

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

MEMBER/OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM *Original* *Amendment*

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual *Financial Disclosure Statement*. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Rep. Jimmy Panetta
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: Carrie Panetta **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: April 21, 2024 Return: April 27, 2024
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** None
4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Cape Town and Ngamiland Return City: San Fransisco, CA
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF)
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary): During the trip, there were meetings with leaders within the fields of both water and nature conservation where we had the opportunity to gain insights on best practices and innovative techniques to capture water and maintain the integrity of the land.
7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
 - a. a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
 - b. the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
 - c. page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the Member or officer; **and**
 - d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have determined that all of the expenses on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with my duties as a Member or officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and would not create the appearance that I am using public office for private gain.

Member / Officer Signature: _____



Date: 5/13/2024

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF)

2. Travel Destination(s): Cape Town, South Africa; Ngamiland, Botswana

3. Date of Departure: April 21, 2024 Date of Return: April 27, 2024

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Jimmy Panetta

Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$8430.46	\$1268.59	\$13.59	\$150 (Conservation Fees) \$150 (Tips)
Accompanying Family Member	\$8430.46	\$1056.00	\$13.59	\$150 (Conservation Fees) \$150 (Tips)

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. Signify statement is true by checking box.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 05/06/2024

Name: John B. Gantt Title: President

Organization: International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF)

I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: 1200 Potomac St. NW, Washington, DC 20007

Telephone: 202-471-4222 Email: johngantt@iccfoundation.us

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.


This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Jimmy Panetta

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: 

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): _____

Office Address: 304 Cannon House Office Building

Telephone Number: 202-225-2861

Email Address of Contact Person: alex.roth@mail.house.gov

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Jimmy Panetta
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) and Natural Selection
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: _____
4. a. Date of Departure: April 19, 2024 Date of Return: April 27, 2024
b. Yes No Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?
If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Yes No Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**
 - (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: Carrie Panetta
 - (2) Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
 - (3) Yes No Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes No Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?
b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes No *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.

8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**
Going on this trip will offer me an opportunity to become better informed about innovative ways African countries are tackling dry climates and effectively capturing water to support and conserve their agricultural industries. As a Member that represents a large constituency of agriculture I will use this trip to share best practices that we can bring back to CA-19.

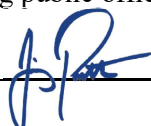
9. **Yes No Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**

10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member: _____



Date: 3-20-2024

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:
International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF)
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*
3. **Check only one.** I represent that:
 - a. The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
 - b. The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
 - c. The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.
If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: Natural Selection
4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): See addendum.
5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: April 21, 2024 Date of Return: April 27, 2024
7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC
b. Destination(s): Cape Town, South Africa; Ngamiland, Botswana
c. City of return: Washington, DC; San Francisco, CA
8. **Check only one.** I represent that
 - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
 - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
 - c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following.**
- a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____
-

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. **Check only one of the following.**
- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box; OR*
 - b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For *each* sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip *and* its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
See addendum.
-

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: helicopter)
 - b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: _____)
 - c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:
See addendum.
-

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:
- a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
 - b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
 - 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____
See addendum.
 - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
See addendum.
-

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Hotel Name: | <u>Taj Cape Town</u> | City: | <u>Cape Town</u> | Cost Per Night: | <u>168</u> |
| Reason(s) for Selecting: | <u>Convenience to airport, affordability</u> | | | | |
| Hotel Name: | <u>Tuludi Camp</u> | City: | <u>Khwai Reserve</u> | Cost Per Night: | <u>352</u> |
| Reason(s) for Selecting: | <u>See addendum 15b.</u> | | | | |
| Hotel Name: | <u>Tawana Camp</u> | City: | <u>Moremi Reserve</u> | Cost Per Night: | <u>352</u> |
| Reason(s) for Selecting: | <u>See addendum 15b.</u> | | | | |

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$7005 (IAD return) \$8669 (SFO return)	\$1224	\$65 See addendum.
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$7005 (IAD return) \$8669 (SFO return)	\$1056	\$65 See addendum.


