



THE INTERNATIONAL
CONSERVATION
BUDGET

2 0 1 4

BUILDING ON AMERICA'S HISTORIC COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION



The beached ships of Aral Sea at Moynaq, once a vibrant fishing port. They are sobering symbols of an ecological disaster of tragic proportion.
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“Many countries important to the United States are vulnerable to natural resource shocks that degrade the environment, frustrate attempts to democratize, raise the risk of regime-threatening instability, and aggravate regional tensions.”

— Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, March 12, 2013

“The reward of foresight for this nation is great and easily foretold. But there must be the look ahead, there must be a realization of the fact that to waste, to destroy, our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed.”

– President Theodore Roosevelt in his Seventh Annual Message to Congress, 1907

AMERICA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A NATION WITH ITS EYES ON THE HORIZON. As Americans, we embrace the power of progress to shape a better tomorrow for ourselves and for our children. As President Teddy Roosevelt reminded Congress in the early years of the 20th century, looking ahead allows us not only to envision great possibilities, but also to plan for them to ensure they come to pass. More than one hundred years later, foresight is an even more valuable commodity. As we look to the future, we need to recognize that one of the greatest threats to America’s progress is the possibility that we might deplete or irreversibly degrade the global resources that form the foundation of our security, our economic growth and sustainable development.

Our future well-being depends upon making the world increasingly stable, secure and safe. To realize such a world, we must confront some daunting numbers: by 2050 the world’s population is projected to grow from 7 to 9 billion, doubling

the demand for food, water and energy. At the same time, natural resource scarcity and biodiversity loss are rising at unprecedented rates. This means America’s interests in global security, economic growth and international development are all closely linked to the integrity of our planet’s natural resource base and the natural capital that sustains our societies, our economies and the planet’s ecological systems. It also means international conservation must be a U.S. foreign policy priority in the 21st century.

The ties between conservation and security have become increasingly clear over the past decade. Destruction of natural resources has been linked to large-scale criminal activity and terrorist threats that undermine the rule of law and rob developing countries of economic opportunities. Wildlife trafficking provides billions of dollars in illegal profits for transnational crime networks that stretch from the black markets of Asia deep into the forests and savannahs of Africa. For example, the poaching of African



African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) on plains under stormy sky, Marakele National Park, Waterberg Biosphere, South Africa. In the last decade, elephant poaching in Africa has soared and intensified, largely due to an increasing demand for ivory in Asia. Illegal wildlife trade is a crime with wide security implications and with well-documented links to other forms of illegal trafficking, the financing of rebel groups, corruption and money laundering. Nevertheless, it is often seen primarily as an environmental issue, putting it low on governments' agendas. © NATUREPL.COM / ANDY ROUSE / WWF-CANON

elephants for illegal ivory is helping to finance insurgencies and groups with terrorist ties, such as Sudan's Janjaweed militia, the Lord's Resistance Army, M23, and al Shabaab. The slaughter of rhinos, elephants and other protected species also undercuts wildlife-based tourism, which provides a crucial source of jobs and income in many African countries. Growing scarcity of water and food resources and increasing severity of weather-driven disasters, such as Typhoon Haiyan are also undermining the stability of developing countries, draining resources needed for development and fomenting violence and social unrest. In Yemen, for example, the depletion of ground-water aquifers has resulted in declining agricultural productivity, which has in turn heightened regional conflict and strengthened terrorists.

America's economic growth is also closely tied to the health of our businesses and trading partners. At present, a huge illegal trade in natural resource commodities, such as timber and fish, undermines the integrity of international markets, depresses global prices, and makes it more difficult for law-abiding U.S. companies to compete. The illegal timber trade costs U.S. businesses an estimated \$1 billion each year. Illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing is estimated to total between \$10 billion and \$24 billion annually and compromises the ability of American businesses and consumers to source abundant, affordable seafood.

Given that many developing economies are disproportionately dependent on natural resources, any long-term U.S. development strategy cannot

succeed if it discounts conservation. America’s allies around the globe will only grow more stable and prosperous if they can develop sustainably while ensuring profitable lives for their people. For example, more than 1.6 billion people worldwide rely primarily on forests for their livelihoods and income, yet destruction of the world’s tropical forests continues unabated, due largely to expanding production of agricultural crops and livestock. A recent study from the University of Maryland, Google, the U.S. Geological Survey and NASA found that world-wide tropical forest loss increased every year from 2000–2012. If we are to heed the words of America’s 26th president, trends such as this one must be reversed.

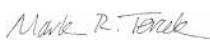
The examples throughout this book underscore how international conservation is vital for America, helping to protect not only our shared

natural heritage but also our economic and national security interests. Many U.S. agencies have taken a leadership role by partnering with governments, local communities, NGOs and businesses to help developing countries combat illegal trade, protect natural capital, and promote strong and sustainable economic development. Continuing and expanding these efforts will be essential to meeting the challenges of the future.

Our organizations remain committed partners with the U.S. government in its international conservation efforts, helping to build on our country’s legacy of global leadership. We also remain optimistic that, with a commitment to tackling our coming challenges with the needed energy and resources, we can ensure our children’s future prosperity and leave them a world more secure than the one we inherited.



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Sunset at Kilindoni harbour, Mafia Island, Tanzania. © BRENT STIRTON / GETTY IMAGES / WWF-UK

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COVER: Dense school of brown striped snapper (*Xenocys jessiae*), Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. © NATUREPL.COM / DAVID FLEETHAM / WWF-CANON. **BACK COVER:** African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) crossing the Chobe River at sunset (Namibia border). Chobe National Park, Botswana. © MARTIN HARVEY / WWF-CANON

Program: USAID Biodiversity Conservation Programs

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

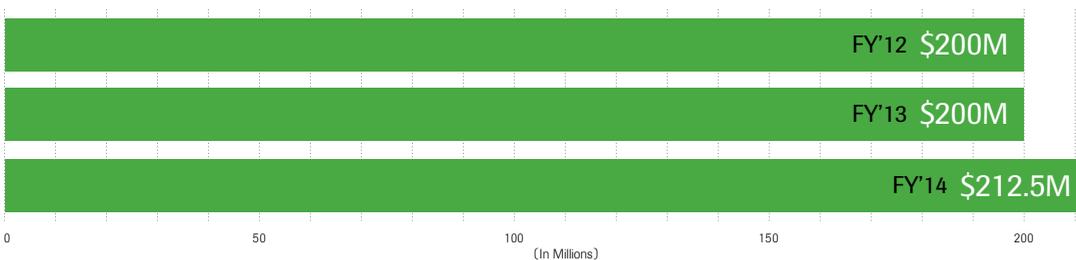
Most U.S. foreign assistance for on-the-ground conservation is delivered through USAID and its robust portfolio of conservation and forestry programs. These help protect some of the largest, most at-risk natural landscapes and the livelihoods of millions of people who directly depend on natural resources for their survival and economic growth. By maintaining and restoring the natural resources that supply fertile soil, clean water, food and medicine, these USAID programs play an important role in long-term U.S. foreign policy objectives. USAID assistance for conservation is focused on addressing priority threats to biodiversity. In the process, it promotes rural peace and stability, health, democracy-building, environmental security and improved livelihoods. By reducing conflict over resource scarcity and improving the stability of trading partners, these programs also enhance U.S. economic and national security interests.

Conservation organizations anticipate that through USAID's forthcoming Biodiversity Policy (anticipated in 2014), USAID and partners will support and mobilize resources to chart a development pathway that nourishes, rather than depletes,

natural capital. The Policy should reaffirm USAID's recognition that human well-being and progress are dependent on the health of biodiverse systems, and that durable development gains are not possible unless these systems are valued and safeguarded. To this end, USAID will work hand-in-hand with host countries and the global community to conserve biodiversity for sustainable, resilient development. The Policy should represent a recommitment of USAID to conserve biodiversity through strategic actions to reduce threats and drivers and a new focus on integrating biodiversity conservation with other development sectors.

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—efforts that 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.

Funding Program Levels



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



Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) on dune with desert landscape in background. Namibia. © MARTIN HARVEY / WWF-CANON

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—benefiting local people while strengthening global markets. USAID conservation programs also promote the competitiveness of U.S. businesses by ensuring sustainable supply chains, strengthening trade relationships with emerging economies and preventing illegal products from flooding and undermining markets.

U.S. investments in conservation must be strategic and catalytic, accomplishing several objectives while leveraging limited resources. A recent USAID program in the Philippines increased fish abundance in selected fisheries by 13 percent, improved management of 375,000 hectares of municipal waters, and established 30 public-private partnerships in support of sustainable fishing. In Kenya, USAID assistance helped 21,500 individuals in wildlife-rich areas benefit from conservation-related enterprises, leveraged over \$3 million in private sector and community investment, and resulted in seven new community-run

conservancies and four eco-lodges. In 17 countries around the world, **USAID’s Sustainable Conservation Approaches in Priority Ecosystems (SCAPEs)** program supports large-scale approaches to conservation in transboundary landscapes, strengthening the capacity of local communities and government agencies to conserve and benefit from biodiversity through improved management of natural resources.

From grasslands and forests to mountains and coasts, USAID conservation activities address priority threats to biodiversity in the developing world, 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. Partnerships forged by USAID, foreign governments, the private sector, local peoples 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/

Highlights

GLOBAL

Sustainable Conservation Approaches in Priority Ecosystems (SCAPES)

USAID's largest global conservation initiative is **Sustainable Conservation Approaches in Priority Ecosystems (SCAPES)**, which supports conservation efforts in 17 countries, from the forest slopes of the Andes Mountains to the savannas and steppes of Africa and Asia. Transboundary field activities and a robust learning component help strengthen local capacity for biodiversity conservation while addressing threats such as poaching and habitat loss, climate change and disease, unsustainable agriculture, and regulatory barriers to conservation. This partnership with NGOs complements and informs USAID's portfolio of national and regional biodiversity programs by developing and sharing state-of-the-art conservation practices and implementing both landscape-specific and policy initiatives to achieve 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:



Women collecting maize, Mbwebwe village, Zaraninge Forest, Tanzania. © EDWARD PARKER / WWF-CANON

Africa

In the Ruvuma Landscape of southern Tanzania and northern Mozambique, USAID support helped to deliver a successful climate change vulnerability assessment workshop with nearly 50 stakeholders from all across the landscape. Participants reviewed development and climatic scenarios for the Ruvuma Landscape, discussed the social adaptive capacity of policies and institutions, analyzed possible vulnerabilities, and considered strategies and priorities for future climate adaptation. The program also continues 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, SCAPES has supported work in Niassa and Cabo Delgado Provinces to build and strengthen partnerships with the private sector, helping to bridge the link between commercial enterprises and community development.

