

would all greatly benefit. H.R. 2400 will increase the efficiency of our mapping efforts, reduce redundancy and allow data used by one agency to be used again and again by others for multiple purposes.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill and encourage Members to vote for this noncontroversial legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I will include for the RECORD the exchange of letters regarding the Committee on Science and Technology's jurisdictional interest in this legislation.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, July 20, 2007.

Hon. NICK J. RAHALL, II,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write with regard to H.R. 2400, the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act, which was referred to both the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Science and Technology on May 21, 2007.

As you know, I support passage of the bill, and I do not intend to object to its consideration on the House floor. I am therefore willing to waive further consideration of the bill by the Committee on Science and Technology at this time. I want to make clear, however, that this waiver does not in any way serve as a jurisdictional precedent as to our two committees. Also, I ask that you support my request for appointment of conferees from the Committee on Science and Technology if a conference is held on this matter.

I request that you send to me a letter confirming our agreement and that, as part of the consideration of the bill on the House floor, you insert our two letters in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, July 20, 2007.

Hon. BART GORDON,
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology,
Washington, DC.

DEAR BART: Thank you for your willingness to allow floor consideration of H.R. 2400, the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act, to proceed unimpeded.

I appreciate your willingness to waive rights to further consideration of H.R. 2400, even though your Committee shares jurisdiction over it and has received an additional referral. Of course, this waiver does not prejudice any further jurisdictional claims by your Committee over this legislation or similar language. Furthermore, I agree to support your request for appointment of conferees from the Committee on Science and Technology if a conference is held on this matter.

As you requested, I will insert our two letters in the Congressional Record as part of the consideration of the bill on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL, II,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2400, the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act. Chairman GRIJALVA has adequately explained the bill, which will lead to a more efficient and effective use of ocean data.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2400, the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act, which I introduced on May 21, 2007, and which the Committee on Natural Resources ordered to be favorably reported to the House on June 28, 2007.

The surveying and mapping of our coasts and oceans is one of the oldest functions of the Federal Government. In 1807, Thomas Jefferson signed into law an act requiring the President "to cause a survey to be taken of the coast of the United States . . . together with such other matters as he may deem proper for completing an accurate chart of every part of the coasts." Ever since the enactment of that law, the mapping and charting of our coasts and marine waters, including the Great Lakes, continues to be an activity of great national importance.

In 2004 the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy released a report at the request of the President recommending actions needed to improve ocean policy in the United States. Among the suggestions made by the commission was a recommendation that existing Federal mapping activities be consolidated and coordinated, and that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, lead this effort.

At the same time, the National Research Council, NRC, completed a study identifying the most pressing national needs for coastal mapping and charting. This study, requested by three of the primary agencies involved in ocean and coastal surveying, identified the same need for coordination. The NRC findings included a need for a consistent spatial framework, increased access to geospatial data and mapping products, and increased inter- and intra-agency communication, cooperation, and coordination.

Learning of these recommendations, I introduced H.R. 2400 along with my colleague from South Carolina, the ranking Republican Member of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans, Congressman HENRY BROWN, to coordinate and strengthen the efforts of Federal agencies to map our oceans and coasts.

The coordination required by this legislation will result in increased efficiency, eliminate redundant mapping efforts, and allow data collected by one agency to be used multiple times by other agencies and stakeholders for myriad purposes.

Passage of this legislation will fulfill an important recommendation of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and result in immediate benefits for national security, maritime commerce, navigation, and marine resource, management and scientific research.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I ask members on both sides to support passage of this non-controversial bill.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2400, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUNDS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 50) to reauthorize the African Elephant Conservation Act and the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 50

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Multinational Species Conservation Funds Reauthorization Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENT OF AFRICAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT.

(a) NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF PROJECT PROPOSAL.—Section 2101(c) of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4211(c)) is amended by striking "and to each country within which the project is proposed to be conducted".

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Section 2306(b) of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4245(b)) is amended by striking "\$80,000" and inserting "\$100,000".

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 2306(a) of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4245(a)) is amended by striking "2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007" and inserting "2007 through 2012".

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENT OF RHINOCEROS AND TIGER CONSERVATION ACT OF 1994.

(a) NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF PROJECT PROPOSAL.—Section 5(c) of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5304(c)) is amended in the third sentence by striking "to the Administrator, and to each country within which the project is to be conducted" and inserting "and to the Administrator".

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Section 10(b) of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5306(b)) is amended by striking "\$80,000" and inserting "\$100,000".

