



US Funding for International Conservation FY2018

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND RECOMMENDATIONS

Following are FY18 funding recommendations from World Wildlife Fund (WWF) for important US government programs that support conservation around the globe and help to combat the illegal trade in natural resources.

GLOBAL CONSERVATION

Appropriations Bill: Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs

Section: Bilateral Economic Assistance

Account: Development Assistance, Biodiversity

FY17 Funding Level (under the CR): \$265 million

President's FY18 Request: Unclear

WWF Ask: \$265 million

Most US foreign assistance for on-the-ground conservation is delivered through the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and its robust portfolio of biodiversity and forestry programs. These programs help protect some of the largest and 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 US foreign policy and national security objectives.

Appropriations Bill: Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs

Section: Multilateral Economic Assistance

Account: Global Environment Facility

FY17 Funding Level (under the CR): \$168 million

President's FY18 Request: Unclear

WWF Ask: \$168 million

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is an independently operated, international financial facility that unites 183 countries with international institutions, civil society, and the private sector to address global environmental issues such as

biodiversity, land degradation, and climate change. The GEF helps countries improve environmental governance and fight the unsustainable depletion of natural resources, which can lead to population displacement, declines in global food supply, water shortages, and other causes of instability that make communities vulnerable to conflict and radicalization. America's investment in the GEF also yields a very high rate of return. For every US dollar invested, about 34 additional dollars are raised from donor and recipient countries and other public and private partners.

Appropriations Bill: Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs

Section: Multilateral Economic Assistance

Account: Green Climate Fund

FY17 Funding Level (under the CR): \$500 million

President's FY18 Request: Unclear

WWF Ask: \$750 million

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) began operations in late 2015 as the main international source of financing for developing countries' efforts to address climate change. As of December 2016 it had raised US\$10.3 billion equivalent in pledges from 43 state governments, including the USA and all its major allies. By the end of 2016, the GCF had approved financing for 35 projects, benefiting over 100 million people in less-developed countries and regions in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and small island states. The GCF bylaws direct it to finance both public and private initiatives through grants, loans, equity, and guarantees for the range of GCF funded projects. These include, for example, producing and sharing climate data to reduce negative impacts on agriculture and hydropower in Malawi, financing small renewable energy entrepreneurs in West Africa, underwriting energy efficiency bonds in Latin America, and mainstreaming climate-resilient infrastructure in Bangladesh.

WILDLIFE

Appropriations Bill: Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs

Section: Bilateral Economic Assistance

Account: Development Assistance and International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, Wildlife Trafficking

FY17 Funding Level (under the CR): \$80 million

President's FY18 Request: Unclear

WWF Ask: \$80 million

Wildlife trafficking is a transnational organized crime worth \$8 billion to \$10 billion annually. It is fueling a global poaching crisis while financing criminal syndicates, armed insurgencies, and groups with terrorist ties. In 2014, the US government released a National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking; in 2016, Congress passed the END Wildlife Trafficking Act; and a recent Executive Order by President Trump reaffirmed US commitments to crack down on transnational crime, including wildlife trafficking. Implementation of these global efforts is funded largely by Department of State and USAID programs that strengthen law enforcement, enhance regional coordination, and reduce demand for illegal wildlife products.

Appropriations Bill: Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Section: US Fish and Wildlife Service

Account: Multinational Species Conservation Funds

FY17 Funding Level (under the CR): \$11.1 million

President's FY18 Request: Unclear

WWF Ask: \$11.1 million

The Multinational Species Conservation Funds (MSCF) support conservation of African and Asian elephants, rhinos, tigers, great apes, and marine turtles in their native habitats. Last year, the Great Elephant Census documented a 30% decline in Africa's elephant population over the past seven years. Rhino poaching in South Africa has increased over 9,000% since 2007. Fewer than 4,000 tigers remain in the wild. MSCF programs help protect remaining populations of these animals while combating poachers and traffickers that threaten them. Since 1989, the MSCF has awarded over 2,300 grants, regularly leveraging two to four times as much in matching funds. The funds are congressionally authorized and have long-standing bipartisan support.

Appropriations Bill: Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Section: US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Account: International Affairs Program



FY17 Funding Level (Senate mark): \$15.8 million

President's FY18 Request: Unclear

WWF Ask: \$15.8 million

The USFWS International Affairs (IA) Program supports efforts to conserve our planet's wildlife and biodiversity by protecting habitat, combating the illegal wildlife trade, and building capacity for landscape-level wildlife conservation. This includes the Wildlife Without Borders program, which enhances long-term regional capacity for wildlife conservation in the developing world. IA has three divisions—the Division of International Conservation, the Division of Management Authority, and the Division of Scientific Authority—each of which manages various components of international wildlife conservation.

Appropriations Bill: Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Section: US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Account: Office of Law Enforcement

FY17 Funding Level (under the CR): \$74.7 million (\$8.2 million)*

President's FY18 Request: Unclear

WWF Ask: \$79.4 million (\$12 million)*

The USFWS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) investigates wildlife crimes, enforces the regulation of the wildlife trade, and helps citizens comply with the law. Its agents and investigators play a central role in implementing the US National Strategy on Wildlife Trafficking and enforcing the 2008 amendments to the Lacey Act prohibiting trade in illegal timber products. OLE wildlife inspectors work in nearly 40 designated and non-designated ports of entry in the US and internationally in priority range states. Additional funding would increase OLE's personnel and capacity, strengthening its ability to investigate illegal wildlife and timber cases.

