

**PLAN TO CONSERVE  
GLOBAL FORESTS:  
CRITICAL CARBON  
SINKS**



**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
WASHINGTON



# Introduction

**President Biden’s Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (signed January 27, 2021) called for the development of a plan to promote the conservation of the Amazon rainforest and other critical ecosystems that serve as global carbon sinks,** but that deforestation and climate change are converting to carbon emitters. This Plan is aligned with and amplifies existing U.S. government commitments to end natural forest loss and increase the restoration of forestlands, including those related to U.S. support for the U.S. implementation of the Paris Agreement, relevant outcomes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the New York Declaration on Forests.

The United States is taking ambitious action to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, including those that serve as critical carbon sinks both domestically and overseas. At home, through partnerships among federal government agencies, states, tribes, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and private landowners, the United States exceeded the 2020 Bonn Challenge goal of 15 million hectares of U.S. forest land under restoration, with over 20 million hectares of forest land under restoration to date.<sup>1</sup> To meet the moment, the Biden-Harris Administration launched “America the Beautiful,” a decade-long challenge to pursue locally led, voluntary nationwide efforts to conserve, connect, and restore the lands, waters, and wildlife upon which we depend. President Biden also set out the goal of conserving 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030. The United States is investing in strengthening our understanding of climate change and incorporating the best ecological and climate science into our land management to ensure that national forests and grasslands are resilient and produce benefits for the American people. Our efforts in the Pacific Northwest and Tongass, for example, aim to restore large forest areas degraded by severe wildland fire, while improving biodiversity and economic opportunities for local communities.

This Plan—the first of its kind for the U.S. government—leverages our domestic leadership and sets forth the U.S. approach to conserving critical global terrestrial carbon sinks, deploying a range of diplomatic, policy, and finance mechanisms. It will involve the actions and organization of agencies across the U.S. government, and the engagement of stakeholders in partner governments, Indigenous and local forest communities, the private sector, and civil society. The Plan primarily focuses on three critical ecosystems of global importance: Amazon, Congo, and Southeast Asian forests. However, many of the tools and programs contained herein are relevant and apply to other ecosystems that act as significant carbon sinks. The Plan has been designed with the intent of taking a whole-of-government approach to help deliver by 2030 on collective global goals to end natural forest loss and restore at least an additional 200 million hectares of forests and other ecosystems, while showcasing new economic models that reflect the services provided by critical ecosystems around the world.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bonnchallenge.org/pledges/united-states-america>



## Issue Case

The Biden-Harris Administration recognizes that the world has only a narrow moment to pursue action to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of the climate crisis and to seize the economic opportunity that tackling climate change presents.

Critical ecosystems, especially the Amazon forests, represent some of the most biodiverse parts of our planet. In addition to serving as significant carbon sinks, these ecosystems benefit the global population with a wealth of services, including providing a source of food and medicine, regulating local temperature, and reducing vulnerability to extreme weather. Forests also regulate local air and water and affect climate in remote regions. Implementing nature-based solutions is a critical part of reaching net-zero emissions and enhancing community resilience.

For the purposes of this Plan, “critical ecosystems” refers to terrestrial and coastal ecosystems including forests, mangroves, peatlands, wetlands, and grasslands that are biologically rich, essential to humanity, and serving as important carbon sinks. Carbon sinks in this context are forests, other vegetation, or soils that capture and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

More than 1 billion people<sup>2</sup> depend on forests for their livelihoods, and hundreds of millions more derive a living from wetlands, mangroves, grasslands, and other natural ecosystems. These ecosystems are crucial for the survival of local communities and Indigenous peoples, who are both the most effective stewards of the land and some of the most vulnerable populations to the impacts of the climate crisis. Conserving these critical ecosystems is also essential to tackling the climate crisis and keeping a 1.5-degree Celsius global warming target within reach.

The Amazon and Congo forests currently remove carbon from the atmosphere and store more carbon than they emit in a year, acting as global carbon sinks, although recent reports have shown that parts of the Amazon are transitioning to carbon sources<sup>3</sup>. Other forests, including in Southeast Asia, currently emit more carbon than they store each year. Globally, terrestrial carbon sinks remove and store around 30 percent of the carbon dioxide emitted by humans each year—approximately 11.2 gigatons of carbon dioxide.<sup>4</sup> This is equivalent to not burning 1.2 trillion gallons of gasoline, or replacing fossil fuels with up to 2 million windmills.<sup>5</sup>

Unfortunately, we continue to lose forests and other ecosystems at an alarming rate. Between 2015 and 2020, the global rate of deforestation was estimated at 10 million hectares per year<sup>6</sup>—an area approximately the size of South Korea. An estimated quarter of the world’s ice-free land area is subject to human-caused degradation.<sup>7</sup> In recent years (2019 and 2020), we have seen unprecedented droughts and wildfires in Australia, South America, and here in the United States—both causes and symptoms of this degradation. Research shows that a combination of climate change, deforestation, and fires could cause massive dieback of Amazon rainforests.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.iucn.org/content/forest-peoples-numbers-across-world>

<sup>3</sup> <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/greenhouse-gas-bulletin-another-year-another-record>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/chapter/summary-for-policymakers/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.fao.org/state-of-forests/en/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/chapter/summary-for-policymakers/>



Some of the steepest deforestation rates in recent years have been in South America and West and Central Africa, threatening to turn these forests from net carbon sinks into carbon sources, adding to net global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Nearly one-quarter of global GHG emissions today come from the agriculture, forests, and other land use sector<sup>8</sup>; this figure may be as high as 80 percent of national GHG emissions in some countries.

There are many drivers of deforestation and ecosystem degradation that need to be addressed to successfully conserve critical carbon sinks, including: misaligned incentives, lack of available financial resources, limited political awareness and support, lack of transparent information, poor governance, vested interests, and weak capacity. To address these drivers, a broad range of stakeholders are involved in the conservation and restoration of carbon sinks: private sector actors, including in the financial sector, in the agricultural and forestry sector, and at consumer goods companies; Indigenous peoples, local communities, and other groups that are involved in land, forest, and water management decisions, including women; government officials at the national and subnational level; and civil society, including conservation groups. Each has a critical role to play in conserving and restoring these ecosystems and in creating and implementing the frameworks that make such action possible.

