

THE INTERNATIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
**BUDGET**  

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BUILDING ON AMERICA'S HISTORIC COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION



*“Protecting “green” wealth in the developing world offers far greater potential for peace and prosperity ... loss of “green” natural resources, such as forests, fresh water, fish and fertile soils, can play a significant role in driving instability and conflict.”*

— General (ret.) Anthony Zinni, former chief of U.S. Central Command, September 16, 2010

*“The conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem.  
Unless we solve that problem it will avail us little to solve all others.”*

— President Theodore Roosevelt, October 4, 1907

**C**ONSERVATION IS AN AMERICAN TRADITION. The United States was the first country to make conservation of nature a national goal, recognizing that our country’s bounty is vast yet vulnerable. As a result, current generations of Americans reap the benefits of unspoiled landscapes and wilderness, as well as some of the most productive forests, farms and fisheries on the planet. In recent decades, the United States has taken this good idea global. Through the work of numerous federal agencies, our government is helping to protect the planet’s natural capital that is the foundation of future prosperity.

Teddy Roosevelt’s century-old leadership is more relevant than ever—human prosperity depends on healthy, sustainable natural resources. People everywhere rely on essential services provided by nature to support both personal livelihoods and national economies: fertile soil, clean air and water, timber, fish and game, buffers against emerging diseases, storms and changing climate, and a range of cultural and spiritual benefits. A growing population of over 6.8 billion people is placing ever greater stresses on our planet’s vital systems. If we hope to feed the future, address global health and halt global warming, the conservation of nature’s resources must become a central priority.

The world has too often taken a short-term view of development—damaging or destroying natural resources or placing quick profit over long-term sustainability. Vast areas of primary forest have been cut or burned, converted to farming or ranching, and

then often abandoned after a few years. Having expanded into the planet’s remaining natural areas, humans now use one-third of all ice-free land for agriculture. Because we have strip-mined the bounty of the seas, per capita fish harvest levels are lower than at any time in 40 years. Global fish harvests peaked in 1996 and have been flat or declining ever since, due to decades of unsustainable practices. One-fifth of all coral reefs have been destroyed, and another half damaged, often by ruthless over-harvesting including blast and poison fishing. Humans now appropriate one-quarter of the globe’s primary productivity to our needs—an astonishing level of consumption by one species. Only very good management can allow this share to grow further without fundamentally undermining the systems that underpin life on Earth.

Despite efforts to boost production at all costs, over 1 billion people are still hungry and under-nourished. Nearly one-third of the world’s people still live on less than \$2 per day. Energy and food production must rise 50 percent in 20 years just to keep pace with population growth and economic development. By 2050, our planet will struggle to support approximately 9 billion people. How will these additional billions live and prosper without destroying nature’s very fabric—the basis of our future wealth? The past provides mostly cautionary tales. We must find new ways forward.

Through programs such as **Feed the Future**, U.S. government agencies are investing in food security to safeguard livelihoods and support development, with

a goal of halving the number of people suffering from hunger by 2015. Global conservation serves these same goals. Designated marine reserves off the coasts of Kenya and Tanzania have allowed once-depleted fish populations to rebound, promoting food security, benefitting local fishermen and protecting biodiversity, while adoption of integrated farming and natural resource management systems is making agriculture and livestock more sustainable. The Coral Triangle, a six-nation initiative to conserve one of the world's richest ocean ecosystems, is also promoting sustainable development by replenishing nurseries for globally significant fisheries and protecting marine resources that support the livelihoods of 125 million people in the region.

The **Global Health Initiative** is the U.S. government's effort to help the developing world improve overall health by combating infectious diseases and strengthening health services. Preventing deforestation helps to reduce malaria, which spreads when mosquitoes reproduce in pools of water that occur on the hard soils left when tropical forests are cleared. The Global Animal Information Network for Surveillance (GAINS) tracks and prevents the spread of infectious diseases, such as Ebola, by making data from wild species available to help guide decisions in the public health, animal husbandry and conservation sectors.

Developed nations including the U.S. have made sizeable commitments to mitigate and address the impacts of climate change as part of their development strategies. Conservation dollars deliver climate co-benefits as well. USAID's Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) is fostering sustainable development across large African landscapes and reducing rates of deforestation. Fifteen percent of all global carbon emissions originate from tropical deforestation and degradation. With vast,

intact forest reserves, Central Africa will play a crucial role in mitigating carbon emissions, as will Indonesia and Brazil. A combination of conservation and climate incentives can protect these forests and sustain the communities and wildlife.

For proof that these approaches can work, one need only look to Costa Rica, which has become a model country for sustainable development and forest conservation. More than two decades of national commitment and international assistance have produced a truly green landscape. Forest cover, after dropping for decades, is increasing. Tourism, much of it nature-driven, has surpassed agriculture in the national economy. Innovative payments for ecosystem services have contributed to sustainable prosperity.

In far-flung corners of the globe, U.S. agencies, local and regional governments and international conservation organizations are partnering to build a more sustainable future. The U.S. is joined by countries such as Germany and France, which have already given large sums to international conservation and recently pledged to increase support to at least \$600 million each per year by 2014. Inherent in these efforts is the Rooseveltian understanding that international conservation is about more than just protecting biodiversity—it is a cross-cutting strategy for creating development, health, and peace in strategically important regions. It is a precondition for solving a host of other challenges.

Developing countries often struggle under severe disadvantages: poverty, poor governance, bitter internal rivalries, and violent histories. Even when leaders are effective and well-intentioned, they tend to give greater attention to immediate human needs—such as employment, health, education, transportation, and infrastructure—and short shrift to conservation. While supported in principle, it may be neglected in practice.

*“The U.S. has a global food strategy, a global health strategy and a global climate strategy. But because natural resources underpin each of these goals, there must also be a global conservation strategy. None of these other strategies can truly succeed over the long term without one.”*

— Wangari Maathai, 2004 Nobel Peace prize winner, founder of the Green Belt Movement, October 2010

Many experts believe increasing competition for fresh water, food and arable land will lead to civil unrest, mass migrations and conflict. Conservation efforts can play a major role in relieving the mounting pressure on these natural resources. By supporting conservation, the U.S. is making a direct contribution to our national security. In Afghanistan and Pakistan, the effects of environmental degradation, including desertification from unsustainable land use, erosion caused by deforestation, and water contamination, have devastated the region’s inhabitants. In March 2009, President Obama’s strategic review of Afghanistan identified “sustainable economic development” and “restor[ing] Afghanistan’s once vibrant agriculture sector” as major ingredients in America’s overall effort to sap the strength of the insurgency. Reversing the environmental trends is a key component to achieving those goals.

The organizations sponsoring this publication—Conservation International, Pew Environment Group, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society and World Wildlife Fund—intend it not as a counsel of despair, but as a call to action. America’s history of conservation is a proud one, and it needs to continue. In the spirit of that tradition, we call for

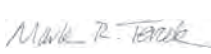
U.S. leadership in bilateral and multilateral channels that includes:

- Integrating conservation of natural resources into global U.S. development assistance as a cross-cutting strategy for achieving food, health, and climate goals;
- Establishing a unified U.S. global conservation strategy for the developing world—one that integrates our government’s diplomatic, development and natural resource management expertise;
- To that end, enactment of the pending Global Conservation Act—which mandates such a conservation strategy;
- Enhancing U.S. conservation investments, while dramatically leveraging other donor contributions, including a pledge to at least match the French and German levels of international conservation investments by 2014.

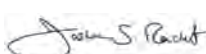
Our organizations appreciate the support of the Executive Branch agencies and the U.S. Congress towards achieving our common goals. We stand ready to work in a spirit of non-partisan cooperation, leveraging our scientific capacities, our private funds and our millions of members to confront these pressing challenges.



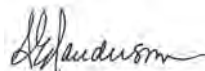
**Peter A. Seligmann**  
Chairman of the Board  
and CEO  
Conservation International



**Mark Tercek**  
President and CEO  
The Nature Conservancy



**Joshua S. Reichert**  
Managing Director  
Pew Environment Group



**Dr. Steven E. Sanderson**  
President and CEO  
Wildlife Conservation  
Society



**Carter S. Roberts**  
President and CEO  
World Wildlife Fund



Throughout this book, the icons below indicate how each project builds on nature conservation to improve people's lives:



Clean Water



Climate



Food Security  
(includes crops, grazing,  
fish and game)



Health



Local Empowerment &  
Indigenous Rights



Security

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COVER: Children with a basket full of Mekong freshwater herring "pa mak pang" or Laotian shad (*Tenulosa thibaudaeui*), formerly one of the most abundant species, which has almost disappeared, Tonle Sap River, Cambodia Flood season October 20, 2002. © ZEB HOGAN / WWF-CANON; **INSIDE FRONT COVER:** Constance Melenga with a tomato from her garden in Zambia. © JULIE LARSEN MAHER / WCS; **PAGE 4:** Samburu Women at the Namunyak Conservancy, Northern Rangelands Trust, Kenya. The Northern Rangelands Trust facilitates the development of community-led conservation initiatives in northern Kenya. It promotes collective management of ecosystems in order to improve human livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and rangeland management. The Samburu are semi-nomadic pastoralists who herd mainly cattle but also keep sheep, goats and camels. © SUZI ESZTERHAS; **BACK COVER:** Indochinese tiger (*Panthera tigris corbetti*) is only found in the Greater Mekong region of Southeast Asia, including Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. © KABIR BACKIE / WWF GREATER MEKONG

# Program: USAID Biodiversity Conservation Programs

Agency: *U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)*

Most U.S. foreign assistance for on-the-ground conservation is delivered through USAID and its Biodiversity Conservation Programs. These help protect some of the largest and most at-risk natural landscapes—home to important biodiversity as well as millions of people who directly depend on natural resources for their survival. USAID assistance for conservation helps ensure clean water, promote rural peace and security, boost health, combat global warming, build democracies, secure environmental resources and reduce poverty.

