



THE INTERNATIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
**BUDGET**

2 0 1 3

BUILDING ON AMERICA'S HISTORIC COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION





Stocks of rhino horns and animal skins burnt by the government, Kenya. © PHILIPPE OBERLE / WWF

*“... wildlife trafficking has become more organized, more lucrative, more widespread, and more dangerous than ever before ... it is also a national security issue, a public health issue, and an economic security issue.”*

– Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, November 8, 2012

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

— President Teddy Roosevelt, Address to the Deep Waterway Convention, Memphis, TN, October 4, 1907

OVER 100 YEARS AGO, PRESIDENT TEDDY ROOSEVELT RECOGNIZED the importance of natural resources to our country’s future and helped launch the American conservation movement. While the world looks markedly different today, conservation has only grown in importance for America’s security and prosperity.

Over the next four decades, the world’s population is projected to grow from 7 to 9 billion, doubling demand for food, water and energy. If nature is to continue to provide us with the necessary resources to survive and thrive, then we must ensure economic growth and conservation move forward hand-in-hand—and we must do so on a global scale.

One of the most pressing and widespread global conservation challenges is the illegal trade in natural resources, including timber, fish and wildlife products. This multi-billion dollar trade is pushing more and more of our planet’s species to the brink of extinction; robbing America’s trading partners of valuable resources; and negatively impacting American economic and security interests.

Illegal trade in timber and fish undermines the integrity of international markets, depresses global commodity prices, and makes it more difficult for law-abiding U.S. companies to compete. The illegal timber trade, for example, costs U.S. businesses an estimated \$1 billion each year. Illegal fishing takes a similar toll on the U.S. seafood industry, which relies heavily on overseas wild fisheries.

In 2010, 86 percent of the seafood consumed in the United States was imported and roughly half was wild-caught. Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) fishing amounts to between \$10–\$24 billion annually and compromises the ability of American businesses and consumers to source abundant, affordable seafood.

Because most IUU fishing practices are unsustainable and violate conservation and management regimes, they threaten the long-term viability of commercial fish stocks. Approximately 87 percent of monitored marine stocks are already fully exploited, overexploited, or depleted. If U.S. companies are to maintain their long-term supply chains and source sustainable seafood, steps must be taken to



One of 16 tiger cubs seized as they were being smuggled across the border from Thailand into Laos. A veterinary team from a wildlife forensics unit takes blood samples to trace the DNA. Chaiyaphum, Thailand. © JAMES MORGAN / WWF-CANON

end IUU fishing and improve global fisheries management.

The illegal exploitation of natural resources also threatens U.S. security interests, providing a lucrative source of criminal financing that undermines rule of law and promotes corruption, particularly in the developing world. Estimated at \$8–10 billion annually, the illegal wildlife trade is one of the top five most lucrative transnational organized crimes, alongside narcotics and human trafficking. Skyrocketing demand for ivory and other high-value wildlife parts in Asia is driving a global poaching epidemic that is decimating African wildlife populations, robbing developing countries of economic opportunities, and generating huge profits for well-organized

criminal gangs. In recent years, Africa’s resources have become not only the cause but also the currency of instability: much as “blood diamonds” helped fuel Central African wars in the 1990s, soaring prices for ivory and rhino horn have unleashed large-scale black markets in these products that are helping to fund global criminal networks, armed insurgencies, and even terrorism.

The early months of 2012 saw the worst single massacre of elephants ever recorded, when heavily armed militants from Sudan and Chad invaded Cameroon’s Bouba Ndjida National Park and killed more than 350 elephants over the course of just a few weeks. It took a military intervention to drive the poachers out and restore the country’s sovereignty—but not before several human lives were lost and the majority of the park’s elephants had been slaughtered for their ivory. Bouba Ndjida is merely the deadliest in a rising tide of mass wildlife killings across the African continent, driven home by the fact that 2011 was the worst year for large-scale seizures of illegal ivory in over two decades. African countries—and African militaries—are now making anti-poaching efforts a major focus, in recognition that they are quickly being robbed not only of their natural wealth, but also of potential economic opportunities that these resources provide.

If setbacks such as Bouba Ndjida remind us of what we are up against and what is at stake, they are contrasted by remarkable success stories, many of which are described in the following pages. In many instances, programs to conserve nature and wildlife have also driven economic growth, brought rural prosperity, and increased political stability. In many such cases, it has been American investment that has helped to turn the tide.

Recognizing that international conservation is in our national interest, U.S. agencies are partnering with governments, civil society, and businesses to help developing countries combat illegal trade, protect natural capital, and promote strong and sustainable economic development. At the

forefront of these efforts is USAID, which works with other U.S. agencies and key stakeholders to protect some of the most economically and biologically valuable ecosystems on the planet, including the South Pacific’s Coral Triangle, the Amazon rainforest, and Africa’s Congo Basin.

This book highlights the ways in which international conservation programs supported by the U.S. government are protecting our shared natural heritage and benefiting America’s economic and security interests. Our organizations remain committed partners in these efforts, helping to build on America’s legacy and leadership in international conservation. Working together, we can ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for us all.

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

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

**Dr. Cristian Samper**  
President and CEO  
Wildlife Conservation Society

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







Whale shark in Cendrawasih Bay in Indonesia's Raja Ampat archipelago. With the region's new shark sanctuary, Raja Ampat's marine life are the most protected in all of Indonesia. © BURT JONES AND MAURINE SHIMLOCK

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**COVER:** African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), close-up of face, Tanzania. © NATUREPL.COM / EDWIN GIESBERS / WWF-CANON; **BACK COVER:** Park guard contemplates the evening sky above the scene where elephant bones and carcasses litter the ground after mass slaughter of elephants in northern Cameroon's Bouba Ndjida National Park. Estimates of the number of elephants killed exceed 300 during raids by heavily armed poaching gangs crossing the border from Chad believed to be supplying Sudan ivory markets, which service ivory trafficking to Asia. Bouba Ndjida National Park is poorly resourced to deal with the scale of the assault it experienced last year: according to its conservator, the park is 220,000 hectares with only six poorly equipped game rangers, while the poachers used Kalishnikov rifles. © GREEN RENAISSANCE / WWF-CANON

The following icons occur throughout the booklet to note the human welfare 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 and forestry programs. These programs help protect some of the world’s largest, most at-risk natural landscapes, as well as 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 medicine, USAID’s Biodiversity Conservation Programs help to reduce conflict over resource scarcity and improve the stability and economic prospects of trading partners important to the United States. These programs also play an important role in supporting long-term U.S. foreign policy objectives, such as rural peace, community health, democracy-building, environmental security, and improved livelihoods.

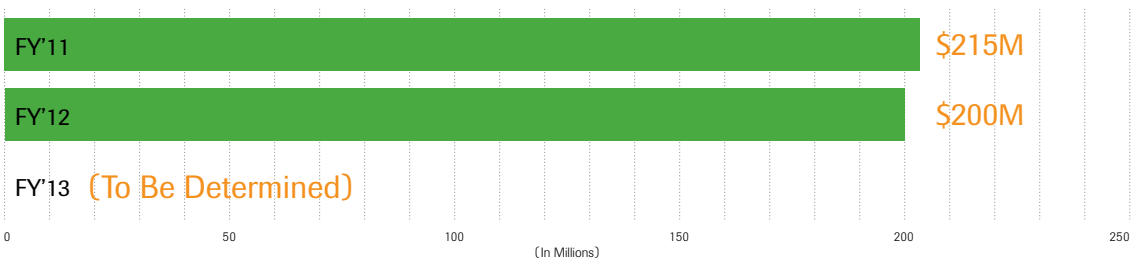
USAID’s Biodiversity Conservation Programs empower developing countries to tackle drivers of biodiversity loss and resource degradation, such as the illegal extraction of natural resources, overfishing, pollution, poor agricultural practices, weak governance,

and illegal wildlife trafficking. Many of these efforts are complemented by support provided through USAID’s Sustainable Landscapes and Adaptation programs. Collectively, these ongoing initiatives strengthen the capacity of countries to manage their natural resources while promoting sustainable economic development—benefiting local people and strengthening global markets.

U.S. investments in conservation must be strategic and catalytic, accomplishing several objectives while leveraging limited resources. 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. USAID conservation programs also protect long-term supply chains for U.S. companies, strengthen trade relationships with emerging economies, and prevent illegal products from flooding and distorting global markets.

From grasslands and forests to mountains and coasts, USAID conservation activities address priority threats to biodiversity in the developing world,

## Funding Program Levels



USAID Biodiversity Conservation Programs are funded mainly through the Development Assistance account.



generating tangible economic and social benefits and improving the overall effectiveness of U.S. foreign assistance by securing the natural capital that is the foundation for development. The partnerships forged by USAID, foreign governments, the private sector, local people, and conservation organizations are

integral to this success, leveraging significant additional investment and increasing goodwill towards the United States in the developing world.

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



Artisanal fisherman casts fishing net on the Niger River at sunset near Mopti, Mali. © TANYA PETERSEN / WWF-CANON

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, testifying before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, March 12, 2013:

*“Competition and scarcity involving natural resources—food, water, minerals, and energy—are growing security threats. Many countries important to the United States are vulnerable to natural resource shocks that degrade economic development, frustrate attempts to democratize, raise the risk of regime-threatening instability, and aggravate regional tensions.”*

## Highlights

### AFRICA

#### 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. Economic growth and security in Congo Basin countries is highly dependent on sustainable management of natural resources, but the lack of strong governance and management capacity in many areas has contributed to the unsustainable exploitation of these countries' natural riches, including high levels of wildlife poaching. USAID's Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) supports landscape-level work to reduce deforestation rates, conserve biodiversity, protect local livelihoods, and increase natural resource management capacity in nine countries, with a focus on Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo (ROC), and the Virunga mountains bordering Rwanda and DRC. CARPE operates at various scales, from region-wide forest cover monitoring and national-level forestry atlases to community-based field programs, and 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.

#### *Minimizing Impacts from Extractive Industries*

In a region where nearly half of the forests are under concession to timber companies, CARPE has helped Congo Basin protected areas grow by more than 12.5 million acres. More than 13 million acres—an area nearly the size of West Virginia—are now being independently certified as under low-impact forest management. CARPE partners are working with international mining, oil and gas, and agriculture companies to help mitigate industrial impacts, including using field studies to ensure a potash mine planned near the Republic of Congo's Conkouati National Park protects terrestrial ecosystems home to elephants and gorillas, as well as near-shore ecosystems on the Gulf of Guinea home to endangered marine turtles. A number of governments in the region, including Uganda and Gabon, are now developing regulatory regimes requiring companies to follow strict mitigation requirements and compensate for environmental impacts.



