

U.S. Agency for International Development
Report to Congress on Programs in Forestry and the Conservation of Biodiversity
during Fiscal Year 2018: Results and Funding

Introduction

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) submits this report on our programming to preserve forests and endangered species in accordance with Sections 118(f) and 119(h) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA), as amended.

USAID’s investments in biodiversity advance the Journey to Self-Reliance in our partner countries in support of our mission to end the need for foreign assistance. Conservation is an American tradition that creates and sustains economic opportunity and protects the plants, animals, and natural places that communities need to thrive. By investing in priority biodiversity areas, USAID helps the world’s most-vulnerable people grow nutritious food, build peace, and commit to citizen-responsive governance of the environment. As noted in the recent global assessment by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, nature is declining at unprecedented rates. We depend on nature to provide clean water, fresh air, healthy soils, and plant pollination; declines in biodiversity and ecosystems threaten to undermine progress toward many global development goals for poverty, hunger, health, oceans, and land. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, USAID worked in 57 countries around the world to conserve biodiversity, leverage private-sector funds, fight conservation crime, and support sustainable fisheries, all of which help local communities build resilience and shape their futures.

Funding Overview

A summary of USAID’s FY 2018 funding for biodiversity and forestry activities, by region and Operating Unit, appears in Table 1. USAID allocates our biodiversity funding to activities that conserve biodiversity in priority places and that integrate biodiversity with other development objectives. Funding to combat trafficking in wildlife is a subset that directly supports the prevention or reduction of poaching and illegal trade in animals, plants, birds, and fish—including terrestrial, freshwater, and marine species. Forestry activities promote the conservation and sustainable management of forests.

International programs to conserve biodiversity received \$269 million funding from USAID during FY 2018, which financed projects in 57 countries. Approximately 60 percent of the funds went to 12 countries and regions designated as “Tier One” in USAID’s Biodiversity Policy, including Indonesia, Tanzania, and the Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE). All of USAID’s biodiversity programs meet specific, strategic criteria, and the Agency is accountable for achieving conservation outcomes in biologically significant areas.

USAID invested \$65.8 million in FY 2018 funds to combat the trafficking of wildlife. USAID’s comprehensive strategy strengthens law enforcement from parks to ports, reduces consumer demand for illegal wildlife products, and builds international cooperation.

In FY 2018, USAID’s forestry investments totaled \$189.5 million in approximately 40 countries, with \$186.4 million focused on tropical forests.

In addition to direct funding, more than \$29 million in USAID's funding indirectly contributed to the conservation of biodiversity. Funding streams for natural resources and the environment reduce emissions from deforestation and the degradation of woodlands, and such programs manage and protect watersheds, fisheries, and mangrove forests.

Spotlight on Combating Conservation Crime

In FY 2018, USAID continued a multi-sectoral approach to address conservation crime. By funding law-enforcement training, enhanced monitoring, and community-based activities, USAID's partners interrupt the flow of illegal wildlife, fish, and timber products and disrupt criminal networks that undermine global security.

In the **Republic of Mozambique**, USAID contributed to a 73-percent decrease in elephant poaching in Niassa National Reserve from the previous year. With funding from USAID and partners to build capacity, the Mozambican Government continued to boost law-enforcement response times and initiated aerial monitoring of elephant herds. In June 2019, the Reserve celebrated a major milestone of one full year with zero elephants poached.

Across USAID's programming in Asia, governments and civil society leverage information and communications technologies with strong results. Funded by USAID, the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) helped slow poaching in **the Republic of Indonesia** and the **Kingdom of Cambodia**, including a 72-percent decrease in the Leuser Ecosystem on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia, the world's only habitat that supports populations of orangutans, tigers, elephants, and rhinoceroses. In **Cambodia's Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary**, USAID's partners assisted forest patrols to adopt SMART software. As a result, patrols there halted illegal logging and poaching; confiscated chainsaws, trucks, snares, logs, and bushmeat; and reported these activities to authorities.

