



SO THAT ELEPHANTS MAY LIVE™

TUSK TASK FORCE™ | TTF™ has one simple mission: To take anti-poaching to the next level by providing strategic and tactical support—from public policy to morale resources—directly to all deployed forces on the ground worldwide. **#SO THAT ELEPHANTS MAY LIVE™.**

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Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Room HR 343, State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

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FOR: THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 913:**
An Act Relating to Trafficking in Animal Parts (Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn)

TO: **Chair**, Senator Floyd Prozanski
Vice-Chair, Senator Jeff Kruse
President Pro Tempore, Senator Ginny Burdick
Committee Members, Senators Sara Gelsler and Kim Thatcher

CC: **Sponsor**, Senator Mark Hass

March 24, 2015

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chair, Madame President Pro Tempore, and Honorable Committee Members:

My name is Allen R. Sandico and I am the CEO (Chief Elephant Officer) of TUSK TASK FORCE, a wildlife conservation non-profit with its global HQ in Seattle. As the world's first wildlife conservation NGO focusing on the link between wildlife poaching and terrorism, **I strongly urge the Committee to pass SB913, to prohibit the trafficking of ivory and rhino horn in the Great State of Oregon.**

As you may probably know, **the USD \$23-billion black market on wildlife parts has been known, among the global Intelligence Community (IC) which includes UNEP and INTERPOL, to fund terrorists around the world at the rate of USD \$600,000 a month.** These terrorists include (but not limited to) al-Shabaab in the Sudan and Somalia, Boko Haram in Nigeria, and Joseph Kony's The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Uganda. Most especially, al-Shabaab has been proven to be linked to al-Qae'da in Yemen and was responsible for the

Oregon State Legislature

Testimony to the House Senate Committee on Judiciary in Support of SB913

March 24, 2015 in Room HR 343 at 8:00 a.m. PDT

Page 2 of 2

Westgate shopping mall massacre in Nairobi, Kenya on September 21, 2013. Boko Haram abducted 200 Nigerian school girls on April 15, 2014 and is now using them as suicide bombers, spies, and executioners in their operations. In addition, they started beheading some of their Christian and Muslim hostages and just two weeks ago, they swore their allegiance to the notorious ISIL (Islamic State in The Levant) providing them with more resources and clout among their followers.

Indeed, **wildlife trafficking is such an urgent global security issue that threatens our national security** that it compelled the Director of National Intelligence, GEN James R. Clapper, to include it as an important agenda item to the ODNI's *Worldwide Threat Assessment* (presented to the *Senate Armed Services Committee* on 02/26/15, p. 9) which supplemented the President's *National Security Strategy* with regards to the other non-conventional threats facing our nation's and the world's security (released on 02/06/15, p. 12).

In order to stop the flow of money from this illicit enterprise of wildlife parts, **Oregon has the tremendous leadership opportunity to mitigate the funding of terrorism by banning all commerce related to ivory and rhino horn.** Last year, the States of New York and New Jersey passed stringent laws to ban ivory and rhino horn within their borders. Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawai'i, Illinois, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont also have current bills pending in their legislatures to ban ivory and rhino horn. **Now, it's your turn to push SB913 through this committee and, eventually, on to the House floor for a vote.**

As an aspiring PhD candidate focused on counterterrorism, I have attached a one-page "briefing points" sheet for your quick review and I will gladly provide you with more research on the link between wildlife trade and terrorism with citations and references, if you so desire at your convenience.

Thank you so much for considering my testimony on this urgent public policy and national security issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Allen R. Sandico". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Allen" being the most prominent.

Allen R. Sandico, MPA
Chief Elephant Officer (CEO)

Copy: Senator Mark Hass, 14th District
Encl/ars

TUSK TASK FORCE'S OUTREACH MISSION IS TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE THAT POACHING WILDLIFE PARTS IS NOT JUST ABOUT THE ANIMALS ANYMORE; IT'S NOW A GLOBAL SECURITY ISSUE SINCE POACHING FUNDS TERRORISM.

- **Every 15 minutes an elephant is killed for its tusk.** That's 4 an hour, 96 a day, 672 a week, 2,880 a month, and 34,560 a year. A total of 35,000 elephants were killed in 2013 alone.
- **Wildlife trafficking has an estimated \$23-billion-a-year market** according to the U.S. Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division (John C. Cruden, 02/11/14).
- **Rhino population is down at 97% since 1960 and one is killed every 13 hours, every day.** Rhino population figures include Black (<5,000), Southern White (<20,000), Greater One-Horned (<3,000), Sumatran (<100), and Javan (35-45). **The Northern White Rhino is now extinct.** Vietnam and China are the world's biggest consumers of rhino horn due to non-regulation and illicit trade.
- **Individual elephant tusks can sell for tens of thousands of dollars, and reports indicate that the substantial portions of these illegal profits are ending up in the hands of transnational organized crime syndicates that also conduct trafficking of humans, drugs, and weapons** and extremist groups like al-Shabaab in the Sudan and Somalia, Boko Haram in Nigeria, and Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Uganda that use the proceeds to finance human rights abuses and terrorist activities.
- **Consumer demand, stimulated by the presence of legal domestic markets in many countries around the world, is elevating the price of ivory and driving elephant poaching.** Within the United States, assessed by some to be the second largest commercial market for ivory in the world, studies indicate that illegal ivory is frequently sold alongside legal ivory in shops across the country. It is impossible to distinguish legal ivory from illegal ivory without an expensive lab test. This renders enforcement of existing U.S. law extremely difficult, and **traffickers frequently exploit these regulatory loopholes in order to sell poached ivory in legal markets at the state/local level.**
- A September 2013 report issued by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime identified the **notorious al-Shabaab, the Somali-based affiliate of al-Qae'da** (and has been designated by the U.S. as a foreign terrorist organization) **raises \$600,000 a month from poaching to fund all of its operations that includes the Westgate shopping mall attack in Nairobi, Kenya on September 21, 2013.**
- **Supplies of ivory from Africa and elsewhere are usually purchased and distributed by Chinese mafia organizations** in Hong Kong, Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States with those funds being recycled to purchase arms for poachers and terrorists to use.
- **Boko Haram, who kidnapped the 200 Nigerian school girls and beheaded hostages,** publicly declared that they will directly resort to poaching as a primary source of income since **"it is easier than kidnapping and extortion."**
- At a hearing at the UN General Council in September 2013, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations cited the link between terrorism and illegal ivory sales, citing the murder of park rangers and also saying **"Wildlife trafficking is increasingly associated with rebel and terrorist groups such as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and al-Shabaab, an al-Qaeda terrorist cell in East Africa"** making ivory tusks and rhino horn profits as a primary resource of funding for these organizations due to the demand by global markets.

Sources: World Threat Assessment of the Intelligence Community (ODNI, 02/26/15); National Security Strategy (EOPOTUS, 02/06/15); Ivory's Curse: The Militarization & Professionalization of Poaching in Africa (Born Free USA/c4ads, 04, 2014); A Rapid Response Assessment: The Environmental Crime Crisis/Threats to Sustainable Development from Illegal Exploitation and Trade in Wildlife and Forest Resources (United Nations Environmental Programme/INTERPOL, 06/26/14)

IF CURRENT POACHING RATES CONTINUE OR INCREASE DUE TO DEMAND, ELEPHANTS AND RHINOS WILL BE EXTINCT WITHIN TEN YEARS.