On Tuesday, July 8, 2014, Administrator Shah launched the USAID’s first ever Biodiversity Policy, which serves as a blueprint for how USAID will work to achieve its vision of conserving biodiversity for sustainable, resilient development.

The stewardship of natural resources can no longer be seen as an issue separate from the core concerns of society: tackling poverty, increasing food security, improving public health, and managing the growing impacts of climate change. Biodiversity contributes to agricultural productivity through insect pollination valued at about $210 billion, or 9.5 percent of world agricultural output. A biodiverse ecosystem plays an important role in mitigating natural disasters—coral reefs and mangroves are a natural buffer against storms on coastal populations. Biodiversity is the basis for sustainable enterprises as well. As a first measure in implementing the USAID Biodiversity Policy, USAID will spend more than $210 million to conserve nature in more than 50 countries — including an anticipated $40 million to combat wildlife trafficking.

We consider the stewardship of nature a critical and effective strategy for ending extreme poverty and fostering resilient societies. With this Policy, USAID is well positioned to chart a development path that nourishes, rather than depletes, natural capital.

—Rajiv Shah, USAID Administrator
USAID Announcements at the U.S.-African Leaders’ Summit

In the week of August 4th, President Obama rolled out the red carpet to welcome 50 African delegations from across the continent to Washington, DC for a three-day summit. The theme of the summit was “Investing in the Next Generation,” and it was an opportunity to discuss ways of stimulating growth and unlocking business opportunities. Discussions centered on how to promote inclusive development, expand trade and investment ties, engage young African leaders, and expand cooperation on peace and security - all to ensure a better future for Africa’s next generation.

USAID announcements at the Summit covers food security, health, civil society, Gender, Power Africa and wildlife trafficking.

USAID’s commitments include:

**Food Security, Climate Smart Agriculture and Resilience**
- Global Resilience Partnership - $100 million Global Partnership for Resilience (GPR) launched by USAID and The Rockefeller Foundation.
- Support for Climate-Smart Agriculture: the United States expressed strong support for the concept of a Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA), and invited African countries to join the United States in announcing their intention to join such an Alliance, slated for launch on September 23.
- Agriculture insurance to help farmers thrive.

**Health**
- Health Financing Framework - The US commits to “Accelerating Action in Africa” (AAA) to end preventable child and maternal deaths.
- New Award to Address Emerging Priorities in RMNCH - The USAID is pleased to announce a new $23 million program to address emerging priorities in reproductive, maternal and newborn health.
- Technical & Financial Support for Regulatory Harmonization Efforts in Africa - USG is committing $1.5 million to the Multi Donor Trust Fund set up by the World Bank to support the medicines regulatory harmonization project of the East Africa Community.
- Renewed Commitment to Reducing Preventable Malaria Deaths in Africa - Since 2006, the President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI) has provided $3.7 billion to sub-Saharan Africa.

**Power Africa**
- Increase in USG Funding for Power Africa – pledging a new level of $300 million in assistance per year to expand the reach of Power Africa across the continent.
- Increase in Power Africa Private Sector Commitments –private sector commitments now exceed $20 billion of investment in energy projects in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The U.S. government signed memoranda of understanding (MOU)'s with the initial six focus countries.

**Wildlife Trafficking**
- Selected Key New and Continuing Programs in Africa – New and continuing wildlife trafficking programs in Mozambique, Tanzania and Kenya.

**Civil Society**
- Africa Regional Legal Education Curriculum
- Civil Society Enabling Environment Summit

**Gender**
- USAID will support the AU’s focus on women in agriculture.
- USAID partners with the Inter-Parliamentary Union to increase attention among parliaments in East and Southern Africa to address gender issues.
The Fight against the Ebola Epidemic

The number of suspected and confirmed Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) cases continues to increase. WHO categorizes Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone as having widespread and intense EVD transmission and Nigeria as having localized transmission.

Until September 18, more than 5357 cases have already been confirmed in West Africa, and more than 2630 people have died. On September 4, 2014, Administrator Shah announced that USAID is committing up to an additional $75 million—bringing the total U.S. commitment for the Ebola crisis to nearly $100 million.

These resources will help provide 1,000 new beds, 130,000 sets of personal protective equipment, and 50,000 hygiene kits.

What’s New in Beijing USAID

The 6th Round of U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogues

At the Sixth Round of the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED) July 9-10, 2014, in Beijing, State Councillor Yang Jiechi, special representative of President Xi Jinping, and Secretary of State John Kerry, special representative of President Barack Obama, chaired the Strategic Track, which included participation from senior officials from across both governments. The two sides reviewed the successful implementation of the Strategic Track outcomes of the Fifth Round of the S&ED, held in-depth discussions on major bilateral, regional, and global issues, and recommitted to the S&ED’s role in deepening strategic trust, expanding practical cooperation, and constructively managing differences to build a new model of relations between the United States and China. The dialogue on the Strategic Track produced the following specific outcomes and areas for further cooperation:

I. Enhancing Bilateral Cooperation
II. Addressing Regional and Global Challenges
III. Sub-National Cooperation
IV. Cooperation on Energy and Climate Change
V. Cooperation on Environmental Protection
VI. Cooperation on Science, Technology, and Agriculture
VII. Cooperation on Health
VIII. Bilateral Dialogues on Energy, Environment, Science and Technology

Ms. Maria Rendon, USAID Counselor in Beijing, participated in the 6th Round of U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogues taking place in Beijing from July 8–10.

Ms. Rendon was a speaker in the breakout session on combating wildlife trafficking and she introduced USAID’s major work in this field in the world and particularly in Asia.
Do you know:


§ total development losses as a result of recurring crises represent $3.8 trillion worldwide.

§ The number of weather-related disasters has tripled, and the cost is up 300 percent to $200 billion every year.

§ While low-income countries were hit by only 9 percent of these disasters, they represented 48 percent of all fatalities.

Our Mission:
We partner to end extreme poverty and promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing our security and prosperity.

Through this newsletter, we hope we can have more interactive communication with colleagues in the development sector, and your comments and suggestions are highly appreciated.

Please contact us by sending emails to beijingusaid@state.gov

USAID and Rockefeller Foundation Announce Global Resilience Partnership

An essential feature of the Global Resilience Partnership will be a competitive Resilience Challenge—a call out to the best and brightest to present bold and innovative solutions to the toughest challenges facing priority regions.

Focus on the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and South and Southeast Asia, areas particularly susceptible to chronic stresses and extreme shocks

Enable communities to prepare for, withstand, and emerge stronger from shocks and stresses in a way that reduces chronic vulnerability and keeps them on the pathway to development

Provide $100 Million

The Challenge will launch later this year and be open to non-profits, academic institutions, and the private sector, with a focus on local and regional players.