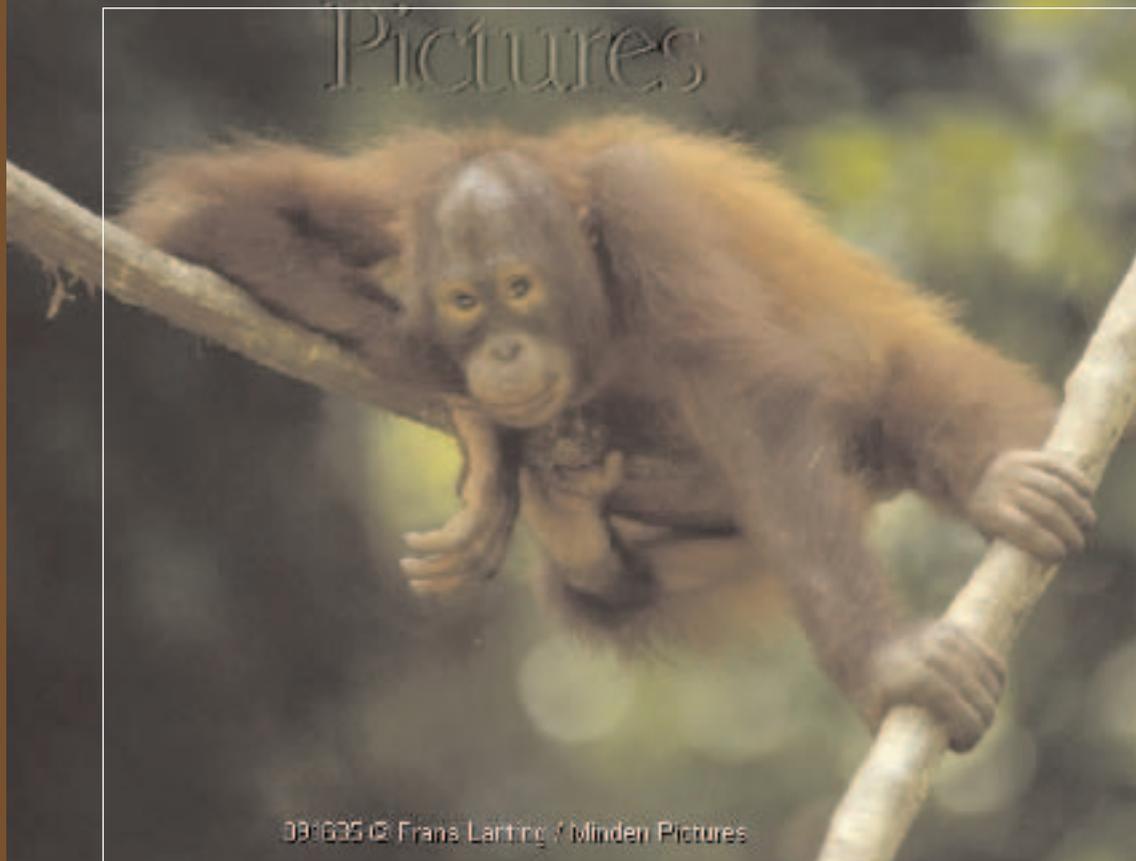


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THE INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION BUDGET



*Building on America's Historic
Commitment to Conservation*

2005



“Protecting the global environment

is directly related to securing peace...those of us who understand the complex concept of the environment have the burden to act. We must not tire, we must not give up, we must persist.”

~WANGARI MAATHAI

Winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize

For the second consecutive year, our four organizations—Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society, and World Wildlife Fund—have joined together to highlight the essential American role in conserving the world’s natural heritage.

Through this report, we seek to inform Members of Congress, their staffs, and other decision makers about vital U.S. programs that fund conservation in developing countries. By building a greater appreciation of what modest U.S. investments can achieve, we hope to lay the groundwork for the sustained support and growth of the programs described in this document.

As the past year shows, poor natural resource management can have devastating results. When Tropical Storm Jeanne hit Haiti last September, 3,000 people died. Why did such a tragedy occur when nearby islands suffered only a fraction of the casualties? A key culprit is forest destruction, which has denuded Haiti’s hillsides and left Haitians vulnerable to catastrophic erosion and flooding. An ocean away in Sudan’s Darfur region, decades of poor natural resource management have rendered the landscape virtually unsuitable for human habitation, thereby exacerbating a humanitarian crisis of immense proportion. These calamities directly affect the United States, whether through the financial costs of disaster relief, the potential for regional conflict, or the prospect of increased human migration.

The decision to award the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize to Wangari Maathai underscores the importance of

nature conservation to global peace, prosperity, and security. Ms. Maathai, a Kenyan conservation leader, has championed efforts across Africa to conserve and restore forests while at the same time empowering women and promoting democratic values. In selecting her, the Nobel Committee said, “Peace on Earth depends on our ability to secure our living environment.”

The struggle to secure a living environment requires U.S. leadership. President Theodore Roosevelt recognized this when he created our network of national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges, highlighting the importance we place on conserving our natural heritage. Today, some 125 countries have followed this example by establishing national parks and other conservation areas of their own. While this is a development in which we can take great pride, much more remains to be done to prevent the world’s most spectacular and important natural resources from being irreversibly depleted. The challenge is urgent. Natural wealth that once seemed limitless—vast rainforests, abundant fisheries, the staggering diversity of life—is in rapid decline. We need a bold response, and no country but the United States has the history, the capacity, and the motivation needed to lead the way.

During the past year, the U.S. Congress took several promising strides to support international biodiversity conservation, including

- *Creating the International Conservation Caucus (ICC), a new bipartisan forum that is already 60 members strong;*
- *Increasing appropriations for priority initiatives such as USAID Biodiversity Conservation Programs (p. 4), the Fish and Wildlife Service’s Multinational Species Conservation Funds (p. 16), and the Forest Service’s international programs (p.24);*
- *Expanding the Fish and Wildlife Service’s Wildlife Without Borders program to Africa (p. 22);*
- *Reauthorizing a law, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, to reduce developing countries’ debt in exchange for forest conservation commitments (p. 12);*
- *Passing an act to safeguard the forests of the Congo Basin;*
- *Enacting new legislation, the Marine Turtle Conservation Act, to protect sea turtles (p. 16) and providing start-up funds for the protection of turtle nesting habitats; and*
- *Introducing a bill to conserve some of the world’s greatest predators, such as leopards, lions, and African wild dogs.*

This *International Conservation Budget* catalogues these and other U.S. Government programs that support nature conservation in developing countries. A major theme of this report is the critical role of parks and protected areas. Although only one piece in the

larger conservation effort, these reserves—whether those that offer the strictest levels of protection or those that emphasize sustainable use—must be a cornerstone of any lasting global conservation strategy. To be effective, such areas need to be well managed, need to incorporate good scientific information, and perhaps most important, need to take account of the concerns and aspirations of local and indigenous communities. The examples that follow in this report showcase how U.S. technical support and funding are helping developing countries achieve these objectives.

Beyond this, the *International Conservation Budget* proves that U.S. dollars are delivering important and tangible results on the ground. It shows how relatively small amounts of U.S. money serve as catalysts to leverage significant resources from other governments, the private sector, and the non-governmental community. It demonstrates how the various technical capacities of different U.S. agencies can complement each other in solving specific problems. It also underscores the tremendous demand for U.S. assistance. All in all, this report presents a comprehensive view of the United States’ potential to help create a healthier, more stable, more inspiring, and ultimately more livable planet.

