

Protect Endangered Species and Threatened Species from Trophy Hunters

*Become an Original Cosponsor of the **Prohibiting Threatened and Endangered Creature Trophies (ProTECT) Act of 2018***

Supported by: The Humane Society Legislative Fund and Born Free USA

We invite you to join us as an original cosponsor of the Prohibiting Threatened and Endangered Creature Trophies Act of 2018 (“ProTECT Act”), which we will soon introduce. The ProTECT Act will amend the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 to prohibit the taking of any endangered species or threatened species of wildlife or fish in the United States as a trophy and the importation of any such trophy into the United States.

The conservation of rare and threatened species is critically important to the sustainability of our ecosystem and the beauty of wildlife as we know it. It is appalling and shameful when vulnerable species are abused, killed, and exterminated. It is a disgrace that the death of Cecil the lion was committed by an American—with his lack of respect for this wondrous creature and the preservation of our wildlife, reverberating across the world. We implore you to help bring greater awareness and protection to these beautiful and vital populations that are often taken for granted.

Under President Obama, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) published a final rule revising the African Elephant rule under section 4(d) of the ESA. The rule prohibited the export and import of African elephant ivory with exceptions and limited the number of sport-hunted African elephant trophies imported into the United States. The Trump Administration lifted this near-complete ban earlier this year. In an internal [memo](#) dated in March, USFWS indicated it would review importation permits on a case by case basis.

The African Elephant is still listed as a threatened species under the ESA, and now more than ever, it is imperative that the U.S. lead the charge in disincentivizing the demand for elephant ivory. The ProTECT Act would remedy this ill-advised directive by making it unlawful for any person to bring endangered species of wildlife or fish into the United States as a trophy. Additionally, this bill would require any person seeking to import one of these species as a trophy to submit documentation to the customs officer for review. Lastly, it stands to note that the term “trophy” means any fish or wildlife taken for sport or procurement of a souvenir. The aforementioned points have been asserted in order to ensure that all acts of senseless and perilous trophy killings are prohibited under the Prohibiting Threatened and Endangered Creature Trophies Act of 2018.

We invite you to join us in cosponsoring this important legislation. To sign on as an original cosponsor, please contact Isabela Belchior (Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee) at Isabela.Belchior@mail.house.gov, or Julian Sham (Rep. Ted Lieu) at Julian.Sham@mail.house.gov.

Very truly yours,

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

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