

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 4819
OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Defending Economic
3 Livelihoods and Threatened Animals Act” or the
4 “DELTA Act”.

5 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

6 Congress finds the following:

7 (1) The greater Okavango River Basin, which
8 ranges from the highland plateau of Angola to
9 northeastern Namibia and northern Botswana, and
10 also provides critical natural resources that sustain
11 wildlife in Zambia and Zimbabwe, is the largest
12 freshwater watershed in southern Africa.

13 (2) The greater Okavango River Basin is the
14 main source of water and livelihoods for over
15 1,000,000 people, and the effective management and
16 protection of this critical watershed will help ad-
17 vance important conservation and economic growth

1 objectives for Angola, Botswana, Namibia, local
2 communities, and the broader region.

3 (3) The greater Okavango River Basin is home
4 to the largest remaining elephant population in the
5 world, as well as other threatened wildlife species.

6 (4) Poaching and trafficking of threatened wild-
7 life species in the greater Okavango River Basin has
8 increased in recent years, and has the potential to
9 undermine regional stability by disrupting local gov-
10 ernance and management of resources, and sup-
11 planting key economic opportunities for community
12 members.

13 (5) Governments in the region have taken im-
14 portant steps to coordinate through existing con-
15 servation frameworks to combat trafficking, ensure
16 responsible resource management, support local live-
17 lihoods, and protect threatened wildlife species.

18 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

19 It is the sense of Congress that it is in the interest
20 of the United States to engage, as appropriate, with the
21 Governments of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, and neigh-
22 boring countries, and in partnership with donors, regional
23 organizations, nongovernmental organizations, local com-
24 munities, and the private sector, to advance conservation
25 efforts and promote economic growth and stability in the

1 greater Okavango River Basin and neighboring water-
2 sheds and conservation areas.

3 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

4 It is the policy of the United States to promote inclu-
5 sive economic growth through conservation and biodiver-
6 sity programs that facilitate transboundary cooperation,
7 improve water and natural resource management, and
8 build local capacity to protect and preserve threatened
9 wildlife species in the greater Okavango River Basin and
10 neighboring watersheds and conservation areas.

11 **SEC. 5. STRATEGY.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Adminis-
13 trator, in coordination with the heads of other relevant
14 Federal agencies, shall seek, as appropriate, to work with
15 the Governments of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, and
16 neighboring countries, and in partnership with donors, re-
17 gional organizations, nongovernmental organizations, local
18 communities, and the private sector, to develop a strategy
19 to—

20 (1) create and advance a cooperative framework
21 to promote sustainable natural resource, water, and
22 wildlife management practices in the greater
23 Okavango River Basin;

24 (2) protect traditional migration routes of ele-
25 phants and other threatened wildlife species;

1 (3) combat wildlife poaching and trafficking;

2 (4) address human health and development
3 needs of local communities; and

4 (5) catalyze economic growth in such countries
5 and across the broader region.

6 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy established pursuant
7 to subsection (a) shall—

8 (1) promote cooperative and sustainable water,
9 natural resource, and wildlife management policies
10 and practices within and among the countries of An-
11 gola, Botswana, and Namibia, with a particular
12 focus on the greater Okavango River Basin and the
13 critical headwaters located in Angola;

14 (2) protect and restore wildlife habitats and
15 traditional migratory patterns of elephants and
16 other threatened species;

17 (3) combat wildlife poaching and trafficking in
18 Angola, Botswana, Namibia, and those areas of
19 Zambia and Zimbabwe that border Angola, Bot-
20 swana, or Namibia, including within regional and
21 national parks and reserves, by building the capacity
22 of the governments of such countries, local law en-
23 forcement, community leaders, and park rangers to
24 detect, disrupt, and prosecute poachers and traf-
25 fickers;

1 (4) promote conservation as a foundation for
2 inclusive economic growth and development within a
3 comprehensive assistance strategy that places An-
4 gola, Botswana, and Namibia on a trajectory toward
5 graduation from the need for United States foreign
6 assistance;

7 (5) identify opportunities and mechanisms to le-
8 verage regional organizations, nongovernmental or-
9 ganizations, and public-private partnerships to con-
10 tribute to support the implementation of the strat-
11 egy;

12 (6) establish monitoring and evaluation mecha-
13 nisms, including measurable goals, objectives, and
14 benchmarks of success, that are included in grants,
15 contracts, and cooperative agreements to ensure the
16 effective use of United States foreign assistance; and

17 (7) coordinate with and build the capacity of re-
18 gional conservation frameworks in order to advance
19 regional conservation objectives.

