



March 25, 2010

Statement Endorsing the Global Conservation Act of 2010

As some of the foremost organizations promoting natural resource conservation around the world, we enthusiastically support the Global Conservation Act of 2010 (H.R. 4959) introduced in the House of Representatives today. We thank the members of Congress from both parties who introduced this bill, and who believe that the strategic and diplomatic resources of the U.S. government should be put behind critical efforts to address natural resource depletion and species extinction worldwide.

The legislation's approach to preserving natural ecosystems will also protect our prosperity, security, and health. It will help reduce the hundreds of millions of dollars in losses U.S. companies sustain when they are forced to compete with illegal logging, fishing, and mining operations in other countries. It will help maintain the pipeline for new pharmaceuticals since almost half of the world's 25 top selling medicines—with a market value of billions of dollars—were derived from natural sources. And because billions of people around the world depend on natural ecosystems for fresh water, food, protection from storms, and other vital services, this legislation will help address basic human needs.

We look forward to working with the bill's sponsors to advance the legislation through the Congress in the near future.

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