

SENATORS AND OFFICERS POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE OF TRAVEL EXPENSES

Date/Time Stamp:
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS

2019 SEP -5 PM 12: 56

This disclosure, along with a copy of the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form and all attachments, MUST be provided to the Office of Public Records, Room 232 of the Hart Building, within 30 days after the travel is completed.

In compliance with Rule 35.2(a) and (c), I Chris Coons, make the following
(Name of Senator/Officer)

disclosures with respect to travel expenses that have been or will be reimbursed/paid for me.

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): International Conservation Caucus Foundation

Travel date(s): August 15th 2019 - August 18th 2019

Destination(s): Nairobi, Kenya and Maasai Mara, Kenya

Name of accompanying family member (if any): Michael Coons

Relationship to Member/Officer: ☐ Spouse ☒ Child

FILL IN THE APPROPRIATE LINES. IF THE COST OF LODGING DID NOT INCREASE DUE TO THE ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD, ONLY INCLUDE LODGING COSTS IN EMPLOYEE EXPENSES. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Expenses for Senator/Officer:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate	\$985.20	\$510.00	\$282.16	\$648.80
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount	*per person	*per person	*per person	conservancy fees, visa fees, taxes, tips, field activities.

Expenses for Accompanying Spouse or Dependent Child (if applicable)

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate	\$985.20	\$295.00	\$282.16	\$648.80
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount	*per person	*see addendum	*per person	conservancy fees, visa fees, taxes, tips, field activities. *per person

Provide a description of all meetings and events attended. See Senate Rule 35.2(c)(6). (Attach additional pages if necessary.): See addendum

I HAVE MADE A DETERMINATION THAT THE TRAVEL DESCRIBED ABOVE WAS IN CONNECTION WITH MY DUTIES AS AN OFFICEHOLDER, AND DID NOT CREATE THE APPEARANCE THAT I WAS USING PUBLIC OFFICE FOR PRIVATE GAIN.

8/30/19

(Date)

Chris Coons

(Signature of Senator/Officer)

Expenses:

Accompanying relative added to the lodging costs while in the Mara as the lodging cost of \$295.00 was per person. While in Nairobi, the Senator shared the room with the relative (son) which didn't incur any additional lodging costs.

Meeting Description:

Attended meeting with President Uhuru Kenyatta to discuss a range of topics including sustainable development, the African poaching crisis, U.S. investment in the country, the conservancy model, etc. While in the Maasai Mara, all meetings centered around how the conservancy model is playing out in the Mara and the benefits it has on the local communities, wildlife and conservation. For a more detailed description of each meeting, refer to itinerary.



ICCF

U.S. Congressional Delegation to Kenya



August 15-18, 2019

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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Member Delegation to The Republic of Kenya

Day 1, Thursday, August 15th:

- 1:45 pm Depart Entebbe for Nairobi.
- 2:55 pm Arrive in Nairobi (JKIA) at 2:55 pm. Retrieve luggage
Each member of the delegation will receive a briefing book that will cover general topics on Kenya (historical summary, current economic & political conditions, current bilateral and multilateral programs and funding, and other aspects of U.S.- Kenya relationship), as well as detailed information on conservation work and all site visits planned.
- 3:30 pm Depart JKIA Airport to Fairmont Hotel.
- 4:30 pm Arrive at hotel. Get rooms and clean up for meetings and dinner.
- 6:30 pm Dinner with Parliamentary Conservation Caucus-Kenya Members and conservation partners.
Members of the delegation will have dinner with Kenyan legislators, including members of the Parliamentary Conservation Caucus-Kenya; Administration officials, including the Minister of Natural Resource and Tourism; and the U.S. Ambassador to Kenya to discuss a range of topics, including the caucus model, the African poaching crisis, U.S. investment in the country, etc. Key conservation NGO and business partners will also participate to discuss their projects and investment in the region.
- Accommodation: Fairmont Hotel, Nairobi

Day 2, Friday, August 16th:

Topic: Meeting with the President and arrival to Maasai Mara

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Briefing over breakfast to introduce topics that will be discussed during the trip, including transboundary conservation, community conservancies, the African poaching crisis, etc.

