0000000000987 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: September 27, 2021

Date/Time Stamp:

Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Post-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the **Office of Public Records in 232 Hart Building.**

In compliance with Rule 35.2(a) and (c), I make the following disclosures with respect to travel expenses that have been or will be reimbursed/paid for me. I also certify that I have attached:

☒ The **original** *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* (Form RE-1), **AND**
☒ A **copy** of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form* with all attachments (itinerary, invitee list, etc.)

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) and The HALO Trust (USA)

Travel date(s): August 22, 2021 - August 29, 2021

Name of accompanying family member (if any): _____
Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

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 Employee:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
☐ Good Faith Estimate ☒ Actual Amount	$3,532.97	$861.00	$237.21	$338.00 (Tips and Fees) $85.00 (COVID-19 Test) $16.00 (Emergency Evac. Insurance)

Expenses for Accompanying Spouse or Dependent Child (if applicable):

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
☐ Good Faith Estimate ☐ Actual Amount				

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

9/24/2021 (Date) Elizabeth Lewis (Printed name of traveler) (Signature of traveler)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER:

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

9/24/2021 (Date) (Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

(Revised 1/3/11) **Form RE-2**

0000000000988 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: September 27, 2021

Date/Time Stamp:

EMPLOYEE PRE-TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics** in **SH-220**. Incomplete and late travel submissions will **not** be considered or approved. This form **must** be typed and is available as a fillable PDF on the Committee's website at ethics.senate.gov. Retain a copy of your entire pre-travel submission for your required post-travel disclosure.

Name of Traveler: Elizabeth Lewis

Employing Office/Committee: Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): The International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) and The HALO Trust (USA)

Travel date(s): August 22, 2021-August 29, 2021

*Note: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.*

Destination(s): Luanda, Cuemba and Cuito Cuanavale, Angola; Abu Concession, Botswana

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

As the Policy Analyst for responsible for covering Africa for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (Minority staff), participation in this trip will help me better understand and conduct oversight of ongoing USG supported programming in Angola and Botswana related to environmental conservation, specific to the Okavango Delta in Southern Africa, the clearing of landmines and other humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian assistance (including to conflict and post-conflict countries) is a significant focus of my work on the committee, as is environmental conservation and biodiversity efforts in Africa (to include related topics like wildlife trafficking).

Name of accompanying family member (if any): N/A

Relationship to Employee: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

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

July 22, 2021
(Date)

(Signature of Employee)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING SENATOR/OFFICER (President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain):

I, Senator James E. Risch *(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)* hereby authorize Elizabeth Lewis *(Print Traveler's Name)*

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate. *(signify "yes" by checking box)* ☐

7/22/2021
(Date)

(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

(Revised 10/19/15)

Form RE-1

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): The International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) and The HALO Trust (USA)

2. Description of the trip: See addendum.

3. Dates of travel: August 22, 2021 - August 29, 2021

4. Place of travel: Luanda, Cuemba, and Cuito Cuanavale, Angola; and Abu Concession, Botswana

5. Name and title of Senate invitees: See addendum.

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.

– OR –

☐ (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)*.

– OR –

☐ (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:

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 and HALO Trust (USA) coordinated on identifying topics of the briefings and speakers for this delegation and organized logistics for travel and lodging. HALO Trust (USA) led on itinerary and costs for events in Angola, and the ICCF led on itinerary and costs for events in Botswana.

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

See addendum.

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

See addendum.

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

See addendum.

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
☒ Good Faith estimate ☐ Actual Amounts	Total: $3540.00 Air: $3,495.00 Ground: $45.00	Total: $905 Angola: $645.00 Botswana: $260.00	Total: $410 Angola: $270.00 Botswana: $140.00	Total: $485 Tips: $140 COVID-19 Testing: $85.00 Fees: $260.00

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 with regard to congressional participation.

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

See addendum.

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

Skyna Hotel, Luanda; Uncharted Mobile Camp, Angola; Seba Camp, Botswana

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

Safety and proximity to meetings and conservation programs.

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:

The daily expenses provided to trip participants are less than maximum per diem rates provided by the Department of State for official Federal Government travel.

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:

Roundtrip coach flights and ground transportation. Charter flights are being provided while in Angola due to diffuculty of accessing demining sites being visited by the group.

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:

None.