At the same time, critical ecosystems hold the key to significant global emissions mitigation—both by reducing a major source of emissions and by increasing the carbon dioxide captured from the atmosphere and stored. Reducing tropical deforestation and ecosystem degradation, improving land use and forest management practices, and restoring ecosystems—known as “natural climate solutions”—could contribute more than one-third of net greenhouse gas emissions reductions globally by 2030 needed to meet the 1.5-degree Celsius goal.<sup>9</sup> Preserving and enhancing these critical carbon sinks will thus be essential to maintain a pathway to net zero emissions globally by 2050. This is the inspiration for this Plan.

## Objectives

**The Plan to Conserve Global Forests: Critical Carbon Sinks—the first of its kind in the U.S. government—sets forth a whole-of-government approach to conserving global terrestrial carbon sinks, leveraging a range of diplomatic, policy, and financing tools. Subject to Congressional appropriations, by 2030 the United States intends to dedicate up to \$9 billion of our international climate funding to support the objectives outlined below.**

## Overarching Objectives

As an endorser of the New York Declaration on Forests<sup>10</sup>, the United States has supported the collective goals to strive to end natural forest loss by 2030 and to significantly increase the rate of global restoration of degraded landscapes and forestlands to restore at least an additional 200 million hectares by 2030. As a Party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, we

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<sup>8</sup> IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land <https://www.ipcc.ch/srcc1/chapter/chapter-1/>

<sup>9</sup> Grison et al PNAS <https://www.pnas.org/content/114/44/11645>

<sup>10</sup> [https://forestdeclaration.org/images/uploads/resource/NYDF\\_Declaration.pdf](https://forestdeclaration.org/images/uploads/resource/NYDF_Declaration.pdf)



joined other Parties to adopt the collective aim to slow, halt, and reverse forest cover and carbon loss.<sup>11</sup> This Plan serves as a primary mechanism to catalyze and coordinate U.S. contributions to these global objectives to halt forest loss, restore critical carbon sinks, and improve land management.

## Plan Objectives

1. **Incentivize forest and ecosystem conservation and forest landscape restoration**, including through innovative market- and non-market-based mechanisms and results-based financing, to mobilize investment in conservation and enhancements of carbon stocks, sustainable forest management, critical ecosystem restoration, and improved land and forest management actions.
2. **Catalyze private sector investment, finance, and action to conserve critical carbon sinks**, including by increasing sustainable production and sourcing of climate-smart commodities and services, developing complementary economic development models, and promoting accountability.
3. **Build long-term capacity** to enhance sustainable land use planning, management, and resource governance by deploying technical assistance and new tools; improving enforcement and prosecutorial capacity; and strengthening data, transparency, monitoring and verification.
4. **Increase the ambition of governments and other stakeholders** to set and achieve strong climate and conservation targets, including through diplomatic engagement, policy dialogues, and multilateral fora and institutions.

## Approach

This Plan is designed to address both direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and ecosystem degradation and seeks to maximize the climate mitigation potential of critical ecosystems. Achieving the goals of this Plan depends not only on the will, resources, and dedication of the United States and its partners, but also on the commitment of all countries that encompass critical ecosystems to conserve and restore these ecosystems and to achieve their ambitious climate targets. The success of our collective actions also requires the willingness of companies around the world to adopt new financing and business models; engagement and consultation with Indigenous peoples, local communities, and civil society; and the ability of society as a whole to move towards new models of behavior that prioritize climate action and ecosystem conservation. This Plan aims to accelerate this global effort.

To maximize the potential contribution of forests and other critical ecosystems to a net-zero-emissions world, the United States intends to work with partners to respond to the challenges identified above at scale. The implementation of specific elements of the Plan will align with the priorities of partner countries, to engender ownership and contribute to coordinated policy and

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<sup>11</sup> <https://unfccc.int/documents/6527>



regulatory environments. The design and implementation of Plan elements will prioritize inclusion, particularly of Indigenous peoples and local communities, in partner countries.

Working with Congress, U.S. government agencies and partners intend to implement a diverse range of programs designed to advance the objectives of the Plan. The activities included in the annex are being launched or enhanced in support of this Plan and are not an exhaustive list of the scope of U.S. government programming to address critical ecosystems. The scope and range of these selected efforts demonstrate the U.S. commitment to addressing climate change, and the continued loss of forests and other critical ecosystems, with the consideration and ambition these related crises deserve.

The Biden Administration remains committed to combatting illegal logging and associated trade of illegally sourced commodities in the American marketplace. To this end, the Administration intends to pursue all available levers, including implementing the President's new Executive Order on Climate-Related Financial Risk, advancing public procurement guidelines, continuing full enforcement of the Lacey Act, partnering with the private sector to develop technological solutions to source commodities throughout the world, and working with Congress to pursue additional legislation if necessary to achieve this goal.

## **Objective 1: Incentivize Forest and Ecosystem Conservation and Forest Landscape Restoration**

**Enhance public investments that are consistent with forest conservation and climate objectives—and deliver these investments through more effective and efficient approaches—to help ensure natural carbon sinks are valued and systems are in place to support these ecosystems.** To achieve this, the U.S. government will work with partners to better recognize the value of services provided by carbon sinks and develop international, national, and subnational frameworks that incentivize forest conservation, restoration, and improved land management. This may include work on high-integrity carbon markets, results-based payments, and other innovative financing mechanisms designed to motivate governments, land owners, and other stakeholders to conserve and enhance natural carbon sinks.

By accelerating investments in economic development models and policy frameworks that provide positive incentives to conserve critical carbon sinks and disincentivize their loss, this Plan aims to ensure conservation and restoration of these critical ecosystems is the best-cost option and in the economic interest of key stakeholders. It will support different models of land use consistent with climate and conservation objectives, including protected areas, Indigenous territories, and productive landscapes. The United States will work with partners to increase the flow of efficient and effective finance to activities that are consistent with forest and climate objectives, including through work with partner countries to address key governance challenges that limit effective public investment and support for climate, sustainable land use, and conservation outcomes.

While forests and other ecosystems could contribute one-third of global mitigation by 2030, only an estimated 3 percent of climate finance currently supports forest ecosystems. Private sector finance is even more limited. In basic terms, not enough funding flows to actions that support the conservation and enhancement of nature-based carbon sinks, and this funding may be delivered



through approaches that do not maximize results. This means that relatively little funding is available to support programs to conserve and restore ecosystems and to develop economic activities that are consistent with forest conservation and climate objectives. By contrast, significant resources are typically available for investments in large-scale agriculture, infrastructure development, and extractive industries—often without protections in place for the ecosystems these activities affect.