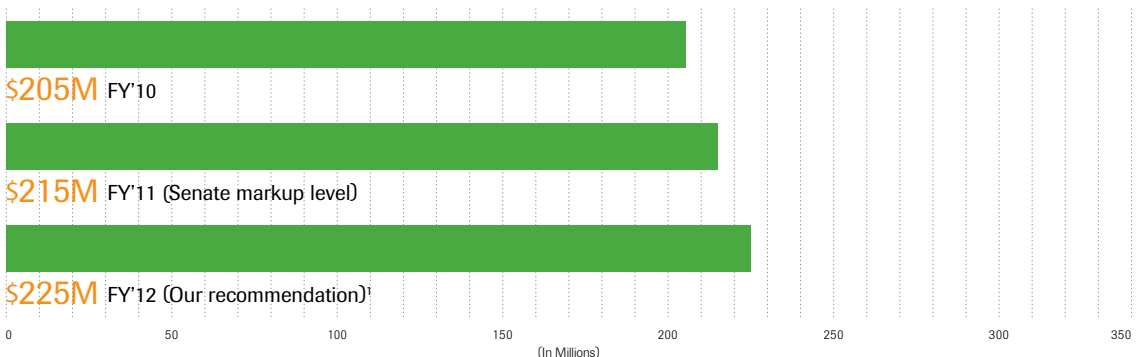
It is more important than ever that foreign assistance dollars work to accomplish several objectives at once. U.S. investments in global conservation deliver results on multiple levels and strategically leverage support from other donors around the world. USAID’s Global Conservation Program (GCP) is a case in point—a decade-long effort in partnership with six

NGOs to support new, landscape-level approaches to conservation of vast landscapes in 27 countries, across park and political boundaries, under management of local stakeholders. A new USAID program—Sustainable Conservation Approaches in Priority Ecosystems (SCAPES)—is continuing this approach.

From grasslands and forests to high elevations, coastal and marine ecosystems, the USAID Biodiversity Program conserves a broad array of ecosystems than span the developing world. Partnerships forged by USAID, foreign governments, the private sector, local peoples and conservation organizations drive its success. Expanded foreign assistance programs directed toward global conservation can build on this success, protecting the natural resources upon which developing countries and the rest of the world rely.

[http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/environment/biodiversity/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/biodiversity/)

## Funding Program Levels



1. A portion of the biodiversity money also contributes to climate action, especially via REDD forest work. Other appropriations for climate work by USAID are discussed in the *Climate and Conservation* chapter.



## Highlights

### Global: Conservation Helping Indigenous Peoples



A major theme of USAID-funded conservation worldwide is helping indigenous communities. In the Bolivia/Peru border regions, conservation programs support land tenure rights of the Takana. In Colombia and Ecuador, intergovernmental partners have worked with local and international NGOs to foster bi-national cooperation between the Awa peoples inhabiting the forest lands straddling the border—resolving conflicts, strengthening land governance and improving livelihoods of 25,000 Awa while protecting over 700,000 acres of forest. Also in Ecuador, volunteer park guards from four tribal groupings received training this year at the Initiative for the Conservation of the Andean Amazon (ICCA) center in Quito and are now patrolling and protecting the 1.5 million acre Guepii Reserve Zone. In Brazil, over 20 percent of the Amazon Basin sustains an estimated 600,000 indigenous people. In Northern Brazil, four ethnic groups have developed and are implementing management plans to protect over 1.3 million acres of their lands. This past year, young indigenous leaders and the Brazilian government developed the country's first-ever National Policy for Environmental Management in Indigenous Lands.



An Awa Indian carrying Palm leaves for hours to cover a community house with thatch. Mataje, Awa Reserve, Ecuador. © PABLO CORRAL / WWF-CANON



### Latin America: Conservation Water Funds

Many cities draw their potable water from surface watersheds, whose conversion or degradation can reduce water quality and quantity. Funding from USAID supported the development of an innovative self-sustaining fund for watershed conservation in Quito, Ecuador, which now attracts in-region funding to safeguard the landscape and people's water, and made possible the legal and scientific analysis and outreach to communities to create this financial mechanism. Seven more water funds have been established in Ecuador and Colombia, protecting 1.6 million hectares of natural lands and sources of water for more than 11 million people. The first water fund was seeded with \$21,000. The combined capital has now grown to \$10.5 million and is expected to reach \$35 million within the next decade. This is a model with great potential worldwide.



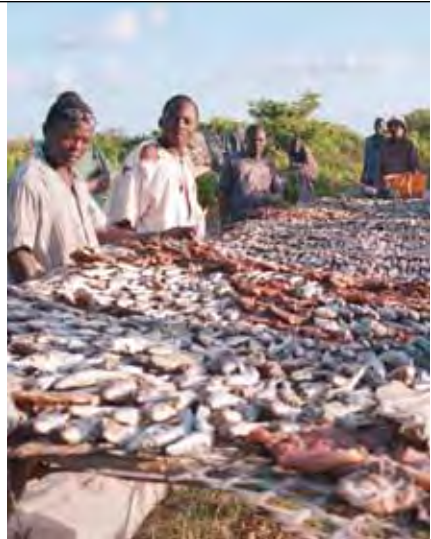
Napo River in Ecuador, part of the Amazon region in South America. © ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

## Highlights (continued)

### Mozambique: Conservation and Food Security in Quirimbas National Park



Quirimbas National Park contains vast woodlands and the largest marine protected area in Africa, home to elephants, lions, wild dogs, coral reefs and important turtle, whale and dolphin populations. About 120,000 people live in and around the park, which is managed by the Government of Mozambique and local leaders with USAID support and technical assistance from conservation and development organizations. The park was established in 2002 to address deepening poverty due to overfishing, disease-related crop failures, exhausted agricultural lands and human/elephant conflicts. The Quirimbas Population Health Environment Project is enhancing food security and nutrition by establishing marine sanctuaries, reducing elephant-related crop damage and intensifying agricultural production. Eight no-take fishing zones have significantly increased the number and size of fish caught; residents have been trained as community rangers; and 20 percent of Park revenue returns to communities, financing new water pumps and new schools.



Local Fishermen drying Fish, Island of the Doves, Quirimbas, Mozambique. © TANYA PETERSEN / WWF-CANON

### Congo Basin: Reducing Forest Loss



Teams of international and local NGOs are reducing the rate of forest degradation in Central Africa by supporting increased local, national and regional natural resource management capacity. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), USAID has helped support site-level REDD (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) in two national nature reserves. The project includes an educational program, training for biomass and socioeconomic data collection and harmonization with national REDD planning. This project may reduce up to 200,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually while providing sustainable financing.



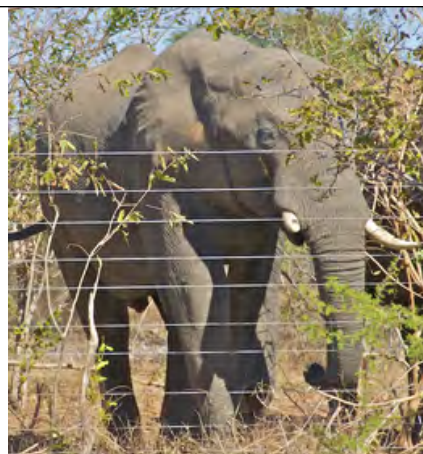
Field scientists on BG Expedition in Congo (DRC). © JOHN MARTIN / CI

## Highlights (continued)

### Southern Africa: Moving Beyond Fences to Support Health and Conservation



The conservation community's best efforts to support transfrontier conservation areas in southern Africa could be rendered moot by the physical barriers created by animal disease control fences that currently make any real transfrontier connectivity impossible. With USAID support, the AHEAD (Animal & Human Health for the Environment And Development) program is working to resolve the inherent conflict between the vision of vast transboundary conservation landscapes and current regulatory approaches that depend on extensive fencing to control Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) of agricultural importance. While the specifics of southern Africa are unique, the general conflict between disease management and conservation objectives is widespread around the world. Transboundary disease issues often negatively impact animal and human health, biodiversity, food security and livelihoods. Using health as an entry point, experts and policy makers are exploring new options for controlling TADs that could support both conservation and development objectives. The AHEAD Program works at the wildlife/livestock/human interface and strives to catalyze win-win opportunities related to food security, biodiversity conservation, poverty alleviation and enhanced livelihood diversification—all of which enhance resilience in the face of climate change.



Elephant challenging electrified fence, Matetsi, Zimbabwe. © wcs

### Global Forest & Trade Network: Fighting Illegal Timber Trade



For seven years, the USAID-funded Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN) has worked to reduce illegal logging and improve forestry practices by mainstreaming principles of responsible management and trade throughout the forest products industry. GFTN facilitates trade links among responsible forest products companies, connecting buyers committed to sustainability with certified forest managers. It leverages USAID investments six times over, engaging governmental agencies, multilateral organizations, NGOs and leading corporations, such as IKEA. Over 270 participants trade nearly \$68 billion in forest product sales annually, representing 18 percent of the market and over 75 percent of all Forest Stewardship Council-certified products traded internationally.



A logging company employee in Cameroon measuring felled wood at Pallisco logging company, a member of the Global Forest and Trade Network that is 100% FSC certified. © BRENT STIRTON / GETTY IMAGES / WWF-UK

## Highlights (continued)

### Pacific: Community-based Climate Adaptation



The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) consists of small islands with a mean elevation of seven feet, making it extraordinarily vulnerable to climate change. USAID is supporting a pilot activity on Namdrik Atoll to build up residents' capacity to adapt. Residents are relocating key infrastructure to less vulnerable areas. They are preventing erosion by replanting native shoreline species and restoring natural features (sand banks, reef flats). They have secured key areas of reef and mangrove stands. Sand mining has ceased. The process is owned by the community and is designed to fit their capacity, requiring less external assistance over time. The Namdrik pilot is being disseminated via the Micronesia Challenge. It has attracted non-U.S. funding and should prove useful on many islands.



Coral reef over/under at the Marshall Islands. © LUIZA ROCHA / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

### Global: Linkages Between Conservation and Health



BALANCED, a Population, Health and the Environment (PHE) program, expands USAID's leadership by building capacity at a global level, disseminating knowledge on state-of-the-art practices and implementing field activities in the Philippines and Madagascar. BALANCED has facilitated start-up and replication of field-based activities in countries with existing PHE networks. The interventions focus on the delivery of health services to communities in priority biodiversity conservation areas. These integrated projects allow communities to address root causes of biodiversity degradation, such as habitat conversion.



Children from Philippines community project site. © PFPPI

### West Africa: Reducing Illegal Fishing



Working alongside conservation organizations and the governments of the Republic of Congo and Gabon, USAID has helped make important progress towards the creation of a bi-national marine park to reduce illegal fishing and protect coastal and marine resources. The U.S. Navy has transferred expertise and training to NGOs operating on the coast, as well as to members of local government departments. In the summer of 2009, a course was held in Gabon where U.S. Navy trainers taught coastal surveillance and enforcement of fishing laws to local navy and Fisheries Department boat pilots, ground surveillance staff and administration staff, accompanied by donation of surveillance training equipment.



