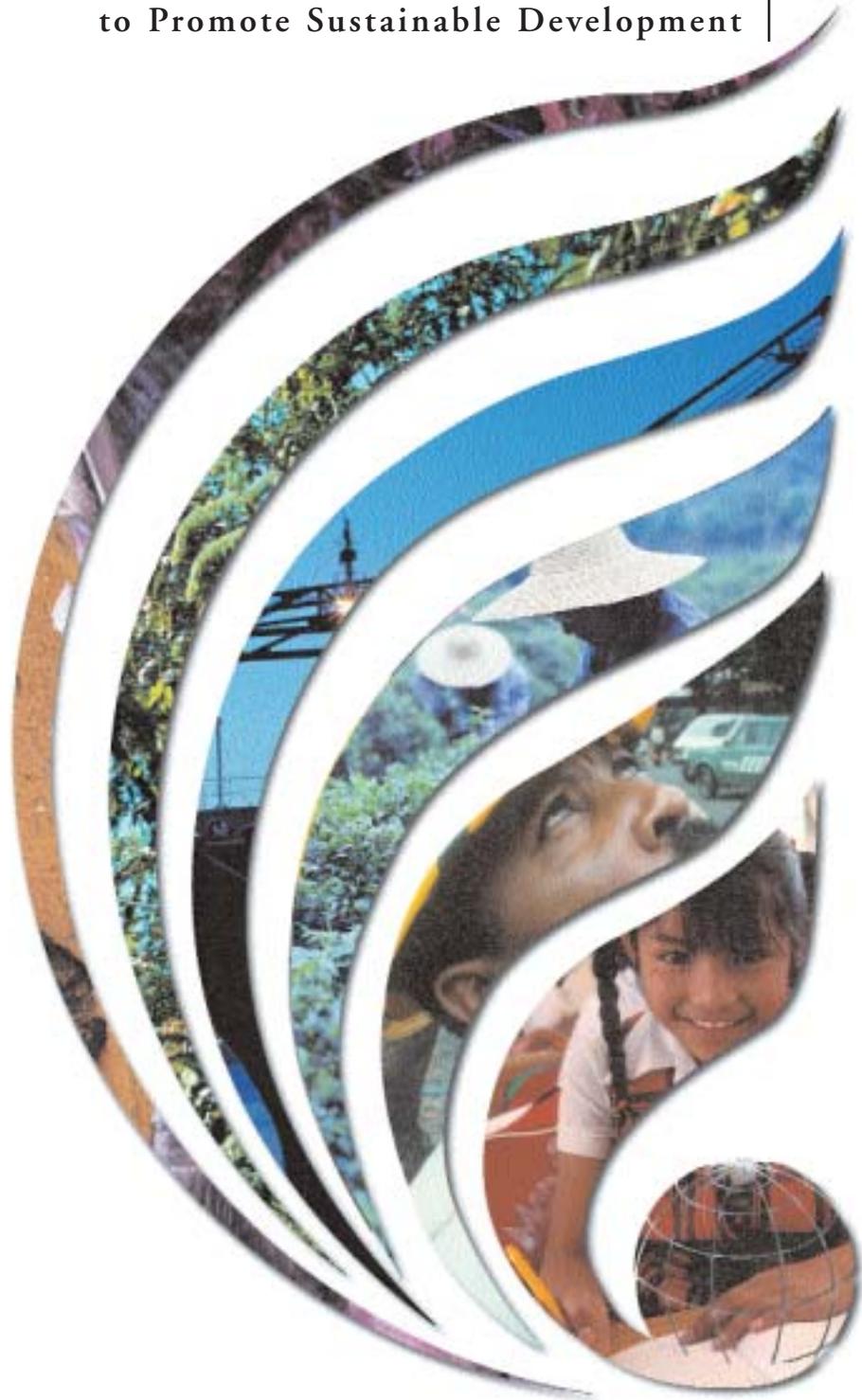


Working for a Sustainable World

U.S. Government Initiatives
to Promote Sustainable Development



Summary Report

August 2002



“Countries that live by these three broad standards—ruling justly, investing in their people, and encouraging economic freedom—will receive more aid from America. And, more importantly, over time, they will really no longer need it, because nations with sound laws and policies will attract more foreign investment. They will earn more trade revenues. And they will find that all these sources of capital will be invested more effectively and productively to create more jobs for their people.

My administration will adopt a new spirit of respect and cooperation, because, in the end, that is the better way to protect the environment we all share—a new environmentalism for the 21st century. Citizens and private groups play a crucial role. Just as we share an ethic of stewardship, we must share in the work of stewardship. Our challenge is to work in partnership.”

President George W. Bush
March 14, 2002 and May 30, 2001



“We live in a century of promise. Our responsibility now is to turn it into a century of hopes fulfilled, a century of sustained development that enriches all our peoples without impoverishing our planet. When we talk of sustainable development, we are talking about the means to unlock human potential through economic development based on sound economic policy, social development based on investment in health and education, and responsible stewardship of the environment that has been entrusted to our care by a benevolent God.

Sustainable development is a marathon, not a sprint. It does not follow from a single event like the Johannesburg Summit, important as that meeting may be, but from a sustained global effort by many players working together over a long period of time. Sustainable development requires institutions, policies, people, and effective partnerships to carry out our common effort beyond Johannesburg and well into the future.”

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell
July 12, 2002

Introduction

“America supports the international development goals in the UN Millennium Declaration and believes that these goals are a shared responsibility of developed and developing countries.”

