

# THE GREAT CATS & RARE CANIDS ACT OF 2009, H.R. 411/S. 529

The Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2009 would provide conservation resources for eight cat and seven canine species existing outside the United States that are recognized as endangered or threatened by the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and/or the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Red List of Endangered Species, and would provide opportunities to assist other globally imperiled big cat and wild canine species.

## SPECIES COVERED

- Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*)
- African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*)
- Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis*)
- Lion (*Panthera leo*)
- Clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*)
- Snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*)
- Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)
- European gray wolf (*Canis lupus*)
- Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardina*)
- Dhole (*Cuon alpinus*)
- Jaguar (*Panthera onca*)
- Maned wolf (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*)
- Bush dog (*Speothos venaticus*)
- Darwin's fox (*Pseudalopex fulvipes*)
- Borneo bay cat (*Catopuma Badia*)



Photo Credit: Julie Larsen Maher/WCS

## ROLE IN ECOSYSTEM

All of these species are umbrella species at the top of their respective food chains. This means that their health has a tremendous impact on the health of all of the species in their ecosystems below them on the food chain. The impact from allocating funding towards these specific species will reverberate through entire habitats all around the world.

## THREATS

Wildlife around the world is threatened by habitat loss and degradation, invasive species, illegal hunting, disease, and pollution. In addition, there are a number of threats that impact wild cats and canines more specifically such as wildlife-human conflict, exploitation for skins and the Asian medicinal trade, and persecution based upon negative perceptions and mythology surrounding the character of carnivores.



Photo Credit: Wildlife Conservation Society

## MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUNDS

The US Fish & Wildlife Service leads the world in supporting conservation of large mammals and sea turtles through the management of the Multinational Species Conservation Funds. Conservation of the world's great cats and rare canids requires a similar global commitment. Available resources are sorely lacking in countries that do not have adequate infrastructure to protect species of concern, and those that do provide assistance to threatened populations need help in implementing effective conservation strategies.

## AUTHORIZATION

The bill is authorized at \$5 million annually. Since 1990, the creation of new species funds has increased the overall resources appropriated from \$300,000 to \$8 million annually for rhinos, tigers, elephants, great apes, and marine turtles.

Continue America's proud tradition of leadership in wildlife conservation by co-sponsoring the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act.

In the House please contact Beth Osborne in Rep. Jay Inslee's office at 225-6311 or [beth.osborne@mail.house.gov](mailto:beth.osborne@mail.house.gov). In the Senate please contact Ellen Cohen in Sen. Lieberman's Office at 224-4041/ [ellen\\_cohen@lieberman.senate.gov](mailto:ellen_cohen@lieberman.senate.gov) or Jeanette Lyman in Sen. Tom Udall's Office at 224-6621/ [jeanette\\_lyman@tomudall.senate.gov](mailto:jeanette_lyman@tomudall.senate.gov) or Darin Guries in Sen. Brownback's Office at 224 - 6521/ [darin\\_guries@brownback.senate.gov](mailto:darin_guries@brownback.senate.gov). Let's ensure these majestic predators will exist for future generations to enjoy.