Surveillance patrols in donated patrol boat engage in marine park surveillance and enforcement, Banc d'Arguin National Park, Mauritania. © MARK EDWARDS / WWF-CANON

## Highlights (continued)

### Tanzania: Landscape-Scale Community-Centered Conservation



The Gombe-Masito-Ugalla (GMU) Landscape in Western Tanzania is home to an estimated 600 to 1,000 chimpanzees. Although 63 percent of the GMU is covered by forests and woodlands, this key chimpanzee habitat is threatened by rapidly growing local populations who lack basic needs. With USAID funding, conservation partners are utilizing the full range of tools necessary to address the root causes of deforestation and environmental degradation in the GMU. These tools include alternative livelihood, micro-finance, forestry, agriculture, health and environmental education programs. The GMU program assists local villages in developing detailed land-use plans and environmentally-friendly agricultural practices and enterprises, such as coffee and honey farming. The program also increases the capacity of district authorities and communities to monitor the illegal extraction of natural resources. GMU's community-centered conservation approach is helping to address critical global issues such as climate change, food security and the spread of infectious disease.



Local community members use satellite maps to help identify community forest reserves. © LILIAN PINTEA / JANE GOODALL INSTITUTE

### Brazil: Creating Realistic Incentives to Promote Rainforest Conservation



A key to reconciling agricultural production with conservation is making a standing rainforest as valuable as—if not more valuable than—a cleared pasture or soy plantation. With help from USAID, conservation groups are working in strategic municipalities of the Brazilian Amazon to help control deforestation and create realistic incentives and alternatives for farmers and ranchers to protect the rainforest. Efforts include working with supply chains to increased markets for products that are certified not to increase deforestation, and providing low-interest credit for conservation work. In Paragominas, a traditional center of the timber industry, farmers and ranchers are mapping their lands and registering an area of over 3.4 million acres in the government's environmental monitoring system—a first step towards environmental compliance. Local deforestation decreased 43 percent in 2008 and 86 percent in 2009, making Paragominas the first municipality to be taken off the Government of Brazil's list of top deforesters in the Brazilian Amazon.



Guitar made from certified timber harvested from the Amazon rainforest. © EDWARD PARKER / WWF-CANON

## Highlights (continued)

### Southeast Asia: Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT)



This regional effort enhances biodiversity and community livelihoods while reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, by improving forest management and bringing transparency to the international timber trade. RAFT demonstrates practical solutions to turn sound policies into results on the ground, bringing improved management practices to 7.5 million acres. One example is RAFT's testing of the monocable winch system, which extracts timber with minimal damage to the surrounding environment. This creates alternative employment for local people previously engaged in illegal and destructive logging. Many forest concessionaires are moving toward full Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. Focused interventions like this to improve management practices in natural production forests can reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by up to 50 percent compared to "business as usual."



Deforestation in Malaysia. © HIL BOH TECK / FOTOLIA.COM

### Mekong River Basin: Minimizing Hydropower Impacts



The Mekong is the second most biodiverse river in the world, containing over 1,300 species of fish and the world's largest inland fisheries. It accounts for nearly 25 percent of the global freshwater catch, supports the livelihoods of 60 million people and provides the main source of protein for river basin communities. Large-scale hydropower development poses an urgent threat, and USAID has supported a collaboration between the Asian Development Bank, the Mekong River Commission and conservation partners to develop a Rapid Basin-wide Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Tool (RSAT) for ensuring that hydropower projects in the Mekong Region are sustainably developed, with minimal social and environmental impacts, while providing viable, profitable and renewable energy for the region. RSAT is now being tested in the transboundary basin of the Sesan, Sesap and Srepok rivers, promoting dialogue and cooperation between key hydropower stakeholders.



Tribal girl collects water in the evening from the Serepok River in a poor commune in Vietnam's Central Highlands where thousands of villagers have limited access to sanitation. Mekong River Basin. Seventy-five percent of ethnic minority people in Vietnam live below the poverty line. © ELIZABETH KEMF / WWF-CANON

## Highlights (continued)

### Mongolia: Addressing Livelihood Sustainability through Transboundary Cooperation



Mongolia's Eastern Steppe is home to over a million gazelle, the last large population of migrating ungulates in Asia, and provides essential resources for livestock herders who depend on healthy grasslands. Support from USAID is helping to address the main threats facing the steppe: illegal and unsustainable hunting and wildlife trade; habitat fragmentation and degradation; and wildlife/livestock disease transmission.



Local herdsman in Eastern Steppe, Mongolia. © JEAN TSAO

### Cambodia: Conserving Both Carbon and Wildlife



A wooded region of Cambodia, once a draw for loggers, is now a haven for monkeys, tigers and elephants. The country's government, with the assistance of USAID, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and several NGOs, has transformed a former logging concession into a new, Yosemite-sized protected area along the border with Vietnam, called Seima Protection Forest. Seima is the country's first protected area designed to conserve forest carbon as one of its key goals. It shelters 23 carnivore species, including seven cats, two bears and two species of wild dog. The Bunong ethnic minority, having used the forest for many generations, will retain their rights and access in the newly designated protected area.



Tropical forest in Seima protected area. © WCS-CAMBODIA

### Mesoamerica—Creating Sustainable Lobster Fisheries



The Mesoamerican Reef extends along the Caribbean coasts of Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras. Its primary export fishery—lobster—is seriously overexploited. Catches decreased over 35 percent in the past decade. Through the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), USAID supports an initiative to increase sustainability of commercial fisheries through improved management and better implementation of fisheries laws and regulations. This past year, for the first time in the Central American Caribbean, a ban was enforced on spiny lobster fishing during the species' reproductive season, giving the species a break for the first time in 100 years. Scientific assessments are evaluating the fishery's sustainability and the impact of better fishing practices, including improved lobster traps, size limits and ecosystem-based management.



Spotted spiny lobster (*Panulirus guttatus*), during nighttime, in Roatan Island, Honduras. © CARLOS DREWS / WWF-CANON

## Program: *Climate and Conservation*

Agency: *U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID);  
Department of the Treasury*

In December 2009, the United States and many other countries agreed to the Copenhagen Accord, an ambitious political agreement to take action on climate change. More than 130 countries have formally signed on to the Accord. In December of 2010 in Cancun Mexico, the core elements of the Copenhagen Accord were adopted as part of the “Cancun Agreement” which outlines a draft for a final balanced international climate change agreement. Central to countries’ commitments is a low emissions development path that also improves the living standards of people and achieves economic growth. Such a path offers enormous economic opportunities that will be integral to the future global economy. Deforestation and forest degradation account for approximately 15 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. The Agreement highlights forest mitigation as essential to achieving the scale of global emissions reductions necessary to avoid dangerous climate change, and stresses that enhanced action and international cooperation on adaptation are urgently required.

Combating climate change and its impacts needs to be one of the highest priorities for U.S. assistance. Changing climate conditions are threatening natural landscapes and wildlife, jeopardizing food security, and eroding the ecosystem services that millions of people depend upon for their livelihoods. Funding is urgently needed to provide scientific data and build the necessary capacity here and in partner governments to capitalize on climate-related financing effectively. With such capacity, effective strategies can immediately be put in place to help developing countries mitigate

and adapt to climate change. Financing for these activities is essential to achieving any binding international climate agreement. This is a rapidly growing area where knowledge and policies are evolving together. U.S. financing commitments will in part depend on existing U.S. pledges and ongoing international climate negotiations. For these reasons, we urge Appropriators to respond flexibly and favorably, based on circumstances at the time of FY2012 congressional action.

### **Sustainable Landscapes (Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation)**

In addition to helping stabilize the Earth’s climate, forests provide life-sustaining rainfall for crops, food and economic resources, medicinal products and are home to two-thirds of the world’s known species and over 1.6 billion people, including some of the world’s poorest. Actions to address deforestation, forest conversion to agriculture and other land use changes can yield multiple benefits, including a cost-effective and readily available solution to mitigating global emissions. The conservation, sustainable management and enhancement of forests afford similar opportunities for large-scale carbon sequestration. Because of this mitigation potential, and in recognition of the desire by many developing countries to take action on reducing their forest sector emissions, the U.S. joined with other nations during the Copenhagen negotiations to announce fast start financing for forest mitigation. Specifically, the U.S. announced that it would dedicate

2. The “plus” of REDD+ refers to enhancing forest carbon stocks rather than just reducing emissions.



\$1 billion over the 2010–2012 time frame to help countries that put forward “ambitious REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) plans.”<sup>2</sup> This U.S. commitment in turn leveraged additional donor contributions, for a total of \$4.5 billion.

The FY2010 enacted budget reflects the U.S. government’s first year of REDD+ commitments with the establishment of the Sustainable Landscapes program, which delivers funding through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms. In FY2010, Congress appropriated \$232 million toward this commitment, and the U.S. Senate’s FY2011 budget markup outlined \$292 million—bringing the two-year appropriation (if ultimately enacted) to \$524 million. To fully meet the U.S. pledge, we urge an appropriation of at least approximately \$500 million in FY2012 (this figure may be higher depending on the final FY2011 funding amount). A full range of activities will be enabled by this funding, from improving emissions estimations and monitoring and addressing the drivers of deforestation and degradation to restoring degraded lands. The initial focus will be on development of tools and methodologies for large future REDD programs, followed by testing, pilots and actual field-based activities.

Illegal logging plays a central role in driving deforestation. In 2008, the U.S. became the first country in the world to ban trade in illegal plant products, sending a powerful signal through the global timber sector. A July 2010 study showed declines in illegal logging of as much as 25 percent worldwide since 2002, equating to between 1.2 billion and 14.6 billion tons of avoided carbon emissions. The study emphasized the importance of full implementation and enforcement of key legislation, such as the amended Lacey Act.

— The Annex has more on the Lacey Act and specific funding requests that would enable the law to continue delivering and building on these benefits.



