



THE INTERNATIONAL
CONSERVATION
BUDGET

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BUILDING ON AMERICA'S HISTORIC COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION



Water flowing from the traditional Karez system serves an Afghan village. Most rural Afghans depend on traditional, unprotected water sources for drinking. The Karez system is a centuries old practice to use ground water sustainably. A common practice in rural Afghanistan, the complex system of vertical shafts and horizontal tunnels extends several miles to bring ground water to the surface without any mechanical devices. Kabul Province in Shomali plains. © BIKSHAM GUJJA / WWF-CANON

“We need to be investing in improving people’s lives before the terrorists try to take over. Stay ahead of them, not with 100,000 troops all the time, but by partnering with people who will live in peace with us. The worst nightmare for al Qaeda is to come into a community that feels supported and has hope.”

— Sen. Lindsey Graham

“Conservation is a great moral issue, for it involves the patriotic duty of ensuring the safety and continuance of the nation.”

— Theodore Roosevelt, the New Nationalism speech, Kansas, 1910

PEOPLE NEED NATURE TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE. Healthy and renewable natural resources—fertile soil, forests, grasslands, freshwater, fisheries and wildlife—are the foundation of our prosperity, security and health. They provide clean water, reliable food supplies, medicines and opportunities for sustainable economic growth. However, increasing demand for these essential services is testing the planet’s ability to provide for its people. As the global population grows from 7 billion people to an estimated 9 billion by 2050, the demand for food, water and energy is expected to double, making the conservation of this natural capital more critical than ever.

Safeguarding the planet’s natural wealth is more than just good stewardship. In the developing world, where natural resources are the very lifeblood of economies, conservation is a basic investment in future growth. The link between eroding resources and increased likelihood of instability and conflict is also clearer than ever. Many of today’s security challenges stem from resource scarcity and degraded ecosystems. These scarcity-driven conflicts too often become U.S. problems requiring disaster assistance or costly military interventions.

In strategically important countries, such as Sudan and Somalia, dwindling natural resources have contributed to violence, trade disruption,

mass migration, terrorism and piracy. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, where nearly the entire economy is based on the country’s vast natural resources, good environmental governance is a prerequisite for both prosperity and peace. Illegal profits from militia-run mining, logging and poaching operations continue to rob the Congolese of their natural inheritance and fuel Central African conflicts that have killed upwards of a million people in a region the size of Western Europe. In Afghanistan, 80 percent of the rural population relies directly on natural resources, which have been decimated by decades of conflict and poverty. Recognizing that securing sustainable livelihoods is integral to any strategy to bring lasting peace to that country, the United States and its partners have helped create community-run forests and orchards—increasing local incomes by 30 percent or more—and have worked with Afghanistan’s first female governor to establish Band-e-Amir National Park—another first for the country.

Ensuring a sustainable natural resource base is also essential to the continued growth of the world’s emerging economies—America’s newest trading partners. Exports to developing countries are growing three times as fast as those to other countries and now represent nearly half of all U.S. exports. For every 10 percent increase in exports, there is a 7 percent increase in

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Aerial view of Kaieteur Falls in Kaieteur National Park, Guyana. The Guyana Sustainable Tourism Initiative, a joint project of the USAID/Guyana Trade and Investment Support (USAID/GTIS) Project and the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA), is working to enhance Guyana's sustainable tourism industry and conservation efforts through initiatives such as training guides in Kaieteur National Park. © JOHN MARTIN / CI

employment domestically, directly connecting the stability of governments and markets in the developing world to U.S. job growth. Since developing countries rely disproportionately on their natural wealth for economic growth, strengthening international conservation also enhances America's long-term economic security.

Through conservation programs, the United States is protecting the competitiveness of American businesses and the integrity of global markets, including critical supply chains. The illegal extraction of natural resources distorts

international markets, increasing the cost of doing business abroad and unfairly undermining U.S. products and companies that adhere to the law and industry guidelines. American jobs are directly impacted as a result. For example, illegal timber extraction in developing countries is estimated to cost the U.S. forest products industry roughly \$1 billion per year in lost revenue. By promoting sustainable forestry practices abroad, U.S. agencies are safeguarding American workers and the vital natural resources that provide us with essential goods and services.

U.S. companies are often leaders in global conservation efforts, embracing their responsibility to be good stewards and recognizing that investing in sustainability and the protection of natural capital is critical to their long-term success. They have continued these investments even in tough economic times.

Since at least the days of Teddy Roosevelt, Americans have recognized the value of protecting our natural heritage and the multitude of benefits it brings. Today, we have compelling reasons to help others around the world do the same. This booklet assembles the latest information on how U.S. government-funded international conservation programs benefit nature and the people who depend on it while supporting America’s economic, diplomatic and national security interests. It provides numerous examples of how these programs are helping to strengthen developing countries, improve quality of life and prevent the resource scarcities that can foment regional conflicts, fuel humanitarian



Man marking timber that has been legally harvested by the Samatex company, which is a participant in the USAID-supported Global Forest Trade Network (GFTN). Samreboi, western Ghana. © HARTMUT JUNGIUS / WWF-CANON

disasters and contribute to the failure of states. Our organizations stand ready to do their part, offering scientific expertise, on-the-ground experience, private funding and reliable partnerships with the U.S. government.

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San hunter armed with traditional bow and arrow, with cheetah. The San have lived in Namibia for at least 22,000 years, where they have had a close relationship and dependence on wildlife. Conservation organizations are promoting recovery of cheetah and other animals in the Namib desert. Income from tourism and managed hunting helps support health clinics and schools for these local people. © MARTIN HARVEY / WWF-CANON

Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society and World Wildlife Fund have created this publication to highlight international conservation programs funded by the U.S. government.

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COVER: Women gathering fuelwood, Virunga National Park outskirts Democratic Republic of Congo. © MARTIN HARVEY / WWF-CANON; **BACK COVER:** Black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) charging, Etosha National Park, Namibia. © NATUREPL.COM / TONY HEALD / WWF

The following icons are used throughout the booklet to indicate human well-being and livelihood co-benefits of the described programs:



Clean Water



Climate



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



Health



Local Empowerment &
Indigenous Rights



Security

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 robust portfolio of conservation programs. USAID is working with communities, non-governmental organizations and governments to develop natural resource policies and management practices that conserve biodiversity and sustain local livelihoods. Funded through the Development Assistance account, these programs help protect some of the largest, most at-risk natural landscapes and the livelihoods of millions of people who directly depend on natural resources for their survival and economic growth. By maintaining and restoring the natural resources that supply fertile soil, clean water, food and medicines, these USAID programs enhance U.S. economic and national security interests, reducing conflict over resource scarcity and improving the stability of trading partners.

These programs empower developing countries to tackle drivers of biodiversity loss and resource degradation, such as the illegal extraction of natural resources, overfishing, pollution, poor agricultural practices, weak governance and illegal wildlife

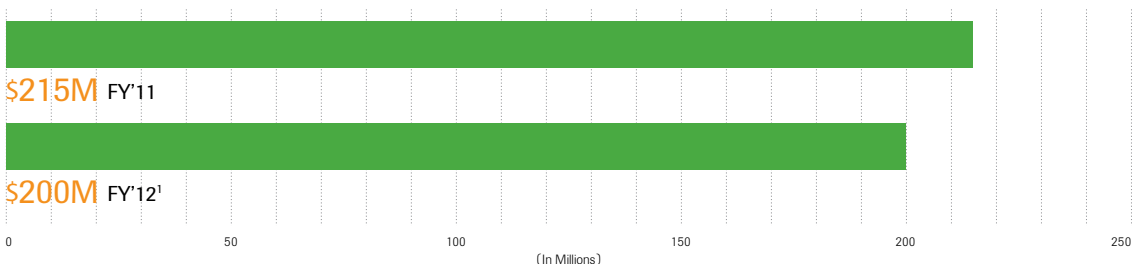
“...[resource] scarcities are likely to hit hardest on poorer states, leading in the worst case to internal or interstate conflict and spillover to regional destabilization.”

— U.S. National Intelligence Council

trafficking. They strengthen the capacity of countries to manage their natural resources while also promoting sustainable economic development. Countries that carefully manage their natural assets are more able to move up the development ladder, investing more in manufactured capital, infrastructure, human skills and education, strong institutions, innovation and new technologies—benefitting local people while strengthening global markets.

USAID conservation programs also promote the competitiveness of U.S. businesses by ensuring sustainable supply chains, strengthening trade relationships with emerging economies and preventing illegal products from flooding and undermining markets. This range of efforts is complemented by

Funding Program Levels



1. A portion of the biodiversity money also contributes to climate action, especially via REDD forest work.



On Earth Day 2009, Band-e-Amir was designated as Afghanistan's first national park, providing local people the opportunity to protect, preserve and profit from their beautiful landscape. Local entrepreneurs have built small shops, restaurants and hotels to serve tourists visiting Band-e-Amir. Rangers, like the one in this photo, have been trained to monitor and protect the wildlife in the park. © DAVID LAWSON / WCS

the support provided through USAID's Sustainable Landscapes and Adaptation programs.

U.S. investments in conservation must be strategic and catalytic, accomplishing several objectives and leveraging scarce resources. A recent USAID program in the Philippines increased fish abundance in selected fisheries by 13 percent, improved management of over 925,000 acres of municipal waters and established 30 public-private partnerships in support of sustainable fishing. In Kenya, USAID assistance helped 21,500 individuals in wildlife-rich areas benefit from conservation-related enterprises, leveraged over \$3 million in private sector and community investment and resulted in seven new community-run conservancies and four eco-lodges. In Afghanistan, USAID is helping develop community-based governance,

linkages to national institutions and technical tools for resource management in over 55 communities, including in Bamyan and Badakhshan provinces.

From grasslands and forests to mountains and coasts, USAID conservation activities address priority threats to biodiversity in the developing world, while generating tangible economic and social development results. Partnerships forged by USAID, foreign governments, the private sector, local peoples and conservation organizations are key to this success, leveraging significant additional investment and increasing goodwill towards the United States in the developing world.

Examples of the important programs supported by USAID follow.

http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/biodiversity/

Highlights

Sustainable Conservation Approaches in Priority Ecosystems (SCAPEs)



Sustainable Conservation Approaches in Priority Ecosystems (SCAPEs) is

USAID's largest global conservation initiative, at work in 19 countries to support large-scale approaches to conservation in trans-boundary landscapes and strengthen the capacity of local communities and government agencies to conserve and benefit from biodiversity through improved management of natural resources. From the forest slopes of the Andes Mountains to the savannas and steppes of Africa and Asia, SCAPEs' trans-boundary field activities and a robust learning component help to address threats such as poaching and habitat loss, climate change and disease, unsustainable agriculture and regulatory barriers to conservation. In partnership with non-governmental organizations, SCAPEs complements and informs USAID's national and regional biodiversity programs by developing and sharing state-of-the-art conservation practices and implementing landscape-specific and policy initiatives to achieve conservation and development goals.

