



# THE INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION BUDGET



*Building on America's Historic  
Commitment to Conservation*

2007



The dispossessed were drawn west – from Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico; from Nevada and Arkansas...dusted out Car-loads, caravans, homeless and hungry; twenty thousand and fifty thousand and a hundred thousand and two hundred thousand.

JOHN STEINBECK, *The Grapes of Wrath*, 1939

## Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society and World Wildlife Fund have joined together to highlight in this publication the American role in conserving the world's natural resources.

This publication highlights America's role in helping to conserve the world's natural resources – to inform members of Congress, their staff and other decision makers about the importance of conservation programs to assist the developing world. In recent years, Congress has shown increased commitment to international conservation programs, thanks especially to the efforts of the International Conservation Caucus. We are grateful for their commitment. Americans can take pride in such programs. They draw on a proud tradition of American leadership. Yet, the world's conservation efforts remain inadequate to the need. Without more help, the world's poorest countries will struggle to maintain their remaining natural heritage.

Conservation starts with habitat, with green forests, lush grasslands, healthy coral reefs and rich fishing grounds thriving with life. These resources are vital to lifting more than 2 billion people out of dire poverty. Most of the world's poor are located in rural areas, on degraded landscapes, on eroded soils, without adequate freshwater. Fish stocks are in decline almost everywhere. During the past 40 years, farmers have abandoned nearly a third of the world's cropland after erosion made it unproductive. Forests, which provide many essential services to people, are also declining. Between 2000 and 2005, South America and Africa lost approximately 9 million acres of forest per year. Fifteen percent of the Amazon has been cleared in the last generation. Most of the original forests of Indonesia will be gone within 10 years.

If these trends continue, ecological exhaustion and large-scale collapse in multiple countries will grow more likely. Populations of wild animals have fallen by one-third since 1970. Tropical species have been

particularly hard hit, with declines of 55 percent. Humans are on track to drive 60 percent of the Earth's species to extinction by 2100. Conservation is increasingly critical for both human and wildlife survival. Otherwise, the environmental, social and political impacts will certainly be felt in the United States. The human "footprint" on the global ecosystem may already exceed its long-term carrying capacity, and this will worsen as our populations grow past nine billion in 2050.

The gloomy rhythm of such statistics can lull us into apathy. Yet when the consequences of environmental degradation stare us in the face, we must act. Such was the case in the U.S. during the Dust Bowl era of the 1930's. In the world's richest country, hollow-cheeked farmers and their hungry families were driven off the land. Thousands died of malnutrition and dust pneumonia. Out of that bitter experience, Americans learned a lesson that not all in the world have yet embraced: a country does not become rich by abusing its natural resources. In the aftermath, the heritage of Theodore Roosevelt was renewed and expanded. The record since then shows that conservation works. Progress is possible. In countries where conservation has been a broadly popular cause, the rate of soil erosion is dropping. Water is getting purer, not dirtier. The air is cleaner. Many beloved species of wildlife are recovering. Europe, the United States and parts of Asia report that forests are expanding, not shrinking. But the situation in the developing world is very different. Many nations are making progress in developing their economies and lifting their people out of poverty. But in too many cases this growth is coming at the expense of the natural ecosystems that are needed to sustain it and that provide vital services to the poorest

communities. In Africa, the rate of extreme poverty actually rose from 36 percent in 1970 and to 50 percent in 2000. The loss of forests, grasslands, wildlife and other natural resources has not yielded prosperity for most Africans; it has put the livelihoods of the poor at further risk. The same is true for poor people in Latin America and Asia.

The great global conservation movement that began in the United States more than a century ago has, from the beginning, drawn upon two strong arguments for support. One emphasizes conservation of nature for non-economic values of spiritual renewal, natural beauty and national pride; the other stresses resources for sustainable human use and development. America has supported both arguments throughout the last century. Many developing countries today, while accepting the cultural and spiritual values of nature, of necessity focus on sustainable landscapes and harvests to meet the needs of their peoples.

Now is the time to begin an enhanced American effort to help. This report highlights international conservation successes to conserve landscapes and species, achieved with the support of existing U.S. government programs. While much has been accomplished, the scale of the effort falls short. Our four U.S.-based international conservation organizations – Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society and World Wildlife Fund – urge substantially increased support for international conservation in order to achieve the impacts necessary to slow and reverse these serious degradations in habitat and natural resources worldwide.

We encourage the Administration and Congress to look beyond current programs and show visionary leadership for international conservation. The world needs to link protected areas and public lands with private lands, to build healthy sustainable landscapes. We urge that bold steps begin with the Fiscal Year 2008 budget cycle, including but not limited to the following:

- Increase the USAID commitment to global conservation;
- Pay half of the US's \$170 million of arrears to the Global Environment Facility, immediately leveraging more than half a billion dollars of non-US funding for projects on the ground;
- Increase efforts directed to vulnerable species like tigers, great apes, rhinos, elephants, and turtles through the USFWS multispecies funds; and expand funds for the conservation of thirteen species of great cats and rare wild dogs;
- Apply the proven debt-for-nature model of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act to additional ecosystems, by new legislation funded at a higher level;
- Expand US agency efforts to provide technical assistance to build conservation capacity and support international agreements.

We look forward to working together in partnership with the Administration and Congress on these issues, so important to the future of our world.

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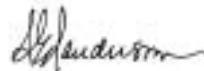
U.S. Department of Commerce: NOAA International Marine Conservation  
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Centers for Disease Control  
 U.S. Department of the Interior: North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), Fish and Wildlife Service  
 U.S. Department of State: Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES)



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



**Steven J. McCormick**  
 President and CEO  
 The Nature Conservancy



**Dr. Steven E. Sanderson**  
 President and CEO  
 Wildlife Conservation Society



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

Program: **USAID Biodiversity Conservation Programs**

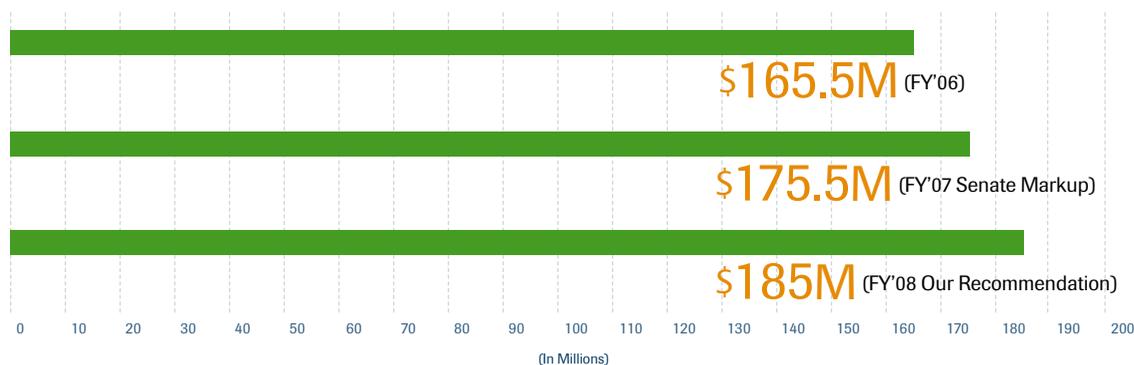
Agency: *U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)*

