



September 12, 2019

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
 United States Representative  
 1527 Longworth House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Vern Buchanan  
 United States Representative  
 2427 Rayburn House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Huffman and Buchanan:

On behalf of our organizations and our millions of U.S. supporters, we are writing to express our support for the Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Act (CEACA). This important legislation would reestablish a program that, for several years, provided funding for projects designed to conserve animals that are threatened or endangered in the wild.

Due to habitat loss, disease, illegal trade, environmental changes, and a number of other causes, global populations of many species of wildlife are in decline. According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, more than 27,000 species are threatened with extinction, about 25 percent of all species that have been assessed to date. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) recently published a report, written by more than 550 leading experts from over 100 countries, which concluded that biodiversity is declining at unprecedented rates and that a global response is needed to reverse this trend. These trends are especially troubling because human beings depend on healthy levels of biodiversity to support the ecosystem services upon which all life depends.

For several years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service managed the Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Fund (CEACF), which funded more than 100 projects addressing many of the key problems causing species decline. The program was a vital addition to the existing Multinational Species Conservation Funds (MSCF). Whereas the MSCF supports iconic species like rhinos, tigers, elephants, gorillas, and turtles, the CEACF covered imperiled species like snow leopards, Andean cats, African penguins, the white-backed vulture, and countless others that desperately need active help to prevent further loss in the wild. Regrettably, cuts to the agency's budget forced them to discontinue the program. CEACA would authorize this program, re-injecting an important source of funding into the global fight to conserve thousands of the world's most vulnerable species.

We strongly support the CEACA and thank you for your commitment to helping vulnerable species around the globe.

Sincerely,

African Wildlife Foundation  
Animal Welfare Institute  
Association of Zoos and Aquariums  
Bonobo Conservation Initiative  
Cheetah Conservation Fund  
Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund  
Environmental Investigation Agency  
Humane Society International  
Humane Society Legislative Fund  
The Humane Society of the United States

International Crane Foundation  
International Elephant Foundation  
International Fund for Animal Welfare  
International Rhino Foundation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Rare Species Fund  
Wild Earth Allies  
Wildlife Conservation Society  
World Wildlife Fund