Highlights (continued)

Asia

In the Himalayan 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 prepare to 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 has conducted community-level climate change risk and vulnerability assessment at three target sites. Results of the vulnerability assessment will be

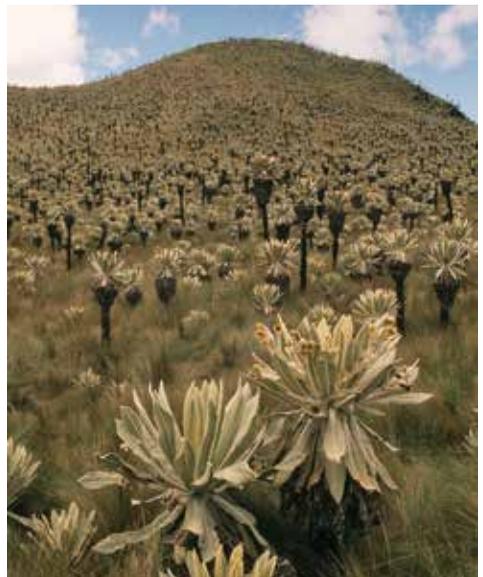
incorporated in the update of the KCA management plan. SCAPes partners have brought together community representatives and government officials from Nepal and India (Sikkim) to identify cross-border transboundary conservation issues, such as joint biodiversity monitoring, and to explore the feasibility of a bi-national peace park.



Mount Pandim with pine covered hill in the foreground, Kanchenjunga National Park Sikkim, India. © NEYRET & BENASTAR / WWF-CANON

Latin America

In the Eastern Cordillera Real eco-region of Colombia, Peru and Ecuador, SCAPes helped partners complete a climate change vulnerability assessment, as well as analyses for the Chinchipe watershed in Peru. The results of these assessments have been validated by local institutional stakeholders and will be used for the development of regional climate adaptation plans. Over 100 people were trained during workshops around the Alto Fragua-Indiwasi National Park in techniques to help local communities identify climate risks and mitigate their impact through the use of sustainable agricultural practices, including landscape management tools to increase forest connectivity. The Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Tradeoffs (InVEST) methodology was used to model and value ecosystem services of the Sangay-Llanganates Biological Corridor. The results are being used to update the management plan for the corridor.



El Angel Biological Reserve showing typical plant species. Andes Mountains, Ecuador. © KEVIN SCHAFER / WWF-CANON

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 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 is also building capacity and methods in support of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) activities. At the same time, **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 FY2014, the Adaptation program received \$186.9 million, and Sustainable Landscapes received \$123.5 million.

In Indonesia, USAID and private partners have created the innovative Sustainable Landscapes Partnership (SLP) to bring together private and public sectors to identify, develop and test market-driven, science-based solutions aimed at avoiding deforestation and providing economic opportunities, benefits and livelihoods for local people. As a primary driver behind natural resource exploitation in Indonesia, private sector engagement in the partnership is essential to addressing unsustainable deforestation and forest degradation caused by large-scale land conversion to commodities like oil palm and pulp and paper. An Associates Committee will convene local, national and international private sector businesses with a common interest in sustainable investments 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 the forest resources as their main source of income, exacerbating deforestation. By demonstrating success in key district-level landscapes, the SLP aims to create a replicable model showing that a diversity of investments and innovative approaches can reduce pressure on remaining forests in Indonesia and other countries, and how good stewardship of "natural capital" is essential to economic growth and the health and prosperity of local communities. In addition to the efforts in Indonesia, in 2013 USAID joined with business and NGO partners to launch a



Burning the rainforest to clear land for oil palm tree plantations near the Bukit Tigapuluh Nature Reserve, Sumatra, Indonesia. © MARK EDWARDS / WWF-CANON



Fisherman gathers seine nets from the water on the Ilha de Mafamede, Mozambique. Mafamede is one of the protected islands that comprise Primeiras e Segundas.
 © JAMES MORGAN / WWF-US

Sustainable Landscapes Partnership to promote forest conservation and improved community livelihoods in the Peruvian Amazon.

In many African countries, people’s livelihoods are closely tied to the natural environment and its resources, making them particularly vulnerable to changing rainfall patterns, changes in seasonality and an increase in the frequency of severe storms. These climate impacts are already negatively affecting key fisheries and habitats, threatening food 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 heavily reliant on coastal natural resources. Historical observations have noted a rise in regional temperatures from 0.6° to 1.1°C over the last 50 years and a rise in sea level between 0.4 and 1.2 mm per year. In response, USAID is working in collaboration with local stakeholders and conservation groups on a variety of projects to help protect and preserve the coastal resources of WIO countries.

Mozambique has been identified as a country that is particularly vulnerable to climate change, but also one that can greatly benefit from REDD+ financing, given that the country 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 five times more carbon per unit area than any forest ecosystem, but more work needs to be done to accurately estimate their carbon storage. 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+ and other initiatives in Mozambique while shedding light on issues associated with quantifying carbon pools in mangroves and related landscape data tools. This learning can then be applied throughout the region.

Highlights (continued)

Wildlife Trafficking Response, Assessment and Priority Setting (Wildlife TRAPS)

The illegal trade in wildlife products, such as elephant ivory, rhino horn and tiger parts, has increased dramatically in recent years, spurring a poaching crisis that is threatening the survival of many iconic species while also impacting national security and human well-being. The growing demand for wildlife products in Asia is a root cause: the region's fast growing economies have created higher levels of disposable income and new consumers engaging in traditional and newly fashionable uses for wildlife products, including ivory carvings, rhino horn powder and tiger bone wine. The wildlife trafficking that supplies this trade is a multi-billion dollar illegal enterprise carried out by highly coordinated and well-funded criminal syndicates that stretch from Africa to Asia and take advantage of impoverished communities, weak legal frameworks and enforcement, and corruption at multiple levels. In response, USAID launched the Wildlife TRAPS project in 2013 in partnership with IUCN and TRAFFIC to assess trade routes and actors for three highly-criminalized wildlife products—ivory, rhino horn, and abalone—and to work with African and Asian governments to deter wildlife trafficking throughout the trade chain and dismantle the criminal syndicates responsible.



Confiscated rhinoceros horns, tiger skin and bones. Chitwan National Park, Nepal. © JIM JABARA / WWF-CANON

Technology for Conservation

Technological advances such as 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. These include Marxan, a conservation planning decision support tool that 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 (REDD+), and extraction of timber, oil and minerals. The Marxan analysis helps to minimize conflict between users, maximize conservation benefits and foster a more transparent decision-making process, clearly articulating costs and benefits of future land use scenarios. Technology also holds great promise for improved law enforcement. The Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool, or SMART, is a new USAID-funded, user-friendly software tool used to plan, implement, monitor and adaptively manage ranger-based law enforcement patrols. SMART enhances the effectiveness of ranger patrols by helping managers use data collected from day-to-day work of local rangers, including poaching encounters and other threats, so they can track and assess the impact of patrols on illegal activities and target law enforcement efforts where threats are greatest.



SMART Patrol Rangers Training organized by Mae Wong National Park, Klong Lan National Park and WWF-Thailand, Thailand. © BARAMEE TEMBOONKIAT / WWF-GREATER MEKONG



Mba Ndong Marius, a Parcs Gabon Eco Guard, displaying seized poached elephant tusks and poacher's weapons, Oyem, Gabon. © JAMES MORGAN / WWF-CANON

“The poaching of protected species and the illegal trade in wildlife and their derivative parts and products ... represent an international crisis that continues to escalate. Poaching operations have expanded beyond small-scale, opportunistic actions to coordinated slaughter commissioned by armed and organized criminal syndicates. The survival of protected wildlife species such as elephants, rhinos, great apes, tigers, sharks, tuna, and turtles has beneficial economic, social, and environmental impacts that are important to all nations. Wildlife trafficking reduces those benefits while generating billions of dollars in illicit revenues each year, contributing to the illegal economy, fueling instability, and undermining security.”

— President Barack Obama, Executive Order 13648, July 1, 2013

Highlights (continued)

AFRICA

Central African Regional Program for the Environment

The forests of Africa's Congo River basin contain globally important biodiversity, massive amounts of stored carbon, and vital natural resources supporting the livelihoods of the region's 80 million people. The region is also one of the least developed and most conflict-torn on the planet. In many areas, the lack of strong governance and natural resource management has led to unsustainable use and exploitation of natural resources, including high levels of poaching, exacerbating instability. USAID's Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) supports work to reduce deforestation rates, conserve biodiversity, and support local livelihoods through sustainable economic development. Active in the region since 1995, CARPE began its third phase of work in 2013, with field conservation efforts in eight landscapes in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Republic of Congo, and the Virunga mountains bordering Rwanda and DRC, and regional engagement on policy and monitoring related to forests, carbon stocks and wildlife. CARPE is the primary vehicle for U.S. government investment in the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), an international initiative with more than 40 governmental and non-governmental partners. National and landscape level support for forest conservation, carbon finance, community-based natural resource management, and law enforcement to address wildlife poaching and trafficking complement regional efforts to monitor biodiversity and strengthen legal, regulatory, and policy frameworks. By establishing use-rights through multi-stakeholder land use plans, the program helps to mitigate conflict over local resources. In a region where nearly half of the forests are under concession to timber companies, protected areas have grown by more than 12.5 million additional acres. More than 13 million acres of Congo Basin forests—an area nearly the size of West Virginia—are now being independently certified as under low-impact forest management.

Sunrise behind Mount Mikeno, Virunga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire), Africa. © NATUREPL.COM / CHRISTOPHE COURTEAU / WWF-CANON



Highlights (continued)

Anti-poaching

USAID CARPE has been a strong supporter of wise management across all zones in CARPE landscapes (protected areas, community based natural resource management areas, and extractive zones). This is a two pronged approach using both incentives (e.g., assistance with sustainable livelihoods to decrease community deforestation and hunting) and disincentives such as improved law enforcement to curb illegal poaching of timber and wildlife. For example, in DRC's Salonga National Park (SNP), the world's

second largest tropical forest park, sustainable management of the Park's wildlife resources is critical for the future of not only the Park but also local communities that depend on its resources. CARPE partners analyzing 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 controlling heavily armed elephant poachers who had infiltrated the park. During the year-long 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 the once heavily occupied Yenge River. Data show a sharp drop in poaching and a sharp increase in the presence of elephants following *Operation Bonobo*, demonstrating the importance of ranger-based bio-monitoring and the effectiveness of well-trained, regular patrols. At the regional level, elephant surveys supported by USAID and others documented a sharp increase in poaching in many sites, resulting in a renewed emphasis on addressing this major conservation and security concern.



A bi-national group of eco-guards from Cameroon and Gabon patrol the Dja river and the Messok Dja National Park, looking for evidence of wildlife poaching, and observing forest wildlife.
© MIKE GOLDWATER / WWF-CANON

Sustainable Fisheries

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 swamp forests and lake systems support 181 known species of fish, as well as local communities that depend on fishing livelihoods. Unsustainable fishing techniques, including use of mosquito nets, destruction of reproductive sites and rampant overfishing, have substantially reduced the region's fisheries resources. CARPE is mobilizing communities to adopt sustainable fishing practices, promoting awareness building and local actions. Fishing communities now acknowledge the decline in fish populations, the link to destructive harvesting techniques and the need to control unsustainable practices that further degrade lake resources. As a result of the program, they are enthusiastically voting their support for community-based natural resource management activities, including the creation of fish reproduction sites and sustainable fishing regulations and enforcement regimes.

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 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, those benefits increased exponentially—from roughly \$600,000 in 2000 to over \$6 million in 2010. CBNRM has also promoted local decision-making, democratic engagement and a culture of stability built on sustainability. The work begun under the LIFE program is now advanced further with support from the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and USAID is helping replicate the Namibia model in other regions where wildlife and ecotourism can provide the foundation for rural development.

