

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4959

To strengthen the capacity of the United States to lead the international community in reversing the trends of renewable natural resource degradation around the world that threaten to undermine global prosperity and security and diminish the diversity of life on Earth.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 25, 2010

Mr. CARNAHAN (for himself, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SIRES, Mr. EHLERS, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mrs. MALONEY, and Mr. DICKS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To strengthen the capacity of the United States to lead the international community in reversing the trends of renewable natural resource degradation around the world that threaten to undermine global prosperity and security and diminish the diversity of life on Earth.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Global Conservation
5 Act of 2010”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Five hundred million people in developing
4 countries depend on fresh water from natural areas
5 that are under threat of degradation.

6 (2) Two billion people depend on rapidly dimin-
7 ishing fish stocks for a significant source of their
8 daily protein.

9 (3) Wild species provide more than
10 \$300,000,000,000 in benefits to world agriculture
11 from natural pest control and the pollination of two-
12 thirds of the crop species that feed the world.

13 (4) Plant breeding programs involving genetic
14 enhancements from the wild relatives of agricultural
15 crops have helped feed billions of people around the
16 world and are valued at \$115,000,000,000 per year.

17 (5) Human degradation of and encroachment
18 into natural ecosystems such as rainforests increases
19 opportunities for the outbreak and spread of animal-
20 borne infectious diseases—similar to AIDS, SARS,
21 avian flu, malaria, schistosomiasis, tuberculosis, and
22 yellow fever—that could cause high levels of mor-
23 tality and affect major global industries including
24 travel, trade, tourism, food production, and finance.

25 (6) Forests prevent catastrophic flooding and
26 severe drought, and coral reefs and mangroves re-

1 duce the impact of large storms on coastal popu-
2 lations saving \$9,000,000,000 in damages each year
3 and reducing outlays for disaster assistance.

4 (7) The destruction of forests mostly in devel-
5 oping countries releases more greenhouse gases than
6 the entire world transportation sector. As one of the
7 most cost effective ways to reduce greenhouse gas
8 emissions, a global forest conservation program
9 could help reduce the cost to the United States of
10 efforts to reduce emissions.

11 (8) More than half of the most prescribed medi-
12 cines in the United States are derived directly from
13 natural compounds or patterned after them. Due to
14 the loss of natural areas and compounds from wild
15 species, one marketable prescription drug is esti-
16 mated to be lost every two years.

17 (9) The U.S. National Intelligence Council ex-
18 pects demographic trends and natural resource scar-
19 cities relating to water, food, arable land, and energy
20 sources to lead to instabilities and conflict in the
21 years ahead.

22 (10) Illegal logging, fishing, and mining in de-
23 veloping countries flood the international market
24 with low-cost products that undercut the competi-
25 tiveness of responsible companies in the United

1 States. In the absence of competition from illegal
2 producers, the United States would be able to in-
3 crease wood product exports by \$460,000,000 a
4 year.

5 (11) Sound natural resource management,
6 healthy levels of species diversity, and functioning
7 natural ecosystems are vital to alleviating poverty
8 for many communities in developing countries that
9 depend on these resources for food, medicine, hous-
10 ing material, and other necessities.

11 (12) Women are especially vulnerable to the
12 threat of natural resource degradation because they
13 produce most of the food and collect most of the
14 firewood in many regions, comprise a large portion
15 of small landholders and small-scale producers, face
16 heightened food insecurity, and have less access to
17 land, other natural resources, credit and resource
18 management assistance.

19 (13) The initial stages of a major extinction cri-
20 sis are occurring now, and as many as two-thirds of
21 all known species could be near extinction by the end
22 of this century. Three-quarters of the world's terres-
23 trial species are in developing countries that are rap-
24 idly destroying their natural areas and habitats.

1 (14) The United States does not have a strat-
2 egy for reversing any of the major renewable natural
3 resource depletion trends around the world and the
4 threats they pose to the nation’s health, security, or
5 economy.

6 (15) Several executive branch agencies are en-
7 gaged in some aspect of international conservation,
8 yet their efforts are not coordinated in a manner
9 that maximizes the effectiveness of the United
10 States’ international conservation efforts overall.

11 (16) Participation by the United States in mul-
12 tilateral efforts to conserve natural resources, such
13 as through the World Bank and the Global Environ-
14 mental Facility, leverages financial commitments by
15 other countries by a much as 14 to one.

