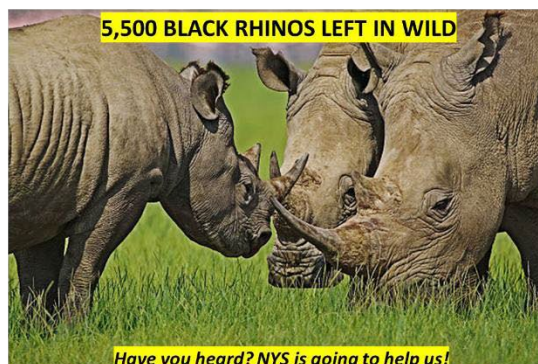
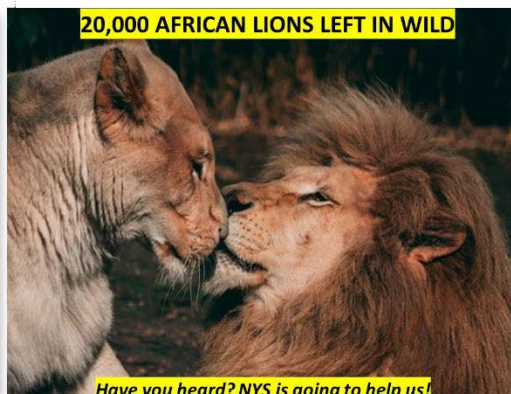


BIG FIVE AFRICAN TROPHIES ACT

An act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to enacting the "Big Five African Trophies Act" relating to foreign game.

A.1616 Assembly Member Rosenthal L.	S.5014 Senator Sepulveda
Co-Sponsors: Simon, Burke, Gonzalez-Rojas, Levenberg, Stern, Kelles, Davila, Epstein	Co-Sponsors: Brisport, Comrie, Harckham, Martinez, May, Serrano
REFERRED TO: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, A/M Glick, Chair	REFERRED TO: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, Senator Harckham, Chair (Reported)



BACKGROUND:

- The continued importation, possession, sale and/or transportation of the so-called "Big Five African Species" - lions, leopards, elephants, giraffes, black rhinos and white rhinos-is detrimental to the survival of these species.
- All of the Big Five African Species are threatened with extinction if the current rate of illegal poaching continues. Additionally, some African countries are considering (or have already) legalizing sport hunting and exportation of Big Five African Species. Such countries have based the legalization on the faulty logic that legalizing hunting of Big Five African Species will decrease the illegal poaching and trade of these animals. Such logic is not only erroneous, but also detrimental to the survival of the Big Five African Species.
- There is growing scientific evidence that legal trade of trophy-hunted species preserves and reinforces the illegal sourcing of the same. For example, South Africa, home to the second largest black rhino population in the world, received permission by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora to sell permits for trophy-hunted rhinos in 2004. Many of these hunts are purchased by Americans, and the trophies are import into or through the state of New York, The country has since seen a marked rise in illegal rhino poaching, with the World Wildlife Fund reporting that rhino poaching has increased 5,000% since 2007.
- Accordingly, by banning the importation, possession, sale and transportation of all Big Five African Species within New York, the State will not be encouraging or abetting the continued demise of these species by sport-hunting. Only a complete ban can stem the tide of illegal trafficking caused by the legalization of hunting and capture of the Big Five African Species in some African countries.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:

- Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no individual, firm, corporation, association, or partnership shall import, export, transport, process, sell, offer for sale, purchase, trade, barter, distribute or possess any part or product of the skin or body, whether raw or manufactured, of the following animal species: African Elephant (*Loxodonta Africana*); African Leopard (*Panthera Pardus*); African Lion (*Panthera Leo*); Black Rhinoceros (*Diceros Bicornis*); White Rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium Simum*); and African Giraffe (*Giraffa Camelopardalis*).