In FY 2018, USAID and partners combatted illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing by advancing the use of electronic catch documentation and traceability systems, which helped small-scale fishers meet international market requirements. In FY 2018, USAID successfully implemented five electronic catch technologies and tracked more than 2.7 metric tons of legal and sustainably caught seafood. In **Indonesia**, the USAID-developed Trafiz mobile application allowed partners to record more than 1,240 legal transactions and 78,561 kilograms of high-grade tuna from more than 80 fishers. The estimated value of the tuna in the United States is \$1.38 million. USAID secured strong support for these systems, and is building the capacity of 26 early-adopter companies in **Indonesia** and the **Republic of The Philippines** to expand the technologies' coverage.

Empowering Equality

USAID strives to empower poor and marginalized citizens, and to integrate women and indigenous groups into environmental decision-making, all to drive more effective and sustainable results. In **Indonesia**, USAID supported women as conservation champions by ensuring female participation was at least 50 percent in the trainings and workshops we funded. More than 300 female conservation activists affiliated with USAID-financed forestry groups won election to government positions. Through a public-private partnership with Google in the

Federative Republic of Brazil, USAID trained indigenous communities on technologies to monitor and manage conservation activities in their territories, which builds their governance capacities. U.S. Government activities in **Cambodia** have provided training in land and natural-resource rights to more than 13,000 people, of whom 61 percent were female and 12 percent represented indigenous groups.

USAID-funded training in, and support for, alternative livelihoods in Central Africa provided new skills to 50 female former wild-meat traders, who now earn income from sustainable cocoa-production, fishponds, and husbandry without creating threats to wildlife. In the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, 150 women received microfinance-management training, and USAID provided microcredits for soap- and dress-making enterprises as incentives to leave the bushmeat trade. A group of women who invested nearly \$19,000 in these enterprises earned back more than 150 percent of their initial capital outlay.

Land rights and protections also support self-reliance in vulnerable communities. In FY 2018, USAID funded the strengthening of 32 management plans that cover 37.2 million hectares in 66 protected areas in **Brazil**; nearly 35 percent were on indigenous lands. USAID's biodiversity programming in the **Republic of Colombia** supported the declaration by the central government of two new protected areas that cover 5,000 hectares and the traditional management of natural resources inside indigenous reserves. In **Indonesia's** West Papua Province, USAID established a co-managed mangrove conservation area to improve indigenous peoples' natural-resource rights.

Regional Results

Africa

USAID's programs in Africa conserve biodiversity through multi-sectoral activities that strengthen the management of forests, fisheries, and wildlife while improving natural-resource governance and policies. USAID funded activities in the Congo Basin that help local communities produce food, fuel, and construction materials while putting less pressure on biodiversity-rich primary forests. In FY 2018, USAID's partners helped nearly 4,000 farmers start the production of shade cocoa around the Ituri Forest and Virunga National Park in the **DRC**, which boosts local livelihoods while reducing the degradation of primary forest in these high-biodiversity areas at risk of deforestation.

USAID helped local and indigenous communities in the **DRC** gain land tenure and resource rights through community-forest concessions that advance a 2014 law intended to engage local beneficiaries in the sound stewardship and management of forests. USAID's partners helped register 34 community-forestry concessions that cover 249,324 hectares in FY 2018. Since the registration of the first concessions with USAID support in 2017, 54 concessions now cover 676,000 hectares. To support the broader conservation of forests, USAID helped the Environment Ministries in the **DRC** and the **Republic of Congo** to use geospatial tools to detect and respond to the loss of forest outside of areas zoned for logging, and identify degraded land usable for agriculture so residents would not have to clear primary forest.

To strengthen the commitment and capacity of the Government of the **United Republic of**

Tanzania to protect wildlife, USAID funded the development of Tanzania's Wildlife Corridor Regulation and the National Chimpanzee Conservation Action Plan. The Wildlife Corridor Regulation documents how to protect areas that link national parks to one another, which allows for the movement of wildlife and connections between different chimpanzee groups. The National Chimpanzee Conservation Action Plan guides the protection and management of chimpanzees throughout the country. USAID also financed the protection of 550,000 hectares of chimpanzee habitat and a village-monitoring program that safeguards the forests.

