



**USAID**  
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# BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY PROGRAMS

## **2011 REPORT**

FY 2010 Results and Funding

March 2012

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# USAID'S BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY PROGRAMS, 2011 REPORT

In Section 118 of the Foreign Assistance Act, Congress “recognize[s] the importance of forests and tree cover,” expresses particular concern about the “continuing and accelerating alteration, destruction and loss of tropical forests in developing countries,” and mandates that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) take actions which support conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests. USAID fulfills this responsibility primarily through programs that conserve forest biodiversity, maintain or increase carbon stocks in forests, or achieve both of these often complementary objectives. This report fulfills the requirement for an annual report on implementation of Section 118.

In FY 2010, USAID invested \$178 million in more than 45 countries in *forestry* — actions which conserve or better manage forests. Of these funds, \$169 million was focused on tropical forests. About \$85 million of the Agency’s forestry efforts advanced biodiversity conservation as a key objective. Another \$75 million in forestry was programmed under the Sustainable Landscapes (GCC-SL) pillar of USAID’s Global Climate Change portfolio. Programs in forest restoration, agroforestry and watershed conservation account for the remaining \$18 million of forestry funding. Table 1 summarizes USAID FY 2010 funding for biodiversity and forestry activities.

Agency funding for international biodiversity conservation grew to \$213 million in 2010, with programs in more than 50 countries. Many activities worked to address the full range of threats in an ecologically-defined landscape, such as the 19-country SCAPES<sup>1</sup> program, in which actions like wildlife monitoring and conservation enterprises improve habitat connectivity for

over one million gazelle in Mongolia and 250,000 elephants in Southern Africa. Other activities leveraged the buying power and market reach of the private sector to address a single threat, such as illegal logging or unsustainable fishing, wherever it exists. All biodiversity projects are designed based on an analysis of threats, and all site-based activities target biologically significant areas.

USAID’s FY 2010 funding for GCC-SL included \$78 million for the policy, planning, accounting, and monitoring aspects of forest management for climate change mitigation. Funds were applied to maintaining or enhancing carbon sequestration by forests and therefore count as forestry, except for \$3 million which was used to advance low-emissions development more broadly. All GCC-SL programs support developing countries’ efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation while achieving associated biodiversity and livelihoods results (REDD+).

## Highlights from FY 2010

Biodiversity programs in FY 2010 improved natural resource management over more than 70 million hectares in biologically significant areas, an area the size of California and Nevada combined. Two of USAID’s largest forest conservation programs, in the Congo Basin and Southeast Asia, reduced or sequestered an estimated 8.2 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions in FY 2010 — the equivalent of taking 1.5 million cars off American roads for one year. These programs align with the USAID Policy Framework: 2011–2015, in particular with the goals of sustainable economic growth, food security, democracy and governance, and climate change. Illustrative approaches and results contributing to these goals are detailed below.

*Sustainable economic growth:* Conservation and natural resource management bring jobs and income to rural areas not reached by the usual drivers of economic growth. From direct employment opportunities, to income from sale of sustainably harvested natural products, to community revenue sharing of tourism receipts, USAID assistance in FY 2010 helped at least 930,000 people derive increased economic benefits from sustainable natural resource management and conservation. Specific results include:

- In Kenya, USAID assistance helped 21,500 individuals from wildlife-rich areas earn income from a variety of enterprises including ecotourism and associated small businesses. Agency support in FY 2010 leveraged more than \$3 million in private sector and community investment, resulting in seven new conservancies and four eco-lodges.
- USAID provided training and technical assistance in environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural, forest management, and ecotourism practices in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. One component helped a Peruvian Brazil nut association increase average member income by 30 percent, providing a strong incentive to conserve the 35,000 hectares of national park and reserve land where they harvest nuts.

*Food Security:* The Earth's human population reached seven billion in 2011 and continues to grow. Combined with growing incomes and demand for meat, food production will need to double by 2050 to feed everyone. Achieving this without decimating ecosystems is an enormous challenge, when already 38 percent of the land surface of the earth is used for agriculture and 25 percent of commercially exploited marine fish stocks may be overharvested. USAID biodiversity and forestry programs conserve soil and ecosystem services essential to food production,

such as water storage and release, pollination, and pest control. Better management of freshwater and marine ecosystems can generate rapid biodiversity and food security results for some of the 2.6 billion people in developing countries who rely on wild fisheries for protein and income. On land, agroforestry and sustainable harvest of wild foods provide both sustenance and insurance against failed crops for many of the world's poorest and most marginalized people. For example:

- In Haiti, nearly one million trees were planted in FY 2010, most by 11,700 farmers who received support to plant eroding hillsides with perennial tree crops like mango, cacao, and coffee instead of annual crops of corn and beans. These trees will generate income and food while curbing flooding and soil loss which undermine lowland farm productivity.
- A project in the Tanbi wetlands of Gambia worked with members of an oyster harvester's association, almost exclusively women, to improve the sustainability and profitability of oyster harvest while better managing 6,000 hectares of coastal mangrove forest. Members established and helped enforce an optimal harvest season and size limits for harvested oysters, contributing to the long term sustainability of an important food source.