Ang Kandu Sherpa with Lake Imja in the background, a high altitude glacial lake near Mt. Everest at severe risk of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood. Climate change is causing the Imja Glacier to melt at an accelerated rate, threatening the lives and livelihoods of the Sherpa who live in the valleys and communities below. © STEVE MORGAN / WWF-CANON

## Sustainable Landscapes Mechanisms

The USAID Sustainable Landscapes program supports REDD+ architecture, national and subnational frameworks, and demonstration activities to achieve scale on emission reductions from avoided deforestation and degradation. The architecture will provide access to forest carbon data and analysis tools to increase coherence, efficiency and transparency around forest carbon monitoring, reporting and verifying processes. National frameworks to enable net emissions reductions as part of REDD+ readiness will include emission inventories, monitoring and reporting, carbon finance and revenue distribution and social safeguards. Demonstrations will focus on degraded lands and frontiers to promote integrated land management outcomes in forest conservation, sustainable forest management, agroforestry and restoration of degraded lands. USAID Missions and Regional Hubs have released several large calls for proposals, beginning the procurement process for FY2010 Landscapes funding.

The **Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)** is supported by the State Department and assists developing countries in measuring forest carbon stocks and designing deforestation emissions reduction

strategies necessary for participation in potential future carbon markets. This partnership among donors and REDD+ country participants operates a Readiness Fund and a Carbon Fund. Thirty-seven countries have submitted readiness plans and have been accepted into the FCPF. They are now preparing REDD+ Strategies via public consultations. Countries that have made significant progress in the Readiness Fund may be able to sell emission reductions to the Carbon Fund.

The **Forest Investment Program (FIP)** is supported through the State Department and is part of the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) at the World Bank. The FIP aims to address the underlying drivers of deforestation in beneficiary countries. Building on existing REDD+ readiness efforts, like the FCPF Readiness Fund, FIP will pilot policies, measures and programs in a limited number of developing countries to develop an overall strategic investment plan for each country. FIP will focus on institutional and capacity building efforts in the forest sector around the fiscal, legal and institutional reform necessary to reduce

emissions from the forest sector. This will include support for forest carbon inventory and monitoring, as well as land and resource tenure reform, while also addressing agricultural intensification and agroforestry.

**Global Environment Facility Sustainable Landscapes** is supported by the U.S. through the U.S. Treasury and invests in sustainable forest management and conservation. The Sustainable Forest Management program will provide incentives to develop REDD+ projects and programs, focusing on community based capacity building, investments in planning and preparation, policy development, business planning and training.

The **International Conservation Programs** of the State Department support multilateral natural resource management treaty organizations that address climate change.

The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** and **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** are supported directly by the U.S. government through the State Department and contribute to the administration of the international climate framework and the scientific body supporting the convention. These international bodies are critical to supporting the combined country efforts in an international partnership to combat climate change as well as leveraging U.S. leadership.

### Adaptation to Climate Impacts

Because we have yet to make serious progress towards reducing global carbon emissions, some climate change impacts are inevitable. In most cases, it is the poorest people—those who have contributed least to global warming—who will be hit first and worst. A number of developing regions are already coping with serious climate impacts, such as worsening droughts in the African Sahel and Central Asia, and increasing vulnerability to storm surges along the coasts of South Asia. These will only grow more severe and widespread



An 80-year-old Kini Dunn of Togoru, Navua in Fiji, stands at his family burial site, now submerged in water. Climate change and rising sea levels are likely to increase the threat to Fiji's coastal communities, like this burial site where during high tide, only the top half of the tombstones are now visible. © BRENT STIRTON / GETTY IMAGES

*“As sea levels rise and storms increase, the very existence of countries in the Pacific are at risk. We have no time to lose to take meaningful, measurable actions to limit greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.”*

— Secretary Clinton visiting Papua New Guinea, November 4, 2010

over time, undermining human livelihoods. By disrupting the natural systems that provide our freshwater, fish, timber and agriculture, climate change threatens not just local communities but global economies as well. In addition, these impacts from already occurring climate change threaten to undermine the global development strategy and investments the U.S. already is making world wide. Adaptation strategies build nature’s resilience to change and can cushion or avoid much of the potential damage to human interests. Immediate investments are needed to begin planning and scaling-up these adaptation efforts, including resources to restore and promote the resilience of vulnerable ecosystems. Every dollar invested in adaptation activities saves several times its value in humanitarian assistance, operating costs and lifetime extension. The FY2010 enacted budget reflects the U.S. government’s first year of Adaptation commitments through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms. The Congress in FY2010 voted \$244 million toward the first year of adaptation commitments through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms and the U.S. Senate FY2011 markup outlined \$287 million, bringing the two-year U.S. appropriation to \$531 million. The Copenhagen Accord calls for a balanced approach to adaptation and mitigation, one that should be reflected in the U.S. government’s funding for adaptation in FY2012; we urge that \$500 million be appropriated in FY2012.

### **Adaptation Mechanisms**

The **USAID Adaptation Program** uses science and analyses to develop and disseminate information tools that help decision makers understand how to address

climate impacts. These incorporate U.S. satellite and weather data, along with sophisticated climate change projections. The program supports efforts in the developing world to integrate climate resiliency strategies into development plans, national health plans and national and community-based disaster and risk reduction plans. The adaptation implementation strategies that are emerging are helping to strengthen development programs in infrastructure, health, energy, water, agriculture, natural resources management, disaster risk reduction and conflict mitigation.

The **Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)** is supported through the State Department and is a multilateral fund created to provide financing to developing countries to help them adapt to the impacts of climate change, with a priority on the most urgent needs of the poorest.

The **Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)** is supported through the State Department and is a multilateral fund established under the auspices of the UNFCCC to strengthen the agriculture sector, promote food security, protect water supplies, manage coastal resources and enhance public health.

The **UNFCCC** and **IPCC** are supported directly by the U.S. government through the State Department.

The **Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR)** is supported through the Treasury Department and provides incentives for scaled-up action and transformational change to integrate climate resilience into national development planning, consistent with poverty reduction and sustainable development goals. The PPCR is part of the Strategic Climate Fund (SCF), a multi-donor trust fund within the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) at the World Bank.

## Program: The Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Agency: *U.S. Contributions to the GEF are provided through the Department of the Treasury*

An independently operated, international financial facility, the GEF provides grants for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer and persistent organic pollutants. GEF funding is disbursed through a variety of agencies, including multilateral development banks and UN agencies. The GEF is also the Secretariat for the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund, which help some of the world’s most vulnerable populations to meet challenges of climate change, including adaptation and transfer of clean energy technology.

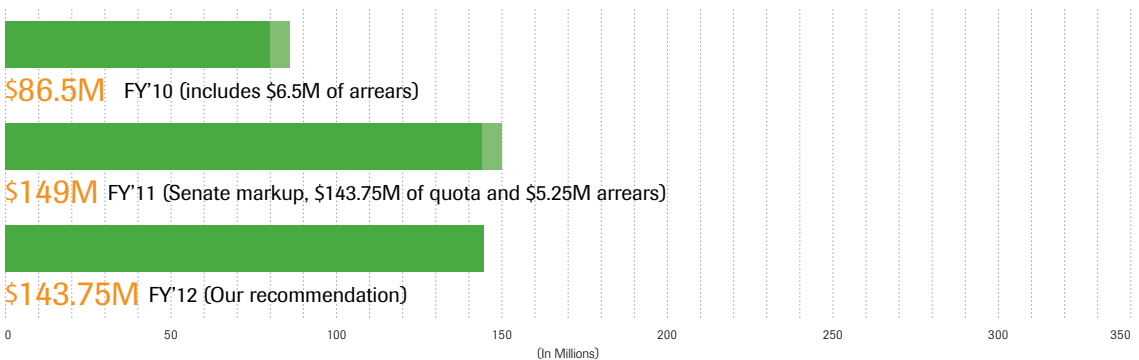
The GEF recently achieved a replenishment of \$4.25 billion covering 2010–2014. The GEF has been replenished four times since its inception in 1991. The GEF unites 181 countries in partnership with international institutions, civil society and the private sector to address global environmental issues in the context of national sustainable development. For

every U.S. dollar invested, about \$24 dollars have been leveraged from other sources.

To date, the GEF has provided more than \$3.1 billion for biodiversity and has attracted \$8.3 billion in co-financing to support more than 1,000 projects in 155 countries. This includes \$1.89 billion invested in the creation and management of protected areas. The GEF has been crucial to achieving the global target of 10 percent of the world’s terrestrial areas under protection. The GEF has created 40 conservation trust funds totaling \$300 million.

As a result of GEF’s conservation work, over 265 million hectares of productive landscapes and seascapes became more biodiversity-friendly. The GEF has been the largest single financier of forest conservation: \$1.6 billion, supplemented by more than \$4.8 billion in co-financing, supporting more than 350 projects. The GEF also has been a pioneer investor in payments for ecosystem services.

### ■ Funding Program Levels



## Highlights

### Colombia: Conservation Mosaics



Through six pilot “conservation mosaic” projects, the GEF is employing a novel approach to strengthen the management of protected areas while also satisfying human needs.

Conservation mosaics move beyond the concept of conservation corridors—which are mostly defined by biological considerations—to encompass a more fluid and organic understanding of landscape-level ecosystem processes and management requirements within *and beyond* the protected areas themselves. By building networks of protected areas and complementary landscapes that include combinations of national parks, production landscapes and seascapes and collectively-owned ethnic territories, conservation mosaics build upon existing social and institutional arrangements to ensure that both conservation and local benefit objectives are met in ways that can be socially and economically sustained.



Cocora Valley is nestled between the mountains of the Cordillera Central of the Andes in Colombia. © ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

### East Asia: Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Fisheries Management Project



The Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape, located between Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, spans an area of 900,000 square kilometers and provides livelihoods and food for over 40 million people. It has the world’s highest concentration of marine biodiversity. Threats include over-fishing, pollution, coastal development and sedimentation. Local people’s livelihoods are threatened as fish stocks decline and commercial fishing increases. Rising sea levels, increasing ocean temperatures, ocean acidification and coral bleaching attributed to climate change are harming ecosystems and communities that rely on them. The Sulu-Celebes (Sulawesi) Seas fisheries management project, funded under the GEF’s International Waters portfolio, is the area’s first trans-boundary project to address small pelagic fisheries management in line with the Coral Triangle Initiative’s regional plan of action.



Funae fishermen sorting tuna after the catch, Sulawesi, Indonesia. © JÜRGEN FREUND / WWF-CANON

## Highlights (continued)

### Brazil: Protecting the “Thermostat of the Planet”



The Amazon Basin is one of the key thermostats of the planet, helping to regulate temperature, rainfall and other weather patterns thousands of miles away. The GEF-funded Amazon Region Protected Area (ARPA) program has helped turn an area the size of Poland into legally protected forestland. These protected areas could prevent 272,000 km<sup>2</sup> of deforestation through 2050, representing more than one-third of the world’s annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. During its first phase, ARPA helped place more than 31 million hectares into various levels of protection, exceeding the original goal of 18 million hectares. An additional 25 areas are being studied for future protection. A second phase of ARPA has recently begun, intending to build upon these remarkable achievements.



