

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1548

To authorize the President to provide assistance to the Governments of Haiti and Armenia to reverse the effects of deforestation and restore within 20 years the extent of forest levels in Haiti and Armenia in existence during the year 1990, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 24), 2013

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To authorize the President to provide assistance to the Governments of Haiti and Armenia to reverse the effects of deforestation and restore within 20 years the extent of forest levels in Haiti and Armenia in existence during the year 1990, and for other purposes.

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 “Haiti and Armenia
5 Reforestation Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) the established policy of the Federal Gov-
2 ernment is to support and seek protection of forests
3 around the world that provide a wide range of bene-
4 fits by—

5 (A) harboring a major portion of the bio-
6 logical and terrestrial resources of Earth and
7 providing habitats for almost $\frac{2}{3}$ of all species
8 on Earth, including species essential to medical
9 research and agricultural productivity;

10 (B) contributing to the livelihood of over
11 1,600,000,000 people through access to food,
12 fresh water, clothing, traditional medicines, and
13 shelter;

14 (C) ensuring environmental functions such
15 as biodiversity, water conservation, soil enrich-
16 ment, water supply management, and climate
17 regulation; and

18 (D) storing carbon, where deforestation ac-
19 counts for up to 20 percent of the global green-
20 house gas emissions that contribute to global
21 warming;

22 (2) while forests cover a little less than $\frac{1}{3}$ of
23 the land area on our planet, approximately 76 per-
24 cent of the planet's original primary forests have
25 been destroyed or degraded;

1 (3) in 1923, over 60 percent of the land of
2 Haiti was forested but, by 2006, that percentage
3 had decreased to approximately less than 2 percent
4 as a result of—

5 (A) an acceleration in the rate of deforest-
6 ation in Haiti by more than 20 percent during
7 the period beginning in 2000 and ending in
8 2005 compared to the period beginning in 1990
9 and ending in 1999; and

10 (B) a loss of nearly 10 percent (approx-
11 imately 11,000 hectares) of the forest cover and
12 approximately 22 percent of the total forest and
13 woodland habitat of Haiti;

14 (4) while archeological data indicated that ap-
15 proximately 35 percent of Armenia was originally
16 forested, less than 12 percent of Armenia’s territory
17 was covered in forest in 1990, which has been re-
18 duced to approximately less than 7 percent by 2013
19 as a result of an energy crisis that crippled the na-
20 tion in the 1990s and a loss of total of 24.5 percent
21 (nearly 85,000 hectares) of forest cover during the
22 period between 1990 and 2010;

23 (5) poverty and economic pressures are—

24 (A) two factors that underlie the deforest-
25 ation of Haiti and Armenia; and

1 (B) manifested particularly through the
2 clearing of vast areas of forest for conversion to
3 agricultural uses where $\frac{2}{5}$ of the population of
4 Haiti depend on the agricultural sector, which
5 consists mainly of small-scale subsistence farm-
6 ing, and where wood and charcoal produced
7 from cutting down trees accounts for a major
8 supply toward Haiti's and Armenia's energy
9 sectors;

10 (6) 80 percent of the population of Haiti lives
11 below the poverty line and 36 percent of the popu-
12 lation of Armenia lives below the poverty line;

13 (7) soil erosion represents a significant effect of
14 the deforestation of Haiti and Armenia, as erosion
15 has—

16 (A) lowered the productivity on the land
17 due to poor soils underlying the forests;

18 (B) worsened the severity of droughts,
19 landslides, and floods;

20 (C) led to further deforestation;

21 (D) significantly decreased the quality and,
22 as a result, quantity of freshwater and clean
23 drinking water available to populations; and

24 (E) increased the pressure on the remain-
25 ing land and trees in Haiti and Armenia;

1 (8) forests provide cover to soften the effect of
2 heavy rains and reduce erosion by anchoring the soil
3 with their roots;

4 (9) research conducted by the United Nations
5 Environmental Programme has revealed a direct (89
6 percent) correlation between the extent of the defor-
7 estation of a country and the incidence of victims
8 per weather event in the country;

9 (10) both Haiti and Armenia have faced nat-
10 ural disasters in recent years that have been at least
11 partly exacerbated by the effects of deforestation,
12 such as—