Deploying innovative financing approaches that value forests and ecosystems, and deliver increased resources to those working to conserve and enhance important carbon sinks, can help shift the balance towards economic models that are consistent with our climate and conservation objectives. The U.S. government is investing in a range of approaches, including bringing together a diverse set of investors for forest-related activities and launching debt-for-nature swaps to redirect payments on concessional debt owed to the U.S. government to a conservation fund dedicated to conservation of tropical forests and/or coral reefs in each partner country.

## **Objective 2: Catalyze Private Sector Finance, Investment, and Action**

**Develop innovative private sector partnerships to shift investment flows to be consistent with climate and ecosystem conservation objectives, reducing the drivers of deforestation, creating sustainable supply chains, and achieving more sustainable commodity sourcing.**

Through a series of global, regional, and bilateral partnerships with private sector companies and NGOs, the United States will help companies identify the forest- and climate-related risks associated with current business models, deploy tools to de-risk private sector investments into more sustainable productive activities and related development models, connect investors to bankable projects, enhance accountability for corporate deforestation commitments, and foster more sustainable production practices and livelihood options in key regions.

To date, the challenge has been that the services provided by ecosystems remain significantly undervalued and often not compensated by the economic system. Investors have typically stayed away from investments in ecosystem conservation that have for many investors been perceived as risky, expensive because of the involvement of many land managers rather than a few large players, or slower to deliver economic returns than other assets. Simply expressed, current market forces value forests more cut than standing, and wetlands are worth more drained. Demand signals are weak for commodities produced without deforestation and using better practices. Land and resource rights may be limited in areas with critical carbon sinks, and ownership is often demonstrated by clearing the property. This misalignment of incentives leads to financing flowing to activities that drive deforestation and land degradation and limits resources for more sustainable economic development models. It incentivizes largely business-as-usual approaches by companies up and down the supply chain and across the spectrum of industries that affect land use, with little real reason to change.

To address these challenges, this Plan proposes work streams with private sector institutions, and related stakeholders, to recognize the risks posed by these business models and land use practices, incorporate the real value of ecosystems into decision-making, adjust corporate action, and identify and resolve policy barriers that can help overcome these longstanding challenges and shift conditions on the ground.





## Objective 3: Build Long-Term Capacity

**Draw on the technical expertise of U.S. government agencies and partner institutions to help build the implementation capacity of local and national government officials, Indigenous peoples, local communities, civil society, and other actors to empower these stakeholders to develop and deploy effective approaches to the conservation and enhancement of carbon sinks.** This Plan will help develop and deploy tools and systems to strengthen access to timely and robust data; develop transparency systems; and enhance monitoring and verification of greenhouse gas emissions, commodities, land, and resources. It provides tools to facilitate advances in establishing land, resource, and carbon rights. It also advances efforts to spur mutual cooperation to enhance the capacity of law enforcement and prosecutors to combat illegal logging and associated trade and to increase the trade of, and demand for, legal and sustainable wood and forest products.

In many areas, limited capacity, implementation, and accountability continue to be a barrier to designing and implementing effective public policies, community programs, and private-sector initiatives. Low capacity for enforcement against illegal activity, and prosecution of related crimes, counteracts efforts to develop more sustainable rural economies. The limited availability of and access to data and tools to monitor and assess land use, commodity production, or the implementation of climate actions creates barriers to improving land management and resource use and to eliminating deforestation from supply chains. It also reduces the accountability of governments and companies for commitments they have made. Improving this capacity will enhance the likelihood of successful outcomes from the wide range of programs envisioned under this Plan and increase the accountability of governments and the private sector.

## Objective 4: Increase Climate and Conservation Ambition

**Bolster the political will of governments, the support of key stakeholders, and the engagement of populations to support ambitious action to conserve and restore carbon sinks, in line with climate and development objectives.** The United States intends to invest our diplomatic, technical, and financial resources to support the implementation of ambitious policy frameworks designed to reduce net emissions, including by maximizing the contribution of carbon sinks. Working in an integrated manner across agencies, and with partners, we will seek opportunities to support countries in setting ambitious climate goals that reflect a maximum contribution from forests and other lands and in implementing and achieving these goals.

Addressing emissions from the land sector is usually an afterthought in climate policy. Conserving and restoring ecosystems is rarely a focus in national economic growth strategies, development assistance plans, and investment portfolios. This topic is on the radar of few world leaders or boardrooms around the globe. In contrast, powerful forces often have a vested interest in the status quo and little incentive to change priorities or paradigms.

By placing a strong focus on the role forests and other ecosystems can play in ambitious nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and net-zero strategies, the United States hopes to contribute to placing the world on a pathway to limit global temperature rise to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.





## Next Steps

This Plan is but the beginning of a decade-long process. The United States intends to continue to consult with the full range of partners and stakeholders, including: governments of countries with important terrestrial carbon sinks; Indigenous peoples; local communities; civil society organizations; commodity-dependent companies; and public, private, and multilateral finance institutions. These consultations will allow us to further refine and advance this Plan and to build towards a truly comprehensive global effort. We further intend to regularly release information on progress in implementing this Plan.

We hope this Plan serves as a signal to other governments, international institutions, and stakeholders that the United States intends to work closely with them to address the need to preserve and restore global carbon sinks. We will continue to work with partners at home and abroad to enhance this Plan, based on further dialogue and experience gained in implementation. It is our hope that both the ambition and the impact of the Plan will grow over time.

The appendix that follows provide examples of the work the United States is doing and will do to increase ambition over the coming years to conserve critical terrestrial ecosystems that serve as global carbon sinks. Further efforts could include, but are not limited to, significant bilateral programs to support ambitious NDCs and net-zero strategies; additional regional programs to address deforestation; initiatives to address the particular needs of high-forest, low-deforestation countries; and additional initiatives that advance results-based payments to conserve forests and other ecosystems.

The United States recognizes the existential and intertwined crises posed by climate change, biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, and poverty. Working as one government, and with partners around the world, we remain committed to helping to change the conditions that lead to deforestation and land degradation. The United States will strive to identify, and support, social and economic models that conserve and enhance carbon sinks and that are consistent with our climate, ecosystem, and development objectives. This will not be easy. But as we pursue every effort to limit global temperature rise to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius, we cannot afford to see one-third of global mitigation potential disappear.



# Appendix: Inventory of U.S. Government Efforts

The Plan to Conserve Global Forests: Critical Carbon Sinks represents a whole-of-government approach to supporting global efforts toward conserving global terrestrial carbon sinks. Working with a wide range of partners, including governments, civil society, Indigenous peoples, local communities, financial institutions, and other companies, the United States intends to deploy a wide range of programs and tools to help accelerate progress towards the objectives of the Plan.