Burning the Amazonian rainforest to create pasture land for ranching, Brazil. © MAURI RAUTKARI / WWF-CANON

### Global: Tiger Initiative

Wild tigers have reached a crisis point in their survival. Conservation groups and tiger range states are working together to avoid the unthinkable—extinction in the wild. Over the last 100 years, the global tiger population has plummeted from an estimated 100,000 to a low of 3,200 animals, with less than 1,000 breeding females. The Global Tiger Initiative, supported by the GEF and the World Bank, recently completed an analysis identifying sites that offer the greatest hope for saving wild tigers and the financial costs needed for effectively conserving them. The report identified 43 “Source Sites” across the tiger range that will be central to any recovery. The cost of protecting and managing these Source Sites was calculated at \$82 million per year—a very modest sum to enable this iconic species to thrive again across Asia. At present, there is a shortfall of US\$35 million per year. Range state nations and international donors gathered at the November 2010 Tiger Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, to pledge cooperation in ensuring the survival of wild tigers.



Malayan tiger cub. © JULIE LARSEN MAHER / WCS

## Highlights (continued)

### Cambodia: Conservation Areas that Generate Local Benefits



The Cambodian Northern Plains, one of the largest relatively intact landscapes in Southeast Asia, hosts more than 40 species that are listed in the IUCN “Red List” of globally threatened species. Working with the government, the GEF helped establish the 189,987 hectare Preah Vihear Protected Forest. Today, 80 percent of the Northern Plains area is legally protected. GEF funding spurred community incentives for conservation. For example, farmers who agree to meet conservation agreements designed to protect rare water birds and other species now receive a premium price for “wildlife-friendly” rice.



Tropical forest, Cambodia. © WCS-CAMBODIA

### Madagascar: Protecting Critical Ecosystems



With the help of the GEF-supported Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), a civil society group in Madagascar has simultaneously addressed poverty alleviation, health and conservation needs. The group supported communities around Zahamena National Park, home to some of the nation’s most spectacular rainforests, to engage in micro-enterprises, improved sanitation and child health, while helping the communities to adopt best practices in farming techniques and develop plans to manage their natural resources and biodiversity. Founded in 2000, the CEPF has enabled more than 1,500 civil society organizations to help conserve hotspots in Africa, Asia and Latin America.



Young boy with forest burnt for cultivation, Madagascar. © JOHN E. NEWBY / WWF-CANON

### Caribbean: Large Regional Marine Protected Area



By providing \$975,000 in grants (attracting \$3,180,000 in co-financing), the GEF has helped establish a 65,018 km<sup>2</sup> Caribbean archipelago marine protected area (MPA), the largest MPA in the Caribbean and one of the 10 largest in the world. The design of the MPA itself is cutting-edge, using a zoned approach and a community-based monitoring program to allow a range of human activities and ecological protections, including a well-thought-out series of “no-take” areas critical for restoring reef system health. The MPA seeks to achieve an equitable distribution of economic and social benefits and to protect historic use rights.



Great hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*), Bahamas Bank. © NATUREPL.COM / DAVID FLEETHAM / WWF

# Program: Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA)

Agency: *U.S. Department of the Treasury*

The Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) was enacted in 1998 to give eligible developing countries the option to relieve official debt owed to the U.S. Treasury while generating funds in local currency for tropical forest conservation activities. Debt reduction occurs in exchange for the debtor government’s commitment to make local currency payments for the protection of its forests. The TFCA also works to strengthen civil society by creating local foundations to provide small grants to NGOs and local communities.

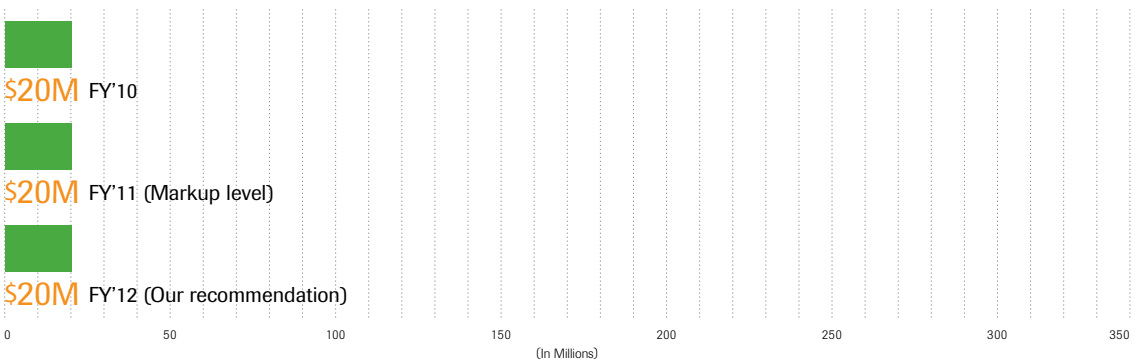
The TFCA offers a unique opportunity for public-private partnerships. The majority of agreements have included funds raised by U.S.-based NGOs. As of November 2010, \$175.4 million of U.S. government appropriations has been used to complete 17 TFCA debt-for-nature agreements, which over time will generate more than \$266 million

in long-term commitments for tropical forest conservation in Bangladesh, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica (x2), El Salvador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jamaica, Panama (x2), Paraguay, Peru (x2) and the Philippines. The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, World Wildlife Fund and an Indonesian Fund (KEHATI) have contributed a total of \$18 million to 10 of these agreements.

A reauthorization of the TFCA is pending before Congress. We urge its approval. The reauthorized Act would extend the TFCA model to include coral reef ecosystems, making its application more flexible and encompassing a wider range of opportunities to support international conservation of large-scale terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

[www.treas.gov/offices/international-affairs/index.html](http://www.treas.gov/offices/international-affairs/index.html)  
[www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/environment/forestry/intro\\_tfca.html](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/forestry/intro_tfca.html)

## Funding Program Levels





## Highlights

### Guatemala



The U.S. and Guatemalan governments, together with international NGOs, concluded a debt-for-nature swap in 2006 that will generate \$24 million over 15 years for protecting and restoring the country's tropical forests. To date, several grants have focused on strengthening of institutional capacities in the sustainable management of forests, particularly at the community and municipality levels. In the Petén, TFCA grants have supported protected area patrolling, filing of legal claims and enforcement against illegal deforestation or resource extraction. In the Motagua-Polochic region along the Caribbean, TFCA grants have supported conflict resolution in order to help resolve three management and territorial governance conflicts challenging the integrity of protected areas.



Deforestation from logging, Guatemala. © ROBIN MOORE

### Paraguay



In 2006, the governments of the U.S. and Paraguay concluded a TFCA agreement which will generate \$7.4 million over 12 years to help protect a specific targeted biological corridor of Atlantic forest in the south of the country. One grant was provided to a long-standing Paraguayan NGO, Protection of the San Rafael Cordillera (PROCASARA), to implement a conservation program in conjunction with the municipality of Alto Verá. The grant works with buffer zone communities to introduce diverse and sustainable agricultural production, environmental education and conservation of upland watersheds. PROCASARA also monitors the protected area with support to park guards, regular monitoring flights using an ultra-light plane and enforcement support to the GOP Park Service.



The Iguazu Falls is one of the largest masses of fresh water on the planet and divides, in South America, Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina. © DANIEL WIEDEMANN / ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

### El Salvador

While it may seem unusual for a forestry program to support sea turtle conservation, mangrove forests provide vital hatchery habitat for many coastal marine species and act as protective buffers of the shoreline. Since 2002, grants from the TFCA-established fund have supported grants for guardians, management plans and alternative livelihoods for communities living near sea turtle nesting sites. Substantial recovery of sea turtles has been achieved in the areas under management.



Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) laying eggs on a beach above high water mark. © MARTIN HARVEY / WWF-CANON

# Program: Multinational Species Conservation Funds (MSCFs)

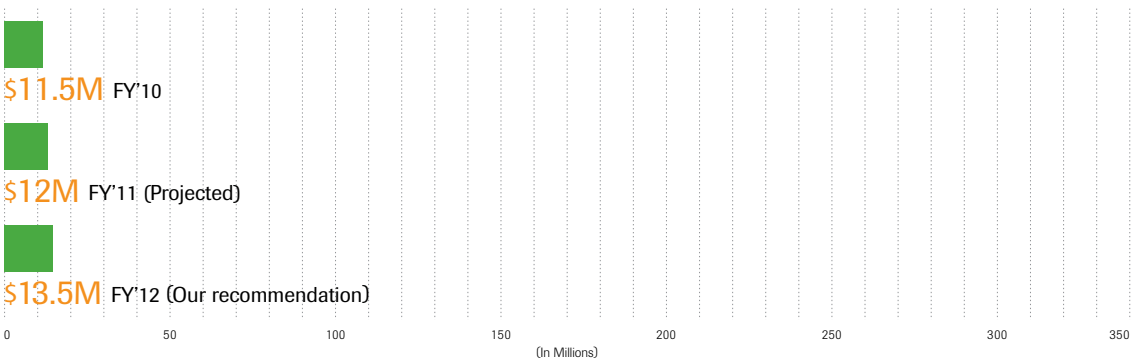
Agency: *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)*

The United States has a legacy of leading international wildlife conservation efforts, exemplified by the Multinational Species Conservation Fund (MSCF) program, which provides dedicated and effective resources for global conservation of iconic species: African and Asian elephants, rhinos/tigers, great apes and marine turtles. MSCF programs are the species-specific portion of the Wildlife Without Borders (WWB) program at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of International Conservation. They support conservation of these charismatic endangered species in their natural surroundings through capacity building, law enforcement, habitat and conservation management, mitigation of human-animal conflicts, applied research and monitoring. From 2005 to 2009, the MSCF programs provided over \$45 million in conservation assistance and leveraged an additional \$75 million in partner contributions.

These programs command very broad-based support and help to meet critical needs. For example, experts estimate that as few as 3,000 tigers now remain in the wild and that only 1,000 of these are breeding females. Over 500 tigers are being killed each year. Africa's great apes have faced new threats from virulent diseases, such as Ebola, that have wiped out up to 90 percent of affected populations. With help from the Great Apes Conservation Fund, new nature reserves have been established, such as the Kagwene Gorilla Sanctuary in Cameroon. In Nepal, the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund is helping to prevent the spread of TB from captive Asian elephants to wild populations, leading to the development of a model TB surveillance and control program.

