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Environmental Strategy:

Research and Development Bureau

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Research and Development (R&D) Bureau plays a critical technical support and research role in helping USAID to maintain its position as an international leader in environmental programs for the developing world. The primary responsibility of the Bureau is to enhance the Agency's capacity to address both urban and rural environmental concerns together with more effective natural resource management in developing countries by using science and technology. The Bureau makes both direct and indirect contributions to the solutions of the five priority environmental problem areas identified by the Agency as priority concerns. These contributions focus on: (1) providing support to regional bureau and mission programs; (2) support for research into innovative methods of integrating environmental protection and development needs; and (3) global environmental issues and initiatives.

Although economic development has in the past been characterized as a choice between growth and environmental quality, there is growing recognition that sustainable economic growth is dependent on the wise use of natural resource endowments and the availability of environmental goods and services. As a consequence, sustainable growth will increasingly depend on the integration of both sector and macroeconomic policies encouraging economic growth with environmental concerns and natural resource management. In response, USAID has greatly expanded its assistance programs to address local, country, regional, and global environmental challenges in the context of promoting development. To support these efforts, R&D Bureau programs are structured to increase the awareness of institutions and individuals influencing environmentally related policy and decision making processes, and to expedite provision of technical support services and appropriate technologies to these processes.

The complexity of environmental problems is manifested in three ways. First, environmental and natural resource problems are generally rooted in complex political, social and cultural issues. Second, environmental threats, such as climate change, are transboundary so that effective solutions require cooperation among national efforts. Finally, environmental problems often require multidisciplinary approaches and a willingness of government at all levels to rethink and refashion policies, laws, and regulations.

The R&D Bureau has the capacity to deliver several unique services to the regional bureaus, missions and developing countries. R&D technical offices have the capacity to provide direct support to Agency environmental programs. In addition, the Bureau is able to take a transregional or global perspective

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on those environmental problems--such as global climate change and biodiversity loss--which extend across the geographic regions of USAID's regional bureausXX. The Bureau also helps provide USAID with access to the academic community in both developed and developing countries, and with other U.S. Government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Finally, the Bureau maintains close contact with a range of non-governmental groups seeking to improve awareness of women's issues within the international development and conservation communities.

Much of R&D's environmental responsibilities will derive from the rapid growth of USAID's involvement with global environmental problems. Issues relating to global warming, biodiversity conservation, and tropical deforestation have found their way into the mainstream of foreign policy. International environmental agreements in the next decade will likely generate additional requirement for international action and U.S. commitments that will require USAID attention. The Bureau considers international agreements in such areas as forestry, biodiversity, climate change, and ozone depletion to be of great importance to U.S. foreign policy interests and to USAID's overall assistance program.

In developing an action plan for the implementation of this strategy, the R&D Bureau will consult closely with the regional bureaus to determine field support and research priorities, as well as to identify opportunities for USAID action on global and transregional issues. Environmental protection and natural resources management programs represent a challenging and still-evolving component of USAID's worldwide programs. Using the main text of the Agency Environment Strategy, the R&D Bureau will assign a high priority to ensuring the success of USAID's environmental programs.

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R&D Bureau

I. INTRODUCTION

A. The R&D Bureau Role in Agency Environmental Programs

Sustainable growth in many developing countries will increasingly depend on the integration of policies encouraging economic growth with environmental concerns and natural resource management. In response to these concerns, USAID has greatly expanded its assistance programs to address national environmental problems, and in the context of development at the country-level, regional and global environmental issues as well.

In supporting USAID's environment program, the R&D Bureau conducts three principal types of activities: (1) country or regional-level support for Agency field activities; (2) support for research to improve understanding of environmental and development problems and ways to address them; and (3) assistance to the Agency related to global environmental issues.

The first responsibility, that of technical support for field activities, recognizes that the Agency's strength and impact derives primarily from its field presence and programs. To further this impact, the Bureau intends to strengthen its direct support to mission and regional bureau programs concerning the five key environmental problem areas outlined in the Agency strategy. Gaining knowledge and perspective across regions, and making that information widely available, will be an important component of this effort. The second responsibility involves establishing a focused research agenda, drawing from the five key problem areas and three strategic approaches defined in the strategy, and reflecting key gaps in knowledge identified in the field and across regions. Finally, through support for research, the Bureau will facilitate Agency access to the academic community and development professionals who are developing innovative solutions to environmental challenges.

