



THE INTERNATIONAL
CONSERVATION
BUDGET
2 0 0 9

BUILDING ON AMERICA'S HISTORIC COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION



“It is important to stress the positive impact biodiversity conservation has on economic development.”

– Marc Ravalomanana, President of Madagascar

CONSERVING NATURE

is in our collective interest. Its resources are the foundation of our prosperity and our security. Its bounty supplies the food we eat, the air we breathe and the water we drink. Its beauty inspires us and informs our cultural and spiritual values. However, nature’s ability to support us is being severely tested by a human population on trajectory to reach 9 billion by mid-century. With both population and consumption on the rise, conservation must be made a top-tier priority for developed and developing nations alike.

The challenge is greatest in the developing world. The planet’s richest biodiversity is often found in its poorest regions. In some of these, population growth is already outstripping available resources. For example, Sub-Saharan Africa saw its population quadruple between 1955 and 2005 – from 200 million to 770 million. Today, 21 countries in the region face food crises and 212 million people are malnourished. By 2050, 770 million could grow to 1.76 billion – on a continent where 50% of the land is suffering desertification. Elsewhere on the globe, disparate nations are confronting a similar dilemma: How can expanding needs be met with limited or diminishing resources?

Conservation is part of the answer. Developing countries increasingly recognize the need to incorporate conservation strategies into long-term development goals – an approach that can empower and enrich local communities while safeguarding the very resources on which they depend. Madagascar is a case in point. With seed money from the U.S. government, the Malagasy government has initiated a project to conserve 500,000 hectares of that country’s Makira Forest. The project will protect numerous species found nowhere else in the world while transferring resource

management rights to local communities, ensuring clean water supplies for 300,000 people and supplying alternatives to slash-and-burn agriculture through improved irrigation and increased productivity of cultivated lands. By supplying incentives that keep the Makira Forest standing, the government earns forest carbon credits equaling 9.1 million tons of avoided carbon dioxide emissions – credits that can then be sold to generate significant revenues. A modest initial U.S. investment to save this spectacular forest is helping to mitigate global climate change and creating a sustainable financing mechanism to support national conservation strategies and fund local needs, including schools, hospitals and community management of protected areas and wildlife. As a result, the Makira Forest’s trees will bring more long-term growth to the country’s underdeveloped regions through conservation than could ever be achieved by cutting them down.

Many aspects of conservation extend across national boundaries and can only be managed successfully through regional efforts. One of the newest of these is the Coral Triangle Initiative – a multinational effort to conserve 6 million square kilometers of marine area in Southeast Asia that is home to over half of the world’s coral reefs and one of the highest human population densities on the planet. The Coral Triangle’s marine environment supports the livelihoods of tens of millions of people in six developing nations, serves as the spawning ground for tuna populations that supply 50 percent of the global tuna market and generates billions of dollars in annual revenue overall. USAID, the GEF and other international partners have already committed over \$100 million dollars to ensure the long-term sustainability of the region’s marine resources through this multi-year Initiative. Several other large-scale regional programs are described in the pages that follow.

Cover Photo: New surveys in the Republic of Congo have discovered robust populations of the western lowland gorilla, an iconic and critically endangered species.
Left: The villagers, who live in Kimbe Bay, Papua New Guinea, participate in managing a marine protected area near their homes.

Working with international allies and conservation partners, U.S. agencies are engaged in a multitude of conservation projects worldwide, playing pivotal roles in building local capacity and providing support, training and expertise to developing countries. To raise the profile of this essential work, Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Wildlife Conservation Society and World Wildlife Fund have collaborated to publish this International Conservation Budget. Our collective efforts have saved millions of acres from over-exploitation while improving local livelihoods. The U.S. government has supplied critical backing for the projects highlighted in these pages – projects that are protecting species, preserving habitats and providing cost-effective tools for ensuring sustainable growth and stable societies.

While the 2009 International Conservation Budget is a testament to these successes, it is also a call to action. Modest victories are no longer enough. Climate change is already magnifying and multiplying existing threats. Without concerted action, biologists believe half of all species could be nearing extinction by the end of the century. Growing resource pressures also threaten to reverse whatever progress developing countries have achieved. As ecosystems are undermined, livelihoods will be lost and poverty will increase. In a world of vanishing nature, scarcity will breed conflict – and the resulting instability will not be

confined to the developing world. Resource competition may well define the security challenges of the coming century. The U.S. minimizes these risks by promoting development that takes conservation into account.

A major expansion of funding for conservation must be part of a renewed and increased U.S. commitment to foreign assistance. Natural resources are the foundation on which developing economies will continue to grow. If their growth is to last, we must reinforce that foundation through committed conservation partnerships backed by funding that is robust, reliable and sustained. The new Administration and incoming Congress have an opportunity to make international conservation a powerful and primary element within a modernized and expanded approach to foreign aid. Traditional mechanisms can be complemented with innovative approaches, such as international funds for climate change adaptation, sustainable fisheries incentives and market-based approaches for reducing emissions from tropical deforestation.

The challenge is profound and time is short. For these reasons, we recommend an immediate increase in international conservation funding in Fiscal Year 2010, followed by a progressive rise over the next four years until the level of investment is commensurate with the risks we face. Our organizations stand ready to do their part to achieve this transformation in development assistance.

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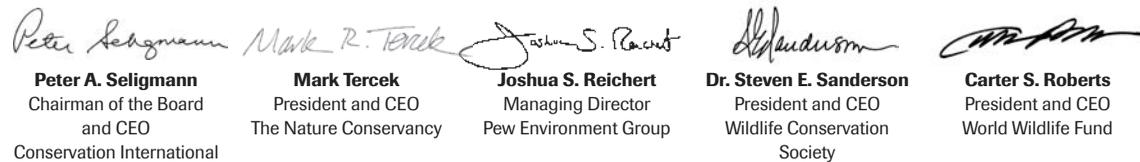
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Working at Scale

Meeting global challenges

While conservation projects are most often centered on local sites, local resources and local people, in many cases environmental degradation is happening on a broad scale and can only be effectively addressed with regional efforts that transcend national boundaries. Through a combination of federal government and civil society partnerships, regional programs offer enhanced operational capacity and the requisite expertise on the ground to tackle the most daunting challenges to global conservation. Regional agreements backed by funding from the U.S. government and others are enabling conservation efforts to expand and achieve large-scale successes. Most U.S. government support for these broader efforts is channeled through USAID, which would greatly benefit not just from increased funding but also from greater operational capacity and technical support in both its Global Bureaus and its missions and regional hubs. Following are a few of the most prominent regional programs currently supported by the U.S. government. There is no shortage of places where similar investments could have a significant impact and where conservation assistance is desperately needed.

Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP)

The Congo Basin contains one-quarter of the world's tropical forests and is home to over 24 million people, most of whom rely on the forests and their resources for survival. Social and political instability compound the region's resource challenges, heightening threats to the forest and to the species and livelihoods that depend upon it. USAID and other U.S. agencies have provided more than \$50 million in CBFP funding, matched by European and private donors. These funds are enabling CBFP to conserve millions of acres in new protected areas, strengthen laws governing local natural resource management, hire, train and equip rangers and create community enterprises linked to conservation. CBFP also supports partnerships between governments, local populations and logging companies, such as CBG and Rougier, which have succeeded in placing 1,500,000

hectares of forest in Gabon under sustainable management and provided funding for wildlife protection patrols in the forests of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). CBFP funding also supported the recent discovery of 125,000 western lowland gorillas in northern regions of the Republic of Congo. Surveys conducted by CBFP-supported researchers create new hope for this iconic and critically endangered species, and the discovery will encourage Congo Basin governments to go further in protecting the gorillas by creating new national parks and advancing wildlife tourism development.

Amazon Basin Initiative

The Amazon holds the largest area of contiguous intact tropical forest in the world and is one of the focal areas for both global conservation and human development efforts. The region's resources are seriously threatened by over-exploitation, population growth and perverse policy incentives. Since 2005, USAID has organized major new conservation efforts for both the Brazilian Amazon and the countries of the Andean Amazon headwaters. USAID funds are helping to combat illegal logging, conserve wildlife and habitat, improve forest management, promote integrated water resource management, strengthen environmental compliance and enforcement by local governments and build capacity in the public sector and civil society. In Bolivia's Madidi National Park, USAID support is protecting historically vulnerable indigenous communities by helping them secure legal recognition of their traditional territories and helping them build transparent and accountable governance systems for managing their natural resources. The area's indigenous communities have established twenty new economic associations for honey production, caiman harvest and commercial fishing. USAID has invested about \$30 million annually in Amazon conservation activities across seven countries. Adding in other donor commitments, total conservation investment in the region approaches \$200 million annually. However, even these investments are dwarfed by the existing needs. Cooperating to resolve the region's many conflicts will be a central task of the coming decade.

Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI)

The Coral Triangle is the center of global marine diversity and abundance, home to 75% of all known coral species and nearly 3,000 species of fish. Covering parts of the exclusive economic zones of Indonesia, Timor Leste, the Philippines, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, the marine resources of the region are estimated to generate more than \$2 billion per year in revenues and support more than 120 million people dependent on its resources for food security and employment. The Coral Triangle is also the spawning and nursery ground for tuna populations that supply half of the world's canned tuna and one third of the Japanese sashimi market. Warming temperatures, overfishing and poor management seriously threaten these resources. In 2007, Indonesian President Yudhoyono proposed the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) to safeguard the region's marine and coastal resources and the livelihoods that they support. It has since been endorsed by twenty-one Heads of State. The Initiative has become a conservation priority for the United States, with over \$32 million pledged over the next five years alongside contributions from other major donors, including the GEF. CTI countries are currently developing national and regional priorities for marine protected areas and improved fisheries management. The Initiative has the potential to be the largest and most important regional marine conservation program in the world – with the greatest immediate impact on large human populations.