President George W. Bush
March 14, 2002

In recent years, an international consensus has emerged about the need for sustainable development. Recognizing that transient gains are no substitute for long-term improvements in material livelihood, sustainable development focuses on creating an environment conducive to *enduring* achievements—in investment, in human capital, in infrastructure, and in the measured use of resources. Put most simply, sustainable development rests on three pillars—economic growth, investment in people (particularly in education and health), and environmental stewardship. The precondition for sustainable development is good governance, including popular participation in decisionmaking. To this end, U.S. assistance has promoted competitive elections and strengthened judicial systems.

As a guiding concept, sustainable development has broad applicability, and U.S. Government initiatives that promote it range across a broad spectrum. Some aim to improve receptivity to domestic and foreign investment, while others concentrate on more sustainable use of natural resources. The range of U.S.-supported initiatives also includes public sector investments aimed at maximizing long-term benefits along with others that favor private initiative over government programs.

The United States promotes sustainable development in 148 countries through concrete actions involving numerous partners. These actions reflect the U.S. Government's determination to leverage resources to support sustainable

development from the private, non-profit, and academic communities. Such partnerships were featured in a recent survey of more than 400 sustainable development initiatives managed by 22 U.S. Government agencies. Economic growth is the primary goal of almost half of the initiatives surveyed, while investing in people (either in education or health) is a component of 42 percent. Environmental stewardship forms the principal component in almost half of these sustainable development efforts, while 26 percent focus on lifting standards of governance. Notwithstanding these main goals, each initiative aims at multiple impacts in sustainable development. More details on these initiatives are contained in an attached CD-ROM.

U.S.-assisted sustainable development initiatives are consistent with the consensus described in the *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987*—that sustainable development “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” That definition was refined at the 1992 Earth Summit and again at the 2000 Millennium Summit to embrace the three pillars of sustainable development.

After years of decline in global levels of aid, the United States and the European Union committed to significant increases in their foreign aid programs. This occurred at the March 2002 UN Conference on International Financial Development in Monterrey, Mexico,

which followed the development trade round inaugurated in November 2001 by the World Trade Organization in Doha, Qatar. With this commitment came the reminder that recipient countries must take central responsibility for their own development; however, there was also acknowledgment that this responsibility requires a supportive international economic environment.

The meetings leading up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development formed a consensus on the need for improved governance, improved links to the global market, greater public and private sector development, and more investment in people. Meeting these needs and managing natural resources to benefit this and future generations are this summit's central concerns.

Focus on Partnerships

This report focuses on how the U.S. Government translates policy into solid gains for sustainable development via a range of partnerships bringing the skills of the private sector and various civil society organizations together with government resources. The report focuses in particular on four main types of partnership:

- *private sector finance*: the United States promotes development and deepening of markets by enabling private credit to reach the very poor via a range of microenterprise initiatives
- *the nonprofit sector*: the United States makes a special effort to enable nongovernmental organizations to become more active partners in making development sustainable
- *public-private partnerships*: the United States pulls into its sustainable development initiatives a broad range of foundations, non-

governmental organizations, private sector firms, academia, and public institutions

- *science and technology partnerships*: the United States remains the world's leading source of scientific and technological innovation. It also remains committed to sharing data from this creativity among many initiatives around the world

“At Johannesburg, governments will agree on a common plan of action. But the most creative agents of change may well be partnerships—among governments, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, scholars, and concerned citizens.”

UN Secretary General
Kofi Annan
May 14, 2002

Specific support for these partnerships may be seen in Figure 1, which shows distribution of effort among six thematically defined categories. More detailed categories are shown in Figure 2. Both representations show very strong U.S. investment in the social sectors and in resource stewardship.

Figure 1: Initiatives by Theme

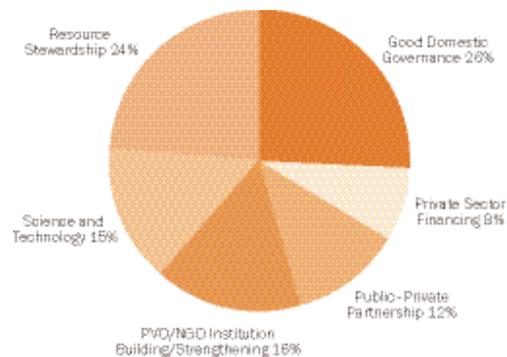
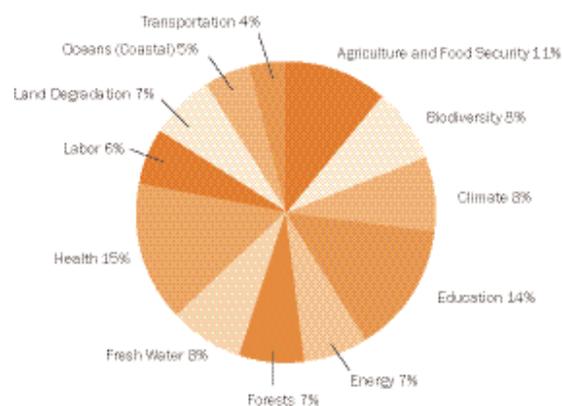


Figure 2: Initiatives by Sectors and Subsectors



“We fight against poverty because faith requires it and conscience demands it. And we fight against poverty with a growing conviction that major progress is within our reach.”

President George W. Bush
March 22, 2002

U.S. Actions to Support Sustainable Development

Leading to the Johannesburg Summit, the United States has done the following:

- Announced that core development assistance will be increased by \$5 billion, an increase of 50 percent over current levels by 2006. This increase will be managed through a Millennium Challenge Account and will recognize countries that demonstrate commitment to sound policies that support economic growth.
- Launched the Global Development Alliance to foster public–private partnerships.
- Announced a \$500 million, five-year International Mother and Child HIV Prevention Initiative for Africa and the Caribbean and raised its pledge to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria to \$500 million.
- Announced a five-year \$200 million initiative to support primary education in Africa.
- Announced a commitment to increase the number of Peace Corps volunteers over the next five years to help people at the grass-roots level meet their communities’ sustainable development needs.
- Requested increased support for agricultural development—by 25 percent—in FY 2003 over FY 2002.
- With its partners, convinced the World Bank to increase use of grants (rather than concessional loans) to the poorest developing countries.
- Plans to increase expenditures for climate-change-related programs and activities by an expected \$653 million.

