

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6038

To strengthen the role of the United States in the international community of nations in conserving natural resources to further global prosperity and security.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2012

Mr. FORTENBERRY (for himself, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CHANDLER, Mrs. BONO MACK, Ms. CHU, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. DICKS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. FARR, Mr. REICHERT, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. HOLT, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. KISSELL, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MORAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. WOOLSEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To strengthen the role of the United States in the international community of nations in conserving natural resources to further global prosperity and security.

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 2012”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Sound natural resource management and
4 healthy levels of biological diversity are vital to alle-
5 viating poverty in developing countries that depend
6 on these resources for food, medicine, housing mate-
7 rial, trade, recreation, and other activities that ben-
8 efit from the intrinsic value of wildlife and its habi-
9 tat.

10 (2) The United States is uniquely positioned to
11 partner with the international community to con-
12 front natural resources challenges in developing
13 countries.

14 (3) The United States needs a strategy for
15 working jointly with other countries to address re-
16 newable natural resource depletion trends around
17 the world and the threats such trends pose to the
18 economy, health, and security of the United States.

19 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21 (1) **DEVELOPING COUNTRY.**—The term “devel-
22 oping country” means a country or area that is on
23 the List of Official Development Assistance Recipi-
24 ents of the Development Assistance Committee of
25 the Organization for Economic Cooperation and De-
26 velopment.

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 **SEC. 4. PURPOSE.**

14 The purpose of this Act is to strengthen the capacity
15 of the United States to further economic development and
16 improve stability and security both domestically and
17 abroad by establishing a comprehensive strategy for—

18 (1) enhancing and expanding partnerships
19 throughout the international community to address
20 natural resource challenges to ensure healthy and
21 sustainable supplies of water, wildlife habitat and
22 populations, fish stocks and habitat, forests, plants,
23 and other critical resources;

24 (2) integrating international conservation
25 projects and activities to advance United States for-

1 eign policy priorities in areas such as security, de-
2 mocratization, sustainable food production, and
3 clean water;

4 (3) expanding and enhancing the economic and
5 wildlife conservation benefits that derive from prop-
6 erly managed international hunting and angling
7 tourism;

8 (4) addressing poaching, illegal logging, fishing
9 and wildlife trafficking; and

10 (5) establishing more efficient and effective
11 policies and processes for departments and agencies
12 engaged in, or providing support to, international
13 conservation by—

14 (A) identifying clear goals, priorities, and
15 benchmarks of success;

16 (B) improving coordination among such
17 agencies in order to clarify roles, reduce dupli-
18 cation, and enhance effectiveness;

19 (C) improving agency processes to ensure
20 conservation programs are administered effec-
21 tively, efficiently, and with minimal expendi-
22 tures for program administration;

23 (D) identifying conservation programs and
24 policies currently being utilized abroad and
25 evaluating the potential for similar approaches

1 to be adopted by the United States to further
2 the purposes of this Act; and

3 (E) encouraging participation by the
4 United States in various multilateral efforts to
5 leverage financial commitments to conserve nat-
6 ural resources.

7 **TITLE I—ASSESSING EXISTING**
8 **POLICIES AND PROGRAMS**

9 **SEC. 101. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE AUDIT**
10 **AND REPORT.**

11 (a) **AUDIT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 90 days after
12 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
13 General of the United States shall conduct an audit of
14 existing United States international conservation policies
15 and programs to determine the extent to which such pro-
16 grams are achieving the following objectives:

17 (1) Enhancing and expanding partnerships
18 throughout the international community to address
19 natural resource challenges to ensure healthy and
20 sustainable supplies of water, wildlife habitat and
21 populations, fish stocks and habitat, forests, plants,
22 and other critical resources.

23 (2) Integrating international conservation
24 projects and activities to advance United States for-
25 eign policy priorities in areas such as security, de-

1 mocratization, sustainable food production, and
2 clean water.

3 (3) Expanding and enhancing the economic and
4 wildlife conservation benefits that derive from prop-
5 erly managed international hunting and angling
6 tourism.

7 (4) Addressing poaching, illegal logging, fishing,
8 and wildlife trafficking.

9 (5) Establishing more efficient and effective
10 policies and processes for executive branch agencies
11 engaged in or supporting international conservation
12 by—

13 (A) identifying clear goals, priorities, and
14 benchmarks of success;

15 (B) improving coordination among such
16 agencies in order to clarify roles, reduce dupli-
17 cation, and enhance effectiveness;

18 (C) improving agency processes to ensure
19 conservation programs are administered effec-
20 tively, efficiently, and with minimal expendi-
21 tures for program administration; and

22 (D) identifying conservation programs and
23 policies currently being utilized abroad and
24 evaluating the potential for similar approaches

1 to be adopted by the United States to further
2 the purposes of this Act.