Caribbean Challenge

The Caribbean Sea contains 8,000 square miles of coral reefs, more than 1,400 species of fish and six of the world's seven

species of sea turtles. These resources generate about \$4 billion annually but are threatened by overfishing and pollution. Caribbean leaders launched the Caribbean Challenge to conserve at least 3 million hectares of marine habitat using conservation finance mechanisms, such as national level trust funds. Already, the Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have committed to protect 20% of their near-shore marine area by 2020. The initiative is receiving support from the GEF, private conservation organizations and the German government, with nearly \$50 million already pledged.

Global Conservation Program (GCP)

For the last decade, the Global Conservation Program (GCP) has been the largest worldwide conservation program managed centrally by USAID. A partnership between USAID and leading U.S.-based NGOs, the GCP aims to conserve globally significant areas of biodiversity through site-based programs, contributing to human livelihoods, addressing the major threats to conservation and testing innovative approaches for achieving greater conservation impact at multiple scales. In Belize, GCP is helping to protect the extraordinary marine biodiversity of Glover's Reef Atoll – including sea turtles, conch, groupers, parrot fishes and other species – by supporting long-term fisheries monitoring and research, ecotourism training for local stakeholders, cooperative management and the creation of sustainable conservation financing opportunities. GCP is working in 30 countries and has placed over 33 million hectares under effective conservation management in its second phase.

“The Coral Triangle Initiative is proof positive that the sustainable environmental model is not only possible; it is also necessary and we are going to make it happen.”

– President Gloria Arroyo of the Philippines, June, 2008

Program: USAID Biodiversity Programs

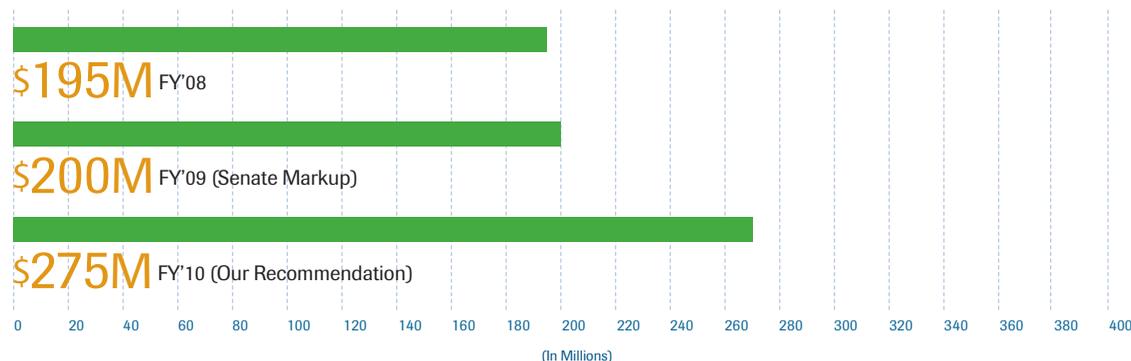
Agency: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

The vast majority of United States foreign assistance for on-the-ground conservation is delivered through USAID and its Biodiversity Conservation Programs. These programs are responsible for protecting some of the planet's largest and most at-risk natural landscapes, which support important biodiversity and endangered wildlife populations as well as millions of people, often impoverished and dependent on local natural resources for survival. As global threats to natural resources expand at extraordinary rates, it is important that foreign assistance dollars work to accomplish multiple objectives. Foreign assistance to these at-risk places not only serves the need of the inhabitants but addresses larger foreign policy objectives: ensuring clean water, promoting global health, combating global warming, building democracies, securing environmental resources, sustaining livelihoods and reducing poverty.

U.S. investments in global conservation have a track record of delivering results on a number of levels while strategically leveraging support from other donors around the world. As the risks grow, so must U.S. commitments if they are to meet the needs of natural resource managers and conservationists overseas. Partnerships forged by USAID professionals, foreign governments, the private sector, local peoples and conservation organizations are a driving force behind the USAID Biodiversity Program. A significant expansion of U.S. Foreign Assistance directed to global conservation will help countries in the developing world meet future needs while ensuring the longevity of the natural resources upon which their citizens and the world rely.

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

Funding Program Levels



Highlights

Afghanistan: Sustainable Natural Resource Management in the Pamirs

Over 80% of Afghans depend directly on the country's natural resources for their livelihoods. USAID funding is helping to draft the nation's first environmental laws, establish a network of national parks and train officials in natural resource management. In the Wakhan Corridor, the central highlands and the province of Nuristan, over 45 communities have benefited from efforts to establish democratic systems for resource management and sustainable development. Part of the Pamir Mountain Range, where the borders of Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and Tajikistan intersect, the Wakhan Corridor is a strategically important region and home to spectacular endemic species, such as the endangered Marco Polo sheep, snow leopard, ibex, brown bear and golden eagle. A trans-boundary protected area will help foster regional cooperation while promoting conservation of wildlife and natural resources.



The Pamir Mountains, Afghanistan.

Papua New Guinea: Marine Protected Areas in Kimbe Bay

Kimbe Bay, in the eastern part of the Coral Triangle, contains important feeding and breeding grounds for whales, dolphins and sharks and is home to thousands of people who rely on its waters for food and livelihood. The threats to the bay are both local, such as overfishing, and global, such as rising sea temperatures due to climate change. To ensure that Kimbe's reefs stay healthy, USAID has helped design a network of resilient marine protected areas (MPAs), taking into account both human needs and principles of coral reef resilience. Communities with customary rights are working with scientists to establish locally-managed MPAs. In 2008, the Tarobi community launched a management plan, and other communities are expected to soon follow. Lessons learned in Kimbe Bay will help ensure the survival of coral reefs throughout the world.



Locals in canoe at sunset in Kimbe Bay, Papua New Guinea.

Global: Global Forest & Trade Network

The Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN) uses market mechanisms to promote conservation by reducing illegal logging and fostering improved forest management. GFTN mainstreams principles of responsible forest management and trade throughout the forest products industry, facilitating trade links among companies committed to responsible forestry and connecting buyers committed to responsibly harvested forest products with forest managers who are certified or progressing towards certification. Over six years, GFTN has leveraged USAID's investment of \$6.5 million by five times, engaging governmental agencies, multilateral organizations, NGOs and leading corporations, such as IKEA. GFTN has helped increase certified timber sources for over 360 participants employing 2.4 million people globally. Trading by GFTN participants accounts for about 15% of the global harvest and nearly \$61 billion in forest product sales per year.



A logging worker demonstrates an identification number on the trunk of a legally harvested African Teak in Western Ghana. The worker is employed by Samatex, a GFTN-participating company.

Highlights (cont'd)

Brazil: Responsible Sourcing of Agricultural Products

Brazil is quickly replacing the United States as the world's leading agricultural exporter. However, poorly designed incentives and lax enforcement mean that Brazil also has one of the highest rates of habitat conversion on the planet, including thousands of square miles of forest burned each year. Reversing this trend is the single most urgent priority for both conservation and agricultural sustainability. Agriculture expansion can take place alongside conservation if agricultural activities are channeled into the right areas, regulated by Brazil's existing Forest Code and rigorously monitored. The USAID-supported Responsible Sourcing Cluster is working to embed Forest Code compliance in supply chain management and rural licensing systems and to disseminate comprehensive information to local, regional, national and international audiences. By implementing sustainable agriculture measures in the Amazon, the program has the potential to impact conservation on an enormous scale.



Destruction in a Brazilian forest.

Global: Business and Biodiversity Offset Program (BBOP)

BBOP is responding to demand from industry, government and the conservation community to develop a systematic approach to biodiversity offsets, which compensate for the unavoidable impact on biodiversity and habitat by infrastructure development projects. USAID is supporting biodiversity offset pilot projects for mining and ecotourism, and the program is mainstreaming conservation into project planning for the extraction, construction, tourism and agriculture sectors, among others. An international Expert Advisory Committee of over 35 public and private organizations encourages the incorporation of state-of-the-art ideas, while an extensive Learning Network ensures lessons are shared across a broad group of institutions.



Aerial view of mine in Cananea, Mexico.

Guatemala: Sustainable Forestry Practices in the Maya Biosphere

The northeastern Petén region of Guatemala is home to vast lowland tropical forests and wetlands threatened by agricultural expansion. One local industry is harvesting *Xate* palm fronds to be sold in international markets for use in floral arrangements. USAID funding has helped to support an effective governance system for commercial trade of palm fronds, which limits trading to high-quality fronds commanding premium prices. Locals have collectively developed and enforced a management plan for use of this community resource, which has received the approval of the Guatemalan government. The lessons learned in this process can now be applied to management of other natural resources or sustainable community enterprises that promote good governance at the grassroots level.



Aerial view near El Burral Lagoon.

Highlights (cont'd)

Vietnam and Cambodia: Greater Mekong Program

The Greater Mekong Program (GMP) is working to protect the ecological integrity of the Mekong Basin and ensure the natural assets base for a growing population by promoting international cooperation on wildlife trade, regional coordination on infrastructure and hydropower planning, development of payment for ecosystem services and capacity building for environmental leadership. In Vietnam's Greater Annamites region, the GMP is working with government, international and private partners to protect critically endangered wildlife (including the Javan rhinoceros and Siamese crocodile), to preserve the world's second most diverse river system and to empower local people through community-based forest and freshwater management. New or expanded protected areas are being instituted in Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam provinces and Bach Ma National Park, and the training of local forest rangers in enforcement, mapping and forest restoration resulted in a 30% drop in wildlife trade violations last year.



Siamese Crocodile.

Mexico: Chiapas Coastal Watersheds

Extensive deforestation in Mexico's Chiapas Coastal Watershed has made the marginalized local population highly vulnerable to increasingly severe weather patterns. The result has been serious damage and loss of human life. The economic cost of 2005's Hurricane Stan alone was estimated at more than \$370 million. With USAID funding, conservation partners are working with local people to restore and preserve mangroves, river margins and hillsides in order to protect lives and property. Reforestation with local tree species, better agricultural and forestry practices, water and soil conservation projects and social development initiatives are helping preserve this incredible landscape, not only for its unique flora and fauna, but also for the 4.3 million people who call Chiapas home.