13 (A) flooding in Armenia that has cost
14 nearly \$33,000,000 in damages each year and
15 swept away or damaged thousands of homes,
16 schools, health clinics, and other institutions,
17 partly because of damage to forests through il-
18 legal loggings, landslides, and soil erosion;

19 (B) hurricanes in Haiti that have killed
20 thousands and displaced hundreds of thousands
21 more, partly because deforestation had resulted
22 in the clearing of large hillsides, which enabled
23 rainwater to run off directly to settlements lo-
24 cated at the bottom of slopes; and

1 (C) the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti,
2 which destroyed much of the infrastructure of
3 Port au Prince and had greater consequences
4 because of deforestation, which reduced hillside
5 stability and increased the likelihood of mud-
6 slides, soil erosion, and flooding factors, which
7 also negatively impacted the water supply and
8 heightened concerns for the spread of water-
9 borne diseases;

10 (11) economic benefits for local communities
11 from sustainable uses of forests are critical for the
12 long-term sustainable management of forests in
13 Haiti and Armenia;

14 (12) on July 29, 2010, the Supplemental Ap-
15 propriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111–212) was
16 enacted into law, which included \$25,000,000 for
17 “the reforestation and other restoration of Haiti’s
18 key watersheds”; and

19 (13) reforestation efforts would provide new
20 sources of jobs, income, and investments in both
21 Haiti and Armenia by—

22 (A) providing employment opportunities in
23 tree seedling programs, contract tree planting
24 and management, sustainable agricultural ini-
25 tiatives, sustainable and managed timber har-

1 vesting, and wood products milling and fin-
2 ishing services; and

3 (B) enhancing community enterprises that
4 generate income through the trading of sustain-
5 able forest resources, many of which exist on
6 small scales.

7 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide
8 assistance to the Government of Haiti and the Govern-
9 ment of Armenia to develop and implement, or improve,
10 nationally appropriate policies and actions—

11 (1) to reduce deforestation and forest degrada-
12 tion and improve forest management and natural re-
13 generation;

14 (2) to increase annual rates of afforestation and
15 reforestation in a sustainable, measurable, report-
16 able, and verifiable manner—

17 (A) to restore social and economic condi-
18 tions for environmental recovery of—

19 (i) 35 percent of Haiti’s and Arme-
20 nia’s land surface areas within 7 years
21 after the date of the enactment of this Act;
22 and

23 (ii) the forest cover of Haiti and Ar-
24 menia to at least 7 percent in Haiti and at
25 least 12 percent in Armenia (about each

1 country's respective levels in 1990) within
2 20 years after the date of the enactment of
3 this Act; and

4 (3) to improve sustainable resource manage-
5 ment at the watershed scale.

6 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) AFFORESTATION.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “afforesta-
10 tion” means the establishment of a new forest
11 through the seeding of, or planting of trees on,
12 a parcel of nonforested land.

13 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “afforestation”
14 includes—

15 (i) the introduction of a tree species
16 to a parcel of nonforested land of which
17 the species is not a native species; and

18 (ii) the increase of tree cover through
19 plantations.

20 (2) AGROFORESTRY.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “agroforest-
22 ry” refers to systems in which perennial trees
23 or shrubs are integrated with crops or livestock,
24 and where perennials constitute a minimum 10
25 percent of ground cover.

1 (B) INCLUSION.—Actual forest cover re-
2 sulting from agroforestry programs can be
3 counted toward the total forest cover goal set
4 forth in section (2)(b).

5 (3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
6 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
7 gress” means—

8 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations
9 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
10 Senate; and

11 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
12 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
13 of Representatives.

14 (4) DEFORESTATION.—The term “deforesta-
15 tion” refers to the conversion of forest to another
16 land use or the long term reduction of the tree can-
17 opy.

18 (5) FOREST.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “forest”
20 means a terrestrial ecosystem containing native
21 tree species generated and maintained primarily
22 through natural ecological and evolutionary
23 processes.

24 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “forest” does
25 not include plantations, such as crops of trees

1 planted primarily by humans for the purposes
2 of harvesting.

3 (6) REFORESTATION.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “reforesta-
5 tion” refers to the establishment of forest on
6 lands that were previously considered as forest,
7 but which have been deforested.