3 (b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
5 of the United States shall submit to the appropriate au-
6 thorizing and appropriating committees of Congress a re-
7 port containing the findings of the audit conducted pursu-
8 ant to subsection (a) and any recommendations for legisla-
9 tion necessary to better address the findings.

10 (c) REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—The report required
11 under subsection (b) shall include—

12 (1) a detailed description of all federally spon-
13 sored multilateral international conservation pro-
14 grams, including—

15 (A) the key agencies associated with each
16 program;

17 (B) the primary goals of each program;

18 (C) the extent to which executive branch
19 agencies have established measures of perform-
20 ance and effectiveness for each program; and

21 (D) the amount appropriated for each pro-
22 gram in the 5 previous fiscal years;

23 (2) an assessment on how well executive branch
24 agencies are collaborating and coordinating on inter-
25 national conservation efforts;

1 (3) an assessment on the extent to which execu-
 2 tive branch agencies have established strategic goals
 3 and performance measures;

4 (4) any recommendations that the Comptroller
 5 General considers appropriate and useful to improve
 6 collaboration and coordination between executive
 7 branch agencies on international conservation ef-
 8 forts; and

9 (5) any other analyses the Comptroller General
 10 considers necessary or appropriate.

11 **TITLE II—POLICY PLANNING** 12 **AND IMPLEMENTATION**

13 **SEC. 201. COMPREHENSIVE UNITED STATES INTER-** 14 **NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
 16 date of the enactment of this Act, the President, acting
 17 through the Interagency Working Group on Global Con-
 18 servation designated pursuant to section 202(a), shall es-
 19 tablish a comprehensive strategy (hereafter referred to as
 20 the “International Conservation Strategy”) to strengthen
 21 the capacity of the United States to collaborate with other
 22 countries, international organizations, the private sector,
 23 and private voluntary organizations on a sustained inter-
 24 national effort to conserve natural resources and enhance
 25 biodiversity in a manner beneficial to the economic well-

1 being and security of the United States and other partici-
2 pating countries.

3 (b) GOALS AND BENCHMARKS.—The International
4 Conservation Strategy established pursuant to subsection
5 (a) shall provide a comprehensive plan of action that iden-
6 tifies specific and measurable goals, benchmarks, and time
7 frames for—

8 (1) advancing conservation in the world’s most
9 ecologically and economically important terrestrial
10 and marine ecosystems;

11 (2) protecting distinct hotspot regions that pro-
12 vide a high level of economic benefit to human com-
13 munities as well as a high concentration of genetic
14 and other natural resources;

15 (3) helping developing countries address illegal,
16 unreported, and unregulated industrial fishing where
17 economies are negatively impacted by depleted fish
18 stocks;

19 (4) safeguarding natural areas that provide
20 fresh water to developing countries;

21 (5) protecting forests and advancing enforce-
22 ment efforts against illegal logging in centers of the
23 illegal logging trade;

1 (6) advancing enforcement efforts against
2 poaching and unlawful wildlife trafficking oper-
3 ations;

4 (7) facilitating and leveraging the economic and
5 conservation benefits that derive from properly man-
6 aged international hunting, angling, and wildlife ob-
7 servation tourism;

8 (8) stabilizing or reversing renewable natural
9 resource scarcity and degradation trends in regions
10 that are vulnerable to conflict, instability, or mass
11 migration from natural resource depletion;

12 (9) expanding substantially the amount of eco-
13 nomically and ecologically significant forest in devel-
14 oping countries; and

15 (10) reducing the rate of erosion and desertifi-
16 cation in developing countries where soil loss is re-
17 sulting in severe impacts to the economy, food secu-
18 rity, or stability.

19 (c) COORDINATION AND LEVERAGE.—The Inter-
20 national Conservation Strategy shall coordinate and lever-
21 age the participation of relevant executive branch agen-
22 cies, other countries, the private sector, and private vol-
23 untary organizations in ways that—

24 (1) reflect Government-wide policy that encom-
25 passes the programs of, and reduces duplication

1 among, executive branch agencies that influence, en-
2 gage in, or support international conservation;

3 (2) provide a plan to identify and improve
4 United States policies that could be undermining the
5 conservation of critical natural resources and bio-
6 diversity abroad; and

7 (3) seek to encourage and leverage participation
8 from governments of developing countries and other
9 governments, the private sector, private voluntary
10 organizations, and international organizations to im-
11 plement the Strategy.