The R&D Bureau is committed to further improving its technical and research support capabilities and record. The Bureau will continue to strengthen its activities in these areas by better linking the range and content of its projects to field imperatives, as expressed by the regional bureaus and missions.

B. Purpose and Organization of the R&D Environmental Strategy

The R&D strategy begins with a description of the most important relationships between the R&D Bureau's environmental activities and those of the regional bureaus. It then examines each of the five key problem areas identified as the focus of the Agency Environment Strategy. The current and planned contributions of the R&D Bureau are summarized for each. The next section outlines communication and coordination activities of the R&D

Bureau as they pertain to solving environmental problems. Finally, two key conclusions are reached regarding the special role of the Bureau in addressing a widening range of global environmental issues and the Bureau's commitment to an Agency-wide team effort to implement the Environment Strategy.

II. R&D CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

A. The R&D Bureau's Function in Addressing Key Problem Areas

The main text of the Environment Strategy identifies five significant environmental threats that most directly affect economic development prospects in countries where USAID has assistance programs:

- o loss of tropical forests and other habitats critical for biological diversity;
- o unsustainable agricultural practices;
- o inefficient energy production and use;
- o urban and industrial pollution; and
- o degradation and depletion of water and coastal resources.

The diversity of ecological zones and development challenges facing USAID's field programs are readily apparent and described in detail in Annexes A-F. In order to meet its mandate for field support to regional bureaus, the R&D Bureau must be equipped to provide technical assistance, address global concerns in the context of national development, and conduct research on workable solutions in all five categories. The Bureau's strategy is to look first and foremost to regional priorities in programming environmental activities that support demands from the regional bureaus and their missions. This will include the allocation of both technical assistance and research resources. The R&D Bureau's programming flexibility allows USAID to maintain its ability to respond to unforeseen opportunities and to fill any significant gaps in the Agency-wide program. Though R&D's research programs strive to contribute to current Agency operations, they must also look ahead. This means research efforts will sometimes focus on emerging issues that lie outside of USAID's daily concerns, but that are likely to influence its future work.

B. Approaches: Institutions, Policies and the Private Sector

Three primary strategic approaches have been adopted for the Agency Environment Strategy: (1) strengthening human and institutional capacity and building public awareness; (2)

reforming unsustainable economic and environmental policies and procedures; and (3) encouraging private sector participation in promoting environmentally sound activities.

The R&D Bureau is well placed to apply and contribute to the further development of all three approaches. The Bureau will continue to make use of its considerable strengths in institution building across the five categories of environmental problems. A traditionally strong capacity to support mission activities in the energy and agricultural sectors has recently been supplemented to include economic and other expertise applicable to most aspects of environmental and natural resources policy development. This will comprise a growing component of Bureau programs to meet the demands of the regional bureaus. R&D Bureau environmental activities also will continue to fully engage the private sector as a vital part of problem-solving. However, balancing conflicting growth, resource management, and environmental objectives and policies will often require public sector guidance and an increased capacity by both the private and public sectors for environmental negotiation and dispute resolution.

III. STRATEGY FOR ADDRESSING KEY ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

The R&D Bureau carries out three types of work: country or regional level "field support"; global or transregional problem-solving activities, in the context of national development; and research to improve the Agency's understanding of development problems and ways to address them. This section examines the Bureau's activities in each of these categories as applied to the five key environmental problem areas.

A. Deforestation and Biodiversity Loss

1. Country and Regional Support. The R&D Bureau has played a leading role in helping to expand USAID's forestry and biodiversity programs. These are designed to help developing countries find solutions to the interrelated problems of tropical deforestation and biological diversity loss. R&D Bureau efforts link missions with expertise offered by the U.S. Forest Service, give regional bureaus and missions access to a pool of conservation scientists and field-tested biologists and anthropologists, and provide expertise in the technical, socio-cultural and institutional dimensions of natural resources management. Other expertise available through R&D includes specialists in natural resources tenure, local governance, policy implementation and community planning methodologies. With the assistance of these and other Bureau resources, a new generation of country-based projects has now emerged in these fields to meet the demands and priorities of the regional bureaus.

