



USAID SUPPORT FOR THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is the primary U.S. government agency responsible for delivering U.S. bilateral assistance to developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition. USAID supports one of the largest bilateral assistance programs for forest protection and sustainable management. USAID's goal is to assist nations, communities and individuals to achieve sustainable development. Helping countries protect their environment, conserve their natural resources endowment, and utilize their forest resources in a sustainable manner is an important part of this goal.

Conservation of the world's diverse biological resources and reduction of the threat of global climate change are USAID's broadest environmental objectives. Forest protection plays a vital role in meeting these priorities inasmuch as forest habitats, particularly tropical forests, are home to more than half of the world's plant and animal species. Forests also account for as much as 20 percent or more of atmospheric carbon released annually, either through clearing and burning for conversion to agriculture or through biomass decomposition. Because of the great influence that forests have on global weather patterns and atmospheric carbon release, sustainable forest management has become a critical component of USAID's strategy for global climate change.

USAID's combined funding for activities in the forestry sector between FY 1991 and 1995 exceeded US\$427 million (see Figures 1 and 2). Nearly one-third of this funding has been directed to activities in the Asia

and Near East region, with the Philippines accounting for 67 percent of all forestry sector support to the region (see Table 1). Latin America and Caribbean countries account for another one-third of the Agency's total forestry sector support for this period, with Haiti accounting for at least 18 percent of the region's funding and the countries of Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama accounting for at least another 37 percent. The Africa region accounts for another one-quarter of USAID's forestry sector funding during the same period, with Madagascar accounting for at least 28

Figure 2: USAID Assistance for Forest Conservation, Cumulative by Region for FY 1995
(millions of U.S. dollars)

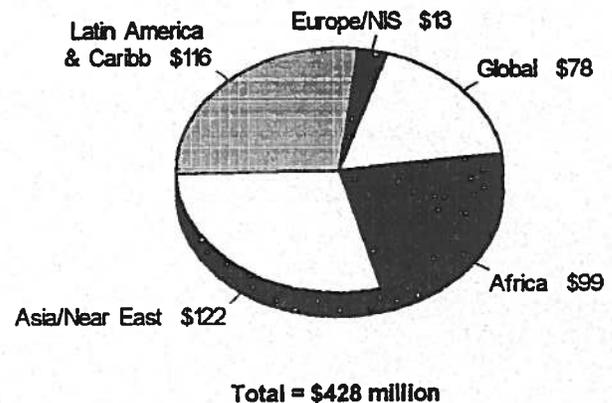
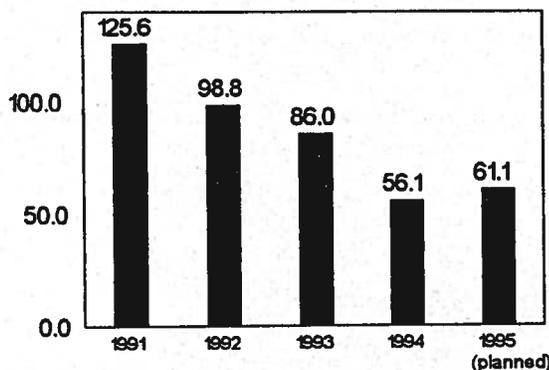


Figure 1: USAID Funding for Forest Conservation, FY 1991-95
(millions of U.S. dollars)



percent of the region's funds. Funding for global programs in forestry—including support for policy, planning, and institutional strengthening at the regional and national levels, research, and support for international organizations—accounts for another 18 percent of USAID's investment in the sector during the same period. The Agency's current forestry portfolio, which supports activities in 40 countries, amounted to an estimated US\$61 million in assistance during 1995.

In addition to maintaining this substantial forestry portfolio on a bilateral basis, USAID provides a wide range of financial and technical support to other international agencies, NGOs, and scientific research centers, including the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) under the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Through a variety of agreements, USAID also marshals the

extensive resources of other U.S. government agencies such as the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, the Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Peace Corps. By these means, USAID is providing critical technical and institutional support for improving the management of forest resources and biological diversity throughout the world.

The principal objectives of USAID's support for forestry are: reduce loss of forests and their biodiversity by fostering sound forestry and natural resources management practices; enhance forest-based carbon sinks through reforestation of degraded lands; promote broad-based economic growth through the introduction of sustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber resources at the local level; and encourage the more efficient use of woodfuel. Operational approaches to achieve these objectives include capacity-building in sustainable land use, resource and technology assessment and development, and empowerment of communities, NGOs, and other participatory institutions involved in forest resources management.