Founded and launched in 2004, the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) equips local communities in Kenya to improve their own lands and livelihoods and demonstrates how conservation can provide tangible benefits for people and wildlife. Northern Kenya is one of the few places on Earth where predators, prey and people largely coexist as they have for centuries. USAID and its partners have worked with NRT to develop resilient community conservancies that transform lives, secure peace and conserve the region's natural resources, which are threatened by regional

insecurity, poor grazing management, ivory poaching, human-wildlife conflict, limited access to water, poverty, insufficient communal resource tenure and climate change. NRT is governed by a Council of Elders, and this transition of traditional authority back into the hands of community members has led to NRT's tremendous success: 27 community conservancies representing more than 300,000 people sustainably manage 6.3 million acres of communal land to support livestock and wildlife while generating hundreds of thousands of dollars each year through tourism revenue. With NRT's support, local communities have created over 540 jobs. In the last year, they generated nearly \$470,000 in tourism revenue and more than \$1.46 million since 2006 from cattle sales as part of an integrated livestock-to-markets (LTM) program. The LTM program paid 2,000 pastoralists and benefited roughly 14,000 people.

The NRT model is spreading, driven by the diverse livelihood pursuits of individual conservancies and their members, who are mostly marginalized pastoralists. NRT provides support for communities to cooperatively manage their lands, livestock and wildlife, resolve conflicts, and develop ecotourism and other business enterprises. These in turn fund education, conservation, and community improvement projects. One such project is promoting planned grazing across



Caracal (*Caracal caracal*), Namibia. © MARTIN HARVEY / WWF-CANON

Highlights (continued)



A traditional herder from Northern Rangelands Trust community conservancies in northern Kenya. © RON GEATZ / TNC

multiple communities in Kenya to improve rangeland productivity, reduce soil degradation, and maximize carbon sequestration. This project, supported by USAID through the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG), is working with NRT to change existing nomadic grazing practices that will ultimately restore the semi-arid grasslands and put valuable carbon back in the soil. Research suggests that prolonged, heavy, continuous grazing in the NRT conservancies over the past 30 years has greatly depleted soil organic carbon, but that reduction in grazing intensity leads to recovery of soil carbon. Such recovery, if implemented across multiple conservancies, could produce an economically viable carbon offset project that meets the standards of the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), the leading accreditor of land use carbon projects. Pending final approval, this will be the first soil/grasslands project in the world with VCS certification, making it possible to trade carbon credits accrued by pastoral management by local people. Early conservative estimates suggest there will be enough revenue (roughly \$1 million per year) to pay for sustaining the grazing management program in NRT's 27 conservancies and potentially generate a surplus that could be returned directly to the pastoral communities that ultimately determine the fate of this landscape.

NRT's efforts have improved security for both people and wildlife in the region, inspired a movement of community conservation across the northern rangelands, and proven that conservation can be a positive force for poverty alleviation and conflict resolution. With 23 applications for new conservancies currently pending, NRT's cumulative conservancy footprint has the potential to stretch across more than 10 million acres.

Highlights (continued)

ASIA

Coral Triangle Support Partnership

Experience around the world has shown that few conservation tasks are as difficult as managing marine resources shared by many countries. Nevertheless, 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, encompassing six nations and ocean waters that stretch 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 practices, unsustainable harvesting and Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing (IUU) are putting enormous pressure on those resources.

Over the past five years, the Coral Triangle Initiative has supported the improved management of nearly 50,000 square miles of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), fishing grounds and coastal lands and helped regional governments progress towards a shared framework supporting sustainable fisheries, improved MPA management and enhanced law enforcement. A plan is being forged for joint implementation of a regional six-country Coral Triangle Marine Protected Areas System (CTMPAS), which would be the first of its kind. Numerous regional training workshops have been held, and a Coral Triangle information system is now available through the Coral Triangle Atlas (www.ctatlas.reefbase.org)—a dynamic online spatial database housed in the World Fish Center.

In the Turtle Islands, a community-based alternative livelihoods project is increasing local incomes and helping to protect threatened green sea turtles in one of the largest sea turtle nesting grounds in the Coral Triangle. Other on-the-ground successes include implementation of an ambitious sustainable development plan based on ecotourism in Berau, Indonesia; formation of a new council that will 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.



Shrimp fishermen with push nets at sunset. Bicol, Philippines. © JÜRGEN FREUND / WWF-CANON

Highlights (continued)

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

Illegal wildlife trafficking is a multibillion-dollar industry requiring well-organized, transboundary 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 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.

On April 28, 2012, a monitoring report from an ARREST partner led to a crackdown by the State Forestry Police Bureau (FPB) of China on websites and antique markets. The FPB busted 13 criminal gangs, arrested or fined 1,031 illegal traders, and seized over 130,000 wild animals and 2,000 animal products. Authorities shut down 7,155 street shops and 628 websites selling banned animals and removed 1,607 related online messages. It represented the largest police action to date tackling the massive online trade in illegal wildlife in China. Revisiting the same websites after the crackdown showed that the number of wildlife products for sale decreased from 58,275 in March to 24,879 in July 2012, and continuous monitoring to date has shown that the effect of the enforcement action has kept the illegal trade below the March 2012 levels.

Understanding public attitudes and behaviors is a key component of the program, which supported a study on Chinese consumer behavior and attitudes toward wildlife consumption, 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 has been launched that is focused on reducing wildlife consumption and trafficking in Guangxi Province. The iThink public awareness campaign was launched by ARREST partners in Thailand in early 2013 and was followed by campaigns in China and Vietnam. The iThink approach features messages from respected government officials, celebrities and other local opinion leaders on billboards and online about the importance of endangered species protection, reasons not buy endangered species or their products, and the benefits of being a socially responsible and conscientious consumer. This innovative campaign is designed to reduce the value and prestige of buying an endangered animal or its body parts and to eventually create a groundswell of public opinion against endangered wildlife purchases.



In light of the recent escalation in poaching of elephant and tiger, the Thai government has assigned a special ops military unit to help park rangers tackle the poaching issue. Thailand.
© JAMES MORGAN / WWF-CANON

Highlights (continued)

Nepal: Protecting Biodiversity and Livelihoods

The Hariyo Ban Program is a five-year partnership between USAID, international NGOs and the 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 (CBAPUs), 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. To date, the Hariyo Ban Program has supported capacity building of more than 1,120 CBAPU members through various types of training, awareness, skills and livelihood support programs. There is huge enthusiasm and support for the CBAPU movement, as demonstrated by the turnout of thousands of people at the annual CBAPU celebration in March 2013. As part of International Mountain Day on December 11, 2013, Siddhathani CFUG, a Hariyo Ban Program supported community forest user group, received first prize from the Western Region Forest Directorate for their outstanding contributions to the conservation and development of mountain area ecosystems and the livelihoods of local people.



Indian rhinoceros radio tracking on Indian elephant. Chitwan National Park, Nepal. © MICHEL GUNTHER / WWF-CANON

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.

Highlights (continued)

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Initiative for Conservation in the Andean Amazon (ICAA)

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

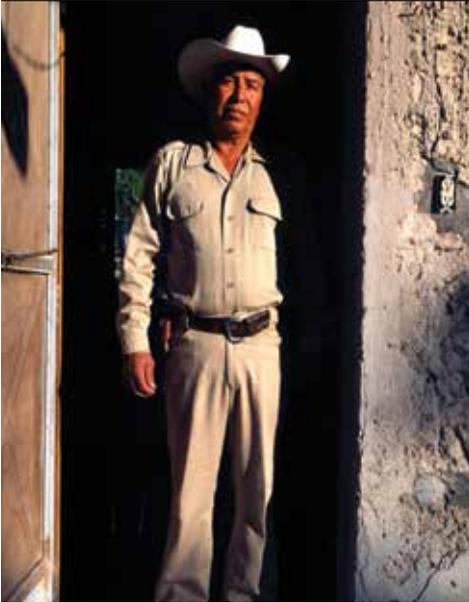
USAID's Initiative for Conservation in the Andean Amazon (ICAA) is working with national and municipal governments and local communities to implement conservation programs in Colombia, Peru and, through 2014, Ecuador. Strategies include: improving natural resource management; enabling legal, policy and institutional development; and expanding market access for sustainable products. The result has been better protection and management of nearly 20 million acres of rainforest, more environmentally friendly livelihoods for indigenous and other local communities, and the training of over 55,000 people in conservation and resource management.

The Loreto and the Manu-Tambopata Landscapes in Peru are representative of some of the most ecologically important biodiversity, including 10 major ecological systems in Loreto dominated by the dramatic seasonal changes in water level, and over 13,000 animal and plant species inhabiting the forested land-use matrix that is Manu-Tambopata. Here, the goals of ICAA are to manage both landscapes sustainably. In the last year alone, conservation actions promoted better management in over 1.7 million hectares in both landscapes, including the development of management and monitoring plans, training workshops in sustainable hunting and harvesting, and the approval of a co-management strategy that coordinates work between the regional government and local communities. The successful experiences at these landscapes have recently been scaled up to create a coordinated management and monitoring effort between the national and regional governments, providing an exciting opportunity for conservation in the upcoming months.



Piro Indian from Diamante with newly caught "pumazungaro" catfish, Manu Biosphere Reserve, Peru. © ANDRÉ BÄRTSCHI / WWF-CANON

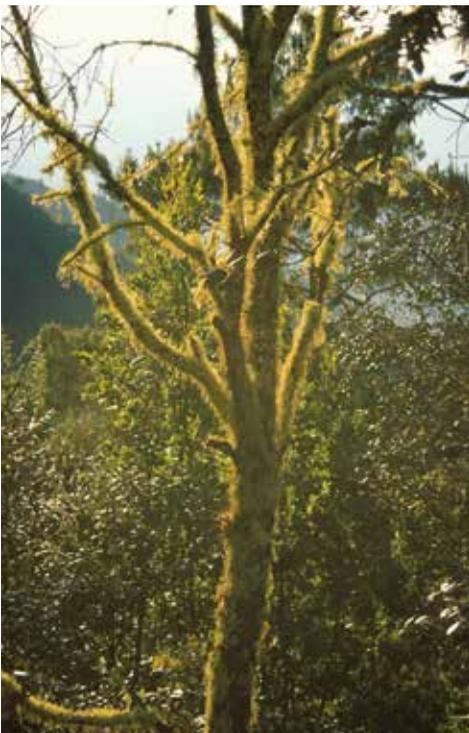
Highlights (continued)



Mexico: Forest Conservation for Climate, People and Nature

One of the USAID's largest single-country environmental programs is the Mexico REDD Alliance. Mexico has extensive forests, especially in the mountains and in the South. An estimated 25 million people live in or depend on forests in Mexico. Seventy percent of these forests are community-owned through the *ejido* system. Poverty is still common in many rural areas and clearing forests is seen as a path to improved prosperity. As a result, more than 11 million acres of forests have been lost since 1990. About 14 percent of Mexico's greenhouse gas emissions come from the forest sector.