The R&D Bureau's strategy builds on this experience to integrate more effectively economic development concerns with forest management and biodiversity programs. The Bureau will continue to help provide access to current thinking on policy and management approaches capable of generating economic benefits from the sustainable use of valuable forest and other biological assets. Support to missions will also be provided for further development of key management and research institutions through close cooperation with the new regional bureau initiatives, such as the U.S.-Asian Environmental Partnership and the Development Fund for Africa.

2. Global or Transregional Programs. Global deforestation and the precipitous worldwide decline of biodiversity have emerged as high profile international issues with strong foreign policy implications. By virtue of its leading role in developing country programs to address these problems, USAID is afforded a significant voice in international bodies.

Working with regional bureau staff, the R&D Bureau will continue to provide professional technical representation in inter-agency and international gatherings. Proposals for the reform of international institutions working to arrest global deforestation, such as the Tropical Forestry Action Program, will continue to receive the Bureau's priority attention. Working under the guidance of the Latin America and Caribbean Bureau, R&D will also continue to support the Pilot Program to Conserve the Brazilian Rainforest, sponsored by the G-7 nations. R&D will also address forest-related elements of the Agency's Global Climate Change program; assist regional bureaus in implementing the U.S./Japan Environment Centers program; and will help support the U.S.-Man and the Biosphere Program.

3. Research. USAID's strong reputation in sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation stems in part from the success of various research programs sponsored by the R&D Bureau. Research results from these programs have the potential of influencing on the design of forest management and biodiversity conservation activities throughout the developing world. The Bureau also oversees U.S. Government interactions with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, and is supporting the creation of a new international research center focusing on sustainable forest management and policy.

Within given resource restraints, the R&D Bureau will continue to support such innovative research programs in close collaboration with regional bureaus and missions. As appropriate, R&D will carry out policy-oriented research to examine ways to better incorporate forest management and biodiversity concerns into national economic policies and to develop institutional capacity for such research in USAID-assisted countries.

B. Unsustainable Agricultural Practices

1. Country and Regional Support. Increasing concern has been voiced in recent years within the economic development community over the concept and implementation of "agricultural sustainability." Many agricultural scientists have structured their research programs with the goal of achieving sustainable increases in crop or livestock yields. Now, in addition to this goal, explicit concern for natural resource management and environmental quality has also been added.

There are very real problems to be addressed. At least half a billion farmers in developing countries are cultivating lands with declining or highly unstable yields. Poverty and population growth, exacerbated by policies encouraging misuse of natural resources, have led farmers to bring under cultivation lands ill-suited for agriculture. Important elements of unsustainable agricultural practices include: poor irrigation management (salinization, waterlogging and the depletion of deep aquifers); poor nutrient management (micronutrient deficiencies arising in high-yield Asian rice culture); poor soil management (erosion losses, particularly from cultivation of steeply sloping lands); poor pest management (misuse of proper control measures); poor range management (desertification and tropical forest encroachment); and poor wetlands management (inappropriate agricultural schemes and spontaneous encroachment).

Largely through early support for a "farming systems" perspective in research and extension, the R&D Bureau is supporting efforts to address agricultural sustainability questions. Through cooperation between the U.S. university community and USAID missions and regional bureaus, R&D supported an entire generation of projects more sensitive to these concerns in the early-1980s. The Bureau will continue to work with country-level programs and the regional bureaus to seek appropriate changes in agricultural policies, research approaches and extension services.

2. Global and Transregional Programs. Beginning with its farming systems work and continuing through sustainable agriculture and natural resource management programs, the R&D Bureau has encouraged attention to agricultural sustainability issues in the international arena. A sustainable agriculture program has also been established at the World Resources Institute and CIAT to support the work of developing country non-governmental organizations active in this field.

Solving problems of sustainable agriculture is closely linked with governmental policies, both locally and regionally. The Bureau will support missions' policy dialogue and reform, focusing on efforts to work with local governments to assist them with developing agricultural policies that promote productivity

while maintaining the natural resource base.