U.S. Economic Leadership Index

U.S. imports from developing countries in 2001	\$449 billion
U.S. official development assistance in 2001	\$11 billion
U.S. annual private capital investment in developing countries, 1997–2000	\$36 billion
U.S. private charitable donations to developing countries in 2000	\$4 billion
U.S. humanitarian assistance and food aid in 2001	\$2.5 billion
U.S. contribution to multilateral development banks, 2002–2003	\$1.4 billion

Transboundary Water Issues in the Middle East

The Department of State has established regional environmental hubs in 12 embassies around the world. The idea is that transboundary environmental problems can best be addressed through regional cooperation. A hub at the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan works through regional mechanisms and institutions, national governments, non-governmental organizations, donor organizations, and business communities to develop and support



regional water activities arising from the Middle East peace process.

While quite large, the commitments to sustainable development reported in the survey form just a small part of the United States’ total engagement with developing and transition countries. There is great potential for these extensive relationships to further partnerships.

Partnerships for Just Domestic Governance

Reliable and productive governance is required both for government-to-government and public–private

partnerships. Therefore, good domestic governance is fundamental to sustainable development. Good governance means effective and democratic institutions, including an independent and fair judiciary and respect for the rule of law; sound monetary, fiscal, and trade policies that promote economic growth, social development, and environmental protection; and a role for all members of civil society to participate in transparent decisionmaking. Of the 400 initiatives described in the survey, 106 are primarily related to improved governance, and 138 have components supporting strengthened governance.

USAID provides \$700 million annually to strengthen domestic governance. The Department of Justice is training officials from Africa, Asia, and Latin America in environmental law enforcement. The National Center for State Courts is strengthening judicial systems in many countries. The National Endowment for Democracy, with support from the U.S. Congress, promotes competitive elections and democratic systems throughout the world. And the U.S. Government—along with Canada, Finland, the Open Society Institute, and the Ford Foundation—is supporting Transparency International’s work to report on and combat corruption.

Environmental stewardship and good governance are connected. For instance, in the Middle East, the United States has linked peace building with equitable sharing of water resources.

The Environmental Protection Agency supports establishment of regional environmental centers to strengthen environmental governance in the Caucasus, Central Asia, Moldova, Ukraine, and Hungary.

Good governance is important at the local level, where people can participate in problem solving. Local participation has been particularly productive in resource stewardship in Indonesia.

The Department of Labor works with governments, employers, and worker representatives to help countries adhere to the principles of the International Labor Organization’s Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. The United States has also been combating child labor, which endangers development by degrading our most valuable resource—people. ■

“Self-governing people, prepared to participate in an open world marketplace, are the very foundation of sustainable development, and that begins with good governance.”

Undersecretary of State
Paula J. Dobriansky
May 23, 2002

Local Rights and Participation in Indonesia

In Indonesia, USAID is promoting participatory natural resource management with a \$12 million program for local stakeholders to create site-specific plans and agreements. In 2001, USAID funded implementation of 51 site plans to better manage 700,000 hectares of forest and coastline. By clarifying responsibilities for natural resource management, the Government of Indonesia involved communities in more than 180 policy decisions in 2001. In North Sulawesi fishing villages, where USAID funded



community-based coastal zone management, fish populations have doubled in no-fishing areas, diversity has significantly increased, and the health of reefs has stabilized or improved.

Ending Child Labor

The United States is vigorously combating child labor. From 1995 through 2001, the Department of Labor committed more than \$112 million to international anti-child labor activities and the International Labor Organization’s International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor. These funds support activities aimed at removing children from exploitive work, providing education and rehabilitation, and helping families with viable economic alternatives. In 2002, the Labor Department will contribute another \$45 million to support these programs. As part of its Child Labor



Education Initiative, the department will give \$74 million in grants by September 2003 to increase access to education in countries with a high incidence of child labor. The first four programs have been funded in El Salvador, India, Nepal, and Tanzania.

Investing in People

Equitable opportunities for people to develop their potential are a clear indicator of just governance. An educated, healthy society is more able to be productive, reduce poverty, and protect natural resources.

Education

Education is a primary goal of 50 of the initiatives surveyed and a key component of 129 others. USAID invested \$357 million in education in 2002—25 percent more than in 2001—and is strengthening basic education in more than 25 countries. The Peace Corps devotes more than \$80 million a year to basic education in more than 50 countries. In June 2002, President Bush announced a \$200 million African Education Initiative to train 160,000 new teachers and upgrade the skills of 260,000 more. The U.S. Department of Agriculture expects to spend \$100 million in 2003 on its Global Food for Education program.

In higher education, the U.S. Government fosters public–private partnerships between academic institutions. The Higher Education and Workforce Development Partnership program has created partnerships in 53 countries, among 130 U.S. community colleges and universities and 120 institutions in developing countries. This program developed or upgraded university curricula in HIV/AIDS (India, South Africa), human rights (Colombia),

community health (Senegal), agronomy and extension (Rwanda), environmental engineering (Philippines), child welfare and nutrition (India), pesticide disposal (Tanzania), teacher training (South Africa, Ghana), solid waste and wastewater management (Uganda), and mathematics and science (South Africa).

The U.S. Government is helping countries acquire information and communications technologies for education and teacher preparation programs, particularly as a way to reach remote communities in countries such as Honduras, Namibia, Uganda, and Zambia.

