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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

John Jackson Recognized with International Statesman Award

Gray Thornton, President, Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF)

John J. Jackson, III redirected and wholly dedicated his life as a lawyer, writer, hunter and conservationist nearly four decades ago and has become one of the foremost champions of hunting and conservation through hunting around the world. This award recognizes his unequalled service and leadership to the hunting community in all corners of the globe. He is the man.

John is the past recipient of our *Excellence in Advocacy of Our Hunting Heritage Award*, 2002, for his "untiring support of our hunting heritage...effective at all political levels...worldwide." John is an international leader without narrow partisanship. He is founder and chairman of Conservation Force which gives counsel to a consortium of over 200 organizations which it serves to further our sporting way of life and wildlife and wild places. Conservation Force proactively advances or solves dozens of issues of importance every year.

John broadcasts that "sportsmen are the force" and he sees to it that we are recognized as the foremost conservationists. He has represented countries such as Mongolia and Namibia, and organizations from IPHA to the Inuvialuit Game Council in petitions, comments and litigation. He has served for over a decade on the Executive Council of the International Council of Game and Wildlife (CIC) in Budapest and as the President of its Commission on Sustainable Use; for two decades on the Board of the International Foundation for the Conservation of Wildlife (IGF) in Paris. He has long served on crucial specialist groups of IUCN in Gland, such as the Deer Specialist Group and the Antelope Specialist Group with Conservation Force initiatives from Thailand to Zambia. In the USA he is a life member of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, the Wildlife Management Institute and founding member of the AWCP. Conservation Force is a CITES International Observer and John has participated in its Conferences of the Parties, working groups and committees for nearly two decades. His species projects are as diverse as polar bear to elephant, African lion to argali and markhor. He is the recognized expert on the bio-political issues that affect them all.

He spearheaded the defeat of the proposal to list all ural on Appendix I of CITES and the defeat of the petition to list all Baja Peninsula sheep as endangered on the ESA. He inter-

vened on behalf of WSF to defeat the suit to list all argali as endangered that would have stopped their importation forever. He established the importation of Kashmir markhor and is in U.S. District Court challenging the denial of trophy imports of the renowned Suleiman markhor in the Torghar Project of Pakistan - on WSF's behalf, I might add. This past year alone he has obtained the release of hundreds of hunting trophies that had been detained or seized for ever increasing reasons. He is fighting for us and makes no apologies.

The reach of this superhero is worldwide. He helped found the concept of sustainable use, championed and helped coin "conservation hunting," personally authored the diplomatic CITES Resolutions facilitating export-import of hunting trophies and initiated the "enhancement strategy" under the ESA. Night and day he is championing our causes around the globe. He and his wife Chrissie are life members of WSF.

Jackson was recognized for his exceptional work with the International Statesman Award Wednesday evening February 3, 2010 during the WSF Opening Ceremonies/Exhibitor Welcome Banquet.

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Theodore Roosevelt Hunter-Conservationist – An Illustrated Biography

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About the Boone and Crockett Club: Founded by Theodore Roosevelt in 1887, the Boone and Crockett Club promotes guardianship and visionary management of big game and associated wildlife in North America. The Club maintains the highest standards of fair-chase sportsmanship and habitat stewardship. Member accomplishments include protecting Yellowstone and establishing Glacier and Denali national parks, founding the National Forest Service, National Park Service and National Wildlife Refuge System, fostering the Pittman-Robertson and Lacey Acts, creating the Federal Duck Stamp program, and developing the cornerstones of modern game laws. The Boone and Crockett Club is headquartered in Missoula, Mont. For details, visit www.booneandcrockettclub.com.

Zimbabwe's Environment Under Serious Threat

Delegation of the European Commission to Zimbabwe (Nov. 2009)

This note focuses on the serious current threat to the environment in Zimbabwe. The country's natural heritage is a world asset. Urgent action is needed if irreversible damage is to be avoided. This is a matter not only of national but of international concern. The current dramatic onslaught on the Zimbabwe rhino is testimony of a very serious situation. Zimbabwe is known worldwide for its natural heritage. The country has been, in the past, at the forefront of developing good practices in the area of wildlife management. It has been demonstrated that wildlife exploitation, in its various forms, is the best economic option for large parts of the country due to their arid or semi-arid nature. The natural heritage of Zimbabwe should be a main driver of the country's strategy to achieve accelerated economic growth. Zimbabwe's natural assets could provide a basis for the country's sustainable development. These resources, until recently, constituted the foundation for economic growth in the country, through agriculture, the transformation industries based on agricultural products, mining exports and tourism as well as professional hunting. They are today in critical danger, with serious and far reaching negative consequences, especially for rural communities which are more sensitive to the depletion of the country's natural resources.