*Democracy and Governance:* People with ownership or access rights to land and natural resources are more inclined to manage both sustainably, and many USAID programs strive for this outcome. Community institutions established to manage forests can help maintain order during conflict, and have been critical to restoring governance systems in other sectors. Elsewhere, post-conflict forest restoration literally helps heal land damaged by munitions. Governance also includes work with authorities to enforce laws that regulate trade in timber and other natural resources. Some results in this area include:

- In Liberia, USAID advanced both local rights and national laws. Ten key regulations to implement Liberia's Community Rights Law with Respect to Forest Lands were drafted and vetted, drawing on pilot programs in two biologically diverse landscapes where four clans are gaining land tenure over community forests by agreeing to manage them sustainably.
- USAID completed initial support for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) and renewed this partnership in late 2010 through a new program: Asia's Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking (ARREST). ARREST co-developed 14 agreements, policies and action plans to address wildlife trafficking, and helped establish a new wildlife enforcement task force in Lao PDR.

*Climate Change:* Deforestation and forest degradation account for 14 to 20 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, comparable to the entire global transportation sector. Reducing emissions from forest loss is expected to slow climate change and allow people and ecosystems more time to adapt to rising sea levels, changing rainfall and other predicted impacts. In addition, payments for ecosystem services (PES) mechanisms are providing economic incentives for many land owners and managers to maintain natural forests and restore degraded forests. In FY 2010, several USAID programs generated indirect climate change mitigation benefits, and a suite of new Sustainable Landscapes programs were initiated. Indirect GCC-SL results include:

- USAID support for forest conservation in 12 high-biodiversity landscapes of the Congo basin continued to provide leadership and a framework for engagement by other countries and donors. The rate of forest loss in two landscapes decreased by 45 percent from 2000 to 2010.

- In one indigenous territory in lowland Bolivia, USAID investments in natural resource management and land tenure have resulted in a 400 percent lower rate of deforestation than surrounding areas.

## Going Forward

Biodiversity conservation, sustainable forestry, and climate change mitigation are interrelated areas of USAID programming that generate their own economic and social development results while improving the sustainability of other USG investments. A new Climate Change and Development Strategy<sup>2</sup> explicitly recognizes this and sets priorities for targeted support while mainstreaming climate-smart development throughout the Agency's portfolio.

New research<sup>3</sup> on the relationships among biodiversity, ecological services, and poverty alleviation calls for even more attention to conservation as a development strategy: conserving just 25 percent of the highest biodiversity areas would secure 56 percent of the value of ecosystem services on which 1.1 billion of the world's poorest people rely. USAID applies research findings like this to set biodiversity and forestry priorities, and to design activities which strengthen the ecological foundations of human welfare. Critical to this evidence-based approach is a renewed emphasis on measuring program impacts, fostering innovation, and scaling up proven approaches for achieving both conservation and sustainable development.

<sup>1</sup> Sustainable Conservation Approaches in Priority Ecosystems: [www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/environment/biodiversity/SCAPES/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/biodiversity/SCAPES/)

<sup>2</sup> The strategy is available online at: [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/policy\\_planning\\_and\\_learning/documents/GCCS.pdf](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/policy_planning_and_learning/documents/GCCS.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Turner, W. et al. 2012. Global Biodiversity Conservation and the Alleviation of Poverty. *BioScience* 62:1, pp. 85–92

