



# International Affairs

## Program Overview

The Service's International Affairs program deals with private citizens, local communities, other Federal and State agencies, as well as foreign governments, and U.S. and international non-governmental organizations to promote a coordinated domestic and international strategy to protect, restore, and enhance the world's diverse wildlife and their habitats with a focus on species of international concern.

The Service has received international responsibilities under some 40 conventions, treaties, and agreements. Located within International Affairs, the Divisions of International Conservation, Management Authority, and Scientific Authority implement these authorities for the benefit of wildlife. The divisions work with other governments and a variety of non-governmental organizations, scientific and conservation organizations, industry groups and other interested parties to ensure effective implementation of treaties, laws, and the global conservation of species.

Working with partners around the world to conserve species and their ecosystems, International Affairs:

- Provides technical assistance to fish and wildlife managers in other countries.
- Helps to conserve species at risk through the regulation of trade
- Works closely with States and Native American tribes to help ensure conservation of U.S. species in trade
- Administers an extensive grant program supporting human and institutional capacity building



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and conservation research for such species as African and Asian elephants, tigers, rhinoceros, great apes, marine turtles, and their habitats through Wildlife Without Borders

### Facts & Figures

- \$11.5 Million within resource management
- \$7.9 Million in Multinational Species Conservation Fund
- 58 FTEs

### Conventions and Laws the Program Administers

- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- The Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere (Western Hemisphere Convention)

- The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)
- Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992, 16 U.S.C. §4901 et seq.
- Lacey Act Amendments of 1981, 16 U.S.C. §3371-3378; 18 U.S.C. §42.
- Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, 16 U.S.C. §1361, 1362, 1371-1384, 1401-1407; 86 Stat. 1027.
- African Elephant Conservation Act of 1988, 16 U.S.C. §4201-4425; 102 Stat. 2318-2323.
- Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994, 16 U.S.C. §5301-5306; 108 Stat 4094).
- Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997, 16 U.S.C. §4261-4266; 111 Stat. 2150.
- Great Apes Conservation Act of 2000, 16 U.S.C. §6301-6305; 114 Stat. 1789.
- Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004, 16 U.S.C. §6601-6607; 118 Stat. 791.

### Emerging Issues

- The initiation of a Strategic Plan for the Service's international program
- Address listings litigation issues for species such as ten different penguins, Medium treefinch, Andean flamingo and other bird species
  - 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (January 2010)
  - Enhanced cooperation with the Global Environmental Facility and World Bank

- Continue to address the greater number of petitions of foreign species listings
- Challenge of Polar Bear Trophies due to ESA listing
- Congressional consideration of Rare Cats and Canids Act and the Cranes Act
- Congressional consideration of the Wildlife Without Borders Act
- Proposed Polar Bear Range States Meeting in 2009 to discuss conservation



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