8 (B) INCLUSION OF PLANTATIONS.—The
9 term “reforestation” includes the increase of
10 tree cover through plantations.

11 **TITLE I—FORESTATION AND WA-**
12 **TERSHERD MANAGEMENT AS-**
13 **SISTANCE TO THE GOVERN-**
14 **MENT OF HAITI AND THE**
15 **GOVERNMENT OF ARMENIA**

16 **SEC. 101. FORESTATION ASSISTANCE.**

17 (a) AUTHORITY.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section
19 118 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22
20 U.S.C. 2151p) and consistent with the provisions of
21 paragraph (2), the President is authorized to provide
22 assistance to the Government of Haiti and the Gov-
23 ernment of Armenia in the form of financial assist-
24 ance, technology transfers, or capacity building as-
25 sistance for the conduct of activities to develop and

1 implement one or more forestation proposals under
2 paragraph (2)—

3 (A) to reduce the deforestation of Haiti
4 and Armenia; and

5 (B) to increase the rates of afforestation
6 and reforestation in Haiti and Armenia.

7 (2) PROPOSALS.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Assistance under this
9 title may be provided to the Government of
10 Haiti and the Government of Armenia to imple-
11 ment one or more proposals that contain—

12 (i) a description of each policy and
13 initiative to be carried out using the assist-
14 ance;

15 (ii) adequate documentation to ensure,
16 as determined by the President, that—

17 (I) each policy and initiative will
18 be—

19 (aa) carried out and man-
20 aged in accordance with widely
21 accepted environmentally sustain-
22 able forestry and agricultural
23 practices; and

24 (bb) designed and imple-
25 mented in a manner by which to

1 improve the governance of forests
2 by building governmental capac-
3 ity to be more transparent, inclu-
4 sive, accountable, and coordi-
5 nated in decisionmaking proc-
6 esses and the implementation of
7 the policy or initiative; and

8 (II) the proposals will further es-
9 tablish and enforce legal regimes,
10 standards, and safeguards designed to
11 ensure that members of local commu-
12 nities in affected areas, as partners
13 and primary stakeholders, will be en-
14 gaged in the design, planning, imple-
15 mentation, monitoring, and evaluation
16 of the policies and initiatives; and

17 (iii) a description of how the proposal
18 or proposals support and aid forest res-
19 toration efforts consistent with the purpose
20 set forth in section 2(b).

21 (B) DETERMINATION OF COMPATIBILITY
22 WITH CERTAIN PROGRAMS.—In evaluating each
23 proposal under subparagraph (A), the President
24 shall ensure that each policy and initiative de-
25 scribed in the proposal submitted by the Gov-

1 ernment of Haiti or the Government of Arme-
2 nia under that subparagraph is compatible
3 with—

4 (i) broader development, poverty alle-
5 viation, sustainable energy usage, and nat-
6 ural resource conservation objectives and
7 initiatives in Haiti or Armenia;

8 (ii) the development, poverty allevi-
9 ation, disaster risk management, and cli-
10 mate resilience programs of the United
11 States Agency for International Develop-
12 ment, including those involving technical
13 support from the United States Forest
14 Service; and

15 (iii) activities of international organi-
16 zations and multilateral development
17 banks.

18 (b) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Any assistance received
19 by the Government of Haiti or the Government of Armenia
20 under subsection (a)(1) shall be conditional upon develop-
21 ment and implementation of a proposal under subsection
22 (a)(2), which may include—

23 (1) the provision of technologies and associated
24 support for activities to reduce deforestation or in-

1 crease afforestation and reforestation rates, includ-
2 ing—

3 (A) fire reduction initiatives;

4 (B) forest law enforcement initiatives;

5 (C) the development of timber tracking
6 systems;

7 (D) the development of cooking fuel sub-
8 stitutes;

9 (E) initiatives to increase agricultural pro-
10 ductivity;

11 (F) tree-planting initiatives; and

12 (G) programs that are designed to focus on
13 market-based solutions, including programs
14 that leverage the international carbon-offset
15 market;

16 (2) the enhancement and expansion of govern-
17 mental and nongovernmental institutional capacity
18 to effectively design and implement a proposal devel-
19 oped under subsection (a)(2) through initiatives, in-
20 cluding—