U.S. foreign assistance helps to build and sustain democratic, well-governed states that act responsibly and serve the needs of their people. For more than 20 years, the USAID Biodiversity Conservation Program, implemented through U.S. missions with guidance from headquarters, has provided expertise on the development and conservation needs of local communities around the world. USAID is the single largest U.S. government contributor to biodiversity conservation in developing countries. Biodiversity funding has been used successfully as part of a larger diplomatic and development strategy to stabilize and bolster states vulnerable to political, economic or social upheaval. Countries that have difficulty reaching agreement on political issues have successfully come together to deal with water shortages, human/wildlife conflicts,

transboundary natural resource management and ecotourism. Biodiversity conservation and natural resource management programs are well situated to serve many aspects of a country's development: promoting peace, security and good governance; investing in people; securing economic growth, and supplementing humanitarian assistance. As the new U.S. Foreign Assistance Framework is developed and implemented, it is important to remember that biodiversity conservation and natural resource management assist in rebuilding, stabilizing and transforming countries by ensuring that rich natural resources will endure and prosper for generations to come.

<http://www.state.gov/f/direction/>.

**Funding Program Levels**



**Highlights**

**Natural Resource Management, Afghanistan**

Located at the crossroads of temperate and tropical biomes, Afghanistan houses a wide mix of wildlife, from leopards and gazelles to wolves and brown bears, as well as rare mountain species like the snow leopard and Marco Polo sheep. Unfortunately, the ongoing deterioration of already depleted ecosystems—in a country where 80 percent of all residents depend on natural resources for subsistence—threatens to aggravate poverty, economic instability and dislocation. In response, USAID has developed community-based projects that educate, train and organize local populations in science-based resource management. In addition to assessing the health and status of the country's natural systems, project leaders are taking steps to reduce disease in livestock and wildlife. The program's ultimate goal is to create multiple protected areas, including one that would link Afghanistan with neighboring Pakistan, China, and Tajikistan, helping to chart a more peaceful and sustainable future for Afghanistan and the region from the ground up, while other political solutions are sought at higher levels.



Snow Leopard.

**Congo Basin Forest Partnership**

With a five-year, \$75 million commitment, USAID has renewed its support for the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, a consortium of governments, conservation organizations, and businesses that supports 12 priority landscapes across Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Republic of the Congo. The partnership has brought about the region's first treaty on conservation and sustainable management, as well as two innovative trans-boundary protected area agreements. Innovative long-term funding mechanisms, including the recently established Sangha trinational trust fund, are helping to ensure the long-term viability of land-use planning and institutional reform, sustainable forestry, community-based natural resource management, ecotourism, and anti-poaching and forestry laws.



Raised terraces in the Republic of the Congo.

## Highlights (cont'd)

### Strengthening Protected Areas in the Andes

USAID has joined with local and international conservation organizations to conserve South America's most precious wildlife and to promote sustainable use of key resources. USAID-supported ecotourism ventures are giving developing countries the opportunity to fund conservation activities while enhancing their economic livelihoods. In Bolivia, for example, USAID funding has helped secure the country's first national ecotourism policy. New income-generating tools like visitor entrance fees and tour-operator license fees are expected to generate as much as \$1 million a year, strengthening the long-term financial sustainability of Bolivia's most important protected areas. In Ecuador, a USAID-supported study is helping to demonstrate the economic value of ecotourism to local communities and park systems. USAID has also helped design a sustainable tourism training program for use by U.S. government staff around the world.



Tourists in the Galapagos.

### Raja Ampat, Indonesia

Illegal and unsustainable fishing presents a major threat to Raja Ampat, Indonesia, which harbors some of the most biodiverse coral reefs on Earth. With support from USAID, local communities are now taking steps to limit this threat. Villagers and local government officials have established a new patrolling system, which promises to help abate blast fishing and other illegal harvesting methods in this wildlife-rich area. The program's combination of public awareness and monitoring by local stakeholders has encouraged the government of Raja Ampat to create a marine protected area in Kofiau and has created an important model for local communities, government agencies, and NGOs throughout eastern Indonesia.



Researcher conducting survey, Komodo, Indonesia

### Central Selva Conservation Area, Peru

Peru's Central Selva spans 4.5 million acres of Andean highlands, cloud forests, lowland rain forests, and the basins of four major rivers, including the headwaters of the Amazon. With support from USAID, conservationists have significantly strengthened the region's protected areas, hiring more park staff, improving infrastructure, shoring up park boundaries and enhancing park management. The project has encouraged Central Selva's residents, government and institutions to create a more sustainable balance between development and conservation. For example, the regional government of Pasco has pledged to create a network of seven municipal conservation areas in Oxapampa province, as well as an environmental curriculum for



Peruvian boy birdwatching, Peru, South America.

## Highlights (cont'd)

local classrooms. In addition, three parks in the region have implemented self-financing strategies, an important first step in moving Peru's protected area system toward long-term financial viability.

### Forest Certification, Russia

Russia harbors one of the world's largest areas of intact boreal forest—a vital habitat for rare species such as the Siberian tiger. These forests, however, are seriously threatened by the rapidly expanding demand for wood fiber. With support from USAID and IKEA, the Russia Forest & Trade Network (FTN) is making enormous strides in improving sustainable forest management across the country. Of the 16 million acres of Russian forest currently certified as sustainably managed, nearly half are by FTN participants and suppliers. Today, FTN accounts for more than half of Russia's total pulp and paper exports.



Siberian tigers fighting

### Reducing Marine Turtle Bycatch in the Pacific

Currently six of the world's seven species of marine turtle are endangered or critically endangered. The problem is particularly acute in the Pacific Ocean, where longline fisheries accidentally capture and kill large numbers of sea turtles. With support from USAID, conservationists are partnering with fisherman in Peru, Mexico, Indonesia and the Philippines to test improvements in fishing gears and techniques. The program is laying the seeds for cooperative solution-building in marine regions around the world.