<http://www.fws.gov/international/dicprograms/speciesprogram.htm>

## Funding Program Levels



## Highlights

### Tanzania: Endangered Black Rhinos Reintroduced to Serengeti National Park

In May 2010, five critically endangered Eastern black rhinos were successfully returned to the Serengeti National Park as part of a bold initiative to boost the viability of Tanzania's rhino population. Their safe arrival is a remarkable achievement for rhino conservation and for cooperation between nations. The May flight and five future flights to deliver the rhinos to Serengeti National Park are sponsored by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Nduna Foundation and the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund. During the next two years, a total of 32 Eastern black rhinos will be returned, more than doubling the number of black rhinos in the Serengeti.



Black rhinoceros (*Dicerus bicornis*). Nairobi National Park, Kenya. © MICHEL GUNTHER / WWF-CANON

### Oman: Training on Sea Turtle Nest Protection in Oman

In April 2009, the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund supported a 10-day mission with the Florida Marine Research Institute to train conservation professionals in Oman. The U.S. representatives conducted workshops to equip Omani rangers to protect nesting populations of loggerhead, green and hawksbill turtles. This has already led to better monitoring of nests and will soon include planning for growth of tourism.



A green turtle crawling back to the ocean in Raz al Jinz turtle reserve in Oman after laying eggs. © TOMI TENETZ / DREAMSTIME.COM

### East Africa: Creating Wildlife Corridors



In the Ruvuma Landscape of northern Mozambique and southern Tanzania, FWS is partnering with USAID's Sustainable Conservation Approaches in Priority Ecosystems (SCAPES) program to make three transboundary wildlife corridors operational. Corridor development is an important first step in developing sustainable land-use planning for conservation of wide-ranging species, buffering climate change effects, reducing habitat fragmentation and creating economic development compatible with sustainable resource use and management. The African Elephant Conservation Fund has supported GIS capacity-building efforts and helped develop an ecological zonation map for Ruvuma that is providing the landscape-scale data for finer scale planning activities ongoing in the region.



An elephant eating tall grass in Tanzania, Africa. © JAN ZOETEKOUW / DREAMSTIME.COM

## Highlights (continued)

### Vietnam: Saving the Last Rhinos

The Javan Rhino is among the planet's most endangered mammals—fewer than 60 individuals remain. Once thought extinct in mainland Southeast Asia, the first known images of the Vietnamese subspecies (*Rhinoceros sondaicus annamiticus*) were captured in 1999. No more than 10 of these rhinos survive, all within Vietnam's Cat Tien National Park. Persistent poaching and agricultural expansion seriously threaten their future. The Rhino/Tiger Conservation Fund has helped wildlife experts and national park rangers study Vietnam's remaining rhinos using an innovative new tool—dung-sniffing dogs. The genetic data collected is establishing number and sex ratio of the remaining rhinos. Alongside improved park management and protection and local community involvement, conservationists hope the new information will help save this most endangered rhino species.



Conservationists work with sniffer dog, 'Pepper', who is trained to detect dung of the rare Javan rhino in the forests of Vietnam.  
© WWF GREATER MEKONG

### Cambodia: Community-Based Nest Protection for Cantor's Softshell Turtle



FWS is supporting a community incentive program to protect nests of the one of the world's rarest freshwater turtles, Cantor's Giant Softshell Turtle. Found along the banks of Cambodia's Mekong River, they are threatened by egg collection and accidental human capture. The program is working to develop alternative livelihoods linked to incentives for turtle conservation. Payment plans for fishermen to guard turtle nests have been developed. Local people receive education on the life cycle and protection status of the species, focusing on the next generation; over 200 students have received training.



The Cantor's Giant Softshell Turtle (*Pelochelys cantorii*) is classified as globally endangered. Breeding populations of the turtles persist in the Mekong River Basin, but in very small numbers. © TRUDY CHATWIN / WWF

### Cambodia: Gibbon Conservation

FWS has provided ongoing support for gibbon conservation in Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia. Genetic evidence recently demonstrated that the gibbon population in the Veun Sai Forest is a previously unknown and unnamed species. In collaboration with Cambodia's Forestry Administration and the Royal University of Phnom Penh, efforts are now underway to expand research and protection of the site, which buffers a larger, contiguous, international trans-boundary forest block against ongoing destruction. In addition to the long-term socio-ecological and demographic study of the site's gibbons, the program will also conduct a study for a pilot ecotourism project for community benefits.



New gibbon species. © BEN RAWSON / CI

## Highlights (continued)

### Nigeria-Cameroon: Preserving the Rarest of the Great Apes

Bush meat hunters have severely reduced gorilla numbers, especially in the Cross River landscape which spans the border between south-eastern Nigeria and southwestern Cameroon. The Cross River gorilla, with only about 300 individuals remaining, is the world's rarest great ape. Fragmentation of the region's forests also threatens the species' survival and the integrity of the landscape. The Great Ape Conservation

Fund has is helping to manage protected areas that provide refuge. Long-term research studies are giving scientists better understanding of gorilla ecology. Conservationists will soon be able to recommend protective measures for habitat corridors that link the disparate groups.



Nyango with leaf. © WCS

### Sumatra: Surveying the Size of Elephant Populations

In Sumatra's Bukit Barisan region, a key tool for effecting elephant conservation is to monitor the outcomes of interventions by studying trends in population size. To this end, support from the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund is assisting scientists on the ground, conducting surveys based on dung counts and camera traps and pioneering new molecular biology techniques to estimate the size and status of elephant populations. The results will improve the management of remaining elephant populations and habitat and identify areas in which elephants are vulnerable so that appropriate interventions can be taken.



Close up of eye of an asian elephant. © JULIE LARSEN MAHER / WCS

### Gulf of Guinea: Reducing the Impact of Oil and Gas Exploration



As oil and gas companies expand their reach farther into the world's oceans, many marine creatures come under threat. Conservationists are working in the Gulf of Guinea to identify and mitigate the potential impacts of the oil and gas industry's exploration and production activities to marine mammals and their habitats. The Marine Turtle Conservation Fund is helping to fund research into the presence, diversity and movements of marine animals, such as leatherback turtles, in key marine habitats that the oil and gas industry expects to explore. In some cases, new industry practices have led to improvements, such as reducing disruptive lighting, waste disposal into the waters and changing the timing of seismic surveys. These changes serve as a start to minimizing impacts.



An oil rig close to pristine leatherback sea turtle habitat. © T. COLLINS / WCS

# Program: *Wildlife Without Borders, International Affairs*

Agency: *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is mandated to support U.S. involvement in international conservation, including through such agreements as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

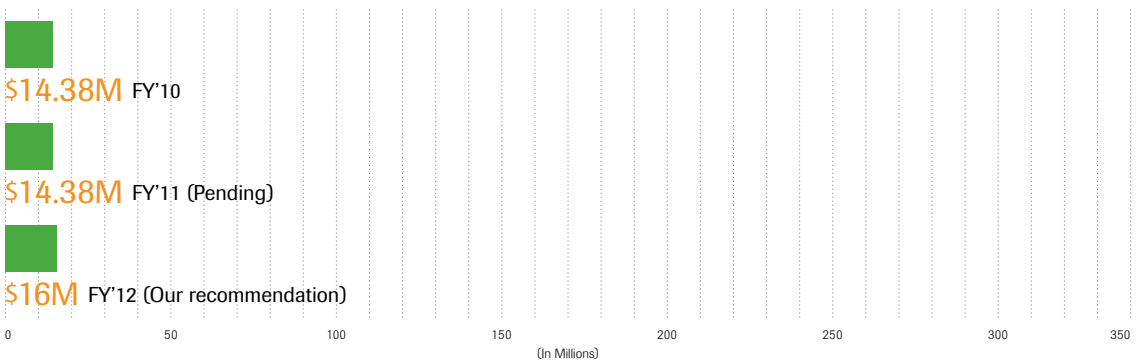
The Service organizes its international conservation projects under its Office of International Affairs principally around the themes of Wildlife Without Borders (WWB) and International Wildlife Trade (IWT). The latter deals with efforts to reduce the illegal wildlife trade via CITES, for example. Broad landscape efforts are funded within the WWB

regional and global programs, while species-specific projects are supported from within the Multinational Species Conservation Funds (see previous chapter).

From 2005 to 2009, WWB programs awarded over \$12 million and leveraged \$22 million in matching funds to provide targeted conservation actions, support improved local capacity at the regional level and address global issues such as wetlands conservation and migratory species.

FWS international work is respected and effective, in results and in the ability to attract partner contributions. Efforts are under way to widen the scope and reach of these programs, including to cross-cutting global threats to wildlife such as climate change and disease. At the same time, new regional and bilateral partnerships are being explored in West Africa and with Mongolia, Paraguay and Tanzania.

## Funding Program Levels



## Highlights

### Mexico: Sierra Gorda Reserve Builds Grassroots Action



Sixteen years ago, the WWB Mexico program funded a group of farmers in the mountains of central Mexico who wanted to protect their forest and its biodiversity. This area has been classified as an important migratory bird area, wildlife corridor and biodiversity hotspot. Helped by grants from WWB, the farmers successfully negotiated with the Government of Mexico to declare the area a nature reserve, then produced and implemented a management plan. WWB supported the farmers as they trained in natural resource management and created their own non-governmental organization to support the reserve. The Sierra Gorda Reserve in Mexico is now considered an international model in successful grass-roots reserve management that links biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and climate change. It was featured in CNN's *Report for Global Climate Action Day*, October 2010.



Sierra Gorda, Queretaro, Mexico. © ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

### Gabon: Community Engagement in Confronting Wildlife Threats



Ivory poaching and commercial bush meat hunting are significant threats to the wildlife populations of Gabon. Forestry companies build dense networks of logging roads that allow hunters to penetrate deep into pristine habitat. WWB is supporting work within Ivindo National Park to confront these threats. The park has some of the most impenetrable rainforests and wildest rivers on Earth, as well as chimpanzees, forest elephants and lowland gorillas. Groups are working with logging companies to adopt best practices to minimize impacts while also monitoring wildlife and law enforcement and building Gabonese capacity for conservation management.