21 (A) the establishment of transparent, ac-
22 countable, and inclusive decisionmaking proc-
23 esses relating to all stakeholders (including af-
24 fected local communities);

1 (B) the promotion of enhanced coordina-
2 tion among ministries and agencies responsible
3 for agro-ecological zoning, mapping, land plan-
4 ning and permitting, sustainable agriculture,
5 forestry, mining, and law enforcement; and

6 (C) the clarification of land tenure and re-
7 source rights of affected communities, including
8 local communities;

9 (3) the development and support of institutional
10 capacity to measure, verify, and report the activities
11 carried out by the Government of Haiti and the Gov-
12 ernment of Armenia to reduce deforestation and in-
13 crease afforestation and reforestation rates through
14 the use of appropriate methods, including—

15 (A) the use of best practices and tech-
16 nologies to monitor land use change in Haiti
17 and Armenia, as well as changes in the extent
18 of natural forest cover, protected areas,
19 mangroves, agroforestry, and agriculture;

20 (B) the monitoring of the impacts of poli-
21 cies and initiatives on—

22 (i) affected communities;

23 (ii) the biodiversity of the environment
24 of Haiti and Armenia; and

1 (iii) the health of the forests of Haiti
2 and Armenia; and

3 (C) independent and participatory forest
4 monitoring; and

5 (4) the development of and coordination with
6 watershed restoration programs in Haiti and Arme-
7 nia, including—

8 (A) agreements with the Government of
9 Haiti and the Government of Armenia, non-
10 governmental organizations, or private sector
11 partners to provide technical assistance, capac-
12 ity building, or technology transfers which sup-
13 port the environmental recovery of Haiti's and
14 Armenia's watersheds through forest restora-
15 tion activities, provided that the assistance will
16 help strengthen economic drivers of sustainable
17 resource inventory mapping and management,
18 reduce environmental vulnerability, and improve
19 governance, planning, and community action of
20 watersheds in Haiti and Armenia;

21 (B) actions to support economic incentives
22 for sustainable resource management, including
23 enhanced incentives for the replacement of an-
24 nual hillside cropping with perennial and non-
25 erosive production systems;

1 (C) enhanced extension services supporting
2 the sustainable intensification of agriculture to
3 increase farmer incomes and reduce pressure on
4 degraded land; and

5 (D) investments in watershed infrastruc-
6 ture to reduce environmental vulnerability, in-
7 cluding the establishment of appropriate erosion
8 control measures through reforestation activi-
9 ties in targeted watersheds or sub-watersheds.

10 (c) DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORMANCE METRICS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the President provides as-
12 sistance under subsection (a)(1), the President, in
13 cooperation with the Government of Haiti and the
14 Government of Armenia, shall develop appropriate
15 performance metrics to measure, verify, and re-
16 port—

17 (A) the conduct of each policy and initia-
18 tive to be carried out by the Government of
19 Haiti and the Government of Armenia;

20 (B) the results of each policy and initiative
21 with respect to the forests of Haiti and Arme-
22 nia; and

23 (C) impacts of reforestation policies and
24 initiatives on the local communities of Haiti and
25 Armenia.

1 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Performance metrics de-
2 veloped under paragraph (1) shall, to the maximum
3 extent practicable, include short-term and long-term
4 metrics to evaluate the implementation of each pol-
5 icy and initiative contained in each proposal devel-
6 oped under subsection (a)(2).

7 (d) REPORTS.—

8 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 18
9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act,
10 the President shall submit to the appropriate com-
11 mittees of Congress a report that describes the ac-
12 tions that the President has taken, and plans to
13 take—

14 (A) to engage with the Government of
15 Haiti and the Government of Armenia, non-
16 governmental stakeholders, civil society, and
17 public and private nonprofit organizations to
18 implement this section; and

19 (B) to enter into agreements with the Gov-
20 ernment of Haiti and the Government of Arme-
21 nia under subsection (a)(1).

22 (2) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—Not later than 2
23 years after the date on which the President first
24 provides assistance to the Government of Haiti and
25 the Government of Armenia under subsection (a)(1),

1 and biennially thereafter, the President shall submit
2 to Congress a report that describes the progress of
3 the Government of Haiti and the Government of Ar-
4 menia in implementing each policy and initiative
5 contained in the proposal submitted under sub-
6 section (a)(2).

