

Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000

H.R.4320

One Hundred Sixth Congress
of the
United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday,
the twenty-fourth day of January, two thousand

An Act

To assist in the conservation of great apes by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of countries within the range of great apes and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of great apes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000'.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS- Congress finds that--

(1) great ape populations have declined to the point that the long-term survival of the species in the wild is in serious jeopardy;

(2) the chimpanzee, gorilla, bonobo, orangutan, and gibbon are listed as endangered species under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533) and under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (27 UST 1087; TIAS 8249);

(3) because the challenges facing the conservation of great apes are so immense, the resources available to date have not been sufficient to cope with the continued loss of habitat due to human encroachment and logging and the consequent diminution of great ape populations;

(4) because great apes are flagship species for the conservation of the tropical forest habitats in which they are found, conservation of great apes provides benefits to numerous other species of wildlife, including many other endangered species;

(5) among the threats to great apes, in addition to habitat loss, are population fragmentation, hunting for the bushmeat trade, live capture, and exposure to emerging or introduced diseases;

(6) great apes are important components of the ecosystems they inhabit, and studies of their wild populations have provided important biological insights;

(7) although subsistence hunting of tropical forest animals has occurred for hundreds of years at a sustainable level, the tremendous increase in the commercial trade of tropical forest species is detrimental to the future of these species; and

(8) the reduction, removal, or other effective addressing of the threats to the long-term viability of populations of great apes in the wild will require the joint commitment and effort of countries that have within their boundaries any part of the range of great apes, the United States and other countries, and the private sector.

(b) PURPOSES- The purposes of this Act are--

(1) to sustain viable populations of great apes in the wild; and

(2) to assist in the conservation and protection of great apes by supporting conservation programs of countries in which populations of great apes are located and by supporting the CITES Secretariat.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CITES- The term 'CITES' means the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, done at Washington March 3, 1973 (27 UST 1087; TIAS 8249), including its appendices.

(2) CONSERVATION- The term 'conservation'--

(A) means the use of methods and procedures necessary to prevent the diminution of, and to sustain viable populations of, a species; and

(B) includes all activities associated with wildlife management, such as--

(i) conservation, protection, restoration, acquisition, and management of habitat;

(ii) in-situ research and monitoring of populations and habitats;

(iii) assistance in the development, implementation, and improvement of management plans for managed habitat ranges;

- (iv) enforcement and implementation of CITES;
- (v) enforcement and implementation of domestic laws relating to resource management;
- (vi) development and operation of sanctuaries for members of a species rescued from the illegal trade in live animals;
- (vii) training of local law enforcement officials in the interdiction and prevention of the illegal killing of great apes;
- (viii) programs for the rehabilitation of members of a species in the wild and release of the members into the wild in ways which do not threaten existing wildlife populations by causing displacement or the introduction of disease;
- (ix) conflict resolution initiatives;
- (x) community outreach and education; and
- (xi) strengthening the capacity of local communities to implement conservation programs.

(3) **FUND-** The term `Fund' means the Great Ape Conservation Fund established by section 5.

(4) **GREAT APE-** The term `great ape' means a chimpanzee, gorilla, bonobo, orangutan, or gibbon.

(5) **MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND-** The term `Multinational Species Conservation Fund' means such fund as established in title I of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999, under the heading `MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND'.

(6) **SECRETARY-** The term `Secretary' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 4. GREAT APE CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL-** Subject to the availability of funds and in consultation with other appropriate Federal officials, the Secretary shall use amounts in the Fund to provide financial assistance for projects for the conservation of great apes for which project proposals are approved by the Secretary in accordance with this section.

(b) **PROJECT PROPOSALS-**

(1) **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS-** A proposal for a project for the conservation of great apes may be submitted to the Secretary by--

(A) any wildlife management authority of a country that has within its boundaries any part of the range of a great ape if the activities of the authority directly or indirectly affect a great ape population;

(B) the CITES Secretariat; or

(C) any person or group with the demonstrated expertise required for the conservation of great apes.

(2) REQUIRED ELEMENTS- A project proposal shall include--

(A) a concise statement of the purposes of the project;

(B) the name of the individual responsible for conducting the project;

(C) a description of the qualifications of the individuals who will conduct the project;

(D) a concise description of--

(i) methods for project implementation and outcome assessment;

(ii) staff and community management for the project; and

(iii) the logistics of the project;

(E) an estimate of the funds and time required to complete the project;

(F) evidence of support for the project by appropriate governmental entities of the countries in which the project will be conducted, if the Secretary determines that such support is required for the success of the project;

(G) information regarding the source and amount of matching funding available for the project; and

(H) any other information that the Secretary considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligibility of the project for funding under this Act.

