

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6503

To authorize the President to provide assistance to the Governments of Haiti and Armenia to reverse the effects of deforestation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2018

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the President to provide assistance to the Governments of Haiti and Armenia to reverse the effects of deforestation, 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 2018”.

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

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) the established policy of the Federal Gov-
9 ernment is to support and seek the protection of for-

ests around the world, which provide a wide range of benefits by—

(A) harboring a major portion of the biological and terrestrial resources of Earth;

(B) providing habitats for almost $\frac{2}{3}$ of all species on Earth, including species essential to medical research and agricultural productivity;

(C) contributing to the livelihood of more than 1,600,000,000 people through access to food, fresh water, clothing, traditional medicines, and shelter;

(D) ensuring environmental services, such as biodiversity, water conservation, soil enrichment, water supply management, and climate regulation; and

(E) absorbing and storing carbon dioxide, as deforestation accounts for approximately 12 percent of the global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming;

(2) while forests cover a little less than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the land area on Earth, approximately 85 percent of Earth's original primary forests have been destroyed, degraded, or fragmented;

(3) in Haiti—

1 (A) the destruction of forests began cen-
2 turies ago, when 17th century colonists cut
3 down trees for lumber, fuel, and furniture;

4 (B) the 18th century plantation economy
5 resulted in hillsides near towns being stripped
6 of trees;

7 (C) after gaining independence, deforest-
8 ation continued as Haiti rebuilt its local econ-
9 omy by growing coffee and exporting timber;

10 (D) in 1923, more than 60 percent of the
11 land was forested, but by the 1940s and 1950s
12 deforestation was accelerating as an increasing
13 population put more pressure on forests;

14 (E) in recent years, urbanization has ex-
15 panded exponentially and growing cities have
16 depended on charcoal produced by cutting down
17 trees in the countryside;

18 (F) poor forestry and land use policies by
19 the Government of Haiti has exacerbated defor-
20 estation, and by 2014, forest cover had de-
21 creased to approximately 9 to 11 percent of the
22 country; and

23 (G) between 2000 and 2016, 5,430 hec-
24 tares of forest cover were lost, equal to 6.3 per-
25 cent of Haiti's tree cover;

1 (4) in Armenia—

2 (A) while archeological data indicated that
3 approximately 35 percent of the country was
4 originally forested—

5 (i) less than 12 percent of the country
6 was covered in forest in 1990; and

7 (ii) less than 6 percent of the country
8 was covered in forest by 2016; and

9 (B) in August, 2017, a fire caused signifi-
10 cant damage to the Khosrov Forest, which is
11 among the world’s oldest protected areas, en-
12 gulfing more than 2,733 hectares in flames and
13 causing substantial harm to hundreds of unique
14 plant species;

15 (5) economic pressures, resulting from more
16 than 60 percent of the population of Haiti living
17 below the poverty line and 29.8 percent of the popu-
18 lation of Armenia living below the poverty line—

19 (A) are factors contributing to the defor-
20 estation of Haiti and Armenia; and

21 (B) are manifested particularly through
22 the cutting of areas of forest for conversion to
23 agricultural and commercial uses, where wood
24 and charcoal produced from cutting down trees

1 accounts for a major supply toward Haiti's and
2 Armenia's energy sectors;

3 (6) forests provide cover to soften the effect of
4 heavy rains and reduce erosion by anchoring the soil
5 with tree roots;

6 (7) a significant effect of the deforestation in
7 Haiti and Armenia is soil erosion, which has—

8 (A) lowered the productivity on the land
9 due to the leaching of nutrients in topsoils;

10 (B) worsened the severity of droughts and
11 the effects of landslides and floods;

12 (C) led to further deforestation due to
13 slash and burn practices when eroded areas are
14 no longer productive;

15 (D) increased the pressure on the remain-
16 ing land and trees in Haiti and Armenia; and

17 (E) significantly decreased water quality
18 and the quantity of freshwater and clean drink-
19 ing water available to populations;

