



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 19, 2022

**Sponsor Testimony for HB 52 –  
Natural Resources – Wildlife Trafficking Prevention**  
Delegate Sara Love

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, Members of the best committee in the House,

For the record, I am Delegate Sara Love here to present House bill 52, prohibiting the trafficking of items made from imperiled species' parts in Maryland.

HB 52 proposes to prohibit the purchase, sale, offer for sale, or possession with intent to sell any part or product of the covered animal species with reasonable, narrow exemptions. The eleven types of covered animals are elephant, rhinoceros, tiger, lion, leopard, cheetah, jaguar, sea turtle, pangolin, giraffe, and great ape species. The extinct mammoth is also covered because it takes very little effort to pass elephant ivory off as mammoth, and as a result, elephant ivory has been found for sale under the guise of legal mammoth ivory.<sup>1</sup>

Key provisions of the bill include that:

- A person shall not purchase, sell, offer for sale, or possess with intent to sell any covered animal species part or product;
- Owners of legal items can continue to possess the items, pass them down to heirs, or transfer them as long as no commercial transactions are involved;
- Prohibitions do not apply when the covered animal species part or product is part of an antique, or is a fixed component of a musical instrument, provided that the item is not made wholly or primarily of the covered animal part and the total weight of the covered animal species part or product is less than 200 grams.<sup>2</sup>

In short, the bill prohibits that sale of items made from the body parts of the animals you see in the slide show. Ash trays made from gorilla hands, pillows made from giraffe skin, and more. The United States is a major importer of these body parts. For example, we are the second largest consumer of illegally poached elephant ivory behind China. And between 2006 and 2015, more than

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.planetexperts.com/sale-of-mammoth-ivory-may-contribute-to-elephant-poaching-experts-say/>

<sup>2</sup> The 200 gram weight limit follows the same weight limit for the de minimis exemption in the federal proposed rule for the African elephant. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated that the 200 gram weight limit would cover most musical instruments with ivory trim, "including the ivory veneer on a piano with a full set of ivory keys" and "a broad range of decorative and utilitarian objects containing small amounts of ivory."

40,000 giraffe products were imported into the United States.<sup>3</sup> These trafficked items are being sold in Maryland.

Federal law prohibits the interstate sale of items made from endangered animal parts. In addition, twelve states plus the District of Columbia have the same or similar bans to what we are proposing here.<sup>4</sup> Maryland has no such ban, making us an attractive market for the sale of these parts.

Some of you may be wondering: we are talking about wildlife across the globe; why should we in Maryland care? I have two answers for you. The first is because banning this practice is the right thing to do. These items come largely through poaching – the illegal killing of these animals. Through our commerce, we are contributing to the killing of these animals.

- A recent report<sup>5</sup> found the population of savanna elephants has declined by 60%, and forest elephants by more than 86% since the 1970s, placing them a step or two away from extinction.
- Cheetahs have lost an estimated 91% of their historic habitat and fewer than 7,100 remain in the wild.<sup>6</sup>
- All seven sea turtle species are threatened with extinction.
- African lion populations have declined by 43% since 1993 and are still declining.<sup>7</sup>
- The pangolin is the most trafficked animal. Two of its species are critically endangered and all are protected by federal treaty. Over a million have been illegally killed for their meat and scales.<sup>8</sup>

The second reason is because the sale of these parts is used to fund international terrorism.<sup>9</sup> Please see the testimony from Kimberly Fullerton. In addition, I've attached testimony from the last time this bill was heard.

For the foregoing reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 52.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.hsi.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/pdfs/giraffe\\_ea\\_petition\\_2017.pdf](https://www.hsi.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/pdfs/giraffe_ea_petition_2017.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> California, Hawaii, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Illinois, New Mexico, Vermont, and Washington, DC have passed laws in recent years restricting the sale of wild animal products within their own borders.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.iucn.org/news/species/202103/african-elephant-species-now-endangered-and-critically-endangered-iucn-red-list>

<sup>6</sup> Durant, Sarah M., et al. "The global decline of cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* and what it means for conservation." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (2016): 201611122.