The programs summarized below are meant to provide a representative sample of new and existing programs that support the implementation of the Plan. It is not comprehensive, nor is it intended to encompass the full suite of U.S. government action. These programs represent only the first tranche of what is expected to be an even more extensive and comprehensive effort. All support for the U.S. programs listed below is subject to the availability of Congressionally appropriated funds. This Plan is a living document, and additional programs and initiatives are expected to be added over time.

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### **Amazon Biodiversity Fund Brazil**

The Amazon Biodiversity Fund (ABF) is mobilizing private finance for the first time in sustainable businesses to conserve biodiversity in the Amazon region by investing in conservation, sustainable production supply chains, and related conservation enterprises. The Fund invests in businesses that have a transformational positive impact on the biodiversity of the Brazilian Legal Amazon, as well as improve the well-being of local communities. The Fund invests across four key areas that together encompass all biodiversity and forest-friendly forms of land-use: (1) Conservation and Community Livelihoods; (2) Biodiversity-friendly, Smallholder Production Systems; (3) Land & Forest Restoration; (4) Innovation in Biodiversity Services, Finance, and Technology. As a result of initial support from USAID, additional investment funds are now entering the market. ABF was acquired by the much larger impact investing firm Mirova to expand its environmental investing portfolio from \$400 million in 2019 to over \$1 billion in 2022. USAID's initial support helped unlock investment and demonstrate that there was a demand for a fund that could generate both social/environmental and financial returns.

### **Amazon Indigenous Rights and Resources**

This \$21.5 million program seeks to conserve biodiversity by empowering Indigenous Peoples to better exercise their rights in the face of large-scale infrastructure development and extractive activities that may affect their livelihoods. The activity aims to incorporate the rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples into public and private sector development planning to balance human welfare and environmental conservation.

### **Amazon Regional Environment Program**

Through the ongoing Amazon Regional Environment Program plays an important role in supporting and collaborating with the governments of the region, global and local environmental organizations, civil society groups, and corporations. The regional program focuses on: 1) decreasing deforestation, forest degradation, and greenhouse gas emissions; 2) fostering an environmentally friendly economy; 3) protecting key landscapes and species; and 4) securing the rights, resources, and health of forest-dependent communities.

### **Bilateral Debt-for-Nature Swaps under the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act (TFCCA)**

Bilateral Debt-for-Nature Swaps under the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act (TFCCA) enable eligible developing countries to redirect payments on concessional debt owed to the U.S. government to a conservation fund dedicated to conservation of tropical forests and/or coral reefs in that country.

### **BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes**

The United States supports the multidonor BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (ISFL). ISFL promotes reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the land sector by providing results-based payments for emissions reductions from forests, sustainable



agriculture, and smarter land-use planning, policies and practices. ISFL helps rural communities address poverty and develop sustainably while reducing land-based greenhouse gas emissions. ISFL programs also serve as strategic engagement platforms to mobilize, coordinate, and scale-up funding and synchronize multi-sector, multi-partner land-use interventions from both the public and private sectors. Several U.S. agencies also provide technical support to developing countries participating in ISFL.

### **Blue Carbon Inventory Project**

The NOAA Blue Carbon Inventory (BCI) Project will support countries in their inclusion of coastal wetlands in their national greenhouse gas inventories (NGGIs), and to translate enhanced monitoring of emissions from wetlands into improved mitigation outcomes. The BCI Project is part of the Transparency Accelerator for Greenhouse Gas Inventories, a broader U.S. program, and is intended to foster the development of emissions mitigation, coastal resource management, and resilience strategies that reflect the value of coastal ecosystems in carbon storage and sequestration. In addition, a strong network of healthy wetlands can protect coastal communities from storms, waves, erosion and flooding; conserve biodiversity; and provide ecosystem services that support livelihoods, culture, food security, water quality, recreation, and tourism. The BCI Project will focus on mangroves initially but may expand to address other coastal blue carbon habitats. Activities are intended to foster dialogue and data flows between scientists and managers working in marine systems, and compilers developing greenhouse gas inventories. Collaboration could include regional workshops and trainings, webinars, peer-to-peer learning, stakeholder engagement, mentoring and learning by doing.

### **Brazil Forest Management and Fire Prevention**

Fires in Brazil are largely human caused, as fire is a prevalent land management tool with both accidental and illegal intentional expansion across private and public lands. Economic pressures and decreased enforcement limit the conservation impact of Brazil's Forest Code while land management agencies seek to build capacity for all aspects of fire management. The U.S. Agency for International Development and U.S. Forest Service work closely with the Brazilian government, local organizations, and the public, to seek landscape-scale solutions to wildland fire issues affecting forest management, conservation, and livelihoods. Together, they develop forest and fire management strategies to protect public lands, strengthen biodiversity conservation, and enhance livelihoods in the Amazon Region.

### **Brazil—Restoration on Indigenous Lands**

The U.S. Forest Service works with the Brazilian Indigenous Peoples Foundation (FUNAI) to structure projects by indigenous associations aimed at recovery of degraded areas and recomposition of native vegetation on Indigenous lands. Investment and technical support to local Indigenous associations is needed to address recovery of degraded areas on Indigenous lands.



## **Brazil Strengthening Public and Private Partnerships to Fire Prevention and Suppression**

The U.S. Forest Service works with local organizations, communities, and rural producers to provide solutions that integrate best agricultural practices with respect for people and natural resources, along the Amazon and Cerrado transition and fire prone landscape. Local organizations, communities, and rural producers are critical partners for fire preventing and suppression across the Amazon and Cerrado transition and fire prone landscape.

## **Business Case for Collective Landscape Action**

This USAID partnership with Rainforest Alliance, Conservation International, Clarmondial AG, and CDP North America, Inc. will bring together the private sector, governments, and local landscape actors to reduce commodity-driven deforestation, increase restoration, conserve biodiversity, and improve livelihoods in key tropical ecosystems. Stakeholders in the landscape will develop a common set of landscape performance data to improve land management, help companies meet sustainability goals, attract financing, and provide local employment. The activity will mobilize \$30 million in private finance; improve the environmental and economic benefits of conservation; and create reinforcing policies.

## **Call for Applications for Climate Focused Investment Funds**

As part of a rolling call for applications, DFC included a request for equity investments that target sustainable forestry in eligible countries. DFC is targeting funds with a total capitalization of \$100 million or more, including the DFC commitment. The investment amount may range from \$10 million to \$400 million in equity or debt financing but will be limited to no more than 20 percent of a fund's total capitalization, as determined by DFC.