We look forward to working together in partnership with the Administration and the Congress to continue to strengthen U.S. leadership in international conservation.

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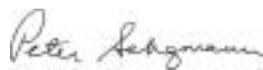
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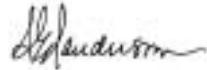
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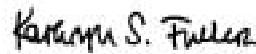
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Steven J. McCormick
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The Nature Conservancy



Dr. Steven Sanderson
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Wildlife Conservation Society



Kathryn Fuller
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World Wildlife Fund

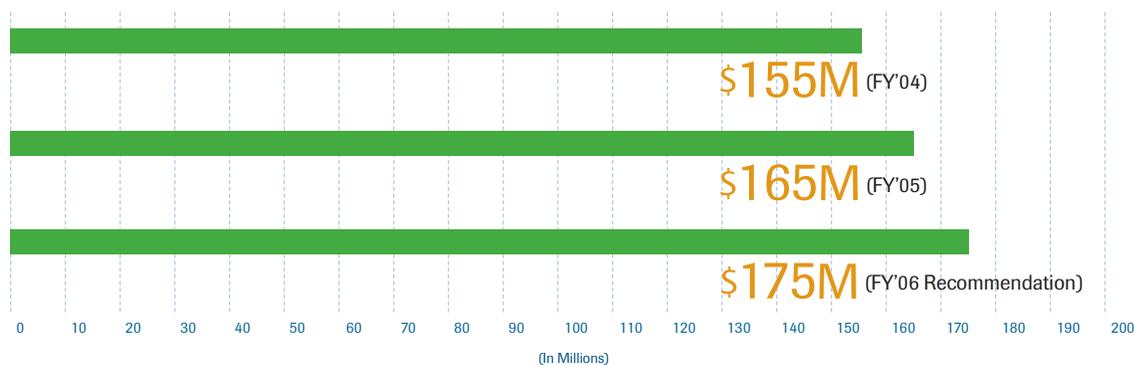
Program: USAID Biodiversity Conservation Programs

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

For more than 20 years, USAID has made biodiversity conservation an important element in its broader efforts to promote development around the globe. The Congress, through Section 119 of the Foreign Assistance Act, has consistently authorized and supported this approach. Achievements made possible by USAID funding include more effective protection of parks and nature preserves, institutional strengthening of national conservation agencies and local conservation groups, empowerment of local communities, and sustainable economic development near parks. In turn, these efforts have helped spur democracy, promote good

governance, and increase goodwill toward the United States. USAID is the single largest U.S. Government contributor to nature conservation in developing countries, and the *Strategic Plan: Fiscal Years 2004-2009* for the U.S. Department of State and USAID strongly reaffirms this direction: “We will maintain and expand our traditional leadership and commitment in the conservation of biodiversity.”
http://www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PDABY705.pdf

Funding Program Levels



USAID biodiversity funding is contained within the Development Assistance account and lacks its own line item. The biodiversity conservation funding level recently has been set by way of annual recommendations from Congress. Separately, we recommend \$3.5 million for FY06 for the East Asia and Pacific Environmental Initiative within the Economic Support Fund account of the U.S. Department of State.

Highlights

Mountain Gorilla Census, South-central Africa

The Virunga mountain gorillas of Uganda, Rwanda, and Democratic Republic of the Congo are surrounded by areas of violent civil unrest and threatened by poaching. Yet their numbers have expanded by 17 percent since 1989, according to a USAID-funded census conducted in 2003. These census results mark the most recent work in USAID's long-term efforts to protect the world's small remaining mountain gorilla population. Technical advisors and census takers from the Wildlife Conservation Society, African Wildlife Foundation, Diane Fossey Gorilla Fund, Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation, and others worked with national park personnel from the three countries to survey 250 square miles of thick Virunga forest, the entire range of the Virunga mountain gorillas. Data recorded on all gorilla nests and other signs of their presence were used to calculate the current population at 380 individuals, up from 260 individuals in 1978, and bringing the total number of mountain gorillas worldwide to 700. This complete census count, paired with precise monitoring, allows conservationists and the governments of these three countries to take immediate action when the gorillas are put at risk, such as during recent political instability and ethnic conflict in the region.



Mountain gorillas, Parc des Virungas, Democratic Republic of the Congo

“To successfully protect this population [of Virunga mountain gorillas] under such challenging conditions speaks volumes about the commitment and determination of park personnel in conserving their natural heritage.”
 —Dr. Bill Weber, conservationist and leader of the 1978 Virunga Mountain Gorilla Census; author, *In the Kingdom of Gorillas*

Cambodia

Launched with a grant from USAID in 2003, the Community Agriculture Development Project is working to end the destruction of tropical forests and the poaching of endangered wildlife in the Southern Cardamom Mountains of Cambodia. By providing equipment and training, the project has successfully helped 120 families in the Chi Phat region make the transition from a transient, disconnected population practicing slash-and-burn agriculture and poaching to a well-connected community practicing sustainable agriculture. The establishment of an agriculture association and a community fund has allowed farmers to acquire basic business skills and engage in community development and the democratic process. The program will be expanded to include an additional 120 families in 2005, helping them escape poverty and preventing the destruction of more forest cover in one of the last remaining elephant migration routes in the country.



Keo Sopheak with tiger perch, Cambodia

Highlights (cont'd)

Congo Basin Forest Partnership

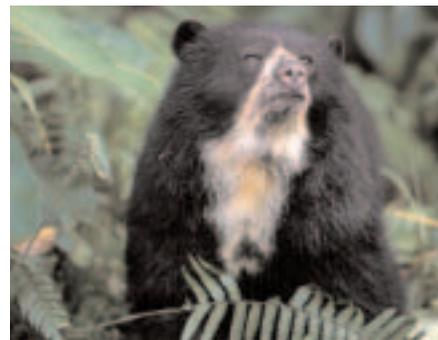
USAID is contributing \$36 million over three years to a partnership of governments, conservation organizations, and businesses across six countries in Central Africa that supports a network of national parks, protected areas, and well-managed forestry concessions. The Congo Basin Forest Partnership also implements sustainable, community-based natural resource management; promotes ecotourism; and enforces anti-poaching and forestry laws in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Republic of the Congo. The partnership has brought about the first trans-border agreement between the Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, and Cameroon—the Sangha Transboundary Protected Area network—now fully operational with joint patrols and other collaborative management activities. The company holding the logging concession in this tri-national park has agreed to set aside nearly 2,000 square miles of land, which includes forests considered to be among the most pristine on Earth, as well as rainforest important to western gorillas, forest elephants, and a rare species of antelope called bongo. Now more than 30 percent of the total logging concession in the tri-national park will be permanently protected for the conservation of these species.



Bongo

Condor Bioreserve, Ecuador

The 5.4 million-acre Condor Bioreserve, named for Ecuador's national bird, is a vast matrix of private lands and six unique protected areas. Its rivers supply drinking water to more than 1.5 million people living in or near Ecuador's capital, Quito. Money from USAID has been used to train local residents to be park guards, leading to a dramatic reduction in poaching and wildfires in the reserve. More than a dozen nearby communities are now managing erosion and water contamination by regulating cattle grazing. As a result of USAID's efforts, private funds have been raised to link the preserves, protecting vital habitat for animals such as the endangered spectacled bear. Local companies that rely on critical water sources in the reserve have contributed to the Quito Water Fund, created in 2000. Interest from the fund is now designated for seven conservation projects within the Condor Bioreserve.



