

Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Reauthorization and Improvements Act of 2021

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Legislation to reauthorize and strengthen 2016 law to combat wildlife trafficking

Background

Wildlife trafficking remains a serious transnational crime that threatens international security, economic prosperity, conservation efforts, and human health. The *Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act* was signed into law in 2016 and has since helped to facilitate the arrest of members of wildlife trafficking networks and supported interagency efforts to tackle the issue through country-specific and regional initiatives. Critical elements of the bill, including authorizations for the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking and reports on countries engaging in wildlife trafficking, have recently expired. The *END Wildlife Trafficking Reauthorization and Improvements Act of 2021* would permanently authorize the duties of the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking and strengthen the federal government's efforts to identify, prevent, and prosecute wildlife trafficking around the world.

Actions

The *END Wildlife Trafficking Reauthorization and Improvements Act of 2021* would build on the success of the 2016 bill and strengthen our government's efforts to combat wildlife trafficking on an international scale by:

- **Reauthorizing the “Report on Major Wildlife Trafficking Countries”** and requiring it to be published biennially. This report analyzes international wildlife trafficking data to identify countries and governments that contribute most to wildlife trafficking or have knowingly profited from it. This report plays a critical role in helping our government effectively allocate resources to target illegal wildlife trafficking and trade in the most vulnerable areas of the world.
- **Bolstering existing efforts to combat wildlife trafficking** by requiring the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking to work with the private sector, academia, and non-governmental organizations to expand the role of technology in anti-trafficking efforts, crack down on digital platforms used to facilitate illegal wildlife trade, and reduce demand for illegal wildlife and wildlife products in key countries.
- **Providing additional authorities for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)** to issue subpoenas for witnesses and the production of any records in investigations relating to the import or export of wildlife products in violation of specific protected species laws. This will extend important legal power to the USFWS and allow the agency to take a more leadership role in prosecuting wildlife trafficking cases.
- **Reducing human rights violations** by requiring our government to vet foreign entities seeking assistance from the United States for anti-wildlife trafficking efforts.

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