The R&D Bureau, working with regional bureaus, will continue to advocate appropriate changes in international thinking on environmentally-related constraints to agricultural development through support for international conferences and workshops and development of an international information exchange on sustainable land use systems for farmers and local scientists. Meeting regional bureau demands, R&D has targeted regional concerns, such as desertification in sub-Saharan Africa and the expansion of unsustainable agriculture into the fragile rainforests of Latin America and Asia, as areas of continued support.

3. Research. Research-oriented projects will form the basis for the R&D Bureau's efforts to promote sustainable agriculture. Gradual changes have been made through the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to better incorporate sustainability, environmental, and natural resource management concerns into its influential network of agricultural researchers and related institutions. R&D will pursue institutional, policy, and technical research designed to stimulate and support USAID programs leading to the development of sustainable agriculture and natural resource management systems in developing countries. R&D will also support research on integrated pest management strategies for sustaining plant and animal production, conserving natural resources and protect biodiversity and human health by improving the ability of developing countries to develop and implement economically and environmentally sound crop and livestock protection methods.

C. Inefficient Energy Production and Use

1. Country and Regional Support. R&D serves an important source of USAID expertise in the energy sector, providing technical and institutional assistance to developing countries to reduce existing energy shortages in an environmentally benign manner. R&D projects often target growing energy-related environmental threats, including air pollution, acid rain and global climate change. Most R&D energy projects possess a strong environmental component or involve global climate change issues.

R&D energy projects will continue to make funds available to public utilities and commercial firms--in cooperation with missions--for pre-feasibility studies, sector analyses and energy audits designed to leverage investment decisions by the private sector and international donor community and policy decisions by host governments. As indicated in the analysis of regional priorities, energy-related environmental concerns in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union will be given high priority, with R&D Bureau support for programs in the new independent

states expanded to meet regional bureau needs.

2. Global Climate Change Programs. Much of R&D strategic focus has anticipated and supports recently enacted legislation directing USAID to undertake a "Global Warming Initiative." This program seeks to mitigate the increasing contributions of key developing countries to greenhouse gas emissions. The strategy centers on the expansion of programs to promote least-cost energy planning, increased support for feasibility studies in renewable and cleaner fossil fuel energy technologies, the establishment of a new energy efficiency initiative, and improved training programs on energy production and use.

3. Research. The U.S. Government annually spends several billion dollars on energy-related research--a sizable portion of which is tied to reducing the adverse environmental impacts of its production and use. The R&D Bureau provides USAID operations with access to relevant information generated by both public and private research efforts, while supporting a modest applied research program closely geared to the demands of regional bureau programs. Such research efforts have been and will remain focused on the development of commercially viable systems for the production of energy from renewable sources for use in the developing world.

D. Urban and Industrial Pollution

1. Country and Regional Support. Widening concern over the economic and health costs associated with urban and industrial pollution--combined with the recent expansion of USAID programs into the heavily polluted countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union--has made programs to address these problems the fastest growing component of the Agency's environmental portfolio. Much of the R&D Bureau's capacity in this field has been tied to work on water quality. R&D anticipates increasing contributions to many emerging urban pollution management programs at the country level.

R&D is prepared to respond effectively to increasing bureau demands for expertise on policies, management practices and investment strategies to address urban and industrial pollution. R&D support will provide a flexible vehicle for work across a wide range of environmentally-based health problems. R&D will forge a partnership between the U.S. public and private sectors to give country programs access to high quality pollution management expertise and technology. This includes strengthening cooperation between USAID and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ensure a proper development focus when addressing urban and industrial pollution.

2. Research. As USAID's programs to address pollution-related

development constraints have expanded, there has been increasing demand for advice on policies to efficiently balance environmental and growth concerns. R&D will support policy research, in cooperation with Agency missions, to enhance understanding on how to achieve this balance through both market-based and regulatory mechanisms.

E. Degradation and Depletion of Water and Coastal Resources

1. Country and Regional Support. Problems of water quality and allocation--and the closely related challenges of sound coastal management--are likely to be one of the most pressing natural resource questions of the early 21st Century. Evidence of their importance is already mounting within USAID's operations. The R&D Bureau has provided assistance to a large number of missions for the analysis and solution of urban wastewater treatment and other water quality problems. R&D support has been used extensively by the Europe Bureau to provide U.S. help to an international clean-up program for the Danube River. R&D has supported the development of a system to account for all major point pollution sources along the river, and its principal tributaries. The system is now being used for policy and investment planning in a number of countries. R&D will continue to support efforts to improve coastal resources management based on successful programs in Ecuador and Sri Lanka. These programs have been used as models for similar country and regional programs in many parts of the developing world.