In East Africa, SCAPEs is developing three large-scale wildlife corridors in the Ruvuma Landscape—an extensive area of wilderness and coastal ecosystems in Tanzania and Mozambique that supports extraordinary biodiversity, including lions, leopards, black rhinos, wild dogs and savannah elephants. The corridors are helping conserve species, reduce habitat fragmentation and promote rural economic development alongside sustainable resource management. Local people are learning to better manage infrastructure development, forest conversion for agriculture, illegal logging/charcoal production and climate change and obtaining knowledge and skills to maintain wildlife corridors, improve food security and engage their government. In Tanzania, SCAPEs is also helping prevent human-elephant conflict—a major issue in crop-growing areas. Elephants can destroy local food supplies, provoking violent altercations where humans and animals may be injured or killed. Through a SCAPEs exchange program, 45 individuals from five villages were

trained in elephant conflict prevention, learning locally developed techniques, including windblown chili ash and chili-infused ropes. SCAPEs partners also helped create Mozambique's Lake Niassa Aquatic Reserve, one of the richest aquatic ecosystems on the planet. Local communities were instrumental in the June 2011 declaration of the 338,700-acre reserve and its buffer zone, committing to protect the Lake—their main source of food and income—by closing rivers during spawning season, protecting spawning beds and creating a team of community rangers to enforce laws on illegal fishing, timber cutting, illegal migration, mining and piracy. The reserve is providing new economic opportunities, such as tourism, and trainings are educating local people about wildlife, natural resource and land tenure laws, engaging them in decisions on land use designations and helping them better negotiate to benefit from tourism ventures.

SCAPEs is also scaling up a community-based model for managing wildlife and livestock on Mongolia's Daurian Steppe, addressing poaching and illegal wildlife trade, disease transmission and habitat degradation from overgrazing and development. Trans-boundary collaboration on conservation and development planning is emerging along Mongolia's 1,200-mile border with Russia and China, improving regional relations through conservation partnerships on protected areas, migratory bird flyways, wildlife corridors and Asia's last large-scale ungulate migration—that of the Mongolian gazelle.



Demonstration of elephant dung and chili bombs to deter raiding elephants. Quirimbas, Mozambique.

© TANYA PETERSEN / WWF-CANON

Highlights (continued)

Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE)



The forests of Africa's Congo River basin contain globally important biodiversity, massive amounts of stored carbon and vital natural resources that support the livelihoods of the region's 80 million people. The region is also one of the least

developed and most conflict-torn on the planet. In many areas, the lack of strong governance and natural resource management has led to unsustainable use and exploitation of natural resources, exacerbating instability. USAID's **Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE)** supports landscape-level work in nine countries to reduce deforestation rates, conserve biodiversity and support local livelihoods through sustainable economic development. Most efforts are focused in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo and the Virunga mountains bordering Rwanda and DRC. CARPE is the primary vehicle for U.S. government investment in the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), an international initiative with more than 40 governmental and non-governmental partners with the common goals of protecting the region's biodiversity, promoting good forest governance and improving living standards through good natural resource management.

CARPE activities operate at various scales, from region-wide forest cover monitoring and national-level forestry atlases to community-based field programs. Comprehensive planning and forest management complements programs that strengthen legal, regulatory and policy frameworks. By establishing use-rights through multi-stakeholder land use plans, the program helps to mitigate conflict over local resources. CARPE has partnered with Cameroon's Forestry Administration to create livelihoods through sustainable forest use, emphasizing the roles of indigenous and local communities in conservation. The Community-based Forest Enterprises Project—the first of its kind in the region—was a four-year endeavor to teach participants sustainable forestry techniques and business management skills. It represents a new direction for both local villagers and the national government. CARPE is also supporting the creation of alternative livelihoods in Equatorial Guinea, where the discovery of offshore oil in the 1990s has led to large-scale infrastructure development in rural and protected areas. Through in-country implementing partners, CARPE is helping the government and nascent civil society build capacity for land-use planning and protected area management, as well as creating economic incentives for conservation.

Twice in 2011, CARPE partners collaborated with Central African Republic government forces to repel bands of heavily armed Sudanese poachers traveling through the country to the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Area, killing elephants. In Cameroon's Lobéké National Park, 15 eco-guards were sworn into service in March 2011, resulting in 50 poachers jailed in the first nine months of 2011—double the number in each of the prior years. The number of park visitors also doubled during the same period. Community support has led to the dismantling of two elephant poaching networks and seizure of heavy arms, including AK47s. The previous year in the remote Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe Landscape bordering the Republic of Congo and Cameroon, authorities confiscated 20 automatic rifles, seized numerous other weapons and traps, destroyed 54 illegal poaching camps and helped dismantle illegal logging operations on the Dja River.



Park game guards with confiscated African forest elephant tusks. Dzanga-Sangha Special Reserve, Central African Republic. © R. ISOTTI, A. CAMBONE - HOMO AMBIENS / WWF-CANON

Highlights (continued)

Coral Triangle Support Partnership



Known as the “Amazon of the Seas”, the Coral Triangle is the most biologically and economically valuable marine ecosystem on the planet. Encompassing nearly 2.5 million square miles of coastal and oceanic waters in Southeast Asia and the

Western Pacific, the region covers just 3 percent of the globe but boasts more than half of the world’s reefs, 76 percent of its known coral species and the greatest remaining mangrove forests on the planet. The marine and coastal ecosystems of the Coral Triangle directly sustain the livelihoods of more than 130 million people and contribute an estimated \$2.3 billion each year towards the region’s economies. The health of the Coral Triangle is also important to global commerce and food security. Eighty-six percent of the seafood consumed in the United States is imported, with a significant portion originating from the Coral Triangle. The region also supports the planet’s richest tuna fishery, accounting for over half of the world’s catch. However, pressures due to widespread poverty, rapid development and global demands have placed enormous strains on the Coral Triangle’s natural resources. Over the last 40 years, more than 40 percent of the region’s reefs and mangroves have disappeared, leaving many habitats and species vulnerable to extinction. Overfishing, destructive fishing practices and pollution all threaten the future of this precious seascape and its inhabitants.

The **Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI)** is a landmark agreement signed in 2009 by the leaders of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste to manage their marine and coastal resources sustainably and protect them from growing threats. The U.S. government backs this country-led initiative through the **Coral Triangle Support Partnership (CTSP)**, a unique consortium of U.S. government agencies and the world’s leading conservation NGOs. Led by USAID, with added support from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Justice and the U.S. State Department, the CTSP is a five-year project to encourage the development of transformational natural resource management policies; strengthen the capacity of institutions and local communities; and build decision-support capacity through the Coral

Triangle region. To date, U.S. funding has supported improved management of nearly 50,000 square miles of marine protected areas, fishing grounds and coastal areas. CTI governments are making progress on a regional framework for sustainable fisheries management, enforcement and improved management of Marine Protected Areas across the region.

A founding member of the CTI, Timor-Leste is one of the world’s youngest nations, having gained independence from Indonesia in 2002, as well as one of the poorest, with 90 percent of its people dependent on subsistence livelihoods. Focused on nation-building, the government has lacked the capacity to



Jacana tuna fish landing, Puerto Princessa, Palawan, Philippines. © JÜRGEN FREUND / WWF-CANON

manage its natural resources. As a result, unregulated commercial activities have degraded ecologically and economically important ecosystems and threaten livelihoods, food security and economic growth in this new nation. Through the CTSP, USAID is helping Timor-Leste strengthen its national and local governance and build capacity to tackle problems such as overfishing and poor natural resource management. Over the past two years, the national government has grown more confident and effective in managing its natural resources, improved coordination with donor countries and institutions, reduced repetition of activities and increased capacity within its ministries for conservation and marine management.



Overlooking the Wayag islands, Bird's Head Seascape in Papua, Indonesia (Coral Triangle). © STERLING ZUMBRUNN / CI

Caribbean Challenge Initiative



The **Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI)** is an effort led by eight Insular Caribbean governments (the CC8) that have committed to establish, by 2020, comprehensive and effective national systems of marine and coastal protected areas covering at least 20 percent of their near-shore marine/coastal environment.

To achieve this commitment, governments and partners are focusing on developing financial mechanisms (trust funds) and training Marine Protected Areas (MPA) staff at regional and national levels.

Participating governments in the Caribbean Challenge currently include Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. These eight Caribbean countries have demonstrated leadership in conservation, as well as a commitment to advancing a green economy. It is hoped that other countries and territories of the Caribbean will be inspired to join the Caribbean Challenge over time, creating a truly regional initiative.

In only three years, more than 50 new parks and MPAs have been created as part of the Caribbean Challenge. USAID has supported work on sustainable financing for protected area systems in the Dominican Republic and work on a nationwide marine spatial plan for St. Kitts and Nevis. Already, a range of other funders has committed a total of \$57 million in support of the CCI, including Germany, the Global Environment Facility, the Italian government and international conservation organizations. These investments include capital for conservation trust funds as well as financing for on-the-ground marine conservation activities.

Highlights (continued)

Community-Based Natural Resource Management



Over the past two decades, USAID has demonstrated that community-based conservation can act as a highly effective rural development strategy through support for community-based natural resource management (CBNRM). CBNRM is an approach to conservation and development that recognizes the rights of local people to manage and benefit from their natural resources. It entails transferring access and use rights back to communities, empowering them with legislation and devolved management responsibility, building their capacity and creating partnerships with public and private sector actors to develop programs for the sustainable use of a variety of natural resources.

The shining example is Namibia, where—from 1993 to 2008—**USAID’s Living in a Finite Environment (LIFE)** program helped launch and secure the “conservancy” movement. Begun shortly after Namibia achieved independence in 1990, the LIFE program helped to stabilize both wildlife populations and rural communities, empowering local people to manage their wildlife sustainably and find economic opportunities through ecotourism. The result has been a stunning success: prior to 1994, rural communities did not benefit from the wildlife on their lands; in the past decade, those benefits increased from roughly \$600,000 in 2000 to over \$6 million in 2010. CBNRM has also promoted local decision-making, democratic engagement and a culture of stability built on sustainability.

USAID is now replicating this model in other areas where wildlife can provide the foundation for rural development. The **Kavango Zambezi (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area** is a conservation area on an unprecedented scale. Encompassing 109 million acres and crossing five southern Africa countries—Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe—KAZA is the largest trans-boundary conservation area in the world. Forty-five percent of Africa’s elephants—250,000 animals—live within KAZA boundaries, alongside hippos, rhinos, lions, cheetahs and leopards and renowned tourist attractions such as Victoria Falls (the world’s largest waterfall) and the Okavango Delta. In August 2011, the presidents of the five countries signed a treaty to promote a culture of peace and shared resources, strengthen regional economies through wildlife tourism and improve the livelihoods of the 2.5 million people who live in the Okavango and Zambezi river basins.



Gemsbok (*Oryx gazella*) running over sand dune, in typical desert habitat. NamibRand Nature Reserve, Namibia. © MARTIN HARVEY / WWF-CANON

The KAZA project is empowering southern African communities by increasing their participation in natural resource management and making them direct benefactors of increased tourism due to the conservation of their wildlife. With support from USAID and other donors, the five KAZA countries are collaborating to improve efforts to combat international wildlife trade and poaching through information sharing, harmonized law enforcement and combined patrols and surveillance. By pooling their resources, KAZA countries can better conserve the landscape and attract investors, providing an economic boost to the people who live within the conservation area and leveraging additional resources needed to protect upland forests, whose river flows feed wetlands and supply freshwater to KAZA communities, and to strategically realign fencing throughout the region to reopen

corridors for elephants and other species while protecting livestock-based livelihoods. These efforts are enhanced by USAID-supported programs such as Animal & Human Health for the Environment And Development (AHEAD), which is engaging with the KAZA Secretariat and other regional and multilateral bodies to address the linked issues of wildlife and livestock disease.

The KAZA initiative is also hoping to bring stability to the region by helping to remove landmines that are remnants of Angola's 26-year civil war. These abandoned munitions continue to cause dozens of human casualties annually, many of them children, and have made critical elephant migration corridors between northern Botswana and Angola's prime wildlife regions impassable. Clearing them is a humanitarian imperative and a critical step in developing regional tourism.

