

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1771

To assist in the conservation of cranes by supporting and providing, through projects of persons and organizations with expertise in crane conservation, financial resources for the conservation programs of countries the activities of which directly or indirectly affect cranes and the ecosystems of cranes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2007

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. KIND, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. SNYDER, and Mr. COHEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To assist in the conservation of cranes by supporting and providing, through projects of persons and organizations with expertise in crane conservation, financial resources for the conservation programs of countries the activities of which directly or indirectly affect cranes and the ecosystems of cranes.

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 “Crane Conservation  
5       Act of 2007”.

## 1 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

2 Congress finds that—

3                 (1) crane populations in many countries have  
4 experienced serious decline in recent decades, a  
5 trend that, if continued at the current rate, threatens  
6 the long-term survival of the species in the wild  
7 in Africa, Asia, and Europe;8                 (2) 5 species of Asian crane are listed as endan-  
9 gered species under section 4 of the Endangered  
10 Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533) and appendix  
11 I of the Convention, which species are—12                     (A) the Siberian crane (*Grus*  
13                     *leucogeranus*);14                     (B) the red-crowned crane (*Grus*  
15                     *japonensis*);16                     (C) the white-naped crane (*Grus vipio*);17                     (D) the black-necked crane (*Grus*  
18                     *nigricollis*); and19                     (E) the hooded crane (*Grus monacha*);20                 (3) the Crane Action Plan of the International  
21 Union for the Conservation of Nature considers 4  
22 species of cranes from Africa and 1 additional spe-  
23 cies of crane from Asia to be seriously threatened,  
24 which species are—25                     (A) the wattled crane (*Bugeranus*  
26                     *carunculatus*);

1 (B) the blue crane (*Anthropoides*  
2 *paradisea*);

(C) the grey crowned crane (*Balearica regulorum*);

(D) the black crowned crane (*Balearica pavonina*); and

7 (E) the sarus crane (*Grus antigone*):

8                         (4)(A) the whooping crane (*Grus americana*)  
9                         and the Mississippi sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*  
10                         ) are listed as endangered species under section  
11                         4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
12                         1533); and

18                         (5) conservation resources have not been suffi-  
19                         cient to cope with the continued diminution of crane  
20                         populations from causes that include hunting and  
21                         the continued loss of habitat;

22 (6)(A) cranes are flagship species for the con-  
23 servation of wetland, grassland, and agricultural  
24 landscapes that border wetland and grassland; and

1                         (B) the establishment of crane conservation  
2                         programs would result in the provision of conserva-  
3                         tion benefits to numerous other species of plants and  
4                         animals, including many endangered species;

5                         (7) other threats to cranes include—

6                             (A) the collection of eggs and juveniles;

7                             (B) poisoning from pesticides applied to  
8                         crops;

9                             (C) collisions with power lines;

10                          (D) disturbance from warfare and human  
11                         settlement; and

12                          (E) the trapping of live birds for sale;

13                         (8) to reduce, remove, and otherwise effectively  
14                         address those threats to cranes in the wild, the joint  
15                         commitment and effort of countries in Africa, Asia,  
16                         and North America, other countries, and the private  
17                         sector, are required;

18                         (9) cranes are excellent ambassadors to pro-  
19                         mote goodwill among countries because they are well  
20                         known and migrate across continents;

21                         (10) because the threats facing cranes and the  
22                         ecosystems on which cranes depend are similar on  
23                         all 5 continents on which cranes occur, conservation  
24                         successes and methods developed in 1 region have  
25                         wide applicability in other regions; and

1                   (11) conservationists in the United States have  
2 much to teach and much to learn from colleagues  
3 working in other countries in which, as in the  
4 United States, government and private agencies co-  
5 operate to conserve threatened cranes.

## **6 SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act are—

8 (1) to perpetuate healthy populations of cranes;

(2) to assist in the conservation and protection

10        of cranes by supporting—

11 (A) conservation programs in countries in

12 which endangered and threatened cranes occur;

13 and

14 (B) the efforts of private organizations

15 committed to helping cranes; and

16 (3) to provide financial resources for those pro-

17 grams and efforts.

## 18 SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

**19**      In this Act:

20 (1) CONSERVATION.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “conserva-

“*intervention*” means the use of any method or proce-

23                  dure to improve the viability of crane popu-

24 lations and the quality of the ecosystems and

habitats on which the crane populations depend

1 to help the species achieve sufficient popu-  
2 lations in the wild to ensure the long-term via-  
3 bility of the species.