Seaturtle, Caribbean

# 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 six priority areas—biodiversity conservation, climate change (mainly renewable energy and energy efficiency), international waters, ozone layer protection, land degradation and persistent organic pollutants.

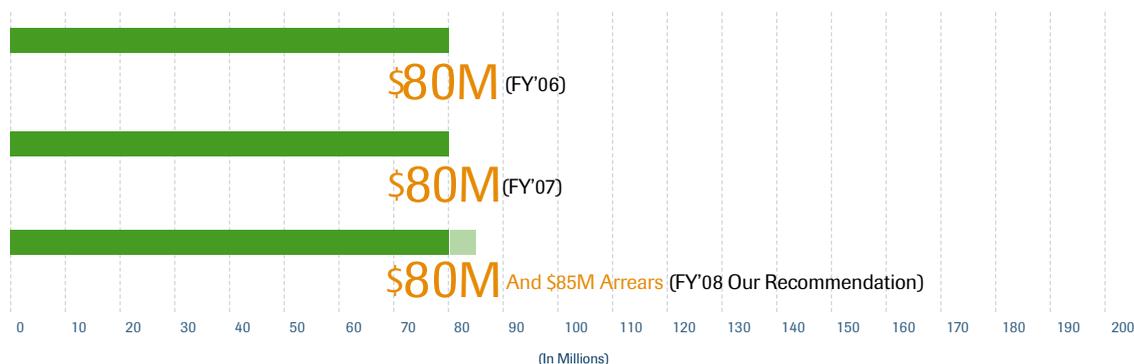
Between 1991 and 2006, the GEF provided approximately \$2.2 billion in grants—36 percent of its total grants portfolio—for biodiversity conservation projects and leveraged nearly \$5.17 billion in co-financing for approximately 750 projects in 155 countries. Having supported some 1,500 protected areas and helped establish more than 60 conservation or endowment trust funds worldwide, the GEF is the largest international source of funding for protected areas. Throughout the years it has also been at the cutting edge of innovation: actively creating markets

to pay for ecosystem services, incorporating biodiversity conservation into production sectors like agriculture, tourism and fisheries, and working with indigenous and local communities.

GEF donor countries pledge financial resources every four years. In 2006, donor countries agreed to a \$3.13 billion replenishment for the July 2006 - June 2010 period, with the US pledging a total of \$320 million. Unfortunately, the U.S. is \$170 million in arrears on its past pledges. In response, other major donors have paid their quotas but have frozen more than \$200 million until the U.S. pays those arrears. By securing resources to fulfill its current pledge and paying off its arrears over the next two years, the U.S. would free up those funds. Counting additional local “matches,” this would generate more than \$1.2 billion in on-the-ground projects for the global environment—a leverage of 7 to 1 on the U.S. dollar.

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

## Funding Program Levels



## Highlights

### Addressing the Consequences of Climate Change

Scientists estimate that global warming will have especially severe impacts on coastal regions, triggering more rainfall, causing sea levels to rise and extending the spread of tropical vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue. To help develop a response model, the GEF is collaborating with the World Bank and the Colombian government to assess, forecast and prepare for the impacts of climate change on natural resources. The project will look for ways to buffer the Caribbean coast from climatic disruption, reduce the spread of disease, and preserve hydropower and other environmental services in the central range of the Andes.



Iceberg at LeConte Bay of Frederick Sound, Alaska

### Cleaning Up the Danube River and Black Sea

Excessive amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus pollution in the Danube River and Black Sea basin have triggered algal blooms that kill fish and impair tourism. With 17 countries located along this watershed, sustained support is necessary to create region-wide solutions. Since 1992, GEF funding has helped establish the Danube Commission and the Danube River Protection Convention, as well as strategic action programs endorsed by ministers throughout the basin. GEF-supported projects have also successfully engaged private-sector and community partners in reducing toxic pollution and excess nutrients. As a result, nutrient levels in the Danube have been reduced, and the downstream Danube delta and Black Sea are showing signs of recovery. A special GEF-World Bank partnership is now addressing key transboundary concerns identified by individual countries.



Village along the Danube River

## Highlights (cont'd)

### Safeguarding Lake Tanganyika

Lake Tanganyika possesses some of the highest biodiversity of any lake on Earth and plays a key role in the economies and food security of the countries surrounding it: Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania and Zambia. Since 1995, GEF's assistance has helped these countries work together to conserve and manage their shared lake and its basin. GEF support was also vital in adopting the Lake Tanganyika Convention and developing an action plan for addressing unsustainable fisheries, higher levels of pollution, excessive sedimentation and habitat destruction. This plan is now being implemented through a concerted effort of the countries, development partners and the GEF.



Boats on Lake Tanganyika

### Costa Rican Ecomarkets

As natural habitats become increasingly scarce, conservationists have proposed paying local landholders and users to maintain “environmental services” such as biodiversity and watershed protection and carbon sequestration. These payments would help to offset lost revenues from agriculture and development. In Costa Rica, the GEF and its partners, with the help of a World Bank loan, are helping to make this idea reality. Environmental services payments have helped to significantly replenish the country's forest cover. Costa Rican forests are no longer shrinking, they are expanding. The project has attracted much interest from countries looking to implement similar mechanisms. Future initiatives may include consumer user fees for water use, and innovative schemes to protect scenic beauty.



Costa Rican Forest

## Highlights (cont'd)

### Improving Agricultural Commodity Production

Short-term market pressures sometimes keep farmers in the developing world from adopting practices that are both commercially viable and beneficial to biodiversity. The governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Brazil are working with GEF, the International Finance Corporation and others to incorporate conservation principles into commodity production. Working in the palm oil, cocoa, soy bean and sugar cane sectors, the program will showcase the economic benefits of integrating biodiversity into production decisions.



Malaysian man sorting cocoa beans.

### Creating New Ecotourism Models

The GEF is working with the UN Environment Programme, as well as private sector and non-governmental organizations, to boost sustainable tourism in Belize and Ecuador. In addition to helping hotels, lodges, and inbound tour operators provide environmentally sensitive tourist services, the project will link these businesses with international cruise lines, outbound tour operators and other sources of market demand, creating a best-practice tourism model in ecologically rich tropical forests and marine coastal regions.



Ecotourism models in Belize include fly-fishing.

