

## **S.3302 (Sepulveda)/A.584(Rosenthal)**

**Purpose:** Enacts the "Big Five African Trophies Act" relating to banning the importation, transportation, and possession of certain African wildlife species and products.

**Statement of Support:** This bill outlines the prohibition of any import, export, transport, procession, sale, or transportation of any part or product of the skin or body (whether raw or manufactured) of the "Big Five African Trophies." These are defined as the African Elephant, African Panther, African Lion, Black Rhinoceros, White Rhinoceros, and African Giraffe.

In the 40-page summary of the UN's Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services<sup>1</sup> released on May 6, 2019, the authors concluded that at least one million species of all varieties are in danger of extinction in the next few years due to human pressures and disruptions to the planet's habitats and biomes. Many more may follow — all losses will have devastating consequences for humanity as well as the rest of life on the planet.

S.3302 /A.584 would prohibit the import, possession, sale, or transportation of any of the "big five African species" and give any law enforcement officer authority to enforce this prohibition, and where necessary, the authority to execute any warrant to search for and seize any "big five African species" trophies. There are several exemptions – if these pieces were in procession before the effective date, or if the pieces are part of a collection of a museum (authorized by a special character from the Legislature), etc. This act would go into effect one year after it becomes law.

By banning the trade of these goods in New York, the ripple effect disincentivizes trophy hunting for these endangered species in their native Africa. With the threatened existence of these magnificent creatures, we should be doing all we can to ensure their survival. Legal trade of trophy-hunted species preserves and reinforces illegal sourcing as well. Banning the importation, possession, sale, and transportation of all Big Five African Species within New York will help halt the continued demise of these species. A complete ban can help stem the tide of illegal trafficking caused by the legalization of hunting of the Big Five African Species in some countries. This legislation would create the framework necessary to protect these endangered species, and therefore, the Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter strongly supports it.

**The Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Strongly Urges Your Support of S.3302 /A.584.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ipbes.net/global-assessment>