- (i) protection, restoration, acquisition, and management of habitat;
  - (ii) research and monitoring of known populations;
  - (iii) the provision of assistance in the development of management plans for managed crane ranges;
  - (iv) enforcement of the Convention;
  - (v) law enforcement and habitat protection through community participation;
  - (vi) reintroduction of cranes to the wild;
  - (vii) conflict resolution initiatives; and
  - (viii) community outreach and education.

23                             (2) CONVENTION.—The term “Convention” has  
24                             the meaning given the term in section 3 of the En-  
25                             dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1532).

1                             (3) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the  
2                             Crane Conservation Fund established by section  
3                             6(a).

4                             (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
5                             the Secretary of the Interior.

6 **SEC. 5. CRANE CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.**

7                             (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-  
8                             propriations and in consultation with other appropriate  
9                             Federal officials, the Secretary shall use amounts in the  
10                           Fund to provide financial assistance for projects relating  
11                           to the conservation of cranes for which project proposals  
12                           are approved by the Secretary in accordance with this sec-  
13                           tion.

14                             (b) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—

15                             (1) APPLICANTS.—

16                             (A) IN GENERAL.—An applicant described  
17                             in subparagraph (B) that seeks to receive as-  
18                             sistance under this section to carry out a  
19                             project relating to the conservation of cranes  
20                             shall submit to the Secretary a project proposal  
21                             that meets the requirements of this section.

22                             (B) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—An applicant  
23                             described in this subparagraph is—

24                             (i) any relevant wildlife management  
25                             authority of a country that—

(I) is located within the African, Asian, European, or North American range of a species of crane; and

(II) carries out 1 or more activities that directly or indirectly affect crane populations;

(ii) the Secretariat of the Convention;

and

demonstrated expertise in the conservation of cranes.

#### **REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—**A project proposal

submitted under paragraph (1)(A) shall include—

(A) a concise statement of the purpose of the project;

(B)(i) the name of each individual responsible for conducting the project; and

(ii) a description of the qualifications of each of these individuals;

(C) a concise description of

(i) methods to be used to implement  
and assess the outcome of the project;

(ii) staff and community management for the project; and

(iii) the logistics of the project;

(D) an estimate of the funds and the period of time required to complete the project;

(E) evidence of support for the project by appropriate government entities of countries in which the project will be conducted, if the Secretary determines that such support is required to ensure the success of the project;

(F) information regarding the source and amount of matching funding available for the project; and

(G) any other information that the Secretary considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligibility of the project to receive assistance under this Act.

(c) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) not later than 30 days after receiving a final project proposal, provide a copy of the proposal to other appropriate Federal officials; and

(B) review each project proposal in a timely manner to determine whether the proposal meets the criteria described in subsection (d).

(2) CONSULTATION; APPROVAL OR DIS-  
APPROVAL.—Not later than 180 days after receiving

1       a project proposal, and subject to the availability of  
2       appropriations, the Secretary, after consulting with  
3       other appropriate Federal officials, shall—

4                 (A) consult on the proposal with the gov-  
5                 ernment of each country in which the project is  
6                 to be carried out;

7                 (B) after taking into consideration any  
8                 comments resulting from the consultation, ap-  
9                 prove or disapprove the proposal; and

10                 (C) provide written notification of the ap-  
11                 proval or disapproval to—

12                         (i) the applicant that submitted the  
13                 proposal;

14                         (ii) other appropriate Federal offi-  
15                 cials; and

16                         (iii) each country described in sub-  
17                 paragraph (A).

18         (d) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary may  
19         approve a project proposal under this section if the Sec-  
20         retary determines that the proposed project will enhance  
21         programs for conservation of cranes by assisting efforts  
22         to—

23                 (1) implement conservation programs;

1                         (2) address the conflicts between humans and  
2                         cranes that arise from competition for the same  
3                         habitat or resources;

4                         (3) enhance compliance with the Convention  
5                         and other applicable laws that—

6                             (A) prohibit or regulate the taking or trade  
7                         of cranes; or

8                             (B) regulate the use and management of  
9                         crane habitat;

10                         (4) develop sound scientific information on, or  
11                         methods for monitoring—

12                             (A) the condition of crane habitat;

13                             (B) crane population numbers and trends;

14                         or

15                             (C) the current and projected threats to  
16                         crane habitat and population numbers and  
17                         trends;

18                         (5) promote cooperative projects on the issues  
19                         described in paragraph (4) among—

20                             (A) governmental entities;

21                             (B) affected local communities;

22                             (C) nongovernmental organizations; or

23                             (D) other persons in the private sector;

24                         (6) carry out necessary scientific research on  
25                         cranes;

1                   (7) provide relevant training to, or support  
2       technical exchanges involving, staff responsible for  
3       managing cranes or habitats of cranes, to enhance  
4       capacity for effective conservation; or

5                   (8) reintroduce cranes successfully back into  
6       the wild, including propagation of a sufficient num-  
7       ber of cranes required for this purpose.