7 (e) *ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE*.—The President is au-
8 thorized to provide financial and other assistance to the
9 Government of Haiti and the Government of Armenia,
10 local government bodies, or nongovernmental organiza-
11 tions for the purpose of—

12 (1) providing local communities information re-
13 lating to each policy and initiative to be carried out
14 by the Government of Haiti and the Government of
15 Armenia through funds made available under sub-
16 section (a)(1);

17 (2) promoting effective participation by local
18 communities in the design, implementation, and
19 independent monitoring of each policy and initiative;
20 and

21 (3) promoting, consistent with supporting the
22 sustainability of forestation activities, enhanced wa-
23 tershed governance, national planning, and commu-
24 nity action programs that lead to increased—

1 (A) development of a national watershed
2 management policy for Haiti and Armenia with
3 the appropriate government ministries and
4 agencies;

5 (B) establishment of an effective forum for
6 donor coordination related to management and
7 reforestation in Haiti and Armenia;

8 (C) support for the National Center for
9 Geospatial Information (CNIGS) and the
10 United States Forest Service to provide tech-
11 nology, data, and monitoring support for im-
12 proved watershed and forest resource manage-
13 ment at a national scale in Haiti and Armenia;
14 and

15 (D) development of effective governance
16 structures in Haiti and Armenia for stakeholder
17 engagement, coordination of approaches, and
18 land use planning and disaster mitigation at the
19 watershed scale; and

20 (4) meeting the goals of this Act, which, if find-
21 ings indicate are not appropriately and efficiently
22 being met, may cause the President to terminate di-
23 rect funding to either the Government of Haiti or
24 the Government of Armenia.

1 (f) MINIMUM COUNTRY REFORESTATION FUND PER-
2 CENTAGE.—Not less than 85 percent of amounts provided
3 for programs under this section shall be spent on actual
4 reforestation activities in Haiti and Armenia, which may
5 include the protection of reforested areas.

6 (g) TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.—The authority
7 under this section shall terminate 7 years after the date
8 of the enactment of this Act, unless the President certifies
9 to the appropriate congressional committees that effective
10 and sustainable programs are in place through the Gov-
11 ernment of Haiti or Government of Armenia or local gov-
12 ernments in Haiti or Armenia, in potential partnership
13 with international donors, nongovernmental organizations,
14 or civil society groups, to protect and manage areas refor-
15 ested pursuant to this Act, and that additional time is nec-
16 essary to further the overarching goals of the Act. Upon
17 making such certification, the authority may be extended
18 for a total of two additional 7-year terms.

19 **TITLE II—GRANTS FOR** 20 **REFORESTATION**

21 **SEC. 201. REFORESTATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President is authorized
23 to establish a grant program to carry out the purposes
24 of this Act, including reversing deforestation and improv-
25 ing reforestation and afforestation in Haiti and Armenia.

1 (b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized
3 to award grants and contracts to carry out projects
4 that, in the aggregate, reverse deforestation and im-
5 prove reforestation and afforestation.

6 (2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
8 subparagraph (B), the President may not
9 award a grant under this section in an amount
10 greater than \$500,000 per year.

11 (B) EXCEPTION.—The President may
12 award a grant under this section in an amount
13 greater than \$500,000 per year if the President
14 determines that the recipient of the grant has
15 demonstrated success with respect to a project
16 that was the subject of a grant under this sec-
17 tion.

18 (3) DURATION.—The President shall award
19 grants under this section for a period not to exceed
20 3 years.

21 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded pursuant to
23 subsection (b) may be used for activities such as—

24 (A) providing a financial incentive to pro-
25 tect forests;

1 (B) providing hands-on management and
2 oversight of replanting efforts;

3 (C) focusing on sustainable income-gener-
4 ating growth;

5 (D) providing seed money to start coopera-
6 tive reforestation and afforestation efforts and
7 providing subsequent conditional funding for
8 such efforts contingent upon required tree care
9 and maintenance activities;

10 (E) promoting widespread use of improved
11 cooking stove technologies, to the extent that
12 this does not result in the harvesting of forest
13 growth and other renewable fuel technologies
14 that reduce deforestation and improve human
15 health; and

16 (F) securing the involvement and commit-
17 ment of local communities—

18 (i) to protect forests in existence as of
19 the date of enactment of this Act; and

20 (ii) to partner in and carry out
21 afforestation and reforestation activities.

