

## ABOUT US

The International Fund for Animal Welfare supports the vision of animals and people thriving together in the places we all call home. We use fresh thinking and bold action to innovate solutions for tough conservation challenges including human-wildlife conflicts and illegal wildlife trafficking. Recognizing the unbreakable link between animals and human wellbeing, we support and engage with communities, learn from them, and when necessary, empower them to coexist with and value native wildlife and companion animals; we also help communities develop tools to protect their natural heritage.

Founded in 1969, IFAW has provided more than 50 years of global leadership, innovation and hands-on assistance to animals and communities in need. IFAW has 15 offices globally and works in more than 40 countries around the world to rescue individual animals, safeguard populations, preserve habitat, and advocate for a better future.

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### BIG CAT PUBLIC SAFETY ACT (H.R. 263/S. 1210)

SPONSORS: REPS. MIKE QUIGLEY (D-IL) AND BRIAN FITZPATRICK (R-PA); SENS. RICHARD BLUMENTHAL (D-CT), SUSAN COLLINS (R-ME), THOMAS CARPER (D-DE) AND RICHARD BURR (R-NC)

The Big Cat Public Safety Act amends the Captive Wildlife Safety Act to prohibit future possession and breeding of lions, tigers, leopards and other big cats for the exotic "pet" trade and for use in direct contact displays. Although these wild felines are extremely dangerous, they may legally be kept as pets in much of the U.S., and they are speed-bred for use as photo props at pay-to-play exhibits. The Big Cat Public Safety Act has been endorsed by first responders, zoo leaders, animal care and control agencies, medical professionals, conservation experts and wildlife sanctuaries, as the bill represents an opportunity to protect animals and people alike.

*Point of Contact: Carson Barylak ([cbarylak@ifaw.org](mailto:cbarylak@ifaw.org))*

### SAVE RIGHT WHALES ACT

The SAVE Right Whales Act, would establish a new grant program to fund collaborative projects between states, nongovernmental organizations, and members of the fishing and shipping industries to reduce the impacts of human activities on North Atlantic right whales. There are currently fewer than 360 right whales, making the need to take action absolutely imperative. This bill would support projects designed to reduce the threats of fishing gear entanglement and vessel strikes to North Atlantic right whales by authorizing \$5 million annually for 10 years. The act would help prevent further depletion of a critically endangered species by identifying and targeting specific areas of human activity that cause harm.

*Point of Contact: CT Harry ([charry@ifaw.org](mailto:charry@ifaw.org))*

### MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND SEMIPOSTAL STAMP REAUTHORIZATION ACT (S. 521)

SPONSORS: SENS. ROB PORTMAN (R-OH) AND THOMAS CARPER (D-DE)

The Save Vanishing Species Semipostal stamp, or Tiger Stamp, gives every American the opportunity to easily and effectively contribute to the Multinational Species Conservation Fund (MSCF), supporting programs that protect imperiled tigers, rhinos, great apes, turtles, tortoises and elephants. These popular stamps cost postal customers just a few cents more than a regular first-class stamp and have raised over \$6 million for critical conservation programs around the globe. Unfortunately, while millions of stamps still remain from the original printing, the US Postal Service (USPS) has sometimes refused to sell them. The MSCF Semipostal Stamp Reauthorization Act would require USPS to make Tiger Stamps available to postal customers as long as stock remains—a win for iconic and beloved species as well as consumers.

*Point of Contact: Kate Wall ([kwall@ifaw.org](mailto:kwall@ifaw.org))*

### CRITICALLY ENDANGERED ANIMALS CONSERVATION ACT (H.R. 1569)

SPONSORS: REPS. JARED HUFFMAN (D-CA) AND VERN BUCHANAN (R-FL)

We are in the midst of an extinction crisis that has significant implications not only for wild species, but for humanity as well. In addition to intrinsic value, native wildlife is a fundamental contributor to the healthy ecosystems on which we all depend for our own health and well-being. As we lose wild species, ecosystems will not be able to support our needs. The Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Act (CEACA) would reestablish the Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Fund (CEACF) within the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The CEACF program is designed to conserve animals who are threatened or endangered in the wild. CEACF provides support for imperiled species like snow leopards, African penguins, and countless others that desperately need active help to prevent further loss in the wild, but do not receive support through the Multinational Species Conservation Fund.