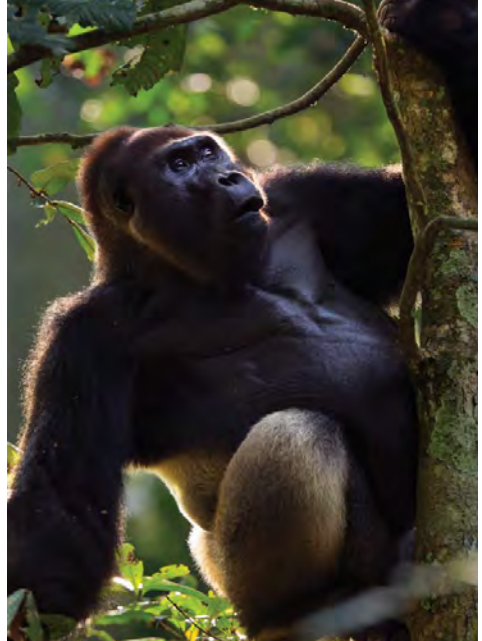
A bi-national group of ecoguards from Cameroon and Gabon patrol the Dja river and the Meesok-Dja National Park, looking for evidence of wildlife poaching. The Dja river forms the boundary between Cameroon and Congo. © MIKE GOLDWATER / WWF-CANON

#### *Anti-poaching*

DRC's Salonga National Park (SNP) is the world's second largest tropical forest park. CARPE has strongly supported its sustainable management to ensure a future both for its wildlife and for local communities that depend on its resources. Over the past

## Highlights (continued)

two years, CARPE partners using patrol data and wildlife surveys detected unprecedented poaching levels in SNP. In October 2011, the Congolese military launched *Operation Bonobo* to assist park rangers in combating heavily armed elephant poachers who had infiltrated the park. During the yearlong operation, the military worked with park authorities and CARPE partners to sweep the park and surrounding communities, seizing illegal weapons and arresting suspected poachers. The operation drove out many notorious poachers, seized over 200 military-style weapons, restored basic security, and enabled park authorities to resume their work. For the first time in two years, CARPE-funded researchers and park guards have been able to navigate and survey SNP's once heavily occupied Yenge River. Recent data shows a sharp drop in poaching and a sharp increase the presence of elephants, demonstrating the importance of guard-based monitoring and the effectiveness of well-trained, regular patrols.



Western lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) dominant male silverback 'Makumba' aged 32 years sitting in a tree, Bai Hokou, Dzanga Sangha Special Dense Forest Reserve, Central African Republic. © NATUREPL.COM / ANUP SHAH / WWF-CANON

### ***Freshwater Fisheries and Food Security***

On the border of the Republic of Congo and DRC, the Lac Tele/Lac Tumba region is an important center of freshwater resources for all of Africa, including the world's largest RAMSAR site. Vast wetland forests and lake systems support 181 known fish species and local fishing communities. Unsustainable fishing techniques—including use of mosquito nets, destruction of reproductive sites, and rampant overfishing—have substantially reduced the region's fisheries resources. Through awareness building, CARPE has helped bring sustainable practices to local residents, who now acknowledge how destructive techniques and over-harvesting have reduced fish populations and degraded the lakes' resources. Communities are now embracing and voting their support for community-based natural resource management activities, including the creation of fish reproduction sites and sustainable fishing regulations and enforcement regimes.

### ***Improved Cook Stoves***

In the Mwenda area of eastern DRC, CARPE helped to train 62 women from local development associations in the manufacturing and installation of improved cook stoves for their homes. The stoves, which are made of readily available local clay, can reduce firewood consumption by more than half. In addition to reducing labor and saving considerable time for women, who must often walk up to 10 miles to collect firewood, the improved stoves prevent respiratory ailments by improving indoor air quality and prevent deforestation around Virunga National Park by reducing energy consumption from firewood and charcoal. The households in Mwenda with improved stoves now number 178, and the women of Mwenda are sharing their knowledge by training others and helping to install stoves in their neighbors' homes.



## 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. 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. By promoting Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), the LIFE program helped to stabilize both wildlife populations and rural communities in this newly independent, war-torn country. CBNRM has empowered 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, CBNRM benefits increased exponentially—from roughly \$600,000 in 2000 to \$7.5 million in 2011. By the start of 2012, a total of 66 conservancies had been established, managing over 36 million acres of communal land—18 percent of Namibia's land area—and supporting over 1,500 full-time and 11,000 part-time jobs. Wildlife populations in conservancy areas have also rebounded, and CBNRM has promoted local decision-making, democratic engagement, and a culture of stability built on sustainability.



Vitalus Florry, field officer for Torra Conservancy, tracking rhinos, Torra Conservancy, Kunene, Namibia.  
© EDWARD PARKER / WWF-CANON

Work begun under the LIFE program is now being carried forward with support from the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and USAID is helping replicate the Namibia model in other regions where wildlife and ecotourism provide a foundation for rural development. In Northern Kenya, predators, prey, and people largely coexist as they have for centuries. Kenya's **Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT)**, founded in 2004, equips local communities to improve their lands and livelihoods while using conservation to provide tangible benefits for people and wildlife. As in Namibia, USAID and its partners have worked with NRT to develop community conservancies. In Kenya, these are governed by a Council of Elders, transitioning authority back into the traditional hands of community members. NRT's approach has been tremendously successful: 19 community conservancies representing 212,000



## Highlights (continued)

people sustainably manage 3.5 million acres of communal land, supporting livestock and wildlife while generating hundreds of thousands of dollars each year through tourism revenue and creating over 540 jobs. In 2012, conservancies generated \$425,000 in tourism revenue and more than \$1.17 million from cattle sales as part of an integrated livestock-to-markets program. The program is transforming lives, securing peace, and tackling challenges posed by regional insecurity, ivory poaching, poor grazing practices, human-wildlife conflict, limited access to water, insufficient communal resource tenure, and climate change.

NRT's approach is also spreading, driven by individual conservancies and their members, who are mostly marginalized pastoralists. With 23 applications for new conservancies currently pending, NRT's cumulative footprint has the potential to stretch across more than 10 million acres, helping communities to cooperatively manage their lands, livestock and wildlife, resolve conflicts, and develop ecotourism and other business enterprises to fund education, conservation, and community improvement. One current multi-community project is promoting planned grazing to improve rangeland productivity, reduce soil degradation, and maximize carbon sequestration. The project supports five grazing coordinators and has held 16 workshops on improved grazing management, training over 2,300 local people. A vegetation monitoring database has been created and sampling conducted at 200 sites. The use of perennial grasses has increased, improving soil quality, and detailed maps of grazing blocks have been prepared. Through efforts like this one, NRT has 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.



Portrait of a Kenyan worker at Golini Community Nursery, Kwale District, near Mombasa. The nursery was set up to grow indigenous trees in order to combat deforestation and maintain freshwater supplies to local villagers. © BRENT STIRTON / GETTY IMAGES

## Faith and Conservation



Through its Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support (BATS) program, USAID is supporting engagement with faith communities on conservation, working with local and international NGOs and the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC). With support from USAID, the World Bank and the Government of Norway, ARC hosted the “Many Heavens, One Earth, Our Continent: African Faith Commitments for a Living Planet” conference in September 2012, in Nairobi, Kenya. During the event, leaders from 27 faith groups representing millions of Christians, Muslims, and Hindus throughout sub-Saharan Africa launched their long-term plans for conservation, committing to plant millions of trees across Africa, launch major environmental education programs, engage in sustainable farming, and mobilize their communities in WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) programs. With each plan grounded in the scripture and beliefs of their faiths, Africa's diverse religious communities came together in Nairobi around a shared mission to protect nature.

## Highlights (continued)

### ASIA

#### Coral Triangle Support Partnership



Over the past five years, the USAID-supported Coral Triangle Support Partnership (CTSP) has made profound progress working with local and international NGO partners and six national governments to conserve marine and coastal ecosystems in an immense region that stretches from Indonesia to the Philippines to the Solomon Islands. The Coral Triangle's marine and coastal resources are essential to the livelihoods and food security of more than 130 million people and contribute an estimated \$2.3 billion annually towards the economies of the region. Global demand, poor development, unsustainable harvesting, and Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported fishing (IUU) are putting enormous pressure on those resources.

To address these challenges, CTSP has helped improve management of nearly 50,000 square miles of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), fishing grounds, and coastal lands, including assisting Timor-Leste in launching the country's first "No Take" MPAs—a critical step towards meeting the country's food security needs. Working with NOAA, CTSP has promoted capacity-building links between in-country and regional activities and developed tools and approaches to promote ecosystem-based management, including a dynamic online spatial database available through the Coral Triangle Atlas ([www.ctatlas.reefbase.org](http://www.ctatlas.reefbase.org)). Under CTSP, regional governments are developing a shared framework to support sustainable fisheries, improve MPA management, and enhance law enforcement. A plan for joint implementation of a regional six-country Coral Triangle Marine Protected Areas System (CTMPAS) is also being developed—the first of its kind.

The CTSP is also making impacts at the local level. An alternative livelihoods project in the Philippines' Mindanao region is increasing local incomes and protecting threatened green sea turtles in some of their most important nesting grounds in the Turtle Islands. In a region affected by civil conflict and terrorist activity, the project is helping improve stability by creating sustainable local livelihoods and fostering trans-boundary cooperation between governments. The project is discouraging residents from turtle poaching by providing seed capital, materials, and skills training for women and youth organizations to earn income from making handicrafts out of recycled materials—part of a larger program to protect and sustain the Turtle Islands Heritage Protected Area, co-managed by Malaysia and the Philippines. Other on-the-ground successes include implementation of an ecotourism-based sustainable development plan in Berau, Indonesia; formation of a new council to manage marine conservation in East Nusa Tenggara Province, Savu Sea; and the launch of a locally managed MPA network in the Solomon Islands. Similar local programs are being planned and implemented in each Coral Triangle country.



Fishery in Anambas, Indonesia, Coral Triangle Initiative.  
© CI / KATHLEEN FLOWER

## Highlights (continued)

### Conservation in Asia's High Mountain Landscapes



In 2012, USAID launched a unique partnership on a four-year water security and sustainable

development project across Asia tied to snow leopard conservation. The Conservation and Adaptation in Asia's High Mountain Landscapes and Communities Project will be implemented in Bhutan, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, and Pakistan, building alliances, stimulating greater understanding and action at local, national, and regional levels across these snow leopard range countries, and tying species directly to broader environmental, economic, and social issues. The project is the first of its kind to address wildlife conservation in these mountain communities in the context of a comprehensive, climate-smart program for improving local natural resource management, livelihoods, and water security—and it is doing so in a manner that builds transnational cooperation among Central and South Asian nations. It is also supporting alternative livelihoods, such as ecotourism development, to provide new economic opportunities and empowerment to indigenous, poor, marginalized, and vulnerable communities (particularly women), whose incomes are often highly dependent on natural resources.



Snow leopard (*Uncia uncia* or *Panthera uncia*), Asia.  
© BRUCE W. BUNTING / WWF-US

### Nepal: Protecting Biodiversity and Livelihoods



The Hariyo Ban Program is a five-year partnership between USAID, international NGOs, and Nepalese conservation organizations to reduce threats to biodiversity and vulnerabilities to climate change in the Terai Arc and Chitwan Annapurna landscapes of Nepal. At its

heart lie three interwoven components—biodiversity conservation, payments for ecosystem services (including REDD+), and climate change adaptation. The program is empowering communities to manage their forests sustainably and build resilience to climate change while protecting livelihoods, improving governance, and promoting gender and social inclusion. In its first year, the program has built local capacity for implementation and identified priority activities, including protection of four key wildlife corridors and focal species in protected areas and support to Nepalese Ministry of Forestry's development of a REDD+ Strategy Framework. Early field activities have included training of community groups to fight forest fires, establishment of Community Learning and Action Centers, a survey of snow leopard, and a review of community-based tourism. To combat poaching of wildlife, including rhinoceros and tigers, the project is supporting local youth who have started Community-Based Anti-Poaching Units, which provide information to park authorities for their anti-poaching operations and educate communities about the need to prevent poaching and the illegal wildlife trade. Parallel programs also train local youth in alternative livelihoods, including fish farming and mechanical and electrical vocations.