## **Catalyze Peru: Mobilizing Private Investment in Peru's Amazon**

The CATALYZE Peru program will create a sustainable platform of services in regions vast with natural resources and biodiversity, utilizing a blended finance approach to facilitate new investments at scale into the Amazon region, leading to further job creation, sustainable licit market development, and inclusive growth, thereby strengthening the Amazon economy. CATALYZE Peru engages with domestic and international finance providers to mobilize financing across varied sectors. This market development approach enables enterprises to obtain the necessary investment and working capital to sustain and grow their businesses and advance development priorities. CATALYZE Peru will pilot scalable approaches for businesses to grow in the Amazon in three ways: by structuring new investments through private partnerships; strengthening the depth, breadth, and availability of financial services for entrepreneurs; and supporting the development of digital ecosystems to sustain new business models.

## **Central Africa Regional Forest and Biodiversity Program (CARPE)**

The Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) works to maintain the ecological integrity of the humid forest ecosystem of the Congo Basin. It strengthens forest management in priority carbon-rich, biologically sensitive, and diverse landscapes across the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Republic of Congo (ROC), and the Central





African Republic (CAR). It also works to reform environmental policy and monitor ecosystems in six Central African countries (DRC, ROC, CAR, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Cameroon). Current USAID activities, which are implemented by non-governmental organizations, private sector partners, and U.S. government agencies, including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service, focus on managing protected areas, empowering communities, engaging the private sector, strengthening policy, and building capacity.

### **Cocoa for Climate**

This partnership between USAID and Barry Callebaut, one of the world's leading chocolate manufacturers, will combat deforestation and improve large-scale native forest restoration in cocoa supply chains in key countries, including in Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, and Indonesia. The partnerships will develop and employ financing solutions that improve conservation while benefiting farmers, which Barry Callebaut can scale across its global supply chains.

### **Congo Basin/Congo-Okapi Preservation Zone (COP-Z) Initiative**

This new technical program will support the Democratic Republic of the Congo's proposed new Congo-Okapi Preservation Zone, "COP-Z," and similar initiatives in the greater Congo Basin region. COP-Z is expected to support management of protected areas and provide technical assistance to establish enforcement measures to reduce illegal resource extraction, increase security for local populations, empower communities to sustainably manage forests, and promote sustainable economic development. In the DRC, the development of COP-Z presents an opportunity to implement an alternative development model that is consistent with the DRC's forest and climate goals. As currently conceived, COP-Z would consist of a network of national parks and reserves, community-managed forests, and green economic development zones supported by a strong, internationally endorsed governance and regulatory system. The proposed geographic area will cover an estimated 130,000 square miles and encircle the Okapi Wildlife Reserve as well as Salong, Kahuzi-Biega, Maiko, and Lomami National Parks. This area is home to an estimated 3 million people and includes 18-20 percent of all Congo Basin rainforest. This program will provide capacity building and technical support to the DRC and regional partners to fully develop a landscape approach to deliver their climate and sustainable development objectives, and incorporate this within their NDCs. It will also support the DRC and other Congo Basin countries in coordinating activities being implemented by various partners. It would work in close coordination with related U.S. government programs such as CARPE and SilvaCarbon. Lessons from this initiative may also inform programs with similar goals elsewhere in the region.

### **Conservation through Economic Empowerment for the Republic of Congo**

This \$15 million USAID program will stimulate private investment in environmentally sustainable growth, spurring the establishment of local conservation-friendly enterprises and linking these to national and regional markets, while reducing threats to biodiversity, carbon-rich forests, and peatlands in the Republic of Congo. The program will also pursue policy reforms and institutional strengthening objectives on issues related to green economy growth and forest management while also building the capacity of local organizations to shape conservation issues at a national scale in the Republic of Congo. The program will provide direct assistance, small grants, and mentorship to help expand opportunity for green enterprises and to help industry



associations strengthen their advocacy and service delivery platforms, improve their messages, and influence changes that reflect the growth of green economy value chains.

## **Consortium on Forest Climate Risk Management**

The Consortium on Forest Climate Risk Management will support the development and adoption of best practice for forest-related climate financial disclosure among a peer group of financial institutions and technical experts in financial disclosure and forest carbon accounting. The Consortium will provide a pre-competitive space to discuss best practice for reporting on forest and climate risk by financial institutions; identify, enhance, and develop tools, data sets, taxonomies, and other relevant products; and to: incorporate climate or emissions considerations from forestry and land use change into financial analysis frameworks or risk policies; improve land-use considerations to quantify, minimize, or disclose climate-related financial risk in line with the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures.

## **Forest Carbon Partnership Facility**

The United States supports the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), a global partnership of governments, civil society, Indigenous people’s organizations, and businesses focused on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+). The FCPF has helped nearly 50 developing countries build capacity and develop strategies for implementing REDD+ at a national or subnational scale. Sixteen developing countries are eligible for results-based payments for verified emissions reductions through the FCPF Carbon Fund. Several U.S. government agencies also provide technical assistance to countries participating in the FCPF.

## **Forest Data Partnership**

This partnership between USAID, the State Department, the World Resources Institute, Unilever, Google, NASA, and the United Nations will address a key barrier to private investment in forest and restoration—the lack of reliable and accessible data on forests and lands. The partnership will focus on key geographies including Southeast Asia, the Amazon Basin, West Africa and other regions with large potential for significant climate mitigation impacts through reducing deforestation and accelerating restoration.

## **Forest Finance Investment Incubator**

Through this Department of State-funded, Conservation International-executed Forest Finance Investment Incubator (FFII) program, experts work with partner countries to support the development of investment plans that align with national and sub-national climate and land use strategies (e.g., land-use components of NDCs, REDD+ strategies, etc.), and develop mature opportunities into bankable proposals. The investment plans and proposals will mobilize finance and other resources to support the achievement of land-use and climate goals, including by identifying investment opportunities, supporting the improvement of enabling environments, and aligning appropriate domestic and donor resources under integrated approaches.

## **Forest Investment Platform**

The Forest Investment Platform (ForInvest), to be announced at COP26, is designed to take forest components of climate strategies from a series of objectives and planned actions to fully



developed finance and investment strategies. The lack of sophisticated analysis of what type of finance is needed, at a very granular level, to implement climate and forest strategies has been a major challenge. It leads to an overreliance on donor and grant funding, or on a few financial tools like results-based payments, hampering implementation. Meanwhile, interested investors do not have a pipeline of ready-to-fund projects in the forest space. ForInvest will support three complementary components: a network of partners that supports forest country governments to convert the forest component of NDCs and net-zero strategies, national REDD+ strategies, or equivalent, into finance and investment strategies; a network of experienced investors and other experts that dedicates time to polish the most mature ideas evolving from the investment strategies into market-ready investment proposals; and a high-profile “tradeshow” in each of the three major forest basins that brings together major private, bilateral, and multilateral investment institutions to assess the investment proposals emerging from the Investment Lab and match them with likely investors.