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 completed signature page for each additional sponsor):

Signature of Travel Sponsor: _____

Name and Title: John Gantt, President

Name of Organization: International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF)

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

Telephone Number: 202-471-4222

Fax Number: _____

E-mail Address: johngantt@iccfoundation.us; slylis@internationalconservation.org

0000000000993 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: September 27, 2021

Itinerary

Day 1, Sunday, August 22nd

1100 Depart from IAD on Ethiopian Flight #510 to BOLE International Airport (ADD) to arrive at 0715 on Monday, August 23rd

Day 2, Monday, August 23rd

0715 Arrival into BOLE International Airport (ADD) and connect to Ethiopian Flight #851at 0940 to Luanda (LAD)

1225 Arrive in Luanda, Angola. Retrieve luggage and proceed to the hotel

1400 Arrival at hotel, unpack and freshen up

1600 Depart for S. Miguel

1630-1730 Visit to Fortress of S. Miguel and briefing on Angola conflict history

Expert guide will brief the delegation on the historical significance of the Fortress, which dates back to Portuguese-colonial Angola and the slave trade, and the history of Angolan military conflicts. The Fortress, which also houses the Museum of the Armed Forces, was used in the Angolan War of Independence and against South African military interventions and has been submitted to be considered a UNESCO World Heritage site. This briefing will provide participants with important historical context on the impact of colonial influence and armed conflict on Angolan politics, society, and security.

1730 Return to hotel

1800 - 1815 Dinner and welcome briefing with HALO's Head of Congressional Affairs Kristen Stevens and ICCF's Executive Vice President Susan Lylis to introduce topics that will be discussed during the trip, including the U.S. humanitarian demining program, transboundary conservation, natural resource management, etc.

1815– 1915 Briefing by The HALO Trust's Tom Gowan on the origins of landmines and other explosive remnants of war in Angola, an overview of the U.S. humanitarian demining program in Angola including work supporting the government with weapons and ammunition stockpile management, and the implementation and impact of this work.

Accommodations: Skyna Hotel

Day 3, Tuesday, August 24th

0700 – 0715 Coffee and light breakfast

0715 Depart for US Embassy

0745 – 0830 COVID-19 Testing at US Embassy

0830 – 0930 Briefing with US Embassy country team

Note: Briefing extended to 1030.

Embassy officials will brief travelers on security and safety in Angola, speak to the US-Angola relationship, and highlight current bilateral development assistance through USAID.

0930-1000 Travel to government Ministries

1000-1330 Executive branch meetings and lunch

U.S. Embassy assisting to request meetings with:

- *President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço: to discuss the Government's recent commitments to humanitarian demining and conservation and explore opportunities to further the U.S.-Angola bilateral relationship.*
- *Minister of Culture, Environment, Tourism, Jomo Fortunato (and Secretary of State for Environment, Paula Coelho): to discuss the Government's conservation and sustainable development initiatives in the Southeast, including humanitarian demining efforts, and discuss opportunities for public and private partnerships to advance shared U.S.-Angola interests.*

Note; Meeting held with Secretary of State Paula Coelho and Dr. Joao Victor, Advisor to the Minister, 1500-1600.

- *Minister of External Relations, Tete Antonio: to discuss the Government's recent commitments to demining and conservation and opportunities to further the U.S.-Angola bilateral relationship.*
- *Minister of National Defense, Joao Ernesto Dos Santos: to discuss demining and weapons security assistance efforts throughout Angola, explore further opportunities to assist the Angolan Government in removing explosive threats, and discuss the intersection between conservation and security.*
- *Minister of State and Head of Security, General Furtado: to discuss demining and weapons security assistance efforts throughout Angola, explore further opportunities to assist the Angolan Government in removing explosive threats, and discuss the intersection between conservation and security.*

Note: Meeting held with Secretary of State for Defense and General Petroff, ANAM, 1330-1430.

- *ANAM, General Petroff and Dr. Adriano: to discuss demining and weapons security assistance efforts throughout Angola, including challenges and opportunities to assist the Angolan Government in removing these explosive threats.*
- *Simportex, General Pizarro: to discuss progress on HALO's Angolan Government-funded demining efforts in the southeast in support of conservation goals, developments on the conservation initiative in this region more broadly, and the path forward in removing all landmines from Mavinga and Luengue-Luiana Parks.*
- *Minister Faustina Fernandes Inglês de Almeida Alves, Minister of Social Action, Family, and Gender Promotion (MASFAMU): to discuss humanitarian demining and conservation projects in Angola.*

Ambassador Nina Fite to accompany delegation to all Ministerial meetings.

1330 - 1400 Travel to parliament

1400 – 1600 Parliament meetings

Note: Group meeting held with MPs, 1100-1300.