<sup>7</sup> Bauer, H., Packer, C., Funston, P.F., Henschel, P. & Nowell, K. 2016. *Panthera leo*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016: e.T15951A107265605. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2016-3.RLTS.T15951A107265605.en>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.wwf.org.uk/learn/fascinating-facts/pangolins>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/wildlife-and-drug-trafficking-terrorism-and-human-security/>



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#FightTerrorismSaveWildlife™ #StopWildlifeTerrorism™ #SoThatWildlifeMayLive™  
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General Assembly of Maryland  
House Committee on the Environment and Transportation  
State House on 100 State Circle, Room 250  
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FOR: TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND  
TRANSPORTATION

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 686:**  
An Act Relating to Wildlife Trafficking Prevention of 12 “Covered Animal Species”

TO: **Chair**, Delegate Kumar P. Barve  
**Vice-Chair**, Delegate Dana Stein  
**Committee Members**, Delegates Carl Anderson Jr., Pamela Beidie, Alfred D. Carr, Jr.,  
Andrew Cassilly, Jerry Clark, Robert L. Flanagan, William Folden, David Fraser-Hidalgo,  
Barbara Frush, Jim V. McCray, Jim Gilchrist, Anne Healey, Marvin E. Holmes, Jr., Jay A.  
Jacobs, Jay Jalisi, Tony Knotts, Stephen W. Lafferty, Robbyn Lewis, Cory V. McCray, Herb  
McMillan, Charles J. Otto, Shane Robinson, and William J. Wivell.  
**Assistant to the Chair**, Ms. Trish Gagnon

CC: **Sponsor**, Delegate Eric G. Luedtke  
**Co-Sponsors**: Delegates Vanessa E. Atterbear, Alfred C. Carr, Jr., David Fraser-Hidalgo,  
Barbara Frush, Marvin E. Holmes, Jr., Cory V. McCray, Andrew Platt, and Shane Robinson.

DATE: February 13, 2017

Dear Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chair, Honorable Committee Members, Sponsors, and Co-Sponsors:

My name is Allen R. Sandico and I am second-generation alumnus of the University of Maryland at College Park. I am also the CEO (Chief Elephant Officer) of TUSK TASK FORCE—a wildlife conservation non-profit with its global HQ in Seattle. I created Tusk Task Force as a result of an academic dissertation on counter-terrorism entitled—*The Big Ugly Picture: The Endless Loop of Organized Crime Activities through Black-Market Commerce Sustaining Global Terrorism* (2013, unpublished)—when I “connected that dots” between poaching and terrorism, a connection that has existed since 2004. Since then, I joined a consortium of organizations and individuals worldwide, concerned of the global consequences of wildlife trafficking, to abolish this insidious commerce; and today, **I strongly urge the Committee to pass HB 686, to prohibit wildlife trafficking of 12 “covered animal species” in the Great State of Maryland.**

ALLEN R. SANDICO, MPA | FOUNDER, CHIEF ELEPHANT OFFICER (CEO) | ceo@tusktaskforce.org | +1 (206) 384-1100

Tusk Task Force

General Assembly of Maryland

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**Representing my organization with our expertise on the trafficking of elephant and rhino parts, I can only testify on those two species of the “covered animal species” mentioned in the bill.** As you may already know, the United States is among the world’s top markets for wildlife parts, according to a 2008 joint report by two NGOs. On the number of ivory items available for sale in retail stores, including in Maryland, the United States has the second largest market for ivory in the world, after China. The 2008 report<sup>1</sup> also identified that one third of the ivory for sale in the country is likely imported illegally. More recent market research shows that ivory items of unknown origin or without proper documentation continue to be offered at marketplaces across Maryland.