Co-founded and launched in 2004, Kenya's **Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT)** is another example of a successful CBNRM approach, empowering local communities to improve their own lands and livelihoods and demonstrating how conservation can provide tangible benefits to people and wildlife. Northern Kenya is one of the few places on Earth where predators, prey and people coexist as they have for centuries. Threats to conservation in northern Kenya include regional insecurity, poor grazing management, ivory poaching, human-wildlife conflict, limited access to water, poverty, insufficient communal resource tenure and climate change. Local NGOs working with government, private and community conservation representatives developed the NRT as an umbrella organization that could address these issues through sustainable local solutions, developing strong community-led institutions as a foundation for investment in community development and wildlife conservation.

With help from USAID and partners, NRT has established a solid level of personal and institutional trust with the northern rangelands region through a transparent method of building support among local communities. One key to this success is the transitioning of authority back to the hands of respected elders who serve as community representatives. The "Council of Elders" provides strategic advice to NRT as they navigate the ever-changing politics and challenges of conservation work in northern Kenya. The NRT model is spreading—one in which local communities (mainly marginalized pastoralists) manage their lands for livestock and wildlife, work to resolve conflicts and develop ecotourism businesses that fund education, conservation and social welfare projects.

NRT and its partners aim to forge a future in which natural systems and cycles of wildlife migration flourish. NRT has grown into an umbrella organization that now serves 18 community-owned conservancies representing 100,000 people across 3.5 million acres of critical wildlife habitat. With NRT's support, local communities have created over 450 jobs and—in 2010 alone—generated \$300,000 in tourism revenue. Their efforts have improved security for both people and wildlife in the region, inspired a movement of community conservation across the northern rangelands and proven that conservation can be a positive force for poverty alleviation and conflict resolution. With 23 applications for new conservancies currently pending, NRT's cumulative conservancy footprint has the potential to stretch across more than 10 million acres.



In Zambia's Luangwa Valley, a member of Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO) cleans rice. COMACO has turned poachers into sustainable farmers who produce organic, value-added processed products, reducing human hunger and poverty while saving wildlife and ecosystems.

© JULIE LARSEN MAHER / WCS

Highlights (continued)

Initiative for Conservation in the Andean Amazon (ICAA)



The Amazon is a vast region—2.6 million square miles—encompassing portions of eight rapidly developing countries: Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. It contains half of the planet's remaining tropical forests (1.4 billion acres), 4,100 miles of winding rivers supplying nearly a fifth of the free-flowing freshwater on the planet, and one in 10 known species. The principal threat to this globally important ecosystem is deforestation, primarily from clearing for pasture, agriculture and illegal logging. Brazil contains the largest share Amazon rainforest, home to 428 species of mammals, 1,622 birds and roughly 55,000 plants. Through community-level consortia, USAID is supporting efforts to shape future land-use trends and training local communities, indigenous peoples, government staff and the private sector to increase their capacity to use forest resources sustainably. Communities are empowered to conserve forests, reduce illegal logging and manage potential emissions from deforestation and forest burning. In 2009, training for natural resource management and conservation reached over 1,600 people.

USAID's **Initiative for Conservation in the Andean Amazon (ICAA)** is working with national and municipal governments and local communities to implement conservation programs in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, improving natural resource management, enabling legal, policy and institutional development, and expanding market access for sustainable products. The result has been better protection and management of nearly 20 million acres of rainforest, more environmentally-friendly livelihoods for indigenous and other local communities, and the training of over 55,000 people in conservation and resource management. In Bolivia, ICAA has supported research, conservation and ecotourism development in Madidi National Park. The park is the centerpiece of a continuous chain of six national protected areas in northwestern Bolivia and eastern Peru, home to jaguars and

other striking wildlife, and is among the region's top tourist attractions. More than 20 community-based enterprises have been formed in the Madidi landscape to promote the sustainable use of natural resources, benefitting over 1,300 people through livelihoods based on native honey, subsistence hunting and fishing, ornamental fish, cacao, handicrafts and timber.

Throughout the Amazon Basin, indigenous peoples are important partners in conservation. In Ecuador, an ICAA co-financed study confirmed that indigenous territories have retained forest cover and protected biodiversity while surrounding areas have suffered significant degradation. In 2009, 77 indigenous leaders from 17 organizations were convened for on-the-ground training and exchange events in three countries, promoting first-hand learning on tourism, forestry and community park guard projects; generating new networks; and cross-pollinating ideas for conservation and development activities, including greater involvement of women. Through ICAA support, two Cofan indigenous organizations also succeeded in getting over 74,000 acres of Cofan territory and a 17,000-acre community reserve accepted as pilot projects in the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment's Forest Partnership program. Annual payments are made to owners of titled properties who maintain strict conservation areas under private management for the 20-year term of the contract and are also helping to fund a Cofan park guard program.



Latex extraction (*Hevea brasiliensis*) in the forest of Manuripi National Wildlife Reserve, Pando, Bolivia. © EDUARDO RUIZ / WWF-CANON

Highlights (continued)

Clean Cook Stoves



Clean cook stoves are part of a larger USAID-supported effort in places such as Afghanistan, Nepal and Central Africa to help local people sustainably manage their landscapes and natural resources and avoid the kind of ecological degradation that increases resource scarcity, exacerbates instability and ultimately impacts U.S. national security.

In Afghanistan, USAID conservation funding is supporting an initiative to introduce fuel-efficient cook stoves to villages in Bamyán Province and the Wakhan Corridor. The project is helping to conserve diminishing natural resources, creating alternative livelihoods, improving public health and increasing engagement of women. Begun primarily as a conservation approach, the new stove technology also brings significant health and social benefits. Existing tandoor ovens require large amounts of wood for fuel, contributing to the degradation of Afghanistan's forests and endangering critical habitats for threatened species like snow leopards. New fuel-efficient stoves are being introduced that can reduce the amount of local timber collected for fuel by 75 percent. Chimneys on the new stoves ensure that smoke and particulates created by cooking no longer linger inside the living space, where women and children spend much of their time. The improved air quality lessens the risk of upper respiratory disease due to smoke exposure. As primary fuel collectors, women also benefit from the decreased need for fuel, freeing up their time for education or microenterprise. The project is facilitating the training of almost 400 women in new stove technology in Bamyán and Wakhan. These women now visit their local communities and teach other women about the many benefits of using clean cook stoves. Interest in and adoption of the technology is growing through word-of-mouth in neighboring villages, and the new stoves are bolstering economic development in Afghanistan as locals are trained to produce and sell them.

A similar approach has been adopted around Virunga National Park, bordering the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda—home to the planet's last remaining mountain gorillas and a crossroads for conflict. Over the past two decades, refugees have put increasing pressures on the park and its natural resources, including the exploitation of its forests for charcoal production. USAID partners are providing alternative fuel sources and more efficient cook stoves for communities through projects such as *Ecomakala*, which encourages local farmers to grow fuel wood as an alternative to illegal logging, and *Improved Stoves*, which helps reduce the consumption of wood and charcoal in households by supplying efficient, cleaner-burning cook stoves. The latter project identifies the best stove models for target households and strengthens local capacity to produce, market and sell large numbers of them. Seven associations of craftspeople, with more than 170 members, have received training on the manufacture of improved stoves, and 20 women's associations have received training in management and sales techniques.



A woman cooking with a fuel wood efficient stove. These stoves, which have been introduced into the Lamahai area of Nepal, are more efficient, use less wood and are less polluting than those used previously. Lamahai, Nepal. © SIMON DE TREY-WHITE / WWF-UK

Highlights (continued)

Sustainable Landscapes



Also funded through the U.S. government's Development Assistance account, USAID's **Sustainable Landscapes** program mitigates the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the world's largest and most biologically diverse tropical forests. Forests cover 30 percent of the planet's land area, house up to 90 percent of all terrestrial species, regulate the planet's climate and directly sustain the livelihoods of 1.6 billion people worldwide. According to the U.S. National Cancer Institute, 70 percent of the plants identified as having anti-cancer characteristics are also found only in tropical forests. Reducing deforestation through sustainable management practices is vital to protecting these essential storehouses of biodiversity and carbon, as well as the goods and services that they provide people around the globe, including in the United States. In FY2011, USAID's Sustainable Landscapes received \$157 million.

In Indonesia, USAID and private partners have created the innovative **Sustainable Landscapes Partnership (SLP)** to bring together private and public sectors to identify, develop and test market-driven, science-based solutions aimed at avoiding deforestation and providing economic opportunities, benefits and livelihoods for local people. As a primary driver behind natural resource exploitation in Indonesia, private sector engagement in the partnership is

essential to addressing unsustainable deforestation and forest degradation caused by large-scale land conversion to commodities like oil palm and pulp and paper. Developing alternative livelihoods for local communities is also an important component of the partnership, as the lack of sustainable livelihood options has driven some communities to turn to the forest resources as their main source of income, exacerbating deforestation. The SLP aims to show that a diversity of investments and innovative approaches can reduce pressure on Indonesia's remaining forests in an effective and sustainable way, and how wise management of "natural capital" is essential to the country's economic growth and the health and prosperity of local communities.



Aerial view of Mamberamo river in Papua, Indonesia. © BRUCE BEEHLER

Highlights (continued)

Adaptation in East Africa



USAID's Adaptation programs seek to build resilience to climate change in the world's most

vulnerable countries and communities through linked efforts involving all development sectors, including agriculture, natural resources management, health, energy and infrastructure, and using decision support tools, such as famine early warning systems. These programs are an essential complement to USAID's Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Landscapes programs and are similarly funded through the U.S. government's Development Assistance account. In FY2011, USAID's Adaptation Program received \$177 million.

Climate vulnerabilities are particularly evident in Africa, where most people's livelihoods are tied to the natural environment and its resources. Changing rainfall patterns, changes in seasonality and an increase in the frequency of severe storms are already negatively affecting key subsistence crops, fisheries and habitats and threatening food security, economic growth and the integrity of ecosystems.

In western Tanzania, regional temperatures have been steadily rising since 1951 and are projected to rise as much as 4°F by mid-century and as much as 7°F by 2100. The result will be more arid conditions, changes in frequency, intensity and predictability of rainfall and more extreme wet and dry seasons—changes to which agricultural communities in rural Tanzania are highly vulnerable. In response, governments and local communities are implementing integrated forest and freshwater adaptation strategies to increase human and biological resilience and enable communities to adapt. USAID is working in partnership with local stakeholders, conservation groups and the Finnish government to support community planning for climate change adaptation using a tool called Climate Wizard (www.climatewizard.org), which identifies climate impacts and predicts future conditions.

In July 2011, USAID convened members of the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group, international donors and other stakeholders for an adaptation training workshop. Field practitioners, conservation professionals and others met in Washington, D.C., to share adaptation tools, approaches and lessons from the field, with a particular focus on Africa. The workshop highlighted a climate model for the Albertine Rift developed to help land managers anticipate ecosystem changes and implement adaptation strategies to protect both threatened species and human livelihoods. Assessments from the model show that climate changes will drive local people to migrate to surrounding highlands in order to sustain food sources and livelihoods, putting increased pressure on the region's natural resources, including national parks home to vulnerable species such as mountain gorillas, hippos, elephants, chimpanzees and lions. A workshop summary was released in the autumn of 2011, providing detailed lessons learned and concluding that much of the progress made in African conservation is threatened by climate change. Recognizing this challenge, USAID is helping develop land use planning tools to identify changes in precipitation and natural resource use and empower local communities to manage these changes and protect their way of life.



