

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1195

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

MARCH 14, 2013

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. CRENSHAW) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

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

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

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

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

24 (5) The many United States senior profes-
25 sionals retiring from both the public and private sec-

1 tor with extensive experience and expertise in the
2 field of natural resource management, acting in a
3 voluntary capacity, presents a unique and important
4 opportunity to help other countries develop the ca-
5 pacity to manage their natural resources
6 sustainably.

7 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in con-
10 sultation with the Secretary of State, shall establish a pro-
11 gram to provide grants to qualifying nonprofit organiza-
12 tions to enable such organizations to assign and support
13 volunteers to assist foreign countries identified under sec-
14 tion 4 in the administration of their natural resources in
15 an environmentally sustainable manner.

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

- 21 (1) develop, manage, and protect national
22 parks, natural and cultural heritage sites, and other
23 protected areas;
24 (2) protect wildlife; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 (a) APPLICATION.—

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

23 (2) TIME, FORM, AND MANNER OF APPLICA-
24 TION.—The application described in paragraph 1
25 shall be submitted to the Secretary at such time,

1 and in such form and manner, as the Secretary may
2 require.

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

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

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

16 **SEC. 6. USE OF FUNDS.**

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

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

21 (2) place such volunteers with foreign countries
22 participating in the program to work in appropriate
23 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 Web site of the
13 Department 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.

25 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

26 In this Act:

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

3 (2) QUALIFYING NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—
4 The term “qualifying nonprofit organization” means
5 an entity described in section 501(c) of the Internal
6 Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under
7 section 501(a) of such Code.

8 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of the Interior.

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