Spectacled bear

Highlights (cont'd)

Quirimbas National Park, Mozambique

In northern Mozambique, USAID supports marine protected-area management work in Quirimbas National Park. The project demonstrates a bottom-up approach to creating community-based sustainable fisheries that can help protect coral reefs, seagrass beds, and mangrove forests. Many fishing communities are now creating "fish replenishment zones"—total protection zones to increase fish catch in the surrounding waters. The project has been so successful that local communities are asking either for their waters to be included in the park or for assistance in creating similar community-run and -enforced fishing zones. Inspired by the success of early work with fisheries, communities in the Primeiras and Segundas Archipelagos area (more than a hundred miles farther south along the Mozambique coast) have approached World Wildlife Fund to request their assistance in the creation of a similar national park structure. USAID-supported projects similar to this are also under way along the East Africa coast in Kenya and Tanzania.



Children with fishing net

Community Forestry in the Terai Arc Landscape, Nepal

The Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) encompasses the only remaining natural habitat on the southern slopes of the Himalayas for large mammals such as the Royal Bengal tiger, Asian elephant, and one-horned rhinoceros. The TAL program's vision is to create a single functioning landscape through the restoration and maintenance of forest corridors, which connect 11 protected areas between Nepal's Parsa Wildlife Reserve and India's Rajaji National Park. USAID has been a major supporter of the TAL program's conservation efforts in Nepal. The primary strategy involves facilitating effective partnerships with local communities as managers, beneficiaries, and stewards of the land and its natural resources. Local ownership, alternative sources of income, women's empowerment, and long-term sustainable livelihoods are all hallmarks of the program.



Asian elephant, Royal Chitwan National Park, Nepal

"Terai Arc Landscape has taken conservation beyond protected areas and political boundaries, to bring about long-term conservation and benefit the local communities in these areas. TAL has regenerated forests, managed and restored grasslands, protected wildlife from poaching, provided health and education benefits to local communities, and most importantly, empowered people from these communities to become real leaders. On behalf of the government, I would like to recognize this unwavering commitment to Nepal and Nepal's future."

– Narayan Poudel, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, HMG Nepal

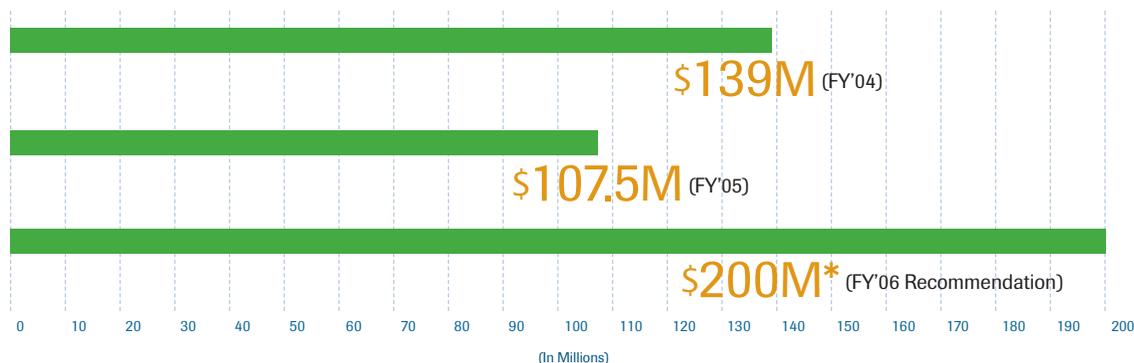
Program: **The Global Environment Facility (GEF)**

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

The GEF is a unique multilateral institution through which the U.S. Government and 31 other donor countries channel funds to support mutually agreed projects in areas such as biodiversity conservation, renewable energy and energy efficiency, international waters, ozone layer protection, land degradation, and persistent organic pollutants. Strategic planning for operations and grants administration is conducted by the GEF in three-year cycles referred to as “replenishments.” Donor countries pledge contributions toward the replenishments, and the GEF Council, which includes a representative from the U.S. Government, determines how it will allocate its resources among the six priority areas. In FY04, \$223 million—25 percent of total GEF resources—was committed to biodiversity

projects. Since 1991, the GEF has provided \$1.5 billion and leveraged an additional \$2.5 billion from partners to support more than 450 biodiversity projects. From 1991 to 2003, 75 percent of projects in the GEF biodiversity portfolio supported activities related to protected areas and, as of 2003, the GEF had created more than 60 trust funds or endowments for protected areas, supporting at least 365 sites. The trusts provide steady, reliable funding for conservation work in developing countries—resources that are not subject to local political and economic crises and, as such, are universally identified as a crucial need. In addition, 70 percent of all external funds for World Heritage Sites—areas designated as natural treasures or cultural monuments by UNESCO—are supplied through the GEF. <http://www.gefweb.org>

Funding Program Levels



*This recommended funding level combines the \$1075 million U.S. Government annual commitment under the current replenishment, a U.S. incentive payment pledged contingent on the GEF's implementation of certain reforms, and a contribution toward paying down accumulated arrears.

Highlights

Protecting Barrier Reefs, Belize

Many in Belize depend upon the country's coastal zone for food and materials, yet uncontrolled construction, overfishing, dredging, industrial and agricultural runoff, and unregulated marine tourism threaten the health of this ecosystem. Assisted by GEF funding, the UNDP, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and other partners have helped Belize protect its 130-mile barrier reef, thousands of cays, three offshore atolls, wetlands, and mangroves—the homes of endangered species such as the West Indian manatee, American crocodile, and hawksbill turtle. The partners have formulated an intersectoral Coastal Zone Authority to coordinate multiple agencies responsible for the coastal area; generated scientific data for coastal zone management assessments; identified detailed cost options for revenue-generating alternatives to those that put the region at risk; and enhanced public awareness through environmental education programs. The groups are now working to strengthen management of the network of seven new marine protected areas, recently classified as World Heritage Sites; to support protection of watersheds and pollution control; and to establish a self-sustaining financial mechanism for the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute.



Hol Chan Marine Park, Belize

Conserving Tropical Rainforest, Philippines

The tropical rainforest on Samar Island in the Philippines—home to 2,400 flowering plant species and 197 species of birds and rare animals—is threatened by agricultural encroachment at the forest edges, unregulated hunting, and habitat fragmentation. Funding from the GEF, UNDP, USAID, and local NGOs has enabled forest-edge communities to work in partnership with park management to prevent further deterioration of biodiversity and to sustainably harvest non-timber products. Through this project, the partners created a 300,000-acre buffer zone, to which all 6,500 local households have access, around Samar Island National Park; constructed a park headquarters facility, 30 ranger posts, and 10 village conservation resource centers for community education; and built 55 miles of trails for ecotourism and enforcement operations. In addition, the partners established an Integrated Protected Areas Fund to finance recurrent costs of park management.