Mexico recently passed a climate law which commits the country to reducing emissions by 50 percent in 2050 and to zero net loss from land-use changes. Supporting these goals, a coalition has formed of NGOs and the Mexican government, with funding from USAID, to design and implement Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD). This five-year effort (2011–16) is building capacity for design and fostering of best practices, creating a financial infrastructure to identify and deliver benefits from carbon capture, monitoring and reporting results, and building transparency. Twelve pilot projects covering about 1 million acres are under way, demonstrating the benefits of improved participatory community management practices. Work is concentrated in five main areas: the Puuc-Chenes region of the Yucatan; the interior of Chiapas; forest communities of Oaxaca; watersheds in Cutzamala; and the Sierra Raramuri in Chihuahua. The program has attracted favorable attention from other donors such as the United Kingdom and Norway.



TOP: A farmer in an *Ejido* (a communal farm) owns goats and pecan trees and collects firewood. Chihuahua Desert, near Cuatrociénegas, Mexico. © EDWARD PARKER / WWF-CANON
 BOTTOM: Moss-covered tree in pine forest on hills around municipality of Santiago Comaltepec. Oaxaca, Mexico. © ANTHONY B. RATH / WWF-CANON



Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). Grand Cayman, Caribbean, Atlantic Ocean. © NATUREPL.COM / DOUG PERRINE / WWF-CANON

Caribbean Challenge Initiative

The Caribbean is one of the Earth's most biologically rich marine areas and one of the most populated, with most residents dependent upon marine and coastal resources for their livelihoods. Fishing and tourism are the region's leading economic drivers, 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 an effort led by 10 Caribbean governments that have committed to expand their national protected areas systems to cover at least 20 percent of their near-shore marine/coastal environment by 2020 and sustainably fund and manage them. Since 2008, the governments of The Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and U.S. Virgin Islands have endorsed the CCI, and their leadership is helping inspire other Caribbean countries and territories to join in the creation of a truly region-wide initiative.

The goal of the CCI is to create a robust network of marine protected areas (MPAs) across the Caribbean. 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 to safeguard 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, including the 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; these national resources are matched by the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, a \$42 million regional conservation trust. International trust fund donors include Germany, the Global Environment Facility, and The Nature Conservancy. Phase 2 of CCI was launched at the May 2013 Summit of Caribbean Political and Business Leaders, bringing new marine conservation and funding commitments to the Initiative and engaging the private sector in this effort.

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 that provides grants for environmental projects that also support sustainable economic growth, uniting 183 countries with U.S. corporations and NGOs. All GEF projects are closely monitored and evaluated to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. The U.S. has a strong influence on GEF strategies and programming, leading to projects that support many U.S. security and economic priorities. America’s investment in the GEF also yields a very high rate of return. For every U.S. dollar invested, about 52 additional dollars are raised from donor and recipient countries and other public and private partners.

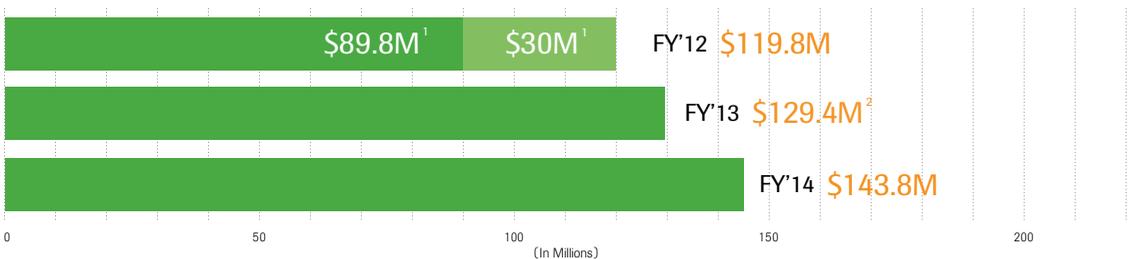
Resource scarcity can lead to population displacement, reductions in food supply, water shortages, and other sources of instability that make communities vulnerable to conflict and radicalization. The GEF’s efforts to protect natural capital directly enhance global stability and national security by improving management of valuable natural resources, preventing their unsustainable depletion and reducing insecurity in strategically important regions.

GEF investments include more than 1,000 conservation projects in 155 countries. It the largest single

financier of forest conservation through its support of more than 400 projects, including projects that help to combat illegal logging, a practice that costs the American economy upwards of \$1 billion per year in lost revenue. GEF support has also been critical to placing 12 percent of the world’s terrestrial area under protection, resulting in 2,809 protected areas spanning 1.7 billion acres containing at least 700 globally threatened species. It has also pioneered investments in groundbreaking “payments for ecosystem services” (PES) programs through the use of market mechanisms that incorporate the value of the goods and services nature provides. These include downstream water consumers paying upstream land-owners to conserve and restore forests within watersheds, thus ensuring a stable supply of freshwater and other nature-related benefits, such as soil protection and non-timber forest products. Downstream customers also 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) This amount represents total contributions by the U.S. government to the GEF during FY2012, including \$89.82 million appropriated to the Department of the Treasury and \$30 million appropriated to the Department of State. 2) The amount does not reflect the 5 percent across the board cut due to 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, reduced by-catch (i.e. the incidental take of unwanted, non-target fish and other species), and enhanced inter-governmental cooperation. These efforts contribute to more sustainable global fisheries management, which is critically important to U.S. companies and the food security to the United States, which imports approximately 86 percent of its seafood. The United States has adopted new fisheries policy reforms that have set high standards for fisheries practices, including setting and enforcing science-based catch limits, promoting an ecosystem-based approach to management, and aligning of fishing fleet capacity with the resource. To implement these new practices,



Bigeye trevally or Bigeye jack (*Caranx sexfasciatus*) congregate in schools for safety from attack by predators such as sharks. Fiji. © CAT HOLLOWAY / WWF-CANON

together with the private sector, the GEF is supporting an ambitious international waters program to address a classic “tragedy of the commons”—the depletion of the high seas fish stocks. Highly migratory tuna species account for about 20 percent of the value of all marine fisheries. Through the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation, important U.S. corporations such as Bumble Bee Foods LLC are contributing to and benefiting from this program. It will take action on a number of fronts: strengthened regional-level tuna regulation; improved monitoring and surveillance systems; and practices to reduce fisheries by-catch. By helping to ensure the sustainability of these fisheries, this program enhances the food security of the United States and the international community. This program builds 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.

In addition, U.S. demand for sustainable seafood is a powerful market force for improved management of fisheries, leading some of the world’s largest fisheries to make changes and become certified as sustainable. In partnership with McDonald’s, the Marine Stewardship Council, and the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Foundation, the GEF is supporting national and regional regulations for sustainable marine commodity supply chains, collecting and sharing information about establishing sustainable supply chains to aid commercial stakeholders, and developing information systems to support responsible commodity trading decisions. This program will ensure that U.S. consumers can choose high quality seafood today and for many years to come.

Highlights (continued)

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 and economic growth. The World Economic Forum lists the looming ‘water supply crisis’ among the top five risks in their 2013 global risk report. In a world where over 1 billion people already lack access to safe drinking water, rising populations and food needs, 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 manage their freshwater resources, including rivers, lakes, and aquifers. By reducing potential conflict over transboundary water resources and supporting sustained production of food, energy and other commodities, these investments provide both economic and security benefits to the United States.

In North and East Africa and the Sahel, for example, the GEF has funded pioneering efforts to support sustainable management of transboundary rivers and aquifers in a region of increasing national security concern for the United States. This work includes ensuring the sustainable use of groundwater from two of the world’s largest transboundary aquifers, which provide essential freshwater to some of the world’s driest regions. In addition, the GEF supports cooperation in Africa’s largest river basins, such as the Nile, Niger, and Senegal, as well as the coordinated management of surface and groundwater resources. These types of projects have catalyzed multilateral cooperative frameworks among countries to enhance security in the region by having countries work together to solve shared problems.

The GEF is also funding two programs 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 will be supporting programs for the five Lake Chad Basin countries to implement water conservation and protect the lake’s watersheds and wetlands. The GEF is also funding a program for the sustainable management of groundwater resources in Southern Africa, leading to integration of management in legal and institutional frameworks in several river basins, supporting innovative managed groundwater recharge schemes and a center of excellence on groundwater management. These efforts are all the more important given the critical role that groundwater plays in times of drought and in supporting increasing food production needs.



Local fishermen in a fishing boat near Baga Sola village on the Northern coast of Lake Chad. © DENIS LANDENBERGUE / WWF-CANON

Highlights (continued)

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 their 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 slow desertification, improve agricultural productivity, build capacity to adapt to changing rainfall, and support sustainable forest management. Since 2003, the GEF has also invested in a project to increase food security for nomadic pastoralists and reduce conflict between domestic animals and wildlife in Kenya and Burkina Faso. The project stimulated alternative livelihoods for local communities, established grazing management plans, and strengthened conservancy and village hunting zone management. In addition to increased lands set aside by communities for conservation, the project also led the establishment of 1,822 miles of migratory routes for nomadic people. By establishing land and resource rights, there was a 98 percent reduction in cases of conflict over access to natural resources. This project empowered local people to better steward their resources, improving both food security and conservation.



Masai shepherding herd back home at dusk. Transmara, Kenya. © MARTIN HARVEY / WWF-CANON

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 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



Sunset on the Corrientes river, a tributary of the Amazon river. Peru. © BRENT STIRTON / GETTY IMAGES / WWF

Highlights (continued)

protected areas. In its second phase, initiated in 2012, ARPA is establishing an additional 33.4 million acres of parks and reserves and consolidating 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 37 percent of the total decrease in deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon that took place between 2004 and 2009. The GEF is also funding efforts in other Amazon Basin countries to ensure that forests throughout the region are protected. In Central Africa, the GEF is providing over \$50 million to support an ambitious 10-year plan agreed by the 10 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 forest ecosystem services upon which hundreds of millions of people depend.



A small-holder farmer shows harvested palm fruit, Riau, Sumatra. He belongs to a small-holder collective working toward Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certification. © JAMES MORGAN / WWF-INTERNATIONAL

Sustainable Corporate Supply Chains

The GEF supports the efforts of governments, local producers, corporations, and civil society to reduce the negative impacts of agricultural production on ecosystems. The GEF partnered with important coffee companies to help farmers in developing countries implement sustainable production practices that improve quality and increase yield while benefitting the environment.

As a result, participating farmers improved the sustainability of their operations while supplying larger volumes of higher quality products to global markets, 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 more than 98 million acres of land (an area larger than Montana) across nine countries. Expanding upon this work, the GEF supports a partnership including Mars Incorporated, Kraft Foods, and the Rainforest Alliance to bring 10 percent of global cocoa production (350,000 tons grown on 1.8 million acres) under certified, biodiversity-friendly production.

Halfway through this project, this public-private partnership has already succeeded in reaching these goals and will work to further expand its impact. Biodiversity-friendly practices and technical support have resulted in much higher productivity and earnings for local farmers while protecting globally important ecosystem services and enabling U.S. corporations to sell higher quality products to U.S. and global consumers.

Highlights (continued)



Fisherman docking his boat after the sunset in the lower Irrawaddy delta, Myanmar. © YOSHI SHIMIZU / WWF-CANON

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund: Fisheries and Illegal Wildlife Trade

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. As CEPF begins a second five-year phase of investment in the Indo-Burma region, it plans to support the replication of the fisheries project in Lao P.D.R., Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam, building on successful models developed in the first phase. Additionally, CEPF will increase its efforts to combat wildlife trade by focusing on the conservation of key species, such as tigers and rhinos.