20 (8) research strongly suggests that deforest-
21 ation increases the risk of infectious diseases, includ-
22 ing malaria, dengue fever, SARS, Ebola,
23 Hantavirus, and Zika—

24 (A) by depriving insect and animal carriers
25 of habitat; and

1 (B) by directly increasing their rate of ex-
2 posure to human populations who are suscep-
3 tible to zoonotic pathogens;

4 (9) both Haiti and Armenia have faced natural
5 disasters in recent years, the effects of which have
6 been exacerbated by deforestation, such as—

7 (A) flooding in Armenia that has swept
8 away or damaged thousands of homes, schools,
9 health clinics, and other institutions, partly be-
10 cause of damage to forests through illegal log-
11 ging, landslides, and soil erosion;

12 (B) hurricanes in Haiti that have killed
13 thousands and displaced hundreds of thousands
14 more, partly because the clearing of large hill-
15 sides enabled rainwater to run off directly into
16 settlements located at the bottom of slopes,
17 causing severe flooding; and

18 (C) the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti,
19 which destroyed much of the infrastructure of
20 Port-au-Prince, reduced hillside stability and in-
21 creased the likelihood of mudslides, soil erosion,
22 and flooding factors, which negatively impacted
23 the water supply and heightened concerns for
24 the spread of waterborne diseases;

1 (10) economic benefits for local communities
2 from sustainable uses of forests are critical for the
3 long-term sustainable management of forests in
4 Haiti and Armenia;

5 (11) for fiscal years 2015, 2017, and 2018,
6 Congress appropriated funding for market-based re-
7 forestation programs in Haiti which have resulted in
8 successful agroforestry activities, increasing crop
9 production and profit, as well as tree cover; and

10 (12) reforestation efforts would provide new
11 sources of jobs, income, and investments in Haiti
12 and Armenia by—

13 (A) providing employment opportunities in
14 tree seedling programs, contract tree planting
15 and management, sustainable agricultural ini-
16 tiatives, sustainable and managed timber har-
17 vesting, and wood products milling and fin-
18 ishing services; and

19 (B) enhancing community enterprises that
20 generate income through the trading of sustain-
21 able forest resources, many of which exist on
22 small scales.

23 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide
24 assistance to the Government of Haiti and the Govern-

1 ment of Armenia to develop and implement, or improve,
2 nationally appropriate policies and actions—

3 (1) to reduce deforestation and forest degrada-
4 tion, and improve forest management and natural
5 regeneration;

6 (2) to increase annual rates of afforestation and
7 reforestation in a sustainable, measurable, report-
8 able, and verifiable manner;

9 (3) to restore social and economic conditions for
10 the environmental recovery of the forest cover of
11 Haiti and Armenia to at least 7 percent of total land
12 mass in Haiti and 12 percent of total land mass in
13 Armenia (as determined under section 302(a)) not
14 later than 10 years after the date of the enactment
15 of this Act; and

16 (4) to improve sustainable resource manage-
17 ment at the watershed level.

18 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

19 In this Act:

20 (1) **AFFORESTATION.**—The term
21 “afforestation”—

22 (A) means the establishment of a new for-
23 est through the planting of trees on a parcel of
24 land not previously forested; and

25 (B) includes—

- 1 (i) the introduction of a tree species
2 to a parcel of nonforested land in which
3 the species is not a native species; and
4 (ii) the increase of tree cover through
5 plantations.

6 (2) AGROFORESTRY.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “agro-
8 forestry” means systems in which perennial
9 trees or shrubs—

10 (i) are integrated with crops or live-
11 stock; and

12 (ii) constitute a minimum 10 percent
13 of ground cover.

14 (B) INCLUSION.—Actual forest cover re-
15 sulting from agroforestry programs may be
16 counted toward the total forest cover goal set
17 forth in section 2(b)(3).