The fast track land reform programme as was implemented has been a main reason for the Zimbabwe's agricultural and economic collapse, and for the related uncontrolled exploitation of the country's natural resources. Small holder farmers, both from communal and resettled areas, have been forced to use all the available resources at their disposal in an unsustainable manner. The negative impact of the resulting degradation is escalating so rapidly that social, economic and environmental resilience is becoming more and more difficult and costly to maintain.

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African Indaba eNewsletter

Editor & Publisher: Gerhard R Damm

Postal Address: PO Box 411, Rivonia 2128, South Africa

Email: gerhard@muskwa.co.za

Phone +27-(0)11-883-2299, Fax +27-(0)11-784-2074

WEB: <http://www.africanindaba.co.za/>

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Zimbabwe's Environment Under Serious Threat

From an environmental point of view, many specialists argue that a point of no-return is rapidly approaching. Degradation would then become irreversible and the natural capital irretrievably lost. Zimbabwe would lose any opportunity to regain its key advantage as regards to tourism. The magnitude of the crisis calls for immediate action, before a social and environmental catastrophe becomes an irreversible reality.

Since the proper use of natural resources is crucial in relation to sustainable development and poverty reduction, all Zimbabweans must seek to reverse current trends in the depletion of their national assets, and support economic recovery through improved natural resource and environmental management. The new political dispensation in place in Zimbabwe, since February 2009, as a result of the signing of the Global Political Agreement, offers an opportunity to do just that. There is a danger, however, that appropriate resource management policies will be neglected and not recognized as essential in the current economic and political context. But once lost, there will be no going back and many recovery opportunities will disappear forever.

This is particularly true for the wildlife population as can be seen from the eradication of wildlife in many other African countries. Their disappearance, as presently happening to the rhino population in Zimbabwe, will limit the recovery opportunities in general; and, more specifically, will undermine the tourism sector, which was recently of major economic importance accounting for about 10% of the GDP, as well as providing a major source of forex revenue. It is even sadder, considering that Zimbabwe was at the forefront of wildlife management and integration of local communities in the benefits of that industry.



One particularity, and strength, of Zimbabwe is the existence of private wildlife conservancies. They account for 2% of the national territory, but have significant economic potential. Today, conservancies are being badly damaged, as has been the case with the commercial farms. But the consequences of their destruction could be even more significant, due to the irreversibility of environmental degradation.

This need not be the case. Zimbabwe could still regain

its place in the forefront of the countries seriously committed to protecting their natural assets and making the best economic use of them. But time is running out as environmental degradation becomes impossible to reverse.

It is of crucial importance that all Zimbabweans unite to address these concerns. It is also essential that the international community mobilizes itself to establish a substantive dialogue with the Zimbabwean Government on such matters. The international community should encourage the adoption of policies designed to protect Zimbabwe's environment and begin a meaningful and concrete dialogue with the international community on these issues.

Background information on trends in the state of the environment in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe benefits from significant natural resources, such as large potential agricultural areas, important mining opportunities, exceptional wildlife, fisheries and forest resources. These natural resources, which were at the heart of the country's development, are being overused, and severely misused. In particular:

- The population of Zimbabwe has doubled in the last 30 years (from 6 to 12 million) and almost 70% of the population live in rural areas and depend on land and its resources (soil, water, wood, forests, wildlife) for their food security and livelihood;
- A large portion of the land (approx 60%) is subject to recurrent droughts and under constant risk of desertification. The climate change problems are not improving that situation;
- Deforestation is increasing dramatically because of the opening of new agricultural land following the land reform and because of the crumbling economy as a result of which firewood has become the number one source of energy (cooking, heating and lighting and more recently to dry tobacco). FAO estimates that, from 1990 to 2005, 30% of wooden land (10 million Ha) has been lost;
- There are between 300,000 and 500,000 seasonal and uncontrolled gold panners (unemployed men, women and children), with subsequent land, river and forests degradation. More recently, this has also taken place in the diamond fields;
- Poaching of wildlife is now uncontrolled and the animals are fast disappearing. Rhino conservation is an example of a key species representing the trend in wildlife population management. Following an efficient management plan, the extremely endangered rhino population of the 80s saw a strong increase in numbers in the late 90s. Thereafter, rhino numbers have been declining again, due to an intensification of country-wide poaching, particularly over the past three years 2006-2008 and now into 2009. It is estimated that at least 100 rhinos are killed every year. If this trend continues, the rhino population will disappear in a few years and with it its specific attraction for tourism.