Unfortunately, wildlife trafficking and its scourge on the survival of many wildlife species and its impact on global security is nothing new. In fact, **the \$19-billion USD black market on wildlife parts<sup>2</sup> has been known among our own Intelligence Community (IC) and other transnational agencies which includes UNEP, UNODC, WCO, and INTERPOL.** Our analysis has led us to conclude that **ivory profits fund<sup>3</sup> terrorists around the world at the rate of USD \$600,000 a month.<sup>4</sup> As an example of how big this is, a single elephant tusk may be traded for 18,000 bullets or valued at or up to \$175,000<sup>5</sup> USD and rhino horn may fetch as much as \$65,000 USD a pound.<sup>6</sup>** In short, a substantial portion of these illegal profits are ending up in the hands of terrorist organizations and their affiliates; supplying arms and resources back to poachers. Thus, a cycle of violence ensues and profits go back to terrorists with many players getting into the take: poachers, guides, middle men, mules, corrupt officials, kingpins, carvers, merchants, dealers, and finally the consumer in places like Baltimore, and even here in Annapolis.

These terrorists include (but not limited to) the following:

**Al-Shabaab (Harakat al-Shabaab al-Mujahadin) in Somalia, the Sudan, and Kenya**

- Designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) by the State Department and proven to be linked to al-Qae’da in Yemen<sup>7</sup> and responsible for the murders of:
- **148 people and injured 80 at Garissa University in Nairobi, Kenya on 04/03/2015**
- **64 on a bus attack in Mandera, Kenya on 11/14/2014**
- **100+ in Mpeketoni, Lamu in Kenya on June 15-17, 2014**
- **67 people and injured 175 in the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi, Kenya on 09/21/2013**

<sup>1</sup> “Ivory markets in the USA,” Care for the Wild International/Save The Elephants joint report by Esmond Martin and Daniel Stiles; 04/16/08.

<sup>2</sup> Statement of John C. Cruden, Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Department of Justice; 02/11/14.

<sup>3</sup> “It’s changing from a conservation issue to a global security issue. It’s about illegal groups generating funds for terrorist activities,” according to Ms. Coleen Schaefer, Director of the USFWS National Wildlife Property Repository. *Australian Broadcasting Corporation* interview on 04/01/2015

<sup>4</sup> “Ivory’s Curse: The Militarization & Professionalization of Poaching in Africa,” Born Free USA/c4ads joint report; 04, 2014.

<sup>5</sup> Statement by Mr. Sasha Lezhnev, associate director of policy at the Enough Project, an organization which works to end genocide and crimes against humanity, from an interview of an LRA defector. Confirmed through e-mail on 04/05/15 and corroborated by Jenny Stanton, reporter from London’s *Daily Mail* who reported on the story on 03/23/2015

<sup>6</sup> Mic Smith, “Amid rhinoceros poaching frenzy, dark days for South African society,” *Mongabay Reporting Network*, South Africa, 06/05/2015.

<sup>7</sup> Under Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (as amended) and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) entity under Section 1(b) of *Executive Order 13224* (as amended). National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), Washington, DC; 04/05/2015

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**Boko Haram (Jama'atu Ahl as-Sunnah li-Da'awati wal-Ijhad) in the Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Chad**

- Their name means "Western education is forbidden" in the Hausa language, native to the Niger
- Designated by the State Department as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) in 11/2013<sup>8</sup>
- **Kidnapped 276 schoolgirls in Borno State, Nigeria on 04/15/2014**
- Reports indicate that these abducted girls have been used for operations that includes suicide bombings, espionage, and unwilling executioners to their enemies<sup>9</sup>
- Pledged allegiance to Da'esh (the more appropriate and correct term for ISIS/ISIL) as the Da'esh West Africa Province, providing them with more resources and influence<sup>10</sup>
- Dubbed by intelligence agencies and the *National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START)* as the most dangerous terrorist organization in the world<sup>11</sup>

**Joseph Kony's The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Uganda, South Sudan, CAR, and the DRC<sup>12</sup>**

- Designated by the State Department as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) in 05/2010<sup>13</sup>
- **Since 2005, they are believed to have committed hundreds of attacks resulting in over 5,000 deaths and injuries while using abducted children as soldiers and sex slaves<sup>14</sup>**
- **Implicated on the slaughter of more than 130 elephants in Garamba National Park in the DRC (since 04/2014) with 30 killed in just 15 days<sup>15</sup> by using helicopters and sophisticated heavy weaponry<sup>16</sup>**

