

The amended bill includes \$195,000,000 for biodiversity conservation programs and activities, as proposed by the Senate instead of \$175,000,000 as proposed by the House. The Appropriations Committees note that USAID has not always disbursed biodiversity funds in a strategic way that targets the most urgent threats to global biodiversity loss. The USAID Administrator is directed to submit a report to the Appropriations Committees not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, describing the key threats to biodiversity that USAID plans to address in fiscal year 2008, targeted countries, proposed funding levels, proposed recipients, and specific benchmarks for success. The report should also include an analysis and assessment of the impact of USAID's programs on local communities, wildlife, and fauna and how USAID intends to address these impacts.

Funding is provided for the Amazon Basin Conservation Initiative as proposed in Senate Report 110-128, and additional funding should be provided to support conservation activities through organizations that work to build the capacity of indigenous communities to manage and protect their reserves, particularly on-going programs in Brazil.

The Appropriations Committees endorse language in House Report 110-197 encouraging USAID to establish an institute for agriculture and natural resource management in southern Sudan, which should be named after the late John Garang de Mabior. The Senate did not include a similar provision.

USAID should implement a program to encourage the return of the Sudanese Lost Boys and Lost Girls to southern Sudan as outlined in House Report 110-197, but for a period of return of three years, instead of five years. The Senate did not include a similar provision.

USAID is directed to provide \$14,000,000 for the Patrick Leahy War Victims Fund, for medical and rehabilitation assistance, vocational, and other training for persons who are disabled as a result of armed conflict. USAID is urged to convene workshops and meetings to promote the exchange of conceptual approaches, experience, and best practices among private voluntary organizations, community activists, business enterprises, and government entities involved in community development on behalf of persons who have been disabled and disadvantaged as a result of war. USAID has supported innovative income generating projects involving such persons in need in Lebanon and other countries, and is directed to allocate additional funds so these experiences can be shared and replicated.

The amended bill provides not less than the fiscal year 2007 allocations for Cambodia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Asia and Near East Regional, and Regional Development Mission/Asia under this account.

→ The Appropriations Committees support language as proposed by House Report 110-197 and Senate Report 110-128 for a competitive university grants program. USAID should consider the following proposals:

Alabama A&M University to research ion surface-processing in collaboration with Ege University in Turkey;

Ava Marie University's Nicaragua branch to improve their library;

Azusa Pacific University to establish a Masters of Arts program in Transformation Urban Leadership in India;

Brandeis University to fund the International Center for Democracy and Governance;

Cal Arts' Life Matters Media Center APEX;

CAMERA Center for Educational Excellence to use university expertise to elevate the condition of the Caribbean people;



DeKalb International Training Center for training student athletes from newly emerging democracies;

EARTH University Foundation to train leaders in small business in Latin America, Africa, and Asia;

Fordham University Law School to train foreign officials and judges in rule of law;

Franklin Pierce University in conjunction with the Luhansk National Pedagogical University in Ukraine for business education;

Georgetown University School of Law's International Law Institute to expand an international exchanges program on the judiciary and court systems in developing countries;

Georgia State University to establish advanced degree programs in partnership with Georgian, Azerbaijani, and Ukrainian universities;

Highline Community College for a partnership program with several colleges in South Africa and Namibia;

Indiana University at Bloomington to establish a database of Burmese human rights abuses;

Iowa State University to establish a program to reduce poverty in Mexico;

LaRoche College's Pacem In Terris program to provide educational opportunities to students from Africa;

Loma Linda University, California, to expand its medical education and health care programs in developing countries, including the refurbishment of the Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan;

Louisiana State University Law Center to establish the Louisiana State University/Latin American Commercial Law Program;