## Highlights (continued)

### Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT)



USAID's **Responsible Asia Forest Trade (RAFT)** initiative is a partnership program working across the Asia-Pacific region to demonstrate the central role healthy forests have in a "Green Economy" by improving human well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. RAFT strengthens market and policy incentives for legal and sustainable forest management and develops the awareness and capacity needed to supply the global market with responsibly sourced timber benefitting both local and global economies. By helping to ensure that the full value of healthy forests is recognized, RAFT promotes a viable economic alternative to deforestation. Over five years, RAFT partners have helped nearly 3 million acres of Southeast Asia's forests become certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, with another 5 million acres on the way. RAFT's proven partnership approach leverages the resources of the United States and Australia while complementing and strengthening the efforts of other big timber markets, such as the European Union, and major supplier nations, such as China and Indonesia, in order to tighten the rules of the timber trade.



Worker for PT Ratah Timber preparing logs for rafting to plywood factory downstream. As a member of GFTN, the company practices reduced impact logging, determining which trees can be cut and how to fell and extract them from the forest to minimize damage to standing trees.

© SIMON RAWLES / WWF-CANON

### Asia's Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking (ARREST)



Illegal wildlife trafficking is a multibillion-dollar industry requiring well-organized, trans-boundary networks to transport and sell materials. The global trade in illegal wildlife strengthens criminal syndicates, undermines law enforcement, and facilitates the introduction of non-native species into new regions, often resulting in devastating impacts on ecosystems, infrastructure, and crops. Global demand is increasing for illegal wildlife products, which are commonly used for food, traditional medicine, fashion items, or household pets. To address this growing criminal and economic threat, USAID recently launched **Asia's Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking (ARREST)** to strengthen law enforcement, build regional cooperation and anti-trafficking networks, and reduce consumer demand in high consumption areas in Asia. To better understand public attitudes and behaviors, a study on Chinese consumer behavior and attitudes toward wildlife consumption was conducted, surveying 1,000 respondents in five cities and identifying the populations most likely to consume wildlife. With additional support from the Chinese government, a public awareness/education program focusing on reducing wildlife consumption and trafficking in Guangxi Province was also launched.



Gibbon rescued from wildlife trade, Cambodia.

© CI / EMILIE VERDON



*“But I would also emphasize here the human costs of trafficking in ivory and other animal parts need to be focused on. This is a multi-million dollar criminal enterprise. The ivory trade stretches from the African savannah to the Asian market place, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ranks it as a significant form of transnational organized crime. Poaching is not just a security threat for Africa. It’s also a menace to developing economies, and it thrives where governance is weakest.”*

— Current Secretary of State and former Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, John Kerry, during a May 23, 2012, hearing before that committee entitled, “Ivory and Insecurity: The Global Implications of Poaching in Africa”



Norbert Pradal, the conservateur of Wanga Wangue Presidential Reserve in Gabon, displays two elephant tusks confiscated from poachers in front of the anti-poaching patrol helicopter. Governments in Central Africa are becoming increasingly alarmed by the use of wildlife trafficking as a source of funding for insurgents. Rebel groups, drug syndicates, and even terrorist networks have seen an opportunity to profit from what has until now been a low-risk, high-reward criminal enterprise. Populations of rare animals like elephants, tigers, and rhinos are plummeting as a result. © JAMES MORGAN / WWF-CANON

*“We’re launching new initiatives to strengthen and expand enforcement areas. USAID has already provided more than \$24 million over the past five years on a range of programs that combat wildlife crimes. Last year, they launched the ARREST program, which is establishing regional centers of expertise and expanding training programs for law enforcement.”*

— Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on November 8, 2012, announcing new U.S. government efforts to combat global wildlife crime, including **Wildlife Trafficking Response, Assessment, and Priority Setting (Wildlife TRAPS)**, a partnership with IUCN and TRAFFIC focused on stopping trans-regional trafficking in illegal wildlife products.

## Highlights (continued)

### LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

#### Initiative for Conservation in the Andean Amazon (ICAA)



The Amazon is a vast region of 2.6 million square miles, encompassing portions of eight countries: Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana. It contains half of the planet's remaining tropical

forests, nearly a fifth of the planet's free-flowing freshwater in 4,100 miles of rivers, and one in 10 known species. This globally important ecosystem is threatened by deforestation, largely due to clearing for pasture, agriculture, and illegal logging. USAID is supporting community-led efforts to shape future land-use trends and training communities, indigenous peoples, government staff, and the private sector to use forest resources sustainably—empowering local people to conserve forests, reduce illegal logging, and manage emissions from deforestation and forest burning. In 2009, training for natural resource management and conservation reached over 1,600 individuals.

USAID's Initiative for Conservation in the Andean Amazon (ICAA) works with national and municipal governments and local communities in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru to improve natural resource management, enable legal, policy and institutional development, and expand market access for sustainable products. ICAA has helped create better protection and management for nearly 20 million acres of rainforest and more environmentally friendly livelihoods for indigenous and local communities, training over 55,000 people in conservation and resource management. In southern Peru, the Purús-Manu Conservation Corridor (PMCC) encompasses an area of nearly 25 million acres, containing the headwaters of four major rivers systems, a core of protected areas—including the Alto Purús National Park, Purús Communal Reserve, Amarakaeri Communal Reserve, and the Megantoni National Sanctuary—

four territorial reserves for voluntarily isolated indigenous groups, forest concessions, and a conservation concession. PMCC is connected with the Chandless State Park, indigenous territories, and sustainable use reserves across the Brazilian border and forms one of the most important and remote tracts of tropical forest in the upper reaches of the southwestern Amazon. ICAA supports work in the PMCC to improve communities' quality of life, contribute to sustainable development and conservation goals, and promote a regional vision of long-term biodiversity conservation. The project reached a milestone in January 2013 when a new Master Plan was approved for Peru's largest national park, the Alto Purus National Park (6.2 million acres), marking the culmination of over two



Quechua Indians (in the Manu National Park's southern neighboring area) attending an election meeting at Bonbon. Andean highland (10,000 to 12,000 feet above sea level), Rio Mapacho Valley, Peru. © ANDRÉ BORTSCHI / WWF-CANON

## Highlights (continued)

years of work and demonstrating government commitment to sustainable development of this unique region and to the eight ethnic groups that directly depend on it for water, food, and medicine.

In Northern Bolivia, ICAA support for indigenous territorial management has reduced roadside deforestation four-fold in comparison to neighboring areas through fostering consensus around land use; forest management initiatives that include handicrafts, ecotourism, forestry, and agroforestry; development of internal natural resource use regulations; and implementation of a territorial management strategy based on community control and physical delimitation of vulnerable perimeters. The reduction in deforestation represents 3,500 acres of forest saved each year and 5 million tons of avoided greenhouse gas emissions between 2008 and 2015.

### Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI)



The Caribbean is one of the Earth's most biologically rich marine areas and one of the most densely populated. Most residents depend on marine and coastal resources for their livelihoods, with fishing and tourism the region's leading economic sectors, but the region's major fisheries are overexploited, and up to 75 percent of its coral reefs are damaged or threatened. The Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI) is a USAID-supported effort led by 10 Caribbean governments committed to expanding national protected areas systems to cover at least 20 percent of their near-shore marine/coastal environment by 2020 and to sustainably fund and manage them. Since 2008, the governments of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have endorsed the CCI. Their leadership is inspiring other Caribbean countries and territories to join in achieving the CCI's goal of a truly region-wide initiative, including a robust network of MPAs.

In four years, over 50 new parks and MPAs have been created or expanded. In 2011, The Bahamas expanded Andros West Side National Park from 182,032 acres to 1,288,167 acres, safeguarding ecologically and economically significant marine and coastal habitat and species, including bonefish, a highly prized "catch and release" fish that contributes nearly \$141 million annually to the Bahamian economy and supports livelihoods of local fishing guides. In 2009, the Dominican Republic increased its national protected area system by 3,264,322 acres—83 percent of it in marine areas—including Santuario Marinos Arrecifes del Este, a 1,942,742-acre park established to protect coral reefs, basking sharks, and sea turtles. USAID has also supported efforts in the Dominican Republic to generate sustainable financing for protected areas and is helping other CCI countries create sustainable sources of funding for park management—national resources that are matched by the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, a \$40 million regional conservation trust. International donors, including Germany, the Global Environment Facility, the Italian government, and conservation organizations, invested \$57 million in Phase I of the CCI. Phase 2 will be launched at the May 2013 Summit of Caribbean Political and Business Leaders, bringing new conservation and funding commitments to the Initiative.



Bonefish habitat was protected when The Bahamas' expanded Andros West Side National Park, helping safeguard an important economic species for local fishing guides.

© JONATHAN KERR / TNC

## Highlights (continued)

### GLOBAL

#### Sustainable Conservation Approaches in Priority Ecosystems (SCAPEs)



USAID's largest global conservation initiative supports conservation efforts in 19 countries, from the forest slopes of the Andes Mountains to the savannas and steppes of

Africa and Asia. **Sustainable Conservation Approaches in Priority Ecosystems (SCAPEs)** funds trans-boundary field activities and a robust learning component to strengthen local capacity for biodiversity conservation and address threats that include poaching and habitat loss, climate change and disease, unsustainable agriculture, and regulatory barriers to conservation. This ambitious partnership with non-governmental organizations complements and informs USAID's portfolio of national and regional biodiversity programs by developing and sharing state-of-the-art conservation practices and implementing landscape-specific and policy initiatives to achieve both conservation and development goals. On three different continents, conservation and humanitarian organizations are working in partnership, through SCAPEs, to deliver results for people and nature.

#### *Asia*

In the Sacred Himalayas landscape stretching across Nepal and India (Sikkim), SCAPEs is helping to build capacity of community groups to manage and protect natural resources, monitor poaching activities, and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The program is finalizing a landscape-level rapid vulnerability assessment of the Tamor sub-basin of the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) and conducted community-level climate change risk and vulnerability assessments at three target sites, to be incorporated into an updated KCA management plan. SCAPEs partners have also brought together community representatives and government officials from Nepal and India to identify cross-border trans-boundary conservation issues, such as joint biodiversity monitoring, and to explore the feasibility of a bi-national peace park.



The Singalila ridges mark the boundary between India and Nepal. The Kanchenjunga massif in the background Sikkim, India.  
© NEYRET & BENASTAR / WWF-CANON

#### *Latin America*

In the Eastern Cordillera Real eco-region of Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador, SCAPEs supported a climate change vulnerability assessment and analyses for the Chinchipe watershed in Peru, the results of which have been validated by local institutional stakeholders and will be used for development of regional climate adaptation plans. During workshops around the Alto Fragua-Indiwasi National Park, over 100 people were trained in techniques to help local communities identify climate risks and mitigate their impact through sustainable agricultural practices and landscape management tools to increase forest connectivity. Using the Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Tradeoffs (InVEST) methodology, SCAPEs partners modeled and valued ecosystem services of the Sangay-Llanganates Biological Corridor and are using these to update the management plan for that region.