	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$310	Conservation fees; tips.
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$310	Conservation fees; tips

19. **Check only one:**

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**

- a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
- b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
- c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature:  Date: 03/13/24
 Name: John B. Gantt Title: President
 Organization: International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF)
 Address: 1200 Potomac St. NW, Washington, DC 20007
 Email: johngantt@iccfoundation.us; rhowell@iccfoundation.us Telephone: 202-471-4222

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

4. Each individual was invited to see first-hand the innovative ways in which U.S. private and public investment in the region is providing invaluable support to biodiversity conservation and management efforts in Botswana and the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA), while strengthening the ability of local people and organizations to manage and conserve species, habitats, and ecological processes.
- *Representative Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA)*
Representative Reschenthaler serves as Deputy Chief Majority Whip in the House and sits on the House Appropriations Committee, including subcommittees on State and Foreign Operations and Interior and Environment, which have jurisdiction over funds provided for international development and conservation work.
 - *Representative Andrew Garbarino (R-NY)*
Representative Garbarino is a member of the House International Conservation Caucus and co-chair of the House Climate Solutions Caucus.
 - *Representative Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)*
Representative Panetta is a member of the House International Conservation Caucus, House Climate Solutions Caucus, and co-chair of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus.
 - *Representative August Pfluger (R-TX)*
Representative Pfluger is a member of the Conservative Climate Caucus and the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus.
12. The International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) educates U.S. policymakers and other global political and business leaders on the vital links between good natural resource management, sustainable economic development, conflict avoidance, and regional security. ICCF organized the logistics of lodging and travel for the trip and identified topics and expert speakers.
- Natural Selection is a conservation-driven tourism company, which owns and operates the camps visited on the trip. They look to make a difference by reinvesting into conservation and partnering with local communities, governments, and conservation organizations in the areas they operate to help protect important conservation areas and create long-term benefits. Natural Selection offers reduced lodging rates to ICCF as a conservation organization working in the region. Given the company's expertise in sustainable tourism and wildlife conservation, Natural Selection's founders were also invited to brief the delegation.
13. This mission visits sites in remote locations which are not easily accessible by car or commercial flight. Flight charter and helicopter transportation provide safe and timely travel between these sites as ground transportation is fairly unreliable/unpredictable. Ground or fixed wing air transportation would take significantly more time than helicopter transportation between Khwai and Moremi reserves, and helicopter transfer further provides capabilities to conduct en route briefing.
- 15(b) The purpose of this mission is to familiarize and educate the delegation about the critical role that conservation and sound natural resource management play in poverty alleviation, sustainable economic development, and regional security for Botswana, neighboring states within the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA), and other developing countries of the world and subsequent impacts on the U.S. The Okavango watershed region

stretches across southern Africa. Botswana contains the Okavango Delta, a UNESCO heritage site and pristine expanse, home to thousands of species, including the world's largest elephant population. Sites visited fall within the KAZA TFCA on community-owned reserves, which make them ideal to demonstrate the importance of the Delta ecosystem, showcase models of sustainable tourism and community conservation, and highlight the impacts of human-wildlife conflict and wildlife poaching.

Rates at Tuludi Camp and Tawana Camp are inclusive of lodging, meals, and vehicle and guide costs. Rates at the Taj Cape Town are inclusive of dinner and breakfast.

- 18.** The cost of lodging reflects the full amount of inclusive rates offered at each location as outlined above. These rates are exclusive of conservation fees and tips.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

ADDITIONAL TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by an organization that provides funds, services, or in-kind assistance to another entity to underwrite, in whole or in part, a trip or an event, meal, or activity that will occur during a trip, or a necessary expense that will be incurred during a trip, with express or implicit knowledge or understanding that one or more House Members or employees may participate in or attend that trip or event, or otherwise may be beneficiaries of the gift or donation. **Provide a copy of your completed form to the primary sponsor of the trip.**

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor for this trip: International Conservation Caucus Foundation ICCF
2. Name of your organization: Natural Selection Safaris (PTY) LTD
3. Yes No Is your organization designated a § 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service?
4. Yes No Does your organization receive funding from any foreign government or multinational organization?
5. *Check one.* I certify that my organization:
 - a. Has provided a grant, gift, or donation to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor and conducts an audit or review of its grant, gift, or donation to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant, gift, or donation. **OR**
 - b. Has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, or conducting of a trip to
Destination: _____ on Date: _____
that is being organized or arranged by the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor. **OR**
 - c. Has provided in-kind support to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor (e.g., meeting planning assistance, meeting space and set-up, and paying for expenses related to this trip directly to the service provider).
6. *Check only one:*
 - a. My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent **OR**
 - b. My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.
7. I certify by my signature that
 - a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
 - b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent;
 - c. I am an officer of this organization and am duly authorized to sign this form; and
 - d. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 15th March 2024

Name: C.G. Bell Title: Director

Organization: Natural Selection Safaris

Address: Cintec House, Stibitz St, Westlake, Cape Town, South Africa

Telephone: +27 79 80 16195 Email: COLINBELL@IAFRICA.COM

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
Ranking Member

David P. Joyce, Ohio
John H. Rutherford, Florida
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Michelle Fischbach, Minnesota

Veronica Escobar, Texas
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland



ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Keelie Broom
Counsel to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

April 19, 2024

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
U.S. House of Representatives
304 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your and your spouse's proposed trip to Botswana and South Africa,¹ scheduled for April 21 to 27, 2024, sponsored by International Conservation Caucus Foundation and Natural Selection. This letter supersedes the Committee's letter dated April 16, 2024.

