discussion

1700 Close Day

1900 Dinner

Thursday 16 November

0900 Session 9: Communities & Livelihoods

Moderator: SCI Foundation Africa Coordinator

Presentation:

Namibia Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Policy

NACSO

Community Based Conservation in Tanzania

CWMA

Zimbabwe Human-Wildlife Conflict Management and Community Benefits

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, CAMPFIRE

Country Reports on Human-Wildlife Conflict

Cameroon

Congo

Ethiopia

1015 Break

1030 Session 10: Communities & Livelihoods

Moderator: SCI Foundation Africa Coordinator

Presentation:

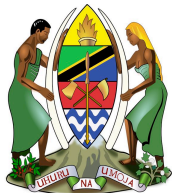
Country Reports on Human-Wildlife Conflict

Mozambique

South Africa

Tanzania

Uganda



Zambia
Panel Discussion
Conservation Futures
United Nations Environment
Selous Game Reserve Anti-Poaching Project
College of African Wildlife Management Mweka

1230 Lunch

1330 **Session 11: Country Reports – Other**

Moderator: SCI Foundation Africa Coordinator

Presentation:

Cameroon
Congo
Ethiopia
Mozambique
Namibia

1515 Break

1530 **Session 12: Country Reports**

Moderator: SCI Foundation Africa Coordinator

Presentation:

South Africa
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

1700 Close Day

1900 Dinner

Friday 17 November

0800 **Session 13: Other Research and Presentations**

Moderator: SCI Foundation Africa Coordinator

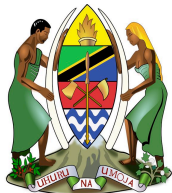
Presentation:

Uganda Sitatunga Project

University of Alberta

Tanzania Ruaha Buffalo Project

Ruaha National Park, Sokoine University of Agriculture



1000 Session 14: Closing Business

Review of New Action Items

Vote of Thanks

16th AWCF Host Country

Closing Remarks, SCI Convention Invitation

1200 Optional Field Trip: Arusha National Park

Travel



Conversation Contents

SCI Request for Meeting About International Issues

Attachments:

/22. SCI Request for Meeting About International Issues/1.1 Letter Requesting Meeting.docx

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

From: "Seidman, Anna" <aseidman@safariclub.org>
Sent: Wed Jun 21 2017 11:09:43 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Gregory_sheehan@fws.gov" <Gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>
Subject: SCI Request for Meeting About International Issues
Attachments: Letter Requesting Meeting.docx

June 19, 2017 Gregory Sheehan Deputy Director U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service U.S. Department of the Interior 1849 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20240 Dear Director Sheehan: SCI congratulates you on your appointment as Deputy Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We are extremely pleased that Secretary Zinke has appointed an SCI member to this position as well as an individual who has knowledge and experience with international hunting and conservation issues. In the previous administration, the FWS made several decisions and rules that undermine wildlife conservation and that interfere with the sustainable use-conservation of key African species. For example, the previous administration imposed importation bans on legally hunted African elephants from Zimbabwe and Tanzania and de facto bans on legally hunted African lions by imposing importation permit requirements for all range countries and then issuing no permits for all but one country. Through these methods, the previous administration manipulated its limited ESA authority over foreign species in order to impose U.S. wildlife management controls over foreign wildlife management authorities. If possible, we would like to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss ways that SCI can assist the FWS in promptly addressing and remedying these and other international hunting and importation matters. Please let me know if we could schedule a meeting sometime during the week of June 26th. Thank you and I look forward to continuing to work with you on these and so many issues of importance to the hunting and wildlife conservation community. Sincerely, Anna M. Seidman Director of Government Affairs Director of Litigation Safari Club International cc. Secretary Ryan Zinke 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.



June 19, 2017

Gregory Sheehan
Deputy Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Sheehan:

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Anna M. Seidman
Director of Government Affairs
Director of Litigation
Safari Club International

cc. Secretary Ryan Zinke

Conversation Contents

drafts for Secretary briefing

Attachments:

/21. drafts for Secretary briefing/1.1 Inf memo lion and elephant hunting 7-10-17 rev.docx
/21. drafts for Secretary briefing/1.2 Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager.docx
/21. drafts for Secretary briefing/7.1 Lion and Elephant ESA Listings 1-pager public.docx
/21. 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,

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
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

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

<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

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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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"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

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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:

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

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Craig Hoover
Chief, Division of Management Authority
International Affairs
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5275 Leesburg Pike
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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:
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