**Wildlife conservation is now related to global security since profits from wildlife trafficking, through poaching, has become a primary currency for and by terrorist organizations. In particular, the ivory trade<sup>17</sup> alone is a nefarious evil commerce wreaking havoc in Africa's economy, environment, governance, and security. Unfortunately, it also has spread to India<sup>18</sup> and the rest of the South Asian sub-continent increasing poaching there to 300%. The threat is real and the bottom line is wildlife trafficking funds terrorism. Stop the trade in ivory and rhino horn, to cut off its supply, and it will end a substantial funding revenue channel to terrorists.**

<sup>8</sup> National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), Washington, DC; 04/05/2015

<sup>9</sup> Statement by Ms. Elizabeth Donnelly, assistant director of the Africa program at *Chatham House*, the Royal Institute of International Affairs; London, 01/16/2015

<sup>10</sup> "Islamic State accepts Boko Haram's allegiance pledge." BBC report, 03/13/2015

<sup>11</sup> *Global Terrorism Index, 2015: Measuring and Understanding the Impact of Terrorism*. Institute for Economics and Peace, New York City.

<sup>12</sup> Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo

<sup>13</sup> Congress passed the "Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act" (05/2010) which follows the inclusion of the LRA on the Terrorist Exclusion List (2001) and its leader, Joseph Kony, being designated as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) under *Executive Order 13324* (2008). National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), Washington, DC; 04/05/2015

<sup>14</sup> "LRA Regional Update: CAR, DRC and South Sudan." UN Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). January-March 2012

<sup>15</sup> Statement by Jean-Marc Froment, Director of Conservation of African Parks, whose group co-manages the park. AP report, 03/26/2015

<sup>16</sup> "Poachers Without Borders: New Satellite Imaging and Predictive Mapping to Empower Park Rangers and Combat Ivory Traffickers in Garamba National Park" report for *Satellite Sentinel Project* by the Enough Project, African Parks, and Digital Globe; released on 04/2015

<sup>17</sup> "Half of Africa's savanna elephants may disappear in less than a decade." Society for Environmental Communications, 09/01/2016

<sup>18</sup> "Unabated rhino poaching in Assam irks governor." Society for Environmental Communications, 03/15/2015

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Wildlife trafficking is not just about the wildlife anymore, it's also about national security—our security. I know that this is a complex issue to wrap our heads around so I just decided to simply call it *Wildlife Terrorism*, for it brings so much misery and death to so many people and wildlife. Indeed, wildlife trafficking is such an urgent global security issue threatening our national security that the Obama White House implemented initiatives in addressing this issue during its second term, which includes:

- U.S. Marine Forces, Europe and Africa task forces has been deployed in Chad and Gabon to help train wildlife park rangers to combat trafficking<sup>19</sup>
- Increased collaboration with 5 African countries on anti-poaching operations including deployment of United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) assets since 03/2015<sup>20</sup>
- Incorporating the threat of wildlife trafficking into the Office of the Director of National Intelligence's *Worldwide Threat Assessment* (p. 9) to Congress on 02/26/15<sup>21</sup>
- Inclusion of wildlife trafficking as an urgent agenda item supplement to the President's *National Security Strategy* with regards to the other non-conventional threats facing our nation's and the world's security<sup>22</sup>
- Congressional briefings by an invited panel of national security experts on worldwide threats by wildlife trafficking on 09/10/2014 following a \$45m appropriation on anti-poaching in 01/2014
- Recommendations Submitted to the President by members of the *President's Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking* on 06/09/2014<sup>23</sup>
- Sending additional forces and military resources by the Department of Defense to increase support against the LRA (03/2014)<sup>24</sup>

**Compelling evidence brought forth by many organizations, as highlighted above, has given this issue a sense of urgency. We must mitigate this by curtailing its supply and demand; and banning their trade in every state is the next necessary step.** If more states stop the market for ivory and rhino horn, it will not only prevent the extinction of these majestic animals but also diminish a growing humanitarian crisis of poverty, insecurity, disease, migration, and corruption.