Mbiwo Constantine Kusebaha with his maize. He plants fast-growing crops in order to adapt to the unpredictability of the seasons. Rwenzori Mountains, Uganda. © SIMON RAWLES / WWF-CANON

Program: The Global Environment Facility (GEF)

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

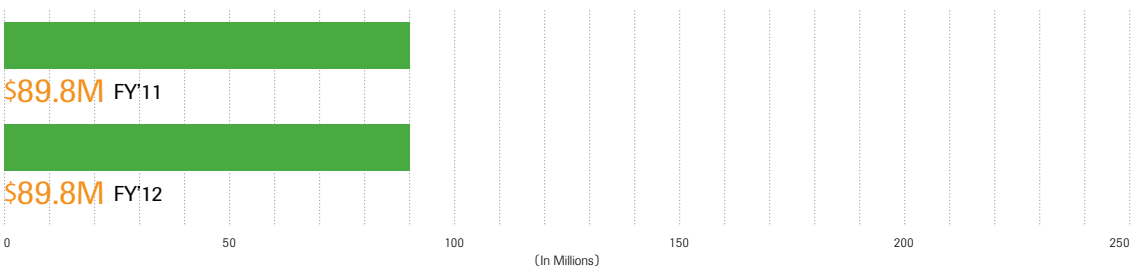
The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** is an independently operated, international financial facility uniting 182 countries and combining the ingenuity of U.S. corporations, international institutions, NGOs, and donor and recipient governments to provide grants to address global environmental issues in the context of sustainable development. GEF funding is disbursed through 10 international organizations required to meet rigorous fiduciary standards. Recent reforms have made the GEF even more efficient and effective. The United States has a strong influence on GEF strategies and programming, which support many U.S. priorities, and receives a very high rate of return. Historically, for every U.S. dollar invested, about \$36 has been leveraged in additional co-financing from public and private partners. This leverage ratio has improved in recent projects to \$52 for every dollar contributed by the United States.

The GEF’s efforts to protect natural capital enhance global and national security by helping reduce resource scarcity. The GEF helps countries improve

environmental governance and fight the unsustainable depletion of natural resources, which can lead to population displacement, declines in global food supply, water shortages and other causes of instability that can make populations more vulnerable to conflict and radicalization. Investments in natural resource management are reducing risks in many parts of the world, including Afghanistan, South Sudan, Jordan, Morocco and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

GEF investments include more than 1,000 biodiversity projects in 155 countries and pioneer investments in payments for ecosystem services in countries such as Costa Rica and Mexico. GEF support has been critical to reaching the global goal of securing 10 percent of the world’s terrestrial areas under protection: 2,302 protected areas spanning 1.6 billion acres containing at least 700 globally threatened species. The GEF is also the world’s largest single financier of forest conservation, supporting more than 350 projects and helping to combat illegal logging, which costs the American economy up to \$1 billion per year in lost revenue.

■ Funding Program Levels



Highlights

Sustaining Fisheries on the High Seas



The high seas generate 10 percent of the global annual fish catch, and fisheries targeting highly migratory species, such as tuna, are worth over \$10 billion annually.

The depletion of fisheries in international waters is a classic “tragedy of the commons.” An ambitious \$50 million GEF program is leveraging \$270 million in co-financing from public and private partners to ensure the sustainability of these fisheries, addressing both global food security and marine conservation. In partnership with international and national agencies, multi-national fishing companies and NGOs, the GEF is working to strengthen management decision-making systems for regulating tuna catch among Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, improve monitoring and surveillance systems of high-seas fishing activity and reduce fisheries by-catch.



Big-eye Jacks (*Caranx sexfasciatus*) in Kubulau, Fiji.
© STACY JUPITER / WCS

Amazon Region Protected Area Program



The Amazon Basin is one of the thermostats of the planet, helping to regulate temperature, rainfall and other weather patterns thousands of miles away. During its first

phase, the GEF-funded **Amazon Region Protected Area (ARPA)** program has helped turn an area the size of Poland (77 million acres) into legally protected forestland, far exceeding the original goal of 44.5 million acres. These protected areas could prevent 67 million acres of deforestation through 2050, avoided emissions equivalent to more than a third of the world’s annual CO₂ output. To support ARPA’s second phase, the GEF is providing \$15.9 million, leveraging \$70 million in co-financing, to help bring an additional 49 million acres under protection.



Amazon, Brazil, Roraima Province. Yanomami hunting in rainforest near to Demini Molaca. © NIGEL DICKINSON / WWF-CANON

Conservation in the World’s Newest Country



Southern Sudan’s Boma-Jonglei landscape is East Africa’s largest, most intact savannah ecosystem. In spite of a

22-year civil war, recent surveys show that the region still hosts one of the world’s greatest mammal migrations and an abundance of iconic wildlife, including elephants, giraffe, eland, lions, wild dogs, buffalos and antelope species, such as white-eared kob. The GEF is providing \$3.8 million, with \$4.4 million in co-financing, including \$2.1 million from USAID, to help incorporate conservation and natural resource management into South Sudan’s development strategy. This includes strengthened protected area management, the addition of two new protected areas, the expansion of a third and support for pilot ecotourism programs to enable South Sudan to benefit from a sizeable wildlife tourism industry. The project comes at a critical time as South Sudan emerges as a newly independent nation. By strengthening the new government’s capacity to manage its rich resources, the GEF is supporting regional stability and rural economic growth.



Giraffes (*Giraffa camelopardalis*) in Bandingilo National Park in South Sudan. © PAUL ELKAN / WCS

Highlights (continued)

Conserving Congo Basin Forests



Since 2007, the GEF has provided \$49 million and leveraged \$200 million in co-financing to support 13 projects throughout the vast

Congo Basin, helping countries in the region conserve the world's second largest rainforest system. Of this, \$13 million will support World Bank efforts in the area of REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation). The projects focus on conserving areas critical for the protection of biodiversity and sustainable forest management. Key goals include building local capacity to protect and manage the region's forests over the long term, strengthening management of at least 19 existing protected areas (covering more than 22 million acres), and creating five new protected areas.



A child sitting in front of a recently felled tree on the edge of Virunga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo. © KATE HOLT / WWF-UK

Ecosystem Services and Watershed Conservation in Chiapas



The Sierra Madre de Chiapas mountain chain is home to approximately 27,000 people and provides environmental services for urban

centers and surrounding towns and agriculture, including water, biodiversity and food security. Coffee production is the primary economic activity of Chiapas, which is one of Mexico's most important high-quality coffee production agroforestry system areas. To ensure long-term provision of water from the Sierra Madre Mountains, essential for



Freshwater in Chiapas, Mexico. © MIGUEL ANGEL DE LA CUEVA / CI

both drinking supplies and coffee production, the GEF is helping to integrate conservation strategies into watershed management planning in the area, developing and piloting tools, methodologies and activities that demonstrate links between land uses and environmental services. Increased understanding of this relationship is informing the land management activities and land use policies of local decision-makers. By increasing farmers' access to payment-for-ecosystem-services mechanisms, the project provides incentives to implement watershed development strategies and demonstrates that preserving natural ecosystems improves local livelihoods and helps communities develop sustainably.

Generating Local Benefits in Cambodia



The Cambodian Northern Plains is one of the largest intact landscapes in Southeast Asia, hosting more than 40 species listed in the IUCN globally threatened "Red List". Working with the Cambodian government, the GEF helped establish the 470,000-acre Preah Vihear Protected Forest. Today, 80 percent of the Northern Plains area is legally protected. GEF funding also spurred community incentives for conservation. For example, farmers who enter conservation agreements to protect rare water birds and other species now receive a price premium for "wildlife-friendly" rice.



Pileated gibbon, found in rainforest habitats throughout Cambodia. © MARTIN HARVEY / WWF-CANON

Highlights (continued)

Conservation Mosaics in Colombia



Through six pilot “conservation mosaic” projects, the GEF is employing a novel approach to strengthen protected area management while satisfying human needs. Conservation mosaics move beyond conservation corridors—defined primarily by biological considerations—to encompass more fluid understandings of landscape-level ecosystem processes and management needs within and beyond protected areas. Networks of protected areas and complementary landscapes, including national parks, collectively-owned ethnic territories and production landscapes and seascapes, enable conservation mosaics to build upon existing social and institutional arrangements, making local communities full partners in conservation, providing tangible economic benefits to local people and ensuring efforts are socially and economically sustainable. The results have been impressive: communities near protected areas have helped to reintroduce native species, establish private conservation reserves and biodiversity corridors and develop strategies to protect watersheds.



Quindío river. Alto Quindío, Central Andes, Colombia. In Colombia, high Andean rivers are the water supplies for the cities. © DIEGO M. GARCES / WWF-CANON

Global Tiger Initiative

The GEF is a key partner in the **Global Tiger Initiative (GTI)**, which is supporting efforts of conservation groups and Asian governments to prevent the extinction of tigers in the wild. The GEF has provided more than \$100 million to the 13 tiger range countries to conserve critical ecosystems and habitats supporting tigers and their prey. The cost of protecting and managing critical tiger habitat has been calculated at \$82 million per year. With support from the GTI, the heads of state of the tiger range countries and international donors gathered in St. Petersburg, Russia in 2010 at the Tiger Summit and pledged cooperation to ensure the species’ survival. The GEF has also partnered with the World Bank to support the **Save Our Species Fund**, a dedicated source of funds for several imperiled species, including tigers, administered by the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



Face portrait of snarling Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*). India. © NATUREPL.COM / ANUP SHAH / WWF

Community Natural Resource Management in Guatemala



In addition to its cultural riches, Guatemala’s Maya Biosphere Reserve harbors as much as 12 percent of the world’s biodiversity, stretching over 5.2 million acres. With help from the GEF, land tenure has been clarified and levels of protection increased for 640,000 acres within the Reserve, including particularly valuable wilderness areas. Communities that depend on the Reserve’s forest resources are now taking an active role in management: members of 10 communities have received training on managing protected areas and have begun generating income from sustainable activities rather than slash-and-burn agriculture.



Aerial view of Tikal in Guatemala’s Maya Biosphere Reserve. © STERLING ZUMBRUNN / CI

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. Debt owed to the United States is reduced in exchange for debtor governments' commitments to pay local currency to protect their forests. The TFCA also strengthens civil society by creating local foundations that provide small grants to community and other non-government groups, building grassroots capacity to complement government sponsored forest conservation activities.

The TFCA offers a unique opportunity for public-private partnerships. The majority of agreements have included significant funds raised by U.S.-based NGOs. As of November 2011, \$194 million in U.S. government funding has been used to complete 18 TFCA debt-for-nature agreements in 14 countries. Over time, this will generate more than \$295 million in long-term commitments for

“It’s very clear we need to manage the planet as a linked biological and physical system if we are going protect biodiversity and restore our climate to a safe equilibrium.

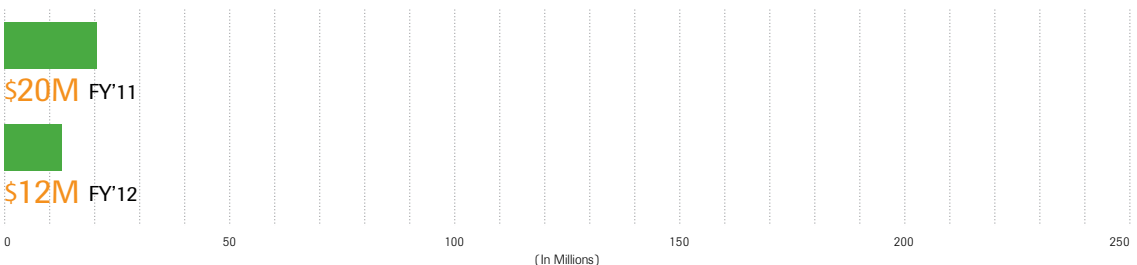
Preventing the destruction of tropical forests is central to both of these goals.”