Program: Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA)

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

The **Tropical Forest Conservation (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.

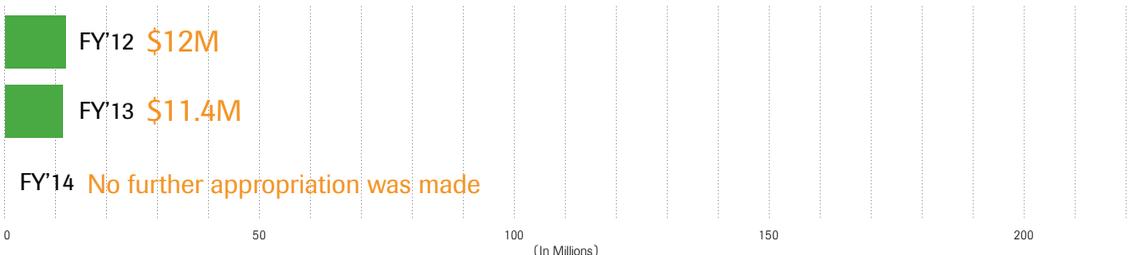
Debt-for-nature swaps demonstrate the U.S. government’s commitment to helping fledgling democracies as well as protecting U.S. economic and national security interests. These swaps provide beneficiary countries with the financial means to protect the natural resources they depend on for economic growth and also encourage local civil society participation needed to sustainably manage their 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 like Germany, France and Japan to create similar debt-for-nature swap programs.

As of December 2013, approximately \$222 million in congressionally-appropriated funds will have been used to conclude 19 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 \$326 million for tropical forest conservation. Each beneficiary country establishes a tropical forest fund dedicated to preserving, maintaining, and restoring tropical forests in those countries. 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

Funding Program Levels



Highlights

The Philippines

In 2002, the first TFCA agreement with The Philippines was signed with a planned capitalization of \$8.2 million over 14 years. Since 2005, the Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation (PTFCF) has provided \$4.53 million in over 280 grants, generating approximately \$3.44 million in co-financing from partners. These grants have helped to reduce illegal logging, improve the management of roughly 1.3 million hectares of forest, restore roughly 8,400 acres of forest through re-introduction of native tree species, establish over 40 community-conserved watersheds in key biodiversity areas, and create 52 community-level sustainable enterprises. PTFCF forestation efforts also save millions of dollars in natural disaster recovery by mitigating flooding and other storm impacts, including from the recent Typhoon Haiyan. The Philippine TFCA program also focuses on conservation of mangrove forests, which provide an astounding array of ecosystem services, including supporting critical wildlife habitat and natural fisheries, but also protecting coastal areas by dissipating wave energy during extreme weather events and sequestering large volumes of carbon. Due to its impressive track record, the Government of The Philippines signed a new \$31.8 million TFCA agreement with the U.S. in July 2013 targeted at conserving and restoring tropical forests in Sierra Madre, Samar/Leyte, Palawan and Bukidnon/Misamis.



Planting of mangroves. © PTFCF

Bangladesh

One of the central benefits of TFCA-created conservation funds is their ability to leverage additional funding for conservation purposes. In 2000, the first ever TFCA agreement was signed with Bangladesh, providing \$8.5 million to capitalize the new Arannayk Foundation. Through December 2012, Arannayk had financed \$5.14 million in grants in support of forest conservation in this heavily populated country. More recently, as Bangladesh has struggled to respond to climate change, Arannayk has become instrumental in national climate change policy dialog and in leveraging additional funds for forest-related climate change mitigation and adaptation, including \$3.8 million over four years to help implement the 'Climate Resilient Participatory Afforestation and Reforestation Project' administered by the World Bank and funded by the Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund. The Sunderban mangrove forests have also benefited from a sizeable Arannayk partnership with the German Development Agency (GIZ), and Arannayk is managing smaller grants from entities such as the International Centre for Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and USAID to support forest co-management activities with indigenous peoples in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Arannayk continues to play a critical role in forest conservation in Bangladesh and is well-positioned to be a lead implementing partner of REDD.



Confiscation of illegally harvested timber. © CCPD

Program: International Organizations & Programs (IO&P)

International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Funds (INCLE)

Agency: *U.S. Department of State*

Through the Department of State’s (DOS) **International Conservation Programs** within the **International Organizations & Programs (IO&P)** account, the U.S. government provides core support to international efforts to address global environmental challenges through cooperation. The International Conservation Programs line item supports 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), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the International Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES). IO&P also funds programs to protect landscapes from desertification, promote conservation and sustainable management of the world’s forests, and provide forums for international discussion of key conservation topics.

Through support to CITES and IUCN, the U.S. is helping governments, civil society, businesses, scientists and activists educate people about the harms of wildlife trafficking and develop counter-trafficking and demand reduction strategies. These U.S. contributions are especially important to curbing illegal trade in wildlife. In addition, **International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INCLE)** funds support bilateral and regional training and technical assistance programs to help African countries strengthen their wildlife law enforcement capacity and secure their remaining populations of threatened wildlife, as well as programs in Asia and Central America to build law enforcement and criminal justice capacity and cooperation. These initiatives focus on training and technical assistance to strengthen legislative frameworks, enhance law enforcement and investigative capabilities, support regional wildlife enforcement networks, and develop prosecutorial and judicial capacity in priority countries. <http://www.state.gov>

Funding Program Levels (IO&P)



For International Conservation Programs.

Funding Program Levels (INCLE)



Programs to assist law enforcement and criminal justice efforts to combat wildlife trafficking.

Highlights

Regional Wildlife Enforcement Networks and International Law Enforcement Training

The Department of State, working with other agencies and key partners, has helped to establish regional wildlife enforcement networks (WENs) to improve law enforcement efforts, coordination, and communication in ASEAN member states, South Asia, Central America and the Horn of Africa; and continues to assist countries in Central Africa, Southern Africa, Central Asia, and South America to establish functioning WENs.

The United States also works closely with organizations such as the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime (ICWC), which includes the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the World Bank to coordinate and strengthen global efforts to fight wildlife trafficking. In addition, DOS law enforcement initiatives focus on training and technical assistance to strengthen legislative frameworks, enhance law enforcement and investigative capabilities, and develop prosecutorial and judicial capacity in priority countries. The U.S. government has increased wildlife investigative training at the International Law Enforcement Academies (ILEAs) in Botswana and Thailand, in an effort to increase regional capacity and cooperation to combat wildlife trafficking in Africa and Asia. Managed by DOS, the ILEAs were originally established in 1995 to serve a broad range of foreign policy and law enforcement purposes for the United States and for the world. Working with the Department of Justice and USFWS, as well as international law enforcement partners the ILEAs offer training courses on investigating and prosecuting wildlife crimes. Due in part to U.S. support, countries around the world have improved their interdiction of trafficked wildlife products and have made increased numbers of arrests.



Eco-guards and presidential security stand guard over Gabon's stockpile of illegally poached elephant ivory the night before it is burned. Libreville, Gabon. © JAMES MORGAN / WWF-CANON

UN Convention to Combat Desertification

Countries around the world collaborate together to protect drylands through the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Approximately 40 percent of the Earth's land surface is classified as drylands, home to some of the most unique biological diversity on the planet. An estimated two and a half billion people—one third of the Earth's population—live in drylands, 90 percent of them in developing countries. Africa is particularly threatened by land degradation, as 45 percent of the continent consists of drylands. Asia is the most severely affected continent in terms of the number of people affected by desertification and drought. Desertification, or land degradation



Desert encroachment threatens vegetation along the Air's edge Air, Niger. © JOHN E. NEWBY / WWF-CANON

in drylands, can lead to food insecurity, decreased environmental quality, and increased social instability. Through support to the UNCCD the United States is helping countries to conserve these fragile ecosystems, promoting awareness of the causes and effects of desertification in drylands—including water scarcity, climate change, and unsustainable land management practices, and advocating participatory, grassroots empowered approaches to decision-making to restore degraded drylands and avoid further desertification.

Highlights (continued)

Congo Basin Forest Partnership

The Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) was launched at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg as a voluntary multi-stakeholder initiative. The Partnership brings together some 70 partners, including African countries, donor agencies and governments, international organizations, NGOs, scientific institutions and the private sector. The CBFP is a unique platform for regional dialogue and cooperation, and works closely with the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) and the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC), the premier regional bodies coordinating

regional forest and environmental policy, to promote the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems in central Africa. The United States supports the CBFP, assisting in encouraging clear and concerted African leadership; facilitating actions to address critical threats to biodiversity and forests, including wildlife trafficking; encouraging full participation in efforts to adapt to and combat climate change; and building effective, participatory institutions for forest governance.



African elephants, adult and calf in the wild. © JULIE LARSEN MAHER / © WCS

Transnational Organized Crime Rewards Program

In November, Secretary of State John Kerry announced the State Department's first ever reward for information leading to the dismantling of a transnational criminal organization as part of its new Transnational Organized Crime Rewards Program. The Department will offer up to \$1 million for information leading to the dismantling of the Xaysavang Network. Based in Laos—with affiliates in South Africa, Mozambique, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, and China—the Xaysavang Network facilitates the killing of endangered elephants, rhinos, and other species for products such as ivory. Several major seizures of illegal wildlife products have been linked to the Xaysavang Network. The involvement of sophisticated transnational criminal organizations in wildlife trafficking perpetuates corruption, threatens the rule of law and border security in fragile regions, and destabilizes communities that depend on wildlife for biodiversity and ecotourism. Profits from wildlife trafficking fund other illicit activities such as narcotics, arms, and human trafficking.



A rhino horn consumer in Hanoi, Vietnam, shows an African rhino horn piece she purchased to consume daily for what she said was to treat a tumor. © ROBERT PATTERSON / WWF-CANON

Special Section

Combatting Wildlife Trafficking

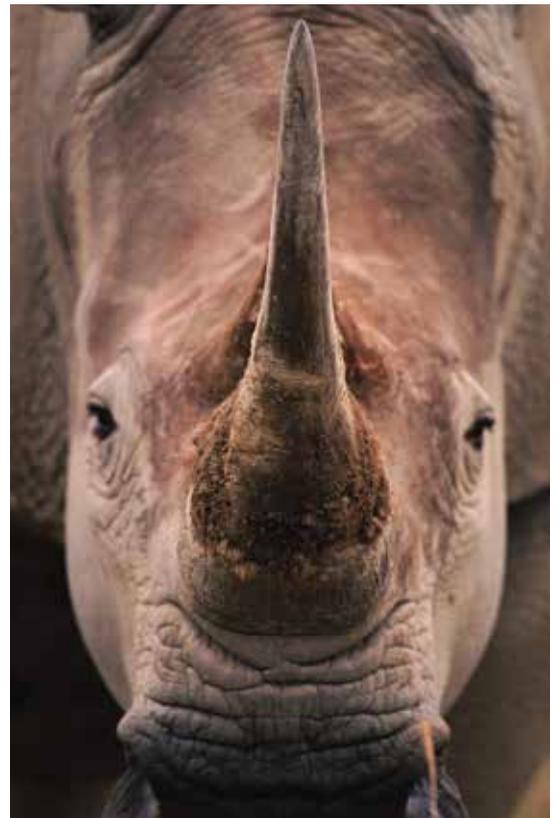
Worth an estimated \$8–10 billion annually, the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products is carried out by highly-organized criminal networks that connect poachers in Africa through middlemen and transit nations to high-end black markets in Asia. This transnational criminal activity robs developing nations of their natural resources, corrupts their rule of law, and is the primary driver of extinction for important species. With ivory prices at all-time highs and rhino horn now worth more than heroin or gold, pound-for-pound, there is also increasing evidence that armed militias, local insurgencies, extremist groups and organizations tied to terrorism are turning to wildlife trafficking to help finance their operations, particularly in Central and Eastern Africa.