### **Forest Investors Club**

The new Forest Investors Club brings together public- and private-sector investment institutions to aggregate demand for investments that are consistent with ambitious plans to reduce emissions from forests and the land sector. Land sector mitigation has historically been underinvested, with only an estimated 3 percent of climate finance supporting forest-related activity. The sector receives a similarly small fraction of private sector investment. The Forest Investors Club will bring together a diverse set of interested investors (development finance institutions, multilateral development banks, sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, commercial finance institutions, and angel investors) to provide investments into on-the-ground activities (e.g. sustainable timber plantations, non-timber forest products, green infrastructure, processing facilities) and financial tools (bonds, on-lending).

This high-profile group of investors is expected to send a strong signal on the availability of finance for high-quality investments in the land sector and enhance developing countries’ access to willing investors. This Club will send a signal of aggregate demand for investment in forests and the land sector, including by working with partners to bring mature investment opportunities to participants. Following an agreed set of criteria, it will create a process for stakeholders to submit investment proposals for consideration. In addition, the Club will work with partners to identify best practices and develop recommendations for addressing common barriers to scaling investment for forests.

### **Forest Oversight and Resource Strengthening Program**

The U.S. Forest Service Forest Oversight and Resource Strengthening (FOREST) activity, which is funded by USAID, addresses deforestation and ecosystem degradation by strengthening political, legal, and institutional frameworks for natural resource management in Peru. FOREST focuses on working with the Government of Peru forest sector institutions to strengthen their capacity to administer their Forestry and Wildlife Law. USFS experts transfer technical skills in areas including forest and wildlife management, environmental information, and forest monitoring. The program works in five key processes: 1) Implementation of the Legal Framework; 2) Transparency, Availability and Use of Information; 3) Building Capacities in the Forest Sector; 4) Strengthening Institutions in the Forest Sector; and 5) Strengthening Forestry Education and Research in Public Universities.



## **Frameworks for Implementation of Community Forest Concessions in the Congo Basin**

Building on an analysis of the opportunities and constraints for the establishment of community forest concessions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Republic of Congo (ROC), this program supports opportunities to promote community forestry (CF) development and to assist government and civil society stakeholders to adopt coherent policy and implementation strategies and regulatory frameworks for CF. This includes supporting the adoption or improvement of regulatory frameworks for achieving equitable management of and livelihoods from CF, protecting community rights and participation, promoting business development opportunities and market access, enabling technical and financial support, and ensuring the freedom for communities to organize and defend their interests. The effort includes analysis of the legal, regulatory, and institutional frameworks for CF harnessing the participation of all relevant government, civil society, and indigenous community actors to identify existing policy gaps and needed institutional strategies for CF.

## **Global Environment Facility—Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program**

The United States is participating in negotiations for the Eighth Replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-8), which will likely include the new Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program. The Program aims to increase and strengthen the conservation and governance of intact forest landscapes by addressing the drivers of forest loss and land degradation through improved forest governance, land use planning across mixed-use landscapes, protected areas management, and clarification of land tenure and other relevant policies.

## **Gorilla Coffee Alliance**

USAID, Nespresso, and Olam Food Ingredients will invest a combined \$14 million over five years to support sustainable agriculture, rural enterprise, and improved health, and reduce poaching and deforestation in the region around the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Kahuzi-Biega National Park, one of the few remaining habitats of the world's 6,800 eastern lowland gorillas.

## **Green Climate Fund**

The U.S. requested funds in FY 2022 to restart contributions to the Green Climate Fund. These contributions will support sustainable landscapes programming, including conservation of forests and other carbon sinks. Forests and Land Use projects represent 15 percent of total GCF project funding to date, which is equivalent to \$1.5 billion. An example of such an investment is the recently approved Amazon Bioeconomy Fund, which will address barriers faced by bio-businesses, including the limited supply of adequate medium- and long-term financing, informality, and lack of standardized frameworks to monitor biodiversity and climate vulnerability impacts to increase private investment in the Amazonian bioeconomy. This fund is complementary to the IDB's Amazon Initiative and will be supported by \$279 million in GCF resources in addition to other resources.



## **Green Recovery Investment Platform**

USAID's Green Recovery Investment program will catalyze private financing for critical ecosystems by utilizing blended finance, results-based financing, and other innovative investment approaches. Many high-impact natural capital projects could better attract private finance if the risk/return profile is improved through blended finance, and require early stage design support to help cover the costs of developing these structures. Blended finance funds can also aggregate smaller deals into a portfolio of projects to reduce risk and enable investment at larger ticket sizes. GRIP will seek to unlock private capital for nature-based solutions in emerging and frontier markets with the above approaches in addition to other innovative financial structures, such as insurance products, supply chain financing, and green or blue bonds. It will also build the pipeline of bankable projects in key ecosystems and transfer lessons learned of mobilizing private finance and utilizing risk mitigation tools to policymakers, civil society, and investors.

## **High-level Bilateral Climate Working Groups**

Led by the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, the United States has launched a number of bilateral climate working groups with key partner countries to support the development and implementation of ambitious climate targets that include the land sector. Working with governments and other stakeholders in countries such as Brazil and Indonesia, the United States is deploying a whole-of-government approach to encouraging and supporting ambitious nationally determined contributions and net-zero strategies that reflect a maximum contribution from the land sector, and to mobilizing resources to support these efforts. The specific focus varies by country, but may include efforts to reduce deforestation, conserve peatlands and mangroves, and restore degraded ecosystems. Additional working groups are expected to be established in the future.

## **Improved Management of Coastal Ecosystems in SE Asia**

NOAA and USAID work with partners in Southeast Asia to support capacity building for improved management of coastal ecosystems, including those critical to blue carbon (i.e. mangroves and seagrass) and vulnerable to climate change (i.e. fisheries and coral reefs). The program supports coastal managers to enhance management actions to build coastal resilience, manage natural infrastructure for protection against natural hazards, and integrate blue carbon ecosystems into marine protected areas and coastal management plans. This program takes a holistic approach to also consider threats from nearby land-use and management.