— Thomas E. Lovejoy, III, Ph.D.

tropical forest conservation in Bangladesh, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and the Philippines.

www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/forestry/intro_tfca.html

Funding Program Levels



Highlights

Peru



In 2008, the U.S. and Peruvian governments concluded a second TFCA debt agreement to generate \$25 million over seven years for protecting and restoring Peru's tropical forests. In 2010 alone, \$2,288,683 was approved with significant co-financing through 21 grants targeting strategic interventions in and around protected areas. Three grants were co-financed as part of a collaborative effort between Peru's two TFCA programs to address the Buffer Zones of Protected Natural Areas. The projects are developing tourism as a conservation tool in the forests of Madre de Dios' Santa Rita Alta Community, strengthening management in the Bahuaja Sonene National Park to make it more sustainable and participatory, and increasing local revenues from tourism, research and educational opportunities in Manu National Park.



Andean cock-of-the-rock male displaying in the cloud forest Manu National Park, Peru. © ANDRÉ BORTSCHI / WWF-CANON

Philippines



The U.S. and Philippine governments concluded a TFCA debt agreement in 2002 to generate \$8.2 million over 14 years. The Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Fund (PTFCF) continues to be recognized for the significant impacts of its grant making. For example, in 2010, the PRFCF awarded \$874,196 through 42 grants targeting bold conservation initiatives, including efforts to combat illegal logging.

These grants leveraged significant additional funding. One grant, awarded to the CARAGA Council for Peace and Development, is helping improve forest conservation through capacity development and improved forest governance in the three provinces of Eastern Mindanao, which contain largely intact forests. Because of this project, thousands of illegally cut logs (valued at nearly \$4.7 million) have been apprehended and confiscated, along with tools and vehicles used in the illegal logging.



Processed stacks of Red and White Lawaan trees attest to the ferocity of the Northern Sierra Madre's illegal logging operations. Ilagan, Isabela, Philippines. © GREGG YAN / WWF-PHILIPPINES

Indonesia



The U.S. and Indonesia recently signed a nearly \$28.5 million debt-for-nature swap agreement that will redirect Indonesia's debt payments over the next eight years to support grants to protect and restore the country's tropical forests in the Indonesian province of Kalimantan. The agreement is Indonesia's second TFCA debt-for-nature swap. The first was signed in 2009 to support forest conservation activities in Sumatra province. Both agreements support the environmental objectives of the U.S.-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership. Conserving Indonesia's forests is a crucial part of President Yudhoyono's pledge to significantly reduce that country's carbon dioxide emissions by up to 41 percent by 2020. Forest loss and conversion and land use change are Indonesia's largest sources of carbon pollution, accounting for over 60 percent of total annual emissions.



A farmer facing us as the forest burns around him Tanjung Puting National Park Kalimantan (Borneo), Indonesia. © TANTYO BANGUN / WWF-CANON

Conserving Indonesia's forests is a crucial part of President Yudhoyono's pledge to significantly reduce that country's carbon dioxide emissions by up to 41 percent by 2020. Forest loss and conversion and land use change are Indonesia's largest sources of carbon pollution, accounting for over 60 percent of total annual emissions.

Program: International Conservation Programs within the International Organizations & Programs (IO&P) Account

Agency: *U.S. Department of State*

Through the State Department's **International Conservation Programs**, the U.S. government provides core support to international organizations and programs addressing global challenges through cooperation, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

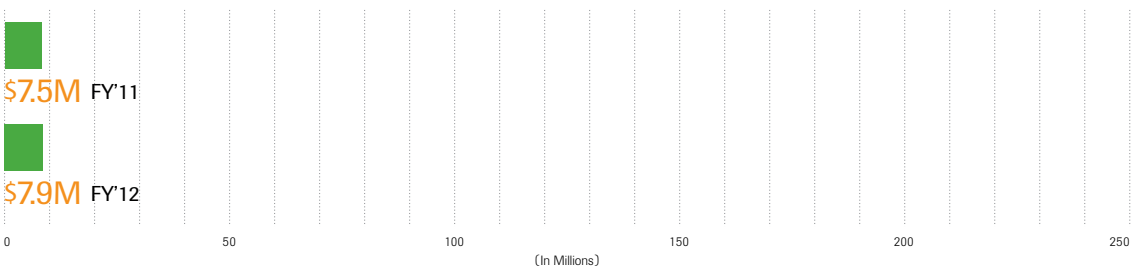
U.S. support is especially important to curbing illegal trade in rare and threatened wildlife. Worth hundreds of millions of dollars annually, illegal wildlife trade threatens global efforts to protect endangered species and reduce biodiversity loss, undermines sustainable livelihoods, weakens the rule of law and harms U.S. businesses by undercutting legal markets for goods such as timber. The United States has raised the political profile and public awareness of the issue by establishing wildlife enforcement networks and

convening experts and officials from range and consumer states to develop anti-trafficking and demand reduction strategies. Through work with IUCN and the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT), the United States has supported the **South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)** and the **ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN)** and bolstered efforts in southern Africa to combat illegal trade in rhino horn. Due in part to U.S. support, ASEAN countries have improved their interdiction of trafficked wildlife products and increased numbers of arrests.

IO&P programs also preserve globally significant wetlands, promote sustainable management of the world's forests and provide forums for international discussion on key topics. IO&P also includes funding for the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Heritage Convention, both of which emphasize conservation in developing countries.

<http://www.state.gov>

■ Funding Program Levels



Highlights

Helping People in Drylands



Drylands cover more than 41 percent of the world's land surface. They comprise many

unique ecosystems and are home to some of the world's most charismatic species and most treasured natural heritage. Some 2.5 billion people—one third of the world's population—live in drylands, 90 percent of them in developing countries. The “forgotten billion” dryland inhabitants are among the poorest on the planet, and the average infant mortality rate in dryland developing countries is at least 23 percent greater than in non-dryland countries. This has particular consequences for sustainable management of dryland natural resources. Through support to IUCN and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United States is helping foster efforts in drylands to increase sustainable agricultural yields from farmlands and reduce hunger among the poorest of the poor. It is also supporting efforts to strengthen community rights and governance over local lands and encouraging better use of traditional knowledge from women and indigenous communities.



Artificial waterholes provided for livestock. Cause of desertification Kalahari Desert, Southern Africa. © MARTIN HARVEY / WWF-CANON

Protecting Forests



Through funding to the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the United States supports

a wide range of forest conservation and capacity building initiatives. Programs in Indonesia are engaging indigenous people to help promote conservation of forests and protected areas, and efforts in Brazil are facilitating community-based forest management, both of which are contributing to the recent fall in deforestation rates in these key countries. Between 2000 and 2010, around 32 million acres of forests were converted to other uses or lost through natural causes each year—a significant decrease from the roughly 40 million acres that were lost on average each year during the 1990s. In Ghana, the ITTO is focused on reforestation and highlighting the importance of forest resources in improving nutrition for women and their families. Other efforts include programs to strengthen compliance with CITES tropical timber listings and workshops held in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service on compliance with and effective implementation of the Lacey Act amendments of 2008, which are designed to combat illegal timber harvesting operations and the corresponding trade.



Logs being rafted downstream along the River Mahakam, East Kalimantan, Borneo. Illegal logging is a major issue in the region. © SIMON RAWLES / WWF-CANON

Program: Office of International Affairs

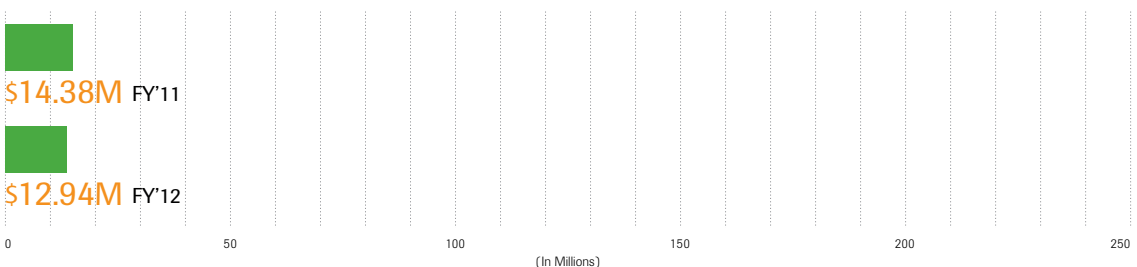
Agency: *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)*

The USFWS **Office of International Affairs (OIA)** supports efforts to preserve our planet's rich wildlife diversity by combating illegal wildlife trade and building capacity for landscape-level wildlife conservation. OIA's **International Wildlife Trade (IWT)** programs work to prevent illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, calculated as the third largest illegal trade after drugs and arms and a major driver of species loss worldwide. Wildlife smuggling is worth hundreds of millions of dollars annually and strongly linked to organized crime and drug trafficking, making it an issue of security as well as conservation. Illegal trade transmits disease and invasive species, which negatively impact public health and economic productivity in the United States, one of the largest importers and exporters of wildlife products. IWT ensures this trade is legal and does not harm species in the wild, implementing scientific and management requirements of laws and treaties for species subject to trade and issuing 15,000–20,000 permits per year.

Through **Wildlife Without Borders (WWB)** **Regional** programs, OIA supports species and habitat conservation in priority regions, including Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, India and Mexico, through capacity building, environmental outreach, education and training. **WWB Global** programs target cross-cutting, global threats to wildlife; support signature initiatives to maximize long-term impact; and address declines of critically endangered species, such as amphibians. WWB Global also fulfills USFWS mandates to support U.S. leadership through wildlife statutes and international treaties, such as NAFTA, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). From 2006 to 2010, WWB Regional and Global programs awarded over \$14 million and leveraged nearly \$25 million in matching funds for conservation actions, regional capacity building, wetlands and migratory species protection and efforts to combat disease and illegal trade.

<http://www.fws.gov/international/index.html>

■ Funding Program Levels



Highlights

Stopping the Illegal Ivory Trade



USFWS is supporting ongoing efforts to combat the international ivory trade, which continues to drive poaching and decimate elephant populations. In just four years between 2002 and 2006, the Democratic Republic of Congo's elephant population dropped by over half, from roughly 62,000 to 23,000. Throughout Central Africa, **Wildlife Without Borders—Africa** is helping to bolster wildlife laws, increase enforcement capacity, shut down poaching operations and arrest and prosecute those trafficking in illegal wildlife and wildlife products. In one successful effort, the Republic of Congo sentenced to four years in prison a Chinese ivory trafficker arrested while attempting to board a flight out of the country with a cargo including five elephant tusks, three ivory carvings and 80 ivory chopsticks.



The illegal killing of elephants for ivory and meat has been identified as one of the species' major threats. © PETER NGEA / WWF-CARPO

Mr. Burns Beaked Toad—Saving Amphibians in Decline



Time Magazine's #1 newly discovered species in 2010, "Mr. Burns Beaked Toad" was found during an expedition near Colombia's "Las Tangaras" Reserve led by ProAves-Colombia and international conservation partners. Less than an inch in length with a distinctively hooked snout, "Mr. Burns" mimics the color of dead leaves and is one of the only toad species that skips the tadpole stage, emerging from the egg as a fully formed toadlet. Mr. Burns' discovery was made possible through a grant from the **Wildlife Without Borders Amphibians In Decline** program. The grant also supported the identification of surviving populations of Colombia's 'lost' amphibians, triggering conservation actions to protect their remaining habitats. Through WWB, USFWS is strengthening the capacity of Colombians to undertake field explorations and collect data needed to focus conservation efforts while also supporting outreach to educate local communities about the endangered amphibians living among them.



