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U.S. Agency for International Development Report to Congress on Biodiversity-Conservation and Forestry Programs during Fiscal Year 2017: Results and Funding

Introduction

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) submits this report pursuant to Section 118 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA), as amended, on Tropical Forests. This report also provides information related to Section 119 of the FAA on Endangered Species.

Section 118 of the FAA notes that the “continuing and accelerated alteration, destruction, and loss of tropical forests in developing countries, which pose a serious threat to development and the environment, requires that USAID take actions that support tropical forest conservation and sustainable management. USAID fulfills this responsibility primarily through programs that conserve forest biodiversity, maintain or increase carbon stocks in forests, or achieve both of these complementary objectives in strategic coordination, where possible.”

Section 119 of the FAA finds that, “the extinction of animal and plant species is an irreparable loss with potentially serious environmental and economic consequences for developing and developed countries alike. Accordingly, the preservation of animal and plant species through the regulation of the hunting and trade in endangered species, through limitation on the pollution of natural systems, and through the protection of wildlife habitats should be an important objective of the United States development assistance.”

FAA Sections 118 and 119 require that USAID Missions around the world analyze threats to tropical forests and biodiversity prior to formulating Country-Development Cooperation Strategies, to identify the specific conservation actions needed to conserve tropical forests and biodiversity in a given context and the extent to which specified actions proposed meet the needs identified. The project design of forestry and biodiversity activities is based, in part, on these legislatively required, country-specific analyses.

USAID Administrator Mark Green often notes that “the purpose of foreign assistance is to end the need for its existence,” and emphasizes the importance of working with partner countries to support them on their Journey to Self-Reliance. The conservation of biodiversity is at the heart of that Journey, as people around the world depend on healthy forests, thriving water systems, and flourishing wildlife and natural resources. Conserving biodiversity, combined with citizen-responsive governance and sustainable management practices, enables people to feed their families, send their children to school, and grow their own businesses.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, USAID worked in 57 countries around the world to conserve biodiversity, fight environmental crime, and support sustainable fisheries, all of which help partner countries on their Journey to Self-Reliance.

Spotlight on Environmental Crime

In FY 2017, USAID continued a multi-sector approach to address environmental crime. Funding for law-enforcement training and community-based conservation activities, together with

reducing demand for wildlife products and interrupting the flow of illegal products around the world, are critical tools for achieving sustainable development.

USAID supports the training of park rangers, law-enforcement officials, the judicial sector, and communities to protect wildlife and natural resources. Strengthening transnational cooperation is also important in combating environmental crime: In FY 2017, USAID Missions in East Africa, Southern Africa, and Asia funded an INTERPOL training on transnational coordination and enforcement.

USAID's partnership with stakeholders in the air-transportation sector helps stop criminals who use airlines to transport illicit goods. In FY 2017, this work produced an analysis of seizures of wildlife products, mapped transit routes and ports used by traffickers, and identified how traffickers disguise and move contraband. USAID funded the training of airline and airport staff in South Africa, Mozambique, Malawi, Kenya, Malaysia, Laos, and Vietnam to prevent wildlife trafficking.

Understanding how funds from wildlife trafficking intersect with global money laundering is an important part of fighting environmental crime. In FY 2017, with funding from USAID, partner organization TRAFFIC provided technical leadership to financial institutions through the International Wildlife Trafficking Financial Institution Taskforce to help identify and stop these illicit flows of money.

USAID also works to reduce consumer demand for wildlife products. In FY 2017, the Agency funded an analysis of wildlife markets and consumer demand in China, Vietnam, and Thailand. TRAFFIC and partners developed and launched the "Wildlife Consumer Behavior Change Toolkit," which provides tactics, tools, and techniques to implement social- and behavioral-change-communications interventions for conservation.