You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House Members may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$480] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

¹ Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or ohsstaff@mail.house.gov. House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,



Michael Guest
Chairman



Susan Wild
Ranking Member

MG/SW:tn



U.S. Congressional Delegation to Botswana

April 21-27, 2024

Saturday, April 20th - Travel Day

22:55 Congressman Pfluger departs from Dallas

Sunday, April 21st - Travel Day

10:50 Congressmen Reschenthaler and Garbarino depart from
Washington, DC

15:00 Congressman Panetta departs Washington, DC

16:42 Congressman Panetta arrives in Newark

16:42 - 20:40 Congressman Panetta layover in Newark

20:40 Congressman Panetta departs Newark

21:20 Congressman Pfluger arrives in Doha

21:20 - 02:00+1 Congressman Pfluger layover in Doha

Monday, April 22nd - Travel Day

02:00 Congressman Pfluger departs Doha

10:50 Congressman Pfluger arrives in Cape Town

07:05 Congressmen Reschenthaler and Garbarino arrive in Addis Ababa

07:05 - 08:15 Congressmen Reschenthaler and Garbarino layover in Addis Ababa

08:15 Congressmen Reschenthaler and Garbarino depart Addis Ababa

13:45 Congressmen Reschenthaler and Garbarino arrive in Cape Town

17:10 Congressman Panetta arrives in Cape Town

13:00 - 19:00 Transfer to hotel, check in, and rest

19:00 - 20:30 Briefing over dinner with ICCF founder David Barron.

*David Barron will outline the purpose and agenda of the mission and give
an overview of ICCF.*

Accommodations: Taj Cape Town

Tuesday, April 23rd



- 07:00 - 08:00 Breakfast briefing on comparative conservation and development
- The delegation will discuss how countries in Africa comparatively approach conservation and development at national, regional, and international levels, as well as how the US and other developed states have historically approached conservation and development on the continent.*
- 08:00 - 09:00 Check out and transfer to airport
- 10:35 - 13:10 Flight from Cape Town to Maun
- 14:00 - 15:00 Mack Air flight to Khwai Private Reserve
- 15:00 - 16:00 Transfer to Tuludi Camp, briefing en route to introduce the delegation to the Okavango ecosystem
- The Okavango River Basin is Africa's most expansive inland water system and home to its largest remaining elephant populations. It begins in the Angolan highlands and runs through Namibia before entering Botswana and developing into the Okavango Delta, over 1,000 miles from its headwaters. The Okavango River and Delta are an incredible example of the complicated and intricate flood pulse water cycle that supports ecological and social systems in this region including over one million Botswanans, Namibians, and Angolans.*
- The unusual aspect of the Okavango is that it receives its water in Botswana's dry season. Only after summer rainfall has ceased do the floodwaters arrive in the Delta from further north, creating a fertile oasis crammed with life. It can take six months for the waters to filter down from the Panhandle in the north to the outer limits of the Delta. The level of each year's inundation is primarily dependent on rainfall in the catchment areas in Angola as well as over the Delta itself, and there is a distinct short- and long-term cycle to the flooding patterns of the Okavango and associated river systems.*
- 16:00 - 16:30 Check-in
- 16:30 - 17:30 Tea briefing on Botswana's approach to sustainable ecotourism
- With support from local Reserve staff, this briefing will discuss the importance of a community-driven conservation economy and sustainable tourism in the Okavango River Basin. It will talk about strengthening the resilience of the local communities who live in harmony with nature, so that conservation of biodiversity can be achieved – as well as the significance of empowering communities with a steady source of income through employment in community-based alternative livelihoods to curb the*



dependence on wildlife and to make a living. This briefing will illustrate the unique operating environment for tourism in Botswana, including the regulatory and training requirements for guides and rangers. It will also highlight the need for cooperation among tourism companies to work toward benefiting local communities and conservation.