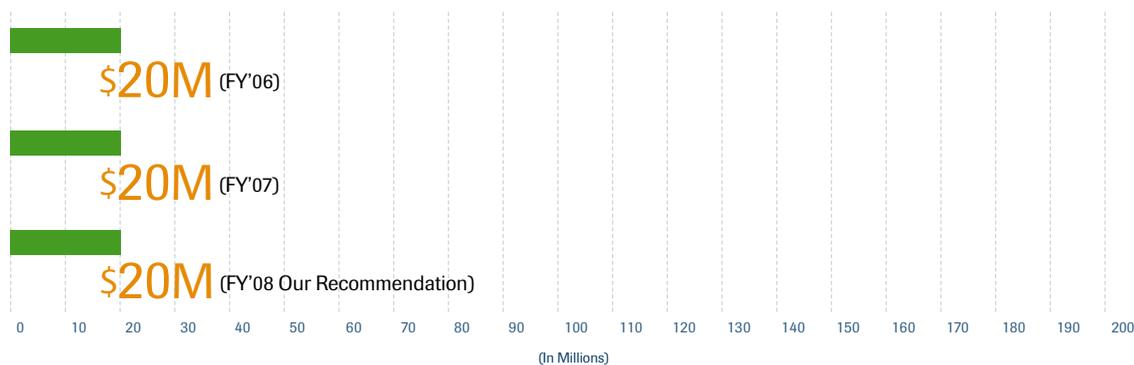
# Program: Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA)

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

The Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) 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. As of October 2006, 12 TFCA agreements had been signed, generating more than \$135 million in long-term commitments for tropical forest conservation in Bangladesh, Belize, Botswana, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Panama (two separate agreements), Paraguay, Peru, and the Philippines. The three most recent agreements—with Botswana, Guatemala and Paraguay—were signed in 2006. U.S. government expenditures, totaling nearly \$83 million thus far, have leveraged millions from private donors.

TFCA is scheduled to be reauthorized during the 2008 legislative session; this might serve as an opportunity to extend the TFCA model to additional ecosystems and make its application more flexible. [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/environment/forestry/intro\\_tfca.html](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/forestry/intro_tfca.html).

## Funding Program Levels



## Highlights

### Paraguay and Guatemala

In June 2006, the U.S. and Paraguay concluded agreements to reduce Paraguay's debt payments by nearly \$7.4 million. In return, Paraguay has committed these funds over the next 12 years to conserving and protecting high-value tropical forests in the southern corridor of the Atlantic Forest of Alto Parana. In September, the U.S. and Guatemala, together with The Nature Conservancy and Conservation International concluded the largest agreement in TFCA's eight-year history, combining \$15 million of appropriated funds with donations of \$1 million each from TNC and CI. The deal will reduce Guatemala's official debt to the U.S. and will generate \$24 million for protecting and restoring the country's tropical forests. Over the next 15 years, these funds will sustain habitat for species such as the jaguar, tapir, scarlet macaw and harpy eagle, as well as many migratory bird species.



Harpy eagle female attending to juvenile.

### Botswana

In October 2006, the U.S. and Botswana signed the first TFCA agreement concluded in Africa. The agreement will reduce Botswana's debt payments to the United States by over \$8.3 million. Funds will be used to conserve and restore important tropical forests throughout the country, including such world-famous areas as the Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park region—habitat for such species as the fishing owl, leopard, elephant and hippopotamus. The agreement will also benefit the people living in and around these forests.



Zebras in Okavango Delta, Botswana

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

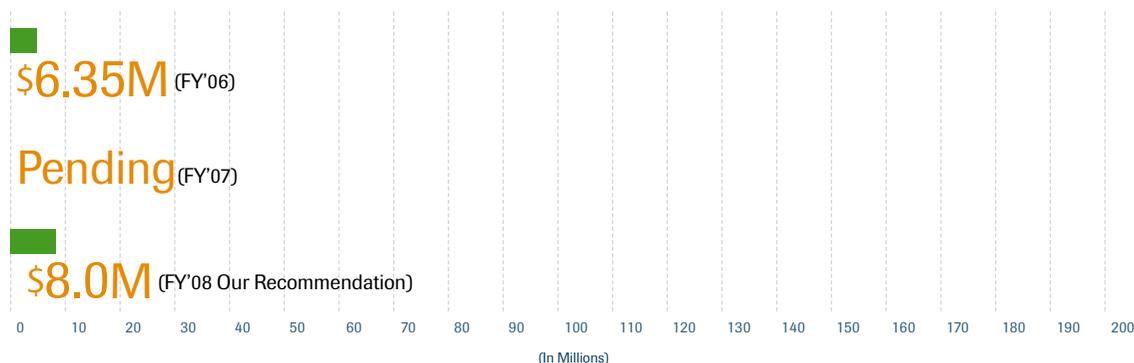
Agency: *U.S. Department of State*

Through the IO&P account, the U.S. government provides 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 fo-

rum 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>

## Funding Program Levels



## Highlights

### Wildlife Law Enforcement in Southeast Asia

In 2005, the 10 members of the Association of South East Asian Nations agreed to establish a regional cooperative network (ASEAN/WEN) specifically to combat wildlife crime. The effort has yielded major seizures of trafficked animals and animal products. In June 2006, Thai authorities raided Bangkok International Airport, confiscating tiger carcasses, live tigers, leopards, pangolins and rare birds. The next month, a sting operation broke up a smuggling ring centered around shatoosh, a product made from the Tibetan antelope, confiscating 250 shatoosh shawls with an estimated value of \$1,000,000. Most recently, Thai customs officers seized 200 crocodiles at the Thai/Cambodia border.



Conservationist with African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) Ivory Tusk, East Africa.

### International Tropical Timber Organization

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is the only intergovernmental organization focused on both the tropical timber trade and the management of tropical production forests. It provides an important forum for its 58 producer and consumer member states on the interrelated issues of trade, market transparency, sustainable forest management and illegal logging. Through key seed funding of \$300,000 provided by the IO&P, the organization is launching a \$3.5 million program to help tropical timber producer countries comply with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which regulates international trade in high-value tropical hardwoods like the big leaf mahogany from Latin America and the ramin from Southeast Asia. The new program will help ensure that timber and timber products are legally harvested in ways that don't harm these imperiled species. The thematic approach of this project represents a new direction for the ITTO and is expected to serve as a model for its future activities.



Cloud forest, East Kalimantan, Indonesia.