## Highlights (continued)

### Africa

In the Ruvuma landscape of southern Tanzania and northern Mozambique, USAID is continuing to support the establishment of wildlife corridors and improve human-wildlife conflict mitigation measures with low-cost, innovative techniques. In Mozambique, block farming is now being used by 50 maize farmers in Matchedje and 50 rice farmers in Il Congresso and Nova Madeira, allowing fields to be more easily defended against wildlife. In addition, 75 farmers in four villages were trained in the use of fireworks to scare elephants and other species away from their fields. In Tanzania, the project has helped to promote deterrents such as chili-oil ropes, burning of briquettes made of elephant dung and chili pepper, and windblown chili ashes. Working with humanitarian organizations and conservation groups in Niassa and Cabo Delgado Provinces, SCAPEs has helped build and strengthen partnerships with the private sector to bridge the link between commercial enterprises and community development. The program also helped deliver a successful climate change vulnerability assessment workshop for Ruvuma Landscape, with four dozen stakeholders reviewing development and climatic scenarios, discussing social adaptive capacity of policies and institutions, analyzing possible vulnerabilities, and considering strategies and priorities for future climate adaptation.



Villagers control elephants and other animals that destroy their crops by making piri piri bombs—a mixture of oil, used car grease, fresh elephant dung, and crushed chilis. The mixture, which burn's elephants' skin, is slathered on ropes strung around fields of crops. Balls of the substance are also dried and burned, creating pungent smoke that frightens animals away. Quisanga District, Mozambique. © LYN TRELOAR / WWF

## Technology for Conservation



Technological advances including mobile computing and expanded internet access are revolutionizing strategic conservation planning

around the world. Through the development of new tools, USAID is demonstrating how new technology can be leveraged to improve conservation knowledge sharing, mapping and planning activities, and outreach to key stakeholder groups. Marxan, a conservation planning decision support tool, is being used in several key landscapes in East Africa to examine trade-offs in land use, including biodiversity conservation, tourism in parks and forest reserves, small- and large-scale agriculture, carbon conservation, and extraction of timber, oil, and minerals. This analysis is minimizing conflict between users, maximizing conservation benefits, and fostering more transparent decision-making by clearly articulating costs and benefits of future land use scenarios. Technology is also improving law enforcement. The Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool, or SMART, is a USAID-funded, user-friendly software tool used to plan, implement, monitor, and adaptively manage ranger-based law enforcement patrols. SMART enhances effectiveness of ranger patrols by helping managers use data collected from local rangers, including poaching encounters and other threats, to track and assess the impact of patrols on illegal activities and target law enforcement efforts where threats are greatest.



SMART Patrol ranger with Thai army soldier in Kui Buri National Park, Western Forest Complex, Thailand. © FRANKO PETRI / WWF-AUSTRIA

## Highlights (continued)

### Sustainable Landscapes and Adaptation



Also funded through the U.S. government's Development Assistance account, the **Sustainable Landscapes and Adaptation**

programs complement USAID's **Biodiversity Conservation** programs by helping to mitigate the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the world's largest and most biologically diverse tropical forests and by building resilience to climate change in the world's most vulnerable countries and communities.

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. Sustainable Landscapes support for reducing deforestation through sustainable management practices helps to protect these essential storehouses of biodiversity and carbon, as well as the essential goods and services that they provide people around the globe, including in the United States. The program also builds capacity and methods to support Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) activities. Adaptation programs seek to link climate resilience efforts between all development sectors, including agriculture, natural resources management, health, energy, and infrastructure, using decision support tools, such as famine early warning systems. In FY12, the Adaptation program received approximately \$141.5 million, and Sustainable Landscapes received \$115 million.

In Indonesia, USAID and private partners have created the innovative Sustainable Landscapes Partnership (SLP)



Tree planting in North Sumatra, Indonesia. © CI / TANTYO BANGUN

to bring together private and public sectors to identify, develop, and test market-driven, science-based solutions to avoid deforestation and provide livelihoods and economic opportunities for local people. The private sector is a primary driver of natural resource exploitation in Indonesia, making its engagement essential to address deforestation and forest degradation caused by large-scale land conversion to commodities such as oil palm and pulp and paper. An Associates Committee convenes local, national, and international businesses with common interests in sustainably investing in Indonesia. 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 forest resources as their main source of income, exacerbating deforestation. By demonstrating success in key landscapes, the SLP is creating a replicable model of how a diversity of investments and innovative approaches can reduce pressure on forests in Indonesia and elsewhere, and how good stewardship of "natural capital" is essential to economic growth and the health and prosperity of local communities.

In many coastal and marine regions, climate impacts are already negatively affecting key fisheries and habitats, threatening food



Mangroves at low tide. Nosy Be, North Madagascar. © NATHALIE RACHETER / WWF-CANON

security, economic growth, and the integrity of ecosystems. In the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) countries of Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, and Tanzania, many communities are particularly reliant on coastal natural resources. Historical observations have noted a rise in regional temperatures from 1° to 2°F over the last 50 years and a rise in sea level of between a fifth of an inch and half an inch per decade. In response, USAID is working in collaboration with local stakeholders and conservation groups on a variety of projects to help these countries protect and preserve their natural resources.

Mozambique is a country that has been identified as particularly vulnerable to climate change, but also one that can greatly benefit from REDD+ financing, given it contains 12 percent of the mangroves in Africa (second only to Nigeria). Mangroves support the livelihoods of millions of citizens in the WIO countries. They also play a vital role as a carbon sink, soaking up perhaps five times more carbon per unit area than any forest ecosystem. USAID has launched a pilot project in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), international conservation organizations, the University of Eduardo Mondlane, and the government of Mozambique to build capacity and develop replicable methods for determining carbon stocks in the Mozambique's Zambezi Delta. This work will support a baseline assessment of mangrove carbon for REDD+ in Mozambique while shedding light on issues associated with quantifying carbon pools in mangroves and related landscape data tools—learning that can be applied throughout the region.

In October 2012, USAID partnered with members of the WIO Mangrove network, USFS, and international conservation organizations to convene a workshop in Maputo, Mozambique, with scientists, civil society, conservation groups, natural resource managers, and policymakers to discuss WIO Mangrove and Carbon assessments, share regional and global experiences in carbon stock assessments, and consider a regional strategy to harmonize methods and make data comparable across sites. The workshop highlighted the need for WIO countries to further educate their citizens on the importance of mangrove conservation and its impact on their livelihoods. A workshop summary was released in the winter of 2012 detailing the various proposals discussed and potential solutions for combating climate change in the WIO countries, including the vital role that mangrove forests play in both mitigation and adaptation.

# Program: The Global Environment Facility (GEF)

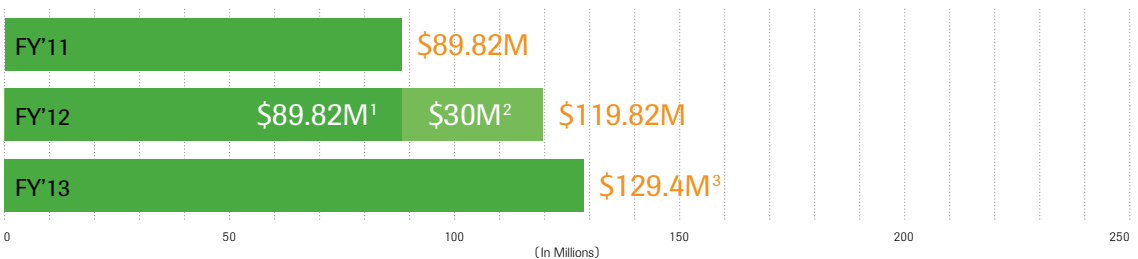
Agency: *U.S. contributions are provided through Department of the Treasury*

The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** is an independent international financial institution uniting 182 countries and combining the ingenuity of U.S. corporations and NGOs to provide grants for global environmental projects that also support sustainable economic growth. All GEF projects are closely monitored and evaluated to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. The United States has a strong influence on GEF strategies and programming. America’s investment in the GEF receives a very high rate of return: every U.S. dollar leverages \$52 more from donor nations and partners. The GEF’s efforts to protect natural capital directly enhance global and U.S. national security by promoting economic prosperity through improved management of natural resources and prevention of their unsustainable depletion. Resource scarcity can lead to population displacement, reduction in food supply, water shortages, and other instabilities, making communities vulnerable to conflict and radicalization. GEF investments support sustainable economic growth to reduce these insecurities in regions of strategic importance to the United States.

The GEF’s investments include more than 1,000 conservation projects in 155 countries. It is the world’s largest single financier of forest conservation, supporting more than 350 projects and helping to combat illegal logging, a practice that costs the American economy up to \$1 billion per year. GEF support has been critical to placing 12 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. It has also pioneered investments in groundbreaking “payment for ecosystem services” (PES) programs that value the goods and services nature provides. These include market mechanisms through which downstream water consumers pay upstream landowners to conserve forests within the watersheds, ensuring a stable supply of freshwater. Downstream customers include local operations of U.S. corporations: the largest Coca-Cola bottling company in the world is a key partner in a GEF program to expand municipal water funds in several Latin American countries.

<http://www.thegef.org/>

## Funding Program Levels



1) Appropriated to the Department of the Treasury. 2) Transferred from the Department of State. 3) This amount does not reflect the 5 percent across the board cut due to the sequestration.



## Highlights

### Sustaining Global Fisheries



Since its inception, the GEF has supported global, regional, and national efforts to conserve important fish stocks through habitat protection, improved fishery management, enhanced inter-governmental cooperation, and reduced by-catch (i.e. the incidental take of unwanted, non-target fish and other species). These efforts contribute to more sustainable global fisheries, which are critically important to U.S. companies and the food security of the United States (which imports approximately 86 percent of its seafood). Together with the private sector, inter-governmental organizations, and NGOs, the GEF is supporting an ambitious international program to address a classic “tragedy of the commons”—the depletion of the world’s high-seas fisheries—which are responsible for 10 percent of the global annual fish catch, particularly highly migratory species such as tuna. Through the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation, U.S. corporations, including Bumble Bee Foods LLC, are contributing to and benefiting from this program. The initiative is pursuing multiple objectives: strengthened regional-level tuna regulation; improved monitoring and surveillance systems; and reduced fisheries by-catch. By helping to ensure the sustainability of the \$10 billion tuna fishing industry, this program enhances the food security of the United States and the international community. This work will build on GEF efforts to enhance international governance by the creation of such institutions as the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention, which enables better regional fisheries management, and the Coral Triangle Initiative, aimed at protecting the world’s most important tuna breeding grounds.