17:30 - 19:00

Field visit and breakfast briefing on sustainable management of wildlife populations

ICCF staff will lead a discussion on different tools available to sustainably manage wildlife populations. There are many examples where Africa's biodiversity is being effectively conserved through well-managed parks and protected areas, and sustainable landscapes that support nature, human well-being, and Africa's economies. Botswana has a unique challenge with an overcrowding of elephants, which requires opening of migration routes across international borders and other tools to address. In neighboring southeast Angola, which contains the headwaters of the Okavango Delta, wildlife populations have been decimated as a result of prolonged Civil War, but efforts to improve park management offer an opportunity to restore wildlife populations.

Khwai Private Reserve is a pristine 440,000 acre unfenced private reserve that borders both the Moremi Game Reserve and Chobe National Park in northern Botswana. The reserve has a number of vastly different habitats that are essential for the production and health of the Okavango Delta. The delegation will visit and discuss the reserve's floodplains, woodlands, and open savannah, which have specific wildlife and management hurdles.

19:00 - 20:00

Return to camp and freshen up for dinner

20:00 - 21:30

Dinner briefing on public-private partnerships for protected areas

Protected areas are widely recognized as the "anchors" to any effort to preserve and regenerate nature and restore ecosystems for the benefit of wildlife, human well-being, and Africa's economies. Yet, most African countries lack the funding and capacity necessary to effectively manage protected areas.

Parks and protected areas that are effectively managed share a common theme – they are managed under a collaborative management partnership model, where the government agency responsible for managing the protected area has delegated certain management responsibilities to a partner which assumes those management responsibilities and in most cases funding obligations.

Accommodations: Tuludi Camp, Khwai Private Reserve



Wednesday, April 24th

- 07:00 - 09:30 Field visit and breakfast briefing on human-wildlife conflict and community development
- Human-wildlife conflict is a serious obstacle to wildlife conservation worldwide and is becoming more prevalent as human populations increase, development expands, and other human and environmental factors put people and wildlife in greater direct competition for a shrinking resource base. The delegation will learn about cost-effective solutions to mitigating these conflicts, as well as ways in which conservation benefits humans living in proximity to parks and protected areas. The delegation will learn about conflict flashpoints, as well as cost-effective solutions to mitigating these conflicts. They will also learn about how this conflict impacts human communities and why this matters to the U.S.*
- Khwai Private Reserve is an innovative community-based joint venture partnership in the Okavango Delta ecosystem and World Heritage Site. The Khwai Private Reserve was established to create a meaningful bridge between the tourism industry and local people. With support of Reserve staff and community members, the briefing will discuss community benefits and programs.*
- 09:30 - 11:00 Return to camp and check out
- 11:00 - 11:30 Transfer to airstrip
- 11:30 - 12:30 Heli-transfer to Tawana Camp, Moremi Game Reserve, briefing en route with aerial survey of the Okavango Delta to observe riverine woodlands, rivers, and lagoons and identify wildlife migration routes.
- The Okavango Delta system is a designated Ramsar site of international importance, jointly managed through the Okavango Delta Management Plan and the Permanent Okavango River Basin Commission (OKACOM), a tripartite agreement between Botswana, Namibia and Angola to promote the sustainable management and conservation of the entire water basin.*
- 12:30 - 13:00 Check in at Tawana Camp
- 13:00 - 14:30 Lunch briefing on transboundary conservation and the successes and challenges of the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area
- ICCF staff will brief the delegation on management of migratory wildlife across international borders, including existing efforts and needed actions. Discussions will also focus on improved management of shared ecosystems. Wildlife that migrate through ecosystems spanning more than*



one country pose unique challenges. For example, poachers often cross into neighboring countries to conduct their illicit activities then escape back across the border, with the knowledge that rangers are prohibited from crossing national borders to track and arrest them. Guests will learn about a range of transboundary wildlife challenges and ways that governments can work together to address these challenges.

The KAZA TFCA is enormous, larger than Germany and Austria combined and nearly twice as large as the United Kingdom. It lies in the Kavango and Zambezi River basins where Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe converge.

It includes the 15,000 km² Okavango Delta, the world's largest inland delta, as well as Victoria Falls, a World Heritage Site and one of the seven natural wonders of the world.

The KAZA TFCA process evolved from two initiatives: the Okavango Upper Zambezi International Tourism Initiative (OUZIT) and the "Four Corners" Transboundary Natural Resource Management Initiative. However, unlike its predecessors, the KAZA TFCA initiative is owned and led by the governments of the five partner countries, with a clear focus on conservation as the primary form of land use and tourism being a by-product thereof.