12 (d) ASSESSING AND IMPROVING EFFECTIVENESS.—
13 The International Conservation Strategy shall include a
14 description of the performance and efficiency measures de-
15 veloped pursuant to section 202(a)(2)(C) and a process
16 for their utilization.

17 (e) COUNTRY OWNERSHIP.—In preparing the Inter-
18 national Conservation Strategy, the Interagency Working
19 Group on Global Conservation shall ensure that the Strat-
20 egy is appropriate to local needs and conditions and incor-
21 porates the views of partner countries, and describes a
22 means for local citizens to participate in the implementa-
23 tion and the setting of priorities of such programs in the
24 field. The International Conservation Strategy should

1 build upon partner country development plans and re-
2 gional strategies.

3 (f) REVISION.—Not later than 4 years after the
4 International Conservation Strategy is established, and
5 every 4 years thereafter, the Strategy shall be revised to
6 reflect—

7 (1) new information collected pursuant to the
8 implementation of the Strategy; and

9 (2) advances in the understanding of biological
10 diversity and the economic and security impacts of
11 renewable natural resource degradation.

12 **SEC. 202. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION.**

13 (a) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON GLOBAL
14 CONSERVATION.—

15 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
17 President shall establish the Interagency Working
18 Group on Global Conservation (hereafter referred to
19 as the “working group”), which shall include the
20 participation of the executive branch agencies that
21 affect, oversee, or implement programs that conduct
22 or support international conservation activities or af-
23 fect the ability of the United States to achieve the
24 goals of the International Conservation Strategy.

25 (2) DUTIES.—The working group shall—

1 (A) develop, through utilization of the re-
2 port completed pursuant to section 101(b) and
3 appropriate public and agency input, the Inter-
4 national Conservation Strategy established pur-
5 suant to section 201(a);

6 (B) identify measures to enhance program
7 and policy coordination among the relevant ex-
8 ecutive branch agencies in implementing the
9 Strategy by ensuring that each relevant execu-
10 tive branch agency undertakes programs pri-
11 marily in those areas where each such agency
12 has the greatest expertise, technical capabilities,
13 and potential for success, and ensuring that
14 agencies avoid duplication of effort;

15 (C) work with the Office of Management
16 and Budget to evaluate the effectiveness of the
17 international conservation programs of the rel-
18 evant executive branch agencies in meeting the
19 goals of the Strategy by developing and apply-
20 ing specific performance measurements, includ-
21 ing assessments of—

22 (i) program effectiveness;

23 (ii) program efficiency and cost-effec-
24 tiveness;

1 (iii) program accessibility and trans-
2 parency; and

3 (iv) agency overhead or project admin-
4 istration costs for programs operating in
5 the field;

6 (D) submit to the heads of the United
7 States Government departments and agencies
8 represented on the working group pro-
9 grammatic recommendations that are consistent
10 with the priorities of the Strategy and policy
11 recommendations to ensure that the policies of
12 such departments and agencies advance the in-
13 terests of the United States in conserving crit-
14 ical global natural resources and biodiversity;

15 (E) submit to such heads recommendations
16 for facilitating coordination and continuity
17 across the departments and agencies in the im-
18 plementation of global conservation policies sub-
19 ject to interagency or multi-agency jurisdiction;

20 (F) identify innovative conservation
21 projects, policies, and initiatives that contribute
22 to achieving multiple foreign policy goals simul-
23 taneously, including—

24 (i) reducing poverty;

- 1 (ii) expanding access to food and
- 2 water;
- 3 (iii) addressing health threats through
- 4 natural resources conservation;
- 5 (iv) expanding the access of women to
- 6 sustainably managed natural resources and
- 7 to techniques for improved natural re-
- 8 source management;
- 9 (v) addressing poaching, unlawful
- 10 fishing, and illegal logging;
- 11 (vi) reducing natural resource scar-
- 12 cities or degradation that could increase
- 13 inter- and intra-state tensions; and
- 14 (vii) conserving biological diversity;
- 15 (G) identify measures to address obstacles
- 16 to achieving the goals of the Strategy, including
- 17 policies that might limit the conservation bene-
- 18 fits from properly managed international hunt-
- 19 ing and angling tourism;
- 20 (H) develop recommendations for expand-
- 21 ing the role of the private sector in United
- 22 States international conservation programs by
- 23 expanding and leveraging private sector con-
- 24 tributions;