Rainforest, the Philippines

Highlights (cont'd)

People, Land Management, and Environmental Change Project

The People, Land Management, and Environmental Change Project is a GEF-supported, farmer-driven conservation project in eight countries: Brazil, China, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, and Uganda. Through the project, scientists and farmers collaborate to develop and implement biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices while increasing crop yields and improving livelihoods. Activities are based on agricultural lands managed by farmers or grazers in buffer zones surrounding forests, semi-arid regions, mountains, and wetlands. The project trains farmers in best farming practices; helps farmers learn how to process crops and identify key market niches for their products; facilitates regional training sessions in which trained farmers instruct other farmers; and provides equipment and genetic material to promote agricultural diversity and increased crop yields. Since its inception in 1992, the project has matured into a network that influences land management practices on more than 2.5 million acres. In Brazil's Amazonia program alone, the demonstration method of farmers learning conservation-friendly techniques from "expert farmers" has reached approximately 55,000 farmers in more than 230 communities. These new methods have helped increase household incomes by three to seven times between 1999 and 2001.



Ugandans harvesting coffee beans

Important Bird Areas of Africa

Much of Africa is dotted with Important Bird Areas (IBAs), regions that are critical to long-term nature conservation and regional planning. To enhance the protection of these areas, the GEF helped launch the African NGO-Government Partnerships for Sustainable Biodiversity Action program in January 1998. With \$2.9 million in GEF funding and \$6.9 million in co-financing from BirdLife International and other partners, the program has worked to foster and strengthen partnerships among local and national NGOs and governments in 10 countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania,



White-faced whistling ducks, Botswana

Highlights (cont'd)

Tunisia, and Uganda. More than 60 community-based groups are working to conserve and monitor their IBAs across these countries, and site action plans have been prepared for 19 IBAs. In Kenya, the Kijabe Environmental Volunteers raised community awareness about the links between birds and forest conservation, leading directly to efforts to prevent degradation and restore local forests. In Ethiopia, the Berga Floodplain Site Support Group, which includes representatives from four peasant associations, a large dairy farm, and the district agricultural officer, worked to prevent further degradation of a critical breeding site for endangered native birds. Information from site surveys and inventories of 518 sites is being shared with communities and governments to set priorities in development planning processes, and 21 IBAs have become or are closer to becoming national parks as a direct result of the project.

Program: Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA)

Agency: U.S. Department of the Treasury

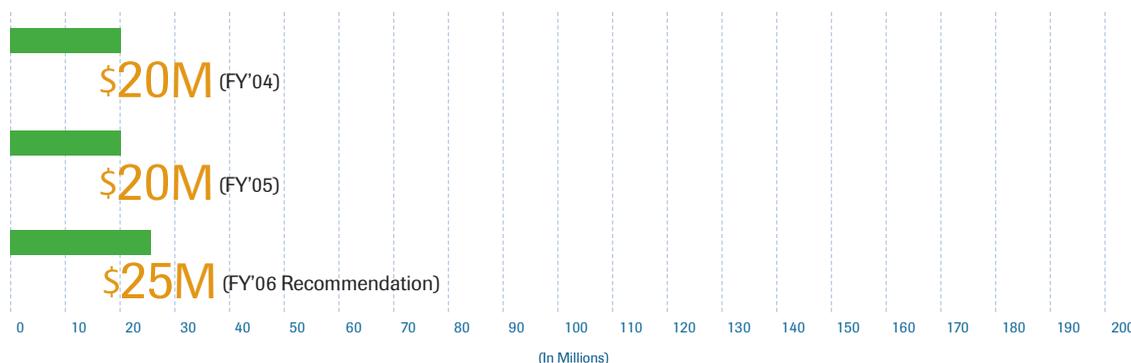
The Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 provides funding for tropical forest conservation while reducing developing country debts to the U.S. Treasury. The debt reduction occurs in exchange for the debtor government's commitment to make local currency payments for the protection of its forests. To date, TFCA agreements have generated more than \$95 million in long-term income commitments for tropical forest conservation in Bangladesh, El Salvador, Belize, Peru, the Philippines, Panama, Colombia, and Jamaica. U.S. Government expenditures, totaling \$56 million thus far, have leveraged millions from private donors. There is a backlog of eligible and potentially eligible countries that want to participate, including Ecuador, Guatemala, Sri Lanka, and Paraguay. TFCA was reau-

thorized for another three years during the 2004 legislative session. <http://www.treas.gov/offices/international-affairs/index.html>



Blue and John Crow Mountains, Jamaica

Funding Program Levels



Highlights

Jamaica

A 2004 debt swap will generate more than \$16 million over the next 20 years for the protection of Jamaica's tropical forests. These forests, mainly in mountains that form the spine of the island and reach heights of up to 7,000 feet, are home to most of Jamaica's 3,582 plant species, of which 912 are found nowhere else on Earth. The U.S. Government committed \$6.5 million and The Nature Conservancy donated \$1.3 million to this deal, which created a Protected Areas Trust Fund to restore damaged ecosystems, plant trees, and prepare for new national parks.



Jamaican tody

"The successful completion of this agreement gives a tremendous boost to Jamaica's forest sector. TFCA is a wonderful initiative by the United States, and I want to thank the U.S. Congress." —Marilyn Headley, Conservator of Forests, Forest Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Jamaica

Panama

Two debt swaps in Panama have been completed through TFCA, both structured to create long-term financing for conservation: 50 percent of the payments flow to immediate conservation activities, while 50 percent flow into an endowment for critical areas. The August 2004 debt swap will provide \$11 million to strengthen management of the 1.4 million-acre Darien National Park, which covers the land bridge between Central America and South America. The U.S. Government provided \$6.5 million to this deal, and The Nature Conservancy donated \$1.3 million.

Colombia

Safeguarding Colombia's biologically diverse and highly threatened environment was the driving force behind a recent debt-for-nature swap involving the United States, Colombia, and three conservation groups: Conservation International, World Wildlife Fund, and The Nature Conservancy. The United States contributed \$7 million in support of the Colombia swap, while the NGO partners added another \$1.4 million. Regions to benefit from the debt swap include biodiverse areas in the Andes, the Caribbean coast, and along the vast floodplains of the Orinoco River. Approximately \$10 million will flow to Colombian conservation efforts over the next 12 years. Half of the \$10 million will go into a fund to support local groups operating in the targeted areas. The remaining \$5 million will be added to a planned trust fund that will strengthen the financial sustainability of the country's protected areas, and in time, may eventually leverage an additional \$40 million for park protection.

"The debt swap is not an end in itself but an important starting point for a long-term plan to effectively create and sustain protected areas across the country." —Fabio Arjona, Colombia Program Director, Conservation International

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

Agency: *U.S. Department of State*

Through the IO&P Account, the U.S. Government makes voluntary contributions that provide core financial support to international organizations and programs “addressing global challenges through international cooperation.” Within this account, the International Conservation Programs support the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; the World Conservation Union (IUCN); the International Tropical Timber Organization; and the Convention to Combat Desertification. U.S. contributions to these agreements and organizations support efforts to curb illegal trade in rare and threatened wildlife, preserve globally significant wetlands, promote the conservation and sustainable management of the world’s forests, and provide forums for international debate and discussion on

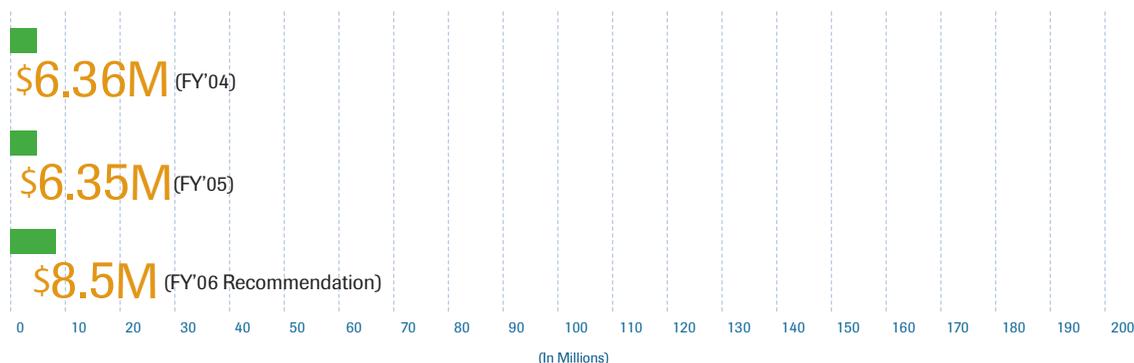
key conservation topics. Separately, the IO&P Account includes funding for the UN Environment Programme and the World Heritage Convention, both of which also have mandates that emphasize nature conservation in developing countries.