Fish sale Honiara wharf, Solomon Islands. © S. CHAPE

### Enhancing Water Security in Africa



Many environmental and security experts believe that water will soon supplant oil as the resource of greatest concern for regional stability. In a world where over 1 billion people already lack access to safe drinking water, rising populations, increasing pollution, deforestation, desertification, changing precipitation patterns, and unsustainable water withdrawals are placing even greater stress on freshwater supplies. The GEF is investing in developing countries’ capacity to

## Highlights (continued)

manage their freshwater resources, including rivers, lakes, and aquifers. By diminishing potential conflict over water and trans-boundary resources and supporting sustained production of food and other commodities, these investments provide both economic and security benefits to the United States. In North Africa and the Sahel, the GEF has funded pioneering efforts to support sustainable management of trans-boundary aquifers in a region of increasing national security concern for the United States. These include support to ensure the sustainable use



Water supply sanitation. © YACOUT YASMINE DJELLAL / WORLD BANK

of groundwater from two of the world's largest trans-boundary aquifers, which provide essential freshwater to some of the world's driest regions. These types of projects build multilateral cooperative frameworks that enhance security in the region by having countries work together to solve shared problems. The GEF is also funding a program to prevent the total disappearance of Lake Chad, which straddles the borders of some of the poorest countries in Africa and has shrunk by 95 percent since the 1960s, threatening the livelihoods of over 750,000 people. The GEF-supported program is helping the five Lake Chad Basin countries institute water conservation and protect the lake's watersheds.

## Promoting Global Food Security



GEF investments in conservation and sustainable use of natural resources help protect ecosystem services that are vital to global food and commodity production, including water provision, soil protection, nutrient cycling, erosion control,

pollination, pest resistance, and resilience to natural hazards, including droughts and floods. The GEF has been a strategic partner to countries facing acute food security problems, including in West Africa and the Sahel, where decreasing rainfall since the 1950s has led to rising levels of food insecurity. In 2010, the GEF initiated a transformative, \$100 million project to assist 12 African countries in these regions improve land and water management in areas important for livestock and agricultural production. The project is leveraging \$1.8 billion in co-financing and aims to



Agricultural wastes, such as wheat straw and cotton stalks, are converted into renewable energy.  
© ERIC KANALSTEIN / UN PHOTO



## Highlights (continued)

slow desertification, improve agricultural productivity, build capacity to adapt to changing rainfall, and support sustainable forest management. Since 2008, the GEF has also invested \$17 million, with \$122 million in co-financing, to support four projects in Malawi that promote sustainable natural resource management and directly contribute to enhancing agricultural productivity and improving livelihoods. These include a World Bank-implemented *Agriculture Sector Development Program Support Project* to increase water use efficiency and help small-holder farmers adapt their practices in the face of changing precipitation and climate patterns.

### Continental-Scale Forest Protection



The GEF has funded several ambitious, continental-scale programs to protect the world's most important forest ecosystems, which provide critical services and products upon which human welfare and economic growth depend. In June 2012, the U.S. Treasury Department recognized the GEF's achievements in this area by bestowing one of four inaugural Development Impact Honors awards to the GEF-funded Amazon Region Protected Area Program (ARPA). ARPA is the most ambitious initiative to protect forests globally. In the past five years alone, it has supported creation of 58.3 million acres of protected areas in the Amazon region of South America—the world's largest remaining wilderness area. In its second phase, initiated in 2012, ARPA will establish an additional 33.4 million acres of parks and reserves and consolidate 79 million acres of existing protected areas. Collectively, these protected areas cover an area the size of Texas. Recent analyses demonstrate that ARPA was responsible for



## Highlights (continued)

37 percent of the total decrease in deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon between 2004 and 2009. The GEF is also funding efforts in other Amazon basin countries to ensure forests throughout the region are protected.

In Central Africa, the GEF is providing over \$50 million to support an ambitious 10-year plan by the ten Congo Basin countries to protect and sustainably manage the world's second largest rainforest system, upon which 25 million people depend for their livelihoods. This program will support the creation of more than 19 new protected areas (covering 22 million acres, an area the size of Maine) and improve forest management policies and practices.

In Southeast Asia, against a background of rapid economic growth, the GEF is supporting an ambitious six-country partnership to protect the forests, wildlife, and natural resources of the Greater Mekong Sub-region, including the creation of large-scale, cross-border wildlife and biodiversity corridors through enhanced international cooperation and joint capacity development. This effort is critical to ensure the survival of the region's wildlife, including tigers and Asian elephants, and the forest ecosystem services upon which hundreds of millions of people depend.



Indochinese tiger (*Panthera tigris corbetti*) is only found in the Greater Mekong region of Southeast Asia, including Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. © CHOONG JOON LAI / WWF-GREATER MEKONG

## Sustainable Corporate Supply Chains



Since its inception, the GEF has supported the efforts of corporations, local producers, and other non-governmental partners to lessen the negative impacts of agriculture production on ecosystems. In its early years, the GEF partnered with important coffee companies to help farmers in developing countries introduce sustainable natural resource management practices, improve quality, and increase yield. As a result, participating farmers improved the sustainability of their operations while supplying more and higher quality products to global markets at higher price premiums, benefiting both U.S. consumers and companies. Through its investment in the Biodiversity and Agricultural Commodities Program (BACP), the GEF is using market forces to produce soy, cocoa, and palm oil more sustainably on over 98 million acres of land (an area larger than Montana) spread over nine countries. Since 2010, the GEF has supported a partnership including Mars Incorporated, Kraft Foods, and the Rainforest Alliance to



A Woman showing green and fair coffee from Lampung, Indonesia. © WWF-INDONESIA / DES SYAFRIZAL



## Highlights (continued)

bring 10 percent of global cocoa production (350,000 tons, grown on 1.8 million acres) under certified sustainable production. This effort is helping local farmers earn higher prices, protecting globally important ecosystem services, and enabling U.S. corporations to sell higher quality products to U.S. and global consumers.

### Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund in the Greater Mekong



With the help of the GEF-supported Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), conservationists are helping to improve the productivity of freshwater fisheries that provide local communities with their primary source of protein and income in the Sekong Basin of Lao P.D.R. In an area of the Greater Mekong region that is under increasing pressures from production of food, forest products, and electricity, conservation efforts have successfully increased the length of river under community protection and have improved connectivity between existing protected areas, thereby enhancing habitat for migratory fish species that move between management zones. Fisheries co-management was arranged between local communities and the government, giving participating communities the authority to demarcate and enforce management regulations within protected areas. Project results have been remarkable, with 75 percent of the communities reporting fish population increases in conservation zones. Freshwater protected areas established under the initial project will continue to receive support from the Lao government.



Mekong River from Phou Si, Laos. © JMBAUD74

# Program: Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA)

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

**T**he **Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA)** was enacted in 1998, providing eligible countries the opportunity to reduce a portion of their debt owed to the U.S. government in exchange for investments made in tropical forest activities. Commonly referred to as “debt-for-nature swaps,” the TFCA establishes a unique vehicle for achieving conservation success while also relieving the debt of countries that are of strategic interest to the United States.

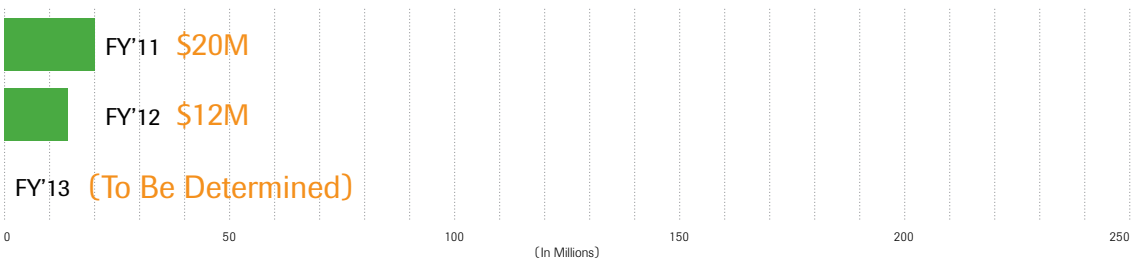
Debt-for-nature swaps demonstrate the U.S. government’s commitment to helping fledgling democracies while protecting U.S. economic and national security interests. These swaps provide beneficiary countries with the financial means to protect the natural resources they depend on for economic growth and also encourage local civil society participation to sustainably manage ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations. As a result of its leadership and success in building long-term financial mechanisms for tropical forest conservation, the U.S. government has inspired

other countries, such as Germany, France and Japan, to create similar debt-for-nature swap programs.

As of December 2012, approximately \$194 million in congressionally-appropriated funds will have been used to conclude 18 TFCA debt treatment agreements with 14 countries. As a result of interest paid relating to these funds and an additional \$22 million leveraged from The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, the World Wildlife Fund, and one Indonesian foundation (KEHATI), TFCA programs are estimated to generate more than \$295 million for tropical forest conservation. Each beneficiary country establishes a tropical forest fund dedicated to preserving, maintaining, and restoring its tropical forests. To ensure accountability, these funds are administered and overseen by U.S. government officials, environmental NGOs active in the beneficiary countries, and scientific or academic organizations.

[www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/environment/forestry/intro\\_tfca.html](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/forestry/intro_tfca.html)

## Funding Program Levels



## Highlights

### Brazil



In October 2010, the United States and Brazil concluded a TFCA debt agreement to generate \$20.8 million over five years to protect three endangered biomes in Brazil—the Cerrado, Caatinga, and Atlantic Forest—which collectively cover nearly 10 million acres. The agreement is monitored by a committee, which is coordinated by the Brazilian Environment Ministry and includes members from the Brazilian and U.S. governments as well as non-government representatives. This Brazil-U.S. bilateral accord is executed by a non-governmental agency, Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade-FUNBIO. The strategic plan defined by the committee establishes expenditures in the creation and management of protected areas, landscape management, capacity building, endangered species conservation, sustainable use projects with communities, fundraising, and social networks. More than 80 percent of the funds are directed to end activities. The first call for proposals was made in October 2011, with 101 projects submitted for evaluation by technical and financial experts. This resulted in 46 project grants, with a commitment of \$10.5 million. In 2012, four additional calls for proposals were made, and two were approved for 10 projects with a commitment of \$2.2 million. An additional call received 108 proposals for evaluation by the end of 2012. The successive calls for proposals committed all the debt agreement resources and leveraged 20 percent more in additional funds.



Aerial view of Cerrado savannah area near the Juruena expedition camping ground 1, Juruena National Park, Brazil. © ZIG KOCH / WWF

### Indonesia



In June 2009, the first of two Indonesian TFCA agreements was signed between the U.S. and Indonesian governments, the Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation (KEHATI), and international conservation partners. The deal will produce \$30 million over eight years to protect and restore tropical forests in Sumatra. In its first three years of operation, the program has awarded 17 grants worth \$6.3 million for activities including protecting and managing peat swamp forest; establishing protected corridors for elephants; strengthening community-based forest management; developing ecologically sound spatial plans for buffer zones; and facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues on best management practices. In the 2012 grant cycle, themes included ecosystem restoration, community development, resort-based management of national parks, database development, increased park patrols to reduce encroachment, mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts, and habitat and populations monitoring of tigers and other endangered species.