## **Indonesia Species Conservation Funds**

The Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund, the Asian Great Ape Conservation Fund, and the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund support multiple projects in critically important forest ecosystems in Indonesia to protect wildlife species and their habitats. The goal of every project is to reduce threats to the target species in their native habitats. Ongoing activities to prevent deforestation and improve habitat health are taking place in protected areas on the Indonesian islands of Java, Kalimantan, and Sumatra.



## **Latin America Regional Program**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides technical and financial assistance to partners in the region to conserve priority species and habitats by reducing threats to key wildlife populations from trafficking, unsustainable resource use, and human-wildlife conflict. Its competitive grants program is the main vehicle to deliver financial and technical assistance to organizations. The program supports conservation actions that promote stability and good governance of forest habitats in the Amazonian countries of Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, and Guyana.

## **Law Enforcement Capacity**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Office of Law Enforcement has posted Attachés in Peru (South America), Brazil, Gabon (West/Central Africa) and Bangkok (SE Asia) to work directly with local law enforcement to assist in countering wildlife and timber trafficking investigations, foster transnational investigations to combat environmental crimes, and enhance the capacity of law enforcement and prosecutors to combat illegal logging and associated trade. With support and funding from the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, FWS partners with the Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program to build capacity for effective enforcement of laws governing trade in endangered species of flora and fauna, including timber species listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), to which the United States and nearly all countries in the Amazon, Congo, and SE Asia regions are Party.

## **Lowering Emissions through Accelerating Forest finance (LEAF) Coalition**

The United States joined Norway, the United Kingdom, and nine leading companies in launching the Lowering Emissions through Accelerating Forest finance (LEAF) Coalition at President Biden's Leaders Summit on Climate in April 2021. Participation has since expanded to include a number of other countries around the world. This Coalition aggregates demand by corporate and sovereign participants for REDD+ results that meet the independent ART-TREES standard. An initial call for proposals is expected to be valued at least \$1 billion. More than 30 proposals were received, with the first agreements signed with eligible jurisdictions by the end of 2021. Engaging other companies and governments in the LEAF Coalition would facilitate the launch of a second call for proposals, and perhaps subsequent calls. This additional demand, in turn, would allow additional tropical and subtropical jurisdictions to participate, expanding the set of countries, states, and provinces with access to private sector finance for forest conservation and restoration.

## **Multinational Species Conservation Funds**

Through the implementation of the Multinational Species Conservation Acts, including the African Elephant Conservation Act, Asian Elephant Act, Rhinoceros-Tiger Conservation Act, Great Ape Conservation Act, and Marine Turtle Conservation Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service focuses on providing financial and technical assistance to support key wildlife strongholds and the critical ecosystems that sustain them. This includes over 25 years of investment in intact forests across the Congo Basin, which harbor the critically endangered forest elephant and western lowland gorilla. For example, continued investment through the African Elephant and Great Ape Conservation Funds helped the Government of Gabon build its





relatively new national parks system, which has served to anchor its unique position as a country characterized by high forest and low degradation.

### **NexView: Optimizing Carbon Sink Potential of the Mekong Delta's Low-Lying Wetlands**

Coastal wetlands are important carbon sinks, provided there is a regular influx of freshwater to maintain favorable salinity levels. Lowland rice production is also typically a carbon sink, as long as substantial freshwater remains available. The Mekong River Delta, an extensive low-lying area shared by Cambodia and Viet Nam, supports coastal and low-lying upstream wetlands and extensive rice production. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), with funding from the Department of State and in partnership with Can Tho University in Viet Nam, is modeling the groundwater on the Cambodia/Viet Nam frontier. This model is important to understand how this trans-boundary water resource is impacted by rice production, upstream development, seasonal flows, and climate change. USGS is linking this model not only to biophysical resources but also the vulnerability and resilience of local people to groundwater changes to inform local decisions about use and development.

### **Offsetting National Emissions from Sustainable Landscapes Plus**

The Department of State-funded, Winrock-executed Offsetting National Emissions from Sustainable Landscapes Plus (ONE-SL+) supports countries and subnational jurisdictions at an advanced state of REDD+ readiness to implement jurisdictional REDD+ programs that are eligible for international climate finance and improve the capacity of national and sub-national REDD+ and Article 6 focal points to support market engagement. With significant potential to support achievement of financially sustainable large-scale emissions reductions programs, this can provide a significant step to a country's ability to achieve its NDC and secure private sector finance.

### **Paramos and Forests**

The Paramos and Forests activity helps the Government of Colombia (GOC) meet its landscape-based climate change mitigation goals and strengthens local economic development. The activity reduces emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and improves local actors' capacities to measure, report, and verify (MRV) emissions. The activity also supports the creation of sustainable income revenue streams for 19 participating Afro-Colombian and Indigenous communities and encourages the adoption of sustainable land uses and businesses that protect high mountain ecosystems. Paramos and Forests is also helping Colombian institutions, like the Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Studies Institute, develop and implement policies and regulations related to the national carbon market. Thanks to policy incentives facilitated by USAID, Colombia's domestic carbon market has picked up significantly and currently generates approximately \$30 million in carbon sales annually, bringing an important source of income to rural communities. The 19 communities mentioned above have sold approximately 5.6 million tons of carbon credits for approximately \$28 million since 2020.



## **Prevent Project**

This \$24.6 million USAID activity works with the Government of Peru and civil society to improve the enabling conditions to prevent and combat environmental crimes (illegal logging, mining and wildlife trafficking), thereby reducing these crimes and their negative impact within and around protected areas, forests and Indigenous lands. In FY 2022, it will also address the issues and concerns of environmental defenders in the Peruvian Amazon. Prevent works with Peruvian environmental justice officials and government institutions to build capacities and institute necessary reforms to reduce environmental crimes. Through a systems approach, the project tailors solutions to local realities to optimize targeted interventions. The project uses data and technology to accelerate the engagement of local and Indigenous communities in monitoring to reduce environmental threats. Through an intensive public outreach strategy, Prevent promotes the active participation of civil society, media, activists, and the business sector to strengthen advocacy and information dissemination and elicit needed action. Activities also include reforestation of degraded areas in protected areas and in Indigenous lands, particularly those affected by illegal mining activities.

## **Pro-Bosques**

This \$25 million USAID program works in the Peruvian Amazon to increase the sustainability, legality, inclusivity, and profitability of the forest sector. Pro-Bosques works with the Government of Peru forest agencies and users to strengthen monitoring and enforcement in the forest sector and increase legal timber production, promote private sector engagement through sustainable forest management and improved business practices, and foster market inclusiveness by increasing the participation of Indigenous and other forest-dependent communities. The project also increases competitiveness, combats environmental crimes such as illegal logging, and supports Peru in meeting its obligations included in the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement.

