

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3196

To defend economic livelihoods and threatened animals in the greater
Okavango River Basin, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 11, 2018

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and
Mr. BURR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and re-
ferred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To defend economic livelihoods and threatened animals in
the greater Okavango River Basin, 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 “Defending Economic
5 Livelihoods and Threatened Animals Act” or the
6 “DELTA Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

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

4 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
5 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
6 mittees” means—

7 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations
8 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
9 Senate; and

10 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
11 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
12 of Representatives.

13 (3) KAVANGO ZAMBEZI TRANSFRONTIER CON-
14 SERVATION AREA.—The “Kavango Zambezi
15 Transfrontier Conservation Area”, (in this Act re-
16 ferred to as “KAZA”) is the world’s largest trans-
17 boundary conservation area and was established by
18 treaty by the five partner states of Angola, Bot-
19 swana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe for the pri-
20 mary purpose of harmonizing policies, strategies,
21 and practices for managing shared natural resources
22 across international borders and deriving equitable
23 socio-economic benefits through the sustainable use
24 and development of their natural and cultural herit-
25 age resources, including wildlife.

1 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of State.

3 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) The greater Okavango River Basin, which
6 ranges from the highland plateau of Angola to
7 northeastern Namibia and northern Botswana, is the
8 largest freshwater watershed in southern Africa.

9 (2) The greater Okavango River Basin is home
10 to over 1,000,000 people and is critical to the sur-
11 vival of several species of the world’s most endan-
12 gered large mammals, including serving as a core
13 habitat for the world’s largest elephant population.

14 (3) Poaching and trafficking of threatened wild-
15 life species in the greater Okavango River Basin and
16 adjacent areas within KAZA have increased in re-
17 cent years.

18 (4) Governments in the region have taken im-
19 portant steps to coordinate through existing con-
20 servation frameworks to combat wildlife trafficking,
21 ensure responsible resource management, support
22 local livelihoods, and protect threatened wildlife spe-
23 cies.

1 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that it is in the interest
3 of the United States to engage, as appropriate, with the
4 Governments of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, and neigh-
5 boring countries, and in partnership with donors, regional
6 organizations, nongovernmental organizations, local com-
7 munities, and the private sector, to advance conservation
8 efforts and promote economic growth and stability in the
9 greater Okavango River Basin and neighboring water-
10 sheds and conservation areas.

11 **SEC. 5. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

12 It is the policy of the United States to promote inclu-
13 sive economic growth through conservation and biodiver-
14 sity programs that facilitate transboundary cooperation,
15 improve water and natural resource management, and
16 build local capacity to protect and preserve threatened
17 wildlife species in the greater Okavango River Basin and
18 neighboring watersheds and conservation areas within
19 KAZA.

20 **SEC. 6. STRATEGY.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Adminis-
22 trator, in coordination with the heads of other relevant
23 Federal agencies, shall seek, as appropriate, to work with
24 the Governments of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, and
25 neighboring countries, and in partnership with donors, re-
26 gional organizations, nongovernmental organizations, local

1 communities, and the private sector, to develop a strategy
2 to—

3 (1) create and advance a cooperative framework
4 to promote sustainable natural resource, water, pro-
5 tected area management and wildlife management
6 practices in the greater Okavango River Basin;

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

9 (3) combat wildlife poaching and trafficking;

10 (4) address human health and development
11 needs of local communities; and

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

14 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy established pursuant
15 to subsection (a) shall—

16 (1) promote cooperative and sustainable water,
17 natural resource, protected area management, and
18 wildlife management policies and practices within
19 and among the countries of Angola, Botswana, and
20 Namibia, with a particular focus on the greater
21 Okavango River Basin and the critical headwaters
22 located in Angola;

23 (2) protect and restore wildlife habitats and
24 traditional migratory patterns of elephants and
25 other threatened species;

1 (3) combat wildlife poaching and trafficking in
2 Angola, Botswana, Namibia, and adjacent areas
3 within KAZA, including within regional and national
4 parks and reserves, by building the capacity of the
5 governments of such countries, local law enforce-
6 ment, community leaders, and park rangers to de-
7 tect, disrupt, and prosecute poachers and traffickers;

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

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

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

21 **SEC. 7. UNITED STATES SUPPORT.**

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

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

6 (2) provide technical assistance to governments
7 and local communities in Angola, Botswana, and
8 Namibia and neighboring countries to create a pol-
9 icy-enabling environment for such responsible water
10 and natural resource management, protected area
11 management, and wildlife protection activities; and

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

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

1 (c) COORDINATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR.—The
2 Secretary and the Administrator, in coordination with the
3 heads of other relevant Federal agencies, are authorized
4 to work with the private sector and nongovernmental orga-
5 nizations to leverage public and private capital to promote
6 sustainable resource management, combat wildlife poach-
7 ing and trafficking, and support inclusive economic growth
8 and local livelihoods in the greater Okavango River Basin
9 and KAZA.

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

16 **SEC. 8. REPORT.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the
18 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the
19 Administrator, in coordination with the heads of other rel-
20 evant Federal agencies, shall submit to the appropriate
21 congressional committees a report on the implementation
22 of this Act.

23 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report re-
24 quired under subsection (a) shall include a description of
25 the strategy required under section 6, including—

1 (1) the monitoring and evaluation plans and in-
2 dicators used to measure performance under the
3 strategy;

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

6 (3) the extent to which the Governments of An-
7 gola, Botswana, Namibia, and neighboring countries
8 have demonstrated a commitment and willingness to
9 cooperate to advance efforts described in section
10 6(b);

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

13 (5) efforts to coordinate, deconflict, and stream-
14 line conservation programs in order to maximize re-
15 source effectiveness;

16 (6) the extent to which the Governments of An-
17 gola, Botswana, and Namibia and other govern-
18 ments in the region are investing resources to ad-
19 vance conservation initiatives; and

20 (7) the extent to which other funding sources,
21 including through private sector investment and
22 other investment by the Governments of Angola,
23 Botswana, and Namibia and neighboring countries

- 1 have been identified to advance conservation initia-
- 2 tives.

