

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2026

To assist in the conservation of highly endangered amphibian species in foreign countries, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 2021

Mr. JEFFRIES (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. HUFFMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To assist in the conservation of highly endangered amphibian species in foreign countries, 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 “Global Amphibian Pro-
5 tection Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) CONVENTION.—The term “Convention”
9 means the Convention on International Trade in En-

1 dangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (27
2 U.S.C. 1087; 8249).

3 (2) CONSERVATION.—The term “conservation”
4 means the protection and restoration of species and
5 the habitat of such species.

6 (3) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the High-
7 ly Endangered Amphibians Conservation Fund es-
8 tablished by section 5.

9 (4) HIGHLY ENDANGERED AMPHIBIAN SPE-
10 CIES.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “highly en-
12 dangered amphibian species” means—

13 (i) any amphibian species categorized
14 on the International Union Conservation of
15 Nature Red List of Threatened Species as
16 either Endangered or Critically Endan-
17 gered; and

18 (ii) any other amphibian species cat-
19 egorized on the International Union Con-
20 servation of Nature Red List of Threat-
21 ened Species as Data Deficient or under a
22 threat category lower than Endangered if
23 the Secretary determines that—

24 (I) the most recent International
25 Union Conservation of Nature Red

1 List assessment indicates that the
2 population is decreasing; or

3 (II) such species is facing new or
4 emerging threats.

5 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “highly en-
6 dangered amphibian species” includes—

7 (i) live specimens, at all lifecycle
8 stages, of species described in subpara-
9 graph (A);

10 (ii) dead specimens, or parts or prod-
11 ucts thereof, of such species.

12 (5) MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION
13 FUND.—The term “Multinational Species Conserva-
14 tion Fund” means the fund established under the
15 heading “multinational species conservation fund” in
16 title I of the Department of the Interior and Related
17 Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (16 U.S.C.
18 4246).

19 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
20 the Secretary of the Interior.

21 **SEC. 3. HIGHLY ENDANGERED AMPHIBIAN SPECIES ASSIST-**
22 **ANCE.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—In consultation with other Fed-
24 eral officials, the Secretary shall use amounts in the Fund
25 to carry out a competitive grant program to provide finan-

1 cial assistance for the conservation of highly endangered
2 amphibian species.

3 (b) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—

4 (1) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—A proposal for a
5 grant under subsection (a) may be submitted to the
6 Secretary by—

7 (A) any wildlife management authority of
8 a foreign country that has within its boundaries
9 natural habitat of the highly endangered am-
10 phibians if the activities of the authority di-
11 rectly or indirectly benefit that species' con-
12 servation; or

13 (B) any other person or group with the
14 demonstrated expertise and capacity required
15 for the conservation of a highly endangered am-
16 phibian species.

17 (2) REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—A project proposal
18 shall include—

19 (A) evidence of support for the project by
20 appropriate governmental entities of the coun-
21 try in which the project will be conducted, if the
22 Secretary determines that such support is re-
23 quired for the success of the project;

1 (B) evidence of sensitivity to local historic
2 and cultural resources and compliance with ap-
3 plicable laws;

4 (C) evidence of free, prior, and informed
5 consent by indigenous peoples and local commu-
6 nities in the areas the project will be conducted,
7 if the Secretary, based on the nature of the
8 project, determines that such consent is re-
9 quired for the success of the project;

10 (D) information regarding the source and
11 amount of matching funding available for the
12 project; and

13 (E) any other information that the Sec-
14 retary determines to be appropriate.

15 (c) EVALUATION AND APPROVAL.—

16 (1) GOALS.—The Secretary may approve a pro-
17 posal under this section if the project will—

18 (A) help recover and sustain viable popu-
19 lations in the wild of a highly endangered am-
20 phibian species with a range that is, in whole
21 or in part, outside of the United States;

22 (B) enhance compliance with provisions of
23 the Convention and laws of the United States
24 or a foreign country related to the conservation
25 of a highly endangered amphibian species; or

1 (C) develop sound scientific information on
2 that species' habitat, population numbers and
3 trends, reproduction, mortality, and other
4 threats to survival.

