HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE OF SPORT HUNTING IN MEXICO

Ing. Trinidad Benavides
President
• México Independence from Spain in 1810 after more than 300 years of domination
• First constitution by Guadalupe Victoria, first president of Mexico
• No regulations for flora and fauna
Don Benito Juárez in 1857 proclaimed the leyes de Reforma in which mainly the political power of the catholic church was removed but did not consider any regulations for the use of flora and fauna.
In 1917 as a result of the Mexican revolution Don Venustiano Carranza urged the congress to develop the 3rd Mexican constitution.

- Article 27 states that the republic is the owner of land and water and the state has the right to transfer the dominium of these resources to create private property or ejidos.
In 1940 and because of the initiative of hunters (businessman and politicians), the first Sport Hunting Federal Law was approved.

“All wildlife species in the Mexican territory are property of the nation”. Additionally it prohibited the commercialization of live fauna and wildlife products or subproducts of hunting, as well as exportation of sport hunting trophies.
Landowners were not considered at all in the hunting law.

Wildlife had no economic value for ranchers and therefore the extinction of game animals began in Mexico.
In 1985 because of the initiative of a group of hunters that were aware of the declining of the wildlife populations the Fauna National Council was created.

The main game species were concessioned to the Fauna National Council including White-tailed deer, mule deer, wild turkey, brockett deer, among others.
The government began with a pilot plan and concessioned the management and use of bighorn sheep to the Fauna National Council. As historic record Safari Club International auctioned a bighorn sheep hunt in Baja California for $250,000 US.

Fauna National Council, made the same mistake that the Sport Hunting Federal, landowners were not considered at all, poor ranchers and ejidatarios were illegally selling hunts and the wildlife populations continue declining.

The Fauna National Council was dissolved after the failure.
About 1984 US hunters discovered the quality of white-tailed deer trophies in northern Mexico offering ranch owners a payment to allow sport hunting in their ranches, however, they requested the hunting permits that only the Mexican government (SEDUE) was able to issue.
Mr. Joel Benavides Garcia, president of the Livestock Association of Nuevo Laredo-Guerrero Tamps., from 1984-1986 was unable to get the hunting permits for the members and he decided to form a special association to group all the ranchers interested in wildlife management and sport hunting.

Asociacion Nacional de Ganaderos Diversificados y Criadores de Fauna

National Association of Diversified Landowners and Wildlife Breeders
ANGADI was constituted in May 1987 to fight for the rights of landowners of the states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon and Coahuila against the Fauna National Council that wanted to get the concession for the management of White-tailed deer subspecies texanus.
The formation of ANGADI had two main objectives at the beginning:

- To avoid that the Fauna National Council would obtain the consession from the government to the management and use of the Texanus white-tailed deer.

- To obtain the legal right for the landowners to use in a sustainable manner the wildlife present in their lands.

- ANGADI worked with congress to pass the Ley General del Equilibrio Ecológico y Protección al Ambiente (General Law for Ecological Equilibrium and Environmental Protection), in which several articles were included to allow landowners to use wildlife in activities like sport hunting.
At the end of the formation of ANGADI land owners were able to stop the declining trend of the white-tailed deer population, mainly because they started to be able to obtain an income from the wildlife in their properties.

ANGADI:
Use all resources of their properties in a sustainable maner to benefit rural families and to promote the conservation of the resources.
Mr. Joel Benavides in 1988 negotiated the right of ANGADI to obtain the hunting permits for the landowners members of ANGADI, and ranchers made the commitment to survey their ranches to demonstrate the federal government the white-tailed deer populations were large and healthy enough to be hunted.
In 1998 ANGADI negotiated with the Mexican government to develop the Ley General de Vida Silvestre (Wildlife General Law), the law was passed in the year 2000, in this law the government conferred landowners the right to use all the wildlife resources in their properties in a sustainable manner.
With a new General Wildlife Law, reactions were very diverse:

- Mexican hunters did not want to pay ranchers for hunts, and many would come to USA and Africa to hunt.

- As time passed they learned that if they wanted to hunt in Mexico they were going to have to pay.
• ANGADI was formed 13 years ago, and at some point they had 3500 US hunters in a hunting season.

• White-tailed deer hunting income was about 7 million dollar which was higher than the 4 million dollar of income obtained by the exportation of cattle (stockers) from Mexico to USA.
Between 2010 and 2012, in a period of 3 years 85% of the hunters from USA were lost.
After 2012 the perception of the criminality has been changing, and in a way criminals respect and practice sport hunting!

Last season ANGADI had 700 US hunters and 1800 Mexican hunters.
December 1st, Mexico will have a new president, Andrés Manuel Lopez Obrador.

Many changes are expected to occur and since the Morena party has the majority in the congress they will be able to approve many laws, however, no big changes are expected in the laws concerning to wildlife management.
It has been a long way since the time landowners had no rights on the wildlife on their properties, sport hunting has been a way to make cattle ranches more profitable, at the same time wildlife conservation has become a need and an objective since is a very important factor affecting ranch profitability.
Independantly of the country, the right to use wildlife for sport hunting, should be conferred to landowneres, when there is an economical value for a resource, conservation is a product.
XXIX CONVENCION NACIONAL DE GANADERIA DIVERSIFICADA
“ING. JOEL BENAVIDES GARCIA”

5-6 de Noviembre de 2017

ANGADI