*The goal of the KAZA TFCA is "to sustainably manage the Kavango Zambezi ecosystem, its heritage and cultural resources based on best conservation and tourism models for the socio-economic wellbeing of the communities and other stakeholders in and around the eco-region through harmonization of policies, strategies and practices."
Its vision is to establish a world-class transfrontier conservation and tourism destination area in the Okavango and Zambezi River Basin regions of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe within the context of sustainable development.*

14:30 - 16:00

Afternoon Break. No activities are planned at this time and members of the delegation will have an opportunity to rest before evening activities.

16:00 - 18:00

Briefing in the field on the African poaching crisis and its implications for people and communities

The world is dealing with an unprecedented spike in illegal wildlife trade, threatening to overturn decades of conservation and development gains. As both populations and economies have grown in East Asia, the demand for wildlife products has surged, sending the black-market price of ivory, rhino horn, and other products to historic highs. The recent rise in wildlife product prices has been met by the increased involvement of more organized, better funded, and better armed criminal and terrorist networks,



and even militias, compounding the challenges faced by those charged with protecting the wildlife. Wildlife products can easily be converted into cash and used to purchase weapons and fund violent campaigns, and have become a substantial source of income for terrorist organizations in Africa.

Ivory and rhino horn are gaining popularity as a source of income for some of Africa's most notorious armed groups. Illegal wildlife products are a substantial lifeline to African-based terrorism. These groups, which are systematically exploiting porous borders and weak governance and hindering sustainable economic activities, have the potential to set back African development by decades and create large swaths of ungovernable land and new hotbeds for terrorist cells.

Poaching in Africa is destabilizing economies, decimating iconic species, financing terrorist and violent organizations, contributing to the deterioration of governance in rangelands, and creating large swaths of land in which terrorist groups and militants can train and operate. The delegation will learn about recent legislative and policy successes in the region, as well as long-term strategies being developed to ensure availability of natural resources to communities and people now and for generations to come.

19:00 - 20:30

Dinner briefing with Natural Selection representative (TBC) on the role of tourism, Indigenous People, and local communities in conservation management plans

Wildlife tourism in Botswana has a significant impact on the economy and is widely considered a model for countries developing their tourism industries. Colin will speak to the importance of the tourism industry to the conservation of Africa's wild places.

Representative will also speak to the group about the history of the Moremi Game Reserve, designated as such to preserve Indigenous rights on the land, and the importance of respecting the needs and rights of Indigenous People and local communities in conservation management.

Accommodations: Tawana Camp, Moremi Game Reserve

Thursday, April 25th

07:00 - 10:00

Field visit and breakfast briefing on wildlife migration and implications for human and animal health

In northern Botswana's Ngamiland District, where the elephant population continues to grow by at least 5% per year, thousands of elephants are increasingly bottled-up between villages and vast livestock disease control fences that prevent them from moving through nearby Namibia into Angola



and Zambia. Decreasing pressure on Ngamiland's elephants is crucial to reducing the human-elephant conflict that is unfortunately continuing to grow in intensity. Six wildlife dispersal areas, or habitat corridors, have been identified as critical to securing a long-term future for KAZA's iconic wilderness and species. However, the most important of these corridors, including those that connect Ngamiland to other key parts of KAZA, remain compromised by fences, many of which were put in place decades ago to control animal disease but no longer necessarily serve their original purpose.

10:00 - 12:00 Return to camp and rest before lunch

12:00 - 13:30 Lunch briefing on global biodiversity and habitat loss, land use change, and environmental migration

Biodiversity loss is accelerating at an unprecedented rate, nearly 75% of land surface and over 85% of wetlands have been altered or lost, and more than one million species may be in danger of extinction this century, creating grave threats to human health, well-being, food security, regional stability, and continued economic success. Predicted changes in the ecosystem in Southern Africa are likely to see the drying of wetlands, and increasing competition for water in the south and west impacting dryland cropping and the associated livelihoods. Rainfall projections indicate that the southern part of the KAZA TFCA will generally be drier than the northern parts, significantly impacting biodiversity and the communities dependent on the landscape, with herbivores migrating northwards in search of pasture and water, followed by the carnivores that feed on them, increasing demand for resources.