These operational approaches can be organized into the following categories:

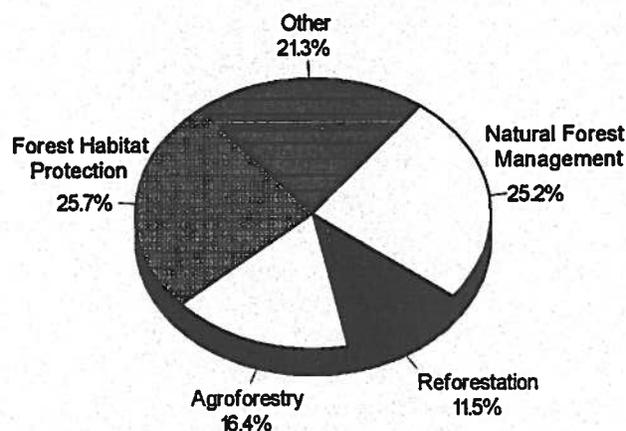
■ **Natural Forest Management.** The problems of rapid rural population growth and declining productivity of lands already under cultivation affect many developing countries. These conditions result in increasing rates of deforestation, loss of biodiversity, and associated carbon emissions. Increasing the economic value of standing forests may raise the incentives for local communities to protect and manage them sustainably. USAID supports research and development of more efficient harvesting to make sustainable forestry more productive financially. Adding value to forest products through better processing and commercial use of lesser-known tree and non-tree species also helps raise the economic value of standing forests and increases the incentives for long-term management. USAID also builds capacity of host country institutions to analyze policies and integrate forest management and biodiversity conservation in sustainable development planning.

■ **Forest Habitat Protection.** Forest ecosystems play a critical role in both conservation of biological diversity and in the economic development of forest-dependent communities. USAID's forestry activities integrate sound forest management techniques with sustainable economic extraction and protection of environmentally sensitive areas. This strategy promotes improved economic returns to the forest-dependent communities and, as a consequence, reduced pressure for these communities to encroach upon protected areas. Managers of these areas can

then focus on protecting core habitats of endangered and threatened flora and fauna.

■ **Reforestation.** Woodfuel remains the principal source of energy for the majority of rural households throughout the developing world. Overharvesting of woody biomass poses a greater threat to forests and woodlands than do commercial logging operations in many countries. USAID supports the rehabilitation of degraded forests and woodlands through reforestation, and the development of fuelwood plantings as essential components of agroforestry and sustainable agriculture production systems. USAID also pays increasing attention to methods of improving biological diversity in reforested areas, and to monitoring the impact of such programs on remaining natural forests and woodlands.

Figure 3: USAID Funding for Forestry Activities, FY 1995
(by programmatic approach)



■ **Agroforestry.** Increasing economic returns on lands already under cultivation will potentially reduce the need for communities to clear more forests. USAID supports an array of activities that assist farmers in maintaining or increasing agricultural production, often on marginal lands that serve as buffer zones to surrounding forests, and that promote the adoption of environmentally sustainable practices for both agriculture and forest management in order to reduce timber harvesting and forest loss.

Figure 3 illustrates USAID's FY 1995 funding for forest protection and sustainable management by programmatic approach. Half of this funding, \$31 million, is divided equally between support for forest habitat protection and natural forest management. An additional one-fifth of this funding directly supports forestry activities of USAID's programs that address global climate change and energy efficiency.

Table 1: USAID Assistance Funding for Forestry by Region and USAID Mission, Cumulative for FY 1991-95

(funding in millions of U.S. dollars)

AFRICA (23.1%)*

Cameroon	0.9
Cape Verde	1.1
Comoros	0.1
Congo	3.3
Gambia	0.1
Ghana	4.2
Guinea	2.4
Guinea-Bissau	0.9
Kenya	0.9
Madagascar	28.2
Malawi	2.4
Mali	5.4
Niger	4.9
Rwanda	1.7
Senegal	15.2
Uganda	12.5
Zaire	1.7
Africa Regional	12.9
TOTAL	\$US 98.8 Million

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN (27.1%)

Belize	3.2
Bolivia	4.6
Brazil	0.4
Costa Rica	3.4
Dominican Republic	1.0
Ecuador	9.9
El Salvador	2.5
Guatemala	11.2
Haiti	20.8
Honduras	8.7
Jamaica	2.4
Mexico	0.6
Nicaragua	6.3
Panama	13.6
Paraguay	0.9
Peru	2.9
Caribbean Regional	1.0
LAC Regional	14.0
Central America Regional	8.5
TOTAL	\$US 116 Million

ASIA/NEAR EAST (28.5%)

Bangladesh	0.2
Cambodia	0.5
Indonesia	7.9
Nepal	7.5
Pakistan	5.6
Philippines	80.1
Sri Lanka	0.9
Thailand	1.4
Asia/Near East Regional	16.7
Near East Regional	0.2
South Pacific Regional	1.1
TOTAL	\$US 122 Million

GLOBAL PROGRAMS (18.3%)

Agriculture	11.4
Center for Dev. Info. and Evaluation	0.9
Center for University Cooperation in Development	0.1
Democracy and Governance	0.2
Economic and Institutional Development	3.0
Environment & Natural Resources	33.2
Food for Peace	2.2
International Business Development	0.4
Policy Planning and Coordination	0.1
PVO Cooperation	4.6
Program Management Support Office	6.3
Research	5.0
Support for International Organizations	10.2
U.S.-Israel Cooperation	0.7
Women In Development	0.1
TOTAL	\$US 78.2 Million

EUROPE AND N.I.S. (2.9%)

Belarus	0.5
Cyprus	0.9
Georgia	0.1
Kazakhstan	1.2
Kyrgyzstan	0.1
Moldova	0.3
Russia	5.0
Turkmenistan	0.9
Ukraine	1.2
Uzbekistan	0.7
New Independent States	1.5
TOTAL	\$US 12.6 Million

GRAND Total \$US 428 Million

* Indicates regional percentage of total funding.



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