The Environmental Protection Agency is supporting National Research Environmental Centers in Eastern Europe. Numerous U.S. private foundations and academic centers fund exchange programs and provide post-graduate opportunities.

Health

Health improvement is the primary goal of 100 of the 400 initiatives surveyed and a component in an additional 93. USAID alone will commit \$1.55 billion to health initiatives in 2003. This includes significant new commitments to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and help treat those afflicted. The U.S. Government's multi-pronged approach also draws on

the departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Defense, Labor, and State, which are active in the most afflicted countries.

USAID is increasing its HIV/AIDS priority countries from 17 to 23 and increasing funding to these countries, strengthening seven regional HIV/AIDS programs, and maintaining basic prevention and care in 25 other countries. HHS's Global AIDS Program works in 24 countries on surveillance and monitoring, research, prevention, and care. HHS Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strengthens capacity and infrastructure in 16 countries. In addition to these prevention and mitigation commitments, the HHS's National Institutes of Health directs the world's largest research effort to develop a vaccine and other prevention and treatment interventions for HIV infection and AIDS.

The United States made important contributions to the following accomplishments of HIV/AIDS programs:

- in Zambia, reducing HIV/AIDS prevalence rates among pregnant urban 15- to 19-year-olds by 42 percent (USAID, HHS Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- establishing workplace education programs in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Malawi, Nigeria, Ukraine, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe (Department of Labor)
- reducing Uganda's overall HIV/AIDS prevalence by 50 percent since 1992 (USAID)

The United States has also long been a world leader in improving maternal and child health, fighting infectious

diseases (especially tuberculosis and malaria), helping vulnerable children, and supporting reproductive health and family planning. With U.S. help, countries have made major strides in child vaccine development and coverage, oral rehydration therapy, and Vitamin A supplementation and nutrition. In addition, the United States collaborates with over 30 countries and regional programs to fight tuberculosis. ■

Breakthrough Innovations on HIV/AIDS in Uganda

In the fight against HIV/AIDS, the example of Uganda is instructive. Between 1992 and 2000, strong political leadership by the country's president and innovative and rigorous approaches to HIV prevention and care contributed to reducing the country's HIV-prevalence rate by over 50 percent—down to an estimated 8.3 percent of the adult population. The president's political leadership encouraged broad and frank discussions. Radio, television, churches, mosques, media, schools, and political institutions disseminated information. Women were also encouraged to be more assertive in promoting safe sex.

HHS Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense, and USAID played important roles in this success. They supported such innovative projects as

- the AIDS Information Center, the first program in Africa to offer voluntary counseling and testing for HIV, expanded to 51 locations



- the AIDS Support Organization, the first and largest indigenous HIV/AIDS care and support organization in Africa
- an innovative “model district” program that is developing comprehensive, integrated HIV/AIDS services in 10 districts throughout Uganda
- the first “AIDS in the Workplace” project in Africa and one of the first “AIDS in the Military” projects
- an activity that used U.S. Department of Agriculture emergency humanitarian food aid to help meet the nutritional needs of families and orphans affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic

Mobilizing Partnerships for Sustainable Development

The United States relies primarily on four types of collaboration in initiatives that promote investment in people, just governance, and resource stewardship through economic growth: strengthening the nonprofit sector, leveraging private sector finance, promoting public-private partnerships, and making available the benefits of advances in science and technology.

The Nonprofit Sector

Domestic nongovernmental organizations and international private voluntary organizations bring significant resources to the table. U.S.-based private voluntary organizations give \$4 billion a year from their own resources to developing countries—60 percent of their total grants to such countries.

To this amount, U.S. Government programs administered by private voluntary organizations add another \$2.7 billion a year. Of the 400 initiatives, 64 primarily support nongovernmental organizations; nongovernmental organizations were implementing partners in an additional 178 initiatives. The United States has worked to strengthen nongovernmental agencies and umbrella organizations in all regions of the world.

With USAID assistance, Technoserve supports small-scale manufacturers in El Salvador and other countries. In 2001, the Peace Corps aided business development in 36 countries, benefiting more than 2,000 communities, training 6,659 service providers, and strengthening 3,681 groups.

U.S. Government support strengthened many health programs, including PRO-COSI, a Bolivian consortium that serves the poor; the Tuberculosis Coalition for Technical Assistance; nongovernmental health services organizations in Bangladesh, and community women's health organizations in Yemen. USAID supports the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, which builds local capacity to address the problem.

In education, USAID involves parents and community groups in parent-teacher associations, school committees, and development teams. For example, the USAID-supported Community

Caspian Environmental Partnership Program

The Caspian Environmental Partnership program, which began with three years of USAID funding, now also receives support from the Open Society Institute, Trust for Mutual Understanding, and Rockefeller Family Associates. It aims to build a network of activists sharing information and plans; increase effectiveness of local nongovernmental organizations and their partnerships; and strengthen cooperation among nongovernmental organizations, the business sector, and government.



Activities include grants programs and seminars, environmental education, and initiatives to promote safe transit of oil and monitor pollution.

Schools Grants Program in Ethiopia provided grants to 1,300 schools, more than doubling primary school enrollment rates and dramatically increasing girls' participation.

In Bangladesh, the USAID-supported Women's Economic and Legal Rights Program provides legal aid on work issues and prompted the government to respond to workers' complaints. In Cambodia, the program trained women vendors to deal more effectively with market authorities.

The Environmental Protection Agency, in its effort to improve drinking water quality in Central America and eastern and southern Africa, provides significant help to nongovernmental organizations. Many of USAID's environmental protection programs also work through nongovernmental organizations.

Private Sector Finance

In addition to their domestic private investment, developing countries receive \$180–200 billion a year in international private investment, including \$36 billion from the United States. This amount surpasses by far total foreign aid worldwide, which amounts to about \$55 billion a year.