Meeting with President of Kenya, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta. (TBC)

Lunch and pack

Head to Wilson Airport in Nairobi for afternoon flight to Naboisho Camp in the Maasai Mara Conservancy. Ol Seki Airstrip. SafariLink Airways

Depart SafariLink flight to Ol Seki Airstrip.

Located in Kenya adjacent to the Masai Mara National Reserve, this private conservancy is a ground-breaking project of tourism benefiting conservation and community. With its high concentration of wildlife, and generous personal space and freedom on offer, visitors enjoy exceptional wildlife encounters. The Mara Naboisho Conservancy in Kenya is home to the big cats – in impressive numbers – and herds of elephant, giraffe, and wildebeest. The 50,000-acre conservancy is made up of land contributions from 500 Maasai landowners. The conservancy fees provide the Maasai community with a sustainable livelihood and ensure the conservation of the wildlife in this vital corridor of the Masai Mara ecosystem.

Arrive and check in to Naboisho Camp

Welcome briefing over by Naboisho Camp staff

Allan Earnshaw, from Kenya Wildlife Trust, will provide an overview of the park, its habitats, and its biodiversity. ICCF staff will also go over the trip itinerary with participants and answer any questions.

Dinner Briefing at the camp with Daniel Sopia, CEO of the Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA) on the importance of community conservancies in the region

Representatives of the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association and the Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association will brief the delegation. The Maasai Mara is Kenya's most important wildlife and tourism area. Roughly 25% of Kenya's wildlife resides within the greater Maasai Mara region, a 4,500 km² wildlife landscape comprised of the 1,510 km² Maasai Mara National Reserve (MMNR) and 3,000 km² of adjacent community and private lands. This area includes the key dry season range for the largest animal migration left on Earth.

The long-term conservation of this ecosystem depends on choices made by the Maasai and other landowners who control two-thirds of the greater Mara. Since the 1970s, when Maasai

communal lands were subdivided into individual parcels, farming, settlements, and fencing have spread significantly, leading to the loss of more than half of all wildlife in the Mara between 1977 and 2001.

In the face of these challenges, local Maasai landowners and innovative tourism operators have joined together over the past decade to create conservancies on private lands across the Mara ecosystem. Conservancies are formed by pooling hundreds of individual properties into larger wildlife, tourism and livestock management entities, connecting otherwise increasingly fragmented landscapes. The conservancy landowners receive a monthly lease payment from tour operators using the area. Conservancies are managed by stakeholder conservancy boards, representing landowners and tourism partners.

There are now 15 conservancies in the greater Maasai Mara, covering 1,394 km² and increasing the region's total protected area coverage from 33% to 64%. The conservancies support the livelihoods of approximately 13,500 households, or an estimated 100,000 people. Lease fees paid to conservancy landowners totaled \$7.5 million in 2017, demonstrating the potential for wildlife conservation to generate significant local economic returns. Conservancy governance structures bring transparency and increase participation in lease structures and benefit sharing. Benefits extend beyond the lease payments, with 1,600 people – mostly residents of the Mara – employed at nearly 50 conservancy-based tourism camps, while more than 250 conservancy-employed rangers help protect wildlife across the landscape.

Though still relatively new, conservancies are starting to show exciting conservation promise, providing critical habitat for a range of key species and leading to local wildlife recoveries in some areas. Recent research demonstrates, for example, that lion densities in the conservancies are actually higher than in the Maasai Mara National Reserve itself.