The major terrorist organizations in the Middle East chose Africa as a source of revenue from all sources of illicit enterprise with wildlife trade being a catalyst for arms dealing, counterfeit trade, human trafficking, identity theft, illegal mining, money laundering, narcotics, and sexual/slave labor. With 183 Chinese mafia or "Triad" groups doing the selling and distribution of wildlife parts from Africa and other Asian sources, a substantial portion of these illegal profits are ending up in

<sup>19</sup> Staff Sergeant Bryan Peterson, "U.S. and Gabon officials to work together to combat wildlife trafficking." USMCFEA, 10/05/2015

<sup>20</sup> *Senate Committee on Foreign Relations*. 115<sup>th</sup> Cong. 1<sup>st</sup> sess. "United States Africa Command 2015 Posture Statement," by GEN David M. Rodriguez, USA, Commander, United States Africa Command; 03/06/2015

<sup>21</sup> Director of National Intelligence, GEN James R. Clapper, presented this report to the *Senate Armed Services Committee* on 02/26/15.

<sup>22</sup> *National Security Strategy of the United States*. Executive Office of the President; 02/11/2015

<sup>23</sup> Appointed pursuant to Section 5 of *Executive Order 13648* to implement the *National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking*. Executive Office of the President; 02/11/2014

<sup>24</sup> National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), Washington, DC; 04/05/2015

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the hands of terrorist organizations and their affiliates; supplying arms and resources back to poachers. So long as there is any value on ivory and rhino horn, the proceeds ends up in the hands of Da'esh (Islamic State) and al-Qae'da through their affiliates in Africa. In order to stop the flow of money from this violent enterprise of wildlife parts, **Maryland has the tremendous leadership opportunity to "act locally, think globally" and disrupt the funding of terrorism by banning all commerce related to ivory and rhino horn.**

Further, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) believes that state measures are needed to complement federal law and help combat wildlife trafficking. **Federal regulations and laws primarily restrict the importation or interstate trade of products from endangered species, but they do not regulate intrastate sales.** For instance, regarding the recent rule strengthening federal ivory regulations, the USFWS states<sup>25</sup> that wildlife trafficked parts, "...does not reach sale or offer for sale or activities in the course of a commercial activity that occur solely within the boundaries of a State." **While the covered species in the legislation receives certain level of federal protections, this bill would close federal loopholes and give these imperiled species additional protections that the federal law and enforcement do not have the capacity or resources to address.**

State action to combat wildlife trafficking is especially critical now, given that the U.S. Congress and the new Trump administration have plans to rescind and weaken existing laws to accommodate the trophy hunting and commercial arms industries. In addition, Congress is considering the *Midnight Rules Relief Act of 2017* (H.R. 21), which, if passed, would allow the House to repeal any regulations *en bloc* finalized during the last year of the last presidential term. In the current instance, this would include the federal government's 2016 ivory rule that has already passed Congress. In addition, a separate bill, H.R. 226, *African Elephant Conservation and Legal Ivory Possession Act*, has been introduced to do away with the gains under the Obama administration to curb the illegal ivory trade and to gut the existing protections for all African species in the *Endangered Species Act* (ESA) of 1973.

In 2013, the States of New York and New Jersey passed stringent laws to ban ivory and rhino horn within their jurisdictions. Following their examples, the states of California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington passed a ban on wildlife trafficking. **Emphasizing how important this issue is, 71% of Washington state voters overwhelmingly voted for a statewide referendum banning the trade on Election Day, 2015.** Closer to home, Maryland citizens have demonstrated their strong desire to tackle the pernicious endangered species trade. **An overwhelming 83 percent of Maryland residents, participating in a poll from February 2016, support the proposed legislation.** While many of the species covered in the proposed legislation may be in countries tens of thousands of miles away, the polling results demonstrate that Maryland residents care and are concerned about the poaching and trafficking threats facing these at-risk species. North of the border in Harrisburg, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is also considering this ban with a hearing next week. Now, it's your turn to push HB 686 through this committee and, eventually, on to the House floor for a vote.

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<sup>25</sup> Federal Register, Vol. 80, No. 145, published on Wednesday, July 29, 2015, as Proposed Rules.

