

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM

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21st March, 2025

Chair **Bruce Westerman**
Subcommittee Chair Harriet Hageman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515 United States

Re: Endangered Species Act (ESA) Amendments Act of 2025

Honourable Chair,

2. I would like to inform you that Tanzania has set aside 32.5% of her land for wildlife conservation comprising 21 National Parks, 29 Game Reserves, 23 Game Controlled areas, 40 Community Wildlife Management Areas, 419 Forest Reserves and 20 Nature Reserves among others. The main use of National Parks, Game Reserves, Game Controlled Areas and Community Wildlife Management Areas is tourism and trophy hunting. The tourism industry, which is 80% wildlife-based, accounts for 17.2% of GDP, 25% of forex earnings, and over 1.6 million direct and indirect jobs. Hunting tourism is one of Tanzania's major tourism products, conducted in areas covering about 260,677 km² of the country's land surface. Tanzania ranks first in terms of lion, leopard, and buffalo population and has the third-largest population of free-ranging elephants in the world. It has the most updated elephant surveys in the region.

3. Biodiversity in these vast areas, where hunting tourism is the primary land use, is conserved through revenues generated from a highly regulated and sustainable harvest of huntable wildlife species. This very limited and in biological terms negligible offtake allows Tanzania to perform crucial conservation activities such as anti-poaching, and general wildlife conservation through sustainable management and community development. As such Tanzania is using tourism hunting as a way to counteract the negative effect of the growing human population and reduce human-wildlife conflict.

4. I am writing to express Tanzania's support for the proposed bill, which intends to amend the "Endangered Species Act (ESA)" tabled for consideration in the United States House of Representatives. My understanding is that the proposed bill is considering

aligning the provisions of the ESA with that of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in importing and exporting Non – native threatened and endangered species. The Bill further, intends to change the permitting standard for non-native species from “enhancement” to “non-detriment,” by adopting the CITES NDF permitting standard.

5. The proposed Bill benefits both conservation efforts and the livelihoods of local communities in many African countries, including Tanzania. Cognizant that the United States of America is the major market for tourism hunting in Tanzania and that most hunters from the US prefer iconic African species such as elephant, lion, and leopard. The Bill will reduce the time currently spent by US Fish and Wildlife Service to assess on case by case, import applications for sport hunted trophies of species listed under ESA. This will allow Tanzania to export hunted trophies in the last decade, and rebuild confidence among hunters regarding hunting in Tanzania. Reducing the scope of assessment from Enhancement findings to NDF will give a range states confidence on the assessment conducted by their scientific authorities, and the commitment of the USA to abiding by the provisions of the CITES.

6. The proposed bill will facilitate growth and bouncing back of tourism hunting in Tanzania following a decline in 2016 due to the introduction of a case-by-case assessment of import applications under ESA. Therefore, reducing the scope of assessment from Enhancement Findings to NDF will enable hunters to get their trophies timely, attracting more business and improving revenue collection. Revenue generated will help Tanzania perform crucial conservation activities, support community livelihood through the investment underperform crucial conservation activities, and support community livelihood through investment in Community Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs).

7. Regulated and legal hunting is one of the most powerful tools for achieving sustainable biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement in many parts of rural Africa, and Tanzania is no exception. Achieving this noble goal requires a strong and steadfast commitment from Tanzania and its conservation partners worldwide.

Honourable Chair, we thank you for your kind attention.



Dr. Alexander L. Lobora

DIRECTOR OF WILDLIFE
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