Sumatran elephant calf (*Elephas maximus sumatrensis*) Lisa and its mother from Tesso Nilo National Park, Riau, Indonesia. © WWF-INDONESIA

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

Agency: *U.S. Department of State*

Through the **Department of State’s International Conservation Programs**, the U.S. government provides core financial support to international organizations and programs that address global environmental challenges through cooperation. The International Conservation Programs support the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

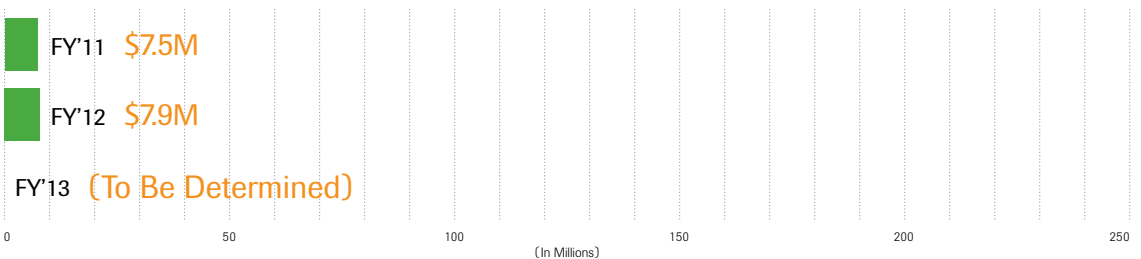
U.S. contributions to these agreements and organizations are especially important to curbing illegal trade in rare and threatened wildlife. This multi-billion dollar illegal trade threatens worldwide efforts to protect endangered species and reduce the loss of biodiversity. It also undermines sustainable livelihoods and weakens the rule of law. To combat

this growing transnational organized crime, the United States has raised public awareness and the political profile of the issue through the establishment of wildlife enforcement networks. The United States helps gather experts and officials from range and consumer states to develop counter-trafficking and demand reduction strategies. The United States has also supported the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) and the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN). Due in part to U.S. support, ASEAN countries have improved their interdiction of trafficked wildlife products and have made increased numbers of arrests.

IO&P programs also preserve globally significant wetlands, promote the conservation and sustainable management of the world’s forests, and provide forums for international debate and discussion on key conservation topics.

<http://www.state.gov>

## Funding Program Levels





## Highlights

### Combating Wildlife Trafficking



Illicit wildlife trafficking is pushing many protected and endangered species towards extinction.

This illegal trade also threatens security and the rule of law, undermines broader conservation efforts, robs local communities of their economic base, and contributes to the emergence and spread of disease. Through its support to CITES and IUCN, the United States is helping governments, civil society, businesses, and scientists to collaborate and educate people about these harmful impacts and supporting development of regional wildlife enforcement networks and cooperative agreements between governments to improve law enforcement coordination and communication. The United States also works closely with organizations such as INTERPOL, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the World Bank to strengthen cooperative global efforts to fight wildlife trafficking.



Customs officials in Suvarnabhumi, Thailand discover a shipment of African elephant tusks from Mozambique. Suvarnabhumi is a major hub for both wildlife and drug trafficking. © WWF-CANON / JAMES MORGAN

### Protecting Wetlands



Wetlands are cradles of biological diversity, providing water, habitat, and food. Countless species depend on them for survival, and human communities rely on them for livelihoods and ecosystem services, including water purification

and storage, storm protection, flood mitigation, shoreline stabilization, erosion control, groundwater recharge and discharge, retention of nutrients and sediments, and stabilization of local climates. Through support to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Wetlands for the Future fund, the United States is helping countries conserve these vital yet fragile ecosystems, supporting on-the-ground implementation of the Convention's "wise use" of wetlands by strengthening countries' capacity for sustainable management of wetlands, enhancing scientific knowledge and best practices for wetlands managers, policymakers, and stakeholders, and helping to integrate wetland conservation and management into development processes.

### Protecting Forests



Through funding to the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the United States supports targeted, strategic forest conservation and capacity building initiatives. ITTO programs are engaging indigenous people to promote conservation of forests and protected areas in Indonesia, facilitating community-based forest management in Brazil, and highlighting the importance of forest resources in improving nutrition for women and their families in Ghana. Other efforts include programs to

strengthen compliance with CITES tropical timber listings and workshops held with the U.S. Forest Service to support implementation of the Lacey Act amendments of 2008, which combat illegal timber harvesting and a corresponding illicit trade that costs the U.S. forest products industry roughly \$1 billion in lost revenue annually. Funding to the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) also supports efforts to combat illegal logging and helps to mobilize financing from all sources for sustainable forest management activities, ranging from conservation to restoration.

# Program: Office of International Affairs

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

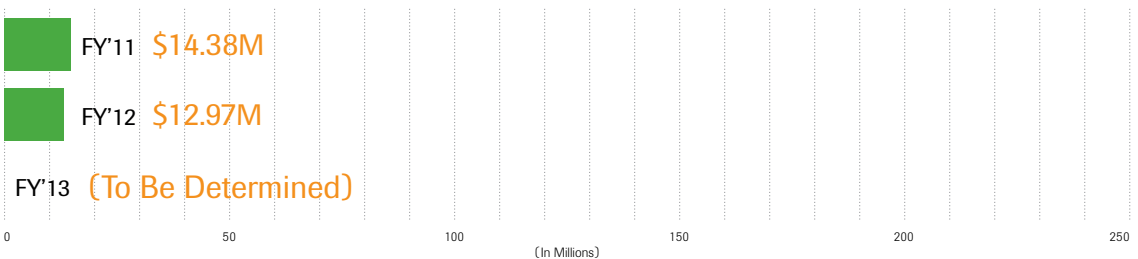
The USFWS **Office of International Affairs (IA)** supports efforts to conserve our planet’s rich wildlife diversity by combating illegal wildlife trade and building capacity for landscape-level wildlife conservation. Through the implementation of domestic laws and international treaties, the Office’s **International Wildlife Trade (IWT)** program works to prevent illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products and ensure that legal trade promotes the long-term survival of species. INTERPOL estimates illegal wildlife trade to be worth up to \$20 billion annually. Its links to organized crime syndicates and its role as a potential source of financing for armed gangs make it an issue affecting U.S. national security.

Most species are mobile, ranging across national boundaries and even continents. The Office’s **Wildlife Without Borders (WWB)** programs is designed with this in mind, along with the understanding that, since human activities are the primary threat facing wildlife, human communities must be part of the solutions. Since 1989, WWB has

supported international wildlife conservation on multiple levels, building expertise and capacity while strengthening local institutions and developing locally focused initiatives by partnering with NGOs, governments, the private sector, and community leaders. From 2007 to 2011, the WWB Regional and Global Programs supported more than 800 conservation projects, awarded over \$16 million in grants, and leveraged \$26 million in matching funds to provide education, training and outreach. WWB’s Global Programs target crosscutting global threats to wildlife; address declines of critically endangered species, such as amphibians; and implement international wildlife statutes and treaties, including the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

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

## Funding Program Levels



## Highlights

### Expanding Protection for Snow Leopards in Pakistan



Pakistan's northernmost provinces are home to an estimated 200 to 420 snow leopards—the third largest population in the world. The region is vital to conservation efforts, but despite legal protections, the cats are often killed by rural herders, who often lose dozens of livestock to disease and cannot tolerate additional losses to snow leopard predation. The

**WWB Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Fund** has partnered with the International Snow Leopard Trust in Pakistan's Hindu Kush Mountains to create conservation-based incentives with local communities. The project found herders were willing to tolerate occasional losses to predators if fewer livestock were lost to disease. A Snow Leopard Friendly Livestock Vaccination Program was created to help herders inoculate livestock; in return, herders agreed to protect snow leopards and their wild prey. The program has helped halt retaliation killings: in 2011, no snow leopards were killed in villages participating in the program.



Snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*). © NATUREPL.COM / REINHARD / ARCO / WWF-CANON

### Training to Combat Wildlife Trafficking in Mexico



In February 2012, WWB-Mexico and TRAFFIC partnered with the Mexican government on a workshop for wildlife enforcement and management officials held in Mexico City. Over 30 leading experts from Mexican government agencies, academia, NGOs, and the USFWS Office of Law Enforcement trained participants on national and international legal frameworks, wildlife policies and management schemes, and practical skills including specimen identification and handling. For many, these sessions provided first ever hands-on experience of the challenges faced by wildlife inspectors or customs officials in the field. Parallel sessions on wildlife management and law enforcement provided more in-depth, technical training. The project exceeded expectations, with participation from all 31 state delegations of the Mexican Environment Ministry, representatives of eight state governments, and law enforcement staff from diverse regions of the country, and contributed significantly to improved collaboration, coordination, and capacity of those charged with the conservation and management of Mexico's wildlife resources.

### Providing U.S. Leadership at CITES



The **International Wildlife Trade** program implements provisions of CITES, working with counterparts in 175 countries to protect almost 35,000 listed species by ensuring that international trade is legal and does not threaten the survival of wild species. CITES protects over 700 animals and almost 500 plants native to the United States and its territories, from paddlefish and peregrine falcons to Atlantic bottlenose dolphins and orchids. In March 2013, Bangkok hosted the 16th Conference of the Parties (CoP) to CITES, where the U.S. delegation, led by USFWS, advanced positions to strengthen protections for numerous species, including elephants, rhinos, and sharks.



Scalloped hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrna lewini*) schooling, Cocos Island, Costa Rica, Pacific Ocean. © NATUREPL.COM / JEFF ROTMAN / WWF-CANON

# 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 and effective resources for global conservation of iconic species, namely African and Asian elephants, rhinos, tigers, great apes, and marine turtles. Since 1989, these programs have awarded over 2,200 grants, targeting key species and regions to ensure the protection of some of the world’s most endangered and charismatic animals.

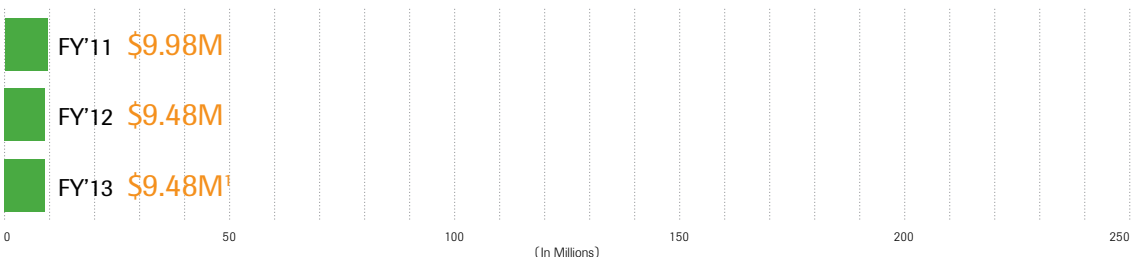
As the species-focused component of the **Wildlife Without Borders (WWB)** program, the MSCF protects and restores at-risk wildlife populations, provides local people the capacity to conserve wildlife, and fosters on-the-ground partnerships in developing countries. The five congressionally authorized Multinational Species Conservation Funds have consistently commanded broad, bipartisan support. They are also addressing critical needs. More than 500 tigers are killed each year, and experts estimate that as few as 3,200 tigers now remain in the

wild. In 2012 alone, 668 rhinos were poached in South Africa—a 5,000 percent increase in just five years. This slaughter of Africa’s rhinos is being driven by a black-market demand for rhino horns in Asia, primarily Vietnam. Populations of Africa’s great apes are also dwindling due to a growing bushmeat trade and serious threats from diseases, including Ebola, which has wiped out up to 90 percent of affected populations.

