

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6422

To establish a program to provide grants to nonprofit organizations to enable such organizations to assign and support volunteers to assist foreign countries in the administration of their natural resources in an environmentally sustainable manner.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2012

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. CRENSHAW) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a program to provide grants to nonprofit organizations to enable such organizations to assign and support volunteers to assist foreign countries in the administration of their natural resources in an environmentally sustainable manner.

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 “International Con-
5 servation Corps Act of 2012”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) There is a significant deficit in the capa-
4 bility of many developing countries to manage their
5 natural resources sustainably, which is fundamental
6 to achieving economic development, poverty allevi-
7 ation, conflict avoidance, good governance, and re-
8 gional security.

9 (2) Developing countries with a great wealth of
10 natural resources are facing a great risk of conflict.
11 Issues that arise in these countries include corrup-
12 tion, disputes over control and distribution of the re-
13 sources and resulting wealth, fighting over and de-
14 struction of resources and resource-rich areas, and
15 human rights abuses.

16 (3) Developing countries that successfully man-
17 age their natural resource wealth, however, continue
18 to benefit from these resources without resulting
19 conflict.

20 (4) It is in the security interest of the United
21 States to share the vast experience and proven meth-
22 odologies that the United States has achieved over
23 many decades with developing countries struggling
24 to establish their own successful natural resource
25 management programs and policies.

1 (5) The many United States senior profes-
2 sionals retiring from both the public and private sec-
3 tor with extensive experience and expertise in the
4 field of natural resource management, acting in a
5 voluntary capacity, presents a unique and important
6 opportunity to help other countries develop the ca-
7 pacity to manage their natural resources
8 sustainably.

9 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
11 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consulta-
12 tion with the Secretary of State, shall establish a program
13 to provide grants to qualifying nonprofit organizations to
14 enable such organizations to assign and support volunteers
15 to assist foreign countries identified under section 4 in the
16 administration of their natural resources in an environ-
17 mentally sustainable manner.

18 (b) DETAILS OF THE PROGRAM.—The Secretary
19 shall develop and implement the program such that it in-
20 cludes providing professional, scientific, and technical as-
21 sistance and training to aid foreign countries in their ef-
22 forts to—

23 (1) develop, manage, and protect national
24 parks, natural and cultural heritage sites, and other
25 protected areas;

1 (2) protect wildlife; and

2 (3) develop capacity to sustainably manage
3 their natural resources.

4 **SEC. 4. IDENTIFICATION OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in con-
6 sultation with the Administrator of the United States
7 Agency for International Development, shall—

8 (1) identify foreign countries as appropriate for
9 participation in the program;

10 (2) notify such foreign countries of the pro-
11 gram; and

12 (3) encourage such foreign countries to seek to
13 participate in the program.

14 **SEC. 5. AWARD OF GRANTS TO QUALIFYING NONPROFIT**
15 **ORGANIZATIONS.**

16 (a) APPLICATION.—

17 (1) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—To be eligible to
18 receive a grant under the program, a qualifying non-
19 profit organization shall submit to the Secretary an
20 application including information regarding the ex-
21 pertise, past experience, and demonstrated capacity
22 of the organization, as well as such other informa-
23 tion as the Secretary may require.

24 (2) TIME, FORM, AND MANNER OF APPLICA-
25 TION.—The application described in paragraph 1

1 shall be submitted to the Secretary at such time,
2 and in such form and manner, as the Secretary may
3 require.

4 (3) SOLICITATION OF APPLICATIONS.—The Sec-
5 retary shall solicit from qualifying nonprofit organi-
6 zations applications for grants in accordance with
7 this section.

8 (b) APPROVAL PROCESS.—As soon as is practicable
9 after the date of receipt of an application by the Secretary
10 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall approve or dis-
11 approve the application.

12 (c) PROVISION OF GRANT.—As soon as is practicable
13 after the date on which the Secretary approves an applica-
14 tion of a qualifying nonprofit organization under sub-
15 section (b), the Secretary shall provide a grant to such
16 organization.

17 **SEC. 6. USE OF FUNDS.**

18 Any organization that receives a grant under section
19 5 shall use funds received under such grant to—

20 (1) recruit highly skilled and experienced volun-
21 teers to participate in the program; and

22 (2) place such volunteers with foreign countries
23 participating in the program to work in appropriate
24 projects in the program, subject to section 8.

1 **SEC. 7. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

2 (a) SUBMISSION OF PERIODIC REPORTS.—At times
3 specified by the Secretary, any organization that receives
4 a grant under section 5 shall submit to the Secretary peri-
5 odic reports that include all information that the Secretary
6 determines is necessary to evaluate the progress and suc-
7 cess of projects in the program for the purposes of ensur-
8 ing positive results, assessing problems, and fostering im-
9 provements.

10 (b) INTERNET PUBLICATION OF REPORTS.—The
11 Secretary shall make reports under subsection (a) avail-
12 able to the public through the Internet website of the De-
13 partment of the Interior.

14 **SEC. 8. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE.**

15 (a) ASSIGNMENT OF VOLUNTEERS.—Except as oth-
16 erwise provided in this Act, the assignment of volunteers
17 in appropriate projects in the program shall be on such
18 terms and conditions as the Secretary may determine.

19 (b) COMPENSATION OF VOLUNTEERS.—Volunteers
20 selected for participation in projects in the program shall
21 not be compensated except for a stipend to cover travel
22 costs, health and travel insurance costs, living costs, and
23 accommodations, awarded in such amounts as the Sec-
24 retary determines to be appropriate.

1 **SEC. 9. FUNDING.**

2 Of the unobligated amounts available to the Depart-
3 ment of the Interior for fiscal years 2013 through 2017,
4 notwithstanding any other provision of law specifying the
5 purpose for which such amounts are provided,
6 \$10,000,000 is authorized to be made available to carry
7 out this Act for each of the fiscal years 2013 through
8 2017.

9 **SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act:

11 (1) **PROGRAM.**—The term “program” means
12 the program established pursuant to section 3.

13 (2) **QUALIFYING NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.**—
14 The term “qualifying nonprofit organization” means
15 an entity described in section 501(c) of the Internal
16 Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under
17 section 501(a) of such Code.

18 (3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary of the Interior.

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