The United States works with associations, businesses, and individuals to build sustainable economies. Jordan, with extensive U.S. support, opened the Aqaba Special Economic Zone, a model of streamlined investment procedures. Already, the zone has attracted \$422 million in private investment, four times its target. India is improving its regulatory environment for private investment with USAID support. And in Senegal, USAID worked with the banking system to open microfinance

opportunities in seven private financial networks.

Technological developments can boost local economies dramatically. The U.S. Government's interagency Education for Development and Democracy Initiative aims to improve education and increase access to technology and information. Under this initiative, a partnership with Georgia State University established the Ronald H. Brown Institute to strengthen state-of-the-art skills of businesspeople in Africa and train others, especially students, aspiring to enter business.

Namibia Community-Based Resource Management

In Namibia, USAID supports a community-based natural resource management program with technical assistance and training for nongovernmental organizations, conservancies, and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Since 1996, the government has registered 15 communal area conservancies, covering more than 4 million hectares of prime wildlife habitat, and engaging over 32,000 historically disadvantaged Namibians. Income earned by conservancies under the program, primarily through tourism, doubled from last year and employment increased.



Domestic Shelter and Municipal Services for the Poor in South Africa



Since 1994, \$15 million in U.S. assistance has guaranteed nearly \$230 million in lending from private partners

for shelter and municipal services to the poor in South Africa. In exchange for access to these funds, the domestic private sector in South Africa has lent more than \$700 million to households for shelter and to local authorities for critical municipal services. An estimated 1.2 million households benefit from these services. A survey of one program found that over a third of beneficiaries were female-headed households.

Public-Private Partnerships

Just governance, investment in people, and the right climate for private investment engenders productive public-private partnerships for sustainable development. In 2001, the United States announced the Global Development Alliance, a framework for leading, facilitating, and integrating such partnerships. Of the initiatives in the survey, 48 focus on public-private partnerships, and an additional 155 involve such partnerships.

One such initiative, “Water for the Poor: The West Africa Water Initiative,” will support water supply and sanitation for the poor. The partnership includes the U.S. Government, a foundation, the United Nations, nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector. Each has a critical role to play. For example, USAID will drive the expansion of initial efforts focusing on potable water and public health toward more holistic management of water resources for a broad range of development goals.

Increasing Environmental Management Capacity in Eastern Russia

In the Russian far east and Siberia, forests have potential for significant business opportunities. In a five-year activity supported by \$30 million from the USDA's Forest Service and USAID, 150 ecobusinesses in the Russian far east grew, and improved their environmental performance. In one forest region, forestry administrations and small businesses increased reforested acreage. USAID is helping Russian businesses comply with the World Trade Organization's international environmental standards to help them compete globally. More than 100 businesses are now pursuing certification. EPA has



also initiated a technical assistance program in environmental finance in Russia.

The United States contributes about \$40 million a year to 14 International Agricultural Research Centers, which continue to develop breakthroughs that increase agricultural productivity and food security. The Global Polio Eradication Program is a partnership of the HHS Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S.-based Rotary International. This program has raised \$500 million, with \$50 million budgeted for this year.

Some tasks require the coordinated effort of a partnership. The National Science Foundation and National Aeronautics and Space Administration have formed partnerships with public and private organizations from many countries to produce comprehensive emissions inventories through the Global Emissions Inventory Activity. Partnerships for environmental stewardship often involve private interests and developing-country public institutions. For example, the Global Development Alliance is mobilizing the private sector to develop renewable energy sources in remote areas of the Philippines. USAID, with the Department of Energy's Sandia

The Lifesaving Use of Bednets

Each year, 2.5 million Africans, 90 percent children under age 5, die of malaria or malaria-related illness—90 percent of such deaths worldwide. Research has shown that bednets treated with insecticide could reduce all childhood deaths in Africa by 20 percent, not solely those caused by malaria.



USAID has joined with six international and African net and insecticide manufacturers in a landmark public-private part-

nership to build both the supply and demand for insecticide-treated nets. The goal is to reduce severe malaria by 45 percent. The program, NetMark, is making low-cost bednets available commercially on a national scale in Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, and Zambia. Commercial companies, local distributors, and a \$15.4 million U.S. Government investment are funding the initiative.

National Laboratories, is sponsoring the Mexican Renewable Energy Program. USAID is also helping governments in Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia, South Africa, and Tanzania partner with community-based organizations to maintain wildlife sanctuaries.

Science and Technology

Productive partnerships with the scientific and technology communities are essential to address the problems humanity faces. U.S.-funded research pioneered development of many now-standard tools for monitoring, managing, and transforming problems into sustainable solutions. Of the U.S. initiatives surveyed, 194 have science and technology components.

The Geographic Information for Sustainable Development Initiative, a Department of State–USAID-led international alliance, aims to apply a new generation of earth observation data, state-of-the-art geographic information systems technologies, and field-tested geographic knowledge to ongoing sustainable development problems in Africa and elsewhere.

With funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Harvard University is managing the International Initiative on Science and Technology for Sustainability. The initiative is an open network of people and institutions dedicated to understanding the links between environment and development and fostering the infusion of science and technology in decisionmaking.

The International Cooperative Biodiversity Group, managed by the

Fogarty International Center of the HHS National Institutes of Health, integrates discovery of medicines, incentives for conservation, and models of sustainable development through research and capacity building in biodiversity-rich countries. The program is active in Argentina, Cameroon, Chile, Laos, Madagascar, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Suriname, and Vietnam.

To explore climate and social interactions, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate and Societal Interactions Program supports Regional Climate Outlook Fora, pilot application projects, workshops, training, and technical assistance to better understand climate variability and extreme events. The program also focuses on improving forecasting and data management in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific.