- *Head of the Parliament's 3rd Commission for External Relations, International Cooperation and Angolan Communities, MP Josefina Pitra Diakite: to discuss Parliamentary initiatives for conservation and sustainable development, including the formation of a conservation caucus/forum and opportunities for collaborative dialogue between the U.S. Congress, the Angolan Parliament, and other ICCF-supported conservation caucuses in the region.*
- *Head of Parliament's 2nd Commission, Roberto Leal Ramos Monterio: to discuss demining and weapons security assistance efforts throughout Angola, explore further opportunities to assist the Angolan Government in removing explosive threats, and discuss the intersection between conservation and security.*
- *President of 5th Commission, Ruth Mendes: to discuss Parliamentary initiatives for conservation and sustainable development, including the formation of a conservation caucus/forum, opportunities for dialogue between the U.S. and Angola, as well as economic opportunities stemming from demining efforts in support of conservation objectives in the southeast, and throughout the country.*

1600-1630 Travel to U.S. Ambassador's residence

1630-1830 Reception briefing with remarks by Ambassador Fite, Angolan government officials, private sector leaders, and NGO representatives

Note: Time extended to 1930 to include briefing by Jean Labuschagne, African Parks' Director of Conservation Development & Assurance, on

Welcome remarks offered by Ambassador Fite. Representatives of business associations, such as the U.S.-Angola Chamber of Commerce and AmCham

Angola, will present on members' support for conservation and sustainability in Angola. Civil society organizations, such as AKADIR, Mines Advisory Group, and the Nature Conservancy, will present on on-the-ground conservation, demining, and community development initiatives in Angola.

AP's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model for protected area management and the recent agreement (2019) to manage Angola's Iona National Park.

1830-1900 Return to hotel

1900-2000 Dinner with briefing by ICCF's Executive Vice President Susan Lylis on the Parliamentary Conservation Caucus model

Susan Lylis will discuss the Parliamentary Conservation Caucus model and how it is being implemented in legislatures around the world to educate and inspire policymakers, provide a forum for multipartisan discussion and consensus building, and foster collaboration between the public and private sectors to find innovative solutions to natural resource challenges.

Note: Briefing shortened and moved to breakfast, 0700-0715. Continued on 08/26.

Accommodations: Skyna Hotel

Day 4, Wednesday August 25th

0330 Leave for airport

0530 – 0800 Fly from Luanda to Cuemba

0800 - 0830 Travel to HALO Trust demining camp

The HALO camp is situated 100m from the bridge and the waterfall, with the nearest minefield lying just on the far side. Visitors will pick up protective equipment and any other necessary gear in camp.

0830 – 0900 Tour of camp, possible welcome from local government officials, and briefing by Tom Dibb, HALO's Head of Africa Region. He will discuss the significance of the location and the U.S.-funded work in this area and will guide visitors through the camp.

All of HALO's landmine clearance work in Bie Province, where Cuemba is situated, is being funded by the US Government through the State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement within the Political Military Affairs Bureau. The visitors will therefore be seeing US-funded demining teams in the field.

Cuemba is strategically located on the main road and rail routes between Huambo, Kuito, Bie, and Moxico Provinces. It is the main road to the provincial capital Luena and would be the route taken by National Geographic to reach their research base in Tempue and the Okavango source lakes.

0930 - 1000 Travel to minefield

1000 – 1230 Minefield and safety briefing by Rob Syfret, HALO Angola's Program Manager, and minefield visit

Government forces laid mines around the town of Cuemba, and nearby infrastructure, such as the bridge, to defend it from UNITA attacks. It is these minefields which HALO is now clearing.

Rob will show visitors the minefield map, discuss what threats are being found and generally how demining is conducted, and answer any questions. The briefing will highlight safety protocols to keep all visitors safe during the minefield visit.

Before entering the minefield, visitors will put on protective gear under the supervision of highly experienced HALO staff and will have the opportunity to see and handle a variety of demining equipment (metal detectors).

Rob and Tom will lead the group through areas of the minefield, using pathways that have been cleared of all explosive hazards and clearly marked. As deminers conduct their work, Rob and Tom will describe the demining process in more detail.

1230 – 1300 Lunch briefing by Rob Syfret and deminers on the impact of U.S. demining programs in Angola through a conservation, security, and development lens, highlighting HALO's 100 women in demining project

HALO will provide simple bag lunches for visitors to eat outdoors near the minefield next to the waterfall.