According to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), desertification affects 45% of Africa's land area, with 55% of this area at high or very high risk of further degradation. Land degradation includes soil erosion, salinization, pollution, nutrient depletion, and loss of soil fertility, and is often driven by agricultural expansion, deforestation and biodiversity loss, increasing human and livestock populations, and unsustainable use. Africa is the most vulnerable continent to the impacts of these changes, subject to increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters, unpredictable rainfall, and widespread crop failure. An estimated 36 million people across Africa are displaced, mostly from conflict. This number has tripled since 2011, representing 44% of the global total.

13:30 - 16:00 Afternoon Break. No activities are planned at this time and members of the delegation will have an opportunity to rest before evening activities.

16:00 - 18:00 Field visit and briefing on nature-based solutions



Humans depend heavily on the services provided by natural ecosystems, including forests, coral reefs, mangroves, coastal wetlands, grasslands, rivers, lakes, and oceans. Ecosystems provide food and materials and are inherently resilient and stable, making them an effective tool for urban/residential planning. Additionally, nature provides opportunities to retain the carbon stored in biomass, in both terrestrial and marine ecosystems. The retention of carbon stored in natural ecosystems not only reduces the CO² concentrations in the atmosphere but also provides the necessary stability for the sustainable use of natural resources. These interventions using natural systems are collectively known as nature-based solutions (NbS).

Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage, or restore natural or modified ecosystems to address societal challenges, simultaneously providing benefits for people and the environment. Outside of climate mitigation and ecosystem advantages, there are notable social and economic benefits from these solutions, including job creation, tourism and community development, improved water quality, food security, and other health benefits. Examples of nature-based solutions include restorative agriculture practices such as crop rotation, restoring wetland or mangrove habitat, rebuilding coastal dunes, incorporating green areas in city/residential planning, sustainable management of intact forests, and reforestation of degraded forest land.

18:00 - 19:00 Return to camp and freshen up for dinner

19:00 - 20:30 Dinner briefing on conservation finance, international cooperation, and linkages to the global economy, peace, and stability

ICCF staff will lead a discussion to tie together information learned on the trip and more closely examine linkages to broader global issues. This will include a discussion of various development mechanisms available to finance global conservation efforts and how these efforts can work in tandem. Discussions will further contrast broader strategies for development finance: those that use predatory debt financing for infrastructure projects with detrimental environmental impacts to those that, rather, with sustainable outcomes, can uplift local economies in the developing world.

Accommodations: Tawana Camp, Moremi Game Reserve

Friday, April 26th - Travel Day

07:00 - 08:00 Breakfast and opportunity for final discussion of topics covered throughout the week

08:00 - 09:00 Check out and transfer to airstrip



09:00 - 10:00	Mack Air flight to Maun
10:00 - 11:00	Congressmen Reschenthaler, Garbarino, and Pfluger layover in Maun
11:00	Congressmen Reschenthaler, Garbarino, and Pfluger depart Maun
12:30	Congressmen Reschenthaler, Garbarino, and Pfluger arrive in Gaborone
12:30 - 15:30	Congressmen Reschenthaler and Garbarino layover in Gaborone
15:30	Congressmen Reschenthaler and Garbarino depart Gaborone
21:40	Congressmen Reschenthaler, and Garbarino arrive in Addis Ababa
21:40 - 22:50	Congressmen Reschenthaler and Garbarino layover in Addis Ababa
22:50	Congressmen Reschenthaler and Garbarino depart Addis Ababa
10:00 - 13:40	Congressmen Panetta and Pfluger layover in Maun
13:40	Congressmen Panetta and Pfluger depart Maun
16:20	Congressmen Panetta and Pfluger arrive in Cape Town
16:20 - 17:45	Congressman Panetta layover in Cape Town
17:45	Congressman Panetta departs Cape Town
16:20 - 19:15	Congressman Pfluger layover in Cape Town
19:15	Congressman Pfluger departs Cape Town

Saturday, April 27th - Travel Day

04:20	Congressmen Reschenthaler and Garbarino arrive in Rome
04:20 - 05:20	Congressmen Reschenthaler and Garbarino refueling stop in Rome
05:20	Congressmen Reschenthaler and Garbarino depart Rome
08:55	Congressmen Reschenthaler and Garbarino arrive in Washington, DC
05:50	Congressman Pfluger arrives in Doha
05:50 - 08:05	Congressman Pfluger layover in Doha
08:05	Congressman Pfluger departs Doha
15:50	Congressman Pfluger arrives in Dallas
05:30	Congressman Panetta arrives in Frankfurt
05:30 - 10:25	Congressman Panetta layover in Frankfurt
10:25	Congressman Panetta departs Frankfurt
12:40	Congressman Panetta arrives in San Francisco