

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2264

To authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 to carry out the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2003

Mr. SHAW (for himself, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. HOUGHTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 to carry out the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) program, 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 “Congo Basin Forest
5 Partnership Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The tropical forests of the Congo Basin, lo-
9 cated in the Central African countries of Cameroon,

1 the Central African Republic, the Democratic Re-
2 public of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the
3 Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, and Sao
4 Tome/Principe, are second in size only to the trop-
5 ical forests of the Amazon Basin.

6 (2) These forests are a crucial economic re-
7 source for the people of the Central African region.

8 (3) Congo Basin forests play a critical role in
9 sustaining the environment—absorbing carbon diox-
10 ide, cleansing water, and retaining soil.

11 (4) Congo Basin forests contain the most di-
12 verse grouping of plants and animals in Africa, in-
13 cluding rare and endangered species, such as the
14 lowland gorilla, mountain gorilla, chimpanzee, and
15 okapi. These plants and animals are invaluable for
16 many reasons, including their genetic and bio-
17 chemical information, which could spark advances in
18 medical, agricultural, and industrial technology.

19 (5) Logging operations, driven by a growing
20 global demand for tropical hardwoods, are shrinking
21 these forests. One estimate has logging taking out
22 Congo Basin forest area at a rate of twice the size
23 of the State of Rhode Island every year.

24 (6) The construction of logging roads and other
25 developments are putting intense hunting pressure

1 on wildlife. At current hunting levels, most species
2 of apes and other primates, large antelope, and ele-
3 phants will disappear from the Congo Basin, with
4 some becoming extinct.

5 (7) If current deforestation and wildlife deple-
6 tion rates are not reversed, the six countries of the
7 Congo Basin most immediately, but also the world,
8 will pay an immense economic, environmental, and
9 cultural price.

10 (8) The United States has an interest in seeing
11 political stability and economic development advance
12 in the Congo Basin countries. This interest will be
13 adversely impacted if current deforestation and wild-
14 life depletion rates are not reversed.

15 (9) Poorly managed and nonmanaged logging
16 and hunting threatens to do to the Congo Basin
17 what it did to West Africa, which lost much of its
18 forest and wildlife through over-exploitation.

19 (10) Purged of wildlife, some Congo Basin for-
20 ests already are “empty forests”.

21 (11) In an attempt to conserve the forests of
22 the Congo Basin, the region’s governments convened
23 the Yaounde (Cameroon) Forest Summit in March
24 1999.

1 (12) In September 2002, Secretary of State
2 Colin Powell launched the Congo Basin Forest Part-
3 nership (CBFP) in Johannesburg, South Africa. The
4 CBFP promotes the conservation and sustainable
5 use of the region’s forests, for example, by working
6 to combat poaching, illegal logging, and other
7 unsustainable practices, and giving local populations
8 an economic stake in the preservation of the forests,
9 including through the development of ecotourism.

10 (13)(A) The United States contribution to the
11 CBFP will focus on conserving 11 key landscapes in
12 6 countries—Cameroon, the Central African Repub-
13 lic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equa-
14 torial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of Congo—
15 identified at the Yaounde Forest Summit as being of
16 the greatest biological importance to the region.

17 (B) The United States will fund field-based ac-
18 tivities within these 25,000,000 acres that aim to
19 support a network of 27 national parks and pro-
20 tected areas and well-managed forestry concessions.

21 (C) In this way, the work will build on existing
22 United States efforts, including those of the Central
23 African Regional Program for the Environment
24 (CARPE) of the United States Agency for Inter-

1 national Development, which will implement the
2 CBFP.

3 (14) The CBFP has broad international finan-
4 cial support, including from non-African govern-
5 ments, the European Commission, the International
6 Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and nu-
7 merous nongovernment organizations.

8 (15) A dramatic step toward conserving Congo
9 Basin forests has recently been taken by Gabon. In
10 September 2002, President Omar Bongo announced
11 the creation of 13 national parks, representing over
12 10 percent of Gabon's surface area. Previously,
13 Gabon had no national park system.

14 (16) With the CBFP and other initiatives,
15 there exists unprecedented momentum for the con-
16 servation of Congo Basin forests.

17 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
19 priated to the President to carry out the Congo Basin For-
20 est Partnership (CBFP) program \$18,600,000 for each
21 of the fiscal years 2004 and 2005. Of the amounts appro-
22 priated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations
23 under the preceding sentence for a fiscal year,
24 \$16,000,000 is authorized to be made available to the
25 Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment

1 (CARPE) of the United States Agency for International
2 Development.

3 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant
4 to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a)
5 are authorized to remain available until expended.

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