Improving the management of fisheries is critical to conserving ecosystems and ensuring the food security and livelihoods of people who depend on wild fisheries. In the **Republic of Sénégal**, USAID provided financial and technical support to 115 institutions and nearly 6,000 local- and national-governance actors in the management of fisheries through the National Network of Local Artisanal Fisheries Councils (*Conseils locaux de pêche artisanale*, or CLPA). The Network of CLPAs now demonstrates operational capacity as an information platform and an advocate for the sustainable management of fish stocks.

Funded by USAID in 2017, the wildlife census undertaken by the Wildlife Service of the **Republic of Kenya** documented increased populations of elephants, buffalo, and giraffes, growth strongly linked to the success of private and community conservancies and greater peace and security. As an example, USAID's long-term, holistic financial and technical support for community conservation with Kenya's Northern Rangelands Trust has produced increased wildlife populations; greater security; and economic benefits from tourism, livestock investments, and successful local women's bead-making enterprises.

Partnerships with the private sector successfully raised matching funding to expand the impact of USAID's conservation programs in **Mozambique**. For example, USAID's \$11 million investment in and around Mozambique's Gorongosa National Park is leveraging more than \$40 million from the Greg Carr Foundation and other donors. The Gorongosa Project has succeeded in restoring wildlife populations in the park while improving the health, education, food security, and resilience of tens of thousands of people who live in the buffer zone that surrounds it. This success has attracted a variety of private-sector partners, including 34 travel-service operators; 14 universities and museums; and a range of national and multinational corporations, from National Geographic to Barclays Bank.

USAID funds national and transnational cooperation and training for park rangers, law-enforcement officials, and those in the judicial sector to protect wildlife and natural resources across Africa. In the Transboundary Landscape between the **Republics of Malawi and Zambia**, 67 Zambian law-enforcement officers and 112 Malawian rangers and assistants received training in improved practices to combat wildlife crime. Since 2017, the Malawi Wildlife Crime Investigation Unit and the Rapid-Response Unit in Kasungu National Park have seized more than 3,000 kilograms of ivory and 58 firearms during 18 operations, which resulted in 148 arrests. Zambia's North Luangwa National Park reported no poaching incidents among its rhinoceros population in FY 2018.

USAID's funding in the **Republic of Liberia** improved the environmental-governance capacity of 11 communities in FY 2018. USAID-financed partners provided training for volunteer forest

guards to ensure the sustainable use of the 54,000 hectares of tropical forest managed by local community groups. The communities are beginning to hold their leadership accountable for decision-making; one village voted to replace its elected leaders because of their lack of transparency while conducting business with a logging company.

Asia

USAID's activities in Asia have prioritized the conservation of biodiversity while empowering communities and supporting prosperity. In **The Philippines**, USAID addressed unsustainable resource-harvesting, unregulated tourism, and land-conversion in 15 key areas. In Puerto Princesa, in the Province of Palawan, the Agency sensitized and trained former consumers of sea turtle eggs and meat as turtle guards and, in the Province of South Cotabato on the island of Mindanao, trained former illegal timber-harvesters to be forest guards. These changes in behavior led to better protection for the turtles and increased forest patrols. In collaboration with **Indonesian** community members and forest-managers, USAID facilitated 52 agreements that secured the community tenure and management of 400,000 hectares of forests. To assist those communities with new rights to their lands, USAID's partners trained 20,159 people and provided agricultural inputs to transition local value-chains toward more sustainable and profitable production.

With the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center and the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security, USAID brought together national authorities in the region to prioritize the sustainable management of fisheries. The resulting *Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries-Management Plan* is the first in the region to outline transnational goals, objectives, and actions focused on preserving fisheries and marine conservation in **Indonesia, Malaysia, and The Philippines**. Seventy local government representatives from the six Coral Triangle countries also signed the "Jakarta Statement," in which they committed to promote sustainable fisheries through allocations of funding, marine spatial plans, and the empowerment of local communities.