16 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this Act:

18 (1) **DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; DEVELOPING**
19 **WORLD.**—The terms “developing countries” and
20 “developing world” mean a country or countries with
21 a relatively low level of material well being and con-
22 sidered “developing” by the World Bank’s 2009
23 Country Classification System with 2008 Gross Na-
24 tional Income per capita below \$11,905.

1 (2) HOTSPOT REGIONS.—The term “hotspot re-
2 gions” means regions of the developing world that
3 contain an unusually high concentration of species
4 found nowhere else and that have lost at least 70
5 percent of their original extent.

6 (3) NATURAL RESOURCES OR RENEWABLE NAT-
7 URAL RESOURCES.—The terms “natural resources”
8 and “renewable natural resources” mean natural re-
9 sources, including soils, forests, animal and plant
10 populations and products, coral reefs, and water but
11 do not include nonrenewable natural resources such
12 as minerals, oil, and other fossil fuels.

13 (4) SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT CER-
14 TIFICATION SYSTEM.—The term “sustainable forest
15 management certification system” means a system
16 of forest monitoring and forest products tracking de-
17 signed to ensure that forest products are produced
18 using methods that take into account a variety of
19 widely accepted environmental, social, and economic
20 criteria.

21 (5) THREATENED SPECIES.—The term “threat-
22 ened species” means, at a minimum, species identi-
23 fied by the International Union for the Conservation
24 of Nature and its constituent networks of govern-

1 ments, specialist groups, and other stakeholders as
2 having a high probability of global extinction.

3 (6) WILDERNESS.—The term “wilderness”
4 means areas of the developing world larger than
5 2,500,000 acres and more than 70 percent intact.

6 **SEC. 4. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to strengthen United
8 States leadership and the effectiveness of the United
9 States response to the worldwide natural resource and bio-
10 diversity depletion crisis under existing statutory authority
11 governing United States international assistance for con-
12 servation by—

13 (1) establishing a comprehensive global natural
14 resource and biodiversity conservation assistance
15 strategy for United States Government activities as-
16 sisting developing countries that includes a plan
17 for—

18 (A) addressing major natural resource deg-
19 radation trends relating to human well-being
20 and environmental sustainability such as loss of
21 soils, watersheds, wilderness, fish stocks, for-
22 ests, species, and other critical resources;

23 (B) identifying clear goals, priorities, and
24 benchmarks of success;

1 (C) the phased expansion of existing crit-
2 ical programs where necessary;

3 (D) improved coordination among execu-
4 tive branch agencies engaged in international
5 conservation in order to clarify roles, reduce du-
6 plication, and enhance effectiveness; and

7 (E) improved integration of conservation
8 goals within the development, security, and
9 other foreign policy priorities of the United
10 States;

11 (2) providing authorization for funding for
12 United States efforts to help address the major
13 threats to natural resources, species, and ecosystems
14 in developing countries; and

15 (3) improving coordination among the United
16 States, foreign governments, and international orga-
17 nizations in effectively delivering conservation assist-
18 ance through governments, multilateral organiza-
19 tions, private organizations, and local communities
20 and community partnerships.

1 **TITLE I—POLICY PLANNING AND**
2 **IMPLEMENTATION**

3 **SEC. 101. COMPREHENSIVE UNITED STATES INTER-**
4 **NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through the
6 Coordinator for Global Conservation designated pursuant
7 section 102, shall, not later than one year after the date
8 of the enactment of this Act, establish a comprehensive
9 and integrated strategy (hereafter referred to as the
10 “International Conservation Strategy”) to help combat
11 global natural resource and biodiversity degradation in de-
12 veloping countries and that builds on existing bilateral and
13 multilateral programs and strengthens the capacity of the
14 United States to collaborate with developing countries and
15 other donor countries and the private sector and be an
16 effective leader of an international effort of such Strategy.

17 (b) PROGRAMMATIC APPROACH.—The International
18 Conservation Strategy established pursuant to subsection
19 (a) shall provide a comprehensive Government-wide plan
20 of action to address global natural resource and biodiver-
21 sity degradation that identifies specific and measurable
22 goals, benchmarks, and time frames, including—

23 (1) advancing conservation in the world’s most
24 ecologically and economically important terrestrial
25 wilderness areas and marine ecosystems such that

1 conservation or sustainable development consistent
2 with long-term conservation has been achieved on an
3 area of land exceeding 2,000,000 square miles and
4 an area of sea exceeding 6,000,000 square miles;

5 (2) protecting 34 discrete hotspot regions that
6 provide a high level of economic benefit to human
7 communities as well as a high concentration of ge-
8 netic and other natural resources;