Focus on Results

USAID's funding for tropical-forestry and biodiversity conservation around the world supports natural systems and the people who depend on them. During FY 2017, USAID's targeted investments in areas with high levels of biodiversity promoted healthy, thriving communities on their journey to self-reliance, and achieved the following results:

Africa

Improving the management of fisheries is a critical step to conserving ecosystems and ensuring the food security and livelihoods of people who depend on wild fisheries. Better-managed fisheries are good for local communities. In FY 2017, USAID helped partners harmonize legislation that address fisheries in seven West African countries (**Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Sénégal and Sierra Leone**), a key step in regulating access to fisheries and reducing illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. For example, following a fishing season closed to foreign fishing trawlers, local fishers in Ghana reported a higher fish catch. To continue the return of improved fish stocks, a USAID-funded Scientific and Technical Working Group has recommended a regular seasonal closure to fishing. In **Sénégal**, local artisanal fisheries committees conducted 153 patrols, inspected 2,085 boats and

issued 308 infractions. More than 2,000 Senegalese fishers received education and training with the objective of reducing illegal fishing.

In FY 2017, USAID-funded activities conserved wildlife, advanced the rule of law, and promoted self-reliance among local people in and around 17 protected areas in nine priority landscapes in the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, the **Republic of Congo (RoC)**, and the **Central African Republic (CAR)**. Activities included recruiting, training, equipping, and logistically supporting park rangers and community patrols. In FY 2017, rangers patrolled 33 percent more mileage than in the prior year, covered more than 225,000 kilometers, destroyed 1,042 illegal hunting camps, and removed nearly 14,000 snares and traps. USAID also funded judicial training on wildlife crime and appropriate sentencing. Aerial surveillance and support for intelligence networks enabled more-targeted patrolling, contributing to the apprehension of 626 poachers. Such efforts helped decrease elephant poaching in DRC's *Garamba* National Park to 56 cases in FY 2017, compared to 99 in FY 2016. In RoC's *Nouabale-Ndoki* National Park, rangers arrested 95 individuals for wildlife crimes, and transferred 47 to courts for prosecution. Thirty poachers and traffickers were sentenced to jail, which creates a strong deterrent to would-be criminals. USAID also supported local communities in areas of high biodiversity, with activities in microenterprise-development; agroforestry; sustainable, shade-grown cocoa-production; and sustainable fishing. In DRC, USAID financing helped local communities register more than 426,000 hectares of land—nearly the size of Grand Canyon National Park—as community forestry concessions, which enable local villagers to be the legal managers of their forests.

In the **Republic of Mozambique** and **South Africa**, USAID reduced threats to 1.2 million hectares of globally significant ecosystems and wildlife across three river basins throughout the Southern Africa region, an area about half the size of New Jersey. Through an integrated, strategy on transboundary river-basins, the project developed comprehensive biodiversity-sector plans and maps for the Olifants catchment, which supports the livelihoods of more than three million people. These plans help integrate critical biodiversity areas into municipal land-use plans, with the goal of conserving biodiversity and protecting peoples' livelihoods into the future.

Asia

Citizen-responsive local governance and management of natural resources increases food security, improves livelihoods, and helps communities flourish. In the **Kingdom of Cambodia**, USAID-trained community groups that manage fisheries designated more than 5,000 hectares as conservation areas. In FY 2017, USAID funded an effort to build community fish-refuge ponds that provide sanctuaries for breeding fish. When the rainy season arrives, the fish in these ponds become accessible to local fishermen. Both efforts improved the habitat of freshwater fish and increased water-access during the dry season and droughts. Monitoring of biodiversity shows that community fish refuges established four years ago now yield more than 10 percent more fish.

To reduce consumer demand for wildlife parts and products in the **People's Republic of China**, USAID organized a meeting of more than 70 representatives from Chinese and international non-governmental organizations, the private sector, the media, educational institutions, and

donor agencies in FY 2017. Experts shared innovative and interactive approaches, including the use of “big data”, marketing techniques, and impact-analysis.

In FY 2017, USAID funded several efforts to improve conservation law and enforcement in the **Republic of Indonesia**. The Agency’s BIJAK program worked to revise the country’s main conservation statute to increase sanctions for wildlife crimes, expand the investigatory and enforcement authorities of civil investigators in protected areas, and criminalize trade in all endangered and threatened species. USAID funded the training of patrol teams in 2.5 million hectares of conservation areas. Because of these efforts, poaching decreased by 20 percent between 2016 and 2017 in Sumatra’s *Leuser* National Park, and local courts are processing 10 cases. USAID collaborated with Indonesia’s Supreme Court to add wildlife-trafficking components to the existing training curriculum for environmental judges, to improve the capacity of judges to handle wildlife-trafficking cases.