A conservation specialist talks with forestry workers at the site of a community managed reforestation initiative project in the pine-oak cloud forest near Coapilla in Chiapas, Mexico.

Mozambique: Sanctuaries to Restore Marine Resources

In July 2008, Mozambique opened the Zala Bank Fish Sanctuary, a total protection marine zone located in the northern part of Quirimbas National Park. With funding from USAID, the Zala sanctuary became the eighth such zone designated by local communities since 2002. Mozambique's marine resources were seriously depleted after years of overfishing, but newly created sanctuaries have helped fish stocks to recover and resulted in improved catches for local fishermen. Preliminary results from the Zala sanctuary indicate increases in diversity, quantity and size of fish species.



Fisherman in dugout canoe coming in to shore in Nacala Bay, Northern Mozambique.

Highlights (cont'd)

Mongolia: Community Engagement in Wildlife Management

Mongolia is the least densely populated country in the world, with a population heavily dependent on traditional nomadic livestock production and the country's natural resource base. For decades, illegal wildlife trade has placed intense poaching pressures on Mongolian wildlife, including the saiga antelope, whose horns are highly valued in the Chinese medicinal market. USAID is helping conservation organizations work with local nomadic families to improve natural resource management through the creation of herder cooperatives. The cooperatives have improved grazing systems and helped to enforce hunting regulations on economically important wildlife. This has increased opportunities for families to access markets, empowered local community institutions and helped local herder groups to develop wildlife management, protection and monitoring plans for their areas. By establishing legal rights and building local expertise, the project is helping to sustainably manage the world's last great temperate grassland.



Local Mongolian people are heavily dependent on the nation's natural resources.

Congo-Democratic Republic of Congo: Green Lawyers

Avocats Verts (Green Lawyers) is a USAID-supported program helping local communities to assume management of rural landscapes in Central Africa. The program provides tools and capacity for local people to define, defend and implement local natural resource management and governance. Workshops inform communities of their rights under Congolese law and increase their awareness of the illegality of many present practices. Through the program, national governments, the donor community and international NGOs are promoting community participation, decentralized management and respect of customary norms in the Congo.



Park ranger clearing away wire snare animal traps in Virunga National Park, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Highlights (cont'd)

Global: Whooper Swan Surveillance for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza virus were largely confined to domestic poultry until 2005, when over 6,000 wild migratory birds died at Qinghai Lake in China. A subsequent outbreak among whooper swans in Mongolia led researchers to tag and track the birds to determine their role in spreading the disease, which could pose a global threat if it were to spread to humans. Scientists cooperating through the Global Avian Influenza Network for Surveillance (GAINS) program and supported by USAID and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention monitored the whooper swans' migration to wintering grounds in China and Korea using satellite transmitters and determined that the birds were victims rather than vectors of the outbreak. This proactive monitoring system has already collected data from over 105 million bird observations worldwide.



Wildlife veterinarians monitor whooper swans for highly pathogenic avian influenza.

East Africa: Climate Change Adaptation Techniques

The Albertine Rift, running from the northern end of Lake Albert to the southern end of Lake Tanganyika, suffers from severe forest loss and habitat destruction. USAID-funded efforts have helped conserve the biodiversity of the region, using satellite imagery and remote sensing techniques to investigate changes in habitat on large scales in high altitudes. Climate change adds a new dimension to existing threats, and this research seeks to highlight both the areas that are most threatened by habitat destruction and the ways in which species and landscape level conservation can be modeled to better suit changes to the local climate.



African elephants going to water.

Program: **The Global Environment Facility (GEF)**

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

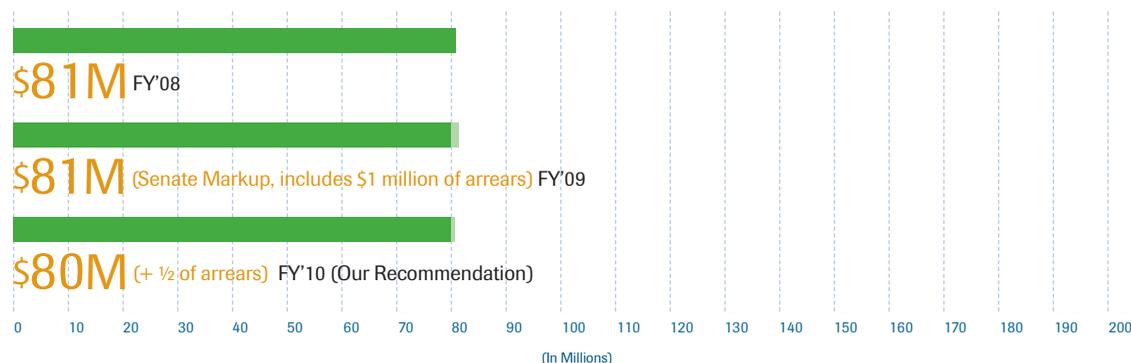
The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is the designated financial mechanism for international conventions on biodiversity, climate change, persistent organic pollutants and desertification and supports the work of global agreements to protect international waters and the ozone layer. The GEF channels funds donated by the U.S. and 31 other countries in support of numerous multilateral agreements. Since 1991, the U.S. has pledged \$1.6 billion to the GEF, and every U.S. dollar invested has leveraged about \$23 dollars from other sources. The GEF has established a strong track record, providing \$7.4 billion in grants and leveraging \$28 billion in co-financing for over 1,800 projects in over 150 countries.

projects have received more than one-third of total GEF funding. More than \$1.56 billion has been invested in over 1,600 protected areas, leveraging an additional \$4.15 billion in co-financing from project partners. Using innovative market-based approaches, such as payments for ecosystem services, the GEF ensures that efforts to protect the environment and projects to support local economic development work hand-in-hand. Approval of the 2009 federal budget will secure payment of the U.S.' current \$80 million pledge and perhaps a contribution towards \$170 million in arrears. Until the U.S. pays its arrears, other donors are freezing nearly \$230 million in contributions. By fulfilling its current pledge and paying off all remaining arrears, the U.S. can generate more than \$1 billion for on-the-ground projects.

www.thegef.org

The GEF is the largest funder of projects to protect the global environment. Biodiversity conservation

Funding Program Levels



Highlights

East Africa: Sustaining Fresh Water and Marine Resources

Lake Tanganyika possesses some of the highest biodiversity of any lake on Earth and plays an important role in the economies and food security of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania and Zambia. With GEF support, the four countries signed the Lake Tanganyika Convention in 2003, agreeing to a Strategic Action Program for addressing unsustainable fisheries, pollution, excessive sedimentation and habitat destruction that is now being implemented. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the GEF is working to prevent the depletion and collapse of the region's marine fisheries through a GEF-World Bank Partnership Investment Fund to help countries meet sustainable fisheries targets.



Taxi pirogue at sunset on Lake Tanganyika. Gombé, National Park, Tanzania.

Brazil: Protecting the Amazon's Biological Treasures

The Amazon Region Protected Areas Program (ARPA) is the largest joint initiative for tropical forest conservation, seeking to protect 50 million hectares and triple the extent of Brazil's protected areas by 2012. The project aims to combine ecosystem protection with the creation of sustainable livelihoods. Through an independent endowment, ARPA is making targeted investments in alternative revenue-generating activities by local people, developing management and biodiversity monitoring systems and providing permanent trained local staff. Studies are determining the potential for crafts, concessions, ecotourism and other low environmental-impact activities to benefit specific local populations. ARPA also calls for 9 million hectares of community sustainable use areas, including community extractive reserves and sustainable development reserves.



Apiacás Indian mother and child in Juruena National Park, Brazil.

Mekong Basin: Managing Shared Water Supplies

Since 2000, the GEF has been helping the member states of the Mekong River Commission to implement key elements of a 1995 agreement on reasonable and equitable water use and quality management and protection of sensitive ecological systems in the Mekong Basin. In June 2006, Ministers from Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam signed an agreement to maintain adequate flows to ensure that the Basin's wetlands, flooded forests and estuary system can support the region's globally significant biodiversity over the long-term.



Children with a basket full of Mekong freshwater herring, a formerly abundant species that has almost disappeared. Tonle Sap River, Cambodia during flood season.

Highlights (cont'd)

Jordan: Protecting Nature, Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods

Jordan's Dana Nature Reserve contains some of the country's most important biodiversity, including 20 percent of Jordan's native floral species. Bedouins and local villagers have traditionally depended on the reserve and its resources, but overgrazing and unsustainable practices have led to soil erosion and environmental degradation. The GEF is working with international partners and the Jordanian government to restore the reserve and create alternative livelihoods for local people. Rangeland zoning and management plans are reducing overgrazing, and ecotourism is drawing tens of thousands of visitors annually, generating jobs, part-time incomes and park revenues.



Bedouin herding goats on a mountain ridge, Jordan.

Asia: Promoting Healthy Marine Ecosystems

Several major GEF initiatives promote protection and sustainable use of Large Marine Ecosystems in Asia, including projects underway in the Bay of Bengal, the South China Sea and the Yellow Sea, and along coastal areas of China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand. Focus areas include sustainable fisheries, habitat protection and integrated coastal management. One strategic partnership between the World Bank and the GEF aims to reduce pollution discharges to East Asian marine waters by mobilizing more than \$1 billion in co-financing to accompany GEF-funded investments in urban and agricultural pollution reduction. The partnership has raised \$640 million to date.



Bajo tribal children (Sea gypsy tribe) in Wakatobi National Park, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia. The children play with friends and their "koli-koli" (small wooden boats without engines). This is a common daily activity, along with fishing, for bajo children after returning from school.

Africa: Addressing Land Degradation

Land degradation in Africa has been a GEF priority since 2002. In Kenya, the GEF and the World Bank are working to improve livelihoods in rural communities by promoting sustainable agriculture and agricultural modernization. A pioneering GEF initiative, the Country Partnership Program for Sustainable Land Management (CPP), offers a variety of interventions to tackle land degradation, including policy, regulatory and institutional reforms, capacity building and investments. The CPP is addressing land degradation in a comprehensive and integrated manner in countries such as Namibia and Burkina Faso, where 30% of arable land faces severe degradation.



