

SAVE VANISHING SPECIES POSTAGE STAMP NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Premium Stamps Will Benefit Wildlife Protection for Tigers, Elephants and More at No Cost to American Taxpayers

Stamps May Be Purchased at Post Offices and USPS.com



(September 20, 2011) – Following a release ceremony at the National Zoo in Washington, DC, Americans may for the first time purchase a new wildlife postage stamp that benefits international wildlife conservation. Net proceeds from sale of the *Save Vanishing Species* stamp, which features an illustration of a tiger cub, directly support efforts to save beloved species like elephants, tigers, and great apes. The *Save Vanishing Species* stamps will now be available at Post Office locations nationwide and USPS.com. They will sell for 11 cents greater than a First Class Mail stamp — 55 cents — and \$11 for a sheet of 20.

The *Save Vanishing Species* tiger stamp represents a unique opportunity for all Americans to help conserve the world's most

iconic species. Buying this stamp is a small but meaningful investment in worldwide conservation efforts and everyone is encouraged to take this important step.”

The *Save Vanishing Species* stamps will directly contribute funding for projects supported by the Multinational Species Conservation Funds (MSCF), which are administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conserve tigers, rhinos, great apes, marine turtles, African elephants and Asian elephants. The stamp was created through federal legislation which was signed into law in September 2010. Passage of the law was spearheaded by the Wildlife Conservation Society and World Wildlife Fund and was supported by the 33 organizations of the Multinational Species Coalition, including the International Elephant Foundation.

As of 2011, these funds include the African Elephant Conservation Fund, the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund, the Great Ape Conservation Fund, the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund, and the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund. Silhouettes of animals representing each species fund appear on the bottom of the stamp pane. The stamp features an illustration of an Amur tiger cub. Artist Nancy Stahl based the animal silhouettes and the stamp art on photographs of wildlife. Derry Noyes served as the art director.

While MSCF is currently funded by Congress, the current fiscal climate in Washington indicates that cuts will be made across the board, including conservation programs like the MSCF. The wildlife stamp has the potential to close that gap or even increase the program's overall funding, at no expense to American taxpayers. This program benefits over 250 grant recipients in over 75 countries worldwide.

Today, only 3,200 tigers populate 42 source sites across thirteen countries in Asia that are now the last hope and greatest priority for the conservation and recovery of the world's largest cat. Source sites contain the majority of the world's remaining breeding females – approximately 1,000 individuals – and have the potential to seed the recovery of tigers across wider landscapes. Multinational Species Conservation Funds, soon to be supplemented by proceeds from the stamp, provide critical support to programs that protect these last remaining tiger habitats

“This stamp marks the fourth semi-postal issued by the Postal Service. These types of stamps provide an extremely convenient way for the American public to contribute to help protect threatened and vanishing species,” said Deputy Postmaster General Ron Stroman. “We look forward to working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Multinational Species Coalition to make this stamp a resounding success.”

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s MSCF program supports the conservation of many of the world’s most charismatic species. Despite the modest size of this program, its support is very broad-based, including more than 20 million members of the Multinational Species Coalition. This program also stimulates public-private partnerships and has leveraged more than three times as much in matching funds from conservation groups, corporations and other governments.

“The stamp provides a unique opportunity for the American public to work with the federal government to contribute to saving some of our most beloved threatened species,” said Herb Raffaele, Chief of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Division of International Conservation. “A commitment to the stamp will demonstrate that Americans really care about wildlife conservation abroad.”

MULTINATIONAL SPECIES COALITION

The Multinational Species Coalition is a broad-based coalition working together in support of international species conservation through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Multinational Species Conservation Funds.

We join the United States Postal Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in celebrating the issuance of the Save Vanishing Species stamp and the critical support it will ensure for species conservation efforts worldwide.

African Wildlife Foundation	International Elephant Foundation
American Bird Conservancy	International Fund for Animal Welfare
American Veterinary Medical Association	International Rhino Foundation
Association of Zoos and Aquariums	Jane Goodall Institute
Bonobo Conservation Initiative	National Audubon Society
Born Free USA	National Wildlife Federation
Cheetah Conservation Fund	The Nature Conservancy
Chelonian Research Foundation	Ocean Conservancy
Conservation International	Rare Species Fund
Defenders of Wildlife	Safari Club International
Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International	Sea Turtle Conservancy
Fauna & Flora International	Sierra Club
Feld Entertainment, Inc.	The WILD Foundation
Humane Society of the United States	Wildlife Alliance
Humane Society International	Wildlife Conservation Society
International Crane Foundation	Wildlife Management Institute
	World Wildlife Fund