1300 – 1330 Travel to airport

1330 – 1530 Travel by air to Cuito Cuanavale (refueling stop in Menongue)

1530 – 1600 Transport to camp, drop luggage at accommodation site

1600 – 1700 Briefing by Rhys Mansel, HALO's Deputy Head of Research and Development. Rhys will brief the party on demining technology, HALO's R&D work in partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense, and how these efforts are supporting demining progress in Angola.

Note: Bypassed refueling stop, reducing flight time. Added briefing at Monument of Cuito Cuanavale originally scheduled 8/26.

1700 – 1830 Dinner briefing by Rhys Mansel on the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale, and the $60m Angolan Government demining project to support conservation in the province.

Cuito Cuanavale is where Angolan Government forces, supported by Cubans and Russians, fought the South African and UNITA troops to a standstill. The largest tank battle in Africa since WWII was fought here, and it marked the end of South African intervention in Angola. South African troops returned home, and the

independence of Namibia followed shortly after. As such, Cuito Cuanavale is hugely important to the Angolans with a national holiday celebrated on 23 March each year. Given the military history, Cuito Cuanavale is surrounded by dense minefields.

This briefing will be continued during a visit to the Cuito Cuanavale Monument the following day.

Accommodations: Uncharted Safaris Mobile Camp

Day 5, Thursday, August 26th

0600 – 0630 Breakfast and quick briefing on the day ahead

0630 – 0710 Travel to minefield

0710 – 0845 "HKK029" Minefield visit

The "HKK029" minefield is a huge South African-laid minefield lying to the east of Cuito Cuanavale. The minefield is approximately 20km long and comprises both anti-personnel and anti-tank mines. Both types are laid in very high numbers, and some of the party will be able to safely destroy some R2M2 AP mines under the close supervision of senior HALO staff. The South African mines are notoriously hard to find due to their minimum metal content, and so HALO is conducting research into new technologies which help to locate the mines in partnership with the US Department of Defense. The party will be able to see a range of detectors being trialed on this minefield.

0845 – 0945 Travel to Cuito Cuanavale monument

0945 – 1040 Continuation of briefing on on the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale by Jose Antonio, HALO Trust's Location Manager for Cuando Cubango Province, including tour of monument and lunch

Note: Moved to 08/25, 1445-1530.

Located directly next to the airport, this monument has historic significance to Angola. The monument marks the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale. Cuito Cuanavale is where Angolan Government forces, supported by Cubans and Russians, fought the South African and UNITA troops to a standstill. The largest tank battle in Africa since WWII was fought here, and it marked the end of South African intervention in Angola. South African troops returned home, and the independence of Namibia followed shortly after. As such, Cuito Cuanavale is hugely important to the Angolans with a national holiday celebrated on 23 March each year. Given the military history, Cuito Cuanavale is surrounded by dense minefields.

1040 – 1100 Travel to airport and board aircraft

Note: Departed 0930. Cleared customs and COVID testing 1300. Continuation of briefing on Parliamentary Conservation Caucus model, 1300-1345.

1100 Depart for Botswana

1330 Arrive in Maun, clear customs

1430 Depart from Maun to Abu Airstrip, transfer to camp and check in

1530 - 1730 Afternoon field briefing with Wilderness Trust's team of rangers and specialists, who will welcome the delegation and offer an introduction of the Okavango Delta ecosystem, focusing on the conservation challenges and opportunities in this region including wildlife corridors and regional conservation issues.

Travel time included as briefing takes place en-route.

1830 - 1930 Dinner Briefing with Dr. Nyambe Nyambe, Executive Director of the KAZA TFCA Secretariat, on successes and challenges of the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area

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 km^2 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.

Accommodations: Seba Camp

Day 6, Friday, August 27th

0530 - 0600 Wakeup and tea

0600 - 1000 Field briefing with Abu Concession guides and elephant experts

The vast Abu Concession is set within the Okavango Delta and as such is at the heart of the rangelands of Africa's largest surviving meta-herd of elephants. The delegation will gain a thorough understanding of the challenges facing African elephants, their role in the greater ecosystem, human-wildlife conflict, and why it is essential to preserve this and other endangered species. Concession guides and elephant experts -Dr. Fabrigas and Dr. Rob Jackson- will educate participants about elephant behavior, as well as elephant conservation efforts and challenges. They will learn about the role of elephants in the larger ecosystem and why the preservation of this species is essential to the wellbeing of Africa's biodiversity as a whole, as well as to the interests of people around the world. Elephants across the continent are being decimated, and wildlife crime threatens to overturn decades of conservation and development gains in the region, yet Botswana itself suffers from destructive over-population of elephants as their safe haven in the region. These topics and their implications for U.S. economic and national security interests will be discussed with concession rangers, who encounter these challenges on a regular basis.