*Point of Contact: Kate Wall ([kwall@ifaw.org](mailto:kwall@ifaw.org))*

### TROPICAL FOREST AND CORAL REEF CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT (H.R. S. 241/S. 335)

SPONSORS: REPS. STEVE CHABOT (R-OH) AND BRAD SHERMAN (D-CA); SENS. ROB PORTMAN (R-OH) AND CHRIS COONS (D-DE)

Tropical forests and coral reefs are home to many unique plants and animals, and play a critical role in sustaining biodiversity and fighting climate change. Unfortunately, they are under threat from resource extraction, pollution, and illegal trafficking activities, especially in developing countries that may not have the resources to protect these vulnerable habitats. The Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization

Act (TFCRCA) would reauthorize a program that allows the United States to help protect fragile and important reef and forest ecosystems using innovative debt-for-nature swaps, providing debt relief to developing nations that meet certain criteria in exchange for critical actions to safeguard these global treasures.

*Point of Contact: Kate Wall (kwall@ifaw.org)*

### CANYON'S LAW

Canyon's Law would ban certain lethal wildlife poisoning devices, including M-44 "cyanide bombs." These baited sodium cyanide ejectors regularly poison nontarget species including imperiled wild animals, dogs and other pets, and even people. Despite these devastating impacts on both humans and animals, USDA-Wildlife Services continues to place these deadly, indiscriminate devices across the US, ignoring glaring public safety risks and lack of scientific support for the practice. It is critically important that Congress ban the use of M-44s in order to safeguard people, pets, and wildlife nationwide.

*Point of Contact: Carson Barylak (cbarylak@ifaw.org)*

### PREVENTING FUTURE PANDEMICS ACT (H.R. 151/ S.37)

**SPONSORS: REPS. MIKE QUIGLEY (D-IL) AND FRED UPTON (R-MI); SENS. JOHN CORNYN (R-TX) AND CORY BOOKER (D-NJ)**

The bipartisan Preventing Future Pandemics Act (PFPA) would protect against future pandemics of zoonotic origin by cracking down on the conditions and behaviors that cause pathogens to spill over from wild animals into human populations. This forward-looking legislation would provide US global leadership to close markets where live wild animals are sold for consumption as food or medicine, and provide support for communities to transition to safe and sustainable food sources. Domestically, the bill would prohibit the import, export, and sale of live wild animals for food and medicine, demonstrating by example that the U.S. is committed to protecting global health.

*Point of Contact: Kate Wall (kwall@ifaw.org)*

### WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND CROSSINGS

The Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act would ensure native wildlife, including fish and plants, can adapt and thrive in changing conditions by establishing National Wildlife Corridors on federal, state, tribal, and volunteered private lands. Fragmentation of habitat is a significant threat to wildlife across the United States, and can result in major species declines. The Act would implement strategies that allow wildlife to move between protected areas, facilitating migration and food access while mitigating conflict with humans. The Act supports healthy native wildlife populations that in turn support healthy ecosystems and promote human health and wellbeing. It will be reintroduced shortly in both the House and Senate. Similarly, wildlife crossings – structures that allow wild animals to move over or under roads without the danger of collisions with vehicles – are a critical component of movement corridors, and also protect human safety. Wildlife vehicle collisions (WVCs) cost the U.S. roughly \$8 billion annually, and cause serious injuries and loss of life. IFAW has worked with champions in the Senate to secure \$350 million for wildlife crossing structures in their surface transportation bill, and is working with House to provide similar funding.

*Point of Contact: Kate Wall (kwall@ifaw.org)*

### Bedrock Conservation Laws

The United States has long been an international leader in conservation, with strong laws in place to protect native wildlife and habitats. These laws – the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – are the bedrock of US conservation policy. They not only protect iconic species like North Atlantic right whales, bald eagles, tigers, and elephants, they are fundamental to healthy ecosystems. Human activities have led to an alarming rate of biodiversity loss and changing landscapes, which can in turn threaten national security, economic security, and human health. IFAW supports maintaining existing bedrock conservation laws, and building upon these policies by investing in environmental safeguards and conservation innovations that will ensure American wellbeing and security, and create jobs and prosperity for the citizens of today and for many future generations.

*Point of Contact: Kate Wall (kwall@ifaw.org)*

### Appropriations

Funding for conservation and wildlife protection is more critical than ever. A recent report by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) warns that as many as one million species are at risk of extinction in the coming decades. Biodiversity loss is a significant conservation issue, but it also feeds food insecurity and poverty, and can contribute to political unrest. Robust conservation funding is necessary to ensure the healthy systems we all need to survive and thrive.

*Point of Contact: Kate Wall (kwall@ifaw.org)*