MSCF programs protect these animals in their natural habitat through anti-poaching initiatives, law enforcement, habitat conservation, mitigation of human-animal conflicts, wildlife-based tourism, wildlife health programs, and efforts to reduce consumer demand for illegal wildlife products. From 2007 to 2011, the MSCF programs provided more than \$68 million in conservation assistance and leveraged an additional \$101 million in partner contributions for targeted species conservation in developing countries.

<http://www.fws.gov/international/wildlife-without-borders/species-programs/>

## Funding Program Levels



<sup>1)</sup> This amount does not reflect the 5 percent across the board cut due to the sequestration.



## Highlights

### African Elephants: Law Enforcement Training for Illegal Ivory Seizures in East Africa

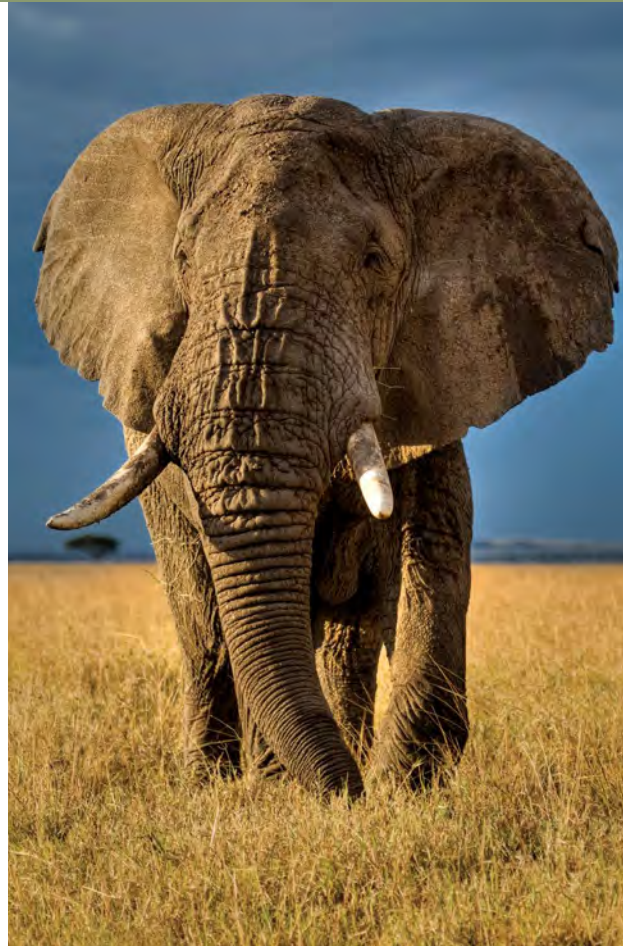


Elephant ivory poaching is on the increase throughout Africa, as are large-scale illegal ivory shipments destined for markets in Southeast Asia and China. The African Elephant Conservation Fund is working with conservation partners to support a cooperative training and joint poaching investigation by the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Royal Thai Police officials, and the Lusaka Agreement Task Force. This law enforcement training effort has helped officials to detect and seize several large shipments of ivory at Kenya's Jomo Kenyatta Airport prior to them leaving the country. The project has also enabled coordination between law enforcement authorities in Kenya, Tanzania, and Thailand, improving their ability to trace ivory shipments seized in Bangkok back to the countries of origin and to identify international smuggling routes.

### African Elephants: Protecting Nigeria's Largest Remaining Elephant Population



Nigeria's Yankari Game Reserve contains one of the largest remaining elephant herds in West Africa, estimated at 350 individuals and perhaps the only viable elephant population remaining in Nigeria, as well as important populations of lion, buffalo, hippo, and hartebeest. Since 2006, the state government has operated Yankari as a game reserve, but while tourist facilities at the reserve have undergone a dramatic transformation, areas outside the main tourist camp have been neglected and underfunded, allowing a significant increase in ivory poaching. In 2009, the African Elephant Conservation Fund helped launch a new project in collaboration with government and conservation partners to improve protection and reduce rates of elephant poaching. USFWS support has enabled substantial progress in building the capacity of ecoguards and other local authorities to manage the population and, despite years of extreme poaching pressure, the number of elephants killed in 2012 was kept to a minimum. A strong team of ecoguards is now in place, using state-of-the-art technology, such as GPS-enabled handheld devices, to detect illegal activities and report back using real-time data and illustrative maps. Over 30 ecoguards have received refresher training, prosecution rates have improved, and court-imposed penalties have increased. In last year, over 118 arrests were made resulting in fines and/or imprisonment, with at least five poachers sentenced to over a year.



African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) bull on savanna, Masai Mara, Kenya.  
© NATUREPL.COM / ANDY ROUSE / WWF-CANON

## Highlights (continued)

### Rhinos: Improving Law Enforcement and Park Security in South Africa



In South Africa, the Rhino Tiger Conservation Fund has provided funding for rangers in the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park in KwaZulu Natal to purchase and operate a light aircraft in order to improve protection of the park, which is home to some of the most endangered mammals on the planet, including both species of African rhinos. The aircraft has enabled the anti-poaching teams at Hluhluwe to respond more quickly to threats of poaching and inspect gunshots detected in and around the park. The plane is also believed to have had a significant deterrent effect, now that would-be poachers recognize that they can be spotted from the air.



Southern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) grazing. Ol Pejeta Conservancy, Kenya. Threatened species. © NATUREPL.COM / MARK CARWARDINE / WWF-CANON

### Tigers: Building Wildlife Law Enforcement Capacity in Asia



In 2010 and 2011, a gang of poachers was found to be operating in the forests of western Thailand's premier wildlife area, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Over the course of 18 months, the gang poached at least nine wild tigers, several elephants, and numerous ungulates while also terrifying local villages with threats of violence. In response, the Thai government reinforced the nearly 160 rangers scouring the area with an additional 40 rangers, all of whom received training, rations, and equipment from conservation partners with the support of the Rhino Tiger Conservation Fund. In June 2011, park rangers apprehended two ringleaders of the gang and confiscated a cell phone containing evidence of tiger poaching. Since this successful enforcement action, no tigers or elephants have been killed in the World Heritage Site. In February 2012, the two ringleaders were convicted and given sentences of four and five years in prison, the harshest sentences ever given in Thailand for wildlife poaching. A separate USFWS grant to conservation partners in Indonesia supported similar training of key law enforcement authorities on how to obtain critical information about traders dealing in illegal wildlife, contributing to the arrest of the largest wildlife trader in that country and the confiscation of 18 stuffed tigers, tens of tiger skins, two stuffed Javan leopards, two stuffed clouded leopards, a stuffed sun bear, and a variety of other smaller wildlife.



Cell phone image of poached tiger in western Thailand led to prosecution of poachers. © WCS THAILAND

## Highlights (continued)

### Great Apes: Ensuring the Future of Virunga National Park



Virunga National Park, established in 1925, is Africa's oldest national park and contains some of the richest biodiversity of any protected area on the continent, including one of the largest populations of endangered mountain gorilla. This majestic place is under increasing threat due to regional instability and the illegal wildlife trade. The Great Ape Conservation Fund has been supporting conservation efforts in Virunga since 2008, beginning with an initial grant of \$40,000. Since then, USFWS funding has helped to improve law enforcement and training for park rangers, develop alternative fuel sources to reduce the destructive practice of charcoal creation from the park's forests, increase aerial surveillance capacity, and grow the park's tourist revenue through a chimpanzee habituation and tourism project that generated nearly \$1 million in 2011 alone.

### Great Apes: Creating a Roadmap for Wildlife Conservation in Northern Congo



The republic of Congo's Ndoki landscape is home to some of the largest populations of western lowland gorillas, a thriving population of chimpanzees, and extraordinary biodiversity. It also contains some of the last stands of pristine forest characteristic of the Congo Basin. The Great Ape Conservation Fund has supported a number of projects in the region, beginning with an initial grant in 2001 to the Goulougo Triangle Ape Project, enabling conservation partners to work with the government of Congo on addressing poaching, habitat loss, forest conversion, and the potential spread of Ebola among the region's apes. Years of on-the-ground data collection and capacity building have culminated in a Strategic Plan for the Conservation of Northern Congo, developed through a participatory process with support from USFWS and involvement of NGO partners and key stakeholders, including the government of Congo. The Plan outlines key threats and conservation targets in one of the last remaining strongholds for African apes and provides a clear roadmap for its implementation. It is a significant achievement that will catalyze years of effort, provide a standard by which to measure conservation impacts, and ensure the government's continued commitment and accountability. It will also serve as a foundation for development of a proposed cooperative agreement for the conservation of the greater Sangha Trinational and Odzala National Park and help to leverage additional funding across donors for investment in the protection of this vast and important landscape.



Blackback Eastern lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla graueri*), Kahuzi Biega, Congo. © NATUREPL.COM / KARL AMMANN / WWF-CANON



## Highlights (continued)

### Marine Turtles: Community Monitoring of Beaches in the Solomon Islands



In the Solomon Islands of the South Pacific, the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund is helping to support the Tetepare Descendants' Association (TDA), which works to protect populations of marine turtles that nest on the beaches of Tetepare, Rendova, and Hele Bar Islands. Through December of 2012, program activities have included turtle tagging, DNA sampling, nesting beach cleanups, hatchery construction, workshops on community-based monitoring, and active monitoring of nests during the turtles' nesting seasons. Tetepare Island is home to the largest Marine Protected Area (MPA) in the Solomon Islands, including reefs, lagoons, coastal waters, and over a mile of beaches used for nesting by critically endangered leatherback and green turtles. TDA rangers and turtle monitors guard the beaches throughout the nesting and hatching seasons, working in shifts to perform all-night foot patrols, tag nesting females, protect and relocate nests, and collect data on the egg numbers, size, and hatching success of the nests. Nests below the high-tide line are relocated to higher ground, and predator-exclusion cages are used to ward off predators, including monitor lizards. The ongoing program has helped to protect turtles, increase hatchling numbers, and provide data to improve management of Tetepare's turtle habitat. As a result, hatchling success has grown each year since the program began.

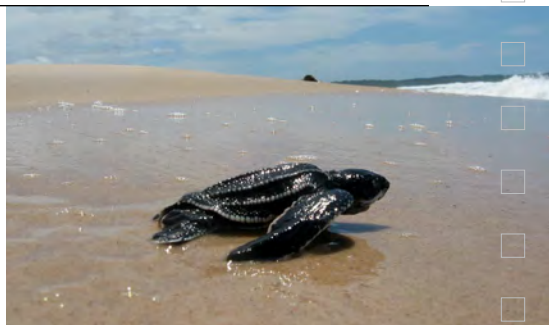


Rangers with a green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). Rangers of the Tetepare Descendants Association routinely catch and tag green and hawksbill turtles, which feed in the waters of Tetepare Island, Western Province, Solomon Islands. © JÜRGEN FREUND / WWF-CANON

### Marine Turtles: Reducing Leatherback Bycatch in Gabon



Gabon is home to the largest leatherback turtle nesting population in the world, with an estimated 36,000–126,000 nests laid each year. These critically endangered turtles are threatened by fisheries bycatch, habitat degradation and pollution, low nest productivity, and poaching. To combat these threats, conservationists, researchers, and local and national governments joined together to create the Gabon Sea Turtle Partnership (GSTP). With financial assistance from the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund the GSTP has implemented a variety of habitat surveillance, threat reduction, and environmental education programs. Accomplishments include the establishment of a Marine Management Information System Program to coordinate data analysis; the training of 35 observers to help collect data on captures and bycatch; and the installation of 40 Turtle Excluder Devices on shrimp boats to reduce bycatch.