Western Lowland Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*), silverback male. Gabon. © MARTIN HARVEY / WWF-CANON

### Latin America: RESERVA Program Trains Protected Area Managers

Only a fraction of the protected area managers in Latin America are trained in the skills to achieve success. To address this need, in 1989 WWB launched the Ecological Reserve Manager Training Program (RESERVA by its Spanish acronym) to provide in-service training to professionals already working in protected areas management via three-month multidisciplinary, field-based training curriculum. WWB has invested more than \$2.5 million in RESERVA, with partners providing more than \$3 million in matching funds. Three hundred reserve managers from 22 countries have been trained.



Red-eyed treefrog (*Agalychnis callidryas*), Central America. © JOHN S. MITCHELL / WWF-CANON

# Program: Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA)

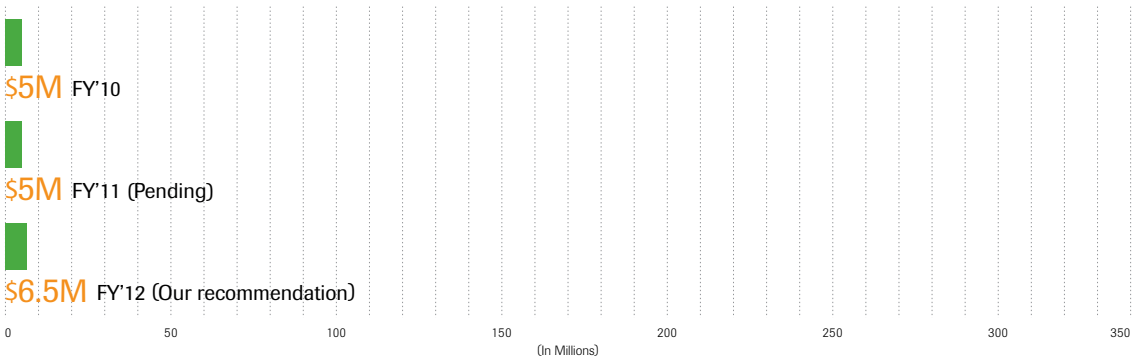
Agency: *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)*

In 2000, Congress passed the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to help protect migratory birds that breed in or migrate through the United States and Canada and spend the non-breeding season in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Act provides an upland complement to the wetland bird conservation work accomplished under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Partners in 48 U.S. states and territories, 13 Canadian provinces and territories and 35 Latin American and Caribbean countries and territories have participated in 333 NMBCA-supported projects that have helped conserve some 3 million acres of habitat. These areas provide breeding and wintering grounds for approximately 340 species, including some of the most endangered birds in North America.

In addition to habitat conservation, grants provided through NMBCA support research and monitoring, law enforcement and outreach and education. Grant requests must be matched at least 3:1 by public or private partners. The program has exceeded this requirement in every year since its inception in 2002. Grants totaling more than \$35 million have leveraged an additional \$150 million in partner contributions to support activities that bring long-term benefits to neotropical migratory birds. In 2006, Congress authorized an incremental increase in appropriations from \$5 million to \$6.5 million over five years and widened the Act's geographic scope to include Canada.

<http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NMBCA>

## Funding Program Levels





## Highlights

### Colombia: Securing a Protected Area Network

A \$250,000 grant, matched with \$926,383, enabled the Colombian conservation organization ProAves' team of 50 researchers, educators and conservationists to: 1) protect bird habitat by establishing a Golden-winged Warbler Bird Reserve; 2) consolidate and expand the network of protected area for migrants through a variety of land protection mechanisms; 3) reforest over 740 acres within the network; 4) sustain 38 monitoring stations and a National Banding System; 5) provide training for students; 6) ensure protected areas are registered with the National Protected Area System; and 7) expand rural outreach.



Bogota Conservation Corridor, reforestation project, Colombia.  
© OLAF ZERBOCK / CI

### Caribbean: Birds as Winged Ambassadors

In this ongoing project, the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds, with a grant of \$100,000 matched by \$653,412 in partner contributions, is increasing awareness and appreciation of the Caribbean's unique and diverse bird life and habitats through a comprehensive outreach and education program. Partners expanded a bird festival to six new Caribbean countries. Furthermore, partners have implemented the West Indian Whistling-Duck and Wetlands Conservation Project to raise awareness of the many functions and values of wetlands and to equip educators and community leaders to inspire others to conserve local wetlands.



Sound mapping activity in Pterocarpus Swamp Forest, Wetlands Workshop. © SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION AND STUDY OF CARIBBEAN BIRDS

### Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay: Conservation for Grassland Migrants



The natural temperate grasslands of southern South America are a threatened habitat due to their rich grazing potential and expanding agricultural development. The grasslands are particularly important as wintering habitat for a suite of Neotropical migratory birds. An international NGO received a \$208,300 grant, and partners contributed \$629,250 for a project in which they consolidated best management practices at seven key grasslands sites. The partners involved ranchers in more biodiversity-friendly agriculture systems by a series of conferences; the partnership benefits birds while allowing productive cattle ranching.



Red-crested Cardinal. © OLIVIER LANGRAND

# Program: U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Office of International Programs (IP)

Agency: *U.S. Forest Service*

The world's tropical forests are under tremendous pressures from human uses and are rapidly declining, despite the tremendous value of the services that they provide, including biodiversity habitat, clean air, water and fiber. Deforestation and degradation of forests are a significant source of global greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for approximately 15 percent of total carbon emissions worldwide. In turn, climate change poses challenges to forest management, including variability in wildfires, droughts, floods and pathogens, and leads to substantial shifts in distribution and timing of reproduction in plants and wildlife. The Forest Service has been studying and applying mitigation measures in response to climate change for 20 years. Through its International Programs (USFS/IP), the Forest Service is collaborating with other countries around the world to address land management challenges associated with climate

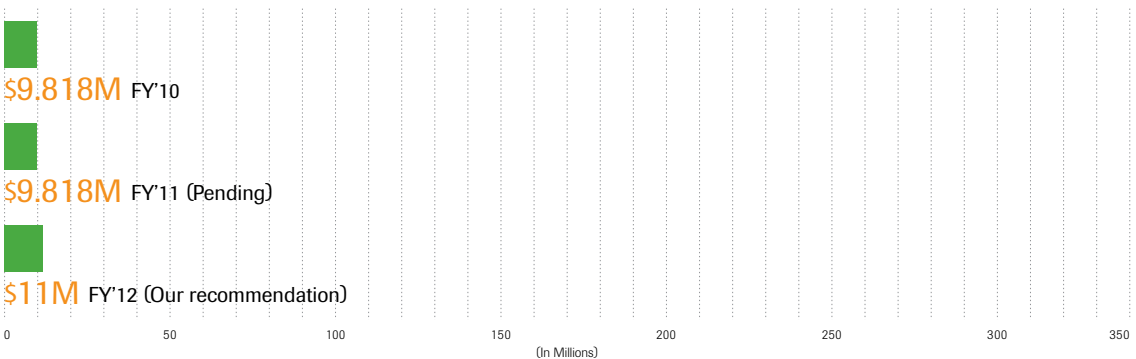
change, conduct carbon inventories, monitor forest conditions and potentially participate in multilateral initiatives to finance carbon storage through forest conservation, such as REDD and REDD+.

The International Programs of the Forest Service are uniquely positioned to promote forest conservation around the globe by drawing on the agency's diverse workforce of scientists, resource managers, international specialists, conservation biologists and other experts.

In addition, the USFS/IP responds to natural disasters and humanitarian crises and provides technical assistance on such topics as protected area management, landscape level planning, wildfire management, reduced impact logging and forest certification.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/international>

## Funding Program Levels



## Highlights

### Indonesia: Protecting Tropical Peat Land Carbon Stores



Tropical peat forests contain exceptionally large carbon stores due to a combination of large trees and organic-rich soils up to 20 meters deep. Although peat lands cover only 3 percent of the earth's land area, they contain 30 percent of its soil carbon. This is equivalent to about 40 percent of the carbon in the atmosphere and 70 times the current annual global emissions from fossil fuel burning. Hence, protecting peat lands is globally important. Indonesia has more tropical peat lands than any other nation—about 21 million hectares. More than 70 percent of Indonesia's carbon emissions are estimated to arise from fires in these peat lands. With support from the Department of State, the USFS is developing an Indonesian Climate Change Center to facilitate Indonesian/U.S. exchanges to fill knowledge gaps on greenhouse gas emissions in peat lands and other high-emitting forests, create a platform for sound monitoring, reporting and verification systems for the forestry sector, and design efforts that can be supported at a larger scale by other donors.



Burnt down Sebangau National Park peat swamps, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia. © BHAYU PAMUNGKAS / WWF-INDONESIA

### Russian Far East: Supporting the World's Last Remaining Siberian Tigers

In the Russian Far East, the Sikhote-Alin Mountain ecosystem is a dense, temperate forest landscape that supports the world's last remaining Siberian tigers. Siberian tigers require vast, intact habitats to survive in these low-productivity, northern temperate forests. But with less than 15 percent of the Sikhote-Alin landscape formally protected, conservation-based management of the entire region (both inside and outside protected areas) is necessary. The U.S. Forest Service International Programs are helping local authorities to balance the needs of rural communities with survival of the tigers. Conservationists have designed a comprehensive protected areas network that links key tiger habitat across the Russian Far East mountain ecosystem. Surveys show that it has been successful in stabilizing the big cats' population. Innovative business plans will link economic development in depressed regions to "tiger-friendly" conservation initiatives, using the power of green consumerism to change local perspectives on tigers.



Amur tiger in snow. © JULIE LARSEN MAHER / WCS

# Program: U.S. National Park Service International Program

Agency: *U.S. National Park Service (NPS)*

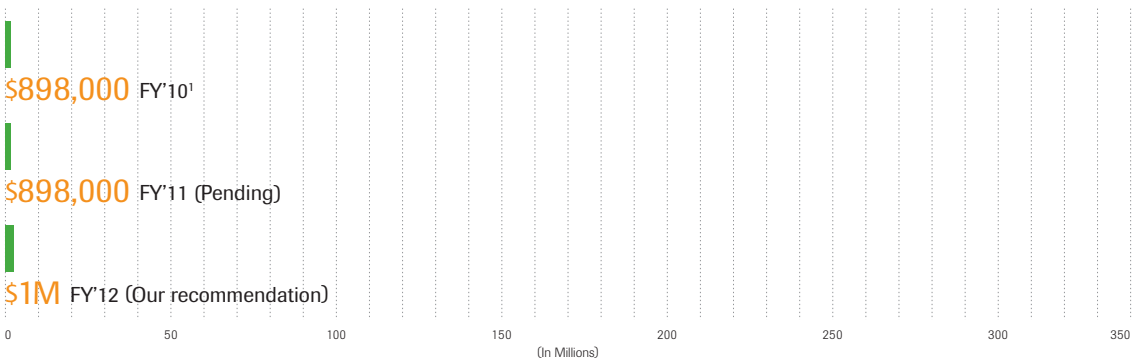
The U.S. National Park Service has a long and proud legacy of international leadership and engagement. The concept of the national park is regarded by many as “America’s best idea.” Today, nearly every country on earth has created its own park system, many of them with direct assistance from the NPS. In 1961, the U.S. government initiated its first international conservation program with the creation of the NPS’s Office of International Affairs (OIA). Since then, NPS/OIA has facilitated technical assistance and exchange projects in every corner of the world.

