

**The Saga of the Giraffes, Humane Society International  
and the  
US Fish and Wildlife Service**

**CITES CoP18, Prop. 5 Giraffe**

**To include the Giraffe (*Giraffa Camelopardalis*) in CITES Appendix II**

Recently, a news station in Atlanta ran a story about Giraffes, how they are endangered, and the US will consider adding them to the endangered species list. The status of giraffes is threatened, even if some species are growing in numbers, but this article cited none of that. One must wonder how many Giraffes are in the US to consider listing them as endangered species. Giraffes are stable or increasing in countries where trophy hunting is permitted and are declining in countries where trophy hunting is prohibited.

According to the IUCN Red List, it is not trophy hunting and/or legal bone trade that are responsible but the loss of habitat that plays a determining role in the decline of the Giraffe.

The journalist who produced the story, was asked about his source: Guess where it came from? **Humane Society International**. And that was his ONLY source.

<https://www.humanesociety.org/news/lawsuit-prompts-us-officials-consider-protecting-giraffes>

After a little googling, many other news outlets had written articles that were nearly identical:

<http://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/giraffes-might-make-their-way-onto-endangered-species-list-us-fish-and-wildlife-service-says>

This writer, Austin Williams, is based out of Los Angeles and writes articles for many Fox News channel affiliates... so it was syndicated across the country.

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/science/ct-giraffes-threatened-species-20190425-story.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/27/science/giraffes-endangered-species.html>

With a little further digging... to look at the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) site to see who petitioned the US government for a change in listing?  
Not a shock: **Humane Society International**.

The petition and USFWS links can be found at:

<https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FWS-HQ-ES-2017-0101>

This is insane that an animal rights/animal extremist group can influence this type of policy and it be legal. The Humane Society International are smart, very smart. They produced an undercover video in December about giraffe leather, etc., legally acquired and imported with full compliance to CITES... and made the people in the videos look like blood thirsty poachers. Legal trade should not be scrutinized like that. It undermines the credibility of CITES.