(c) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL-

(1) IN GENERAL- The Secretary shall--

(A) not later than 30 days after receiving a project proposal, provide a copy of the proposal to other appropriate Federal officials; and

(B) review each project proposal in a timely manner to determine if the proposal meets the criteria specified in subsection (d).

(2) CONSULTATION; APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL- Not later than 180 days after receiving a project proposal, and subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary, after consulting with other appropriate Federal officials, shall--

(A) consult on the proposal with the government of each country in which the project is to be conducted;

(B) after taking into consideration any comments resulting from the consultation, approve or disapprove the proposal; and

(C) provide written notification of the approval or disapproval to the person who submitted the proposal, other appropriate Federal officials, and each country described in subparagraph (A).

(d) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL- The Secretary may approve a project proposal under this section if the project will enhance programs for conservation of great apes by assisting efforts to--

(1) implement conservation programs;

(2) address the conflicts between humans and great apes that arise from competition for the same habitat;

(3) enhance compliance with CITES and other applicable laws that prohibit or regulate the taking or trade of great apes or regulate the use and management of great ape habitat;

(4) develop sound scientific information on, or methods for monitoring--

(A) the condition and health of great ape habitat;

(B) great ape population numbers and trends; or

(C) the current and projected threats to the habitat, current and projected numbers, or current and projected trends; or

(5) promote cooperative projects on the issues described in paragraph (4) among government entities, affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, or other persons in the private sector.

(e) PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY- To the maximum extent practicable, in determining whether to approve project proposals under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to conservation projects that are designed to ensure effective, long-term conservation of great apes and their habitats.

(f) MATCHING FUNDS- In determining whether to approve project proposals under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to projects for which matching funds are available.

(g) PROJECT REPORTING-

(1) IN GENERAL- Each person that receives assistance under this section for a project shall submit to the Secretary periodic reports (at such intervals as the Secretary considers necessary) that include all information that the Secretary, after consultation with other appropriate government officials, determines is necessary to evaluate the progress and success of the project for the purposes of ensuring positive results, assessing problems, and fostering improvements.

(2) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC- Reports under paragraph (1), and any other documents relating to projects for which financial assistance is provided under this Act, shall be made available to the public.

(h) LIMITATIONS ON USE FOR CAPTIVE BREEDING- Amounts provided as a grant under this Act--

(1) may not be used for captive breeding of great apes other than for captive breeding for release into the wild; and

(2) may be used for captive breeding of a species for release into the wild only if no other conservation method for the species is biologically feasible.

(i) PANEL- Every 2 years, the Secretary shall convene a panel of experts to identify the greatest needs for the conservation of great apes.

SEC. 5. GREAT APE CONSERVATION FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT- There is established in the Multinational Species Conservation Fund a separate account to be known as the 'Great Ape Conservation Fund', consisting of--

(1) amounts transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit into the Fund under subsection (e);

(2) amounts appropriated to the Fund under section 6; and

(3) any interest earned on investment of amounts in the Fund under subsection (c).

(b) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND-

(1) IN GENERAL- Subject to paragraph (2), upon request by the Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the Fund to the Secretary, without further

appropriation, such amounts as the Secretary determines are necessary to provide assistance under section 4.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES- Of the amounts in the account available for each fiscal year, the Secretary may expand not more than 3 percent, or up to \$80,000, whichever is greater, to pay the administrative expenses necessary to carry out this Act.

(c) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS-

(1) IN GENERAL- The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest such portion of the Fund as is not, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury, required to meet current withdrawals. Investments may be made only in interest-bearing obligations of the United States.

(2) ACQUISITION OF OBLIGATIONS- For the purpose of investments under paragraph (1), obligations may be acquired--

(A) on original issue at the issue price; or

(B) by purchase of outstanding obligations at the market price.

(3) SALE OF OBLIGATIONS- Any obligation acquired by the Fund may be sold by the Secretary of the Treasury at the market price.

(4) CREDITS TO FUND- The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Fund shall be credited to and form a part of the Fund.

(d) TRANSFERS OF AMOUNTS-

(1) IN GENERAL- The amounts required to be transferred to the Fund under this section shall be transferred at least monthly from the general fund of the Treasury to the Fund on the basis of estimates made by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(2) ADJUSTMENTS- Proper adjustment shall be made in amounts subsequently transferred to the extent prior estimates were in excess of or less than the amounts required to be transferred.

(e) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATIONS- The Secretary may accept and use donations to provide assistance under section 4. Amounts received by the Secretary in the form of donations shall be transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit into the Fund.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2005.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Vice President of the United States and

President of the Senate.

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