<http://www.state.gov>



Pantanal, Brazil

Funding Program Levels



Highlights

Global amphibian assessment

In October 2004, IUCN’s Species Survival Commission (SSC), in collaboration with Conservation International and more than 500 scientists from 60 countries, completed the first-ever global amphibian assessment. The survey found that 32 percent of all amphibian species (1,856 in total) are at risk of extinction, compared with 12 percent of bird species and 23 percent of mammal species. Because their permeable skin makes them especially sensitive to environmental changes, amphibians are a very important indicator of overall environmental quality. The results of this three-year survey show that the current rapid decline in amphibians—the equivalent of tens of thousands of years of extinctions in just a century—is being caused by a range of factors including deforestation, pollution, habitat loss, and climate change. As the largest of IUCN’s six commissions, the SSC—composed of researchers, government officials, wildlife veterinarians, zoo and botanical institute employees, marine biologists, and protected-area managers—produces the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and serves as the main source of advice to the IUCN and its members on the technical aspects of species conservation.



Frogs on trees, Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, Peru

Combating ivory poaching

In October 2004, delegates to the 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) agreed to an ambitious action plan for cracking down on unregulated domestic markets in elephant ivory. These markets serve as major outlets for poached ivory, particularly in a number of African and Asian countries. Under the action plan, all African elephant range states will strengthen their legislation and their enforcement efforts, launch public awareness campaigns, and report on progress by the end of March 2005.



A man in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, tracks confiscated elephant tusks

Tackling the illegal timber trade

Delegates to the 13th Conference of the Parties to the CITES decided to place ramin—a Southeast Asian tree that produces high-value timber—and agarwood on Appendix II, which requires the use of CITES export permits. Leading U.S. retailers in wood products strongly supported listing ramin on Appendix II. This new obligation will improve the ability of the ramin and agarwood range states to manage tree stocks. It will also allow both exporters and importers to ensure that trade is sustainable and help them tackle illegal trade.



A log yard near Long Gi, East Kalimantan, Indonesia

Program: Multinational Species Conservation Funds (MSCF)

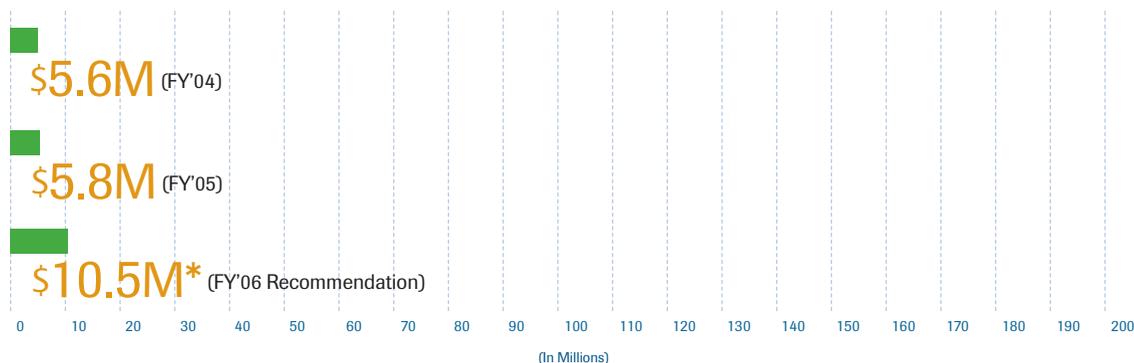
Agency: *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)*

Since 1990, the Multinational Species Conservation Funds have provided grants to host countries and private organizations to help conserve African elephants, Asian elephants, rhinoceros, tigers, and great apes—all large species facing significant threats around the world. The funds play a vital role in providing on-the-ground support and in generating substantial matching resources for conservation programs in recipient countries. More than 500 governmental and NGO partners have worked with FWS on projects in 46 countries. FWS has provided more than \$25 million in grants from the conservation funds, which have leveraged more than \$80 million in non-federal support. Each of the funds is authorized at \$5 million annually, except for the combined Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund

at \$10 million. In July 2004, Congress expanded the funds by enacting the Marine Turtle Conservation Act, which supports programs to sustain all seven critically endangered sea turtle species. These turtles face drastic declines from uncontrolled harvesting of nesting females and their eggs, the opportunistic capturing of juveniles and adult turtles, and habitat degradation. The Marine Turtle Act will help protect nesting beaches around the world and encourage the local development of turtle-based tourism economies. Congress is now considering a Great Cats and Rare Canids Act to protect lions, leopards, cheetahs, wild dogs, and other predators.

<http://international.fws.gov/grants/grants.html>

Funding Program Levels



*This recommendation reflects \$2 million for the African Elephant Conservation Fund, \$2 million for the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund, \$2 million for the Great Apes Conservation Fund, \$2 million for the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund, and \$2.5 million for the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund.

Highlights

Tigers

Through grants supplied by FWS, the Bokor Conservation Project in Cambodia was created to disrupt poaching operations, identify poachers as either commercial or subsistence poachers, and engage subsistence poachers in community activities and alternative livelihoods. This program, initiated by WildAid, continues to grow and become increasingly effective. In January 2004 alone, the park rangers apprehended 57 loggers and 12 wildlife poachers. In the process, they confiscated or destroyed nine chainsaws and 965 snares. Camera traps reveal that tigers are still present in Bokor, where it was previously believed they had disappeared due to poaching. A new national protected-areas training center serves as a headquarters where rangers and protected-area staff from all over Cambodia can come to gain experience in managing and protecting their parks.



Cardamom Mountains tigers, Cambodia

Asian elephants

The “Saving Elephants by Helping People” project developed an innovative approach to protecting elephants and reducing elephant-related crop destruction in and around Wasgomuwa National Park in Sri Lanka. In 2001, the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society, with funding from the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund and support from the International Elephant Foundation, constructed solar-powered electric fencing around several villages near the park. Elephants were fenced out of human-inhabited areas rather than fenced in a specific area within the national park. This allows the elephants to maintain their natural migration paths while protecting the villages and their crops. Villagers were trained to maintain, operate, and repair the fencing, and support was provided for a community maintenance fund. The project has significantly reduced the amount of crop damage from elephants and enabled the cultivation of 100 percent of the arable land, thereby increasing community prosperity.