1 (I) identify measures that further the goals
2 of the Strategy, including regulatory actions
3 that facilitate the importation process for wild-
4 life species with a legitimate scientific purpose
5 or to directly or indirectly benefit the recovery
6 of the species or its habitat through the support
7 of conservation programs in foreign countries;

8 (J) recommend diplomatic mechanisms,
9 relevant international institutions and agree-
10 ments, and other appropriate mechanisms to
11 engage other countries to work jointly with the
12 United States to achieve the goals and actions
13 of the International Conservation Strategy;

14 (K) identify successful conservation pro-
15 grams and policies currently being utilized
16 abroad and evaluate the potential for similar
17 approaches to be adopted or expanded by the
18 United States to further the goals of the Strat-
19 egy;

20 (L) identify underperforming and unsuc-
21 cessful projects and programs and make rec-
22 ommendations to improve performance and ter-
23 minate programs and projects in a manner con-
24 sistent with furthering the goals of the Strat-
25 egy;

1 (M) identify natural resource conservation
2 needs not currently being met by existing poli-
3 cies and programs and make recommendations
4 for addressing such needs;

5 (N) recommend mechanisms to facilitate
6 mutually beneficial international conservation
7 partnerships between such departments and
8 agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and
9 the private sector; and

10 (O) meet regularly to review progress on
11 the objectives described in subparagraphs (A)
12 through (N).

13 (3) WORKING GROUP LEADERSHIP.—The Presi-
14 dent shall designate an individual in the executive
15 branch to serve as the chair of the working group
16 (hereafter referred to as the “chair”), the duties of
17 whom shall include—

18 (A) convening and leading meetings of the
19 working group;

20 (B) taking steps to ensure the development
21 and implementation of the International Con-
22 servation Strategy;

23 (C) ensuring the goals and purposes of the
24 working group are met in accordance with para-
25 graph (2); and

1 (D) ensuring public input into the develop-
2 ment and implementation of the International
3 Conservation Strategy by convening the Global
4 Conservation Public Advisory Board established
5 under subsection (b).

6 (b) GLOBAL CONSERVATION PUBLIC ADVISORY
7 BOARD.—

8 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby estab-
9 lished a Global Conservation Public Advisory Board
10 (hereafter referred to as the “Advisory Board”),
11 whose purpose shall be to advise the working group
12 on matters related to the international conservation
13 policies and programs of the United States and the
14 development and implementation of the Inter-
15 national Conservation Strategy, and to ensure that
16 the best scientific, policy, economic security, and
17 business expertise are reflected in the international
18 conservation strategies and policies of the United
19 States.

20 (2) DUTIES.—It shall be the duty of the Advi-
21 sory Board to advise the working group on matters
22 related to carrying out the duties described in sub-
23 section (a)(2), including on matters submitted to it
24 for consideration by the working group, as well as
25 matters identified by the Advisory Board.

1 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Advisory Board shall be
2 comprised of not more than 15 persons appointed from
3 among citizens of the United States who support sustain-
4 able-use conservation, and shall have outstanding exper-
5 tise in one or more of the following fields:

6 (1) International conservation.

7 (2) International diplomacy.

8 (3) International business.

9 (4) Economic development and poverty allevi-
10 ation.

11 (5) Food security and water access.

12 (6) Natural resource scarcity and degradation
13 and related conflict and security issues.

14 (7) The economic and conservation benefits of
15 international hunting and angling tourism.

16 (8) International laws concerning illegal wildlife
17 trafficking and illegal fishing.

18 (9) Wildlife biology and zoology.

19 (d) APPOINTMENT.—Members of the Advisory Board
20 shall be appointed by the President with the advice of the
21 Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on For-
22 eign Relations of the Senate and the Chairman and Rank-
23 ing Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
24 House of Representatives, on a staggered basis for a term
25 not to exceed 4 years, except that with respect to the ini-

1 tial members of the Advisory Board, $\frac{1}{3}$ shall be appointed
2 for a term of 2 years, $\frac{1}{3}$ shall be appointed for a term
3 of 3 years, and $\frac{1}{3}$ shall be appointed for a term of 4 years.

4 (e) CHAIRMAN.—A member of the Advisory Board
5 shall be elected by a vote of the majority of the Board
6 to serve as Chairman for a 2-year term.