Leatherback hatchling, Gabon. © D. AGAMBOUET / WCS



## Highlights (continued)

### Asian Elephants: Reducing Human-Elephant Conflict and Improving Local Livelihoods in India



Asian Elephants are often killed in retaliation for raiding village crops and destroying local homes. With support

from the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund, local villagers in Manas, India are reviving a traditional deterrent by planting lemon trees around their homes to keep out foraging elephants, which have a natural aversion to lemon trees. This result has been fewer human-elephant conflicts, which can be fatal for both parties, and farmers are able to earn five times more from selling lemons than they do from cultivating rice crops. The project has helped farmers gain access to local wholesale markets and linked them to women self-help groups that use the lemons for making pickles and lemon soft drinks. The project has also supported construction of a lemon nursery, allowing farmers to purchase lemon saplings for a small price in order to increase their yield and productivity.



Sumatran forest elephant (*Elephas maximus sumatrensis*) bathing, Gunung Leseur NP, Sumatra, Indonesia. © NATUREPL.COM / NICK GARBUTT / WWF-CANON

### Save Vanishing Species Stamp: Private Action Supports Conservation



In September 2010, Congress enacted the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Act (Public Law No: 111-241) to create the Save Vanishing Species Semipostal stamp and allow individuals to donate directly to the Multinational Species Conservation Funds (MSCF) as a supplement the annual appropriations provided by Congress. The American public has enthusiastically supported this program, purchasing 18.1 million stamps as of January 1, 2013 and generating nearly \$1.9 million in additional resources available to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the conservation of endangered

species around the world, including elephants, tigers, and rhinos. The voluntary program allows customers to pay a 10-cent premium for each Save Vanishing Species stamp they buy. This premium is used to enhance international wildlife conservation efforts while imposing no burden on the federal budget. Given the collector value of the stamp, the U.S. Postal Service also benefits, since every stamp sold that is unused or collected is 100 percent profit for the postal system. The success of the stamp is a testament to the support it has received from a broad community of conservation groups and American businesses, which have promoted it using new technologies and media, public events, and creative marketing. It also demonstrates the broad support that programs to support international wildlife conservation have among the American public.

# 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, including on food security, water security, environmental conflict, trade, livelihoods, and international development.

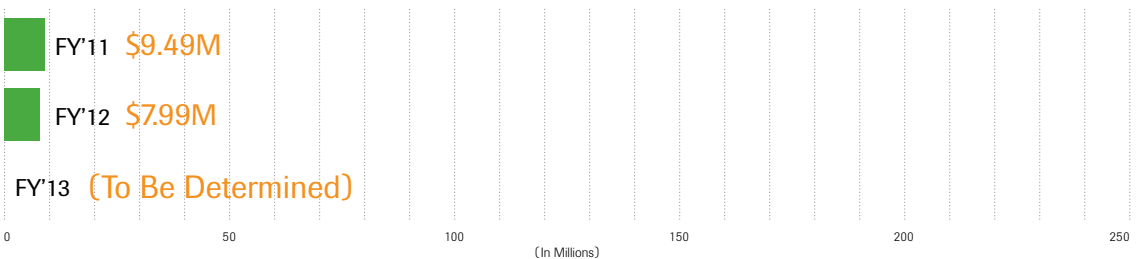
Through its **International Programs (USFS/IP)**, the **U.S. Forest Service** works around the globe to improve forest and protected area management and build cooperation with international counterparts. The Forest Service is uniquely positioned to promote international forest conservation by drawing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

### Lebanon



The Republic of Lebanon is renowned for its rich forests and iconic cedars. Today, forests cover approximately 13 percent of the total land area of Lebanon, making it one of the most forested countries in the Middle East. These forests contain much of the country's rich biodiversity and play an important role in Lebanon's rural economy by providing economic opportunities through the harvest of non-timber forest products. These forests are also critically important for watershed management. However, anthropogenic activities, such as harvesting trees for fuel wood, clearing land for urban and agricultural development, livestock grazing, and wild-land fires have decreased forest cover by more than 20 percent since 1960. Since 2010, the USFS/IP, through partnership funding from USAID, has supported Lebanese organizations in the forestry sector through the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative (LRI). The LRI is a national reforestation program that provides technical assistance on sustainable forestry practices and wildfire control in economically depressed and environmentally degraded regions of Lebanon. In order to restore Lebanon's natural forests, the USFS/IP and its Lebanese partners are enhancing native tree nurseries, planting several hundred thousand native trees throughout the country, and promoting advanced reforestation practices to continue reforestation into the future. One such practice is the development of advanced web-based maps that will assist out-planting experts as they select reforestation sites and identify appropriate species for these sites. When finished, these maps will be shared with other conservation actors in Lebanon to advance biodiversity conservation beyond the LRI program.

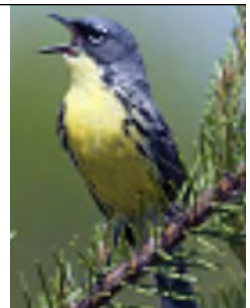


FSIP is helping with wildfire control in economically depressed and environmentally degraded regions of Lebanon. © U.S. FOREST SERVICE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

### Kirtland's Warbler



More than 90 percent of the endangered Kirtland's Warbler population breeds in Michigan, and more than a third of that population breeds on USFS land, mostly in the Huron-Manistee National Forest. The only known wintering population is on Eleuthera Island in The Bahamas. USFS and other land managers are investing significant resources to improve conditions for the warbler in its breeding grounds—including intensive forest management and control of Brown-headed Cowbirds to improve nesting success. Because the species' survival is also determined by the more than six months it spends outside the United States each year, USFS/IP is supporting work on Eleuthera Island to determine limiting factors for the species while it winters there. USFS/IP is also working with conservation organizations and the Bahamas National Trust to implement habitat management demonstrations for the benefit of the bird; devise cost-effective practical management strategies; and train Bahamians in warbler habitat management while serving as focal points for public education and generating local interest in creating warbler habitat. Already, many local Bahamians have begun training to acquire the skills needed to support the species during the months it is outside the United States. With on-going work in both the breeding and wintering grounds, full recovery of the species is within reach.



FSIP is investing intensive forest management and control of Brown-headed Cowbirds to improve nesting success of this species. © U.S. FOREST SERVICE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

# Program: Office of International Affairs (OIA)

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

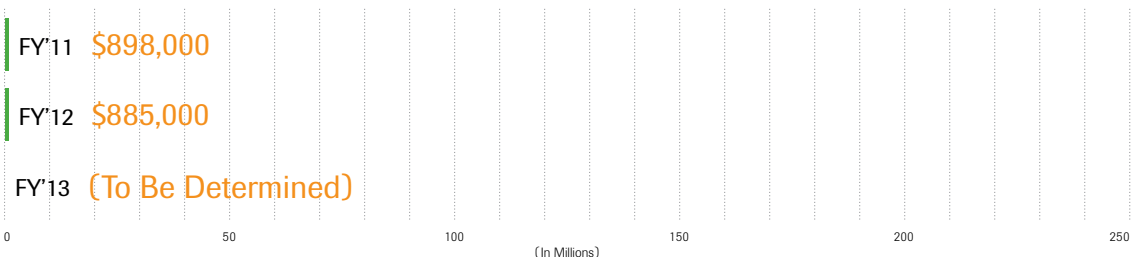
The **U.S. National Park Service (NPS)** has a long and proud legacy of international leadership and engagement. The concept of the national park has been called “America’s best idea.” Today, nearly every country on earth has created its own park system, many of them with direct assistance from the NPS. 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 trans-boundary 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 affected 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. The NPS is currently working on a migratory species strategy and developing initiatives to collaborate with U.S. and international partners on protecting shared migratory wildlife, ranging from butterflies to birds to whales.

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

## Funding Program Levels





## Highlights

### Trans-boundary Protected Areas



The NPS has been actively engaging partners in neighboring countries to ensure protection of shared wildlife and other resources on both sides of the United States' international borders. Along the Rio Grande river, the **Big Bend-Rio Bravo Initiative** brings together NPS and other U.S. partners with Mexico's National Commission for Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) to develop conservation projects that benefit the parks and protected areas on both sides of the river, including removal of invasive plant species, reintroduction of endangered fish species, and restoration of grasslands critical to numerous migratory bird species. This work will also support community development projects in Mexico through small-scale ecotourism opportunities.



Rio Grande river flowing through Big Bend National Park on the right side and Mexico's Maderas del Carner Wildlife Reserve on the left. © NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### The U.S. World Heritage Fellowship



The World Heritage Convention, developed with significant U.S. leadership, seeks to identify and help protect the world's most significant natural and cultural sites through international cooperation. From the Pyramids of Egypt and India's Taj Mahal to Australia's Great Barrier Reef and the United States' Grand Canyon, some places are of such universal value that the entire international community has a stake in their preservation. Unfortunately, many of the nearly 1,000 sites currently on the World Heritage List face major threats and limited resources to ensure their preservation for future generations. As part of an American commitment to help strengthen the conservation of World Heritage sites around the globe, the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) initiated the U.S. World Heritage Fellows program, offering training opportunities to qualified candidates wanting learn from the U.S. experience in managing and protecting World Heritage Sites, including residencies at U.S. National Park World Heritage Sites for site managers and staff of World Heritage Sites in developing nations. To date, NPS has hosted a dozen fellows from such countries as Brazil, Kenya, Zambia, Peru, the Seychelles, the Philippines, and South Africa.



World Heritage Fellows with Bernard Ngoru of Mount Kenya National Park (Kenya) at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park © NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## The Lacey Act: Tackling the Illegal Timber Trade



Illegal timber stocks. Sebanggau River, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia.  
© TANTYO BANGUN / WWF-CANON

Illegal logging plays a central role in driving tropical deforestation and degradation in the developing world. It costs U.S. business approximately \$1 billion annually in lost export opportunities and depressed wood prices. 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 closely following the U.S. lead: Australia passed a similar law in November 2012, and the EU Timber Regulation went into effect in March 2013.

After four 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. However, a recent INTERPOL report notes that the organized criminal networks responsible for much of \$30–\$100 billion global illegal trade in timber and forest products are becoming increasingly sophisticated. This makes effective implementation of laws like the Lacey Act all the more important. Consistent enforcement over time is essential to solidify these new behaviors in sourcing and supply chain transparency so that they become common practice and diminish the consumer base for illegal products.

In order for the law to continue delivering, it is essential that resources be dedicated to support Lacey Act implementation. Several agencies have important roles to play in making the law effective, and all are currently under-resourced for these purposes. These include the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), which requires resources 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, including bringing periodic public cases critical to deterring bad operators. Finally, 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.



Sumatran orang utan (*Pongo abelii*) female known as 'Edita', Gunung Leuser NP, Sumatra, Indonesia. © NATUREPL.COM / ANUP SHAH / WWF-CANON



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

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