

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1287

To assist in the conservation of Asian elephants by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations within the range of Asian elephants and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of Asian elephants.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 9, 1997

Mr. JEFFORDS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

To assist in the conservation of Asian elephants by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations within the range of Asian elephants and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of Asian elephants.

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 “Asian Elephant Con-  
5 servation Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Asian elephant populations in nations with-  
2           in the range of Asian elephants have continued to  
3           decline to the point that the long-term survival of  
4           the species in the wild is in serious jeopardy.

5           (2) The Asian elephant is listed as an endan-  
6           gered species under section 4 of the Endangered  
7           Species Act of 1973 and under appendix I of the  
8           Convention on International Trade in Endangered  
9           Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

10          (3) Because the challenges facing the conserva-  
11          tion of Asian elephants are so great, resources to  
12          date have not been sufficient to cope with the con-  
13          tinued loss of habitat and the consequent diminution  
14          of Asian elephant populations.

15          (4) The Asian elephant is a flagship species for  
16          the conservation of tropical forest habitats in which  
17          it is found and provides the consequent benefit from  
18          such conservation to numerous other species of wild-  
19          life including many other endangered species.

20          (5) Among the threats to the Asian elephant in  
21          addition to habitat loss are population fragmenta-  
22          tion, human-elephant conflict, poaching for ivory,  
23          meat, hide, bones and teeth, and capture for domes-  
24          tication.

1           (6) To reduce, remove, or otherwise effectively  
2 address these threats to the long-term viability of  
3 populations of Asian elephants in the wild will re-  
4 quire the joint commitment and effort of nations  
5 within the range of Asian elephants, the United  
6 States and other countries, and the private sector.

7 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

8           The purposes of this Act are the following:

9           (1) To perpetuate healthy populations of Asian  
10 elephants.

11           (2) To assist in the conservation and protection  
12 of Asian elephants by supporting the conservation  
13 programs of Asian elephant range states and the  
14 CITES Secretariat.

15           (3) To provide financial resources for those pro-  
16 grams.

17 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

18           In this Act:

19           (1) The term “CITES” means the Convention  
20 on International Trade in Endangered Species of  
21 Wild Fauna and Flora, signed on March 3, 1973,  
22 and its appendices.

23           (2) The term “conservation” means the use of  
24 methods and procedures necessary to bring Asian  
25 elephants to the point at which there are sufficient

1 populations in the wild to ensure that the species  
2 does not become extinct, including all activities asso-  
3 ciated with scientific resource management, such as  
4 conservation, protection, restoration, acquisition, and  
5 management of habitat; research and monitoring of  
6 known populations; assistance in the development of  
7 management plans for managed elephant ranges;  
8 CITES enforcement; law enforcement through com-  
9 munity participation; translocation of elephants; con-  
10 flict resolution initiatives; and community outreach  
11 and education.

12 (3) The term “Fund” means the Asian Ele-  
13 phant Conservation Fund established under section  
14 6(a).

15 (4) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
16 of the Interior.

17 (5) The term “Administrator” means the Ad-  
18 ministrator of the Agency for International Develop-  
19 ment.

20 **SEC. 5. ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, subject to the  
22 availability of funds and in consultation with the Adminis-  
23 trator, shall use amounts in the Fund to provide financial  
24 assistance for projects for the conservation of Asian ele-

1 phants for which final project proposals are approved by  
2 the Secretary in accordance with this section.

3 (b) PROJECT PROPOSAL.—Any relevant wildlife man-  
4 agement authority of a nation within the range of Asian  
5 elephants whose activities directly or indirectly affect  
6 Asian elephant populations, the CITES Secretariat, or  
7 any person with demonstrated expertise in the conserva-  
8 tion of Asian elephants, may submit to the Secretary a  
9 project proposal under this section. Each proposal shall  
10 include the following:

11 (1) The name of the individual responsible for  
12 conducting the project.

13 (2) A succinct statement of the purposes of the  
14 project.

15 (3) A description of the qualifications of the in-  
16 dividuals who will conduct the project.

17 (4) An estimate of the funds and time required  
18 to complete the project.

19 (5) Evidence of support of the project by appro-  
20 priate governmental entities of countries in which  
21 the project will be conducted, if the Secretary deter-  
22 mines that the support is required for the success of  
23 the project.