*In FY17, \$8.2 million of the \$74.7 million allocated to OLE's overall budget was directed to Lacey Act implementation, including efforts to combat illegal trade in wildlife and timber. WWF requests \$12 million for this purpose in FY18.



FORESTS, LANDS, AND TIMBER

Appropriations Bill: Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs

Section: Bilateral Economic Assistance

Account: Development Assistance, Illegal Timber Trade

FY17 Funding Level (under the CR): \$2 million

President's FY18 Request: Unclear

WWF Ask: \$4 million

Illegal logging plays a central role in driving tropical deforestation and degradation in the developing world. In addition, the supply of cheaper illegal timber means US businesses are undersold by roughly \$1 billion annually. In recognition of these threats, Congress amended the Lacey Act in 2008 to expand its protections to plants and plant products. USAID and the Department of State are undertaking international outreach to explain the implications of the Lacey Act to producer countries. Funding for these efforts, which impact industry practices around the world, should be increased to \$4 million from the current funding of \$2 million.

Appropriations Bill: Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Section/Account: US Forest Service International Programs, Illegal Timber Trade

FY17 Funding Level (under the CR): \$8 million

President's FY18 Request: Unclear

WWF Ask: \$8 million

Through its office of International Programs, the US Forest Service works around the globe to improve the management of all forest types, including protected areas. Its 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 US Agency for International Development to advance US interests abroad while assisting other countries

with their most pressing humanitarian and environmental challenges.

Appropriations Bill: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Section/Account: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Illegal Timber Trade

FY17 Funding Level (under the CR): \$2.4 million

President's FY18 Request: Unclear

WWF Ask: \$6.9 million

The importation of illegal products threatens species and has negative impacts on the climate and the US manufacturing sector. The USDA is working with the departments of Justice, State, Interior, and Commerce, and the Council on Environmental Quality, to implement the provisions of the Lacey Act. Additional funding in FY18 is needed to continue the move to an automated import declaration system, including systems to develop more efficient targeting mechanisms, and to maximize the number of products subject to Lacey Act review.

Appropriations Bill: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Account: Natural Resources and the Environment (NRCS & FSA): Farm Bill Conservation Programs & Conservation Technical Assistance

FY17 Funding Level (under the CR): \$4.1 billion

President's FY18 Request: Unclear

WWF Ask: No cuts to Mandatory Farm Bill Conservation Program Funding and \$761 million for Conservation Technical Assistance

In 2014, Congress passed a bipartisan Farm Bill that made significant contributions to deficit reduction, far exceeding initial estimates of \$23 billion in savings over 10 years. Based on the Congressional Budget Office's January 2017 baseline, nutrition and crop insurance alone will spend nearly \$100 billion less than expected. As Senate and House Agriculture Committees prepare for the 2018 Farm Bill, they must not be hamstrung by further budget or appropriations cuts to Farm Bill programs, including important conservation programs such as the Conservation Stewardship Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Regional Conservation Partnerships Program, Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, and Conservation Reserve Program (FSA). Additional cuts would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to absorb. Given the substantial savings already achieved, the committees should have the opportunity to complete their work through regular order. WWF also requests \$761 million for Conservation Technical Assistance.



OCEANS AND FISHERIES

Appropriations Bill: Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs

Section: Bilateral Economic Assistance

Account: New in FY18, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

FY17 Funding Level (under the CR): N/A

President's FY18 Request: Unclear

WWF Ask: \$60 million

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing undermines sustainable fisheries management, the stability of coastal communities, and food security. IUU fishing is also directly linked to major human rights abuses, as well as trafficking in drugs, weapons, and humans. The US is the world's second-largest import market for seafood, importing about 90% of the seafood consumed in this nation. Illegal imports directly harm U.S. fishermen. Ending the import of illegally harvested seafood will require work on the ground to promote monitoring, control, and surveillance of fisheries; strengthened management regimes; transparency across supply chains to prevent laundering of illegal products; and proper enforcement of laws and systems. Since illegal imports originate from many regions, tackling IUU fishing and leveling the playing field will require a global investment of resources.

Appropriations Bill: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Section/Account: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

FY17 Funding Level (under the CR): \$3 million

President's FY18 Request: Unclear

WWF Ask: \$20 million

The US imports roughly 90% of the seafood consumed in this country—about half from wild-caught sources and half from aquaculture—and it is estimated that 20%-32% of the wild-caught seafood comes from IUU sources. IUU creates unfair trade competition for US

fishermen, costing \$1 billion in potential revenue losses a year. It also threatens fishery sustainability, jeopardizes regional and global food security, and is associated with major human rights abuses and a host of illicit activities including human, drug, and weapons trafficking. To strengthen US borders to prevent and deter import of IUU products, NOAA must invest resources to analyze information at the border in real-time, implement effective risk screening tools, and pursue appropriate enforcement actions where illegal fishing is detected—all in close coordination with other federal agencies. These improvements will streamline government processes for imports and reduce risk for US businesses.

Appropriations Bill: Department of Homeland Security

Section/Account: Customs and Border Protection, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

FY17 Funding Level (under the CR): Unclear

President's FY18 Request: Unclear

WWF Ask: \$5 million

U.S. Customs and Border Protection expertise and technological capabilities are critical to deterring the importation of illegal, unreported, and unregulated seafood. Real-time data collection and risk-screening through the International Trade Data System (ITDS) are essential to implement U.S. programs to close the domestic market to IUU products. Ensuring the swift development and effectiveness of these tools, as well as coordination with other government agencies to set data screening criteria and pursue enforcement actions, is essential to deterring IUU and creating a more level playing field for U.S. fishermen.

World Wildlife Fund

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