7 (f) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Board shall convene at
8 the call of the Chairman to consider a specific agenda of
9 issues, as determined by the Chairman in consultation
10 with the working group and other members of the Advi-
11 sory Board.

12 (g) REPORTING.—The Advisory Board shall report to
13 the working group chair designated in accordance with
14 subsection (a)(3) on its deliberations, conclusions, and rec-
15 ommendations.

16 (h) APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COM-
17 MITTEE ACT.—The Advisory Board shall be exempt from
18 the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5
19 U.S.C. App.).

20 **SEC. 203. REPORTING.**

21 (a) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE RE-
22 PORTS.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the en-
23 actment of this Act, and every 3 years thereafter, the
24 Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct
25 an audit to consider the progress made pursuant to sub-

1 section (a) of section 101, including congressional actions
2 under subsection (b) of such section, to achieve the objec-
3 tives, goals, and benchmarks described in section 201(b),
4 and submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
5 Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House
6 of Representatives, and to other appropriate authorizing
7 and appropriating committees of Congress a report on the
8 development and implementation of the International Con-
9 servation Strategy, including—

10 (1) assessing progress made during the pre-
11 ceding 3 years in accomplishing the goals and bench-
12 marks described in section 201(b);

13 (2) highlighting executive branch agency con-
14 servation programs and projects that have the po-
15 tential for replication or adaptation, particularly at
16 low cost, in other United States international con-
17 servation efforts;

18 (3) identifying progress made in increasing the
19 efficiency and effectiveness of United States inter-
20 national conservation programs and reducing execu-
21 tive branch agency overhead or project administra-
22 tion costs for conservation programs implemented
23 abroad;

1 (4) identification of unsuccessful projects and
2 programs and the actions taken to improve perform-
3 ance or terminate such projects and programs;

4 (5) quantification of the economic benefits that
5 resulted from investments in international conserva-
6 tion programs and activities called for in the Strat-
7 egy, and an accounting of the measures utilized to
8 calculate such benefits;

9 (6) performing policy analyses and outlining op-
10 tions for congressional consideration; and

11 (7) any other analysis the Comptroller General
12 considers necessary or appropriate.

13 **SEC. 204. WILDLIFE DEPENDANT RECREATION AND USES**
14 **OF WILDLIFE.**

15 (a) WILDLIFE DEPENDENT RECREATION.—No pro-
16 vision in this Act shall be construed as restricting, lim-
17 iting, or otherwise impairing properly managed rec-
18 reational hunting and angling.

19 (b) REGULATED USES OF WILDLIFE.—No provision
20 in this Act shall be construed as restricting, limiting, or
21 otherwise impairing the ability of any foreign jurisdiction
22 or authority to authorize regulated programs supporting
23 wildlife for local consumption and commercialization.

1 **TITLE III—SUPPORT AND RE-**
2 **SOURCES FROM OTHER**
3 **COUNTRIES**

4 **SEC. 301. PURPOSE.**

5 The purpose of this title is to leverage significantly
6 United States commitments to global natural resources
7 conservation by encouraging other countries to make sub-
8 stantial commitments of funding and other forms of as-
9 sistance to a comprehensive and coordinated international
10 natural resource and biodiversity conservation assistance
11 strategy in order to promote economic development, food
12 and water security, environmental sustainability, the pro-
13 tection of biodiversity, and local and regional security.

14 **SEC. 302. DIPLOMATIC GOALS AND VENUES.**

15 (a) GOALS.—Congress urges the President to work
16 with the world’s major foreign assistance donor countries
17 to—

18 (1) develop a comprehensive and coordinated
19 international conservation assistance strategy con-
20 sistent with the priorities identified in the United
21 States International Conservation Strategy estab-
22 lished pursuant to section 201(a);

23 (2) identify innovative and efficient multilateral
24 mechanisms that can be used to coordinate inter-
25 national action by all participating donor countries,

1 identify and reduce duplication of efforts among
2 such donors, achieve the most cost effective invest-
3 ments, and leverage international foreign assistance
4 with meaningful financial and other commitments in
5 recipient countries; and

6 (3) agree on a timetable for achieving the goals
7 of the United States International Conservation
8 Strategy.

9 (b) VENUES.—Congress urges the President to ex-
10 plore opportunities for achieving the goals identified in
11 this section within the context of United States bilateral
12 diplomacy with other important international donor coun-
13 tries, bilateral diplomacy with newly emerging donor coun-
14 tries, and all appropriate multilateral venues.

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