### Species Survival Commission

Drawing on the work of more than 10,000 experts, the Species Survival Commission assesses the status of thousands of species and produces the IUCN Red List, the world's most comprehensive and respected guide to threatened wildlife. In addition to extending scientific understanding, the commission's work provides a call to action. For example, a 2004 assessment, which demonstrated that one in three amphibian species is threatened with extinction, sparked worldwide momentum for amphibian conservation. The commission is now undertaking the first global review of marine species. Initiatives like these are providing crucial new information about the state of the world's biodiversity and laying the foundation for informed conservation planning.

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

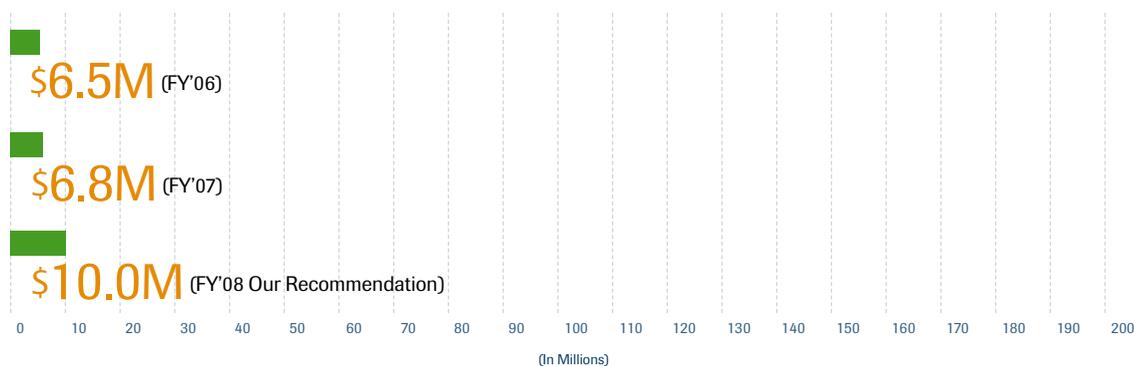
Agency: *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)*

Since 1990, Congress has recognized the threat to large mammals and reptiles and has authorized grant programs for the conservation of African elephants, Asian elephants, rhinos, tigers, great apes and marine turtles. The Multinational Species Conservation Funds provide grants for antipoaching patrols, habitat protection, population surveys, public education, disease control, and efforts to resolve human-animal conflicts. Over the past 16 years, the funds have provided more than \$43.8 million in conservation assistance, leveraging more than \$115.6 million in non-federal support.

These public-private partnerships help to conserve threatened species and have made a substantial difference to their prospects for survival.

<http://www.fws.gov/international/dicprograms/speciesprogram.htm>.

**Funding Program Levels**



**Highlights**

**African Elephants**

As long as farmers have been growing crops in Africa, elephants and people have come into conflict. Night after night, human and animal lives are forfeited in a spiraling war that elephants ultimately lose. Over a number of years, FWS has worked with researchers in Zimbabwe's Zambezi Valley to give individual farmers "low-tech" methods for keeping elephants out of their crops. One particularly successful venture has promoted the planting of hot chili peppers around crops. The peppers deter elephants without harming them. Local subsistence farmers are then able to sell the peppers for a good price (an American firm has begun marketing "elephant pepper"), generating a viable new source of income and encouraging economic development through the region. The program has been so successful that it is now being considered for expansion to Asia, where human-elephant conflicts over agricultural lands are equally severe.



African elephants with Cattle egrets, Kenya.

*"The African Elephant Conservation Fund is responsible for some of the most ambitious and exciting conservation projects now happening in Central Africa. This fund has made a real difference for on-the-ground conservation of Africa's elephants."*

Dr. J. Michael Fay, African explorer and naturalist

**Tigers**

The Sumatran tiger is endangered not just by poaching and trafficking but by the equally serious threats of vanishing prey and habitat and recurring conflicts with humans. In Sumatra's Kerinci Seblat National Park and its buffer zone forests, FWS is supporting a project that combats illegal hunting through expanded forest patrols, raises conservation awareness, devises solutions for human-tiger conflicts, and promotes a cadre of highly skilled rangers to protect tiger prey populations and habitat. Project organizers hope these integrated activities will lead to a long-term increase in Sumatran tiger numbers.



Sumatran Tiger,

## Highlights (cont'd)

### Asian Elephants

The Cardamom Mountains are one of the two major ranges left in Cambodia where wild Asian elephants still exist. Unfortunately, organized poachers and traders, driven by the high profits of illicit wildlife trade, have reduced the animal's numbers in the region to an estimated 300. In response, FWS and its partners are working to establish a specialized, highly professional mobile law enforcement team. Drawing on state-of-the-art equipment and training, as well as the experiences of anti-poaching units in Sumatra, the new unit will work to significantly reduce elephant killings in southwest Cambodia. If successful, the lessons learned here can be applied to anti-poaching and trade units across the region.



Asian Elephants in India.

### Rhinoceros

Two decades of intensive conservation work have helped the one-horned rhino to recover from 60 in the wild in 1973 to more than 600 today, but poachers are a continued threat. Encouraged by the booming trade in rhino horn—a key ingredient in traditional Chinese medicine—poachers recently slaughtered 10 rhinos in Nepal over a nine-month period. FWS and its partners have now begun to mobilize field operatives and mobile units in urban areas and in national parks to monitor domestic wildlife traders and hunters. In addition to pushing for tougher sentences for offenders, the program will conduct training programs on wildlife crime for Nepali police, and educational programs that build support among young people for rhino conservation.



Young rhinoceros, Kenya, Africa.

### Marine Turtles

In its first two years, the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund has supported 32 projects in 20 countries around the world to ensure the survival of populations imperiled by over-harvest, egg collection and habitat loss. The Rio Longa beach in central western Angola is an important nesting site for at least four species of marine turtles—leatherback, loggerhead, green and olive ridley—with as many as 1,400 nests observed annually. To safeguard these turtles from being slaughtered by local fishermen, an FWS-supported project is employing community



Baby Leatherback turtle.

## Highlights (cont'd)

members to patrol, monitor and report on nesting activities. This work will generate much-needed knowledge on the range and patterns of marine turtles off Africa's western coast and will help raise awareness about this unique resource within the community—an important precursor to promoting turtle conservation as an alternative income generating activity.

*"There is still time to save sea turtles and the many other incredible species found in our oceans and lands. Every program dedicated to helping wildlife - from local volunteer initiatives to conservation organizations and large-scale government efforts - helps solidify a future place on our planet for wildlife."*

— Julie Scardina, SeaWorld and Busch Gardens Animal Ambassador

### Great Apes

The civil war that tore apart the Democratic Republic of Congo in the 1990s reached all the way into the Parc National de Kahuzi Biega, killing an undisclosed number of tourist-habituated gorillas. Those that have survived are still threatened by habitat loss, population fragmentation, bushmeat trade, live capture and exposure to emerging or introduced diseases. A program funded by FWS will help evaluate and monitor the health of existing gorilla populations and develop emergency intervention responses. The project will also help train park guards from the Congolese National Park's Institute.