A young Masai boy herds cattle at Manyara Ranch in Tanzania.

Highlights (cont'd)

South Pacific: Supporting Tuna Fisheries Management

With assistance from the GEF and UNDP, a landmark ecosystem-based Tuna Treaty was negotiated between 11 Pacific island nations and Papua New Guinea to institute joint management of their important ocean resources under the Law of the Sea Convention. The GEF Council has since approved a project to help build the capacity of the newly established commission and Treaty states to implement sustainable fisheries management under the new convention – an important step towards securing the livelihoods and economic futures of these island states.



Fijian men in traditional dress marking the creation of a Marine Protected Area in Vanua Levu, Fiji.

Eastern Europe: Restoring the Black Sea and Danube River Basin

Once famous for giant schools of salmon, sturgeon and anchovy, the Black Sea is the most seriously degraded regional sea on the planet due to pollution, invasive species and overfishing. Working with Black Sea and Danube basin countries, the GEF is developing strategies, commitments and financing for country-level reforms. Local fisheries are improving, and an integrated coastal zone management plan has been created for six Black Sea nations. In Romania, \$4.5 million in GEF funding to restore wetlands has prevented an estimated 55 tons of phosphorus, 1200 tons of nitrogen and 40,000 tons of sediment from entering the Black Sea.



Fish processing at the Black Sea port of Trazon, Turkey.

Indonesia: Conserving Komodo National Park

Famous for its unique Komodo dragons, Indonesia's Komodo National Park encompasses nearly half a million acres and supports one of the world's richest marine environments. Supported by a GEF grant of \$5 million over seven years, conservationists are working with private partners and the Indonesian government on a joint ecotourism venture to promote conservation and community development. A visitor's center and market for local handicrafts were completed in 2007. Tourism has already increased almost 30 percent over the previous year.



Landscape of Komodo National Park in Indonesia in the heart of the Coral Triangle.

Program: Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA)

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

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

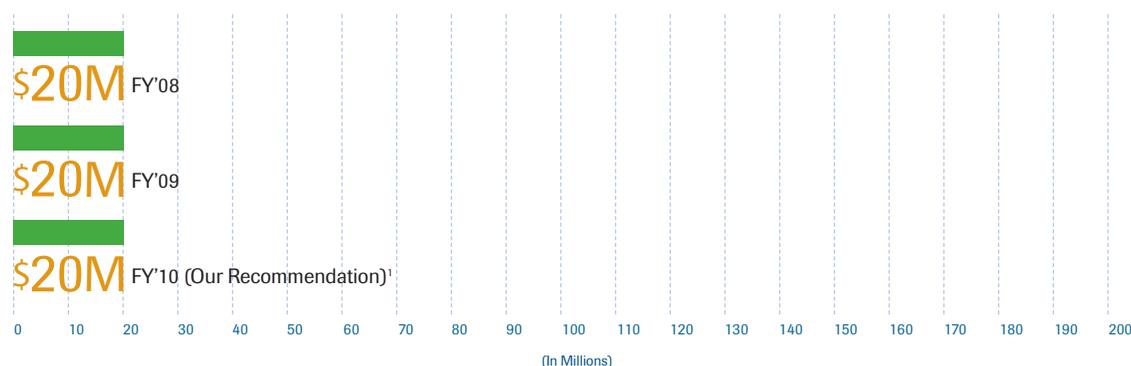
The TFCA offers a unique opportunity for public-private partnerships. The majority of agreements have included funds raised by U.S.-based NGOs. As of December 2007, \$95 million has been used to complete 13 TFCA debt-for-nature agreements, generating more than \$163 million in long-term commitments for tropical forest conservation in Bangladesh, Belize, Botswana, Colombia, Costa Rica,

El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and the Philippines. The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International and World Wildlife Fund have contributed a total of \$12 million to eight of these agreements. Two to three new projects are developed each year under the TFCA program.

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

<http://www.treas.gov/offices/international-affairs>
http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/forestry/tfca.htm

Funding Program Levels



* If the reauthorized TFCA/TFCCA passes prior to the FY10 budget cycle, an increase to the maximum authorized funding level is recommended

Highlights

Jamaica: Conserving Forests and Controlling Flooding

Four years after the negotiation of Jamaica's \$16 million debt-for-nature swap, TFCA is providing long-term funding to protect and manage national parks and forest reserves. The Jamaica Forest Conservation Fund generated approximately \$700,000 last year in support of forest conservation activities, including reforestation, erosion control, agro-forestry, invasive species eradication, forest management planning and capacity building. Local communities are seeing benefits in reduced flooding. The island is poised to be the first country to take advantage of an expanded TFCA mandate to support coral reef conservation around the world.



Blue and John Crow Mountains in Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park, Jamaica, Caribbean.

Peru: Reducing Illegal Logging

Peru's Alto Purus National Park and a surrounding reserve for indigenous peoples comprise 2.5 million hectares of largely intact Amazon forest. The park supports highly threatened species but is itself threatened by illegal logging. Park guards have discovered logging camps inside the park, harvested wood ready for transport and settlers encroaching on indigenous rights. TFCA has funded hiring of additional enforcement personnel and equipping a control post on the Tahuamanu River to apprehend illegal operators. Illegal logging of mahogany has already decreased as a result.



Forests of Peru, South America.

Belize: Protecting Biodiversity

TFCA and local partners are collaborating to conserve Belize's largest protected region, the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area. TFCA funding supports 10 year-round rangers, who monitor the park, conduct ground and aerial patrols and undertake research. Illegal activities have fallen sharply – illegal logging operations uncovered have dropped from 10 in 2005 to just one in 2007. TFCA funds also support certification of sustainably harvested timber, upgrade of park facilities and outreach to buffer-zone communities.



Monitoring logging operations-skidding logs at Hill Bank in Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area of Belize in Central America.

Philippines: Rehabilitating Forests

A TFCA grant and additional donations have rehabilitated or placed under improved management 150,000 hectares in the Philippines. A separate small grants program is supporting research, advocacy, alliance building, networking and capacity enhancement. Because maintaining and regenerating healthy forests also requires good governance, accountability, collaboration and monitoring, the TFCA promotes strong ties among project partners, community members and other local stakeholders.



Rice Terraces, Philippines.

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

Agency: *U.S. Department of State*

Through the U.S. State Department's International Conservation Programs, the U.S. supports cooperative approaches to conservation challenges and provides technical expertise to help developing countries build capacity for conservation and sustainable natural resource management. The programs facilitate the exchange of information and new environmental technologies between countries. Modest U.S. contributions often leverage millions of dollars in project co-funding.

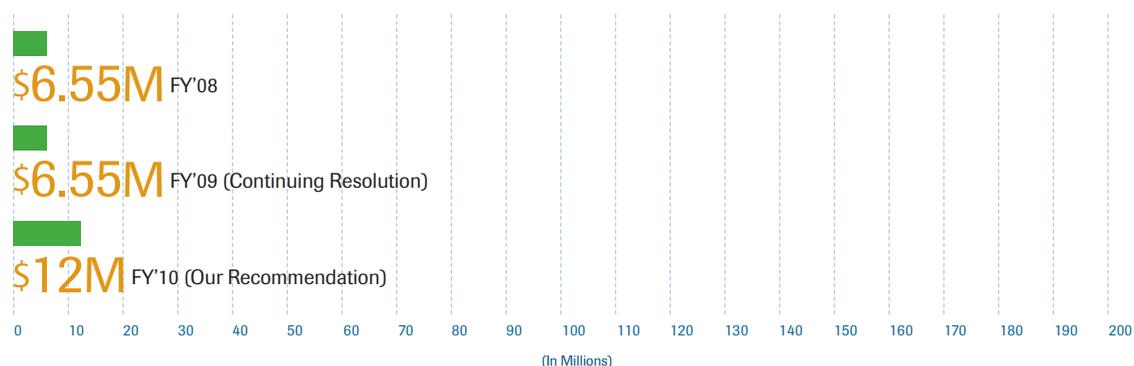
The account supports a number of important cooperative initiatives, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which monitors and regulates international trade in threatened and endangered species; IUCN-the World Conservation Union, a global alliance for the advancement of

conservation and sustainable development objectives; the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, a global framework for efforts to conserve and sustainably manage wetland resources; the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), which brings together producing and consuming countries to address all aspects of the tropical timber economy; and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which works to address the fundamental causes of famine and food insecurity.

The IO&P account also includes funding for the UN Environment Programme and the World Heritage Convention, both of which support nature conservation in developing countries.

<http://www.state.gov>

Funding Program Levels



Highlights

Fuelwood and Livelihoods

More than half of the wood consumed worldwide is used for energy to meet basic needs, such as cooking. Fuelwood consumption has become a key driver of deforestation in many developing countries, threatening livelihoods and habitats, creating black carbon emissions that contribute to global warming and, in some areas, even giving rise to conflict. The U.S. is working to raise the profile of this issue through the G-8 and other forums in order to promote cross-sectoral action that will help close the energy gap, inspire small-enterprise development to meet wood and technology needs, promote sustainable forest management and reduce carbon emissions.



Women gathering fuelwood on the outskirts of Virunga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Combating the Illegal Trade in Wildlife

The multi-billion dollar illegal trade in wildlife threatens worldwide efforts to protect endangered species and reduce the loss of biodiversity, undermines sustainable livelihoods and weakens the rule of law nationally and internationally. To combat this illegal trade, the United States launched the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT), a global public-private partnership between six governments and 13 international conservation organizations that has already raised public awareness through aggressive public outreach campaigns and raised the political profile of the issue through the 2008 G-8 Leaders Statement. The Coalition has also supported the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network through law enforcement and judicial training programs and is supporting the efforts of the governments of South Asia as they establish a regional wildlife enforcement network.