5 (2) METHODS.—The Secretary may approve a
6 proposal under this section if the proposal would
7 achieve one of the goals set forth in paragraph (1)
8 through—

9 (A) protection, restoration, and manage-
10 ment of habitat;

11 (B) in situ research and monitoring of
12 populations, habitats, annual reproduction, and
13 species population trends;

14 (C) development, implementation, and im-
15 provement of national and regional manage-
16 ment plans for a highly endangered amphibian
17 species and the habitat of such species;

18 (D) enforcement and implementation of
19 the Convention or the law of a foreign country
20 to—

21 (i) protect and manage a highly en-
22 dangered amphibian species or the habitat
23 of such species;

1 (ii) prevent illegal or unsustainable re-
2 moval of a highly endangered amphibian
3 species from the wild; or

4 (iii) prevent illegal trade of a highly
5 endangered amphibian species;

6 (E) training and capacity building for local
7 law enforcement officials in the interdiction and
8 prevention of the illegal killing, removal from
9 the wild, or trade of a highly endangered am-
10 phibian species;

11 (F) an initiative to resolve a conflict be-
12 tween humans and a highly endangered am-
13 phibian species;

14 (G) research and implementation of
15 projects to address disease and threats to the
16 health of a highly endangered amphibian spe-
17 cies;

18 (H) community outreach and education on
19 conservation of a highly endangered amphibian
20 species and the habitat of such species; or

21 (I) strengthening the ability of local com-
22 munities to implement a conservation program.

23 (3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall, prior
24 to approving any proposal under this section, consult

1 with each of the following with respect to such pro-
2 posal:

3 (A) The Government of each country in
4 which such proposal will be carried out.

5 (B) Any other Federal agency the Sec-
6 retary determines is appropriate.

7 (4) PREFERENTIAL CONSIDERATION.—In deter-
8 mining whether to approve a proposal, the Secretary
9 shall give preference to a proposal that—

10 (A) is designed to ensure effective, long-
11 term conservation of highly endangered amphib-
12 ian species and their habitats; and

13 (B) has matching funds available.

14 (5) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall, within
15 180 days of receiving a proposal under this section,
16 approve or disapprove of the proposal and provide
17 written notification of such approval or disapproval
18 to—

19 (A) the person who submitted such pro-
20 posal;

21 (B) any Federal agency the Secretary de-
22 termines appropriate; and

23 (C) the foreign country in which such pro-
24 posal would be carried out.

25 (d) PROJECT REPORTING.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require
2 each person that receives assistance under this sec-
3 tion to submit periodic reports including such infor-
4 mation as the Secretary may require in order to
5 evaluate the progress and success of each grant
6 issued under this section.

7 (2) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—Reports
8 under paragraph (1), and any other documents re-
9 lating to projects for which financial assistance is
10 provided under this Act except for documents that
11 the Secretary determines to be confidential in na-
12 ture, shall be made available to the public.

13 (e) LIMITATIONS ON USE FOR CAPTIVE BREED-
14 ING.—Amounts provided as a grant under this Act—

15 (1) may not be used for captive breeding of
16 highly endangered amphibian species other than for
17 captive breeding designed for release into the wild;
18 and

19 (2) may be used for captive breeding of a spe-
20 cies for release into the wild only if no other con-
21 servation method for the species is biologically or
22 technically feasible.

1 **SEC. 4. HIGHLY ENDANGERED AMPHIBIAN SPECIES CON-**
2 **SERVATION FUND.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
4 Multinational Species Conservation Fund a separate ac-
5 count to be known as the “Highly Endangered Amphibian
6 Species Conservation Fund”, consisting of—

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

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

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

14 (b) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), at
16 the request of the Secretary, the Secretary of the
17 Treasury shall transfer from the Fund to the Sec-
18 retary, without further appropriation, such amounts
19 as the Secretary determines are necessary to carry
20 out section 4.

21 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the
22 amounts in the account available for each fiscal
23 year, the Secretary may expend not more than 3
24 percent, or up to \$150,000, whichever is greater, to
25 pay the administrative expenses necessary to carry
26 out this Act.

1 (c) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—

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

8 (2) ACQUISITION OF OBLIGATIONS.—For the
9 purpose of investments under paragraph (1), obliga-
10 tions may be acquired—

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

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

14 (3) SALE OF OBLIGATIONS.—Any obligation ac-
15 quired by the Fund may be sold by the Secretary of
16 the Treasury at market price.

17 (4) CREDITS TO FUND.—The interest on, and
18 the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any ob-
19 ligations held in the Fund shall be credited to and
20 form a part of the Fund.

21 (d) TRANSFERS OF AMOUNTS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amounts required to be
23 transferred to the Fund under this section shall be
24 transferred at least monthly from the general fund

1 of the Treasury to the Fund on the basis of esti-
2 mates made by the Secretary of the Treasury.

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

7 (e) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATIONS.—The
8 Secretary may accept and use donations to provide assist-
9 ance under section 4. Amounts received by the Secretary
10 in the form of donations shall be transferred to the Sec-
11 retary of the Treasury for deposit in the Fund. The Sec-
12 retary may reject a gift under this section when the rejec-
13 tion is in the interest of the Government.

14 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund
16 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2027.

17 **SEC. 6. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

18 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
19 of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary
20 shall submit to Congress a report on the results and effec-
21 tiveness of the program carried out under this Act.

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