**Table 1: USAID Funding for Biodiversity and Forestry Programs, FY 2010**

Operating Unit or Program	FY 2010 Biodiversity Funding in US\$	FY 2010 Forestry <sup>1</sup> Funding in US\$	Type of Funds <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total of All Programs</b>	<b>\$212,688,078</b>	<b>\$177,959,813</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>Tropical Countries</b>	<b>\$202,509,745</b>	<b>\$169,052,995</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>AFRICA</b>			
Africa Regional <sup>3</sup>	\$3,500,000	\$2,500,000	DA
Central Africa Regional	\$20,500,000	\$20,500,000	DA
East Africa Regional	\$1,700,000	\$0	DA
Southern Africa Regional <sup>3</sup>	\$3,000,000	\$0	DA
West Africa Regional	\$3,500,000	\$2,700,000	DA
Democratic Republic of Congo	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	ESF
Ethiopia	\$1,450,000	\$0	DA
Ghana	\$600,000	\$0	DA
Guinea	\$700,000	\$700,000	DA
Kenya <sup>3</sup>	\$7,295,000	\$4,599,067	DA
Liberia	\$3,500,000	\$3,672,000	ESF
Malawi	\$2,000,000	\$1,607,022	DA
Mozambique	\$3,500,000	\$2,171,429	DA
Rwanda	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	DA
Senegal	\$2,000,000	\$1,562,886	DA
Sierra Leone	\$250,000	\$609,000	ESF
Sudan	\$5,000,000	\$0	ESF
Tanzania	\$102,109	\$1,000,000	DA
Uganda	\$5,500,000	\$0	DA
Zambia	\$0	\$2,000,000	DA
<b>Africa Total</b>	<b>\$67,497,109</b>	<b>\$47,021,404</b>	
<b>ASIA and the MIDDLE EAST</b>			
Asia Regional	\$600,000	\$5,800,000	DA
Regional Development Mission for Asia	\$12,425,000	\$7,769,982	DA
Afghanistan	\$5,040,000	\$1,000,000	ESF
Bangladesh	\$6,000,000	\$110,075	DA
Cambodia	\$2,000,000	\$3,600,000	DA
China	\$1,320,000	\$631,818	ESF
India	\$0	\$5,000,000	DA
Indonesia	\$15,000,000	\$8,069,076	ESF
Lebanon	\$0	\$500,000	ESF
Nepal	\$3,000,000	\$6,000,000	ESF
Philippines	\$9,000,000	\$1,010,724	DA
<b>Asia and Middle East Total</b>	<b>\$54,385,000</b>	<b>\$39,491,675</b>	
<b>EUROPE AND EURASIA</b>			
Georgia	\$625,000	\$275,000	AEECA
Russia	\$193,333	\$500,000	AEECA
<b>Europe and Eurasia Total</b>	<b>\$818,333</b>	<b>\$775,000</b>	

**Table 1: USAID Funding for Biodiversity and Forestry Programs, FY 2010** continued

Operating Unit or Program	FY 2010 Biodiversity Funding in US\$	FY 2010 Forestry <sup>1</sup> Funding in US\$	Type of Funds <sup>2</sup>
<b>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</b>			
Latin America and the Caribbean Regional <sup>3</sup>	\$22,851,792	\$9,137,486	DA
Central America Regional	\$2,000,000	\$0	DA
Bolivia	\$5,000,000	\$2,481,056	DA
Brazil	\$9,970,408	\$13,970,408	DA
Colombia	\$4,000,000	\$2,826,316	ESF
Dominican Republic	\$1,200,000	\$375,500	DA
Ecuador	\$5,070,000	\$3,166,487	DA
El Salvador	\$2,500,000	\$105,520	DA
Guatemala	\$3,300,000	\$3,000,000	DA
Guyana	\$265,000	\$1,115,094	DA
Haiti	\$485,000	\$4,441,000	ESF
Honduras	\$2,300,000	\$230,000	DA
Mexico	\$500,000	\$3,000,000	DA
Nicaragua	\$1,000,000	\$0	DA
Panama	\$1,500,000	\$3,840,000	DA
Paraguay	\$540,000	\$268,519	DA
Peru	\$3,000,000	\$8,900,000	DA
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean Total</b>	<b>\$65,482,200</b>	<b>\$56,857,386</b>	
<b>CENTRAL BUREAUS</b>			
Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade			
<i>Natural Resources Management Office</i>			
Biodiversity Team	\$6,286,531	\$2,061,626	DA
Forestry Team	\$4,059,360	\$4,901,263	DA
Land Resources Management Team	\$5,370,266	\$2,371,802	DA
Water and Coastal Resources Team	\$1,780,000	\$0	DA
<i>Environment and Science Policy Office</i>			
Global Climate Change Team	\$0	\$21,250,000	DA
International Research & Biotechnology Team	\$4,500,000	\$3,100,000	DA
<i>Program Analysis, Implementation, Communications and Outreach Office</i>	\$0	\$129,657	DA
Bureau for Global Health	\$2,509,278	\$0	GHCS
<b>Central Bureaus Total</b>	<b>\$24,505,436</b>	<b>\$33,814,348</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Nearly all forestry funding is from forest-focused climate change and biodiversity investments.

<sup>2</sup> Types of funds include: Assistance to Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia (AEECA), Development Assistance (DA), Economic Support Fund (ESF), Global Health and Child Survival (GHCS).

<sup>3</sup> \$4,500,000 designated for biodiversity programs in Madagascar was redistributed to Africa Regional (\$1,500,000), Southern Africa Regional (\$1,500,000), and Kenya (\$1,500,000). Much of this funding supported forestry work.

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