USDA's Forest Service conducts some of the most extensive natural resource planning and assessment in the world. USAID has mobilized Forest Service expertise to address international challenges and offer technical assistance in many developing countries. Other collaborators include national forest agencies, nongovernmental organizations, private industry, and research institutions.

Achieving sustainable societies requires knowledgeable citizens and a well-trained scientific community. Capacity building is integral to many of the science and technology initiatives surveyed. For example, more than 20 HHS National Institutes of Health programs build research capacity. ■

Managing and Conserving Natural Resources

"At its core, Johannesburg is about the relationship between human society and the natural environment."

UN Secretary General
Kofi Annan
May 14, 2002

Ninety-seven of the U.S.-supported partnerships surveyed address some of the greatest problems of environmental stewardship; an additional 91 have environmental stewardship components. The United States uses strategies such as promoting equitable economic growth along with resource sustainability; promoting social development and resource stewardship in tandem; linking capacity building and local empowerment; encouraging community-based approaches that include historically disadvantaged groups such as women; conducting information and communications campaigns; and supporting cre-

ative financing, including debt reduction and loan guarantees. With U.S. support, partnerships are helping developing and transition countries address serious resource stewardship challenges. USAID alone spends \$600 million a year on environmental initiatives.

Climate Change

Scientific understanding of the complexities of global change is essential to successful long-term development planning. The United States has made a strong commitment to continuing its robust research efforts and is expanding efforts to help developing countries address research gaps. In June 2001, President Bush announced the U.S. Climate Change Research Initiative, focused on reducing areas of uncertainty in climate change science.

The U.S. Global Change Research Program contributes to and benefits from international research to improve understanding of global change both regionally and globally. The program involves 11 U.S. departments and agencies and is implemented in national and international projects.

Special climate areas require far more understanding. One such area is the Arctic, the subject of an ambitious climate impact assessment that the United States supports through the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric

Predicting El Niño

Droughts, floods, and fires caused by El Niño climate variability frequently cause huge damage in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and the South Pacific. Record losses of \$90 billion in 1998 were followed by losses of \$67 billion in 1999. With accurate forecasts, farmers and fishermen can plan ahead to minimize losses.

Predictions are improving dramatically thanks to research. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, for instance, operates oceanic buoys, develops computer models, and makes forecasts. The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, aided by the National Science Foundation, coordinates documentation of climate variability in

the Americas and its links to natural systems changes and societal effects. The Famine Early Warning System in Africa, with U.S. support, helps countries foresee and mitigate famine.



The value of even short-term El Niño forecasts can be seen in Peru. After a forecast of El Niño, farmers' representatives and government officials meet to decide on the combination of

crops that will maximize yields. Hence, depending on the forecast, farmers might plant more rice to take advantage of excess precipitation, or less cotton, which can tolerate drier conditions. The forecasts have been similarly used in Australia, Brazil, India, and various African nations.

Administration, and the University of Alaska. Perhaps the most dramatic climate variability effort helps forecasters better predict El Niño events.

In addition to international research collaboration, the United States provided technical and financial support to 56 developing countries conducting climate change studies. To reduce the threats posed by climate change in developing and transition countries, USAID launched a five-year, \$1 billion Climate Change Initiative in 1998. This initiative works to decrease the rate of growth in net greenhouse gas emissions through policy change, capacity building, and technology cooperation. USAID provides technical leadership and assistance to more than 40 countries and regions on climate change issues.

Energy

The United States, led by the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency and USAID, helps countries seek more efficient, less polluting sources of power. Encouraging private investment in clean, efficient energy systems has produced significant, sustainable results in more than 50 countries. In Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia, USAID has helped improve energy efficiency through systemic reform.

The Department of Energy's Village Power program provides electricity for the first time to more than 140 rural communities in more than 30 countries. The program relies primarily on solar, wind, micro-hydro, biomass, and other renewable forms of energy.

USAID's Energy Efficiency Program, in collaboration with the Environmental

Protection Agency, helped countries in southern Africa and Asia phase out use of leaded gasoline. Through the Cairo Air Improvement Project, USAID supports reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles in the region, as well as lead, particulates, and smog-forming emissions. It is also fostering development of new energy services by private firms, including conversion to natural gas.

The United States leads the world in research on climate and other global environmental changes, spending approximately \$1.7 billion annually since FY 2000 on climate change research. This is roughly half of the world's total dedicated climate change research expenditures and is three times more than the next largest contributor.

Exchanging Debt for Development

The 1998 Tropical Forest Conservation Act forgives official U.S. debt of eligible countries in return for forest conservation. Agreements to forgive \$25 million in debt have been signed with Bangladesh, Belize, El Salvador, and Peru. USAID provided \$16 million in grants to nongovernmental organizations under 17 debt-for-nature swaps in eight countries to retire nearly \$100 million in commercial bank debt. Agreements have been signed with Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Jamaica, and Uruguay to cancel more than \$800 million in official U.S. debt. Local cur-



rency generated over the life of the agreements supports environmental and conservation programs and, in some cases, child development initiatives.

Europe and Eurasia Power Sector Reform

In Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia, USAID supported systemic reform of the power sector in 17 countries. This included new legal and regulatory frameworks, unbundling of monopolies, creation of modern national and regional electricity markets, and opening up to private sector investors. USAID has supported these reforms in part by implementing 45 public-private energy partnerships between energy companies in the region and the United States.

USAID supported development of private energy-efficiency engineering firms in Armenia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine. The Department of Energy helped create nongovernmental



tal energy efficiency centers in several countries. This has allowed development of innovative credit arrangements, such as the Development Credit Authority guarantee arrangement in Bulgaria, now being implemented regionally in southeastern Europe.