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- Private wildlife conservancies are under serious threat through the indigenization process in a final push to acquire all land in the country. Compulsory partnership will not lead to any improvement in their management and will further limit the tourism recovery of the country, as it is especially dependant on wildlife. In addition, forced indigenization will not promote foreign investment, which is a priority of the GNU.
- Soil depletion is a major problem all over the country both in intensive commercial farming where "conventional tillage practices lead to soil structure deterioration, loss of nutrients and erosion" and "in the smallholder sector where continuous nutrient mining with little or no mineral or organic fertilizer application has exacerbated soil fertility decline". FAO surveys show that erosion hazard is medium to high in 40% of the soils.
- While the country as a whole cannot be considered as an arid one, arid and semi-arid regions are largely present in the southern and western portions of the country. As a consequence, water shortages both for domestic consumption and for agriculture are widespread in rural and urban areas. The unavailability of reliable sources for domestic water has particularly increased the vulnerability of rural communities. The majority of rural communities rank "water" as their main problem. The scarcity of water has dramatic consequences in term of environmental hygiene and public health (dysentery, diarrhea, cholera, intestinal infections diseases). Water and Sanitation problems have seriously increased in urban areas due to the rapid urban population growth, the sharp decline in public water supply and in the sewage systems for lack of resources and maintenance.

Conservationists Label Zimbabwe Poaching Epicenter

Global environmental and wildlife watchdogs have named Zimbabwe and South Africa as the epicenter of poaching of the endangered rhino in Southern Africa. In their latest joint report released last week, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization – and wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC said since 2006 95 percent of the poaching in Africa has occurred in Zimbabwe and South Africa.

"These two nations collectively form the epicenter of an unrelenting poaching crisis in southern Africa," said Tom Milliken

of TRAFFIC, an organization that works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature. The report, which has been submitted to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) ahead of its 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15) in March, documents a decline in law enforcement effectiveness and an increase in poaching intensity in Africa.

"The situation is most serious in Zimbabwe where rhino numbers are now declining and the conviction rate for rhino crimes in Zimbabwe is only three percent," the report said. "Despite the introduction of a number of new measures, poaching and illicit horn trade in South Africa has also increased," it said, adding that the trade is being driven by Asian demand for horns and is made worse by increasingly sophisticated poachers, who now are using veterinary drugs, poison, cross bows and high caliber weapons to kill rhinos.

Most rhino horns leaving southern Africa are destined for medicinal markets in southeast and east Asia, especially Vietnam, and also China. The report highlights Vietnam as a country of particular concern – noting that Vietnamese nationals operating in South Africa have recently been identified in rhino crime investigations. Zimbabwe and South Africa are two of four countries in the world that still have significant rhino populations. The other two, all in Africa, are Kenya and Namibia. The report comes at a time when Zimbabwe has suspended wildlife hunting licenses as the country has lost 250 rhinos to poachers over the past three years. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife last week issued a statement warning permit holders currently on hunting sessions to stop hunting with immediate effect so that their permits can be verified.

Wildlife authorities in the country have found it hard to contain poaching in national parks especially after landless villagers began invading – with the government's tacit approval – white-owned farms in 2000. There have also been widespread reports of illegal and uncontrolled trophy hunting on former white-owned conservancies now controlled by powerful politicians from President Robert Mugabe's ZANU PF party.

The government however denies that politicians are illegally hunting game and insists it still has poaching under control. Among other things IUCN works on biodiversity and greening the world economy by supporting scientific research and bringing governments and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice.

The Zimbabwean Wildlife Authorities office declared regarding the status of hunting for the 2009 and 2010 seasons: *"We advise that the suspension was solely for the purpose of verifying the authenticity of the permits. There have been several allegation of illegal hunts taking place in the country using forged permits. This may result in clients not being able to export their trophies from Zimbabwe which in turn may discredit hunting in the country. As a result it was felt prudent that all permits used for hunting this season should have their authenticity verified, hence this exercise. In addition this exercise would put the Authority in a position where it can confidently comment on the legality or illegality of the hunts. All illegal hunts will then*

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