9 (3) helping developing countries address unlaw-
10 ful, unreported, and unregulated fishing in ten devel-
11 oping countries where fish stocks are severely de-
12 pleted and regional fishing economies threatened
13 through increased surveillance and enforcement;

14 (4) safeguarding natural areas providing fresh
15 water to 12 major urban centers in developing coun-
16 tries or 50,000,000 people in developing countries;

17 (5) advancing enforcement efforts against un-
18 lawful wildlife trafficking operations in ten centers
19 of the unlawful global wildlife trade;

20 (6) stabilizing or reversing renewable natural
21 resource scarcity trends in three regions that are
22 vulnerable to conflict, instability, or mass migration
23 from natural resource depletion; and

24 (7) expanding substantially the amount of eco-
25 nomically and ecologically significant forested land

1 under a credible sustainable forest management cer-
2 tification system.

3 (c) COORDINATION AND LEVERAGE.—The Inter-
4 national Conservation Strategy shall coordinate and lever-
5 age the participation of relevant executive branch agen-
6 cies, foreign governments, and the private sector in ways
7 that—

8 (1) clarify United States efforts to address the
9 conservation crisis within the broader United States
10 development, foreign policy, and security agendas;

11 (2) establish policy guidance to link investments
12 in specific conservation programs to the broader
13 goals of advancing economic development, alleviating
14 poverty, improving United States economic competi-
15 tiveness, protecting global public health, improving
16 the access of women to natural resources, and reduc-
17 ing resource scarcities that have the potential to lead
18 to civil instabilities, mass migrations, and conflict;

19 (3) reflect Government-wide policy that encom-
20 passes the programs of and reduces duplication
21 among executive branch agencies that influence or
22 engage in international conservation;

23 (4) provide a plan to identify and improve
24 United States policies that could be undermining the

1 conservation of critical natural resources and bio-
2 diversity abroad; and

3 (5) seek to encourage and leverage participation
4 from the private sector, other donor governments,
5 governments of developing countries, international
6 financial institutions, and other international organi-
7 zations to implement such Strategy.

8 (d) REVISION.—Not later than five years after the
9 International Conservation Strategy is established, such
10 Strategy shall be revised to reflect—

11 (1) new information collected pursuant to the
12 implementation of such Strategy;

13 (2) advances in the understanding of biological
14 diversity, the economic and security impacts of re-
15 newable natural resource degradation, and climate
16 change; and

17 (3) the impacts of climate change on conserva-
18 tion, biodiversity, and human needs.

19 **SEC. 102. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION.**

20 (a) COORDINATOR.—The President shall designate
21 an individual to serve in the Executive Office of the Presi-
22 dent as the Coordinator for Global Conservation (hereafter
23 referred to as the “Coordinator”). The Coordinator
24 shall—

1 (1) advise the President on international con-
2 servation-related issues;

3 (2) oversee the development and implementa-
4 tion of the International Conservation Strategy es-
5 tablished pursuant to section 101(a);

6 (3) enhance program and policy coordination
7 among the relevant executive branch agencies in im-
8 plementing the International Conservation Strategy
9 by ensuring that each relevant executive branch
10 agency undertakes programs primarily in those
11 areas where each such agency has the greatest ex-
12 pertise, technical capabilities, and potential for suc-
13 cess and ensuring that agencies avoid duplication of
14 effort;

15 (4) evaluate the effectiveness of the inter-
16 national conservation programs of the relevant exec-
17 utive branch agencies in meeting the goals of the
18 International Conservation Strategy by developing
19 and applying specific performance measurements;

20 (5) assess and certify the adequacy of the budg-
21 ets for the international conservation programs of
22 the relevant executive branch agencies in meeting
23 the goals of the International Conservation Strategy,
24 and submit to the heads of the departments and
25 agencies with responsibilities under such Strategy by

1 July 1 of each year budget recommendations, includ-
2 ing requests for specific initiatives that are con-
3 sistent with the President's priorities under such
4 Strategy;

5 (6) take such actions as are necessary to ensure
6 that the climate change, export and business devel-
7 opment, trade, and development and humanitarian
8 assistance polices of the various executive branch
9 agencies advance the interests of the United States
10 in conserving critical global natural resources and
11 biodiversity;

12 (7) identify innovative pilot projects or under-
13 funded programs for early or immediate funding
14 that are important for demonstrating or further de-
15 veloping conservation methodologies or approaches
16 likely to be important to the success of the Inter-
17 national Conservation Strategy;

18 (8) identify innovative pilot projects or under-
19 funded programs that result in expanding the access
20 of women to sustainably managed natural resources
21 and to techniques for improved natural resource
22 management;

23 (9) expand significantly the role of private sec-
24 tor leveraging in United States bilateral global con-
25 servation assistance by substantially expanding pro-

1 grams that leverage private sector contributions,
2 such as the Agency for International Development’s
3 Global Development Alliance in the conservation sec-
4 tor; and

5 (10) take such actions as are necessary to use
6 diplomatic mechanisms, relevant international insti-
7 tutions and agreements, and other appropriate
8 mechanisms to lead other countries toward the goals
9 and actions of the International Conservation Strat-
10 egy, together with commitments of increased funding
11 for meeting such goals.