Bonobo, ABC Sanctuary, Zaire.

*"Great apes and other primates around the world are disappearing at an alarming rate. It's quite possible that today's teenagers will raise their children in a world with no chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans and bonobos. It's a tragic prospect, but there is still time to act - though scant little of it. The Great Apes Conservation Fund is an important piece of the coordinated effort needed to make a real difference."*

— Dr. Jane Goodall

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

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

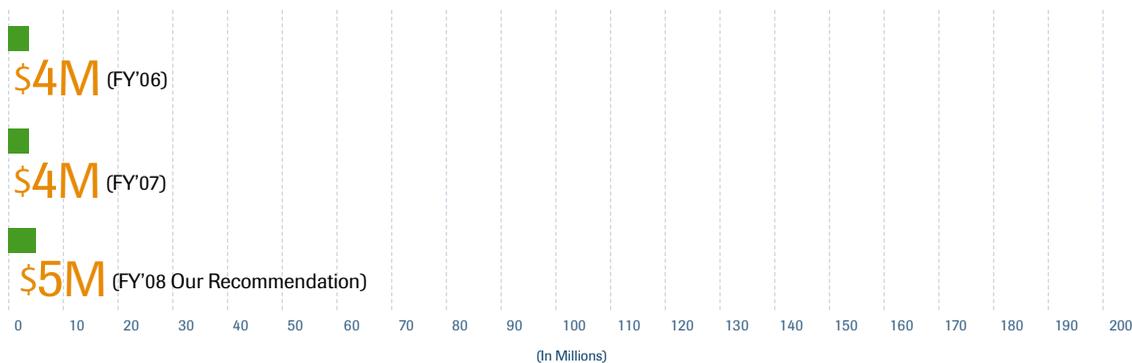
Since 2000, the NMBCA has functioned as a matching grant program to fund projects that conserve neotropical migratory birds—those that breed in or migrate through the United States and Canada and spend the non-breeding season in Latin America and the Caribbean. These funds provide an upland complement 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.

From 2002 through 2006, partners in 42 U.S. states and 30 Latin American and Caribbean countries have benefited from 186 NMBCA-supported projects. More than \$17.2 million in grants has leveraged some

\$89.1 million in total partner contributions to support activities that bring long-term benefits to neotropical migratory birds. NMBCA has supported land conservation projects that have affected some 3.2 million acres of bird habitat. In 2006, President Bush signed legislation that expands NMBCA significantly, increasing the authorized funding level and widening the act’s geographic scope to include Canada.

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

**Funding Program Levels**



**Highlights**

**Private Lands Protection in Mexico**

The Laguna Madre of Tamaulipas harbors the largest wintering population of waterfowl migrating to Mexico and more than 100,000 shorebirds annually—the largest such concentration in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. It also contains globally recognized wetlands, as well as such critical habitats as sea-grasses, thorn scrub, barrier islands. With the help of \$130,451 in NMBCA grants and matching funds of \$267,415, conservationists are joining forces to create an extensive network of protected areas in the uplands of the Laguna Madre. Ranch owners, in exchange for donating future conservation easements on their properties, will receive assistance in managing and enhancing habitat—everything from modified grazing, to providing fresh water for wildlife, to restoring grasslands, thorn-scrub and forest. The resulting private lands network is expected to protect more than 15,000 acres of important upland habitats, safeguarding key stopover habitats for neotropical migratory birds.



Wetlands such as this one in Mexico are vital to migratory bird species.

**Forest Conservation in the U.S. and Ecuador**

A \$235,038 grant from NMBCA generated an additional \$753,475 in funds for Our Shared Forests, a U.S.-Ecuador partnership to protect migratory-bird habitat and raise environmental awareness in the Chocó Andean region of northwest Ecuador and throughout the state of Georgia. In Georgia, partners will educate students, parents, teachers and community members about breeding and wintering grounds (including in Ecuador). In Ecuador, partners will help to expand the Guayllabamba Protected Forest by another 34,500 acres, develop a management plan for the newly expanded forest and the 15,000-acre Maquipucuna Protected Forest and write guidelines for establishing a 37,000-acre protected forest at Comuna Río Santiago. Partners will also work with local farmers to plant bird-friendly tree species in coffee fields and will seek bird-friendly certification for 250 acres of shade-grown coffee and 2,000 acres of shade-grown cacao. In addition, partners will prioritize areas for further bird conservation.



Yellow warbler, Ecuador.

**Bird Habitat Preservation in Guatemala**

Guatemala’s 309-square-mile Sierra de Chamá contains both tropical and cloud forests and sustains 95 species of migratory birds, as well as globally threatened species like the resplendent quetzal and golden-cheeked warbler. The region’s forest cover, however, is being destroyed by forest fires and unsustainable agriculture—problems aggravated by a general lack of conservation incentives. With a \$98,160 grant from NMBCA and \$332,337 in matching funds, three local communities have been able to secure title on more than 34,500 acres of forest land. Community forest-management plans will be established on another 4,600 acres, and partners will restore 680 acres of bird habitat by working with communities to plant, manage, and harvest fruit-tree plots and implement fire-free agroforestry practices. Finally, the project will assess the ongoing ecological health of the area’s cloud forest habitat and local bird populations.



Resplendent Quetzal in Guatemalan forest.