Newly discovered species of Beaked Toad (*Rhinella*). © DON R. CHURCH / GLOBAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Andean Cat Conservation



Created in 2010, the **Wildlife Without Borders Critically Endangered Species Conservation Fund** has provided over \$570,000 in grants to protect the most imperiled species on the planet. A portion of this funding is helping to expand a successful project in the Patagonian steppe of Argentina designed to prevent human-wildlife conflict between goat herders and the extremely rare Andean cat. When a goat has recently given birth, a puppy is purchased and given to the herder. The puppy is taught to nurse from the mother goat alongside the kid, imprinting the puppy and resulting in social bonds. By adulthood, this "guard dog" becomes the goat herd's greatest protector, fending off carnivore predators, such as the Andean cat. Since acquiring the guard dogs, participating families have had no goats killed, resulting in herding livelihoods being protected and fewer retribution killings against these critically endangered cats.



Nursing "guard dog" puppy. The puppy will imprint on the goat herd and protect it from predators as an adult. © SUSAN WALKER

Program: Multinational Species Conservation Funds (MSCF)

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

The **Multinational Species Conservation Fund (MSCF)** program exemplifies U.S. leadership on international wildlife conservation efforts, providing dedicated resources for the conservation of African and Asian elephants, rhinos, tigers, great apes and marine turtles. Since 1989, these programs have awarded over 2,500 grants, targeting key species and regions to ensure the protection of some of the world's most endangered and charismatic animals. The species-focused component of the **Wildlife Without Borders (WWB)** program, the MSCF protects and restores at-risk wildlife populations, provides local people the capacity to conserve wildlife and fosters on-the-ground partnerships in developing countries.

The five congressionally authorized Multinational Species Conservation Funds have consistently commanded broad, bipartisan support and are addressing critical needs. Over 500 tigers are being killed each year, and experts estimate that as few as 3,000 tigers now remain in the wild. Rhino populations are undergoing a new wave of poaching in southern Africa, driven largely by black-market

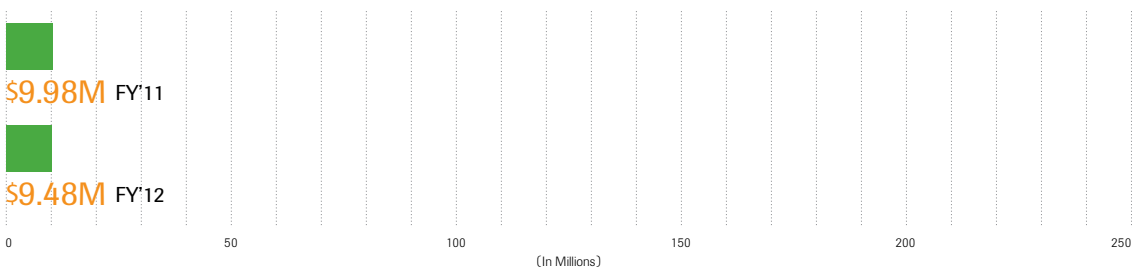
demand for rhino parts in Southeast Asia. Africa's great apes are victims of the growing bushmeat trade and face new threats from virulent diseases, such as Ebola, which have wiped out up to 90 percent of affected populations. MSCF programs protect these animals in their natural surroundings through anti-poaching and law enforcement initiatives, habitat and conservation management, mitigation of human-animal conflicts, wildlife health programs, capacity building, community conservation, outreach and education and applied research and monitoring.

From 2006 to 2010, the MSCF programs provided over \$53 million in conservation assistance and leveraged an additional \$84 million in partner contributions. A Department of the Interior economic impact analysis concluded that, in FY2010, MSCF programs supported 206 U.S. jobs and generated an economic impact of over \$22 million.¹

<http://www.fws.gov/international/DIC/species/species.html>

¹ <http://www.doi.gov/ppa/upload/DOI-Econ-Report-6-21-2011.pdf>

Funding Program Levels



Highlights

African Elephants



In the past three years, there has been a dramatic increase in the killing of African elephants to supply the illegal ivory trade. To respond to this crisis, USFWS is providing support through the **African Elephant Conservation Fund** to improve protected area enforcement in several African countries, including through the hiring and training of local “ecoguards”, who have proven highly effective in preventing the poaching of elephants and other large mammals.

In Chad’s Zakouma National Park, USFWS is helping to prevent organized gangs from poaching one of the last and largest herds of elephants in the Sahel. The elephant population in Zakouma has declined from 3,000 individuals in 2006 to fewer than 500 today, in large part because of the increased demand for elephant ivory and the incentive this provides to poachers. Trade routes used for ivory mirror those used for other illegal goods, such as weapons and narcotics, creating complexities in combating the problem effectively. However, in Chad, local governance over natural resources is being restored and, with enhanced enforcement, the poaching rate has fallen by 80 percent.

In Cameroon, USFWS is partnering with international conservation groups and local communities to improve the protection of at-risk forest elephants and other wildlife living in and around Campo Ma’an National Park by increasing the effectiveness of anti-poaching efforts, strengthening the framework for multi-stakeholder involvement in anti-poaching activities and the promotion of sustainable wildlife use and harvest, increasing awareness among local populations and key actors surrounding poaching issues and wildlife conservation laws and policies, and developing a sustainable finance mechanism that will engage large development projects in long-term support to the protection of the Park and its endangered species. USFWS support has significantly improved the implementation of the local protection strategy for the Park, including development of a surveillance plan, refresher law enforcement training and increased capacity for roads patrols at the main entrances of the Park and around its peripheries. As part of a huge anti-poaching operation, village and forest patrols worked alongside 10 soldiers, 18 game guards and 16 local assistants to flush out four suspected poachers, including two notorious elephant poachers. The operation also resulted in the seizure of 450 lbs. of bushmeat. Frequent anti-poaching patrols were implemented in the first half of 2011, including regular foot patrols in the park and adjacent roads.



African forest elephants (*Loxodonta cyclotis*). © ANDREA TURKALO / WCS

Highlights (continued)

Rhinos



Rhinos are among the most endangered mammals on the planet. Fewer than 50 Javan rhinos now remain in the wild in Indonesia, with none in captivity. In 2011, the last Javan rhinoceros in Vietnam was found shot, making the species officially extinct in that country. In South Africa, a new wave of African rhino poaching continues to rise, despite increased anti-poaching efforts. A total of 448 rhinos were killed in that country in 2011, and eight rhinos were killed on a single day in early 2012. The spike is driven mainly by demand from black markets in Southeast Asia, which seek rhino horn for its supposed medicinal properties; a single pound can sell for tens of thousands of dollars.

The story is more hopeful in Nepal's Terai Arc landscape, where strong conservation and law enforcement efforts ensured that none of Nepal's rhinos were lost to poaching in 2011. The **Rhino-Tiger Conservation Fund** has been integral to this success, helping to secure a viable rhino population in and around Chitwan National Park through support for anti-poaching efforts and habitat restoration. Beginning in 2009, a jointly implemented project by the Nepalese Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation and international conservation partners has been mitigating poaching and habitat shrinkage in Chitwan NP by strengthening anti-poaching operations, controlling the spread of invasive species and generating awareness of the importance of the project initiatives at the local and regional level. To reduce rhino poaching, 193 separate sweeping and camping operations were conducted in two National Parks, and 32 informers were mobilized at vulnerable locations of protected areas, resulting in the apprehension of 708 people in connection with illegal activities and the confiscation of poaching equipment, such as guns, bullets, motorbikes and a tiger trap. Increased mobility and patrolling inside the park ultimately resulted in the reduction of rhino poaching by 80 percent compared to 2008. Rhino habitat was also expanded through extensive cutting, controlled burning and uprooting of invasive weeds in order to restore 500 acres with grasses palatable to rhinos and other herbivores, resulting in increased

sightings of herbivores in Chitwan NP. The project raised local awareness of biodiversity conservation by mobilizing 356 youth from 10 youth clubs in orientation and interaction programs, holding a rhino conservation rally in which over 500 youth participated, and supporting a four-episode tele-serial promoting rhino conservation broadcast on national television, as well as 38 episodes of radio programs, which aired on five FM stations. The efforts to mitigate poaching and habitat shrinkage have resulted in a viable rhino population in the Terai Arc: counting in March 2011 revealed that the total number of rhinos in Nepal increased to 534 from 435 in 2008—a 23 percent increase in just three years.



Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*). Chitwan National Park, Nepal. © MICHEL GUNTHER / WWF-CANON

Highlights (continued)

Tigers



Scientists estimate that as few as 3,000 tigers remain in the wild throughout Asia, and as few as 1,000 of these are breeding females. Most of these remaining animals are concentrated across 42 “source sites”, which will form the core of any eventual recovery and are therefore a top priority for tiger conservation. In India, which has some of the highest tiger densities in the world and is home to 17 source sites, habitat loss and fragmentation, poaching and prey depletion are the greatest threats to the survival of tigers. The **Rhino-Tiger Conservation Fund** has provided financial support to Indian scientists gathering technical information on tigers, elephants and other wildlife. Increased investment by USFWS has

helped expand the geographic scope of work to N.E. Maharashtra State in the Deccan Plateau. In particular, it has supported efforts to expand Anshi-Dandeli Tiger Reserve alongside other reserves in South India, such as the Bhadra Tiger Reserve, Nagarhole Tiger Reserve and Bandipur Tiger Reserve.

The Rhino-Tiger Conservation Fund is also supporting work on the island of Sumatra, the last stronghold for tigers in Indonesia, including efforts by international conservation groups and local partners to obtain essential data on a wildlife corridor used by tigers in the Tesso Nilo Bukit Tigapuluh Landscape of Riau province. Rampant poaching across the Sumatran tiger’s range and accelerating deforestation due to palm plantations, pulp and paper companies and illegal logging have created a dire situation for this critically endangered big cat. The Tesso Nilo project sought to determine the presence of Sumatran tigers and the availability of their prey in one wildlife corridor, document human activities and threats and investigate ways to improve the viability of the corridor and prevent eventual isolation of tiger populations. As a result of the project, USFWS partners are hoping to obtain official protection for the corridor from both Indonesian authorities and local communities and to establish a management plan to protect the tigers and their habitat.

Given the grave situation facing tigers throughout Asia, a Global Tiger Summit was held in November 2010 in St. Petersburg, Russia, bringing together the Heads of State from all 13 countries with existing wild tiger populations along with supportive countries, such as the United States. The summit represented the first time in history that Heads of State gathered to discuss the fate of a single, non-human species. U.S. leadership was critical to the summit’s successful outcome, in which participating countries committed to a Global Tiger Recovery Program to save this imperiled species over the coming decade.



Amur (Siberian) tiger (*Panthera tigris altaica*). © JULIE LARSEN MAHER / WCS

Highlights (continued)

Asian Elephants



Thailand's Western Forest Complex, which is comprised of 17 contiguous protected areas, is one of the largest protected area systems in mainland Southeast Asia. The Complex includes some of the best remaining habitat for Asian elephants, like the 1,100-square-mile Kaeng Krachan National Park. The **Asian Elephant Conservation Fund** has contributed to efforts in Kaeng Krachan to improve law enforcement, establish a population monitoring system and address conflicts between humans and elephants by working with local communities to deter elephants from raiding crops. Over the past year, new camera traps installed as part of the population monitoring system captured footage of elephants, tigers, sun bears, clouded leopards and other rare animals. The footage indicates that the conservation and monitoring efforts are paying off in the Western Forest Complex.