The United States supports numerous research institutions, such as the Center for Power Efficiency and Environmental Protection in India, that improve energy efficiency and systems to reduce pollution. The Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration is helping set up centers in six countries in southern Africa, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Russia to improve transportation systems by making them more efficient and reducing energy waste.

Biodiversity

Maintaining biodiversity is an economic, health, and cultural necessity. Yet, as UN Secretary General Kofi Annan stated, "Biodiversity is declining at an unprecedented rate—as much as a thousand times what it would be without the impact of human activity."

Of the initiatives surveyed, 110 have biodiversity components. USAID pioneered one of the most comprehensive

biodiversity conservation programs of any bilateral donor; supporting sustainable natural resources management and biodiversity conservation in more than 60 countries in the last nine years. Increasingly, the United States helps countries link their economic and social development with conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

Examples of projects include the Smithsonian Institution's Monitoring and Assessment of Biodiversity Program, conducted with UNESCO, which has established research protocols in 62 sites and trained staff from 29 countries; the Turtle Excluder Devices program, which protects sea turtles from commercial fishing, initiated cooperatively in Mexico and extended to 30 countries; biodiversity protection in Russia's Lake Baikal, home to at least 1,400 plant and 1,500 aquatic species, 80 percent of which are found nowhere else; and work with Madagascar to more than double the forested area under protection.

Water Resources

Integrated water resources management is increasingly accepted as a preferred way to manage water resources—from freshwater and watersheds to coastal and marine resources. Using participatory planning and implementation, this approach manages water resources for society's long-term needs while maintaining essential ecological protections. It fits the U.S. Government's ethic of sustainable development, emphasizing connections among multiple needs to address the challenges of poverty and a degraded environment.

As the lead U.S. Government agency working on international water issues,

Environmental Management in the Meso-American Biological Corridor

The Meso-American Biological Corridor, a network of rainforests and other pristine ecosystems rich in diverse life, is one of the largest conservation efforts in the world. In a six-year, \$37.5 million activity, USAID and a host of partners provide technical assistance and financial support for conservation policies, and business plan development and implementation. Partners include the Global Environment Facility, the Central American Commission on Development, the UN Development Programme, InterAmerican Development Bank, the German aid organization GTZ, several national governments, nongovernmental organizations, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Tourism certification in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico has



facilitated establishment of the Meso-American Alliance for Ecotourism Development. The alliance is working to widen market access for environmentally sound products and services, and to develop marketing strategies for "green" products, such as biodiversity-friendly agriculture, forestry, organic goods, and ecotourism.

Oceans and Coastal Resources

While freshwater is of great concern, most of the earth's water is in seas and oceans. This resource is under threat from human activities. Coastal systems are vulnerable to degradation from land-based activities, climate change, and exploitation of living resources. Some 60 percent of the world's population lives within about 100 kilometers of the shore, relying on marine habitats and resources for food, building materials, agriculture, and recreation—and as a dump for sewage, garbage, and toxic waste. Half of the world's coastal wetlands and 25 percent of its coral reefs have now perished, and the global fishing fleet is 40 percent larger than the oceans and coastlines can sustain. Unsustainable management of coastal resources is undermining economic options and decreasing food security.

Maintaining the quality and quantity of freshwater inflows into coastal environ-

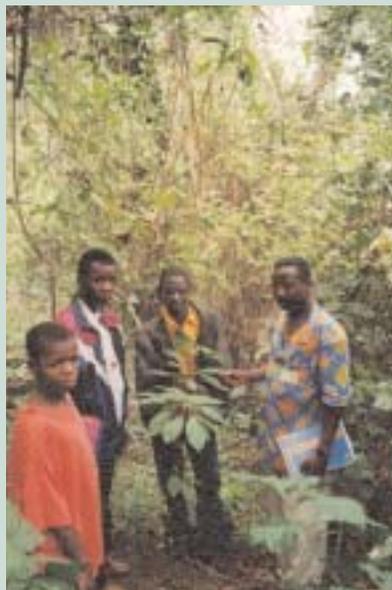
ments is critical to the health of ocean and coastal ecosystems. The United States supports efforts to integrate coastal and freshwater resources management, preserve aquatic biodiversity, and reduce pollution from land-based activities. Only 4 percent of the initiatives surveyed involve oceans primarily (although some initiatives are large). An additional 64 have components involving coasts and oceans. U.S. programs support sustainable management of mangroves, coral reefs, and fisheries, and develop and disseminate information on the protection of oceans and coastal regions. The U.S. Government, particularly the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, maintains several comprehensive databases for researchers and governments.

USAID works in more than 40 countries to promote protection and improved resource management of coastal lands, waters, and coral reef ecosystems. USAID has adopted a combined integrated coastal and water resource management approach. It is also working to conserve marine biodiversity and coastal resources by promoting marine-protected areas and zoning concepts. A large-scale ecoregional or landscape approach, which includes regional economic and ecological issues, has emerged as critical for bio-diversity and habitat conservation.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service, through the National Marine Sanctuary Program, offers training and collaborates with South Africa in managing a national network of marine protected areas. The administration also supports cooperative large marine ecosystem projects. There are eight Global Environment Facility-financed projects involving 60 develop-

Sustainable Natural Resource Management Practices in Guinea

In 1998, Guinea began a seven-year plan to reduce poverty and improve food security, farm productivity, and natural resource management. With USAID help, the government transferred three state-owned forests totaling 50,374 hectares to local communities and the country's forest service, according to agreed-on management plans. Villagers are restoring forest cover, protecting watersheds, rehabilitating degraded areas, instituting agroforestry, and implementing fire control measures. USAID and Peace Corps programs are educating communities about agroforestry and the environment. Beneficiaries are small landholders, small and microentrepreneurs (70 percent women) and, to a lesser extent, refugees from Sierra Leone and Liberia.



ing countries, and eight more projects are under development.