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

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

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 engages in scientific justification and implementation of permitting for international endangered species, and participates in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

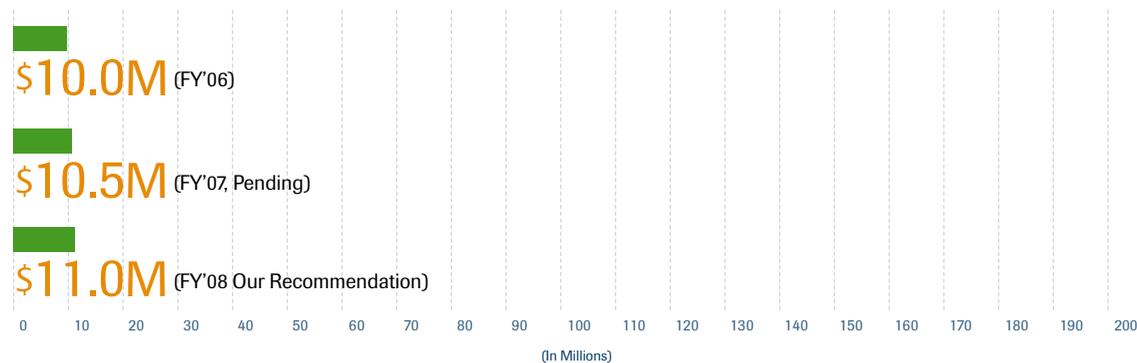
FWS also undertakes proactive conservation efforts on behalf of international wildlife. This work, conducted under the Wildlife Without Borders Regional Programs, includes capacity building, as well as en-

dangered and migratory species conservation, habitat conservation, and environmental outreach, education, and training. The Wildlife Without Borders programs are focused on China, India, Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico and most recently Africa.

In 2006, Russia, Mexico and Latin America received nearly \$1.5 million in grants for more than 80 conservation projects. This money in turn leveraged more than \$3.4 million in matching funds and in-kind contributions to conserve wildlife. Since 1995, these programs have awarded \$16 million in wildlife conservation assistance and have leveraged more than \$50 million in additional funds.

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

**Funding Program Levels**



**Highlights**

**Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee**

To more effectively address North American conservation priorities, the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management was established in 1996. By coordinating cross-border partnerships among wildlife agencies and other interested parties, the committee is helping to move North America toward a more sustainable future. Recently the committee awarded \$90,000 to a trust that is addressing waterfowl diseases. The grant will help train Mexican wildlife officials in the standardized field sampling techniques practiced in the United States and Canada, and will sponsor a network of laboratories to address serious wildlife diseases, particularly avian influenza.



Canadian Geese, North America

**South and Central American Tapir Conservation**

Habitat loss and unsustainable hunting threaten the long-term survival prospects of the tapir, South America's largest land mammal. For the past three years, FWS has funded comprehensive research into the population and habitat viability of all three of the Western Hemisphere's tapir species. The findings will lay the scientific foundation for targeted conservation plans that preserve tapirs in the wild while also supporting captive breeding, capacity building and environmental education.



Tapir in Ecuador.

*"Protecting the world's endangered biodiversity needs to be a global priority. Conservation initiatives supported by the United States government are using creative partnerships with other governments, private entities, and non-government organizations to make conservation across the globe a reality."*

– Dr. Russell Mittermeier, Conservation International

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

Agency: *U.S. Forest Service*

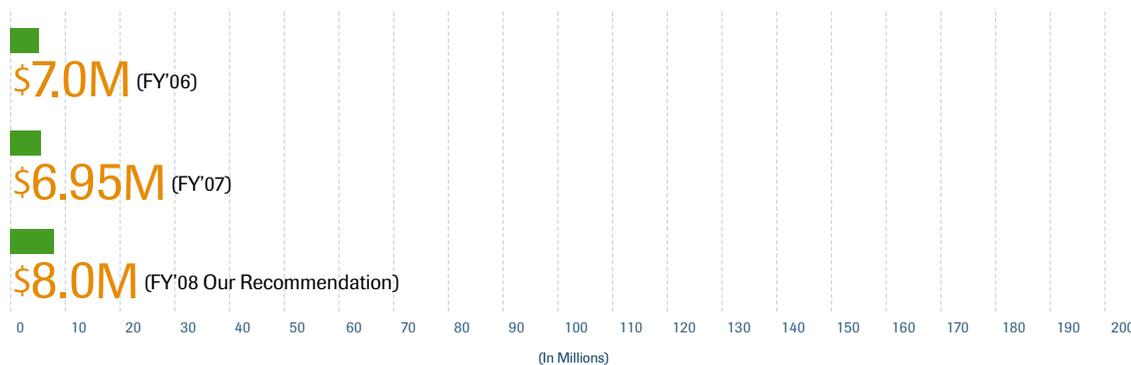
The effective management of forests, including the animals and plants that live there, is a significant challenge for countries around the world. Having faced similar forestry challenges, the U.S. government is in a position to assist other countries with best practices and lessons learned. The USFS/IP has been able to build long-term conservation partnerships around the world to solve priority problems that require sustained efforts on the ground.

Drawing on the diverse Forest Service workforce of scientists, resource managers, international specialists, conservation biologists, and experts in forest health and private land assistance, USFS/IP supports projects in protected area management, migratory species conservation, landscape-level forest planning, fire management training, the curbing of invasive

species, forest certification and reduced-impact logging. <http://www.fs.fed.us/international>.



**Funding Program Levels**



**Highlights**

**Forestry Reform in Liberia**

USFS grants have been a vital component in the Liberia Forest Initiative, a collaborative effort by government agencies, NGOs and other international organizations to promote forestry reform in this West African nation of 3 million. The initiative's efforts bore fruit in 2006 with the enactment of a landmark law that, for the first time, requires the sustainable use of Liberia's forest resources, among the most treasured in Africa. The new law represents a signal moment in Liberia's effort to turn the corner on a recent past when "blood timber" was used to fuel local and regional conflict under the Charles Taylor regime. The law also gives Liberian communities a voice-and an economic stake-in the stewardship of their forests.



Edge of park in Africa.

**Owl Conservation in Asia**

A large bird similar to the North American spotted owl, the Blackiston's fish owl has seen its population dip as low as several hundred. Still-surviving remnants may be found in the mountain ranges of eastern Siberia and China, as well as Inner Mongolia in China and central and eastern Hokkaido in Japan. These areas are threatened by the logging of riverside forests, conversion of forest to farmland, development along riverbanks and the construction of dams, as well as overfishing, which has deprived the Blackiston's fish owl of much of its food supply. The birds tend to inhabit dense forests, where they nest in large, old trees. Researchers funded by USFS/IP are now collecting baseline data on the species' ecology and distribution-information that will ultimately shape recommendations for reducing the impact of logging activities.



Blackiston's Owl, Japan.

**Migratory Bird Conservation in Colombia**

USFS/IP has supported an innovative program of cooperative education, biodiversity conservation, and specialty coffee production in 12 key migratory-bird areas in Colombia. The project helps local coffee growers, schools and extension specialists understand the links between coffee production, particularly shade-grown coffee, and the health of bird populations. Several growers have developed a strong interest in the birds' welfare, and one has produced an award-winning shade-grown coffee that has brought him a higher market price than ever before. Future activities will extend this community-engagement model throughout Colombia's coffee-growing region.