Michael Ntosh, head of security for Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, with ivory confiscated from poachers at the armory at Lewa headquarters in Kenya.

Conserving Coral Reefs through Crime Scene Investigations

Coral reefs and coral reef resources are fundamental to the livelihoods of more than 1 billion people in more than 100 countries, and yet they continue to decline worldwide. As co-chair of the International Coral Reef Initiative, the United States government initiated the Coral Reef Crime Scene Investigation program. Coral Reef CSI workshops have been highly successful in training coral reef resource managers, forensic investigators and prosecutors who investigate incidents that damage coral reefs, track down the perpetrators and prosecute violations. Originally targeting the Caribbean and Southeast Asia, the Coral Reef CSI program has been expanded to include East Africa and the Indian and Pacific Oceans.



Whitestar sheet coral, Andros Islands, Bahamas.

Program: **Multinational Species Conservation Funds (MSCF)**

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

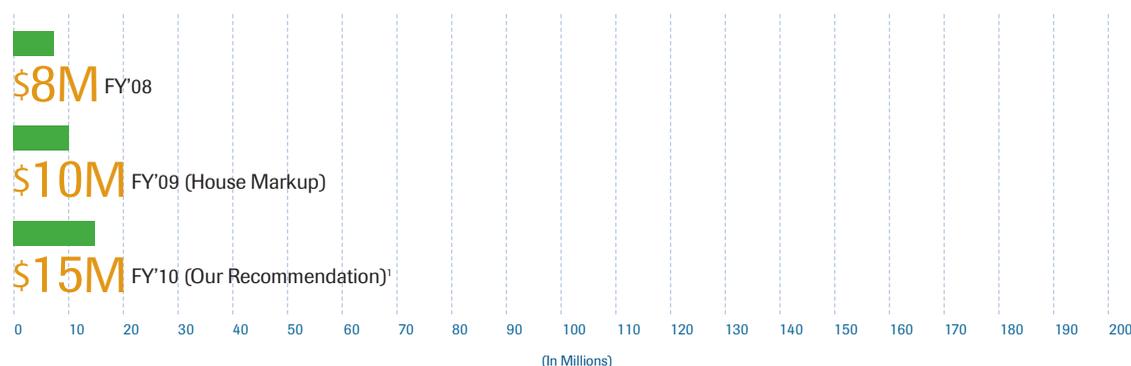
The Congressional Research Service describes the Fish and Wildlife Service’s Multinational Species Conservation Funds as “a relatively small program that has generated enormous constituent interest.” The African Elephant Conservation Fund was established by Congress in 1990, followed by four additional funds to protect Asian elephants, rhinos/tigers, great apes and marine turtles. These MSCF programs conserve charismatic species in their natural surroundings through law enforcement, capacity building, habitat conservation, surveys and monitoring, public outreach and mitigation of human-animal conflicts. Since 1990, the Funds have provided almost \$60 million for conservation and leveraged more than \$140 million in partner contributions.

populations have fallen from an estimated 3,600 animals in 2002 to 1,400 today. Elephants in Asia face ongoing threats from forest destruction and human-animal conflicts. Sea turtles suffer from poaching and loss of nesting habitat around the world. Successes in the past year include aerial surveys of Southern Sudan revealing large herds of elephants and antelope migrations rivaling the Serengeti and the discovery of robust populations of critically endangered western lowland gorillas in the Republic of Congo. Expanding upon the existing Funds’ success are the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act and the Crane Conservation Act, which await passage by Congress. Should these bills pass in time for FY 2010 funding, we ask that additional funds be appropriated to initiate them.

These modestly sized programs have broad-based support and address critical needs. Indian tiger

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

Funding Program Levels



¹ If the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act and/or the Crane Conservation Act are passed before the FY10 appropriation bills are complete, we recommend that an additional \$1.25 million be made available for each in order to initiate these new programs

Highlights

Asian Elephant Conservation Fund – Reducing Human-Elephant Conflict

Human-elephant conflict is undermining elephant conservation throughout Asia. FWS funding is helping to organize captive Sumatran elephants into Conservation Response Units, which discourage wild elephants from destroying human property and prevent violent human responses. The captive elephants protect forests and crops while generating local ecotourism income. Staff and community members are trained in organizing and dispatching field patrols, assessing illegal logging and poaching activities and using tracking equipment. Elephant conflicts are being minimized while local communities are being empowered and earning new income.



A playful young Asian elephant.

Marine Turtle Conservation Fund – Reducing Leatherback By-Catch in Gabon

The beaches of Gabon’s Gamba-Conkouati landscape constitute the world’s most important nesting site for leatherback turtles. FWS is helping international and local conservationists to monitor beaches during the nesting period and to help reduce by-catch of turtles. The first ever Turtle Excluder Device (TED) workshop was organized in Gabon in September 2007. It included an ‘at-sea’ trial and saw full government and private-sector participation. Further trials were held in 2008 to help develop legal requirements for TEDs in trawling fisheries.



Unsuccessful attempt by a diver to rescue a Leatherback turtle caught in a net in the Gulf of Guinea.

Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund – Saving Sumatran Tigers

Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP) in Western-central Sumatra supports one of the world’s largest and most significant tiger populations. For four years, FWS has helped build capacity and collect data on the tigers, including training for over twenty Indonesian scientists. Resulting research enabled the Department of Forestry to veto a road construction project that would have bisected KSNP and seriously threatened its remaining tigers. FWS is also supporting Indonesian efforts to control illegal wildlife trade, which have resulted in multiple arrests of those trafficking in tiger parts. To ensure the long-term survival of Sumatran tigers, further action is needed to control poaching, reduce habitat loss and prevent conflict between tigers and people.



Sumatran tiger, resting. Sumatra Indonesia.

Highlights (cont'd)

African Elephant Conservation Fund – Restoring Elephants to Former Habitat

FWS is supporting cross-border conservation initiatives and community-based anti-poaching projects in Africa to restore large-scale elephant movements and allow the animals to return to parts of their former range. Funding for collaring and tracking has helped researchers identify important elephant corridors within and between countries, and recent aerial surveys have revealed elephants moving back into empty habitat in the aftermath of severe poaching and civil wars in Angola, Chad, Mozambique and Southern Sudan. This knowledge helps conservationists to target areas of greatest concern and highest potential for recovery.



Groups of elephants depend on matriarchs for guidance.

Marine Turtle Conservation Fund – Surveying Loggerheads in Oman

Oman hosts the largest and most important nesting population of loggerhead sea turtles on the planet, but until recently it had not been systematically surveyed – a prerequisite for sound population management. The creation of the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund has enabled FWS to begin collaborating with the Omani government to help rangers survey turtle abundance and population trends. Satellite tracking has helped determine post-nesting migrations and foraging grounds – information that is providing critical support and justification for the development of a new national protected area.



Loggerhead turtle swimming in the open sea.

Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund – Restoring Rhinos in Northern India

A twenty-year insurgency wiped out the rhinos of India's Manas National Park, but effective protection has allowed populations to increase in two other state parks. FWS funding has helped transport rhinos from these parks to Manas, reducing crowding in the former and reestablishing populations in the latter. Two rhinos arrived in Manas in April 2008, with twenty more planned. Through support for fifty district personnel, FWS is increasing anti-poaching patrols and providing newfound security for Manas Park's rhinos.



A rare Indian rhino.

Highlights (cont'd)

Great Apes Conservation Funds – Congo Basin Great Apes Health Monitoring

Highly lethal Ebola virus (EBOV) seriously threatens populations of gorillas, chimpanzees and other African great apes. With FWS support, the Animal Health Monitoring Network (AHMN) program in the Congo Basin is working to better understand and combat the spread of Ebola and other infectious diseases. Conservation, health and veterinary experts are engaging in monitoring, prevention and intervention, using baseline great ape population data to detect the movement of viruses over time. More than forty local researchers and government agents in northern Congo have been trained on early mortality reporting. These activities serve as an early-warning system for potential outbreaks, helping to protect both ape and human populations.



Lowland gorillas in northern Congo.

Rhino/Tiger Conservation Funds – Capacity Building for Tiger Conservation in India

India's remaining tigers compete with over 1.2 billion people, many of whom rely on forests for fuel, energy and structural materials. Only about 5% of the country is protected in nature reserves. With the assistance of FWS and other partners, tiger populations in the Western Ghats are being accurately estimated using radio telemetry, line transects and camera-trap based capture/recapture surveys. In southern India, where over 250 tigers continue to thrive in an area spanning roughly 1000 square kilometers, populations remain stable despite ongoing threats from poaching, habitat loss, diminishing prey base and increased conflict with humans. FWS is helping train park personnel, educating local communities on reducing human-wildlife conflict and creating a graduate program to produce the next generation of Indian wildlife biologists.



Portrait of an Indian tiger, extinct in much of its range.

Great Apes Conservation Funds – Primate Conservation in Cambodia

Wildlife researchers in Cambodia's Seima Biodiversity Conservation Area recently counted 42,000 black-shanked douc langurs and 2,500 yellow-cheeked crested gibbons within a 300 square mile area – the world's largest known populations for both species. Prior to 2002, when the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries declared Seima a conservation area, the region was a logging area where the two primates were extensively hunted. In the years since, conservation management and local development plans have moved forward, and primate populations have begun to recover. FWS funding for conservation efforts in Cambodia have helped establish the Seima Biodiversity Conservation Area as well as landscape-level conservation programs in the Northern Plains and Tonle Sap Great Lake.



Yellow-cheeked crested gibbon.

