



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 13, 2018

H.R. 4819 **Defending Economic Livelihoods and Threatened Animals Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on May 22, 2018

H.R. 4819 would authorize the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to promote efforts of governments and regional entities in the Okavango River Basin of southern Africa to encourage economic growth and counter wildlife trafficking. In particular, the bill would authorize the department and USAID to provide technical assistance and support for park rangers and local law enforcement officers.

Under current practice, U.S. agencies support efforts to address biodiversity and combat wildlife trafficking in southern Africa (which includes the Okavango River Basin). According to the Department of State and USAID, most of the authority provided in the bill to provide technical assistance and support enforcement efforts in southern African countries align with the agencies' existing responsibilities. However, the requirements to issue a specific strategy for the Okavango River Basin to promote economic growth and combat wildlife trafficking and a one-time report to the Congress on such efforts would impose additional costs. As a result, CBO estimates that implementing this bill would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2019-2023 period; that spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting H.R. 4819 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4819 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

H.R. 4819 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Ann E. Futrell. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.