12 (b) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON GLOBAL
13 CONSERVATION.—

14 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Coordinator shall
15 establish in the executive branch the Interagency
16 Working Group on Global Conservation (hereafter
17 referred to as “the interagency group”).

18 (2) DUTIES.—The interagency group shall—

19 (A) advise the Coordinator on the develop-
20 ment and implementation of the International
21 Conservation Strategy;

22 (B) assist the Coordinator in discharging
23 the responsibilities of the Coordinator specified
24 in subsection (a);

1 (C) review policies that may be obstacles to
2 achieving the goals of the International Con-
3 servation Strategy;

4 (D) oversee and report on the implementa-
5 tion of the strategy within the relevant execu-
6 tive branch agencies;

7 (E) advise the Coordinator of measures to
8 increase appropriate agency participation in and
9 interagency coordination on conservation
10 projects; and

11 (F) meet regularly to review progress on
12 the objectives described in subparagraphs (A)
13 through (E).

14 (3) MEMBERSHIP.—The interagency group
15 shall consist of officials in relevant executive branch
16 agencies responsible for overseeing and imple-
17 menting programs that conduct international con-
18 servation activities or affect the ability of the United
19 States to achieve the goals of the International Con-
20 servation Strategy, as well as officials capable of
21 providing information to the Coordinator that can
22 aid in the development and implementation of such
23 Strategy.

1 **SEC. 103. PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL**
2 **CONSERVATION.**

3 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The President shall establish
4 the President's Advisory Committee for Global Conserva-
5 tion (hereafter referred to as "the Advisory Committee")
6 to ensure that the best scientific expertise and the con-
7 cerns of relevant public constituencies are reflected in the
8 international conservation policies of the United States.

9 (b) **DUTIES.**—The Advisory Committee shall—

10 (1) advise the President on the development
11 and implementation of the International Conserva-
12 tion Strategy established pursuant to section 101(a);

13 (2) assist the Coordinator in the implementa-
14 tion of the Coordinator's responsibilities in accord-
15 ance with section 102;

16 (3) review periodically the progress of such
17 Strategy and at least on an annual basis bring to
18 the attention of the Coordinator innovative pilot
19 projects that further develop conservation meth-
20 odologies likely to be important to the success of the
21 International Conservation Strategy; and

22 (4) take steps to educate the public about the
23 global conservation programs of the United States.

24 (c) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Advisory Committee shall
25 consist of at least 25 members, of whom—

1 (1) not fewer than four shall be selected from
2 representatives of United States universities or non-
3 governmental organizations and have an expertise in
4 international conservation;

5 (2) not fewer than two shall be selected from
6 representatives of United States universities or non-
7 governmental organizations and have an expertise in
8 the relationship among natural resources, biodiver-
9 sity, economic development, and poverty alleviation;

10 (3) not fewer than two shall be selected from
11 representatives of United States private businesses
12 or trade associations and have an expertise in the re-
13 lationship between global natural resource conserva-
14 tion and the competitiveness of the United States
15 economy or key industries;

16 (4) not fewer than two shall be former members
17 of Congress or former high level officials in the exec-
18 utive branch;

19 (5) not fewer than two shall represent religious
20 institutions or communities of faith;

21 (6) not fewer than one shall be an expert on the
22 effects of natural resource degradation on women's
23 lives and livelihoods;

1 (7) not fewer than one shall be selected from a
2 zoological institution with expertise in in situ and ex
3 situ conservation;

4 (8) not fewer than one shall be selected from
5 representatives of United States universities or non-
6 governmental organizations and have an expertise in
7 global freshwater water supply;

8 (9) not fewer than one shall be selected from
9 representatives of United States universities or non-
10 governmental organizations and have an expertise in
11 the relationship between natural resource conserva-
12 tion and food security;

13 (10) not fewer than one shall be selected from
14 representatives of United States universities or non-
15 governmental organizations and have an expertise in
16 the effects of climate change on natural resources
17 and biological diversity;

18 (11) not fewer than one shall be a former mem-
19 ber of the United States Armed Forces and have an
20 expertise in natural resource scarcity and conflict
21 and security issues;

22 (12) not fewer than one shall be selected from
23 representatives of United States universities or non-
24 governmental organizations and have an expertise in

1 infectious diseases that can be shared between ani-
2 mal and human populations; and

3 (13) not fewer than one shall be selected from
4 the arts or the media.