In **Nepal**, USAID funded the restoration of critical wildlife habitats through improved management and innovative technologies. In *Chitwan* National Park, key species such as rhinoceros, swamp deer, and wild water buffalo were reintroduced, which has helped re-establish a flourishing natural environment. In the *Karnali* River basin, USAID funded a local lab to develop a fish DNA database of 56 native species, a vital resource for future eDNA inventories to monitor diversity.

USAID funding for biodiversity conservation in the **Republic of the Philippines** is helping the country on its Journey to Self-Reliance. USAID’s investment in the *Lawin* Forest and Biodiversity Protection System enabled the country to manage and monitor more than 100 forest-conservation sites, an area of about three million hectares. The country is now rolling out the system nationwide, and has doubled the forest-protection budget of the central government to more than \$20 million in 2018. Also in the Philippines, USAID financed the production of locally sourced dried seafood products by educating local people about improved business practices.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Decades of armed conflict have left an enormous impact on landscapes and ecosystems in the **Republic of Colombia**. USAID’s biodiversity-conservation program in Colombia supports American interests by discouraging illicit activities, while expanding economic opportunities through projects such as reforestation, to provide stability and peace in marginalized communities. In FY 2017, USAID invested in the Amazon and Pacific regions to improve incomes for more than 700 families through legal, sustainable cattle ranching, ecotourism, agroforestry, and the production of high-value agricultural crops and non-timber forest products. These efforts promote the preservation of biodiversity, conserve forests, and drive sustainable social and economic development for lasting peace.

In FY 2017, USAID funded the certification by the Forest Stewardship Council of nearly 500,000 hectares of responsibly managed tropical forest in the **Republic of Guatemala**. Following certification, Guatemalan businesses were able to forge deals with American businesses such as guitar companies, which sold the certified forest products at a premium. The partnerships led to more than \$24 million in sales of sustainable timber, non-timber forest

products and tourism services, and 2,200 jobs for local communities. Further, these commercial arrangements help protect Guatemalan forests that provide habitat for species such as jaguars, pumas, and scarlet macaws.

In FY 2017, USAID funded business-development services for 160 micro, small, and medium enterprises in **Honduras**. These enterprises, 76 percent of which are women-led, are adopting cleaner production practices such as fuel-efficient furnaces, which will reduce threats to ecosystems in the region.

FY 2017 was the final year of a USAID conservation program centered on the Andean Amazon region, including **Colombia**, the **Republic of Perú**, and the **Federative Republic of Brazil**. Over five years, more than ten million hectares of forested lands and more than two million hectares of indigenous lands—a combined total equivalent to the size of the state of Mississippi—benefited from improved management techniques. Education and training for more than 100,000 people improved the stewardship of natural resources, and national governments have adopted more than 500 new guidelines, regulations, and agreements to promote sustainable development in the region. USAID will launch a new program to conserve the Andean Amazon in 2018.

Funding Overview

A summary of USAID’s FY 2017 funding for biodiversity, combating wildlife trafficking, and forestry activities, by region and Operating Unit (Missions, regional programs and Bureaus), appears in Table 1. USAID allocates “Biodiversity funding” to Operating Units for activities that conserve biodiversity in priority places, and also integrate biodiversity and development. Funding to combat wildlife trafficking is a subset of biodiversity funds that directly supports efforts to prevent or reduce poaching and illegal trade in wildlife, including terrestrial, freshwater, and marine species. “Forestry” is a funding-attribution category that promotes any activity for conservation and sustainable management of forests.

International biodiversity-conservation programs received \$265 million in FY 2017 funding, from USAID, which financed projects in 57 countries. Approximately 57 percent of these funds went to 12 high-priority countries and regions designated as “Tier One” countries in USAID’s *Biodiversity Policy*, including Indonesia, Tanzania, and some countries in the Amazon and Congo basins. All USAID biodiversity programs meet specific criteria to ensure the activities are strategic, and the Agency is accountable for achieving conservation outcomes in biologically significant areas. (See <https://www.usaid.gov/biodiversity/impact/requirements> for further details.)