In July 2013, President Obama responded to the growing wildlife trafficking and poaching crisis by issuing **Executive Order 13648** and committing the U.S. government to take action at the highest levels. The Executive Order established a multi-agency Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking and mandated it to produce a national strategy on the issue within six months. At the same time, the President committed an initial \$10 million for bilateral and regional programs supporting training and technical assistance to African countries in order to help them build their wildlife law enforcement capacity and secure their remaining populations of threatened wildlife.

In February 2014, the Administration released the first-ever **National Strategy on Combatting Wildlife Trafficking**, establishing a whole-of-government response to the crisis and identifying strategic priorities. At the same time, Congress responded by providing additional funding in the **Fiscal Year 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act**, directing that a total of **\$45 million** from the International Security Assistance and Bilateral Economic Assistance accounts of State and Foreign Operations appropriations be used “to combat the transnational threat of wildlife poaching and trafficking” and “to support implementation of the United States strategy to address these challenges.”

Taken together, these actions demonstrate that the whole of the U.S. government now recognizes wildlife trafficking as a threat to not just endangered wildlife populations but also to the United States’ security, foreign policy and development interests. The additional funding provided by Congress to combat wildlife trafficking will not only help to save rhinos and elephants; it is an important new element in U.S. efforts to deter emerging national security threats, including regional instability, transnational organized crime and international terrorist activities.

Close-up of horn and head of White rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*).
Lake Nakuru National Park, Kenya. © NATUREPL.COM / ANUP SHAH / WWF-CANON



Program: Office of International Affairs

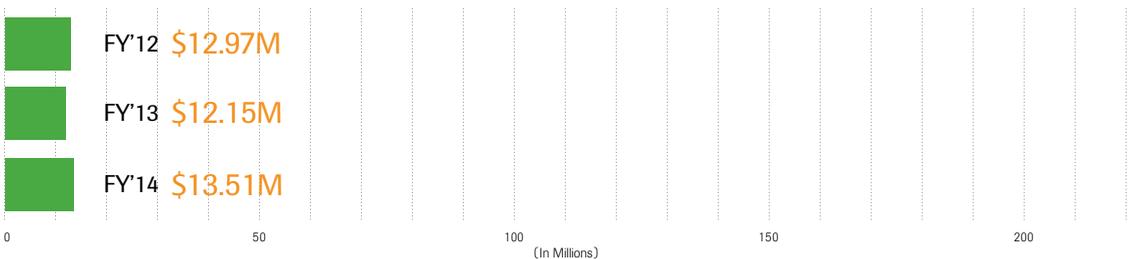
Agency: *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)*

The USFWS **International Affairs (IA)** program supports efforts to conserve our planet's rich wildlife diversity by protecting habitat, combating illegal wildlife trade and building capacity for landscape-level wildlife conservation. The program's three divisions—the Division of International Conservation, the Division of Management Authority and the Division of Scientific Authority—manage various components of international wildlife conservation. The **International Wildlife Trade (IWT)** program provides oversight of domestic laws and international treaties that promote the long-term conservation of plant and animal species by ensuring that international trade and other activities do not threaten their survival in the wild. Working with governments, industry and experts around the world, IWT strives to establish conservation programs that include sustainable use, supporting economic opportunity while also conserving species.

The Division of International Conservation's **Wildlife Without Borders (WWB)** programs are designed to recognize that species are mobile, with ranges that often cross national borders or span continents. WWB also focuses on people, since human activities are the primary threat facing wildlife, and human

communities are an essential part of the solution. WWB programs tackle grassroots wildlife conservation problems from a broad, landscape perspective, building regional expertise and capacity while strengthening local institutions. Since 1989, WWB has supported international conservation on multiple levels, through its Species, Regional and Global Programs, but primarily by developing locally focused wildlife conservation initiatives. Partners include non-governmental organizations, governments, the private sector, and local community leaders. From 2007 to 2013, WWB Regional and Global Programs supported more than 940 conservation projects, awarding more than \$31 million in grants, which leveraged an additional \$46 million in matching funds for on-the-ground wildlife conservation programs, education, training and outreach. WWB's Global Program targets crosscutting, global threats to wildlife; supports large scale initiatives to maximize long-term impact; addresses declines of critically endangered species, such as amphibians; and fulfills USFWS mandates to support wildlife statutes and international treaties, such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative. <http://www.fws.gov/international/>

■ Funding Program Levels



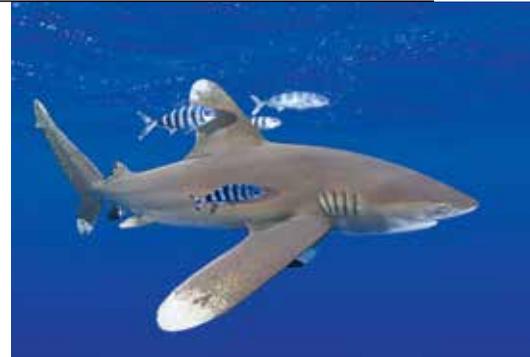
Highlights

Training to Combat Wildlife Trafficking in Mexico

In 2013, the *Wildlife Without Borders—Mexico* program provided 100 Mexican wildlife enforcement staff with the tools, materials and fundamental knowledge to promote and implement decentralized capacity building activities to monitor and control illicit wildlife trafficking. A ‘train the trainer’ workshop was conducted for government officials from the most relevant regions in Mexico linked to the regulation, monitoring, control and conservation of natural resources in the country.

Providing U.S. Leadership at CITES

The IWT program implements provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), working with counterparts in 178 countries to protect more than 35,000 listed species by ensuring that international trade is legal and does not threaten their survival in the wild. CITES protects over 700 animals and almost 500 plants native to the United States and its territories, from paddlefish and peregrine falcons to Atlantic bottle-nose dolphins and orchids. In March 2013, Bangkok hosted the 16th Conference of the Parties (CoP) of CITES, the world’s most influential meeting on international wildlife trade. Led by USFWS, the U.S. delegation advanced positions to strengthen protections for numerous species, including elephants, rhinos, polar bears and sharks. Working with CITES counterparts in China and Vietnam, the delegation also spearheaded successful efforts to protect freshwater turtles and tortoises from unsustainable trade for traditional medicines and as pets.



Oceanic white tip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) with pilot fish (*Naucrates ductor*). Kona Coast, Hawaii, Central Pacific Ocean. © NATUREPL.COM / DOUG PERRINE / WWF-CANON

“Crushing” the Illegal Wildlife Trade

On July 1, 2013, President Obama stood alongside Tanzanian President Kikwete and announced an executive order to combat poaching and wildlife trafficking, promising the U.S. government would organize its efforts and work with international partners to develop programs and find solutions. A few months later, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service answered the President’s call to action by destroying nearly six tons of confiscated elephant ivory, sending a clear message to poachers and smugglers that the United States will not tolerate wildlife trafficking.

The International Affairs Program played an integral role in the development, management and execution of the ivory crush. The event garnered an extremely high level of international attention and was covered by nearly every major news outlet, including National Geographic, ABC, CBS, NBC, Al Jazeera and Chinese television. On social media, #IvoryCrush trended #1 on Twitter in the United States, the United Kingdom, South Africa and Canada, resulting in more than 87.7 million media impressions.



Poached ivory awaiting destruction. © JULIE LARSEN MAHER / WCS

Program: Multinational Species Conservation Funds (MSCF)

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

The **Multinational Species Conservation Funds (MSCF)** programs exemplify U.S. leadership in international wildlife conservation efforts, providing dedicated 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 2,300 grants, targeting key species and regions to ensure the protection of some of the world's most endangered and treasured animals.

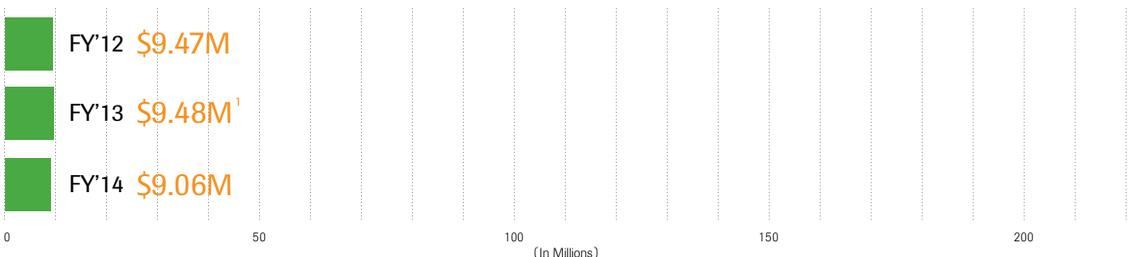
As the species-focused component of the **Wildlife Without Borders (WWB)** program, the MSCF protects and restores at-risk wildlife populations, provides local people the capacity to conserve wildlife, and helps create on-the-ground partnerships in range countries while addressing critical needs. More than 500 tigers are killed each year, and experts estimate that as few as 3,200 tigers now remain in the wild. In 2013, more than 1000 rhinos were illegally killed in South Africa—a 50 percent increase over 2012—to supply black-market demand in Asia for rhino horns. Africa's great apes are victims of a

growing bushmeat trade and face serious threats from disease, including Ebola, which has wiped out up to 90 percent of affected populations.

MSCF programs protect these animals in their natural habitat through a wide array of programs, including anti-poaching and law enforcement, habitat conservation, mitigation of human-animal conflicts, wildlife-based tourism, reducing consumer demand for illegal wildlife products, and wildlife health programs. They have actively engaged and/or collaborated with nearly 600 domestic and foreign partners, working in over 54 foreign countries. From 2007 to 2013, the MSCF provided \$77 million in grant funding for on-the-ground conservation, leveraging nearly \$117 million in additional matching funds. The five Multinational Species Conservation Funds are congressionally authorized and have consistently commanded broad, bipartisan support.

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

Funding Program Levels

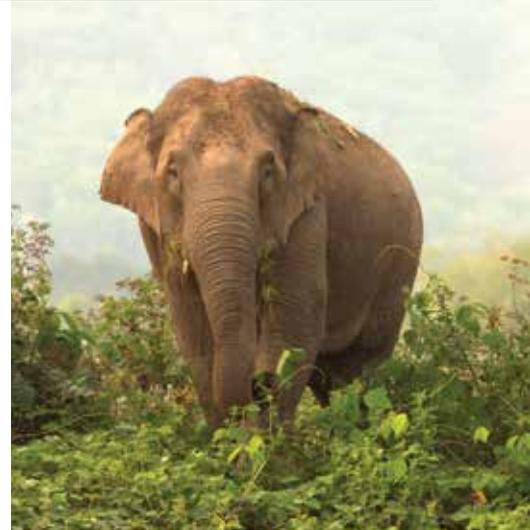


¹) This amount does not reflect the 5 percent across the board cut due to the sequestration.