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**The urgency is now, before it's really too late.**

Two years ago, my NGO's research team created the world's first and only comprehensive database of wildlife terrorism activities and events all over the globe which demonstrates the link between poaching and terrorism called DATA On Wildlife™ (Database of All Terrorist Activities On Wildlife). It is a dynamic and static project for activities or events happen on a daily basis and our sources are many. We corroborate each source using "triangulation" methodology to make sure that the original source is as legit as possible. Our sources may include one or all of the following, at any given time: intelligence operatives from national and transnational agencies, government and NGO officials, military officials, open-source intelligence and analysis, investigative journalists, scientists, park rangers from many countries and private firms, and from our own tactical operational partners on the ground.

Just to give you a glimpse of what we know that has become common knowledge in the African and European media, I have attached a one-page "briefing points" sheet and a "visual matrix" of DATA On Wildlife™ for your quick review. Upon request, I will gladly provide you with more research evidence on the link between wildlife trafficking and terrorism with citations and references.

**In the end, however, this issue must really focus on the people, not just wildlife, which are affected by this violent bloody trade. It is about the people of Africa and Asia suffering from the poverty and insecurity this black market has brought upon their lives. This is about the people defending the wildlife who chose a vibrant *wildlife economy* (tourism) as oppose to the violent *extinction economy* that brings havoc on their regional security and well-being. Bryan Christy, the investigative journalist from *National Geographic*, witnessed this first-hand when he was reporting on, "How Killing Elephants finances Terror in Africa," the magazine's cover article published on September 2015:**

**"In central Africa, it's a war. You have rebel militia and terrorist groups killing elephants for ivory, taking that ivory, trading for arms, or trading it for medicine. And one of the important things I learned in this project is, in many of these lawless states in central Africa, park rangers are the only protection that people on the ground have. So for me, this news story isn't about elephants, it's about violence, and these rangers represent the front lines between terrorists and people.**

**Meanwhile, as leaders in Europe, the Middle East, and the U.S. strategize about how to stop the ever expanding network of international terrorist organizations. Somewhere in Africa a park ranger stands his post, holding an AK-47 and a handful of bullets, manning the front line for all of us."**



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Regardless of the growing proof of the nexus between terrorism and wildlife trafficking, we need not wait for a pile up of evidence to act on this issue as challenged by those opposing this bill. As such, I would like to close my testimony with this quote from the former Assistant Secretary of State for the *Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs*, Ambassador William Brownfield:

**“I don’t think we have to link it to terrorism. I think that illegal wildlife trafficking is in and of itself so repulsive, so repugnant that we don’t need to tie it to something else as a matter of making a point.”<sup>26</sup>**

If only it was that easy to convince people of how imperative it is to solve this global crisis.

As a **second-generation Maryland Terrapin with deep ties to our great state**, I thank you so much your time in considering my testimony on this urgent wildlife conservation and national security issue **in strong support of HB 686, to prohibit wildlife trafficking of 12 “covered animal species” in the Great State of Maryland.**

Respectfully,



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*Tusk Task Force™ is the Seattle-based, federal 501c3 status-pending, global non-profit wildlife conservation NGO mitigating the threat of violence and terrorism on the world’s wildlife by providing strategic and tactical resources—advocacy, intelligence, and protection—to all ground forces that defend them so that wildlife may live. ©*

<sup>26</sup> Statement given to Lisa Miller, Washington correspondent for *ABC Radio Australia* for her report entitled, “US warehouse of 1.5 million stuffed animals stands as reminder of horrific illegal wildlife trade,” aired on 04/01/2015.