During the last 25 years, the Indonesian province of Riau on the island of Sumatra has lost more than 9.8 million acres of forest—65 percent of its original forest cover—primarily due to rapid conversion and logging by oil palm and pulp and paper companies, much of it illegal. A USFWS-supported study revealed that 80 percent of the province's elephant habitat was lost in a little over two decades and, from 2005 to 2007 alone, suitable elephant habitat declined 50 percent. Encroaching plantations have forced Sumatra's elephants out of their natural forest habitats and into close contact with humans and their crops, leading to human-elephant conflict. As a result, the elephant population in Riau has fallen precipitously, from around 1,500 animals in 1985 to roughly 200 animals in 2007. Working with USFWS and local stakeholders, conservation partners helped develop action plans for the conservation and management of human-elephant conflict in Riau. District-level task forces have been established, and government agencies and companies have been brought into the conservation program. A standard operating procedure has also been published for Sumatran Flying Squads. First introduced to Sumatra in 2004, the Squads are teams of rangers equipped with noise and light-making devices and trained elephants. The Squads drive wild elephants back into the forest whenever they threaten to enter villages and have proven very effective at reducing losses suffered by local communities, preventing retaliatory killings. Because of the improved understanding of human-elephant conflict and cooperation to mitigate it, elephant mortality in Riau declined 27 percent in 2009 compared to the previous four years.



Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*). © JULIE LARSEN MAHER / WCS

Highlights (continued)

Marine Turtles



Six of the seven species of marine turtles are listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered, and the outlook is increasingly grim. Even under natural conditions, relatively few young turtles survive their first year of life. Predators such as crabs, foxes and birds often kill the hatchlings as they make their way from the nest to the sea. However, the greatest threats to marine turtle populations come from human activities, including poaching of turtle eggs, the destruction of nesting beaches for development and fishing by-catch.



Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) nest with eggs hatching. Mapo Beach, French Guiana.
© ROGER LEGUEN / WWF-CANON

In Gabon, on the West Coast of Africa, the **Marine Turtle Conservation Fund** is supporting continued monitoring of sea turtle populations at the world's largest nesting site for leatherback sea turtles. Like all marine turtles, leatherback females return to the same beaches where they were born to nest and lay their eggs, making protection of these beaches critical to conservation efforts. An estimated 41,373 nesting females utilize Gabon's 372-mile coast each year. In addition to helping protect this critical habitat for leatherbacks, the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund has also supported local livelihoods by making it possible for 60 local women to join research projects in Gabon, Democratic Republic of Congo and other sea turtle sites. Without this financial support, fewer than half of the nesting beaches currently protected would be safe for reproduction of these endangered species, and thousands of turtles would perish each year.

On the other side of the globe, Costa Rica's Junquillal Beach has been identified as one of the most important nesting sites for Pacific leatherbacks. Until recently, Junquillal Beach was unprotected, which encouraged poachers to raid the leatherback nests and harvest the eggs. Thanks to support from USFWS, turtle poachers have been turned into turtle conservationists. Community conservation and education programs have trained local people to monitor the beaches nightly and manage a sea turtle hatchery for high-risk eggs. The community is now finding greater value in protecting the turtles rather than poaching them, including through ecotourism opportunities. In the course of just four years, poaching dropped from 75 percent of the nests on Junquillal beach down to 4 percent, resulting in a record number of leatherback nests hatching.

Highlights (continued)

Great Apes



In the Republic of Congo, support from the **Great Ape Conservation Fund** is helping to create Ntokou-Pikounda National Park, which will protect an additional 15,000 western lowland gorillas from habitat loss and poaching. The Great Ape Conservation Fund also supports Ebola surveillance in the country, facilitating the hiring of over 60 eco-guards and the training of 20 researchers in carcass sampling and 30 field team leaders in health and biological sampling techniques. Over 900 hunters across 71 villages have participated in educational programs on Ebola to help prevent the spread of this deadly disease between wildlife and people. Two separate USFWS grants are also making possible efforts in the Central African Republic's Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas to secure long-term protection of the areas' gorillas, beef up trans-boundary anti-poaching patrols and create economic opportunities around sustainable gorilla tourism.

In Cameroon's Deng Deng National Park, a biodiversity and wildlife census supported jointly by USFWS and USAID revealed a healthy population of 300 to 500 western lowland gorillas living within the reserve and an adjacent logging concession. The population's relative isolation will help shield it from outbreaks of disease, such as Ebola, and Deng Deng's proximity to Cameroon's capital, Yaoundé, makes it a promising ecotourism site. USFWS has also supported groundbreaking research on the distribution and status of apes and elephants in Equatorial Guinea. Until recently, little had been done to quantify population sizes and demographic trends of the country's wildlife—including globally important populations of western gorillas, western chimpanzees and forest elephants—or to identify threats to these species. New research data combined with lessons learned from pilot projects on alternative livelihoods is helping identify priority conservation areas in Equatorial Guinea and shape a long-term strategy for sustainable development.

The Great Ape Conservation Fund is also supporting regional efforts by Central African governments and conservation partners to develop and implement a Central African Wildlife Trade Law Enforcement Plan (CAWTLEAP). In 2010, six Central African governments made clear their desire to strengthen regional efforts to combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade and agreed to work towards finalizing CAWTLEAP and its accompanying Declaration. A draft plan has been circulated to all Central African governments for review and comment, to be eventually endorsed by their Heads of State. In March 2011, the Executive Secretary of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) committed to lead the process for CAWTLEAP's adoption. As the regional body charged with monitoring commitments by the 10 signatory governments to promote the sustainable use of the Congo basin forest ecosystems, COMIFAC's leadership represents strong progress towards the final adoption of CAWTLEAP.



Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) in Uganda. © JULIE LARSEN MAHER / WCS



Bonobo (*Pan paniscus*) portrait, looking thoughtful. Lola Ya Bonobo Sanctuary, Kinshasa, DR of Congo. © NATUREPL.COM / KARL AMMANN / WWF

“The Multinational Species Conservation Fund is a relatively small program within the Fish and Wildlife Service which has generated enormous constituent interest ...”

– Congressional Research Service

Program: International Programs (IP)

Agency: *U.S. Forest Service (USFS)*

Many countries around the world are struggling to manage their forests and protected areas effectively while balancing economic and environmental interests. These natural resource management challenges often transcend national boundaries. The health of the world's forests has broad implications for the global community, with implications for food security, water security, environmental conflict, trade, livelihoods and international development.

Through its **International Programs (USFS/IP)**, the **U.S. Forest Service** works around the globe to improve forest and protected area management and build cooperation with international counterparts. The Forest Service is uniquely positioned to promote international forest conservation 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

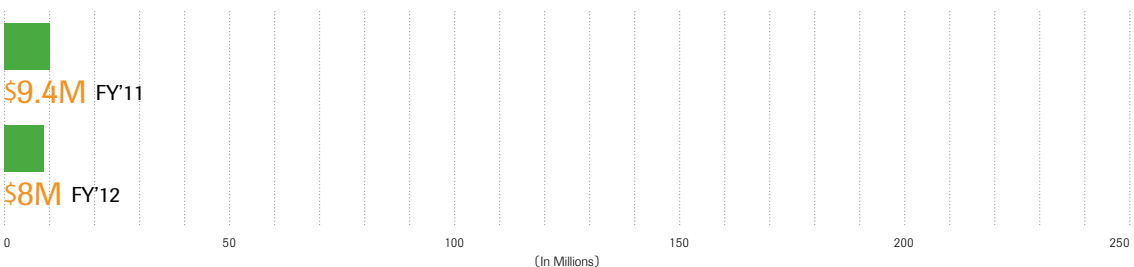
on such topics as protected area management, forest legality, disaster response, migratory species conservation, landscape level planning, wildfire management, reduced impact logging and forest certification.

Through cooperation and information exchange, these programs also empower Forest Service personnel to deal more effectively with some of our most pressing national environmental challenges, such as combating invasive species, conserving habitat for migratory species and encouraging legality in timber trade to level the playing field for the American wood products industry. In addition, USFS/IP works closely with the Department of State and the USAID to advance U.S. interests abroad while assisting other countries with their most pressing humanitarian and environmental challenges.

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

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

Funding Program Levels



Highlights

Amazonian Rainforest Protection



Peru boasts the second largest area of Amazon rainforest as well as varied landscapes and ecosystems, including its desert coast and the Andes Mountains. It is classified as one of the world’s 17 “megadiverse” countries, hosting more than 23,000 species of plants and animals, 6,000 of which are endemic. Although the Government of Peru has made considerable efforts to protect its natural heritage through a system of protected areas, illegal logging and other challenges to sustainable forest management continue to present a significant threat to Peru’s forest ecosystems—particularly in Peru’s five Amazonian regions.

USFS/IP works in Peru, with added support from USAID, to strengthen institutions, promote transparency, increase participation and access to information, and track and verify the legal origins of timber. Since 2009, USFS/IP has been supporting the Government of Peru to comply with the obligations detailed in the Environment Chapter and Annex on Forest Sector Governance of the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement. Collaboration focuses on critical issues highlighted in the Annex, such as the development of an information and control system for forest and wildlife resources, chain of custody for CITES-listed species, environmental law enforcement and prosecution, concession management, forest inventory, wildlife management and community and indigenous forest management.



Illegal logging in the lowland rainforest along the Rio La Torre. Logger cutting tornillo tree (*Cedrelinga cateniformis*). Tambopata National Reserve, Madre de Dios department, Peru. © ANDRÉ BORTSCHI / WWF-CANON

Trans-boundary Parks in Tajikistan



USFS/IP is supporting a Pamir Trans-boundary initiative between Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and China to help facilitate management of the region’s biodiversity and the impact of wildlife diseases, encourage sustainable economic development and ecotourism, and promote diplomacy and cooperation. Conservation in the Pamir Mountains directly impacts its two endangered flagship species—the Marco Polo sheep and snow leopard—and the human communities that reside in this strategically important region of Central Asia. On September 27–28, 2011, the U.S. Forest Service convened several stakeholders in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, to discuss threats to sustainable development and conservation management of the Pamir region and identify possible ways forward to improve conditions for the people and environment of the Pamirs. Approximately 50 people attended this workshop from a variety of stakeholder groups, including government officials, Tajik scientists, protected area staff, trophy hunting concession members, local community leaders, NGOs and members of the international donor community. An assessment of long-term needs of the community will help inform forestry management and community-based conservation initiatives.



Snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*). © JULIE LARSEN MAHER / WCS

Program: Office of International Affairs (OIA)

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

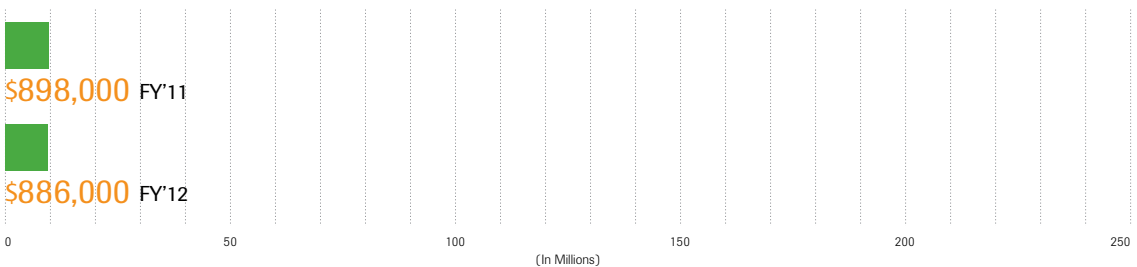
The **U.S. National Park Service (NPS)** has a long and proud legacy of international leadership and engagement. The concept of the national park has been called “America’s best idea.” Today, nearly every country on earth has created its own park system, many of them with direct assistance from the NPS.

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. Experts in park and protected area management are helping to create conservation benefits for developing countries and generate goodwill toward the United States, including projects in Chile, Cambodia and Rwanda. NPS/OIA is also engaging in transboundary cooperation in regions such as Beringia (U.S.-Russia) and Big Bend/Rio Bravo (U.S.-Mexico).