Highlights

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

In 2013, the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund helped ensure the protection of wild elephants and their habitat by establishing a multi-disciplinary team that is building an innovative model to address human-elephant conflict (HEC) in Aceh, Sumatra. The team is compiling and disseminating communication and materials from a baseline assessment of HEC threats in targeted areas and providing guidance for sustainable human-elephant co-existence in an agriculture landscape. The project is also increasing the effectiveness of laws protecting Aceh's biodiversity and natural resources by creating a cross-party, knowledgeable and constantly expanding legislator network called Aceh Conservation Caucus. The project team is designing and developing a web portal that meets the informational needs and motivations of specific lawmakers, linking them with relevant environmental issues and priorities. The portal provides information on environmental issues, decision-making processes, and statistics, including databases. It also serves as a forum for participation and dissemination of the work of the network of environmental legislators. Another key component of this project is the development of a strategic land use and agricultural mapping plan for HEC areas, which will be compatible with both human and elephant needs.



An elephant grazing near Mengkuang village. © C. DAFAN / IFAW

African Elephants: Protecting the Largest Known Population of Forest Elephants in the Democratic Republic of Congo

In 2013, the African Elephant Conservation Fund helped finance projects to protect the largest known population of forest elephants in the Democratic Republic of Congo. These projects included strengthening and rebuilding the national wildlife agency, anti-poaching patrols and overnight missions to reduce elephant poaching in the area. A team of bloodhounds and handlers have been trained to track poachers. The team has already been very successful in locating poachers, weapons and ivory. Another project is supporting ongoing core operational and anti-poaching expenses in and around one of Zambia's most important wildlife areas, North Luangwa. Funds are being used to support operating costs of ground patrols conducted by ZAWA, the national wildlife agency, and operating costs of an aircraft for aerial patrolling and surveillance.



Young elephants at play. © CYNDI PERRY / USFWS

Highlights (continued)

Rhinos: Improving Law Enforcement in Zambia

In 2013, support from the Rhino-Tiger Conservation Fund improved the ability to gather intelligence and conduct investigations in the Luangwa conservation area of Zambia. Funding supported veterinary operations to deploy security tracking equipment, training courses for the Zambia Wildlife Authority in crime investigation procedures and techniques, and operating costs and equipment for law enforcement units protecting Zambia's reintroduced southern black rhino population.

Rhinos: Improving Protection in India's Manas National Park

A project in India's Manas National Park improves management and patrolling activities to reduce poaching of recently introduced rhinos. The funds are supporting the salaries of 30 home guards selected from fringe areas of the park to improve the socio-economic status of the villagers and to develop good relations between park management and the local community. The guards receive special training in order to effectively combat poaching. Project activities also include selecting a suitable law enforcement monitoring tool that will be used to train frontline patrol staff.



A formidable rhino, with nothing to fear but poachers. © CYNDI PERRY / USFWS

Highlights (continued)

Tigers: Promoting Law Enforcement for Tiger Conservation in the Hunchun Tiger Reserve (HTR)

By strengthening law enforcement monitoring within key habitats, USFWS funds are helping ensure the presence of Amur tigers in the transboundary area between Russia and China’s Jilin Province. This project includes strengthening cooperation between various law enforcement agencies, conducting Management Information System Tool (MIST) patrols inside the HTR, patrols in border guard controlled areas outside HTR, patrols in areas of Hunchun Municipal Forestry

Bureau jurisdiction outside HTR, law enforcement inspections in main markets and restaurants, and inspections at key transportation points during the new year and spring festival periods.



Amur tiger. © JULIE LARSEN MAHER / WCS

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 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.



Mountain gorilla. © JULIE LARSEN MAHER / WCS

Highlights (continued)



Sea turtles nesting and laying eggs. © SEBASTIAN TROENG / SEA TURTLE CONSERVANCY

Marine Turtles: Conserving Leatherback and Hawksbill Turtles in Nicaragua

The Marine Turtle Conservation Fund is supporting beach conservation programs in Nicaragua to protect nesting sites for three East Pacific leatherback populations and areas that account for 40 to 50 percent of all nesting sites for turtles. The project created a series of land use maps identifying key nesting habitats and distributed these to local authorities and stakeholders, helping to inform conservation management and coastal development decisions. On the Pearl Cays, off the central Caribbean coast of Nicaragua, similar support for community-based conservation efforts has encouraged local community members not to take hawksbill eggs or kill nesting females, to donate live turtles to be tagged and released, and to participate in beach surveys, nest protection and relocation efforts. Due to the cooperation of fishers and community residents, the number of annual clutches hatching increased, the poaching rate is consistently low, observance of post-hatchling hawksbills in coastal waters is more common, and more live turtles have been donated for tag and release, including 110 in one season. Weekly radio reports highlight the project's successes and encourage community participation. The government of Nicaragua recently declared the Pearl Cays a Wildlife Refuge, and conservationists are now working to develop a management plan for the new protected area.

Highlights (continued)

Marine Turtles: Protecting Loggerhead Nesting Beaches in Cape Verde

In 2013, marine turtle conservation funds were utilized for an extensive loggerhead turtle nesting beach conservation project in Cape Verde. The project supported night time beach patrols (in collaboration with the military) to protect nesting loggerhead females from rampant illegal slaughter on important nesting beaches on the Cape Verde Island of Boa Vista, which hosts about 90 percent of the Cape Verde nesting population. The project also organized an annual meeting for the Cape Verde Sea Turtle Partnership and implemented public awareness programs in schools and communities throughout the island. Another project supported the reduction of threats to hawksbill turtles in El Salvador. It supported conservation programs for the largest remaining hawksbill nesting population in the Eastern Pacific at three sites covering 23 miles of beach in El Salvador. The project also addressed the threat of blast fishing to adult and juvenile turtles through training programs for regional fisheries authorities and law enforcement officers to increase the effectiveness of blast fishing enforcement.



Loggerhead sea turtle under water. © JULIE LARSEN MAHER / WCS

Save Vanishing Species Stamp: Renewing an Important Tool for Conservation



In September 2010, Congress enacted the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Act (Public Law 111-241) to create the Save Vanishing Species Semipostal stamp and allow individuals to donate directly to the Multinational Species Conservation Funds as a supplement to the annual appropriations provided by Congress. Before it expired in 2013, the American public enthusiastically supported the program, purchasing more than 25 million stamps and generating more than \$2.5 million in additional resources for the conservation of endangered species around the world, including elephants,

tigers, rhinos, great apes and marine turtles. The voluntary program allowed customers to pay a premium of a few cents for each Saving Vanishing Species stamp they bought. This premium is used to enhance international wildlife conservation at no additional cost to the Federal budget. Given the collector value of this beautiful stamp, the U.S. Postal Service also benefits, since every stamp that sold that is unused 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. Legislation is active in the House (H.R. 262) and the Senate (S. 231) that would renew this popular stamp for four more years.

Program: Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA)

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

In 2000, Congress passed the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to help protect migratory birds, complementing the wetland bird conservation accomplished under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act while also supporting efforts to conserve birds throughout their migratory life cycles across the Western Hemisphere. The NMBCA benefits most of the 386 bird species that breed in the continental United States or Canada and spend the winter in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, or South America. The NMBCA's competitive grants program has helped protect more than 3.25 million acres, promoting long-term conservation of neotropical migratory birds and their habitats by:

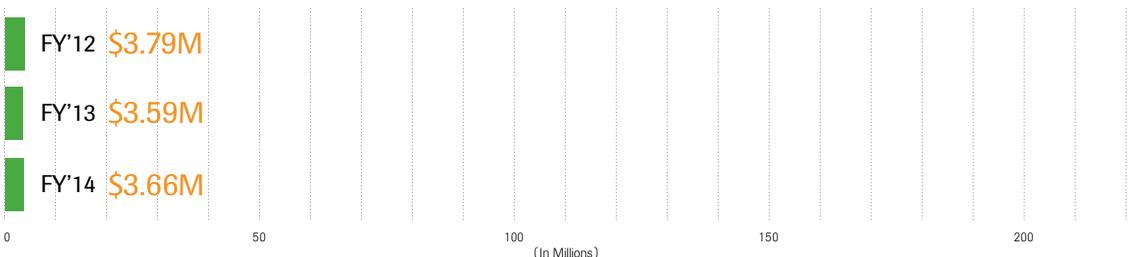
- sparking partnership-based conservation, supporting hundreds of public-private collaborations;
- energizing local, on-the-ground conservation efforts;
- achieving habitat protection and other critical bird conservation activities in 36 countries; and

- building conservation capacity in local organizations.

Birds mean business: they play a key role in recreational opportunities, creating jobs and generating billions of dollars from wildlife watching. According to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, 71.8 million Americans enjoy watching and feeding birds, spending \$55 billion on equipment and travel in that one year. This creates 671,000 jobs and \$11 billion annually in local, state, and federal tax revenue results from bird watching. Most of the bird species that Americans treasure are conserved by the NMBCA, which has spurred partnerships at local, regional and international levels, providing more than \$46 million for 422 projects in 36 countries and 28 U.S. states and leveraging \$178,500,000 in partner contributions—a 4:1 match ratio.

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

Funding Program Levels



Highlights

Conserving the Bay of Panama

Located near the mouth of the Panama Canal, the Bay of Panama is a critical migration and wintering site for more than 33 species of breeding shorebirds, including more than 30 percent of the U.S. population of the Western Sandpiper. The habitats these birds rely upon are highly threatened by development pressure from Panama City. In collaboration with 30 local organizations, National Audubon Society is strengthening outreach to local people about the importance of the bay to the economy, shorebirds, and to environmental and human health.



Western Sandpiper. © ROGER BAKER / USFWS VOLUNTEER

Restoring and Managing Priority Habitats in Asunción Bay

Thirty-two species of neotropical migratory birds have been recorded in Asunción Bay, an inlet of the major waterway that flows by the capital of Paraguay. It is globally significant as a stop-over site for the Buff-breasted Sandpiper. The development of a shoreline road has destroyed about 70 percent of the shorebird habitat in the bay. Local and national government agencies are working with Guyra Paraguay to restore and manage 60 acres of priority habitats. Guyra Paraguay is hiring reserve guards and training local people to be advocates for conservation of this urban oasis.



Buff-breasted Sandpiper. © ASOCIACION ARMONIA

Strengthening Conservation Actions for Golden-cheeked Warbler Winter Habitat, Phase I

The endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler breeds in central Texas and relies on pine-oak forests in Central America for its wintering grounds. Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza is partnering with an alliance to increase the extent of Golden-cheeked Warbler wintering habitat that is under legal protection or managed under sustainable agroforestry. Partners are establishing a monitoring system to develop measurable Golden-cheeked Warbler population objectives for a 5–10 year conservation plan.