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 10(a) of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5306(a)) is amended by striking "2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007" and inserting "2007 through 2012".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by commanding Congressman DON YOUNG, the ranking Republican on the Committee on Natural Resources, for introducing H.R. 50, the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Reauthorization Act of 2007. This bill would authorize two important international wildlife conservation laws, the African Elephant Conservation Act and the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act.

Mr. Speaker, illegal poaching, habitat loss and other factors have pushed African elephants, rhinoceroses and tigers dangerously close to extinction. H.R. 50 authorizes funding through fiscal year 2012 for scientific research, management, law enforcement and public education activities used to conserve and protect these keystone wildlife species and their habitat.

Congress has provided \$26.9 million, which has been leveraged through matching funds and in-kind contributions to generate more than \$96.1 million for international species conservation. This has been an excellent investment for the Federal Government.

We support this noncontroversial bill, and urge all Members on both sides to vote for this important conservation bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 50. This legislation, introduced by the distinguished ranking Republican on the Natural Resources Committee, the Honorable DON YOUNG, will extend the African Elephant Conservation Act and the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act. This legislation builds upon the proven success of these two conservation funds and allows the Secretary of the Interior to continue to approve badly needed conservation grants for the next 5 years. These acts have been two of the most effective conservation laws ever approved by the United States Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 50, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 465) to reauthorize the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 465

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2007”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENT OF ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT OF 1997.

(a) NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF PROJECT PROPOSAL.—Section 5(c)(2)(C) of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4264(c)(2)(C)) is amended by striking “, the Administrator, and each of those countries” and inserting “and the Administrator”.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Section 8(b) of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4266(b)) is amended by striking “\$80,000” and inserting “\$100,000”.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 8(a) of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4266(a)) is amended by striking “2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007” and inserting “2007 through 2012”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Congressman JIM SAXTON, for introducing H.R. 465, the Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2007. H.R. 465 would authorize the Asian Elephant Conservation Act through fiscal year 2012. This law authorizes grants to be issued for the survival of the Asian elephant in the wild.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the status of the Asian elephant remains tenuous. Fewer than 4,000 Asian elephants are found throughout the forests and savannas of South Asia. Approximately 16,000 of these animals are held in captivity. The captive elephants are used to assist people in timber harvest, forest clearing and agriculture. In the wild, populations remain under heavy stress from several factors, especially habitat loss and deforestation.

Since the first grant was awarded in 1997, more than \$10.3 million in matching contributions or in-kind support have been generated by leveraging the \$7.8 million contribution made available by the Congress.

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Funding supports cooperative conservation projects that protect Asian elephants and their habitat by providing scientific research, law enforcement and education.

I support this noncontroversial bill, and again commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON), the author of the original Asian Elephant Conservation Act, for his unwavering commitment to international wildlife conservation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 465, the Asian Elephant Conservation Rauthorization Act. This legislation will extend the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund at the existing authorization levels until September 30, 2012.

In the early 1900s, there were less than 40,000 wild Asian elephants living throughout the world. In response to this international wildlife crisis, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) introduced the Asian Elephant Conservation Act. Since 1997, the Secretary of the Interior has reviewed over 300 proposals to assist Asian elephants, and 183 grants have been awarded to various entities. These projects have received \$7.8 million in Federal funds and \$11.3 million in private matching funds.

This conservation fund has had a profound impact on protecting Asian elephants, and there is no question that these projects have stopped this species’ slide into extinction. This is a sound investment of a small amount of Federal tax dollars. I urge an “aye” vote on H.R. 465.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, as the author of this legislation, I am pleased the House is now considering H.R. 465. This simple non-controversial legislation will extend the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund at existing authorization levels of up to \$5 million each year until September 30, 2012.

During our public hearing on H.R. 465, the Fish and Wildlife Service, which administers this Fund, testified that: “The Asian Elephant Conservation Act has greatly enhanced the conservation status of the Asian elephant”.

There are currently only about 40,000 wild Asian elephants living in south and southeastern Asia. As a result, this species is listed on our Endangered Species Act, on Appendix I of CITES and on the World Conservation Union’s Red List.

In response to the ongoing slaughter of this keystone species, Congress adopted the Asian Elephant Conservation Act which I was pleased to sponsor in 1997. In the decade since its enactment, the Secretary of the Interior has carefully reviewed over 300 conservation projects designed to save Asian elephants for future generations. The Secretary has approved 183 of these grant proposals which