The international work conducted by the NPS is not only helping other countries protect their parks and natural heritage; it is also contributing to the protection of many of the natural resources found in the American national park system. Numerous wildlife species move across park and international boundaries, and U.S. parks are increasingly impacted by threats from beyond U.S. borders, such as invasive species, air and water pollution and climate change. To deal with these threats, the NPS is engaging with international partners and learning from innovative practices developed by park agencies in other countries. NPS/OIA also supports the Park Flight Migratory Bird Program, a public-private partnership to protect neotropical migratory birds and their habitats.

<http://www.nps.gov/oia/index.htm>

■ Funding Program Levels



Highlights

Rwanda



In collaboration with USAID, NPS provided experts in park management and operations to assist the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) in designing a Birdwatching Action Plan and a Concessions Plan for Nyungwe National Park. The teams met with RDB officials, tour operators and representatives from local bird groups and explored Nyungwe, assessing the environment and the issues and opportunities for tourism development. Over the course of their two-week visit, NPS staff worked with the birdwatching initiative's main stakeholders to develop plans for a productive, sustainable birdwatching system and concessionary plan for Nyungwe, including recommendations on incentivizing and training park guides; developing trails and signage; designing visitor-friendly articles, such as maps and brochures; and providing a full range of visitor services and concessions, including food, retail items and accommodation. The collaboration is helping reinforce Rwanda's strategic approach to growing its tourism industry, which is focused on special niche-tourism opportunities: first gorillas, and now endemic birds.



Mountain gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringe*) young female, portrait, Volcanoes NP, Virunga mountains, Rwanda. © NATUREPL.COM / ANDY ROUSE / WWF

Beringia



The Shared Beringian Heritage Program was established in 1991 to recognize and celebrate the resources that Russia and the United States have in common in the North Pacific and to sustain the cultural heritage of native peoples throughout the region. This region is of strategic importance to the United States from both an economic and conservation perspective. On May 26, 2011, the presidents of the United States and Russia issued a joint statement on cooperation in the Bering Strait Region declaring their intention to deepen cooperation between the two countries, including expanding interaction among national agencies responsible for protected areas in Alaska and Chukotka and developing a regional dialogue with Native peoples. As part of the Shared Beringian Heritage Program, the NPS funds projects in partnership with community organizations and academic institutions in Western Alaska and Eastern Chukotka in Russia. One such project in the Chukotka region is promoting wildlife conservation on Wrangel Island—the gem of Siberia's parks. This Yellowstone-sized island in the Chukchi Sea is renowned for its polar bears and is home to walrus, musk oxen, snowy owls, Arctic foxes and, most recently, colonizing wolves. It is also the last place where woolly mammoths roamed the earth. Since 1991, the Shared Beringian Heritage Program has funded over 130 projects, with 12–20 active projects each year investing nearly \$10 million towards cultural exchange, conservation, economic development and other activities.



Chukchi woman carving off meat from a grey whale in the village of Lorino, Chukotka, Siberia, Russia, Arctic. © STAFFAN WIDSTRAND / WWF

Program: Coral Reef Conservation and Marine Protected Area (MPA) Management

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

Nearly half the world’s population lives within the coastal zone. Ocean-based businesses contribute over \$500 billion to the world economy, and healthy coastal and marine ecosystems are critical to U.S. diplomatic and development strategies. NOAA’s international marine and coastal conservation programs, including its Coral Reef Conservation program and Marine Protected Area (MPA) Management program, support U.S. foreign policy priorities, such as food security, social stability, disaster preparation and climate change mitigation. The agency’s expertise and assets, including research programs, vessels, satellites and science centers, make it an essential international resource.

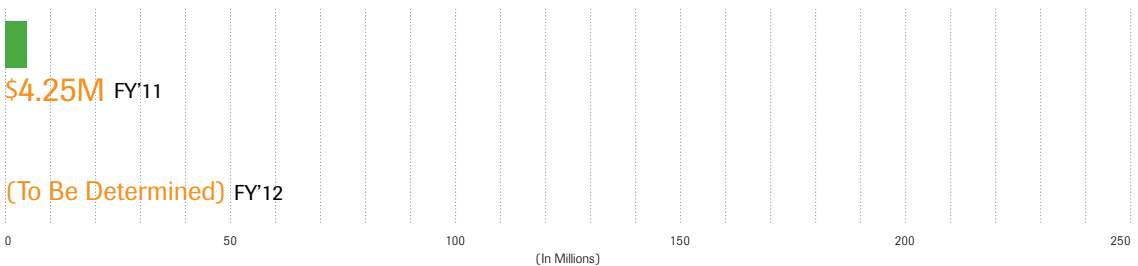
NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries helps enhance management and technical expertise of MPA managers around the globe, many of whom lack basic capacity and resources. NOAA also benefits from the management innovations developed by international colleagues, and because many MPA challenges are universal—pollution,

overfishing, invasive species, climate change, user conflicts—lessons learned are easily transferred, saving time, effort and expense. Trans-boundary and regional work is particularly important to protect migratory and highly mobile marine species.

NOAA’s Coral Reef Conservation program works to conserve coral reef ecosystems, which are among the most important and most threatened on the planet—vulnerable to overexploitation, ocean acidification and climate change. The U.S. National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs calls for federal collaboration to protect international coral reefs and human communities that depend on them. In support, NOAA provides training, technical support, small grants and large-scale cooperative agreements in four regions with strong interconnections to U.S. reefs and interests: the Caribbean, Micronesia, Southwest Pacific/Samoa and the Coral Triangle.

<http://www.international.noaa.gov>

■ Funding Program Levels



Highlights

Adaptation in the Coral Triangle



NOAA provides technical support and training as part of USAID's partnership in the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI).

This includes supporting climate adaptation strategies for the millions of vulnerable inhabitants of the region, particularly those living on low-lying islands and relying on fisheries and coral reefs for livelihoods and subsistence. Senior CTI officials recently adopted a Region-wide Early Action Plan (REAP) identifying and prioritizing immediate steps to reduce climate impacts and increase resilience of coastal and marine areas. NOAA is helping develop a toolkit to assist local governments and coastal communities in implementing the REAP, including vulnerability assessments, local early action planning, impact monitoring and outreach. Trainings have occurred in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia with another scheduled in the Philippines for early 2012.



Pig pen that used to be on dry land now inundated by high tide. Green Island, Roxas, Palawan, Philippines. © JÜRGEN FREUND / WWF-CANON

Marine Protected Area Management in the Caribbean



NOAA, the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute and UNEP are jointly supporting the Caribbean MPA Management Network & Forum (CaMPAM), a region-wide network of MPA practitioners. CaMPAM has completed an

assessment of MPA management capacity in 10 Caribbean jurisdictions, addressing issues such as governance, enforcement and monitoring. A final report was released in August 2011, identifying priority needs of selected Caribbean MPAs. This is now being used to guide the work of NOAA and other organizations as they build local capacity through technical support, training and funding. NOAA and CaMPAM are also using the assessment to organize peer-to-peer learning exchanges, bringing together coral reef managers from around the region to share best practices. The first such exchange, held in Puerto Morelos, Mexico, in November 2011, focused on sustainable financing, which is a top regional priority. Plans are underway to hold additional exchanges in 2012 and 2013.



Acoustic receivers record the presence and absence of mantas at the Flower Grand Banks National Marine Sanctuary. © EMMA HICKERSON

Shark Conservation in Belize



The shark population in Belizean waters has rapidly declined due to overfishing by foreign fleets supplying fish meat to Latin America

and shark fins to Asia. NOAA's Flower Garden Banks Marine Sanctuary has developed a long-term partnership with Belizean conservationists to train graduate students and conduct annual assessments of shark populations, including whale sharks. These efforts are supporting the Belizean government's implementation of a national action plan for sharks and involving local people in protecting ocean wildlife and coastal biodiversity. Through conservation actions and enhanced MPA management, NOAA is helping to ensure the sustainability of local livelihoods, as well as Belize's economically important tourism industry.



Whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*). © JAVIER ORDÚÑEZ / WWF

Tackling the Illegal Timber Trade

Forests & Trade

Through multiple agencies, U.S. support for international forest conservation is helping to make the forestry industry more sustainable and protecting the integrity of international timber markets. For nine 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. Working with the **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)**, GFTN



Illegally logged tool handles, Honduras. © EIA

helps companies achieve certification that the forest products they use are from responsibly harvested and verified sources, from the forest of origin through the supply chain. Independent third-party certification of socially and environmentally sustainable forest management is an important market mechanism allowing producers and consumers to identify and purchase timber and non-timber forest products from well-managed forests. This voluntary, market-based certification tool supports responsible forest management worldwide. Forestry companies participating in the GFTN must achieve FSC forest certification, manufacturers must achieve FSC chain-of-custody certification, and purchasers must move toward purchasing increasing amounts of products certified to the rigorous standards of the FSC. Currently, over 270 GFTN participants trade nearly \$70 billion in forest product sales annually, representing 18 percent of the market and over 55 percent of all FSC-certified products traded internationally.

Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT) is a six-year program funded by USAID and the Department of State designed to improve forest management and bring transparency to the timber trade in Asia while also reducing deforestation and forest degradation. RAFT works with government, industry, inter-governmental organizations, international conservation NGOs and academic institutions to influence public policies and corporate practices. The program spans eight countries in Asia and the Pacific: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Vietnam. RAFT partners have helped bring nearly 3.2 million acres of tropical forest in Asia and the Pacific under FSC certification, with 4.9 million additional acres on the way. When RAFT began in 2006, program partners were working with five timber concessions; today that number has grown to 59. The program has introduced nearly 1,000 wood manufacturers to new legality requirements for products exported to the United States and E.U. and helped 20 factories achieve FSC chain of custody (CoC) certification. RAFT has also supported groundbreaking research to quantify carbon emissions reductions achieved by transitioning from 'business as usual' logging to improved forest management. Early research suggests that a combination of specific management practices could reduce carbon emissions from logging by up to 35 percent without any corresponding decrease in timber production. This forest carbon work will continue under the Berau Forest Carbon Program (BFCP), a district-wide, U.S.-supported REDD+ demonstration program in Indonesia's Berau District in East Kalimantan.

The Lacey Act

Illegal logging plays a central role in driving tropical deforestation and degradation in the developing world. It also undermines businesses in the United States by approximately \$1 billion annually by flooding global markets with cheaper illegal timber supplies, artificially depressing prices for U.S. forest products. In recognition of these threats, Congress amended the Lacey Act in 2008 to expand its protections to a broader range of plants and plant products. In September 2011, this amendment was recognized internationally, receiving the World Future Council's silver medal as one of the three most inspiring and innovative pieces of national legislation to protect the world's forests. The European Union, Australia and other countries are following the U.S. lead.

After three years, the 2008 amendments are already showing impressive results. Illegal logging is on the decline as much as 25 percent worldwide, with reductions as high as 50–70 percent in some key countries. Companies around the globe are changing the way they make sourcing decisions and monitor their supply chains. Consistent enforcement over time is essential to solidify these new behaviors so they become common practice.

Effective Lacey Act implementation depends on the capacity and resources of several U.S. agencies. These include the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), which is hoping to build an electronic declarations database and add internal capacity to perform data analysis for monitoring and enforcement. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Law Enforcement also plays an important role in implementing the Act and deterring illegal operations. In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, USAID and the State Department are supporting international outreach to explain the implications of the expanded Lacey Act to producer countries, and these efforts are impacting industry practices worldwide. In 2010, 12 Lacey Act training workshops were held throughout Southeast Asia to educate companies on the new requirements under American law. These included representatives from 625 forest products export companies throughout Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and China.



Company worker removing bark to prepare logs for rafting to the plywood factory downstream. The bark is burned. PT Ratah Timber, as a member of GFTN, practices reduced impact logging (RIL) which determines which trees can be cut and how they are felled and extracted from the forest to minimize damage to standing trees. © SIMON RAWLES / WWF-CANON