The international work conducted by the NPS is not only about helping other countries protect their parks and heritage. It has become increasingly clear that international engagement is also critical to protecting many resources found in the American national park system. Numerous wildlife species move

across park and international boundaries, and our parks are increasingly impacted by threats from beyond U.S. borders—invasive species, air and water pollution, climate change and more. To deal with these threats, the NPS needs to engage with the world.

NPS experts in park and protected area management help to create conservation benefits for developing. Through the OIA, NPS generates goodwill toward the United States and learns from innovative practices developed by park agencies in other countries. Recent projects have involved Cambodia, Colombia, Gabon, Haiti, Mexico, Palau and Russia. NPS is working on collaborative areas of trans-frontier concern, including at Beringia (U.S.-Russia), and Big Bend/Rio Bravo (U.S.-Mexico). NPS/OIA supports the Park Flight Migratory Bird Program, a public-private partnership to protect neotropical migratory birds and their habitats.

## Funding Program Levels



## Highlights

### Global: Healthy Parks, Healthy People



Building on the heritage of John Muir's forays into Yosemite National Park, the NPS is sharing lessons learned with international counterparts on the benefits of a visit to natural landscapes. The NPS exchanged best practices with park colleagues who attended the first International Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress held in Melbourne, Australia in 2010 and plans to establish a Memorandum of Understanding with Parks Victoria, the protected area management agency in the State of Victoria, Australia, which has pioneered outstanding approaches to encouraging more people into parks and extending the benefits of nature to them. These lessons learned, as well as new NPS programs to connect Children and Nature, were also shared by the NPS Director at the 2010 EuroParc Federation conference held in Italy, a nation which has done much to inspire U.S. efforts to adopt the Slow Food and the local crafts movement to our national parks. These are important examples of how international cooperation can result in significant domestic benefits as well.



NPS Deputy Director Wenk addresses Healthy Parks/People Congress in Australia. © NPS

### Global: World Heritage Management Fellowships



The World Heritage Convention is generally regarded as one of the most successful international conventions for the preservation of globally significant natural and cultural heritage sites. However, many World Heritage sites continue to face major threats and are in great need of technical assistance and training. In 2011 the NPS/OIA continues its partnership with the National Park Foundation to provide training for managers from World Heritage sites in developing countries at U.S. World Heritage sites managed by the NPS. With increased funding, this program could help many more of the world's most significant protected areas.



National Parks Service staffer demonstrates Samoan expertise in killing invasive tree species. © NPS

### Global: New NPS Technical Assistance and Sister Park Initiatives

The NPS has recently begun assessing potential technical assistance and sister park cooperation efforts with Colombia, Haiti, Indonesia, Peru and Rwanda. It also hopes to strengthen its existing partnerships with such countries as Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Italy, Mexico, Russia and Slovakia.



Haleakala National Parks Superintendent Creachbaum visiting villagers at Indonesia's Wakatobi National Park. © NPS

# Program: International Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation and Coastal and Marine Protected Area Management

Agency: *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce*

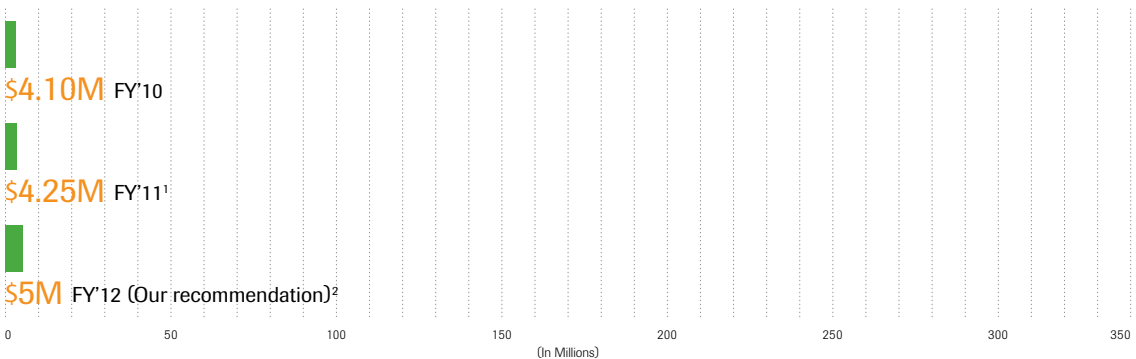
Healthy coastal and marine ecosystems are critical to U.S. diplomatic and development strategies and to promoting high priority goals like food security, social stability, and disaster and climate change mitigation. Areas of global focus for NOAA are coral reef conservation and support to marine protected area (MPA) management. Living marine resources do not recognize the boundaries of an MPA—or of a nation; nor do oil spills, invasive species or pollutants. MPAs are therefore an important domestic and international priority for NOAA.

The U.S. National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs calls for the U.S. government to collaborate with international partners to conserve international coral reefs and associated habitats while sustaining the human communities that depend on them. NOAA is expanding its international presence by more actively engaging in coral conservation efforts abroad. The

agency provides training, technical support, coordination, competitive small grants and larger scale cooperative agreements. A reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act, with greater emphasis on international efforts, is pending before Congress. We urge its approval.

NOAA aims to expand its coral conservation efforts in four priority regions based on their interconnections with U.S. reef ecosystems and interests: the Wider Caribbean, Micronesia, Southwest Pacific (with an emphasis on Samoa) and the Coral Triangle. NOAA focuses on supporting regional initiatives, such as the Micronesia Challenge and the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), as well as building local capacity for successful MPAs. As part of the five-year, \$40 million USAID-funded program for the CTI, NOAA provide technical support and training in management, fisheries, and climate change adaptation.

## Funding Program Levels



## Highlights

### Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Areas Community (PIMPAC)

Since 2005, NOAA has supported a social network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Micronesia, the Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Areas Community (PIMPAC). This network identifies and addresses the unique challenges faced by MPA managers in the region. These include limitations in human and financial resources and isolation from one another that restricts the ability of managers to learn from and apply approaches that have been successful elsewhere. PIMPAC consists of site-based managers, non-governmental organizations, local communities, federal, state and territorial agencies and other partners working together to collectively enhance the effective use and management of managed and protected areas in the U.S. Pacific Islands and Freely Associated States. PIMPAC aims to build partnerships and bring support to the region to strengthen planning, implementation and evaluation efforts to conserve the marine resources of the Pacific Islands. On behalf of its partners, PIMPAC is co-coordinated by NOAA and the Micronesian Conservation Trust.



Northern right whale dolphins in the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. © KEN BALCOMB / NOAA

### Global: Support for Marine Protected Area Management



Recently, NOAA has marked five years of providing innovative MPA capacity building workshops for over 2,000 MPA practitioners around the world. The agency has begun expanding the North American MPA Network (with Mexico and Canada) to the Atlantic and Caribbean region; has developed and hosted two of the largest conferences of MPA practitioners in the world; signed a new agreement with France's MPA Agency; has successfully led the effort to have the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument inscribed as the U.S.'s first World Heritage Site in 15 years; and continues investment in priority seascapes, such as North Sulawesi-Halmahera of the Coral Triangle. NOAA will co-host (with UNESCO) the first ever meeting of Marine World Heritage Managers in December 2010.



Feather Star on Gorgonian Fan, Yasawas, Fiji. © STACY JUPITER / WCS

## Annex

### **Lacey Act Amendment: Tackling the Illegal Timber Trade**

Illegal logging plays a central role in driving tropical deforestation and degradation. It also undermines legal businesses in the U.S. by approximately \$1 billion annually due to underselling by cheaper illegal supplies. Amendments to the U.S. Lacey Act that ban trade in illegal plant products, including wood, have motivated many companies to institute changes in their supply chains and increased diligence toward their suppliers. In order for the law to continue delivering, it is essential that **\$13.5 million** be dedicated to support Lacey Act implementation in FY2012, channeled through several agencies. These include **\$5.5 million** for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) to build an electronic declarations database and to add internal capacity to perform data analysis for monitoring and enforcement. USAID and State are undertaking international outreach to explain the implications of the expanded Lacey Act to producer countries; funding for these efforts, which impact industry practices around the world, should be increased to **\$4 million**. The Fish and Wildlife Service needs funding to carry out enforcement activities, including periodic public cases that are critical to deter bad operators, and we recommend at least **\$4 million** for the USFWS' office of law enforcement budget to accommodate this mandate.

### **International Conservation Programs within State/OES**

The State Department's International Conservation Programs support cooperative approaches to conservation challenges. These include U.S. Government membership in the IUCN-World Conservation Union, a global alliance for the advancement of conservation and sustainable development, and support for international treaties and conventions, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO; the World Heritage Convention), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. We recommend that IO&P conservation efforts receive not less than **\$7 million** per year.

### **Marine Mammal Commission (MMC)**

The Marine Mammal Commission is an independent U.S. government agency reporting to the Council on Environmental Quality charged with oversight of the marine mammal conservation policies and programs carried out by federal agencies. Last year, the MMC funded an international team of scientists that unveiled the largest genetic study of humpback whale populations ever conducted in the Southern Hemisphere. By analyzing DNA samples, researchers can now understand the population dynamics of Southern Hemisphere humpback whales to help guide management decisions in the complex realm of whale conservation. The MMC has also supported programs surveying false killer whales in Hawaii, the effects of noise on aquatic life, and the consequences of the Deepwater Horizon Gulf Oil Spill relating to marine mammals. We recommend **\$4.5 million** for the continuation and enhancement of these activities in FY2012.





CI, Pew, TNC, WCS and WWF have created this publication as an opportunity to leverage the combined expertise of our organizations to further the shared priorities of our respective conservation missions.

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