18 (3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
19 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
20 gress” means—

21 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
22 the Senate;

23 (B) the Committee on Appropriations of
24 the Senate;

1 (C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
2 the House of Representatives; and

3 (D) the Committee on Appropriations of
4 the House of Representatives.

5 (4) DEFORESTATION.—The term “deforest-
6 ation” means—

7 (A) the conversion of forest to another
8 land use; or

9 (B) the long-term reduction of the tree
10 canopy.

11 (5) FOREST.—The term “forest”—

12 (A) except as provided in subparagraph
13 (B), means a terrestrial ecosystem containing
14 native tree species generated and maintained
15 primarily through natural ecological and evolu-
16 tionary processes, which spans more than 0.5
17 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and a
18 canopy cover of more than 10 percent or trees
19 able to reach these thresholds in situ; and

20 (B) does not include—

21 (i) plantations, such as crops of trees
22 planted primarily by humans for the pur-
23 poses of harvesting; or

24 (ii) land that is predominantly under
25 agricultural or urban land use.

1 (6) REFORESTATION.—The term “reforest-
2 ation”—

3 (A) means the establishment of forest on
4 lands that were previously considered as forest,
5 but which have been deforested; and

6 (B) includes the increase of tree cover
7 through plantations.

8 **TITLE I—FORESTATION AND WA-**
9 **TERSHERD MANAGEMENT AS-**
10 **SISTANCE TO THE GOVERN-**
11 **MENT OF HAITI AND THE**
12 **GOVERNMENT OF ARMENIA**

13 **SEC. 101. FORESTATION ASSISTANCE.**

14 (a) AUTHORITY.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section
16 118 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22
17 U.S.C. 2151p–1) and consistent with paragraph (2),
18 the President is authorized to provide financial as-
19 sistance, technology transfers, or capacity-building
20 assistance to the Government of Haiti and to the
21 Government of Armenia for activities to develop and
22 implement 1 or more forestation proposals described
23 in paragraph (2)—

24 (A) to reduce the deforestation of Haiti or
25 Armenia; and

1 (B) to increase the rates of afforestation
2 and reforestation in Haiti or Armenia.

3 (2) PROPOSALS.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—Assistance may be pro-
5 vided under this section to the Government of
6 Haiti and to the Government of Armenia to im-
7 plement 1 or more proposals submitted by ei-
8 ther country that contain—

9 (i) a description of each policy and
10 initiative to be carried out with such as-
11 sistance;

12 (ii) adequate documentation to ensure,
13 as determined by the President, that—

14 (I) each policy and initiative—

15 (aa) will be carried out and
16 managed in accordance with
17 widely accepted, environmentally
18 sustainable forestry and agricul-
19 tural practices; and

20 (bb) will be designed and
21 implemented in a manner that
22 improves the governance of for-
23 ests by building local capacity to
24 be transparent, inclusive, ac-
25 countable, and coordinated in de-

1 cision-making processes and the
2 implementation of the policy or
3 initiative; and

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

13 (iii) a description of how the proposal
14 supports and aids forest restoration efforts
15 in accordance with the purpose set forth in
16 section 2(b).

17 (B) DETERMINATION OF COMPATIBILITY
18 WITH CERTAIN PROGRAMS.—In evaluating each
19 proposal submitted under subparagraph (A),
20 the President shall ensure that each policy and
21 initiative described in such proposal is compat-
22 ible with—

23 (i) broader development, poverty alle-
24 viation, sustainable energy usage, and nat-

1 ural resource conservation objectives and
2 initiatives in Haiti or in Armenia;

3 (ii) the development, poverty allevi-
4 ation, disaster risk management, and cli-
5 mate resilience programs of the United
6 States Agency for International Develop-
7 ment, including program involving tech-
8 nical support from the United States For-
9 est Service; and

10 (iii) activities of international organi-
11 zations and multilateral development
12 banks.