1           (6) Information regarding the source and  
2 amount of matching funding available to the appli-  
3 cant.

4           (7) Any other information the Secretary consid-  
5 ers to be necessary for evaluating the eligibility of  
6 the project for funding under this Act.

7 (c) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—Within 30 days after receiv-  
9 ing a final project proposal, the Secretary shall pro-  
10 vide a copy of the proposal to the Administrator.  
11 The Secretary shall review each final project pro-  
12 posal to determine if it meets the criteria set forth  
13 in subsection (d).

14           (2) CONSULTATION; APPROVAL OR DIS-  
15 APPROVAL.—Not later than 6 months after receiving  
16 a final project proposal, and subject to the availabil-  
17 ity of funds, the Secretary, after consulting with the  
18 Administrator, shall—

19           (A) request written comments on the pro-  
20 posal from each country within which the  
21 project is to be conducted;

22           (B) after requesting those comments, ap-  
23 prove or disapprove the proposal; and

24           (C) provide written notification of that ap-  
25 proval or disapproval to the person who submit-

1           ted the proposal, the Administrator, and each  
2           of those countries.

3           (d) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary may  
4 approve a final project proposal under this section if the  
5 project will enhance programs for conservation of Asian  
6 elephants by assisting efforts to—

7           (1) implement conservation programs;

8           (2) address the conflicts between humans and  
9 elephants that arise from competition for the same  
10 habitat;

11           (3) enhance compliance with provisions of  
12 CITES and laws of the United States or a foreign  
13 country that prohibit or regulate the taking or trade  
14 of Asian elephants or regulate the use and manage-  
15 ment of Asian elephant habitat;

16           (4) develop sound scientific information on the  
17 condition of Asian elephant habitat, Asian elephant  
18 population numbers and trends, or the threats to  
19 such habitat, numbers, or trends; or

20           (5) promote cooperative projects on those topics  
21 with other foreign governments, affected local com-  
22 munities, nongovernmental organizations, or others  
23 in the private sector.

24           (e) PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY.—To the maximum  
25 extent practical, in determining whether to approve project

1 proposals under this section, the Secretary shall give con-  
2 sideration to projects which will enhance sustainable inte-  
3 grated conservation development programs to ensure ef-  
4 fective, long-term conservation of Asian elephants.

5 (f) PROJECT REPORTING.—Each person who receives  
6 assistance under this section for a project shall provide  
7 periodic reports, as the Secretary considers necessary, to  
8 the Secretary and the Administrator. Each report shall in-  
9 clude all information required by the Secretary, after con-  
10 sulting with the Administrator, for evaluating the progress  
11 and success of the project.

12 (g) MATCHING FUNDS.—In determining whether to  
13 approve project proposals under this section, the Secretary  
14 shall give priority to those projects for which there exists  
15 some measure of matching funds.

16 **SEC. 6. ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION FUND.**

17 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the  
18 general fund of the Treasury a separate account to be  
19 known as the “Asian Elephant Conservation Fund”, which  
20 shall consist of amounts deposited into the Fund by the  
21 Secretary of the Treasury under subsection (b).

22 (b) DEPOSITS INTO THE FUND.—The Secretary of  
23 the Treasury shall deposit into the Fund—

24 (1) all amounts received by the Secretary in the  
25 form of donations under subsection (d); and

1           (2) other amounts appropriated to the Fund.

2           (c) USE.—

3           (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
4           the Secretary may use amounts in the Fund without  
5           further appropriation to provide assistance under  
6           section 5.

7           (2) ADMINISTRATION.—Of amounts in the  
8           Fund available for each fiscal year, the Secretary  
9           may use not more than 3 percent to administer the  
10          Fund.

11          (d) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATIONS.—The  
12          Secretary may accept and use donations to provide assist-  
13          ance under section 5. Amounts received by the Secretary  
14          in the form of donations shall be transferred to the Sec-  
15          retary of the Treasury for deposit into the Fund.

16          **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17          There are authorized to be appropriated to the Fund  
18          \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000,  
19          2001, and 2002 to carry out this Act, which may remain  
20          available until expended.

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