

Global Anti-Poaching Act (H.R. 2494)

SECTION-BY-SECTION SUMMARY

Section 1. Short Title. This section provides that the short title of this Act is the ‘Global Anti-Poaching Act.’

Section 2. Findings. This section recognizes that poaching and wildlife trafficking are now among the most lucrative criminal activities worldwide. It also highlights that an increased number of rebel groups and terrorist organizations, including the Lord’s Resistance Army and al-Shabaab, either participate in or receive funding from illicit wildlife trafficking.

Section 3. Expansion of Wildlife Enforcement Networks. Wildlife enforcement networks are government-led, regionally-focused platforms that help participating countries strengthen coordination and share relevant case information and intelligence on illicit wildlife activities. This section urges the Secretary of State, the Administrator of USAID, the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Services, and heads of other appropriate agencies, to support the strengthening of existing wildlife enforcement networks, and the establishment of new networks where appropriate.

Section 4. Supporting the Professionalization of the Wildlife Law Enforcement Sector. This section urges the Secretary of State, the Administrator of USAID, the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and heads of other appropriate agencies to support the professionalization of the wildlife law enforcement sector and ranger training in partner countries.

Section 5. Designation of Major Wildlife Trafficking Countries and Authority to Withhold Certain Assistance. This section requires the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce, to provide Congress with an annual list of foreign countries that are determined to be a major source, transit point, or consumer of trafficked wildlife products and creates a special designation for those countries that have “failed demonstrably” in adhering to international agreements related to endangered or threatened species. The Secretary of State is further authorized to withhold certain assistance from countries that have received this special designation.

Section 6. Sense of Congress Regarding Security Assistance to Counter Wildlife Trafficking and Poaching in Africa. This section expresses that it is the sense of Congress that the United States should continue to provide defense articles (not including significant military equipment), defense services, and related training to appropriate African security forces for the purposes of countering wildlife trafficking and poaching.

Section 7. Updates to the Fishermen’s Protective Act of 1967. The Fisherman’s Protective Act of 1967, commonly referred as the “Pelly Amendment,” requires the Secretary of Commerce or the Secretary of Interior to certify to the President whenever a foreign country is engaged in trade that diminishes the effectiveness of an international program for endangered or threatened species. This section formally includes the Secretary of State in the certification process under the Pelly Amendment , and requires the Secretaries of Commerce or Interior to report any certifications to Congress.

Section 8. Wildlife Trafficking Violations as Predicate Offenses Under Criminal Statutes. This section makes wildlife trafficking a predicate offense for money laundering and racketeering, and requires, to the extent practicable, any fines, forfeitures, and restitutions received in violation of the new statute be applied to existing Federal funds for conservation or anti-poaching purposes.

Section 9. Other Actions Relating to Wildlife Trafficking Programs. This section expresses that it is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State should dedicate sufficient programs resources to conduct monitoring and evaluation of wildlife trafficking programs.