22 (2) LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.—Ac-
23 tivities to secure the participation of local commu-
24 nities under paragraph (1)(F) should include one or
25 more of the following activities:

1 (A) Creation of local jobs around pro-
2 tecting and managing reforested areas.

3 (B) Collaboration to analyze biodiversity
4 and ecosystem services integral to business deci-
5 sions.

6 (C) Cooperative conservation programs
7 such as working with local water sources to en-
8 sure clean water through improved forestland
9 and watershed or with food suppliers to ensure
10 sustainable agroforestry products.

11 (3) CONSISTENCY WITH PROPOSALS.—To the
12 maximum extent practicable, a project carried out
13 using grant funds shall support and be consistent
14 with the proposal developed under section 101(a)(2)
15 that is the subject of the project.

16 (d) APPLICATION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a grant
18 under this section, an entity shall prepare and sub-
19 mit an application at such time, in such manner,
20 and containing such information as the President
21 may reasonably require.

22 (2) CONTENT.—Each application submitted
23 under paragraph (1) should be consistent with the
24 findings and recommendations of either the 2007
25 United States Agency for International Development

1 report entitled, “Environmental Vulnerability in
2 Haiti: Findings and Recommendations” for Haiti or
3 the 2009 United States Agency for International
4 Development report entitled “Biodiversity Analysis
5 Update for Armenia Final Report: Prosperity, Live-
6 lihoods and Conserving Ecosystems (PLACE) IQC
7 Task Order #4” for Armenia, and shall include—

8 (A) a description of the objectives to be at-
9 tained;

10 (B) a description of the manner in which
11 the grant funds will be used;

12 (C) a plan for evaluating the success of the
13 project based on verifiable evidence; and

14 (D) to the extent that the applicant in-
15 tends to use nonnative species in afforestation
16 efforts, an explanation of the benefit of the use
17 of nonnative species over native species and
18 verification that the species to be used are not
19 invasive.

20 (3) PREFERENCE FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS.—In
21 awarding grants under this section, preference shall
22 be given to applicants that propose—

23 (A) to develop market-based solutions to
24 the difficulty of reforestation in Haiti and Ar-
25 menia, including the use of conditional cash

1 transfers and similar financial incentives to pro-
2 tect reforestation efforts;

3 (B) to partner with local communities and
4 cooperatives; and

5 (C) to focus on efforts that build local ca-
6 pacity to sustain growth after the completion of
7 the underlying grant project.

8 (e) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Presi-
9 dent shall collect and widely disseminate information
10 about the effectiveness of the demonstration projects as-
11 sisted under this section.

12 **SEC. 202. FOREST PROTECTION PROGRAMS.**

13 Chapter 7 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act
14 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2281 et seq.) is amended by inserting
15 after section 466 the following new sections:

16 **“SEC. 467. PILOT PROGRAM FOR HAITI.**

17 “(a) SUBMISSION OF LIST OF AREAS OF SEVERELY
18 DEGRADED NATURAL RESOURCES.—The President, in co-
19 operation with nongovernmental conservation organiza-
20 tions, shall invite the Government of Haiti to submit a
21 list of areas within the territory of Haiti in which forests
22 are seriously degraded or threatened.

23 “(b) REVIEW OF LIST.—The President shall assess
24 the lists submitted by the Government of Haiti under sub-
25 section (a) and shall seek to reach agreement with the

1 Government of Haiti for the restoration and future sus-
2 tainable use of those areas.

3 “(c) GRANT PROGRAM.—

4 “(1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The President is
5 authorized to make grants on such terms and condi-
6 tions as may be necessary to nongovernmental orga-
7 nizations for the purchase on the open market of
8 discounted debt of the Government of Haiti, if a
9 market is determined to be viable, in exchange for
10 commitments by the Government of Haiti to restore
11 forests identified by the Government under sub-
12 section (a) or for commitments to develop plans for
13 sustainable use of such forests.

14 “(2) MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS.—
15 Each recipient of a grant under this subsection shall
16 participate in the ongoing management of the area
17 or areas protected pursuant to such grant.