13 (b) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Any assistance received
14 by the Government of Haiti or by the Government of Ar-
15 menia under subsection (a)(1) shall be conditional upon
16 the development and implementation of a proposal sub-
17 mitted under subsection (a)(2), which may include—

18 (1) the provision of technologies and associated
19 support for activities to reduce deforestation or in-
20 crease afforestation and reforestation rates, includ-
21 ing—

22 (A) fire reduction initiatives;

23 (B) sustainable land use management ini-
24 tiatives;

1 (C) initiatives to increase agricultural pro-
2 ductivity;

3 (D) forest law enforcement initiatives;

4 (E) the development of timber tracking
5 systems;

6 (F) the development of cooking fuel sub-
7 stitutes;

8 (G) tree-planting initiatives; and

9 (H) programs that are designed to focus
10 on market-based solutions to reduce deforest-
11 ation and increase reforestation and
12 afforestation, including programs that leverage
13 the international carbon-offset market;

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

19 (A) the establishment of transparent, ac-
20 countable, and inclusive decision-making proc-
21 esses relating to all stakeholders (including af-
22 fected local communities);

23 (B) the promotion of enhanced coordina-
24 tion among ministries and agencies responsible
25 for agro-ecological zoning, mapping, land plan-

ning and permitting, sustainable agriculture, forestry, mining, and law enforcement; and

(C) the clarification of land tenure and resource rights of affected communities, including local communities;

(3) the development and support of institutional capacity to measure, verify, and report the activities carried out by the Government of Haiti and by the Government of Armenia to reduce deforestation and increase afforestation and reforestation rates through the use of appropriate methods, including—

(A) the use of best practices and technologies to monitor land use change in Haiti and in Armenia, and changes in the extent of natural forest cover, protected areas, mangroves, agroforestry, and agriculture;

(B) the monitoring of the impacts of policies and initiatives on—

(i) affected communities;

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

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

(C) independent and participatory forest monitoring; and

1 (4) the development of and coordination with
2 watershed restoration programs in Haiti and Arme-
3 nia, including—

4 (A) agreements between the Government of
5 Haiti or the Government of Armenia and non-
6 governmental organizations or private sector
7 partners to provide technical assistance, capac-
8 ity building, or technology transfers which sup-
9 port the environmental recovery of Haiti's and
10 Armenia's watersheds through forest restora-
11 tion activities if such assistance will—

12 (i) strengthen economic drivers of sus-
13 tainable resource inventory mapping and
14 management;

15 (ii) reduce environmental vulner-
16 ability; or

17 (iii) improve governance, planning,
18 and community action of watersheds in
19 Haiti and Armenia;

20 (B) actions to support economic incentives
21 for sustainable resource management, including
22 enhanced incentives for the replacement of an-
23 nual hillside cropping with perennial and non-
24 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 to the Government of Haiti or the Govern-
 13 ment of Armenia under subsection (a)(1), the Presi-
 14 dent, in cooperation with such government, shall de-
 15 velop appropriate performance metrics to measure,
 16 verify, and report—

17 (A) the implementation of each policy and
 18 initiative to be carried out by the Government
 19 of Haiti or the Government of Armenia, as the
 20 case may be;

21 (B) the progress of each policy and initia-
 22 tive with respect to the forests of Haiti and Ar-
 23 menia; and

1 (C) impacts of reforestation policies and
2 initiatives on the local communities of Haiti and
3 Armenia.

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

10 (d) REPORTS.—

11 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 18
12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act,
13 the President shall submit a report to the appro-
14 priate committees of Congress that describes the ac-
15 tions the President has taken, or plans to take—

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

21 (B) to enter into agreements with the Gov-
22 ernment of Haiti and with the Government of
23 Armenia under subsection (a)(1).

24 (2) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—Not later than 2
25 years after the date on which the President first

1 provides assistance to the Government of Haiti or
2 the Government of Armenia under subsection (a)(1),
3 and biennially thereafter, the President shall submit
4 a report to the appropriate committees of Congress
5 that describes the progress made by the Government
6 of Haiti and by the Government of Armenia in im-
7 plementing each policy and initiative contained in
8 the proposal submitted by each such government
9 under subsection (a)(2).

