

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4182

To require the President to declare the global wildlife extinction crisis a national emergency under the National Emergencies Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2021

Ms. NEWMAN (for herself, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. JONES, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. TLAIB) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the President to declare the global wildlife extinction crisis a national emergency under the National Emergencies Act, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Extinction Crisis
5 Emergency Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The world is in the midst of a global wildlife
2 extinction crisis.

3 (2) The extinction rate today is 1,000 times
4 greater than the natural background rates estab-
5 lished over millions of years.

6 (3) Wildlife and plant populations are rapidly
7 declining, with 1,000,000 species facing extinction in
8 the coming decades due to threats of habitat loss,
9 climate change, wildlife exploitation, pollution and
10 other human activities.

11 (4) Unlike past mass-extinction events, the cur-
12 rent sixth mass extinction is a problem entirely
13 caused by human-driven forces.

14 (5) The drivers of the global wildlife extinction
15 crisis will also degrade the life-support systems of
16 societies around the world, including water purifi-
17 cation, oxygen production, carbon sequestration, and
18 disease regulation.

19 (6) Stopping the extinction crisis and restoring
20 abundant wildlife populations will require strong im-
21 plementation of the Endangered Species Act and
22 other wildlife laws including the Migratory Bird
23 Treaty Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act.

24 (7) The global wildlife extinction crisis and the
25 destruction of the planet's natural life-support sys-

1 tems represents a fundamental threat to humanity
 2 and constitutes an emergency of the highest order.

3 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY DECLARATION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
 5 date of enactment of this Act, the President shall declare
 6 a national emergency under section 201 of the National
 7 Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621) with respect to the
 8 wildlife extinction crisis.

9 (b) RESPONSE.—In responding to the national emer-
 10 gency declared pursuant to subsection (a), the President
 11 shall—

12 (1) direct the Secretary of Interior, through the
 13 United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the
 14 Secretary of Commerce, through the National Ma-
 15 rine Fisheries Service (as applicable), to—

16 (A) move rapidly to—

17 (i) review all species within the United
 18 States that are identified as—

19 (I) critically imperiled by
 20 NatureServe; or

21 (II) critically endangered, endan-
 22 gered, or vulnerable by the Inter-
 23 national Union for the Conservation
 24 of Nature; and

1 (ii) to use all authorities to propose
2 and finalize protections for all species that
3 may warrant protection under the Endan-
4 gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
5 1531 et seq.);

6 (B) establish new national wildlife refuges
7 and new marine protected areas pursuant to the
8 authority granted in—

9 (i) National Wildlife Refuge System
10 Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C.
11 668dd et seq.);

12 (ii) sections 320301 through 320303
13 of title 54, United States Code; and

14 (iii) the National Marine Sanctuary
15 Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.);

16 (C) pursuant to the section 8(a)(3) of the
17 Fishermen’s Protective Act (22 U.S.C.
18 1978(a)(3)), the Secretary of Commerce or the
19 Secretary of the Interior shall—

20 (i) after accepting public comment,
21 conduct annual reviews of every nation’s
22 compliance with any international fishery
23 conservation program or international pro-
24 gram for endangered or threatened species,
25 including the Convention on International

1 Trade in Endangered Species of Wild
2 Fauna and Flora (27 UST 1087; TIAS
3 8249), and publish a Federal Register no-
4 tice identifying each nation violating one or
5 more international fishery conservation
6 program or international program for en-
7 dangered or threatened species;

8 (ii)(I) for any such nations identified,
9 if the Secretary of Commerce or Secretary
10 of Interior finds that significant efforts are
11 being made to come into compliance but
12 additional resources or capacity are need-
13 ed, provide financial aid, capacity building
14 or technology transfers, and a set a com-
15 pliance schedule of less than 3 years that,
16 if not met, will result in certification under
17 subclause (II);

18 (II) unless subclause (I) applies, cer-
19 tify that such nation is violating an inter-
20 national fishery conservation program or
21 international program for endangered or
22 threatened species; and

23 (iii) no later than 90 days after a cer-
24 tification is made, impose trade penalties
25 unless the President objects;

1 (2) enlist all Federal agencies to help fight the
2 wildlife extinction crisis by directing each Federal
3 agency to—

4 (A) prioritize the recovery of endangered
5 species and rebuild healthy wildlife and plant
6 populations by developing and finalizing, not
7 later than 12 months after the date of enact-
8 ment of this Act, proactive conservation pro-
9 grams pursuant to section 7(a)(1) of the En-
10 dangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(1)),
11 that advance the conservation of endangered
12 species and help restore declining wildlife and
13 plants;

14 (B) work with the United States Fish and
15 Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fish-
16 eries Service to identify and protect, not later
17 than 12 months after the date of enactment of
18 this Act, all lands within their respective juris-
19 dictions that may meet the statutory require-
20 ments of critical habitat pursuant to section
21 4(a)(3)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of
22 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533(a)(3)(B)), and to man-
23 age those lands primarily for the recovery of en-
24 dangered species; and

1 (C) fully integrate climate change concerns
2 into the conservation and recovery of endan-
3 gered species, including in all aspects of domes-
4 tic and international conservation laws and
5 treaties; and

6 (3) direct the Department of Defense to
7 prioritize the protection of endangered species and
8 rare habitats on United States military installations
9 around the world.

10 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
11 of enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter, the
12 President shall submit to Congress a report describing ac-
13 tions taken in response to the national emergency declared
14 pursuant to subsection (a).

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