## **Promoting Sustainable Agroforestry**

This USAID program in Indonesia will scale market-based models for agri-commodity production that advance gender parity, reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and enhance communities' climate resilience. USAID will partner with private sector businesses and mobilize a minimum of \$3.5 million to advance social and economic goals that directly contribute to Indonesia's own development objectives, through co-funded agreements with multinational corporations active in cocoa, coffee and agroforestry.

## **Protect Forests for Community Wellbeing**

This \$4 million USAID CARPE activity will work with over 20 communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to support the adoption of the new national community forestry strategy. The program will: 1) pilot inclusive, profitable and scalable community forest models with support of the private sector; 2) promote forest cover and biodiversity protection in target areas; 3) support an enabling institutional and policy environment; and 4) build the capacity of key stakeholders (including the government and civil society organizations) to support this community forestry concessions process.



## **SilvaCarbon**

The U.S. interagency SilvaCarbon program provides targeted technical support to selected tropical countries focused on measuring, monitoring, and reporting forest and terrestrial carbon. SilvaCarbon assists in the development and implementation of National Forest Monitoring Systems that integrate remote sensing technologies and forest inventory approaches to generate improved forest and land use data needed for accurate and transparent emissions reporting, participation in climate finance programs and carbon markets, and sustainable forest management.

## **Solomon Islands MCC Threshold Program**

The proposed Solomon Islands Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Threshold Program will provide assistance to generate more reliable, sustainable benefits from Solomon Islands' forest resources by (1) attenuating negative environmental impacts, (2) increasing and more equitably sharing the community and national revenues from forest resources, and (3) achieving a more balanced regulatory and enforcement regime between logging and non-logging uses of forests. The Solomon Islands Threshold Program's Forest Value Enhancement Project includes a voluntary payment for ecosystem services component that is expected to result in private sector purchase of carbon credits generated through the project. The Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) activity includes the expansion of an economically viable PES program designed to generate environmental, economic, and social benefits through PES accreditation and eventual carbon credit payments in participating communities. The facilitated governance reform activity will seek to strengthen problem solving capacity to increase opportunities for regulatory and enforcement reforms in the forest industry in participating project jurisdictions and, to the extent possible, with the national regulatory framework. This program is subject to the availability of appropriated resources.

## **South America Regional Fire Program**

The South America Regional Fire Program (SAR Fire) is a joint effort of the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Agency for International Development to build capacity and strengthen partnerships and collaboration among cooperating countries (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru) to prevent, manage, and respond to wildland fires. By providing guidance and support to country level fire management programs aligned at the regional level, the SAR Fire Program increases the effectiveness of local efforts and promotes south-to-south fire assistance, therefore reducing the need and scale of international disaster assistance in the future. Efforts will focus on strengthening fire management through: Improving prevention and strategic planning, coordinating training and qualification systems, promoting interagency and international collaboration, and highlighting best practices in private sector involvement and innovative financing.

## **Strengthening Competitiveness, Agriculture, Livelihoods, and Environment - Natural Resources Management**

This \$15.5 million program works with the Government of the Solomon Islands, tribal leaders, civil society, and local communities to better manage and conserve forest lands for economic, ecological, and social sustainability while reducing GHG emissions and strengthening



socioeconomic resilience. The activity will strengthen community-based forest enterprises by tribal landowners in a country with the highest deforestation rate in the Pacific.

## **Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management throughout Central Africa and the Amazon Region**

Through the U.S. Forest Service, USAID is strengthening sustainable forest management throughout Central Africa and the Amazon region by supporting training, technical assistance, and policy reform, and developing and rolling out tools and best practices for effective policy-level decision-making. Activities include improving national forest inventories, supporting the development of national peatland policies in the Republic of Congo (ROC) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and mapping peatlands in Ecuador, providing technical support and training to include emission estimates from biomass burning into national greenhouse gas emission inventories in the ROC and DRC, and establishing intensive carbon monitoring sites through the Amazon region (including in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru).

## **Support Hub for Forest Finance and Landscapes Engagement**

The Support Hub for Forest Finance and Landscapes Engagement (SHuFFLE) will unlock finance for greater forest and landscape sector mitigation and sequestration results in developing countries, particularly those in the three major forest basins. Through the Hub, the U.S. Forest Service and partners will provide technical and policy assistance to developing countries in order for these countries to meet high-quality standards for generating verified emissions reduction credits, such as the REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard. Hub support for developing countries and jurisdictions will also guide their participation in REDD+ initiatives and results-based payment programs, such as the new LEAF Coalition. Providing technical assistance and building the capacity of key developing countries to secure new finance for delivering emission reduction results will facilitate new investments in the land use sector, particularly from the private sector, and help to significantly reduce global emissions by 2030.

## **Sustainable Environmental Governance Across Regions**

This \$32.7 million USAID program will contribute toward Indonesia achieving its NDC targets in forests and land use change. The program works in targeted areas with high carbon stock and high conservation value to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from unsustainable land use, measurably conserve biodiversity, improve management of natural resources, and promote sustainable commodity production and inclusive economic growth. With USAID's support, and building on previous Sister Park partnerships and technical assistance, the Department of the Interior will provide government-to-government capacity building to protect and restore peatlands, particularly in protected areas. The program is expected to improve management of 7 million hectares of tropical forest and peatland, mobilize \$45 million of public and private finance by 2026, and reduce 55 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e).

## **Sustainable Interventions in Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes**

This \$22 million USAID program addresses threats to forests and seascapes by improving environmental governance, reducing environmental crimes, and enhancing sustainable development of natural resources. The activity improves incentives for conservation, strengthens



natural resource policies, improves protected area management, and incorporates natural capital accounting for forests, mangroves, coral reefs, and fisheries. Sustainable Interventions in Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes supports national safeguards to ensure industry practices promote sustainable natural resource management, as well as strengthen community-based natural resource enterprises. The activity is improving national and local environmental law enforcement and assisting Government of Philippines agencies to implement medium-term enforcement action plans.

### **Sustainable Wetlands Adaptation and Mitigation Program (SWAMP)**

The Sustainable Wetlands Adaptation and Mitigation Program (SWAMP) collaborates globally to provide decision-makers with credible scientific information needed to make sound decisions relating to the role of tropical wetlands in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. The SWAMP program generates, applies, and disseminates improved data on tropical wetland ecosystems, including mangrove and peatland carbon values, and builds country capacities to incorporate this data into climate change policies, land management practices, and emissions reporting processes.