10 (e) ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized
12 to provide financial and other assistance to the Gov-
13 ernment of Haiti, the Government of Armenia, local
14 government bodies, or nongovernmental organiza-
15 tions—

16 (A) to provide information to local commu-
17 nities relating to each policy and initiative to be
18 carried out by the Government of Haiti or by
19 the Government of Armenia with assistance
20 made available under subsection (a)(1);

21 (B) to promote effective participation by
22 local communities in the design, implementa-
23 tion, and independent monitoring of each policy
24 and initiative;

1 (C) to promote, in support of sustainable
2 forestation activities, enhanced watershed gov-
3 ernance, national planning, and community ac-
4 tion programs that increase—

5 (i) the development of national water-
6 shed management policies for Haiti and
7 for Armenia by the appropriate govern-
8 ment ministries and agencies;

9 (ii) the establishment of an effective
10 forum for donor coordination related to
11 management and reforestation in Haiti
12 and Armenia;

13 (iii) support for the Centre National
14 de l'Information Géo-Spatiale (CNIGS),
15 the Center for Ecological-Noosphere Stud-
16 ies (CENS), and the United States Forest
17 Service to provide technology, data, and
18 monitoring support for improved watershed
19 and forest resource management at a na-
20 tional scale in Haiti and in Armenia; and

21 (iv) development of effective govern-
22 ance structures in Haiti and in Armenia
23 for stakeholder engagement, coordination
24 of approaches, land use planning, and dis-

1 aster mitigation at the watershed scale;
2 and

3 (D) to meet the goals of this Act.

4 (2) TERMINATION OF DIRECT FUNDING.—If the
5 President determines that the goals of this Act are
6 not being appropriately and efficiently met with the
7 assistance provided under this section, the President
8 may terminate such assistance to either the Govern-
9 ment of Haiti or the Government of Armenia, as ap-
10 appropriate.

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

16 (g) SUNSET.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The authority under this
18 section shall terminate on the date that is 10 years
19 after the date of the enactment of this Act, or the
20 date that is 10 years after an extension under para-
21 graph (2), unless the President certifies to the ap-
22 propriate committees of Congress that—

23 (A) effective and sustainable programs are
24 in place through the Government of Haiti, the
25 Government of Armenia, or local governments

in Haiti or in Armenia, in potential partnership with international donors, nongovernmental organizations, or civil society groups, to protect and manage areas reforested with assistance provided under this Act; and

(B) additional time is necessary to accomplish the goals of this Act.

(2) EXTENSIONS.—If a certification is made under paragraph (1), the authority under this section shall be extended for an additional 10-year term. Not more than 2 extensions are permitted under this paragraph.

TITLE II—GRANTS FOR REFORESTATION

SEC. 201. REFORESTATION GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President is authorized to establish a grant program to carry out the purpose described in section 2(b), including reversing deforestation and improving reforestation and afforestation in Haiti and in Armenia.

(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to award grants and contracts, for a period not to exceed 3 years, to carry out projects that, in the ag-

gregate, reverse deforestation and improve reforestation and afforestation in Haiti or in Armenia.

(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—

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

(B) EXCEPTION.—The President may award a grant under this section in an amount greater than \$500,000 per year if the President determines that the recipient of the grant has demonstrated success with respect to a project that was funded under this section.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded pursuant to subsection (b) may be used—

(A) to provide a financial incentive to protect forests;

(B) to provide hands-on management and oversight of replanting efforts;

(C) to support sustainable, income-generating, forest-related economic growth;

(D) to provide—

(i) seed money to start cooperative reforestation and afforestation efforts; and

1 (ii) subsequent conditional funding for
2 such efforts contingent upon required tree
3 care and maintenance activities;

4 (E) to promote the widespread use of—

5 (i) improved cooking stove tech-
6 nologies that do not involve the harvesting
7 of forest growth; and

8 (ii) other renewable fuel technologies
9 that reduce deforestation and improve
10 human health; and

11 (F) to secure the involvement and commit-
12 ment of local communities—

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

15 (ii) to partner in and carry out
16 afforestation and reforestation activities.

