



FACT SHEET

BIODIVERSITY UNDERSTANDING IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT (BUILD)



The development of physical infrastructure (such as roads, bridges, dams, cities) is essential for any country’s economic and social growth and development. Current projections of government funding for infrastructure projects total \$35 trillion worldwide over the next two decades. Yet, unless it is thoughtfully done, expanding infrastructure may not be environmentally or socially neutral. The potential benefits to society of well planned, coordinated, and managed infrastructure are clear, while poorly planned or implemented infrastructure threatens biodiversity and ecosystem integrity and undermines long term economic and social growth.

The international biodiversity conservation community has struggled to effectively engage with the infrastructure community, often entering the dialogue too late to have meaningful impact. Stages of the infrastructure development process fall along a spectrum that include: policy, regulatory, and legal frameworks; integrated development planning; project identification and development; compensation; and mitigation. The earlier along this spectrum that transparent and inclusive communication between the conservation and infrastructure development communities occurs, the higher the likelihood of success for enduring economic and social development.

OBJECTIVE

USAID’s support to the Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF) through the BUILD program aims to improve policy, regulatory, and planning approaches to avoid or reduce negative impacts of infrastructure development on biodiversity. CSF applies economic tools for conservation results and creates lasting human capacity for infrastructure analysis with the goal of improving selection, design and mitigation of key projects in focus regions including Africa’s Albertine Rift, South America’s Andes-Amazon, and Asia’s Himalayas. The program will strengthen civil society by improving the capacity of governments, citizens, and the private sector to work together to balance expanding infrastructure with conservation.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Lay the groundwork for policies and regulatory frameworks for landscape and infrastructure development that integrate and protect biodiversity through a holistic ecosystem-based perspective
- Develop tools and planning approaches to support ecosystem-based infrastructure policies that are balanced with a broad set of biodiversity values across a landscape and seascape scale
- Increase the capacity of decision makers and stakeholders to apply and institutionalize these tools and approaches

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Implementing Organization:
Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF)

Project Duration:
3 years (2011-2014)

Focus Areas: Albertine Rift, Andes-Amazon, Himalayas

Investment: \$2,018,940 (USAID: \$1,200,000, CSF match: \$818,940)

Partnering Organizations:
Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (all sites), Uganda National Environmental Management Authority (Albertine Rift), Pro Publica (Himalayas), Ugyen Wanchuck Institute for Environment and Conservation (Himalayas)