Program: Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA)

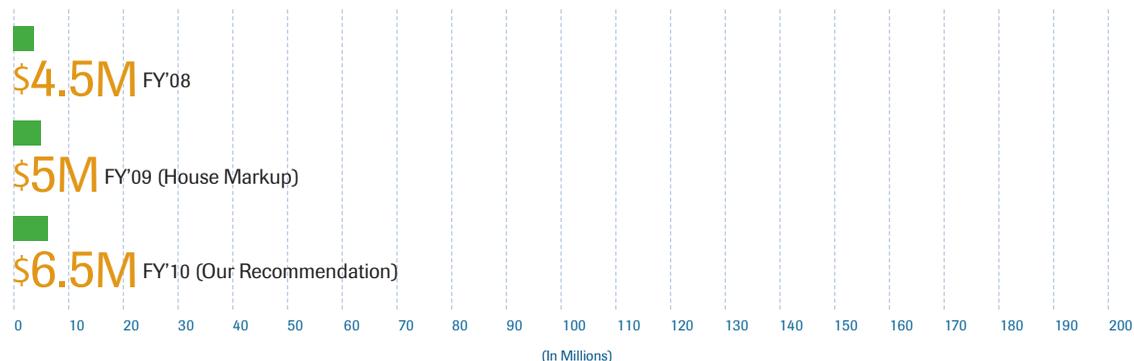
Agency: *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)*

In 2000, Congress passed the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to help protect migratory birds that breed in or migrate through the United States and Canada and spend the non-breeding season in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Act provides an upland complement to the wetland bird conservation work accomplished under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Partners in 44 U.S. states and territories, 12 Canadian provinces and territories and 34 Latin American and Caribbean countries have participated in 225 NMBCA-supported projects that have helped conserve some 3 million acres of habitat. These areas provide wintering grounds for approximately 340 species, including some of the most endangered birds in North America.

In addition to habitat conservation, grants provided through NMBCA support research and monitoring, law enforcement and outreach and education. Grant requests must be matched at least 3:1 by public or private partners. The program has exceeded this requirement in every year since its inception in 2002. Grants totaling more than \$25 million have leveraged an additional \$112 million in partner contributions to support activities that bring long-term benefits to neotropical migratory birds. In 2006, Congress authorized an incremental increase in appropriations from \$5 million to \$6.5 million over five years and widened the Act's geographic scope to include Canada.

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

Funding Program Levels



Highlights

Restoring Lands for Neotropical Migrants in the Northern Andes

The northern Andes are the winter home for Neotropical migrants such as the cerulean, golden-winged and Canada warblers and the olive-sided flycatcher. Through partnerships with conservation groups and governments in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, an NMBCA grant for \$200,000 has raised over \$600,000 in matching funds to help preserve natural forest habitat and reforest approximately 2,500 acres. Outreach activities are encouraging ranchers and coffee growers to adopt practices that support bird conservation.



Speckled hummingbird feeding in the western Andes, Ecuador.

Conserving Habitat for Oak-Dependent Species in Latin America

Central America's pine-oak forests support 225 species of migratory birds, including priority species such as the golden-cheeked warbler. NMBCA grants totaling \$400,000 have leveraged over \$1.3 million in support of an alliance of 10 organizations in five Mesoamerican countries to protect more than 50,000 acres, improve management and planning for another 1.75 million acres, build local capacity and reduce illegal logging. Local partners are also conducting reforestation and educating the public about community sustainability and conservation.



Silhouette of Pine tree in the Mesoamerican tropical Pine-Oak forest, Honduras.

Protecting Neotropical Migrant Birds in the Dominican Republic

Approximately 90 percent of important bird habitat in the Dominican Republic has been lost in the last 20 years. Among protected areas, the most critical is Sierra de Bahoruco National Park. NMBCA partners are helping park staff to enhance patrols, providing training in bird identification and helping establish a monitoring program for migratory and resident birds. Partnership efforts have also helped to expand the park, develop nature trails for visitors and increase local environmental awareness.



Antillean Siskin, photographed at Constanza in the Dominican Republic.

Monitoring Migratory Wildlife in the Alaskan Arctic

Alaska's western Arctic wetlands are globally significant bird nurseries, supporting millions of individuals and scores of migratory species from every continent. A four-year monitoring project funded by FWS established the region's importance and helped achieve a balanced approach to wildlife protection and energy development in the Teshekpuk region. Additional research through the Global Avian Influenza Network for Surveillance (GAINS) program monitored South Korea's wetlands for transmission of avian influenza to birds bound for Arctic Alaska.



Northern fulmars flying over calm seas in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, Alaska.

Program: **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
International Affairs**

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

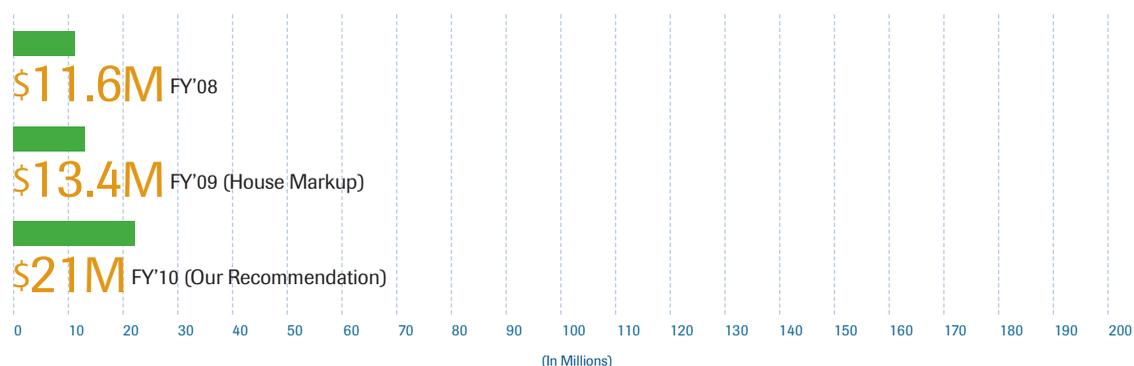
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is mandated through numerous statutes and international treaties to support U.S. involvement in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. FWS provides scientific justification and implementation of permitting for international endangered species, participates in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and supports the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI), which raises awareness of migratory species and encourage measures to conserve them.

Through its Wildlife Without Borders (WWB) regional programs, FWS supports the conservation of

endangered and migratory species and habitat through capacity building, environmental outreach, education and training. In 2008, more than \$2.5 million in grants for more than 76 conservation projects supported work in Russia, Mexico and Latin America. Since 1995, WWB programs have awarded a total of \$20.5 million and leveraged millions more in matching funds. Efforts are being considered to broaden the scope and reach of these highly effective programs, including expanding them to more fully address cross-cutting global threats to wildlife, such as climate change and disease. At the same time, new regional and bilateral partnerships are being explored in West Africa and with countries such as Mongolia, Paraguay and Tanzania. New and existing WWB regional programs act as an important complement to the project-level efforts funded through the FWS Multinational Species Conservation Funds.

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

Funding Program Levels



Highlights

MENTOR Fellowship Program – WWB Africa

The MENTOR Fellowship Program trains conservationists from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Sudan to combat the illegal bushmeat trade. Launched in February 2008 with funding from FWS and a consortium of groups, MENTOR supports an initial eighteen-month program of fieldwork and tailored instruction at the College of African Wildlife Management in Tanzania. Participants study wildlife policy, law enforcement, public awareness and sustainable alternatives while building a cross-border network dedicated to reversing the rising trend of illegal hunting for bushmeat in East Africa.



Baboon family in Tanzania, Africa.

Watershed Protection in Palau

Conservation partners on Palau’s largest island have used FWS funding to develop the Babeldaob Watershed Alliance (BWA), bringing together land owners and communities to protect critical watershed and near-shore marine resources. Palau derives a majority of its budget from eco-tourism, and Babeldaob’s five major watersheds provide drinking water for 75% of the population. Similar watershed partnerships are planned for nearby islands to create a national network.



Rock Islands, Republic of Palau.

“This is about preserving and nurturing a way of life of the Palauan people. This alliance has afforded the opportunity to re-establish and renew traditional and cultural ties.”

Palau’s Paramount Traditional Chief Reklai Bao Ngirmang

Highlights (cont'd)

Training Conservation Professionals – WWB Latin America and the Caribbean

FWS provided funding for 16 natural resource managers from Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in the 2008 RESERVA Program for Conservation Professionals – an intensive, 62-day course at Ria Celestún Biosphere Reserve in Mexico. The program is the region's premier training opportunity in conservation and protected areas management, with participants receiving a diploma in management and conservation of natural resources. Since its inception, 112 professionals have taken part, from such countries as Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Nicaragua, Uruguay, the Dominican Republic, Peru and Venezuela.



Program Manager checks a map while on patrol with rangers in Mexico.

Assessing Seabird Populations in the Bering Sea – WWB Russia

During 2008, WWB supported 65 scientists from the U.S. and Russia studying habitat conservation and protection of rare or endangered species that migrate between the two countries. Projects include a multi-year effort to assess seabird populations in Alaska's Pribilof Islands, located just 500 miles from Siberia and often called the "Galapagos of the North." These Bering Sea islands support more than 200 bird species, many of which are found nowhere else in North America.



USFWS scientists band Least Auklets on St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

Guanacos Conservation in Chile – WWB Latin America

Tens of millions of guanacos once roamed over the Patagonia Steppe and Andean plateau. Today, about half a million remain in highly fragmented herds, with the largest population in Tierra del Fuego and its Karukinka Reserve. WWB-Latin America and Goldman Sachs are supporting research into guanaco migrations, their adaptations to seasonal changes and the impacts of livestock grazing and other human activities. Wetlands restoration efforts and low-impact ecotourism development are helping preserve Karukinka Reserve's unique ecology and landscape.



A herd of guanacos.

Highlights (cont'd)

3rd WHMSI Conference – WWB Latin America and the Caribbean

In July 2008, FWS and the U.S. State Department provided principal support for the third WHMSI Conference, an international forum for countries in the Western Hemisphere to address issues of common concern regarding migratory species conservation. Representatives from twenty-eight countries and seventeen conservation organizations met in Paraguay to develop conservation strategies for species including sea turtles, cranes, manatees, bats and neotropical birds. The conference focused on adapting conservation programs to improve their effectiveness in the face of climate change.



An Ovenbird has its beak measured during a migratory bird research program, Bahamas.

“Humankind’s heavy footprint has already caused the disappearance of many, many species. Many more are endangered. ... I hope we will all leave here truly inspired to do our part for conservation.”