In addition to direct allocations, more than \$43 million in USAID funding indirectly contributed to the conservation of biodiversity. Natural-resource and environmental funding streams, such as sustainable forest-management—including climate-smart land-use planning—reduce emissions from deforestation and the degradation of woodlands, which contributes to the conservation of biodiversity. Such programs manage and protect watersheds, preserve fisheries, and save mangrove forests.

USAID invested \$68.1 million in FY 2017 funds to combat wildlife trafficking, which represents a five-fold increase since 2012, because of the urgency of the crisis. USAID

developed a comprehensive strategy to help strengthen law enforcement from parks to ports, reduce consumer demand for illegal wildlife products, and build international cooperation and partnerships.

In FY 2017, USAID forestry investments totaled \$195 million in approximately 40 countries, with \$189 million focused on tropical forests. Ninety-four percent of these funds advanced biodiversity-conservation or emissions-reduction objectives. Other activities, including for the conservation of forests and wetlands, accounted for approximately \$11.1 million of USAID's forestry investments in FY 2017.

In addition to these programs, USAID manages two whole-of-Government efforts related to forests. USAID hosts the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative and the *Tropical Forest Conservation Act* Secretariat, managed in partnership with the Departments of State and Treasury. Through 2017, the U.S. Government has completed 20 *Tropical Forest Conservation Act* agreements, and eight Enterprise for the Americas Initiative agreements, with 18 countries, which have generated more than \$516 million to fund activities to protect the environment and conserve tropical forests.

Appendix I: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Funding for Biodiversity, Combating Wildlife Trafficking, and Forestry

| OPERATING UNIT | FY 2017 BIODIVERSITY FUNDING IN US\$ | FY 2017 COMBATING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING FUNDING US\$¹ | FY 2017 FORESTRY FUNDING IN US\$² | |
|--|---|--|---|------------------------------|
| Total Funding for All Operating Units | \$265,000,000 | \$68,149,922 | \$194,699,290 | |
| Total Funding for Tropical Countries | \$259,000,000 | \$67,649,922 | \$188,528,477 | |
| Total Funding for Biodiversity Tier One Countries and Regions (in blue) | \$149,800,000 | \$38,680,645 | \$103,199,789 | |
| Total Funding for Transfers to U.S. Government Partners | \$28,150,000 | \$16,084,400 | \$23,563,725 | |
| USAID SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA | | | | FUND TYPE³ |
| Africa Regional | \$3,000,000 | \$350,000 | \$1,400,000 | DA |
| Central Africa Regional | \$39,400,000 | \$19,084,400 | \$39,013,727 | DA |
| – USAID Funding | \$21,900,000 | \$8,000,000 | \$28,450,002 | DA |
| – Transfer to the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) | \$17,500,000 | \$11,084,400 | \$10,563,725 | DA |
| East Africa Regional | \$6,250,000 | \$2,000,000 | \$0 | DA |
| Southern Africa Regional | \$8,000,000 | \$6,300,000 | \$0 | DA |
| West Africa Regional | \$7,250,000 | \$1,680,000 | \$7,200,000 | DA |
| Ghana | \$1,550,000 | \$0 | \$200,000 | DA |
| Kenya | \$9,000,000 | \$5,577,245 | \$0 | DA |
| Liberia | \$4,000,000 | \$0 | \$4,000,000 | ESF-OCO |
| Madagascar | \$8,000,000 | \$414,000 | \$5,298,500 | DA |
| Malawi | \$3,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$3,753,319 | DA |
| Mozambique | \$7,250,000 | \$3,000,000 | \$0 | DA |
| Sénégal | \$2,000,000 | \$0 | \$0 | DA |
| South Sudan | \$2,500,000 | \$500,000 | \$750,000 | DA |
| Tanzania | \$10,000,000 | \$3,750,000 | \$1,600,000 | DA |
| Uganda | \$4,500,000 | \$650,000 | \$1,400,000 | DA |
| Zambia | \$3,000,000 | \$1,500,000 | \$300,000 | DA |
| Sub-Saharan Africa Total | \$118,700,000 | \$45,805,645 | \$64,915,546 | DA |
| USAID ASIA | | | | |
| Asia Regional | \$1,387,000 | \$500,000 | \$1,175,000 | DA |
| Regional Development Mission - Asia | \$8,600,000 | \$4,455,000 | \$1,500,000 | DA |
| Bangladesh | \$6,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$3,865,000 | DA |
| Cambodia | \$3,000,000 | \$0 | \$5,102,013 | DA |
| India | \$0 | \$0 | \$4,200,000 | DA |
| Indonesia | \$17,000,000 | \$1,100,000 | \$8,805,607 | DA |
| Nepal | \$6,000,000 | \$500,000 | \$4,025,147 | ESF-OCO |
| The Philippines | \$12,000,000 | \$1,800,000 | \$4,170,989 | DA |
| Vietnam | \$7,000,000 | \$2,500,000 | \$5,959,000 | DA |