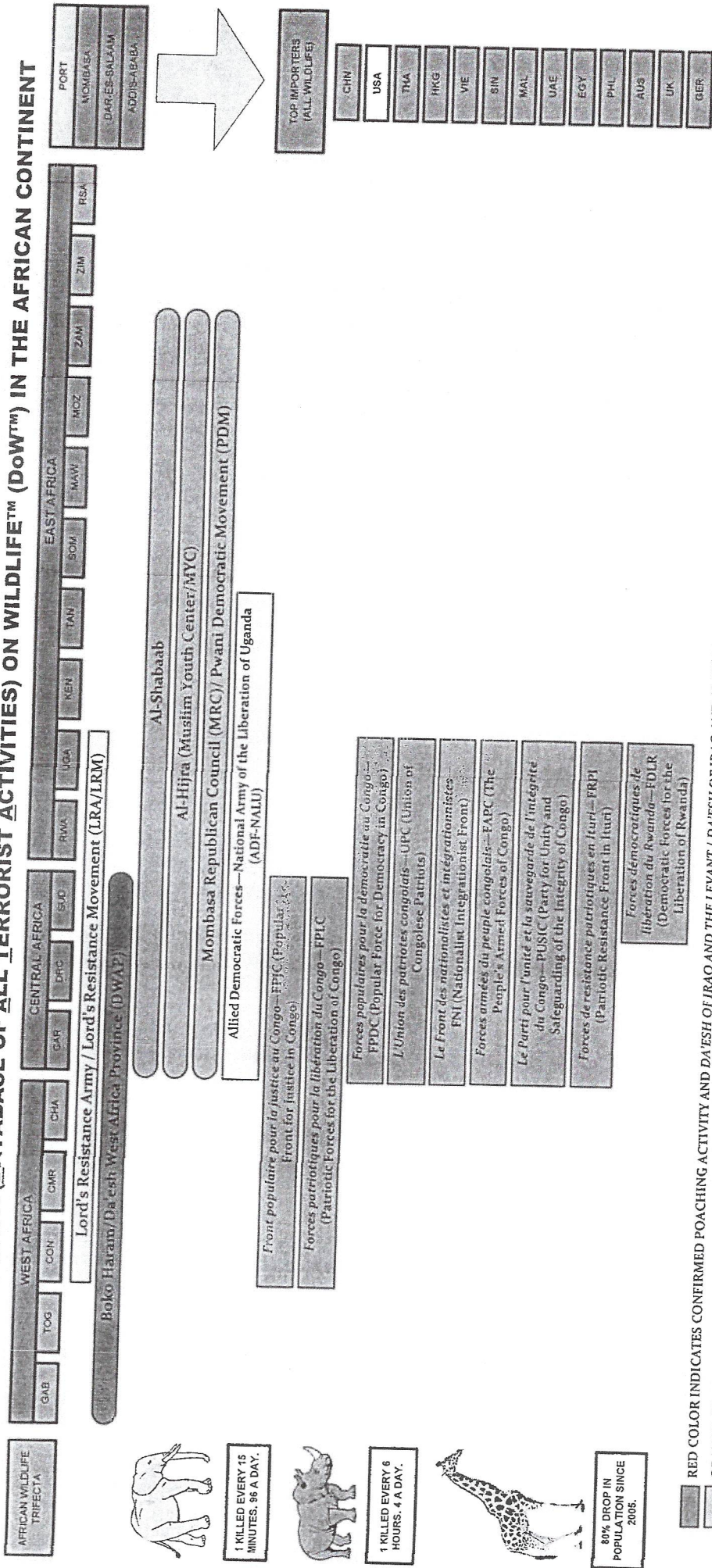
**TUSK TASK FORCE'S OUTREACH MISSION IS TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE THAT POACHING WILDLIFE PARTS IS NOT JUST ABOUT THE ANIMALS ANYMORE; IT'S NOW A GLOBAL SECURITY ISSUE SINCE POACHING FUNDS TERRORISM.**

