The U.S. Government (USG) has pledged $11 billion a year to advance global action on adaptation, sustainable landscapes, and clean energy. International climate finance advances U.S. national security interests, fostering global stability, economic opportunities, poverty alleviation, and safeguards development investments. It complements global health efforts, ensures cost savings through resilience, and enhances U.S. credibility to influence global climate action.

**Multilaterals**

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) Second Replenishment has garnered 25 country pledges totaling USD $9.3 billion over the next 4 years (2024-2027). The GCF prioritizes support for the most climate vulnerable countries, communities and Indigenous Peoples.

**Ask:** The USG must make a robust GCF-2 pledge.

The Amazon Fund is a REDD+ initiative to prevent, monitor and combat deforestation, as well as to promote the preservation and sustainable land use in the Brazilian Amazon. The USG pledged $100 million/year for 5 years and has funded $3 million to date.

**Ask:** The USG must honor and fund its pledge.

**U.S. Government Bilaterals**

**USAID Adaptation** mobilizes finance assisting the most vulnerable countries and communities in adapting to climate impacts. USAID systematically integrates climate risk management into all program designs to enhance impact and sustainability.

**Ask:** Fully fund in FY24 ($285M Senate Mark)

**USAID Sustainable Landscapes** program addresses unsustainable land use practices, fosters resilience, carbon storage, livelihoods, and environmental protection through improved policies and management practices.

**Ask:** Fully fund in FY24 ($200M Senate Mark)

**Loss & Damage Fund**

Establish and adequately, sustainably resource a Fund to address adverse impacts of climate change in developing countries that will not nor cannot be averted or minimized, which includes loss of culture and identity. Rapid response mechanisms for emergencies and full accounting of rehabilitation and reconstruction needs of impacted communities must be included.
U.S. Forests & Climate Policies

It is essential to ensure that forests continue to serve as strongholds for land-based plants and animals, provide vital water supplies and erosion control, support the livelihoods of some 1.6 billion people, including Indigenous Peoples (IP) and local communities, and reduce the risk of zoonotic disease spillover events.

Enact the U.S. Foundation for International Conservation Act (USFICA) (S. 618/H.R. 1298) which would match private philanthropic and U.S. government funds to provide long-term, sustainable finance in vulnerable and biodiversity rich countries for protected area management.

Halt Commodity-Driven Deforestation: As one of the world’s largest producers, consumers, and financiers of agricultural commodities, the U.S. must use its market leverage to address and prevent commodity-driven deforestation. Through technical assistance, capacity building, and convening governments and the private sector the U.S. must harmonize policies across jurisdictions, support communities, and elevate responsible business practices.

Support the Fostering Overseas Rule of Law and Environmentally Sound Trade (FOREST) Act which would prevent the import into the U.S. of certain commodities produced on illegally deforested land and support countries in enforcing their laws to address and prevent illegal deforestation.

Support the America Mitigating & Achieving Zero-Emissions Originating from Nature for the 21st Century (AMAZON21) Act, which establishes a results-based payments or grants program to encourage developing countries to conserve forests and other natural carbon sinks. It would also authorize USAID technical assistance to conserve forests and develop technical readiness systems for developing countries to participate in carbon markets.

Intersection of Biodiversity & Climate

The USAID Biodiversity Program conserves critical ecosystems and addresses the illegal harvest and overexploitation of biodiversity. By investing in priority biodiversity areas, USAID helps vulnerable people secure better health and well-being while managing and conserving their natural wealth.¹ Ask: Fully fund in FY24. ($285M Senate Mark)

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is an international financial organization that provides funding to address global environmental issues and is implementing the recently launched Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) to protect a minimum of 30% of our lands and oceans (30x30), improve ecological integrity, and minimize the risk of pathogen spillover. Ask: Separate from the GEF Trust Fund ($150 Sen. Mark), a US pledge is needed to implement the Global Biodiversity Framework.

The 30 X 30 initiative: WCS works with national governments to integrate nature-based solutions, and adaptation programs into their national implementation plans to save 30 percent of nature by 2030. Ask: The conservation and restoration of high integrity ecosystems must be fostered and prioritized in governments’ Nationally Determined Contribution Plans, recognizing the role of nature in climate action.

U.S. Models for Valuing Nature

The Natural Capital Accounts Strategy (Jan. 2023) enhances national accounting by valuing assets like forests and air quality, currently not considered in GDP. This addresses gaps, shaping federal regulations and private business decisions by recognizing the economic value of nature in areas like forests, reefs, air and water quality, parks, and fish stocks.

The 2026 National Nature Assessment will employ existing data and Indigenous Knowledge to comprehensively depict America’s lands, waters, wildlife, and ecosystems. It guides decisions on ecosystem funds, species decline, economic recovery, and environmental justice while emphasizing contributions to the economy, health, climate, and security.

The U.S. is proposing Natural Asset Companies, a novel class of stocks, to address climate change and leverage the intrinsic and productive value of nature from natural landscapes such as forests, reefs, and wetlands.