

Global Conservation Act

6/23 Over 80,000 acres of rain forest destroyed every day in the world (Regional Times)

Our planet is facing a growing biodiversity crisis because each day, more than 80,000 acres of rain forest are destroyed in the world, according to a report by William Eichbaum, Vice President and Managing Director, US Government Relations, World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Thirty percent of the world's coral reefs are already lost. As few as 3,200 tigers may remain in the wild in Asia.

Poachers follow logging roads into African forests to kill hundreds of great apes each year. The Global Conservation Act would create an international conservation strategy for the US government and provide the resources needed to turn the tide on the biodiversity crisis. The bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressmen Russ Carnahan and Jeff Fortenberry and in the Senate by Senators Tom and Sam Brownback. It would make US efforts to conserve biodiversity more effective and help coordinate those efforts across the federal government.

<http://regionaltimes.com/23jun2010/metrokarachinews/over8000.htm>

5/24 Carnahan's conservation push attracts celebrity attention (St. Louis Post-Dispatch Blog)

U.S. Rep. Russ Carnahan's push to preserve global habitats has caught the attention of Hollywood. The St. Louis Democrat met this week with actor Don Cheadle, who is supporting a Carnahan bill aimed at preserving natural resources and protecting wildlife around the world. Cheadle has grown as a global activist since appearing in "Hotel Rwanda," the 2004 film set against the backdrop of genocide in Africa. On Thursday, Cheadle took part in a Capitol Hill briefing for Carnahan's Global Conservation Act, which would, among other sustainability efforts, seek to crack down on unlawful wildlife trafficking and unregulated fishing.

<http://interact.stltoday.com/blogzone/political-fix/political-fix/2010/05/carnahans-conservationpushattracts-celebrity-attention/>

5/21 Don Cheadle won't use the F-word in D.C. (The Hill)

The similarities between Hollywood and Capitol Hill are well-documented, and for at least one A-list actor, this makes it easy to come to D.C. But it doesn't make it fun. Cheadle is in town this week lobbying on behalf of the Global Conservation Act, a bill that would mobilize U.S. diplomatic resources to fight environmental depletion overseas. He spent Wednesday meeting with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. On Thursday, he'll do a panel lunch with Dr. Jane Goodall and Reps. Russ Carnahan (D-Mo.) and Jeff Fortenberry (R-Neb.). As for whether the actor will attend President Barack Obama's state dinner Wednesday night, Cheadle speculated that his invitation had probably "gotten lost in the mail." But he wasn't worried about it. "Apparently, you don't need an invitation to get into those things," he quipped.

<http://thehill.com/capital-living/in-the-know/98797-don-cheadle-wont-use-the-f-word-in-dc>

5/20 Ten Minutes With Don Cheadle: Guess What? He's Not a Fan of Social Media or McPaper (FishBowl DC)

Actor Don Cheadle was offering 10-minute interviews in the Algonquin Room of the Four Seasons Hotel Wednesday morning in Georgetown. The interviews were kept to a strict time limit, with a PR person politely calling "Time" at the 10-minute mark. Cheadle is in town for two days to help Congress promote the Global Conservation Act, which he will introduce on Capitol Hill Thursday with Jane Goodall, and the bill's sponsors, Rep. Russ Carnahan (D-Mo.) and Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-Neb.). "A vast number of our medicines come from nature," the actor/activist said. "They need to be protected. It's in our own self interest to get on top of this."

http://www.mediabistro.com/fishbowlDC/rumors_andor_gossip/ten_minutes_with_don_cheadle_guess_what_hes_not_a_fan_of_social_media_or_mcpaper_162124.asp?c=rss