Accommodation: Naboisho Camp

Day 3, Saturday, August 17th:

Topics: Community Conservancies

6:30am-10:00am

Breakfast briefing in the field with Mara Predator Hub staff on Mara Predator Conservation and the Big Cat Project

The Maasai Mara ecosystem contains globally significant populations of large predators, including lions, cheetahs, wild dogs, leopards and others. Understanding how these species interact on the landscape is fundamental to ensuring their long-term survival. The Mara Predator Conservation Program, a project of the Kenya Wildlife Trust, conducts targeted research to understand the dynamics of predator populations, assesses threats such species face (e.g., from agricultural encroachment, habitat fragmentation, poisoning and unsustainable tourism) and engages stakeholders in strategies for reducing human/wildlife

conservation goal is the creation of an independent national association of wildlife Conservancies that will include community and private landowners, the appropriate government institutions, the private sector and relevant NGOs.

Accommodations: Naboisho Camp

Day 4, Sunday, August 18th:

Topics: Community Projects; Biodiversity in the Masai Mara

6:30 am- 7:30 am Early breakfast and Presentation by Dr. Crystal Courtney, Director of The Maa Trust

The Maa Trust is a non-profit organization based in community-owned conservancies in the Maasai Mara, Kenya. They work to increase the benefits of wildlife and conservation to Maasai families so that they appreciate, and contribute to, the protection of wild animals on their land, and they aim to unite communities by involving them in conservation at a management level.

8:30 am Depart for airstrip and flight to Wilson Airport in Nairobi

10:00 am Arrival in Wilson Airport in Nairobi and transfer to JKIA for flight to Entebbe

1:45 pm Flight to Entebbe airport in Uganda. Arrival 3:00 pm

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Advancing U.S. leadership in international conservation
through public and private partnerships and developing
the next generation of Congressional conservation leaders

25786 Georgetown Station Washington, DC 20027 | 202.471.4222 | www.iccfoundation.us

August 30, 2019

The Honorable Chris Coons
and Michael Coons
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Senator Coons and Michael,

We are pleased to invite you to join a U.S. Congressional Delegation to visit the Republic of Kenya from August 15 to August 18, 2019, inclusive of travel days.

The purpose of this mission is to 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 Kenya and other developing countries of the world. The mission will focus on both terrestrial and marine conservation and the role of U.S. investment in the region.

We have extended an invitation to the following Member of Congress and son to join the delegation:

Senator Chris Van Hollen and Nicholas Van Hollen

While in Kenya, the delegation will meet with government officials and leading local and U.S.-based conservation organizations.

Through this mission you will gain a firsthand look at innovative ways that U.S. investment in the region is providing invaluable support to the region's biodiversity conservation and management efforts while strengthening the ability of local people and organizations to manage and conserve species, habitats, and ecological processes, both marine and terrestrial.

The delegation will also learn about important issues relating to Kenya and East Africa, including collaboration with nongovernmental organizations, research centers, communities, and other stakeholders, to facilitate the protection of these land- and seascapes. No portion of the course or trip is financed by a lobbyist or a registered foreign agent.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about this remarkable part of the world and the efforts that are underway to ensure its conservation for the benefit of local communities and the world at large for this and future generations.

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Attached you will find general background information about the International Conservation Caucus Foundation and a brief working itinerary.

We look forward to having you join us.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Weis
Program Director

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PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM

This form must be completed by any private entity offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to Senate Members, officers, or employees (Senate Rule 35, clause 2). Each sponsor of a fact-finding trip must sign the completed form. The trip sponsor(s) must provide a copy of the completed form to each invited Senate traveler, who will then forward it to the Ethics Committee with any other required materials. The trip sponsor(s) should **NOT** submit the form directly to the Ethics Committee. Please consult the accompanying instructions for more detailed definitions and other key information.

The Senate Member, officer, or employee **MUST** also provide a copy of this form, along with the appropriate travel authorization and reimbursement form, to the Office of Public Records (OPR), Room 232 of the Hart Building, within thirty (30) days after the travel is completed.