USAID's activities in the **People's Republic of Bangladesh** have benefitted more than 25,900 marginalized fishers from increased catches, community savings groups, and alternative-livelihood opportunities. USAID's partners created 145 savings groups that provided 4,354 fishers with access to new microfinance funds. Ultimately, the fishers' incomes increased by \$393 per household, 52 percent higher than the baseline. In **Cambodia**, the U.S. Government's forestry and biodiversity investments helped to improve the management of close to 1.5 million hectares of forests, wildlife sanctuaries, and national parks—an area about the size of Puerto Rico.

Latin America and the Caribbean

USAID's activities in Latin America and the Caribbean have strengthened the community management of natural resources and fostered private-sector engagement. In **Brazil**, USAID's programs leveraged \$4.7 million from the private sector. For example, in FY 2018, a partnership with Coca-Cola, sustainable beauty brand Natura, and the non-governmental organization (NGO) Sitawi Finance for Good conserved wild freshwater fish while yielding economic benefits for

150 local families in two protected areas in the State of Amazonas.

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, created in 2012 to help Caribbean nations to meet environmental goals agreed to under international commitments, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, now manages a \$70 million endowment for biodiversity. From 2014 through FY 2018, USAID helped nine **Caribbean countries** gain access to these funds by establishing national conservation trusts, which will provide grants to local environmental organizations and communities.

USAID's biodiversity programming in **Colombia** discourages licit activities while expanding economic opportunities. In FY 2018, USAID improved the connectivity and conservation of forests while enhancing community livelihoods in the Department of Caquetá. The Agency helped to establish conservation agreements with farmers to protect watersheds and more than 1,000 hectares of existing forests, and to rehabilitate degraded land, while also improving agricultural productivity.

The Peruvian Amazon comprises more than 64 million hectares, the fourth-largest tropical forest area in the world. USAID works with the Government of the **Republic of Perú** to slow and reverse deforestation and degradation by establishing the sustainable management of forests. USAID's investments in the Peruvian forest sector align with U.S. trade policies that promote balanced trade relationships and improve supply-chains. USAID provided technical assistance in FY 2018 to Peruvian forest-management agencies to improve government accountability. The funding paid for the training of 184 staff and the development of 26 economic and scientific studies to advance the understanding of the management and governance of natural resources, such as how illegal gold mining contributes to deforestation and corruption.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, USAID is conserving biodiversity while promoting sustainable economic growth and livelihoods. In the **Republic of Haiti**, USAID launched three community enterprises in ecotourism, honey-production, and breadfruit-processing; these enterprises have now trained 70 fishers and their families in business-development, marketing and sales, and financial management, and have reduced their need to overexploit marine and coastal natural resources for their livelihoods. By improving the incomes of vulnerable households and promoting ecotourism in the **Republic of Honduras** in FY 2018, USAID increased and diversified incomes for 43,800 people. USAID's initiatives also resulted in the declaration of 19 private nature reserves and improved the management of 112,182 hectares through community compensation.

Operating Unit	FY 2018 Biodiversity Funding in US\$	FY 2018 Combating Wildlife Trafficking (CWT) Funding in US\$	FY 2018 Forestry Funding in US\$
Total Funding for All Operating Units	\$269,000,000	\$65,852,561	\$189,531,669
Total Funding for Tropical Countries	\$263,000,000	\$65,352,561	\$186,481,669
Total Funding for Biodiversity Tier One Countries and Regions	\$163,161,000	\$35,538,503	\$104,445,986
Total Funding for Transfers to U.S. Government Partners	\$32,150,000	\$9,055,000	\$24,310,000
USAID SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA			
Africa Regional	\$3,000,000	\$250,000	\$731,420
Central Africa Regional	\$39,400,000	\$12,469,000	\$33,530,000
- USAID Funding	\$21,900,000	\$8,664,000	\$33,530,000
- Transfer to the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Fish and Wildlife Service ²	\$17,500,000	\$3,805,000	\$15,310,000
East Africa Regional	\$5,500,000	\$3,675,324	\$180,000
Southern Africa Regional	\$8,000,000	\$5,550,000	\$0
West Africa Regional	\$7,250,000	\$1,500,000	\$9,625,000
Ghana	\$1,550,000	\$0	\$550,000
Kenya	\$9,000,000	\$5,230,000	\$935,744
Liberia	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$3,746,182
Madagascar	\$7,900,000	\$500,000	\$4,250,000
Malawi	\$3,000,000	\$500,000	\$2,350,000
Mozambique	\$7,200,000	\$3,000,000	\$2,300,000
Senegal	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0
South Sudan	\$2,500,000	\$500,000	\$0
Tanzania	\$9,150,000	\$3,600,000	\$1,675,000
Uganda	\$4,500,000	\$650,000	\$2,127,460
Zambia	\$3,000,000	\$750,000	\$3,192,698
USAID Sub-Saharan Africa Total	\$116,950,000	\$38,174,324	\$65,193,504