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, speaking at the opening of a photo exhibit on wildlife conservation at the United Nations on October 22, 2008

Program: U.S. Forest Service International Programs (IP)

Agency: *U.S. Forest Service*

The disappearance of forested lands and grasslands around the globe is a significant driver of climate change, as well as a serious threat to biodiversity. These areas are being lost to agricultural clearing, catastrophic fires, poor land management and destructive logging. By slowing deforestation, curbing land degradation, increasing carbon storage and using forests as an alternative and sustainable energy source, international conservation efforts can mitigate climate change and reduce global greenhouse gas emissions while at the same time protecting important habitat and vulnerable species.

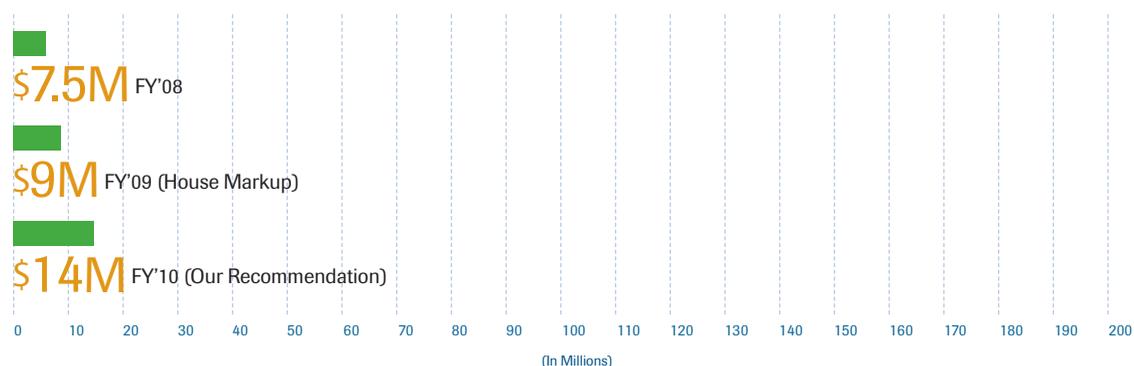
The International Programs of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS/IP) are uniquely positioned to promote forest conservation around the globe by drawing on the agency's diverse workforce of scientists, resource managers, international specialists, conservation

biologists and other experts. USFS/IP responds to natural disasters and humanitarian crises, advances U.S. forestry interests in the international policy arena and provides technical assistance to partners overseas.

USFS/IP is engaged around the world in a variety of ecosystems to protect biodiversity and migratory species, advance protected area management, assist with landscape level planning, provide wildfire management expertise, prevent illegal logging, promote forest certification and reduce the impacts of extractive forestry. USFS engagement overseas also has a tremendous impact on its own workforce, diversifying experiences and offering opportunities for its experts to contribute around the globe while bringing lessons back home.

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

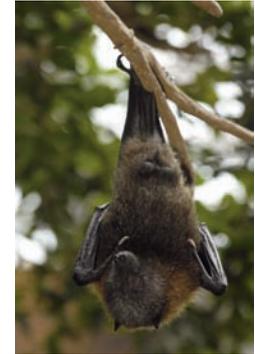
Funding Program Levels



Highlights

Bat Conservation

Bats perform important ecosystem functions as pollinators, pest control and indicators of ecosystem health. USFS/IP supports scholarships and training to young biologists in 17 countries, helping to create a global network of bat experts. Recipients are making dramatic strides in bat conservation, identifying new species and improving our understanding of the role bats play in forest conservation. Panamanian research has demonstrated that insect-eating bats can provide greater benefits than birds in protecting rainforests and cacao plantations from pests.



Rodrigues Fruit Bat.

Habitat and Biodiversity Protection in the Russian Far East

Russia contains 22% of the world's forests. In partnership with the Russian Forestry Service, USFS has advanced sustainable forest management, particularly in the Far East – a region with relatively unspoiled forests and rich biodiversity, including tiger and leopard habitat and abundant wild salmon. USFS is helping conserve wildlife and restore damaged ecosystems in areas such as the Kamchatka Peninsula, which produces up to 25% of all wild Pacific salmon but faces threats from poaching and oil and gas development. Efforts to preserve wild salmon and habitat through effective management and monitoring plans also protect the livelihood of communities who depend on the resource.



Siberian tigers are top predators in the forests of Russia's Far East.

The Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem

The Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem traverses Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo. Its large primate population includes the world's highest concentration of chimpanzees. The heavily fragmented forest also supports many impoverished communities. Through the Sustainable and Thriving Environments for West Africa Regional Development Program (STEWART), USFS works with USAID in a number of areas: fostering regional collaboration; improving natural resource management and livelihoods by harmonizing forest, wildlife, and conservation policies; creating better markets for high value tree crops; developing a regional presence in global forest policy discussions; helping effectively manage and capitalize on influxes of investment and trade in natural resources; and developing regional strategies for coastal and fisheries management.



Trees in a forest, Togo, Africa.

Program: **U.S. National Park Service Office of International Affairs (OIA)**

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

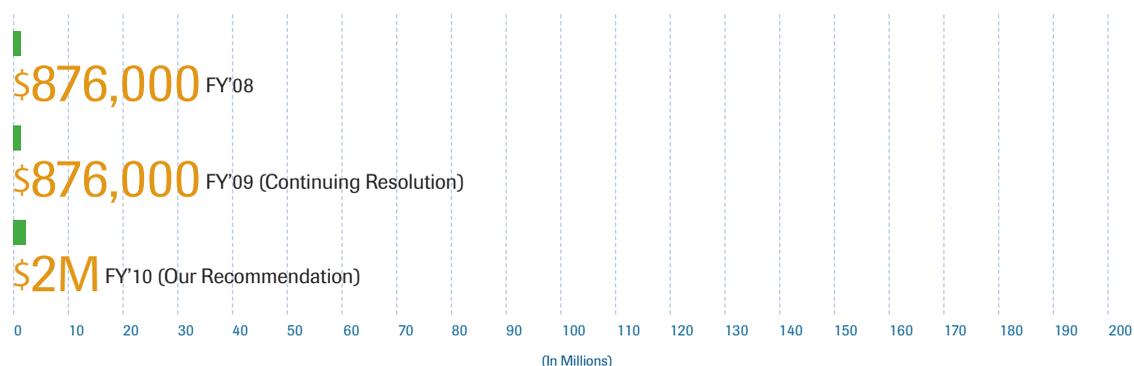
The national park system is an American invention that has been exported around the world. The U.S. National Park Service (NPS) and its Office of International Affairs (OIA) assist other nations in creating and managing park systems. International engagement is embedded in the NPS mission statement, which declares that the agency “cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resources conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.” Since 1962, NPS/OIA has facilitated technical assistance and exchange projects with counterpart agencies. NPS experts in park and protected area management help to preserve cultural heritage, create conservation benefits for developing communities and protect some of the world’s most spectacular places. NPS generates goodwill toward the United States while learning from innovative

practices developed by park agencies in other countries. Recent projects have involved Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, China, Gabon and Qatar.

Cooperation across borders is also crucial in order to conserve migratory species, which may reside in U.S. national parks for only part of their lives, and to protect U.S. parks against threats originating elsewhere, such as air and water pollution and invasive species. NPS/OIA also serves as the staff office for the U.S. World Heritage program, manages the International Volunteers-in-Parks Program, coordinates “sister park” relationships between U.S. parks and counterpart sites abroad and supports the Park Flight Migratory Bird Program, a public-private partnership to protect neotropical migratory birds and their habitat.

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

Funding Program Levels



Highlights

Sister Park Relationships

Many U.S. national parks and other national parks around the world share similar management concerns and accordingly have developed “Sister Park” relationships. Park staff share best practices and learn from each others’ experiences. The relationship between Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park and Cambodia’s Samlaut Protected Area recently enabled NPS staff to provide technical assistance and management guidance for Samlaut in areas such as wildlife monitoring. In August 2007, fire specialists from Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park worked in Guatemala’s Laguna del Tigre National Park, training that country’s National Park Service in fire management and fire planning.



Rocky Mountain and Tatras National Parks establish Sister Park relationship.

Park Planning in Qatar

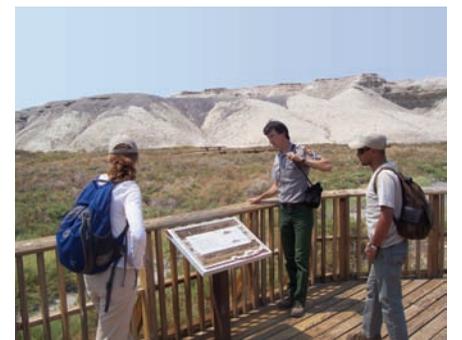
Building upon previous successful technical assistance missions conducted by the NPS, three National Park Service planning specialists conducted a park planning workshop for officials of the Qatari Department of Environment and Conservation. NPS planners worked with Qatari counterparts to determine feasible sites for national park designation, assisted in the selection of Qatar’s first national park, Khor Al-Adaid – the “Inland Sea” – and returned in 2008 to help with management planning.



Qatar workshop in the field.

Middle Eastern Endangered Species Internships

In 2008, NPS began an internship program in endangered species management for Middle Eastern species conservation specialists, with support from the U.S. State Department’s Middle East Partnership Initiative and the Interior Department’s International Technical Assistance Program. In June, participants from Jordan and Bahrain studied species and habitat restoration efforts at Mojave National Preserve (desert tortoise), Death Valley National Park (Devil’s Hole pupfish) and Biscayne National Park (nesting sea turtles). The fall program hosted endangered species professionals from Oman and Morocco.



Interns on a field training exercise.