1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors) International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF)
2. Description of the trip: Familiarize and educate the delegation about the impact of U.S. investment in conservation especially the community conservancy model, and its impact on poverty alleviation and eco
3. Dates of travel: August 15-18, 2019
4. Place of travel: Nairobi, Kenya; Naboisho and Mara North conservancies, Kenya
5. Name and title of Senate invitees: Senator Chris Coons, Senator Chris Van Hollen
6. I *certify* that the trip fits one of the following categories:
☒ (A) The sponsor(s) are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.
OR
☐ (B) The sponsor or sponsors are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, but retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and the trip meets the requirements of Senate Rule 35.2(a)(2)(A)(i) or (ii) (*see question 9*)
7. ☒ I *certify* that the trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
AND
☒ I *certify* that the sponsor or sponsors will not accept funds or in-kind contributions earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.
8. I *certify* that:
☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except for *de minimis* lobbyist involvement.
AND
☒ The traveler will not be accompanied on the trip by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except as provided for by Committee regulations relating to lobbyist accompaniment (*see question 9*).

9. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 6(B)**

I *certify* that if the sponsor or sponsors retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, one of the following scenarios applies:

- ☐ (A) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip.
- ☐ (B) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip (see questions 6 and 10).
- ☐ (C) The trip is being sponsored only by an organization or organizations designated under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

10. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 9(B)**

If the trip includes two overnight stays, please explain why the second night is practically required for Senate invitees to participate in the travel:

N/A

11. ☒ An itinerary for the trip is attached to this form. I *certify* that the attached itinerary is a detailed (hour-by-hour), complete, and final itinerary for the trip.

12. Briefly describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:

ICCF identified the topics of the briefings and speakers for this delegation and organized logistics of lodging and travel. ICCF is funding the trip, in part with a general grant from BAND Foundation.

13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:

ICCF educates policymakers on issues of conservation and good natural resource management.

14. Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:

ICCF has hosted many congressional trips including attendees from the House and Senate to Brazil, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, the Galapagos, Costa Rica, etc.

15. Briefly describe the educational activities performed by each sponsor (other than sponsoring congressional trips):

ICCF organizes education briefings for Members and staff, as well as roundtable discussions,

workshops and forums on Capitol Hill.

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
	\$925	\$815	\$250	\$477
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith estimate				
<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts				

17. State whether a) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation or b) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:

Specifically in regard to Congressional participation:

18. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:

Maasai Mara is a prime example of the community conservancy model which the U.S. invests in through

USAID.

19. Name and location of hotel or other lodging facility:

Fairmont Hotel, Nairobi; Naboisho Camp, Maasai Mara.

20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility:

Safety, proximity to conservation sites, and value.

21. Describe how the daily expenses for lodging, meals, and other expenses provided to trip participants compares to the maximum per diem rates for official Federal Government travel.

While in the Maasai Mara, the lodging costs are within maximum per diem rates but the meals and incidentals are over. This is due to field activities, conservation fees and a higher meal cost (around \$100 per day). All costs in Nairobi are within per diem rates.

22. Describe the type and class of transportation being provided. Indicate whether coach, business-class or first class transportation will be provided. If first-class fare is being provided, please explain why first-class travel is necessary.

Coach transportation is being provided.

23. ☒ I represent that the travel expenses that will be paid for or reimbursed to Senate invitees do not include expenditures for recreational activities, alcohol, or entertainment (other than entertainment provided to all attendees as an integral part of the event, as permissible under Senate Rule 35).

24. List any entertainment that will be provided to, paid for, or reimbursed to Senate invitees and explain why the entertainment is an integral part of the event.

There is no planned additional entertainment.

25. I hereby *certify* that the information contained herein is true, complete and correct. (For trips involving more than one sponsor, you must include a ~~separate~~ signature page for each additional sponsor).

Signature of Travel Sponsor: 

Name and Title: John Gantt, ICCF President

Name of Organization: ICCF

Address: 1200 Potomac Street NW, Washington, DC

Telephone Number: 202.471.4222

Fax Number:

E-mail Address: johngantt@iccfoundation.us, cweis@iccfoundation.us