Travel time included as briefing takes place en-route.

1100 – 1300 Brunch Briefing on Okavango Delta Ecosystem, Local Communities, and Ecotourism

Briefing will discuss the Okavango Delta World Heritage Site as well as the importance of a community-driven conservation economy and sustainable tourism in the Okavango River Basin. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it will discuss the importance of protecting fragile ecosystems such as the Okavango River Basin, which is home to rich biodiversity and a lifeline for a million people in southern Africa. It will talk about strengthening the resiliency 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 also highlight the need for cooperation among tourism companies to work toward benefiting local communities and conservation.

1330 - 1430 Transport to the river

1430 - 1630 Afternoon field visit and briefing on impacts of weather on the waters of the Delta

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.

This afternoon's field visit and briefing will be on the water, and guides will educate participants about the intricacies of the Okavango water system and focus on the impacts of weather patterns on the region and its biodiversity.

1630 - 1830 Return to camp and freshen up for dinner

1830 - 2030 Dinner and briefing on innovative technologies

Bruce Jones, Partner Manager of Vulcan's Earth Ranger, will lead discussions on various technologies being utilized in the region, including Earth Ranger and others, which focus on modernizing wildlife surveys and supporting community-led human-wildlife co-existence. Topics will include USAID-supported initiatives.

Note: Moved to afternoon tea, 1430-1530. Subsequent transport and field briefing with dinner pushed back accordingly.

Accommodations: Seba Camp

Day 7, Saturday, August 28th

0530 - 0600 Wakeup and tea

0600 - 0900 Field briefing with Wilderness Trust

Lazarus Moalosi of Wilderness Trust will discuss projects in three key areas:

***Research and Conservation**: ecological studies of specific species, transboundary movements, migration corridors and human-animal conflicts, interactions between species, and climate change. Such studies help pave the way for better informed conservation management decisions and thus the sustainability of Africa's wildlife and wilderness areas.*

***Community Empowerment and Education**: Conservation of animals and plants is only as strong as the people who live in their vicinity. Without the engagement and involvement of such people, conservation is likely to exist only on paper. Therefore, educational and financial empowerment of local communities is the bedrock of the Trust, providing much-needed skills and knowledge to these communities.*

***Anti-Poaching and Management**: Hands-on management contributes to the survival of both individual species and their endangered habitats. The Trust supports a number of anti-poaching entities and assists in further management initiatives, such as aerial surveys.*

Travel time included as briefing takes place en-route.

1000 - 1030 Return to camp, shower, and pack

1030 Depart for the airstrip for flight to Maun

1200 - 1300 Lunch meeting with co-chairs of the Botswana Conservation Parliamentary Caucus

Since 2016, the Botswana Conservation Parliamentary Caucus' strategic objectives have recognized the importance of ecotourism development, combating environmental crime, and the promotion of community-based conservation. The caucus' goals involve the development and passage of national wildlife policy and legislative actions, implementation of regional policy frameworks, and continued development of criminal justice capacity-building. On August 7th, they will launch their new strategic plan and will share this with the delegation.

1300 Depart for airport

1415 SA Airlink Flight # 301 from Maun (MUB) to JNB

2000 United Flight # 187 from JNB to EWR

Accommodations: Airplane

Day 8, Monday, August 29th

0755 Flight #746 from EWR to IAD

0912 Arrival at IAD

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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

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July 22, 2021

Ms. Elizabeth Lewis
Senate Foreign Relations Committee Staff, Senator Jim Risch
By Electronic Delivery

Dear Elizabeth,

We are pleased to invite you to join a U.S. Congressional Staff Delegation to visit the Republic of Angola and the Republic of Botswana from August 22 to August 29, 2021, inclusive of travel days.

The primary 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 Angola, Botswana, Namibia, and other developing countries of the world and subsequent impacts on the U.S. The second purpose of the mission is to highlight life-saving U.S. humanitarian demining programs in Angola and educate the delegation about the lasting effects of Angola's Civil War throughout the country. The visit will focus primarily on the hundreds of minefields remaining in southeast Angola that impede safety and development in areas critical for regional water security and wildlife management.