The growing importance of water management issues--and the addition of Central and Eastern European countries to the list of those served by USAID programs--suggest a need for additional efforts in this area. This will likely include the need for strengthening the R&D Bureau's technical support of broad-based water resources management programs--ranging from the efficient and equitable allocation of scarce water resources among competing users to the integration of water quality or aquatic ecosystem concerns into river basin planning.

2. Research. In addition to continued research on coastal zone management, policy research in the area of freshwater resources management will be emphasized, focusing on efforts to promote the efficient economic use of water resources without degrading the environment.

IV. INFORMATION, COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION

A. Tracking and Evaluating Agency Environmental Programs

The R&D Bureau works with the Directorates for Policy and Finance and Administration to track the environment program, including

funding at the project level. This function is largely carried out through R&D's Environmental and Natural Resources Information Center (ENRIC). R&D also has furthered the exchange of information on USAID's environmental activities by serving as the secretariat for the Environment Forum, a formal mechanism by which significant programmatic issues are identified for senior managers.

Environmental budget summaries, together with a broad overview of USAID's environment activities, including programs in tropical forestry and biological diversity, are used to inform the public and Congress about USAID's environment program. This information is also used by USAID's Center for Development Information and Evaluation in assessing the impact of Agency environmental programs. A quarterly newsletter has recently been initiated to report on USAID's response to international environmental challenges. R&D will expand these information activities to include management studies for regional bureaus' and missions' use to improve the effectiveness of environmental activities.

B. Environmental Staffing

A critical assumption underpinning the Environmental Strategy is that USAID will have adequate staff to implement the planned programs. In addition to a discrete portfolio of "environmental" activities, the Agency Strategy calls for the integration of environmental concerns into all overseas assistance efforts. The workload associated with these tasks is likely to place a heavy burden on the USAID's limited direct hire staff.

Budget realities and staffing patterns pose significant impediments to boosting the quantity and quality of USAID environmental staff. The R&D Bureau will continue to work with the regional bureaus and USAID's personnel specialists to ensure that adequate staff resources are available to handle the wide range of environmental concerns that are increasingly a part of the everyday business of foreign assistance.

C. Special Support for the NIS Region

Nowhere is the greening of foreign affairs more evident than in the rapidly evolving diplomatic and assistance interactions with the new independent states (NIS) of the former Soviet Union. As already evidenced by the widespread ecological degradation found in central and eastern Europe, the former communist states paid scant attention to environmental quality. They must now simultaneously cope with the legacy of past policies and the drastic structural changes needed to open their economies and societies.

As the U.S. response to the urgent needs of the NIS region began

to take shape, the R&D Bureau is helping to evaluate pressing environmental problems and to suggest how an assistance program could contribute to their solution. The NIS Task Force is now managing USAID's activities in this region, and the R&D Environment and Energy offices continue to support the development and implementation of programs in this field.

While NIS assistance must be justified first and foremost on its contribution to the sustainable growth and democratization of the region, there are a number of environmental problems associated with the NIS region that are of global significance. Russia's forests are comparable in size and fragility (though not diversity) to those of Brazil, and the horror stories of nuclear and toxic wastes are common. The R&D Bureau will remain active in supporting NIS Task Force work on these problems well beyond the crucial short-run phase to establish regional and republic-specific programs.

D. Incorporating Environmental Concerns into All USAID Work

The Agency Environment Strategy calls for the full integration of environmental concerns into all USAID activities. Two principal means will be used to accomplish this: support for programs designed to protect the environment and manage natural resources wisely; and incorporating concern for the environment in activities designed primarily for other purposes (e.g., population, education, health). In addition, agency-wide environmental review procedures (22 CFR, Part 216) ensure that potentially adverse environmental impacts are considered in the design of all projects.

1. Building Environmental Programs into Country Assistance Strategies. The full impact of USAID's environmentally-related activities will be enhanced when environmental programs and projects are fully integrated into development assistance strategies. The R&D Bureau is committed to helping with this task through close collaboration with missions and regional bureaus and cooperation with on-going USAID evaluation efforts.