18 “(3) MATCHING OF GRANT FUNDS.—Any
19 United States funding provided to a nongovern-
20 mental organization for grant activities under this
21 section shall be matched by an equal or greater
22 amount of funding from the nongovernmental orga-
23 nization, which may include funding provided by
24 other international donors, nongovernmental organi-
25 zations, philanthropic bodies, corporations or other

1 private entities, institutions of higher learning, or
2 other non-United States Government sources.

3 “(4) MINIMUM COUNTRY REFORESTATION
4 FUND PERCENTAGE.—Not less than 85 percent of
5 grant funds provided under this section shall be
6 spent on actual reforestation activities in Haiti,
7 which may include the protection of reforested areas.

8 “(5) RETENTION OF PROCEEDS.—Notwith-
9 standing any other provision of law, a grantee (or
10 any subgrantee) of the grants referred to in section
11 (a) may retain, without deposit in the Treasury of
12 the United States and without further appropriation
13 by Congress, interest earned on the proceeds of any
14 resulting debt-for-nature exchange pending the dis-
15 bursements of such proceeds and interest for ap-
16 proved program purposes, which may include the es-
17 tablishment of an endowment, the income of which
18 is used for such purposes.

19 “(6) TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.—The author-
20 ity to make grants under the pilot program shall ter-
21minate five years after the date of the enactment of
22 this Act. The authority may be renewed for one ad-
23ditional five-year period during the 20-year reforest-
24ation period targeted by this Act if the President de-
25termines and certifies to Congress that the pilot pro-

1 gram is effective in meeting the goals of the Act and
2 the commitment of the Government of Haiti to re-
3 turning land in Haiti to long-term sustainable for-
4 ests. The cumulative duration of the pilot program
5 may not exceed ten total years.”.

6 **“SEC. 468. PILOT PROGRAM FOR ARMENIA.**

7 “(a) SUBMISSION OF LIST OF AREAS OF SEVERELY
8 DEGRADED NATURAL RESOURCES.—The President, in co-
9 operation with nongovernmental conservation organiza-
10 tions, shall invite the Government of Armenia to submit
11 a list of areas within the territory of Armenia in which
12 forests are seriously degraded or threatened.

13 “(b) REVIEW OF LIST.—The President shall assess
14 the lists submitted by the Government of Armenia under
15 subsection (a) and shall seek to reach agreement with the
16 Government of Armenia for the restoration and future
17 sustainable use of those areas.

18 “(c) DEBT FORGIVENESS AGREEMENT.—

19 “(1) DEBT FORGIVENESS.—The President is
20 authorized to forgive debt owed to the United States
21 by the Government of Armenia in exchange for com-
22 mitments by the Government of Armenia to restore
23 forests identified by the Government under sub-
24 section (a) or for commitments to develop plans for
25 sustainable use of such forests.

1 “(2) MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS.—
2 The Government of Armenia shall participate in the
3 ongoing management of the area or areas protected
4 pursuant to such debt relief.

5 “(3) MINIMUM COUNTRY REFORESTATION
6 FUND PERCENTAGE.—Not less than 85 percent of
7 funds that qualify under a debt relief agreement
8 under this section shall be spent on actual reforest-
9 ation activities in Armenia, which may include the
10 protection of reforested areas.

11 “(4) TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.—The author-
12 ity to offer debt relief under the pilot program shall
13 terminate five years after the date of the enactment
14 of this Act. The authority may be renewed for 1 ad-
15 ditional 5-year period during the 20-year reforest-
16 ation period targeted by this Act if the President de-
17 termines and certifies to Congress that the pilot pro-
18 gram is effective in meeting the goals of the Act and
19 the commitment of the Government of Armenia to
20 returning land in Armenia to long-term sustainable
21 forests. The cumulative duration of the pilot pro-
22 gram may not exceed ten total years.”.

1 **TITLE III—ADMINISTRATIVE**
2 **PROVISION**

3 **SEC. 301. DELEGATION.**

4 The President (or the Administrator of the United
5 States Agency for International Development or the Sec-
6 retary of State as the President's delegee) may draw, as
7 appropriate, on the expertise of the United States Forest
8 Service in designing and implementing programs pursuant
9 to this Act relating to reforestation, watershed restoration,
10 and monitoring of land use change.

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