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

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

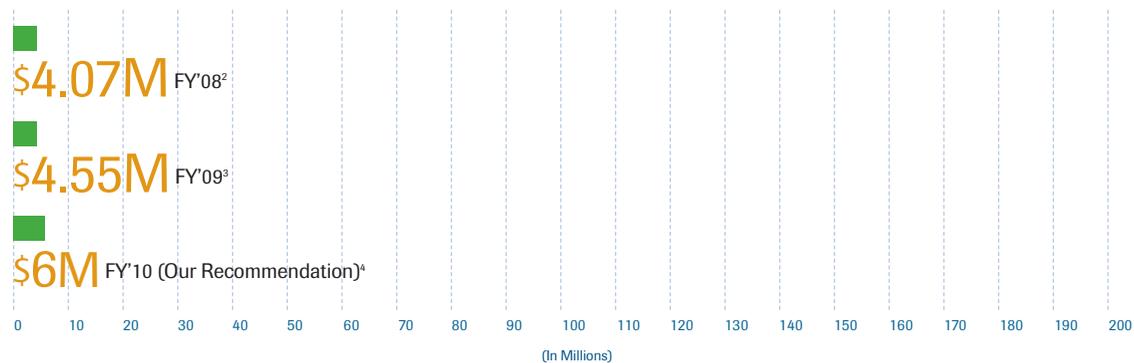
Healthy coastal and marine ecosystems are critical to U.S. strategies to promote economic and food security, social stability, democratic governance, human health, disaster and climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation in many countries. NOAA's international work supports conservation and management of marine resources around the globe. Coral reef conservation and marine protected areas (MPAs) are two areas of focus. Coral reef ecosystems are the economic base for sustained development in numerous countries, particularly small island nations. The U.S. National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs calls for U.S. collaboration with international partners to conserve international coral reef habitats and sustain the human communities that depend on them. Through competitive small grants, training, technical

support and collaborative partnerships, NOAA builds capacity for coastal and protected area management, pollution reduction and sustainable fisheries.

NOAA's international work cuts across its various program offices and would therefore benefit strongly from an overall increase in funding for the agency. Much U.S. funding for coral conservation is directed through the Coral Reef Conservation Act (CRCA). A reauthorized CRCA was before Congress in 2008, including a new program for International Coral Reef Conservation authorized at \$10 million. We strongly support passage and full funding of this legislation in the new Congress.

<http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov>
<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Funding Program Levels



² Represents funding directed by NOAA from its overall budget toward international work on coral reef conservation and marine protected area management

³ Ibid.

⁴ Our recommendation is two-fold: that NOAA increase support for these programs with new funding provided by Congress; and that Congress makes this new funding available by significantly increasing the overall budget appropriation for NOAA.

Highlights

Coral Bleaching Workshops

High sea surface temperatures have led to a dramatic increase in mass coral bleaching events, causing extensive coral mortality in nearly every coral reef region. To help coral reef managers understand and respond to these events, NOAA and its partners support workshops to provide training on satellite bleaching monitoring products, management strategies to help coral reefs survive future bleaching events, incorporating resilience into marine protected area (MPA) design and developing bleaching response plans. In 2008, two workshops were held in the Florida Keys and Hawaii and included participants from twelve coral reef countries.



Bleaching tools workshop participants conduct a resilience survey of a reef in Maui, Hawaii.

International Competitive Coral Reef Conservation Grants

NOAA fosters coral reef conservation internationally through two competitive grant programs, the International Coral Grant Program and the Coral Reef Conservation Fund, a partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Since 2001 these programs have awarded nearly \$7.8M, leveraging \$9.8M in matching funds for projects in over 30 countries. In 2008, the programs awarded \$1.1M to twenty coral conservation projects working on community-based enforcement, socio-economic training and monitoring, development of MPAs and MPA networks and development of best practices for watershed management.



A pair of orangefin anemonefish, *Amphiprion chrysopterus*, tend to their brightly-colored eggs at Hap's Reef, Guam.

Support for Marine Protected Area Management

NOAA supports MPA management capacity building, establishes "sister sanctuary" relationships and other partnerships and provides specialized technical assistance to foster marine resource stewardship and promote the effective management of MPAs. Recently NOAA conducted management capacity training in Vietnam, Fiji, Ecuador, Colombia, Costa Rica and Samoa; led the development of a North American MPA Network with Mexico and Canada; established a sister sanctuary relationship to protect a humpback whale population at both ends of its range; and assumed leadership roles for two major marine conferences in 2009.



Humpback whales are very protective of their calves and prefer the shallow areas around the islands of Maui, Molokai and Lanai, possibly due to calmer water conditions.

Annex

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)

NAWCA organizes voluntary, non-regulatory, partnership-driven conservation work in the United States, Canada and Mexico that seeks to protect, restore and enhance North American wetlands and wetlands-associated habitats for waterfowl and other migratory birds. Highly respected and broadly supported, NAWCA has more than 3,730 partners and has funded 1,773 projects from September 1990 through March 2008. In total, more than \$870 million in NAWCA grants has leveraged \$1.7 billion in matching funds and \$970 million in non-matching funds to safeguard approximately 24.2 million acres of wetlands and associated uplands across the continent. NAWCA is authorized to receive \$75 million annually in appropriated funding through fiscal year 2012.

Lacey Act Amendment – Prevention of Illegal Logging

Illegal logging threatens many of the world's forests, while harming legal trade by depressing timber prices. In 2008, the U.S. became the first country to ban trafficking of all products containing illegally sourced wood. Through an amendment of the Lacey Act, commerce is now prohibited in plants and derivative products that have been illegally taken or traded. The new law requires importers to declare species, origin and other related sourcing information in order to increase transparency and focus law enforcement efforts. Implementation of the Act will require new funds (\$6 million total) for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to design a streamlined electronic declarations database system and support declaration analysts, inspectors and investigators. Additionally, new funds (\$1 million) should be directed to U.S. Forest Service International Programs to create a comprehensive public website containing resources and information to facilitate successful compliance with Lacey by the private sector.

U.S. Department of State: Bureau of Oceans and International Environment and Scientific Affairs (OES)

To help foster a more secure and hopeful world, OES promotes transformational diplomacy by advancing global environmental stewardship. The Bureau's priorities include biodiversity, climate change, infectious diseases, access to water and energy and environmental components of trade agreements. In early 2008, OES helped convene the First Regional Workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative in Kathmandu in order to develop a work program to combat illegal wildlife trade. With grants totaling \$547,000, OES is also supporting efforts of Central America-Dominican Republic-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) member countries to regulate and manage trade in wildlife. A tri-national workshop for 47 wildlife enforcement officials from Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador was held in Tegucigalpa in June 2008, and equipment kits are being distributed to enforcement agents throughout Central America.

Essay: Payments for Ecosystem Services

By protecting nature, we also protect the wealth of benefits human communities derive from it. These "ecosystem services" have tremendous economic value, even if they are not always measured in traditional economic terms. They include clean water, clean air, food and raw materials (wood, fiber, fuel, etc.), medicines and carbon storage. Protected areas also have aesthetic value and generate revenue through recreation and tourism.

The developing field of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) incorporates the monetary value of natural services into economic markets. PES programs identify services ecosystems provide, assess their monetary values and develop mechanisms through which individuals earn income for preserving communal resources. Partnerships involving the GEF, the World Bank, international conservation organizations, private foundations, national governments and NGOs are implementing and expanding successful PES programs around the world.

Peru provides an example of the tremendous opportunities afforded by PES. Peru's National System of Natural Protected Areas includes roughly 18 million hectares. Each year, these areas are visited by 350,000 people on average and contribute \$146 million to the national economy, yet basic protection costs are underfunded by \$20 million. Every dollar Peru invests in nature-based tourism generates \$46 in revenue. Protected areas also supply water for 2.7 million people, generate 60 percent of the country's hydropower and sequester 36 million tons of carbon emissions through avoided deforestation – potentially worth \$126 million per year under a global climate agreement (with carbon priced at \$3.50/ton). In total, protected areas contribute about \$1 billion to the Peruvian economy annually.

In Costa Rica, an innovative program is enlisting private landowners to protect forests. The Ecomarkets Project was initiated in 2001 with GEF and the World Bank support, building on earlier Costa Rican efforts to use conservation easements on privately owned lands to foster biodiversity conservation and preserve forest ecosystems. Forest owners earn income by providing services such as biodiversity protection, carbon sequestration and water conservation. The project has successfully protected more than 210,000 hectares, including over 25,000 hectares of indigenous community-owned lands. In addition, it has empowered women landowners, whose participation increased 2000% over the life of the project.

PES is also being employed as a conservation strategy for Colombia's Munchique National Park through the support of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) – a collaboration among Conservation International, the French Development Agency, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank to provide grants and technical assistance to non-governmental organizations and other private sector partners to build local capacity in the world's biodiversity hotspots. Local partners are building on a GEF/World Bank-supported project to create incentives for farmers to improve their land and water management and protect the park, which provides critical water supplies for local communities and essential habitat for many threatened bird species. By adopting land uses that promote conservation, farmers earn payments in the form of commodities such as fertilizers, trees, seeds and labor. Lowland farmers barter their labor to help upland farmers change land practices, thereby avoiding deforestation and preventing pollution and silting of rivers on which downstream communities depend.

PES is a cutting-edge approach to conservation financing. Innovative initiatives like the Natural Capital Project – a collaborative effort between Stanford University and major conservation organizations – are working to map nature's ecological services, assess their values in economic and other terms and, for the first time on any significant scale, make those values an integral factor in natural resource management.



CI, Pew, TNC, WCS and WWF have identified this publication as an opportunity to leverage the combined expertise of their organizations to further the shared priorities of their respective missions. The *International Conservation Budget* is a compilation of materials written and contributed by the five sponsoring organizations, as well as by others in the conservation community. Special thanks to our principal writer and wordsmith, Will Gartshore. Thanks to Bill Millan as principal editor and to the author/researchers of individual portions, including Kelly Keenan Aylward, John Gervers, Lisa Handy, Rebecca Chacko, David Mehlman, Nav Dayanand, Jason Patlis, Jessica McGlyn, Erica Rieder and John Calvelli. Special recognition to The Nature Conservancy for photo edit, layout and production.

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