We have extended an invitation to the following Congressional staff members to join the delegation:

Jonathan Stahler, Chief of Staff, Senator Chris Coons, (D-DE)
Veronica Duron, Chief of Staff, Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ)
Eric Einhorn, Chief of Staff, U.S. Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)
Kristin Walker, Chief of Staff, Senator Cynthia M. Lummis, (R-WY)

While in Angola and Botswana, the delegation will meet with government officials and leading local and U.S.-based conservation organizations. Trip participants will 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 Angola, Botswana, and the Okavango watershed region while strengthening the ability of local people and organizations to manage and conserve species, habitats, and ecological processes.

The delegation will also see first-hand the work and impact of humanitarian demining programs in Angola and the link between this work and shared U.S.-Angolan

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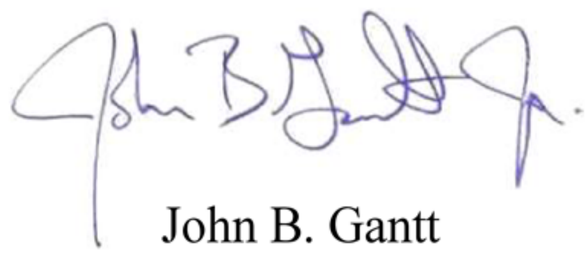
goals for sound natural resource management and development. No portion of the course or trip is financed by a lobbyist or a registered foreign agent.

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.

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,



John B. Gantt
President

2. The purpose of this delegation is to enable Congressional staff to see first-hand the ways that U.S. investment is supporting biodiversity conservation and management in the Okavango watershed, as well as see U.S.-supported humanitarian demining programs in Angola and their links to conservation and development goals in the region.

5.

- Jonathan Stahler, Chief of Staff, Senator Chris Coons, (D-DE)
- Veronica Duron, Chief of Staff, Senator Booker (D-NJ)
- Eric Einhorn, Chief of Staff, U.S. Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)
- Elizabeth Lewis, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Staff, Senator Jim Risch (R-ID)
- Kristin Walker, Chief of Staff, Senator Cynthia M. Lummis, (R-WY)

13. The first 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 Angola, Botswana, Namibia, and other developing countries of the world and subsequent impacts on the U.S.

The second purpose of this mission is to highlight life-saving U.S. humanitarian demining programs in Angola and educate the delegation about the lasting effects of Angola's Civil War throughout the country. The visit will focus primarily on the hundreds of minefields remaining in southeast Angola that impede safety and development in areas critical for regional water security and wildlife management.

ICCF supports the leadership of the bipartisan International Conservation Caucus (ICC) in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives by educating policymakers on issues of international conservation. To drive political will and strengthen conservation and economic development globally, the ICCF Group now supports the leadership of 19 parliamentary conservation caucuses throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America, and in the UK, and also works on the ground in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America. ICCF is driving U.S. and global conservation leadership by uniting policymakers, corporations, and NGOs to work together on conservation initiatives.

With the support of the ICCF Group, parliamentary conservation caucuses in Africa focus on strengthening national and regional laws and institutions for balancing conservation and development. Priorities identified as major sectors driving economic progress and having substantial impact on the environment include agriculture, forestry, water, mining, infrastructure, illegal wildlife trafficking and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The HALO Trust (USA) is a 501(c)(3) organization with the mission to lead the effort to protect lives and restore livelihoods threatened by landmines and the deadly debris of war. Founded in 1988, HALO locates and destroys landmines, cluster bombs and other explosive items, along with dangerous stockpiles of weapons and ammunition, so that some of the world's most vulnerable people can return home, plant their crops, and live in safety.

HALO's program in Angola was established in 1994 and has since been responsible for the removal of nearly 100,000 landmines laid during Angola's 26-year civil war. Here, HALO also provides risk education to help people stay safe from explosive threats, and supports the security and management of the Angolan Government's weapons and ammunition stockpiles.

14. ICCF has hosted many congressional educational trips including attendees from the House and Senate, most recently to Kenya in 2019, Mozambique in 2019 and 2016, and Botswana in 2017.

HALO has never hosted a Congressional trip. However, their programs are regularly visited by U.S. Government officials, including Congressional Members and staff through Embassy-arranged trips.

15. ICCF organizes educational briefings for Members and Staff as well as roundtable discussions, workshops, and forums on Capitol Hill.

The HALO Trust (USA) regularly provides educational briefings for Members of Congress and staff.

18. This trip will include visits to minefields in Angola where staff will see demonstrations of HALO's U.S.- supported demining efforts, and learn about the impact of demining work in post-conflict Angola. Botswana demonstrates how successful public-private partnerships and political will can benefit conservation and serve as a model for Angola to follow.