Swainson's Hawk, one of the many migratory birds that winters in Colombia.

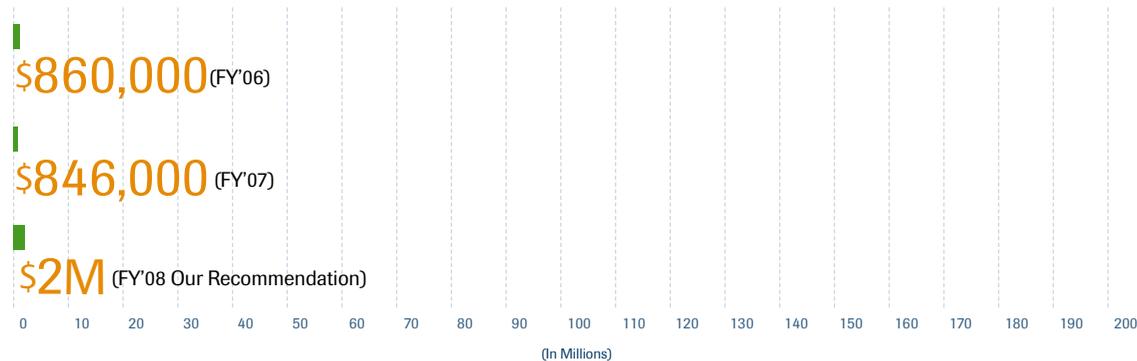
Program: **U.S. National Park Service (NPS)  
International Program**

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 bilateral cooperative agreements with counterpart national park agencies. These agreements serve as the basis for providing training and technical assistance to countries including Chile, China, Gabon and Mexico. NPS/OIA also serves as the staff office for the U.S. World Heritage Program; 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**

**World Heritage Convention**

In 2005, the United States was elected to the 21-nation committee that oversees the World Heritage Convention, which protects some of the planet’s most significant natural areas, including the Galapagos Islands, the Great Barrier Reef, the Serengeti and Yellowstone. As the lead technical agency for the convention and the primary U.S. representative to the committee, NPS provides technical assistance to World Heritage sites around the globe and enhances management planning at many of the world’s most important national parks and protected areas.



Bartolome Island in Galapagos Islands.

**North American Continental Conservation Initiatives**

NPS Service works closely with partner organizations in both Canada and Mexico to conserve migratory species of joint interest and concern. For example, NPS is leading an initiative to monitor marine protected areas along the west coast of North America, linking parks and reserves in Mexico, the United States and Canada. Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona and Big Bend National Park in Texas have been working with parks on the Mexican side of the border to conduct wildlife research, monitor air quality and combat invasive species. In addition, NPS is working with counterpart agencies in Mexico and Canada to develop a North American network of protected areas for the monarch butterfly.

**Park Flight Migratory Bird Program**

Recognizing that many of the migratory bird species that breed in U.S. parks actually spend more of their lives outside the United States, NPS has joined with the National Park Foundation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and American Airlines to create the “Park Flight” program, which supports bird conservation initiatives throughout the Western Hemisphere. To date, NPS has provided technical assistance in education and bird monitoring to partners in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Grenada, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama and Argentina. In addition, more than two dozen biologists from across the hemisphere have participated in Park Flight internships at U.S. national parks.

## Annex

Other U.S. government agencies and programs also support the conservation of biological diversity around the world. These efforts include the following:

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

NOAA works to develop international policy for integrated coastal management and marine protected area management, particularly in Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean. In particular, NOAA takes a lead role in developing the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas in the wider Caribbean, the International Coral Reef Initiative and Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, and the World Commission on Protected Areas. NOAA also provides scientific information and technical support to on-the-ground managers, as well as international leadership for protecting and managing wide-ranging species like sea birds and protected species like sea turtles and whales.

### **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Centers for Disease Control.**

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus ("bird flu") has spread across 3 continents, and has killed more than half of the people who have contracted it. The U.S. Agency for International Development and the Centers for Disease Control have invested in a Global Avian Influenza Network for Surveillance (GAINS) program, which monitors the virus' spread in wild birds, provides an early warning system for disease outbreaks and contributes to the development of vaccines. In its first months, GAINS has facilitated health monitoring in 24 countries, including sampling 2000 birds in Cambodia and collecting 3,500 samples at 42 sites across Mongolia. Government staff and local veterinarians throughout Latin America, the Caribbean, Afghanistan, Mongolia, and Eastern Europe are being trained in virus detection and outbreak response. GAINS' publicly accessible web-based database is facilitating global information exchange and novel partnerships between governments, multilateral and bilateral agencies, NGOs and universities. The Wildlife Conservation Society staff administering GAINS sit on technical advisory boards tasked with developing national Avian Influenza surveillance and planning strategies in Mongolia, Bolivia, and the Republic of Congo.

### **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 1,550 wetland conservation projects in all 50 U.S. states, Canada and Mexico, protecting and enhancing approximately 20 million acres. The U.S. government recently reauthorized NAWCA through fiscal year 2012 at an annual funding level of \$75 million.

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

The U.S. has promoted good natural resource management around the world by negotiating environmental provisions into international agreements. For example, all new free-trade agreements are required to include environmental cooperation provisions. Resulting activities have ranged from supporting the establishment of a jaguar corridor in Central America to increasing market access for environmental goods. State/OES plays a key role in such agreements, including the new Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and the US-Chile Free Trade Agreement.

## Acronyms

<b>ASEAN/WEN</b>	Association of South East Asian Nations/Wildlife Enforcement Network
<b>AWF</b>	African Wildlife Foundation
<b>CAFTA</b>	Central American Free Trade Agreement
<b>CI</b>	Conservation International
<b>CITES</b>	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
<b>FWS</b>	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>ICC</b>	International Conservation Caucus
<b>IO&amp;P</b>	International Organizations & Programs (U.S. Department of State)
<b>IUCN</b>	World Conservation Union
<b>NAWCA</b>	North American Wetlands Conservation Act
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>NMBCA</b>	Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act
<b>NOAA</b>	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<b>NPS</b>	U.S. National Park Service
<b>NPS/OIA</b>	U.S. National Park Service Office of International Affairs
<b>TFCA</b>	Tropical Forest Conservation Act
<b>TNC</b>	The Nature Conservancy
<b>USAID</b>	U.S. Agency for International Development
<b>USFS</b>	U.S. Forest Service
<b>USFS/IP</b>	U.S. Forest Service Office of International Programs
<b>WCS</b>	Wildlife Conservation Society
<b>WWF</b>	World Wildlife Fund

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