2. Improved Agency Environmental Assessment Procedures. The R&D Bureau is currently reviewing its environmental review process in order to improve its implementation of the Agency Environmental Procedures. In addition, the Bureau is working with the USAID Policy Directorate as well as the Latin America and Caribbean Bureau to develop standardized guidelines for projects affecting tropical rainforests. The Bureau will continue to provide such support, and will establish a more effective set of procedures for the review of its own projects.

E. Environmental Contributions of Cross-Sectoral R&D Programs

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The Environmental Strategy calls for attention to environmental concerns in all USAID work. R&D Bureau activities designed to support mission programs that cut across sectoral boundaries are an important means of achieving this broad objective. As a part of its environmental strategy, the R&D Bureau will strengthen the role played by its various offices in this effort.

1. Population, Health and Nutrition. Rapid population growth contributes, in complex ways, to environmental degradation and resource depletion. By improving access to voluntary family planning services, R&D-supported population programs help reduce population growth rates and slow environmental decline. In addition, R&D supports a number of family planning projects that have an environmental component. These projects fall into two main categories: awareness-raising and research. The educational efforts are directed at increasing understanding among policy-makers of the relationship between rapid population growth and environmental degradation.

2. Education, Training and University Cooperation. Agency interest in environmental education and public awareness programs is growing rapidly, and R&D serves as a key Agency resource on this subject. R&D will, as appropriate, provide technical support for mission environmental education and communication activities worldwide. USAID's Center for University Cooperation in Development will continue to serve as an important liaison with the American university community--including schools of environmental science and management

3. Institutional Development and Gender Issues. In addition to R&D's work on deforestation and agricultural sustainability, R&D provides missions and regional bureaus with access to leading academic researchers working on issues of natural resource property rights, community-based resource management systems, and environmental dimensions of rural-urban links in developing countries.

A principal finding of many institutional analyses in the environment field is that women are actively engaged in natural resources and environmental management, but they are commonly neglected by government programs. R&D is the USAID's primary support to help identify such program weaknesses, and the Women in Development office maintains close contact with a range of non-governmental groups seeing to improve awareness of such issues within the international development and conservation communities.

V. CONCLUSIONS

A. Anticipating the Post-UNCED Global Environment Agenda

R&D Bureau

Much of the Agency's expanding environmental responsibility--and particularly that of the R&D Bureau--is tied to the rapid growth of USAID's work on global environmental problems as they relate to the development needs of USAID's host countries. Concern for sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and tropical forestry; mitigation of global warming, ozone depletion, and acid rain; and the international disposal of toxic wastes have found their way into the mainstream of foreign policy.

R&D, working closely with regional bureaus and the Policy Directorate, will play an important role in addressing these issues, and in representing USAID's policy and technical interests in international negotiations on these topics. The Bureau considers this work to be of great importance to U.S. foreign policy interests and to USAID's overall assistance program.

B. Improving R&D Bureau Contributions to the Environmental Strategy

Field support to missions will continue to be the R&D Bureau's primary role in implementing the Environment Strategy. Some aspects of the Bureau's energy and environment work are already exemplary of the close working relationships between Washington technical staff and USAID missions envisioned in the Environment Strategy. R&D Bureau projects, for example, have greatly assisted missions with the development of biodiversity conservation activities, and will continue to do so in the future.

In developing an action plan for implementing this strategy, the R&D Bureau will consult closely with the regional bureaus on: (1) priorities and mechanisms for providing field support for regional bureau and mission field activities; (2) the development and implementation of key research programs; and (3) defining the gaps and appropriate opportunities for USAID action on global and transnational issues. This process will enable both the R&D and regional bureaus to collaborate in the efficient allocation of scarce resources in order to meet overall Agency environmental goals. It will also enable the R&D Bureau to choose between competing priorities and emphasize those activities with the greatest potential for significant impact.

Environmental protection and natural resources management programs represent an extremely challenging and evolving component of USAID's worldwide effort. The R&D Bureau will cooperate closely with the regional bureaus and missions to develop the environmental programs so critical to the success of USAID's broader development objectives.