

## **Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife & Oceans**

[fisheries](#) - - Rep. Wayne Gilchrest, Chairman

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515-6232 - - (202) 226-0200

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### **Statement**

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#### **Statement of the Honorable Eni. F.H. Faleomavaega**

#### **Legislative Oversight Hearing Regarding H.R. 643, the African Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act; H.R. 645, the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation and Reauthorization Act; and H.R. 700, the Asian Elephant Conservation and Reauthorization Act**

#### **House Resources Committee**

#### **Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans**

**March 15, 2001**

Thank you Mr. Chairman, and good morning. Allow me to congratulate you on becoming the Chairman of the Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee. I wish you well and good luck in your new responsibilities. I am confident that you will carry on the business of this Subcommittee in the same bipartisan fashion as your predecessor, and now the Subcommittee's Vice Chairman, Jim Saxton.

As you know Mr. Chairman, the conservation and protection of wildlife resources is one of the major oversight responsibilities of this subcommittee. Consequently, I was pleased to join you and Mr. Saxton in cosponsoring your legislation to re-authorize three very important international wildlife conservation statutes: The African Elephant Conservation Act; the Rhinoceros/Tiger Conservation Act; and the Asian Elephant Conservation Act.

The grant programs initiated under these Acts have been responsive, effective, and successful in supporting a diversity of conservation activities in various range states scattered throughout Africa and Asia. In fact, these grant programs have been so successful, the 106th Congress authorized two additional conservation programs: one for great apes and a second for neo-tropical migratory birds.

Of course, no program is without its critics, and I am sure that some aspects of these programs can be improved. One question I do have is whether or not these grant programs are funding the most critical priority needs in the field as identified by the range states themselves.

In this respect, I look forward to hearing suggestions from our witnesses today on how Congress might be able to improve these vitally important conservation programs.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with you and with the ranking Democratic member on the Subcommittee, Mr. Underwood, on the swift consideration of your legislation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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