**Section by Section**

*Section 1. Short Title. “Advancing Human Rights-Centered International Conservation Act of 2022”*

*Section 2. Definitions.*

*Section 3. International Conservation Grant Restrictions.*

This section prohibits the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) from providing financial assistance to foreign security units if credible information shows that the unit has committed a gross violation of internationally recognized human rights. FWS may give exemptions to the prohibition if the Director of FWS and the Secretary of State certify that the recipient and applicable government take effective steps to bring perpetrators to justice and prevent human rights violations.

This section requires that risk analyses for grants include an assessment of human rights abuses and requires FWS and the State Department to carry out measures to track and vet security forces receiving assistance and investigate credible information of human rights violations.

*Section 4. International Conservation Grant Requirements.*

This section establishes human rights requirements for recipients of international FWS grants, including providing to FWS:

* a certification that gross violations of human rights will not be funded or carried out under the award;
* a list of subgrantees;
* recipient and subgrantees’ policies on upholding human rights and social safeguard plans;
* procedures to address potential human rights violations.

The social safeguards plan must:

* be consistent with internationally recognized human rights standards;
* include a process for meaningful consultation and engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including free, prior, and informed consent;
* protect the needs and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
* provide a grievance redress mechanism
* provide for effective human rights training and monitoring
* publish relevant documentation about the impacts of projects on Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

This section also outlines the steps for addressing human rights violations: The covered recipient must notify FWS of any credible information regarding a gross violation of human rights and fully cooperate with an investigation and corrective action. Within 60 days, provide specific steps taken to address the alleged violation. FWS can extend that timeline by 30 days. The contracting officer shall complete an investigation and submit the results to the Director of FWS, who, in the case of credible information, will refer information to the DOI Inspector General and notify the Department of State. The Inspector General can determine whether or not an investigation is required, investigate, and provide recommendations for action to the Director.

This section also directs FWS to carry out financial and programmatic audits, prioritizing high-risk programs such as projects with new land-use restrictions (such as expanding boundaries of a national park) and projects in conflict zones and areas of elevated risk of human rights abuses.

The Director may use remedies for non-compliance, including withholding payments, denying funds for certain activities, wholly or partly suspending or terminating the award, initiating suspension or debarment proceedings, withholding subsequent awards, or taking other legally available remedies.

Finally, this section requires FWS to submit an annual report to Congress summarizing reports and investigations carried out under the Act, including administrative and remedial actions taken, exemptions granted, and a summary of information not referred to the inspector general.