

THE PROBLEM

Wildlife trafficking--including the import, sale and possession of endangered African species--has been linked to both organized crime and terrorism. These endangered populations are already under immense pressure from climate change, habitat loss, trophy hunting, and poaching. Adding insult to injury, the U.S. lifted the ban on some elephant and lion trophies in 2018, and issued multiple rollbacks of the Endangered Species Act in 2020. Poaching levels remain alarmingly high and continue to exceed the natural population growth rates, resulting in a further decline in endangered populations across Africa.

A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

In order to protect endangered species and close loopholes too often exploited by terrorists and criminals, Connecticut should join California, Hawaii, Illinois, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Washington in passing laws to restrict or ban the sale of endangered animal products. The populations of these endangered animals has been in steady decline over the past decade, stressed by poaching and loss of habitat and water resources. Connecticut has the opportunity to do its part in protecting elephants, leopards, lions, rhinos, and giraffes for future generations.

FAST FACTS

- ◆ The number of wild elephants dropped by almost a third in the last decade, with nearly 20,000 still being slaughtered for their tusks each year.
- ◆ On average, poachers kill one African elephant every 25 minutes.
- ◆ From 2004 to 2014, U.S.-based hunters imported more than 1.26 million wildlife trophies.



MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about wildlife issues and trafficking, contact:

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