Asian elephant at electric fence

Highlights (cont'd)

African elephants

Over the past year, the African Elephant Conservation Fund helped support African Wildlife Foundation's pioneering survey of trans-boundary elephant populations of the Zambezi River Valley, covering parts of Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. No work has ever treated these contiguous elephant populations as one entity nor included participation of multiple national wildlife authorities. The coordinated survey will help guide trans-national conservation planning and initiatives to alleviate conflicts between people and wildlife.

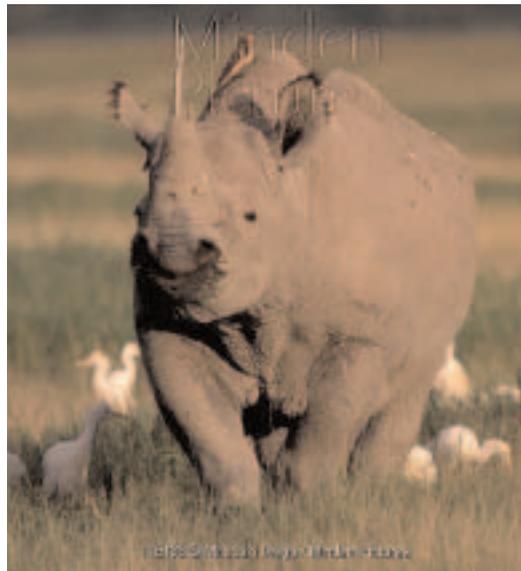


African elephants, Amboseli National Park, Kenya

"Wildlife is the key to prosperity. Today we are making the elephants work for us, not against us. We are developing resources that elephants can't damage. And for the first time we are cooperating with people in neighboring parks, and even other countries. AWF [African Wildlife Foundation] calls this kind of work trans-boundary. My people call it hope."—Chieftainess Christine Eva Mambo Chiawa of Zambia, AWF conservation partner

Rhinoceros

The Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund has supported the continued recovery of black rhinos in Africa, from 2,500 individuals in 1994 when the FWS program began, up to 3,600 individuals today. FWS has collaborated with the International Rhino Foundation on law enforcement projects to improve rhino security against poachers in the Chyulu Hills of Kenya. It has partnered with the World Wildlife Fund to capture and treat snared and injured rhinos and sometimes move them to safer locations. Working with WWF in Nepal, the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund has supported projects that helped increase the number of greater one-horned rhinos in Royal Chitwan National Park to more than 500 individuals today. This fund has also contributed to the successful relocation of 77 rhinos from Royal Chitwan to create a second population in Nepal's Royal Bardia National Park, and a third population will soon be established in the Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve.



Black rhinoceros, Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania

Highlights (cont'd)

Great apes

The Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Project has become a model program in the conservation of wild orangutans in Kalimantan, Indonesia, where illegal logging has degraded large areas of the Gunung Palung National Park. A key goal of this project is to raise awareness about the orangutan and encourage the local community to take pride in protecting the national park. In addition, FWS's Great Apes Conservation Fund has supported Harvard University's research on orangutan behavior and ecology in the park, and has joined with Fauna & Flora International to establish patrols to protect orangutans and their habitat.



Orangutan, Indonesia

Program: **Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA)**

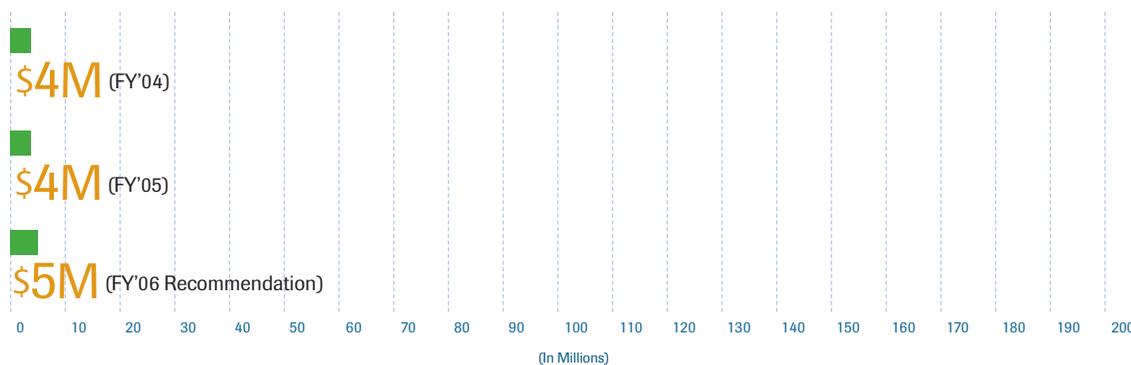
Agency: *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)*

Since 2000, FWS has been providing matching grants to fund projects that conserve neotropical migratory birds—those that breed in or migrate through the United States and spend the non-breeding season in Latin America and the Caribbean. These funds provide an upland complement to the wetland bird conservation work accomplished under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Projects may include bird habitat conservation, research and monitoring, law enforcement, and outreach and education. All grant requests must be matched by non-federal funds at least three to one. By law, 75 percent of the funds must be spent internationally. So far, 109 projects have been funded in more than 25 countries in the Western Hemisphere. NMBCA will need legislative reauthorization in 2005. <http://birdhabitat.fws.gov>



Peregrine falcon, Vizcaino Desert, Baja, Mexico

Funding Program Levels



Highlights

Costa Rica

The Organization of Tropical Studies, based at Duke University, has completed restoration of about 600 acres of freshwater wetlands at Palo Verde National Park, with help from a \$58,000 grant from the NMBCA and additional support from private foundations. This is a Ramsar Convention on Wetlands site and one of Central America's most important wetlands. In 2004, visitors to the site witnessed several thousand blue-winged teal as well as substantial numbers of wood storks, whistling ducks, and jabiru storks. Separately in Costa Rica, at the Guanacaste Conservation Area, NMBCA funds are helping acquire acreage that will be added to this crucial reserve. NMBCA's \$330,000 is being matched by \$1.09 million from other donors. The conservation area protects more than 60 migratory bird species including the golden-winged warbler and olive-sided flycatcher.



Olive-sided flycatcher, Mt. Pinos, California

Gulf of Mexico stopover habitat

The coast of the Gulf of Mexico is the most important stopover habitat for migratory birds in North America. Millions of birds representing more than 100 species pass through the region twice a year on their annual journeys to and from breeding and wintering grounds. Grants from the NMBCA to The Nature Conservancy, matched by more than \$1 million in partner funds, are directed at implementing conservation planning processes in Texas and in Veracruz, Mexico; developing a private lands conservation network in Tamaulipas, Mexico; and protecting critically important migratory bird stopover habitat in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.