| OPERATING UNIT | FY 2017 BIODIVERSITY FUNDING IN US\$ | FY 2017 COMBATING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING FUNDING US\$ ¹ | FY 2017 FORESTRY FUNDING IN US\$ ² | FUND TYPE ³ |
|---|---|--|--|---------------------------|
| Asia Total | \$60,987,000 | \$11,855,000 | \$38,802,756 | |
| USAID MIDDLE EAST | | | | |
| Lebanon | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,145,666 | ESF-OCO |
| Middle East Total | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,145,666 | |
| USAID LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN | | | | |
| Latin America and the Caribbean Regional | \$2,500,000 | \$650,000 | \$1,234,635 | DA |
| Caribbean Development Program | \$3,000,000 | \$250,000 | \$0 | DA |
| Central America Regional | \$2,700,000 | \$0 | \$480,000 | DA |
| South America Regional | \$11,000,000 | \$0 | \$10,124,642 | DA |
| Brazil | \$10,500,000 | \$0 | \$10,500,000 | DA |
| Colombia | \$10,000,000 | \$0 | \$8,778,143 | ESF |
| Guatemala | \$6,563,000 | \$650,000 | \$6,795,000 | DA |
| – USAID Funding | \$5,563,000 | \$650,000 | \$6,795,000 | DA |
| – Transfer to the Department of Interior | \$1,000,000 | \$0 | \$0 | DA |
| Honduras | \$5,000,000 | \$0 | \$2,250,000 | DA |
| México | \$0 | \$0 | \$6,000,000 | DA |
| Perú | \$7,300,000 | \$0 | \$7,449,181 | DA |
| Latin America and the Caribbean Total | \$58,563,000 | \$1,550,000 | \$53,611,601 | |
| USAID CENTRAL BUREAUS | | | | |
| Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and the Environment | \$25,750,000 | \$8,939,277 | \$34,223,721 | DA |
| – USAID Funding | \$16,100,000 | \$3,939,277 | \$21,223,721 | DA |
| – Transfer to Fish and Wildlife Service within DOI | \$9,150,000 | \$5,000,000 | \$8,000,000 | DA |
| – Transfer to the U.S Forest Service within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) | \$500,000 | \$0 | \$5,000,000 | DA |
| Central Bureaus Total | \$25,750,000 | \$8,939,277 | \$34,223,721 | |
| U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE | | | | |
| Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs | \$1,000,000 | \$0 | \$1,000,000 | ESF |
| U.S. Department of State Total | \$1,000,000 | \$0 | \$1,000,000 | |

¹ Tier One Countries and Regions, as prioritized by USAID's Biodiversity Policy.

² All Combating Wildlife Trafficking funding is from biodiversity or democracy, human rights and governance investments.

³ Nearly all USAID's forestry work depends on Congressional directives for either biodiversity or sustainable landscapes.

⁴ Funding is from one of three accounts: Development Assistance (DA), Economic Support Funds (ESF), or ESF-Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO).