20 **SEC. 6. UNITED STATES SUPPORT.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Adminis-
22 trator, in coordination with the heads of other relevant
23 Federal agencies, are authorized to prioritize and advance
24 ongoing efforts to—

1 (1) promote inclusive economic growth and de-
2 velopment through responsible water and natural re-
3 source management and wildlife protection activities
4 in the greater Okavango River Basin;

5 (2) provide technical assistance to governments
6 and local communities in Angola, Botswana, and
7 Namibia to create a policy-enabling environment for
8 such responsible water and natural resource man-
9 agement and wildlife protection activities; and

10 (3) build the capacity of local law enforcement,
11 park rangers, and community leaders to combat
12 wildlife poaching and trafficking.

13 (b) COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION WITH RE-
14 GIONAL CONSERVATION FRAMEWORKS.—The Secretary
15 and the Administrator, in coordination with the heads of
16 other relevant Federal agencies, shall coordinate assist-
17 ance provided by Department of State, the United States
18 Agency for International Development, and such other rel-
19 evant Federal agencies with existing regional conservation
20 frameworks in order to ensure regional integration of con-
21 servation, wildlife trafficking, and water management ini-
22 tiatives, to prevent duplication of efforts, and to advance
23 regional conservation objectives.

24 (c) COORDINATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR.—The
25 Secretary and the Administrator, in coordination with the

1 heads of other relevant Federal agencies, are authorized
2 to work with the private sector and nongovernmental orga-
3 nizations to leverage public and private capital to promote
4 sustainable resource management, combat wildlife poach-
5 ing and trafficking, and support inclusive economic growth
6 and local livelihoods in the greater Okavango River Basin.

7 (d) **MONITORING AND EVALUATION.**—The Secretary
8 and the Administrator shall establish monitoring and eval-
9 uation mechanisms, to include measurable goals, objec-
10 tives, and benchmarks, to ensure the effective use of
11 United States foreign assistance to achieve the objectives
12 of this section.

13 **SEC. 7. REPORT.**

14 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the
15 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the
16 Administrator, in coordination with the heads of other rel-
17 evant Federal agencies, shall submit to the appropriate
18 congressional committees a report on the implementation
19 of this Act.

20 (b) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The report re-
21 quired under subsection (a) shall include a description of
22 the strategy required by section 5, including—

23 (1) the monitoring and evaluation plans and in-
24 dicators used to measure performance under the
25 strategy;

1 (2) any legislative impediments to meeting the
2 objectives of such strategy;

3 (3) the extent to which Angola, Botswana, and
4 Namibia have demonstrated a commitment and will-
5 ingness to cooperate to advance efforts described in
6 section 5(b);

7 (4) progress made to date in meeting the objec-
8 tives of such strategy;

9 (5) efforts to coordinate, deconflict, and stream-
10 line conservation programs in order to maximize re-
11 source effectiveness;

12 (6) the extent to which Angola, Botswana, and
13 Namibia and other government in the region are in-
14 vesting resources to advance conservation initiatives;
15 and

16 (7) the extent to which other funding sources,
17 including through private sector investment and
18 other investment by Angola, Botswana, and Na-
19 mibia, have been identified to advance conservation
20 initiatives.

21 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this Act:

23 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
24 trator” means the Administrator of the United
25 States Agency for International Development.

1 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
5 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
6 of Representatives; and

7 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
8 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
9 Senate.

10 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of State.