5 (d) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Each member of the
6 Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a term of three
7 years except that of the initial members of the committee
8 in which one-third of the members shall be appointed for
9 a term of two years, one-third shall be appointed for a
10 term of three years, and one-third shall be appointed for
11 a term of four years.

12 (e) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Committee shall con-
13 vene at the request of the chairperson who shall be se-
14 lected by the Coordinator or, at the discretion of the Coor-
15 dinator, selected by a majority vote of the members of the
16 Advisory Committee.

17 (f) REPORTING.—The Advisory Committee shall re-
18 port to the Coordinator on its deliberations, conclusions,
19 and recommendations.

20 (g) EXPENSES.—The members of the Advisory Com-
21 mittee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem
22 in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees
23 of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5,
24 United States Code, while away from their homes or reg-

1 ular places of business in performance of services for the
2 committee.

3 (h) EXEMPTION.—The Federal Advisory Committee
4 Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the work process
5 and recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

6 **SEC. 104. REPORTING.**

7 (a) ANNUAL REPORTS, INCLUDING BEST PRACTICES
8 REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date of the
9 enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Presi-
10 dent shall transmit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs
11 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
12 Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on the develop-
13 ment and implementation of the International Conserva-
14 tion Strategy established pursuant to section 101(a) as-
15 sessing progress made during the preceding year and high-
16 lighting the programs receiving financial assistance from
17 the United States that have the potential for replication
18 or adaptation, particularly at low cost, across international
19 conservation programs.

20 (b) PROGRAM REVIEW.—Not later than four years
21 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President
22 shall transmit to the committees referred to in subsection
23 (a) a report assessing progress made during the preceding
24 four years and evaluating the effectiveness of United

1 States global conservation programs in achieving the
2 International Conservation Strategy.

3 (c) PUBLICATION OF REPORTS.—The Coordinator
4 shall ensure that all reports required by this section are
5 published on the White House Web site or another appro-
6 priate Web site.

7 **SEC. 105. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as
9 may be necessary to carry out this title.

10 **TITLE II—MULTILATERAL**
11 **PROGRAMS**

12 **SEC. 201. PURPOSE.**

13 The purpose of this title is to leverage significantly
14 United States financial commitments to global natural re-
15 sources conservation by encouraging other countries to
16 make substantial commitments of funding and other forms
17 of assistance to a comprehensive and coordinated inter-
18 national natural resource and biodiversity conservation as-
19 sistance strategy in order to promote economic develop-
20 ment, human health, food and water security, environ-
21 mental sustainability, the protection of biodiversity, and
22 local and regional security.

1 **SEC. 202. DIPLOMATIC GOALS AND VENUES.**

2 (a) GOALS.—Congress urges the President to work
3 with the world’s major foreign assistance donor countries
4 to—

5 (1) develop a comprehensive and coordinated
6 international conservation assistance strategy con-
7 sistent with the priorities identified in the United
8 States International Conservation Strategy estab-
9 lished pursuant to section 101(a);

10 (2) identify innovative and efficient multilateral
11 mechanisms that can be used to coordinate inter-
12 national action by all participating donor countries,
13 identify and reduce duplication of efforts among
14 such donors, achieve the most cost effective invest-
15 ments, and leverage international foreign assistance
16 with meaningful financial and other commitments in
17 recipient countries;

18 (3) agree on funding requirements and funding
19 goals from all participating donor countries;

20 (4) negotiate a timetable for achieving such
21 Strategy’s goals; and

22 (5) promote existing multilateral initiatives de-
23 signed to identify meaningful levels of interim fund-
24 ing for forest conservation in developing countries in
25 advance of the implementation of any international

1 program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from
2 forest destruction and degradation.

3 (b) VENUES.—Congress urges the President to ex-
4 plore opportunities for achieving the goals identified in
5 this section within the context of United States bilateral
6 diplomacy with other important international donor coun-
7 tries, bilateral diplomacy with newly emerging donor coun-
8 tries, and all appropriate multilateral venues.

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