Resting flamingos, Yucatan, Mexico

"NMBCA has allowed us to better understand connections among countries. For example, the experience of releasing a banded bird in central Veracruz is even stronger when you hear the news that that very same bird was retrapped and released again healthy four years later in the northeast corner of Iowa. The bird needs food and resting stops in both countries, as well as in others that it might have crossed during its journey. What better way to see our connection than this one?" —Norma Ferriz, Executive Director, Pronatura Veracruz, Mexico

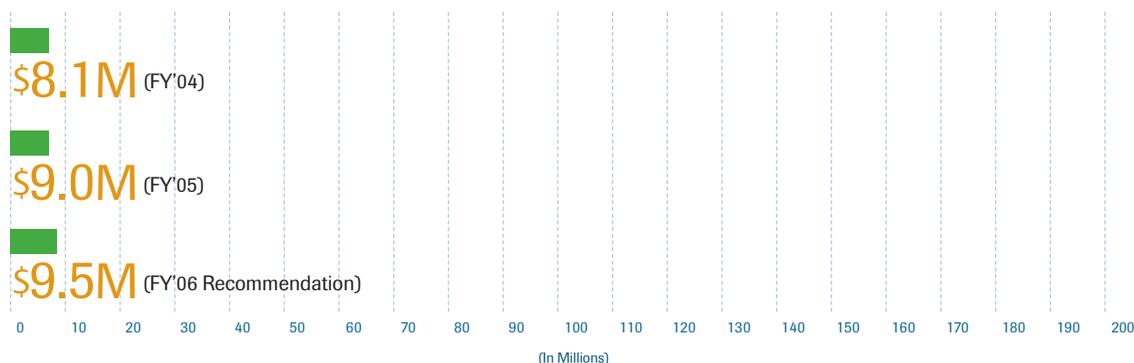
Program: **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
International Affairs**

Agency: *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Through its international programs, FWS works with many partners and nations to implement international treaties, conventions, and on-the-ground projects that conserve species and the habitats on which they depend. FWS International Affairs staff is responsible for scientific justification and implementation of permitting for international endangered species, including U.S. participation in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). FWS International Affairs, in close cooperation with other agencies, also supports U.S. involvement in the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, NAFTA, and the Western Hemisphere Convention. Additionally, FWS International Affairs administers the Wildlife Without Borders–Regional Programs, with active conservation partnerships in Mexico,

Russia, China, India, Latin America, and the Caribbean. These initiatives support capacity building, endangered and migratory species conservation, habitat conservation, and environmental outreach, education, and training. In FY04, the Wildlife Without Borders–Regional Programs awarded more than \$1.4 million in grants to more than 50 conservation projects and leveraged some \$4.1 million in matching funds and in-kind support for wildlife conservation. Since 1995, these programs have awarded more than \$13.7 million in grants and leveraged more than \$43.9 million in matching funds and in-kind support. Due to increased congressional support for Wildlife Without Borders in the FY05 Appropriations Act, FWS intends to expand this program to Africa to address the bushmeat trade.
<http://international.fws.gov>

Funding Program Levels



Highlights

Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference

The Wildlife Without Borders–Regional Programs partnered with the U.S. Department of State to bring together wildlife conservation decision-makers at the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Conference, in Termas de Puyehue, Chile, in October 2003. Representatives from 25 countries developed cooperative strategies to conserve migratory species and wildlife throughout the Western Hemisphere. Endangered migratory species that will likely benefit from enhanced collaboration among nations include cranes, sea turtles, neotropical migratory birds, bats, manatees, and waterfowl.



Green sea turtle, Hawaii

Regional Program on Wildlife Management at the National University of Costa Rica

Since its establishment in 1987, the Regional Program on Wildlife Management at the National University of Costa Rica has worked closely with the Wildlife Without Borders–Regional Programs. This graduate-level program at the university offers education and training to students from Latin America and the Caribbean by integrating theory and practice and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. Program alumni have gone on to play wildlife leadership roles in Latin American government agencies, NGOs, and universities, and have conducted vital research in support of management and conservation. FWS supports scholarships, specialized courses, visiting professors, and classroom materials. FWS also supports regional graduate programs on wildlife management and conservation in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile.



Rainforest, Costa Rica

“Assistance provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Wildlife Without Borders–Regional Programs for capacity building has been highly instrumental and successful in creating skilled wildlife conservation experts in South and Central America . . . creating a generation of community professionals able to work on issues related to applied ecology, conservation, wildlife management, and environmental assessment.” –Carlos Manuel Rodriguez Echandi, Minister of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica

Program: **U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
Office of International Programs (IP)**

Agency: *U.S. Forest Service*

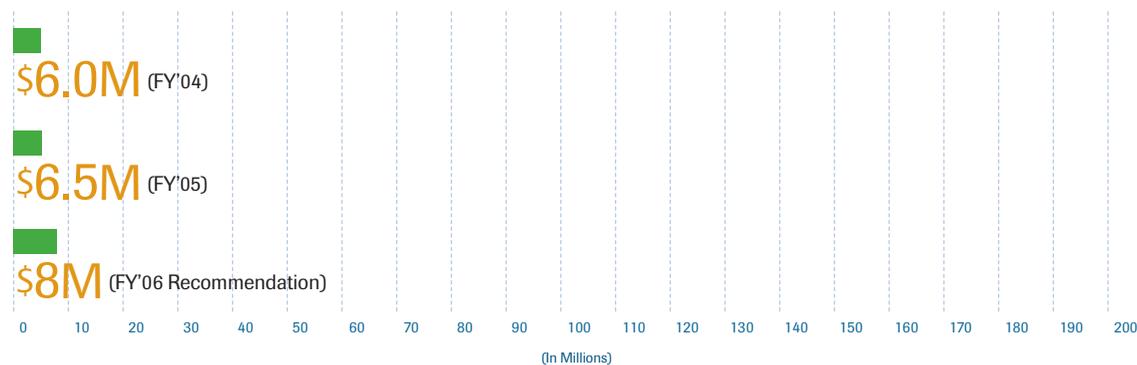
The USFS/IP assists other nations in their forest management and biodiversity conservation efforts. Managing forests effectively, including conserving the biodiversity within them, is a major challenge for countries around the world. How other nations respond to these challenges has important economic, environmental, and sociopolitical implications for the United States. In fulfilling its mission, USFS/IP builds long-term conservation partnerships to solve priority problems that require sustained efforts on the ground. These collaborative efforts focus on a wide array of issues, including conservation of migratory species, preventing the spread of invasive species, education in fire ecology and prevention, protected-area management, landscape forest planning, forest certification, and reduced-impact logging. USFS/IP draws on the

diverse Forest Service workforce, including research scientists, managers of national forests and grasslands, and specialists in international work, conservation biology, forest health, and private lands assistance. In this way, the Forest Service is able to directly link conservation investments at home with its work internationally. <http://www.fs.fed.us/international>



Pohnpei, Micronesia

Funding Program Levels



Highlights

Sustainable forestry in the Congo Basin

The USFS/IP is an active partner in the U.S. Government's mission to promote sustainable forest ecosystems through the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. It is also an implementing agency for the U.S.-funded Central African Regional Program for the Environment. The Forest Service provides technical support, policy guidance, and capacity-building assistance for Congo Basin forestry officials, helping to sustain forests, biodiversity, local communities, and cultures. Forest Service expertise, including that in reduced-impact logging methods, management of protected areas, GIS assessments, and landscape-scale forest management planning, is critical to the success of this partnership.

Grassland bird conservation

The steep and increasingly widespread decline of grassland birds in North America has become a major conservation concern. Large sums of money are spent annually to manage and conserve the U.S. habitats of these species, but success also depends on securing their habitats abroad. Key threats to winter habitats in Mexico and points farther south include increased agricultural conversion, livestock grazing, urbanization, energy development, invasive species, and fire suppression. USFS/IP has built conservation partnerships in Mexico and South America to protect and restore winter habitat through improved grazing practices, sustainable resource development, bird research and monitoring, and protected-area management. By conserving bird species that migrate to the United States, this work protects domestic conservation investments and sustains U.S. bird-related businesses and community jobs.