8                   (e) PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY; MATCHING FUNDS.—  
9       To the maximum extent practicable, in determining  
10      whether to approve a project proposal under this section,  
11      the Secretary shall give preference to a proposed project—

12                  (1) that is designed to ensure effective, long-  
13       term conservation of cranes and habitats of cranes;  
14       or

15                  (2) for which matching funds are available.

16                   (f) PROJECT REPORTING.—

17                  (1) IN GENERAL.—Each person that receives  
18       assistance under this section for a project shall sub-  
19       mit to the Secretary, at such periodic intervals as  
20       are determined by the Secretary, reports that in-  
21       clude all information that the Secretary, after con-  
22       sulting with other appropriate government officials,  
23       determines to be necessary to evaluate the progress  
24       and success of the project for the purposes of—

25                  (A) ensuring positive results;

## 8 SEC. 6. CRANE CONSERVATION FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Multinational Species Conservation Fund established by the matter under the heading “MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND” in title I of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (112 Stat. 2681–237; 16 U.S.C. 4246) a separate account to be known as the “Crane Conservation Fund”, consisting of—

17                   (1) amounts transferred to the Secretary of the  
18                   Treasury for deposit into the Fund under subsection  
19                   (e);

20                   (2) amounts appropriated to the Fund under  
21                   section 8; and

**24 (b) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND —**

1                     (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2)  
2 and (3), upon request by the Secretary, the Sec-  
3 retary of the Treasury shall transfer from the Fund  
4 to the Secretary, without further appropriation, such  
5 amounts as the Secretary determines are necessary  
6 to provide assistance under section 5.

7                     (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the  
8 amounts in the Fund available for each fiscal year,  
9 the Secretary may expend not more than 3 percent,  
10 or \$150,000, whichever is greater, to pay the admin-  
11 istrative expenses necessary to carry out this Act.

12                     (3) LIMITATION.—Not more than 20 percent of  
13 the amounts made available from the Fund for any  
14 fiscal year may be used for projects relating to the  
15 conservation of North American crane species.

16                     (c) INVESTMENTS OF AMOUNTS.—

17                     (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treas-  
18 ury shall invest such portion of the Fund as is not,  
19 in the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury,  
20 required to meet current withdrawals. Investments  
21 may be made only in interest-bearing obligations of  
22 the United States.

23                     (2) ACQUISITION OF OBLIGATIONS.—For the  
24 purpose of investments under paragraph (1), obliga-  
25 tions may be acquired—

7                             (4) CREDITS TO FUND.—The interest on, and  
8                             the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any ob-  
9                             ligations held in the Fund shall be credited to and  
10                          form a part of the Fund.

11 (d) TRANSFERS OF AMOUNTS.—

17                   (2) ADJUSTMENTS.—Proper adjustment shall  
18       be made in amounts subsequently transferred to the  
19       extent prior estimates were in excess of or less than  
20       the amounts required to be transferred.

**21 (e) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATIONS.—**

22                   (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept  
23                   and use donations to provide assistance under sec-  
24                   tion 5.

1                             (2) TRANSFER OF DONATIONS.—Amounts re-  
2                             ceived by the Secretary in the form of donations  
3                             shall be transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury  
4                             for deposit in the Fund.

5 **SEC. 7. ADVISORY GROUP.**

6                             (a) IN GENERAL.—To assist in carrying out this Act,  
7                             the Secretary may convene an advisory group consisting  
8                             of individuals representing public and private organiza-  
9                             tions actively involved in the conservation of cranes.

10                             (b) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—

11                             (1) MEETINGS.—The advisory group shall—  
12                                 (A) ensure that each meeting of the advi-  
13                             sory group is open to the public; and  
14                                 (B) provide, at each meeting, an oppor-  
15                             tunity for interested persons to present oral or  
16                             written statements concerning items on the  
17                             agenda.

18                             (2) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide to  
19                             the public timely notice of each meeting of the advi-  
20                             sory group.

21                             (3) MINUTES.—Minutes of each meeting of the  
22                             advisory group shall be kept by the Secretary and  
23                             shall be made available to the public.

1   **SEC. 8. FUNDING.**

2       (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
3   authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$5,000,000 for  
4   each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, to remain avail-  
5   able until expended.

6       (b) OFFSET.—Of amounts appropriated to, and avail-  
7   able at the discretion of, the Secretary for programmatic  
8   and administrative expenditures, a total of \$25,000,000  
9   shall be used to establish the Fund.