- **Every 15 minutes an elephant is killed for its tusk.** That's 4 an hour, 96 a day, 672 a week, 2,880 a month, and 34,560 a year. A total of 35,000 elephants were killed in 2013 alone.
- **Wildlife trafficking has an estimated \$23-billion-a-year market** according to the U.S. Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division (John C. Cruden, 02/11/14).
- **Rhino population is down at 97% since 1960 and one is killed every 13 hours, every day.** Rhino population figures include Black (<5,000), Southern White (<20,000), Greater One-Horned (<3,000), Sumatran (<100), and Javan (35-45). **The Northern White Rhino is now extinct.** Vietnam and China are the world's biggest consumers of rhino horn due to non-regulation and illicit trade.
- **Individual elephant tusks can sell for tens of thousands of dollars, and reports indicate that the substantial portions of these illegal profits are ending up in the hands of transnational organized crime syndicates that also conduct trafficking of humans, drugs, and weapons** and extremist groups like al-Shabaab in the Sudan and Somalia, Boko Haram in Nigeria, and Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Uganda that use the proceeds to finance human rights abuses and terrorist activities.
- **Consumer demand, stimulated by the presence of legal domestic markets in many countries around the world, is elevating the price of ivory and driving elephant poaching.** Within the United States, assessed by some to be the second largest commercial market for ivory in the world, studies indicate that illegal ivory is frequently sold alongside legal ivory in shops across the country. It is impossible to distinguish legal ivory from illegal ivory without an expensive lab test. This renders enforcement of existing U.S. law extremely difficult, and **traffickers frequently exploit these regulatory loopholes in order to sell poached ivory in legal markets at the state/local level.**
- A September 2013 report issued by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime identified the **notorious al-Shabaab, the Somali-based affiliate of al-Qae'da** (and has been designated by the U.S. as a foreign terrorist organization) **raises \$600,000 a month from poaching to fund all of its operations that includes the Westgate shopping mall attack in Nairobi, Kenya on September 21, 2013.**
- **Supplies of ivory from Africa and elsewhere are usually purchased and distributed by Chinese mafia organizations** in Hong Kong, Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States with those funds being recycled to purchase arms for poachers and terrorists to use.
- **Boko Haram, who kidnapped the 200 Nigerian school girls and beheaded hostages, publicly declared that they will directly resort to poaching as a primary source of income since "it is easier than kidnapping and extortion."**
- At a hearing at the UN General Council in September 2013, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations cited the link between terrorism and illegal ivory sales, citing the murder of park rangers and also saying **"Wildlife trafficking is increasingly associated with rebel and terrorist groups such as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and al-Shabaab, an al-Qaeda terrorist cell in East Africa"** making ivory tusks and rhino horn profits as a primary resource of funding for these organizations due to the demand by global markets.

Sources: World Threat Assessment of the Intelligence Community (ODNI, 02/26/15); National Security Strategy (EOPOTUS, 02/06/15); Ivory's Curse: The Militarization & Professionalization of Poaching in Africa (Born Free USA/c4ads, 04, 2014); A Rapid Response Assessment: The Environmental Crime Crisis/Threats to Sustainable Development from Illegal Exploitation and Trade in Wildlife and Forest Resources (United Nations Environmental Programme/INTERPOL, 06/26/14)

**IF CURRENT POACHING RATES CONTINUE OR INCREASE DUE TO DEMAND, ELEPHANTS AND RHINOS WILL BE EXTINCT WITHIN TEN YEARS.**

# VISUAL MATRIX OF DATA (DATABASE OF ALL TERRORIST ACTIVITIES) ON WILDLIFE™ (DOW™) IN THE AFRICAN CONTINENT



We mitigate the threat of terrorism on wildlife worldwide™  
 #FightTerrorismSaveWildlife™ #StopWildlifeTerrorism™

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Sources: African Parks, BBC, All Africa (Joseph Muraya), Barbara Among (Uganda), Daily Mail (Jenny Stanton), Daily Nation (Rasna Warah), Digital Globe, Elizabeth Donnelly (Chartham House, Royal Institute of International Affairs), Enough Project (Holly Dranginis, Sasha Lezhnev), General Service Unit (GSU, Kenya), Inspector-General of Police David Kimaiyo (Kenya), Interpol, IRIN, Jean-Marie Froment (African Parks), Jeremy Presholdt, John Davis, Kenya Interior Ministry Cabinet Secretary Joseph Nkaissery, New African (Desmond Davies, Mark Kapchanga, Wanjohi Kabukuru), National Security Intelligence Service (NSIS, Kenya), Nick Turse, PNAS (N.G. Patel, C. Torres, D.O. Joly, J.S. Brownstein, R. Boston, M.Z. Levy, and G. Smith), Science/AAAS (S.K. Wasser, L. Brown, C. Malland, S. Mondol, W. Clark, C. Laurie, B.S. Weir), The Independent (Lucy Clarke-Billings), TRAC (Tracking Terrorism), UN Office of Drug and Crime (UNODC), UN Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UN Security Council, US Fish And Wildlife Service (USFWS, Washington DC), and US National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC, Washington DC).