Burrowing owls, Colorado

Managing forests in Liberia

Illegal logging and the misappropriation of timber revenue helped fuel the Charles Taylor dictatorship in Liberia. The problem was so great that in 2003 the United Nations imposed sanctions blocking the export of Liberian timber. A transparently governed and sustainable forest sector is essential if Liberia is to restore stability and achieve economic growth. The Liberian Government has committed to an ambitious reform program that includes capacity building, sound financial controls, concessions management, community forestry, and conservation actions, such as creating new national parks. The USFS/IP is playing a leading role in assisting with this reform program by providing technical assistance to the Liberian Forest Development Authority and the U.S. Mission in Liberia.



Logging camp in Liberia

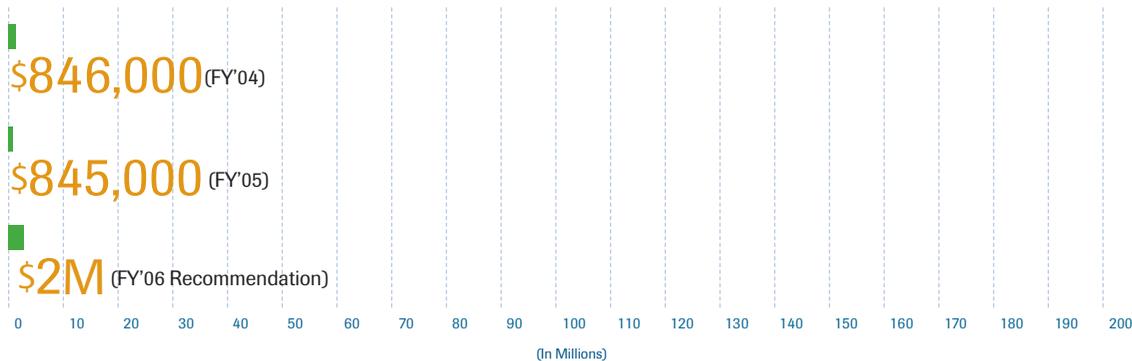
Program: **U.S. National Park Service (NPS)
International Program**

Agency: *U.S. National Park Service*

As the originator of the national parks concept, the United States has a proud history of aiding other nations in establishing and managing park systems. This work has helped protect some of the world’s most spectacular places, preserve cultural heritage, create opportunities for poorer countries to benefit from conservation, generate goodwill toward the United States, and allow the NPS to benefit from experiences abroad. International engagement is part of the agency’s mission, which states that the NPS “cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resources conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.” The NPS Office of International Affairs (NPS/OIA) advances this mission through 16 bilateral cooperative agreements with counterpart national park agencies. These agreements serve as the basis for

providing training and technical assistance to countries like Costa Rica, China, Gabon, and South Africa. NPS/OIA also manages the International Volunteers-in-Parks Program, which brings individuals to the United States for training in park management, wildlife research, and other skills; 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.
<http://www.nps.gov/oia/index.htm>

Funding Program Levels



Highlights

Gabon and the Congo Basin

The NPS is providing technical assistance to the countries participating in the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. For example, in July 2003, the President of Gabon directly requested assistance from the NPS in developing his country’s newly instituted national parks system. This system is designed to include 13 parks, which will cover approximately 10 percent of the country. In response, the NPS has organized two regional workshops focused on legal and policy frameworks for national park systems as well as concessions management. In addition, the NPS is cooperating with the Smithsonian Institution to create a biodiversity monitoring protocol for the Congo Basin.



Male mandrill, Gabon

Sustainable park management

The NPS has begun training other nations’ protected-area agencies in sustainable park management and eco-tourism practices, focusing on a variety of management issues such as facilities construction and maintenance, transportation, park operations, and trail design. In 2004, the NPS focused these efforts in Argentina and Uruguay. This assistance advances several important conservation goals: increasing community involvement in protecting park resources, reducing the costs of park management, minimizing the environmental impacts of park facilities and operations, and ultimately helping turn national parks and protected areas into role models in sustainable practices for the general public.

Park Flight Migratory Bird Program

Working through the International Volunteers-in-Parks Program, 19 Latin American biologists from six countries have contributed more than 7,000 hours assisting with Park Flight monitoring and education efforts in U.S. national parks. These international internships provide opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and experience in science, culture, and language, while allowing the interns to improve their resource management skills to be later applied in their home countries. The Park Flight program also provides technical assistance to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. These exchanges allow technical experts to experience firsthand the issues faced by migratory bird species in the U.S. and at both ends of their migration routes.



Park Flight intern Ruby Zambrano Munoz with peregrine falcon, New Mexico

“My internship in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park has given me a great deal of new skills which I will be able to apply in fieldwork in Nicaragua: radio-telemetry, habitat assessments, macro-invertebrate census, and nest searching.” –Mariamar Gutiérrez Ramírez, Nicaragua; Park Flight Intern at Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Ohio

Annex

Other U.S. Government programs also support the conservation of biodiversity around the world. These programs include:

U.S. Department of Commerce: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) International Marine Conservation

Through NOAA, the National Ocean Service (NOS) works to develop international capacity for integrated coastal management and marine protected-area management, particularly in Asia, the Pacific, and the Caribbean. NOS provided critical leadership in the development of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the wider Caribbean region, through its support of the International Coral Reef Initiative and the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, and through the World Commission on Protected Areas (Marine).

U.S. Department of Agriculture: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) International Services

With recent human health outbreaks of West Nile Virus, SARS, Monkey Pox, and Avian Influenza originating from domesticated and wild animals, APHIS has expanded its protection role to include the welfare of animals; human health and safety; and protecting ecosystems vulnerable to invasive pests and pathogens. APHIS's International Services works exclusively outside the United States to reduce threats to U.S. agriculture and participates in a number of major surveillance, eradication, and control programs in foreign countries where economically significant pests or diseases are found: the Mediterranean fruit fly (Mexico, Guatemala), screwworm (Panama), exotic foreign animal diseases (Mexico), foot-and-mouth disease prevention (Central America and Panama), and foot-and-mouth disease eradication (Colombia).

U.S. Department of the Interior: North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), Fish and Wildlife Service

NAWCA organizes voluntary, non-regulatory, partnership-driven conservation work in the United States, Canada, and Mexico to protect, restore, and enhance North American wetland and wetland-associated habitats for waterfowl and other migratory birds. Highly respected and broadly supported, NAWCA has helped fund more than 1,240 wetland conservation projects in all 50 U.S. states, Canada, and Mexico, protecting and enhancing more than 20 million acres.

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

In the realm of international oceans, environment, science, and health, OES advances U.S. negotiating positions, promotes regional cooperation and stability, encourages sustainable development, and demonstrates U.S. leadership in responding to emerging issues.

Acronyms

APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (U.S. Department of Agriculture)
AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
CI	Conservation International
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IBA	Important Bird Area
ICC	International Conservation Caucus
IO&P	International Organizations & Programs (U.S. Department of State)
IUCN	World Conservation Union
NAWCA	North American Wetlands Conservation Act
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NMBCA	Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOS	National Ocean Service
NPS	U.S. National Park Service
NPS/OIA	U.S. National Park Service Office of International Affairs
TFCA	Tropical Forest Conservation Act
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFS/IP	U.S. Forest Service Office of International Programs
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

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