Conservation requires a team effort and since no single organization can tackle the world’s conservation and development challenges, partnerships are essential. Private businesses, universities, and nongovernmental organizations bring creative perspectives, technology, professional networks, and financial resources to conservation issues. **By leveraging the talents and resources of multiple local and international partners, USAID is able to magnify impacts and deliver sustainable cost-effective conservation results.**

**WHAT USAID IS DOING**

With private-sector partners around the world, USAID is addressing conservation challenges such as wildlife trafficking, infrastructure development, oil palm and pulpwood production, illegal logging, and timber trade. Increasingly, the private sector is seeing the value of greening its supply chains and reducing risk through conservation actions.

USAID is tapping the intellectual power of local and international research institutions to create new tools to solve conservation problems. Through these partnerships, USAID is generating better data and analytics, creating channels for new technologies and innovations, and applying research in the field. These partnerships are also producing a cadre of professionals throughout the developing world that will strengthen local institutions and build their countries’ capacity to address long-term conservation challenges.

USAID works in close collaboration with other U.S. government agencies and other donor governments. It leverages resources to address threats to forests, fight wildlife trafficking, and conserve marine ecosystems. Together, we deliver technical assistance to host country governments, conduct research, and engage in international policy decision-making.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Since 2001, USAID has supported more than 1,500 public-private partnerships, valued at more than $20 billion and with more than 3,500 organizations.

Within these partnerships, USAID has leveraged nearly $3 in partner contributions for every $1 of USAID funding.
USAID’S WORK IN ACTION

SUSTAINABLY MANAGING CRABS IN THE PHILIPPINES

The blue swimming crab (BSC), one of the Philippines’ important seafood exports, is in steady decline because of improper- and over-harvesting. To promote sustainable BSC fisheries, Phillips Seafood helped form the Philippine Association of Crab Processors in partnership with the National Fisheries Institute and USAID. The partnership aims to improve the management and marketing of the BSC stock, devise community-based tools to measure the stocks, and share best practices with policymakers and universities.

The market for blue swimming crab generates an estimated $29 million in revenue per year.

The United States is the largest market, making up more than half of all crab exports from the Philippines and Indonesia.

REDUCING ILLEGAL TIMBER TRADE

Illegal logging may account for 30 percent of global production and trade in forest products and up to 80 percent of the market in some of the countries where USAID works, causing forest loss, increased greenhouse gas emissions, loss of income, and conflict. In response, USAID, in partnership with the World Resources Institute (WRI), formed the Forest Legality Alliance (FLA) in 2009. The Alliance provides tools, guides, and case studies on laws and sustainable wood sourcing to private companies working in the forestry sector, nongovernmental organizations, and government officials. The FLA created the first online platform to help companies avoid illegal forest products and has provided legal training to more than 3,700 supply-chain decision makers in more than 25 countries. Membership has grown to almost 100 members, including trade associations, service providers, universities and companies such as Staples, IKEA, Disney, and Taylor Guitars.

The legal, global market loses approximately $10 billion annually from illegal logging, and governments lose an additional $5 billion in revenues.

The Initiative for Conservation in the Andean Amazon (ICAA), funded by USAID, aims to build constituencies and agreements that foster sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem services in the Amazonian regions of Peru and Colombia. Photo: Thomas J. Muller

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