USAID ASIA			
Asia Regional	\$1,750,000	\$500,000	\$400,000
Regional Development Mission - Asia	\$9,500,000	\$6,682,923	\$2,316,667
Bangladesh	\$5,825,000	\$1,000,000	\$3,804,493
Cambodia	\$3,500,000	\$500,000	\$3,282,893
India	\$0	\$0	\$5,480,000
Indonesia	\$15,498,000	\$1,706,580	\$9,198,481
Nepal	\$6,000,000	\$500,000	\$2,050,000
Philippines	\$13,153,000	\$2,600,000	\$8,168,318
Vietnam	\$6,795,000	\$2,500,000	\$4,521,776
USAID Asia Total	\$62,021,000	\$15,989,503	\$39,222,628
USAID MIDDLE EAST			
Lebanon	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000
USAID Middle East Total	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000
USAID LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN			
Latin America and the Caribbean Regional	\$2,500,000	\$300,000	\$0
Caribbean Development Program	\$4,000,000	\$1,643,234	\$1,805,000
South America Regional	\$15,065,000	\$0	\$9,400,000
Brazil ³	\$18,500,000	\$250,000	\$9,000,000
Colombia	\$11,000,000	\$0	\$12,750,000
Guatemala	\$578,000	\$250,000	\$1,260,688
- USAID Funding	\$78,000	\$0	\$93,660
- Transfer to the Department of the Interior	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$500,000
Haiti	\$0	\$0	\$5,100,000
Honduras	\$919,000	\$0	\$0
Mexico	\$0	\$0	\$6,000,000
Peru	\$8,200,000	\$0	\$8,700,000
USAID Latin America and the Caribbean Total	\$60,762,000	\$2,443,234	\$54,015,688

USAID CENTRAL BUREAUS			
Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and the Environment	\$28,017,000	\$9,245,500	\$28,849,849
- USAID Funding	\$13,867,000	\$4,245,500	\$20,349,849
- Transfer to the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Fish and Wildlife Service ⁴	\$9,150,000	\$5,000,000	\$3,500,000
- Transfer to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$5,000,000
Central Bureaus Total	\$28,017,000	\$9,245,500	\$28,849,849
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE			
Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs	\$1,250,000	\$0	\$1,250,000
U.S. Department of State Total	\$1,250,000	\$0	\$1,250,000

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

¹ Nearly all forestry funding is from forest-focused climate change mitigation and biodiversity investments.

² Of the Biodiversity figure, approximately \$5.2 million has been obligated and awarded by DOI Fish and Wildlife Service. Approximately \$12.3 million has been obligated but not yet awarded while it is under review by DOI. Of the CWT figure, approximately \$700,000 has been obligated and awarded by DOI Fish and Wildlife Service. The remaining \$3,105,000 has been obligated but not awarded while it is under review by DOI. Of the forestry figure, approximately \$2,000,000 has been obligated and awarded by DOI Fish and Wildlife Service. The remaining approximately \$11,400,000 has been obligated but not yet awarded while it is under review by DOI.

³ CWT and forestry attributions for Brazil may have changed with \$8M increase in funding from other USAID Latin America the Caribbean biodiversity funds

⁴ Congress directed \$9,150,000 to be transferred to DOI Fish and Wildlife Service. Of that figure, all but \$100,000 has been programmed and awarded.