Golden-cheeked warbler. © STEVE MASLOWSKI / USFWS

Program: International Programs (IP)

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

The vitality of the world's forests has broad implications for the global community. Sustainable forest management is an important way to protect against climate change, environmental degradation, trade in illegal forest products and loss of the habitat for many sensitive wildlife species.

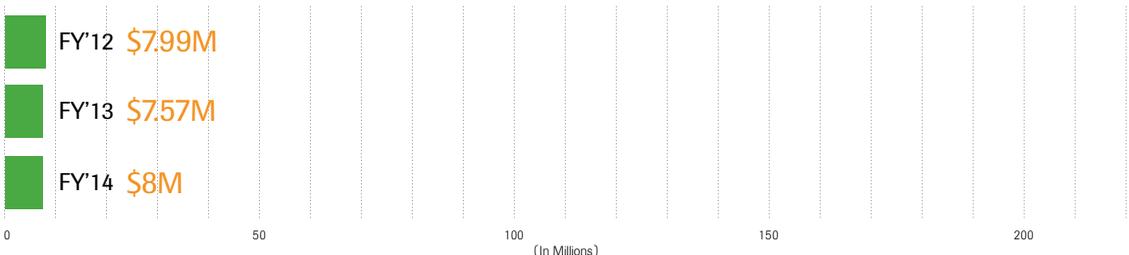
Through its office of **International Programs**, the **U.S. Forest Service** works around the globe to improve the management of all forest types, including protected areas. The Forest Service has unique experience in managing the nation's forests, wetlands and grasslands with a diverse array of skills in its 30,000 scientists, resource managers, international specialists, conservation biologists and other experts. In addition, the agency has capability in natural disasters and humanitarian crises response. International Programs draws on the agency's skill set to provide technical assistance on protected area management, forest legality, disaster response, migratory species conservation, landscape-level

planning, wildfire management, reduced impact logging and forest certification—and many other technical areas—in more than 90 countries around the world.

Forging international partnerships promotes cooperation and information exchange to ensure sustainability. Furthermore, this work empowers 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 the timber trade to level the playing field for the American wood products industry. In addition, International Programs works closely with the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development to advance U.S. interests abroad while assisting other countries with their most pressing humanitarian and environmental challenges.

www.fs.fed.us/global

Funding Program Levels



Highlights

West Africa: Fostering Sustainable Livelihoods in Environmentally Degraded Regions

Through its office of International Programs, the U.S. Forest Service provides assistance to communities to promote forest conservation, ensure sustainable livelihoods, and diversify rural income streams. With funding from USAID, the USFS has developed the Sustainable and Thriving Environments for West African Regional Development (STEWARD) program. In Guinea and Sierra Leone, local people have long depended for their livelihoods on the Upper Guinean Forest ecosystem, which has become severely degraded. Through an innovative savings and loan program designed by STEWARD, low-interest loans are available to villagers interested in generating income from activities related to non-timber forest products or sustainable natural resource management. Many women, previously marginalized and excluded from the banking system, have become the program's most successful participants, taking on leadership roles and expanding their small businesses. In the past year the STEWARD program has extended its technical and geographic reach to include training in a broad range of topics, such as conservation education, agroforestry, protected area management, improved wood stove efficiency and community forestry.



In Sierra Leone, participants in the Village Savings and Loans Association, developed by the USFS STEWARD program are improving their small non-timber forest products businesses.
© SUSAN CHERNLEY

Asia: Increasing Accuracy in Carbon Stock Monitoring

Mangroves and wetlands provide myriad benefits, including high rates of carbon sequestration, coastal storm protection, water filtration, fisheries production and other ecosystem services. Wetlands also regulate water flow and reduce flood peaks, protect lake shore and coastal areas and are home to species that are key indicators of ecosystem health, such as migratory dragonflies. Mangroves and wetlands face threats from agricultural expansion, population growth, development and climate change. To address these threats, the USFS is working with partners in a number of countries around the world to build more resilient wetlands and better understand their carbon dynamics. In collaboration with the Center for International Forestry Research and with support from USAID, the USFS has launched the Sustainable Wetlands Adaptation and Mitigation Program (SWAMP), a cutting-edge program designed to standardize wetland carbon measurement methodologies and tools to enable developing countries to monitor carbon stocks in mangrove and peat forest ecosystems more accurately. The USFS is implementing a variety of SWAMP activities, including training on mangrove carbon accounting for policymakers and scientists from seven Asian countries. SWAMP is also working with countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia to improve carbon monitoring in mangrove forests and incorporating the knowledge gained into global climate change models to better reflect the importance of wetlands for carbon sequestration.



USAID partners in Thailand conducting regional trainings on mangrove carbon accounting for policymakers.
© RADTASIRI WACHIRAPUNYANONT / USAID

Program: Office of International Affairs (OIA)

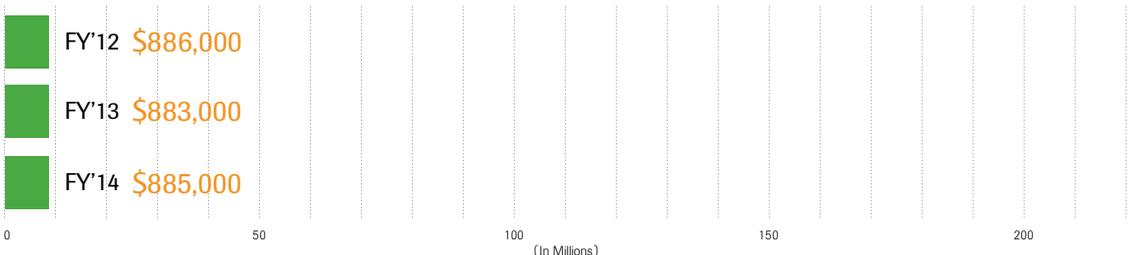
Agency: *U.S. National Park Service (NPS)*

The **U.S. National Park Service (NPS)** has a long and proud legacy of international leadership and engagement. The concept of the national park has been called “America’s best idea.” Today, nearly every country on earth has created its own park system, many of them with direct assistance from the NPS. In 1961, the U.S. government initiated its first international conservation program with the creation of the NPS’s **Office of International Affairs (OIA)**. Since then, NPS/OIA has facilitated technical assistance and exchange projects in every corner of the world. Experts in park and protected area management are helping to create conservation benefits for developing countries and generate goodwill toward the United States, including projects in Chile, Cambodia and Rwanda. NPS/OIA is also engaging in transboundary cooperation in regions such as Beringia (U.S.-Russia) and Big Bend/Rio Bravo (U.S.-Mexico). Another important NPS global legacy is the World Parks Congress; the next will be held in 2014 in Australia.

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

Global Protected Area Management Competency Standards

The NPS is assisting the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) with a program to increase the ability of park/protected area professionals in all countries to effectively carry out their assignments. Studies have shown that the establishment of protected areas is not enough to actually safeguard the ecosystem services they provide. To be effective, parks/protected areas must be managed by well-trained and competent staff at all levels. One product in development is the creation of global

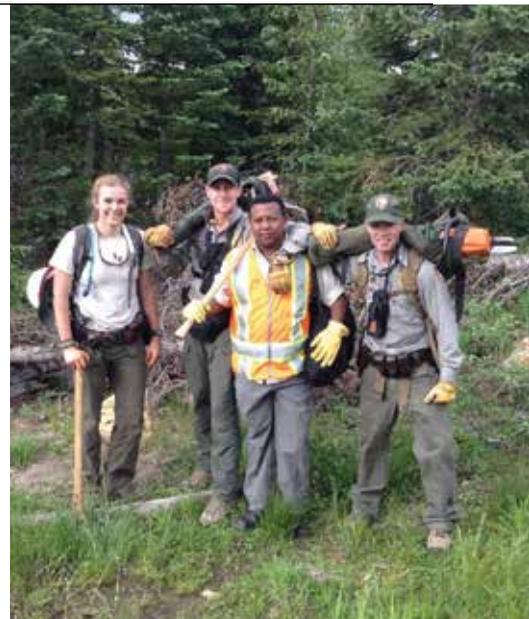


Yosemite National Park staff confer with their 'Sister Park' colleagues at Chile's Torres del Paine National Park. © NPS

competency standards for protected area staff at the field, manager and director levels. The NPS has assigned a senior manager to work full time with the IUCN Global Protected Areas Program through 2014 to manage IUCN's Protected Area Capacity Development Program and to coordinate NPS staff assistance to it.

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 to 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, and Peru.



Godson Kimaro (center) from Tanzania's Serengeti National Park, the most recent World Heritage Fellow, served at Yellowstone National Park during the summer of 2013. © NPS

Annex

North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)

NAWCA is a competitive grant program managed by the USFWS. The Act was passed, in part, to support activities under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, an international agreement that provides a strategy for the long-term protection of wetlands and associated uplands habitats. Over the last 24 years, federal funding has been used to encourage partners such as non-governmental organizations, state agencies, private landowners, and businesses. About half of the federal money stays in the United States, while the rest goes to Canada and Mexico to protect international breeding, migratory, and wintering habitat. From September 1990 through September 2013, approximately 5,000 partners in 2,326 projects have received nearly \$1.28 billion in grants. They contributed \$2.68 billion in matching funds to affect 275 million acres of habitat.

The Lacey Act: Tackling the Illegal Timber Trade

Illegal logging plays a central role in driving tropical deforestation and degradation. It also undermines businesses in the United States by approximately \$1 billion annually, due to underselling by cheaper illegal timber supplies. 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. The European Union, Australia and other countries are closely following the U.S. lead. Implementation of new EU Timber Regulation began in March 2013. China and Japan are also exploring options to curb the illegal trade. 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 2012 INTERPOL report notes that the criminal networks responsible for much of the \$30–\$100 billion illegal global trade in timber and forest products are becoming increasingly sophisticated. This makes effective implementation of the Lacey Act all the more important. Implementation requires resources. Several agencies have important roles to play; all are currently under-resourced. These include the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), which needs to fully develop an electronic declarations database and add internal capacity to perform data analysis for monitoring and enforcement. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Office of Law Enforcement plays an important role in investigation of continuing trade in illegally sourced plant products. Finally, USAID and State are supporting international outreach to explain the implications of the expanded Lacey Act to supply and processing countries; these efforts are impacting industry practices worldwide. They are also supporting development of technologies that would assist businesses and enforcement agents to more readily identify timber species.



Illegal logging in the lowland rainforest along the Rio La Torre. Loggers at cut tornillo tree (*Cedrelina cateniformis*). Tambopata National Reserve, Madre de Dios department, Peru. © ANDRÉ BÄRTSCHI / WWF-CANON



A juvenile mandril monkey (*Mandrillus sphinx*) living in Minkebe village, Gabon, after its mother was killed by poachers. Gabon. © JAMES MORGAN / WWF-CANON



The allied groups (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.

The *International Conservation Budget* is a compilation of materials written and contributed by the sponsoring organizations, as well as by others in the conservation community. Special thanks to Federal agencies and the Global Environment Facility, that provided factual updates, as well as to contributors and editors of individual portions, including Vanessa Dick, Chip Weiskotten, John Calvelli, Kelly Keenan Aylward, and Justin Ward. Special recognition to The Nature Conservancy for arranging photo edit, layout and production by Rowe Design House. Special thanks to Bill Millan and Will Gartshore, principal authors and editors.

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