The United States supports a Caribbean regionwide response to land-based runoff affecting the coastal environment. The Environmental Protection Agency is helping implement the 1999 Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities to the 1983 Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.

USAID is forming an alliance with the UN Foundation and others to promote economic and economically sound management of the Meso-American coral reef—the second longest barrier reef in the world. The alliance supports the International Coral Reef Action Network and the International Coral Reef Initiative, a partnership of governments, international institutions, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations dedicated to reversing coral reef degradation.

Land Degradation

Forty percent of the world's agricultural land is seriously degraded, and about a quarter of the initiatives in the survey have components to address the problem. The United States helps many countries with activities that support the National Action Plans of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. The U.S. Geological Survey supports the African Sustainable Tree Crops Project, a capacity-building venture to increase tree productivity and quality, enhance environmental quality, and improve socioeconomic return for landholders. One such program in Guinea controls land degradation while increasing income and conserving forests.

Forests

The greatest threats to forests today are conversion to other land use and fragmentation by agriculture, logging, and road construction. World Resources Institute estimates that more than 130,000 square kilometers of tropical forests are cut down each year, and that in developing countries forest area has declined by almost 10 percent since 1980. Of the 400 initiatives surveyed, 95 had a forest component. An essential part of sustainable forestry management, as in the case of Bolivia, is implementing appropriate policies.

In the Congo Basin, six U.S. Government agencies, with partners including conservation organizations, private-sector logging companies, and government wildlife and forestry representatives, formed the Central African Regional Program for the Environment. The initiative works to improve forest management practices and ensure habitat health, focusing on logging concession operations, wildlife habitat monitoring, and restoration strategies. ■

Sustainable Forest Management in Bolivia

With nearly 1 million hectares of natural forests independently certified as well managed and more than 6 million hectares of forest under approved forest management plans, Bolivia is the global leader in sustainable tropical forestry. In 1993, the governments of Bolivia and the United States responded to forest degradation and the need to create economic opportunities in rural areas by establishing the Bolivia Sustainable Forest Management project. By working with the government, the private sector, universities, and civil society, the project catalyzed dramatic improve-



ments in forest management. In addition to national legislative reform, the project supported municipal governments' efforts to create forestry reserves and manage them through local community groups.

In 2000, USDA's Forest Service, World Wildlife Fund, USAID, and the Bolivian Chamber of Forest Industries created the Amazonian Center for Sustainable Forest Enterprise.

Since its inception, the value of certified forest products exported from Bolivia rose from \$8.5 million in 2000 to \$13 million in 2001.

Conclusion

“We cannot leave behind half of humanity as we seek a better future for ourselves. We cannot accept permanent poverty in a world of progress. There are no second class citizens in the human race.”

President George W. Bush
March 14, 2002

This overview of sustainable development initiatives assisted by the U.S. Government represents an extraordinary range and depth of commitment. The great majority of programs and projects are part of longer term initiatives and strategies in critically important areas such as building human capital, understanding and managing climate change, and preserving biodiversity. This survey is the first such compilation for the U.S. Government. While not a complete inventory, it is nevertheless a significant sampling of initiatives totaling billions of dollars of annual governmental and partner commitments.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development is an opportunity to reinforce consensus on what needs to be done to achieve a more sustainable world. The United States intends to continue its programs and partnerships that mobilize the talent and financial resources to achieve this aim. U.S. programs, like the summit itself, will strive to promote social and economic growth that can be sustained over the long term. Good sense and morality unite to motivate this strategy. Thus, the test of the Johannesburg World Summit for Sustainable Development is whether momentum can be maintained, and even accelerated. ■



Appendix

Participating U.S. Departments and Agencies

Department of Agriculture
Department of Commerce
Department of Education
Department of Energy
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Interior
Department of Justice
Department of Labor
Department of State
Department of Transportation
Department of Treasury

Agency for International Development
Environmental Protection Agency
Export-Import Bank
Federal Trade Commission
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Science Foundation
Peace Corps
Small Business Administration
The Smithsonian Institution
Trade and Development Agency

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- 4 *Jordan water.* USAID
- 5 *Reef cleanup in Indonesia.* Coastal Resources Center, University of Rhode Island
- 5 *Children hard at work.* UN/IDP
- 7 *HIV/AIDS education in Uganda.* WHO Photolibrary
- 8 *The Caspian Sea.* Reza/Webistan
- 9 *A lesson in community forest management in Namibia.* USAID
- 9 *Domestic shelter and municipal water in South Africa.* USAID
- 10 *Russian non-timber forest products at a trade show in Hong Kong.* USAID
- 10 *An insecticide-treated bednet in use.* USAID: C. Lengeler
- 12 *Tracking El Niño.* NOAA/Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory. Seattle: M. Neimer
- 13 *Port Honduras Marine Reserve in southern Belize, a beneficiary of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act.* USAID: Scott Lampman
- 13 *Power plant compressor.* Department of Energy
- 14 *Ecotourism huts in the Meso-American Biological Corridor.* USAID
- 15 *Sign in a national park in the Panama Canal Watershed.* Academy for Educational Development/GreenCOM/ Panama
- 16 *Village reforestation in Guinea.* USAID/Guinea: Laura Lartigue
- 17 *Forest certification in Bolivia.* USAID: C.J. Rushin-Bell
- 18 *The Cayambe Coca Ecological Reserve, Ecuador.* The Nature Conservancy



For more information, contact

U.S. Agency for International Development

Washington, D.C. 20523-1000

Telephone: 202-712-4810

Internet: www.usaid.gov

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