17 (2) LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.—Ac-
18 tivities to secure the participation of local commu-
19 nities under paragraph (1)(F) should include 1 or
20 more of the following activities:

21 (A) Creation of local jobs involving estab-
22 lishing, protecting, and managing reforested
23 areas.

1 (B) Collaboration to analyze biodiversity
2 and ecosystem services integral to sustainability
3 and business decisions.

4 (C) Cooperative conservation programs, in-
5 cluding—

6 (i) working with local water sources to
7 ensure clean water through improved
8 forestland and watershed; or

9 (ii) working with food suppliers to en-
10 sure sustainable agroforestry products.

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

16 (d) APPLICATION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—An entity desiring a grant
18 under this section shall submit an application at
19 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-
20 formation as the President may reasonably require.

21 (2) CONTENT.—Each application submitted
22 under paragraph (1)—

23 (A) should be consistent with the findings,
24 recommendations, and ongoing work relating
25 to—

1 (i) the United States Agency for
2 International Development Haiti Reforest-
3 ation Project for Haiti; or

4 (ii) the 2009 United States Agency
5 for International Development report enti-
6 tled “Biodiversity Analysis Update for Ar-
7 menia Final Report: Prosperity, Liveli-
8 hoods, and Conserving Ecosystems
9 (PLACE) IQC Task Order #4”; and

10 (B) shall include—

11 (i) a description of the objectives to be
12 attained;

13 (ii) a description of the manner in
14 which grant funds will be used;

15 (iii) a plan for evaluating the success
16 of the project based on verifiable evidence;
17 and

18 (iv) to the extent that the applicant
19 intends to use nonnative species in
20 afforestation efforts—

21 (I) an explanation of the benefit
22 of using nonnative species rather than
23 native species; and

24 (II) verification that the species
25 to be used are not invasive.

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

4 (A) to develop market-based solutions to
5 the challenges of reforestation in Haiti and Ar-
6 menia, including the use of conditional cash
7 transfers and similar financial incentives to pro-
8 tect reforestation efforts;

9 (B) to partner with local communities and
10 cooperatives; and

11 (C) to focus on efforts that build local ca-
12 pacity to sustain growth after the completion of
13 the underlying grant project.

14 (e) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Presi-
15 dent shall collect and widely disseminate information
16 about the effectiveness of the demonstration projects as-
17 sisted under this section.

18 **SEC. 202. FOREST PROTECTION PROGRAMS.**

19 Chapter 7 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act
20 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2281 et seq.) is amended—

21 (1) by redesignating sections 461 through 466
22 as sections 471 through 476, respectively; and

23 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 477. PILOT PROGRAM FOR HAITI.**

2 “(a) SUBMISSION OF LIST OF AREAS OF SEVERELY
3 DEGRADED NATURAL RESOURCES.—The President, in co-
4 operation with nongovernmental conservation organiza-
5 tions, shall invite the Government of Haiti to submit a
6 list of areas within Haiti in which forests are seriously
7 degraded or threatened.

8 “(b) REVIEW OF LIST.—The President shall—

9 “(1) analyze the areas on the list submitted by
10 the Government of Haiti under subsection (a); and

11 “(2) seek to reach an agreement with the Gov-
12 ernment of Haiti to assist with the restoration and
13 future sustainable use of such areas.

14 “(c) GRANT PROGRAM.—

15 “(1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The President is
16 authorized to award grants to nongovernmental or-
17 ganizations, on such terms and conditions as may be
18 necessary, for the purchase on the open market of
19 discounted debt of the Government of Haiti, if a
20 market is determined to be viable, in exchange for
21 commitments by the Government of Haiti—

22 “(A) to restore forests identified pursuant
23 to subsection (a); or

24 “(B) to develop plans for sustainable use
25 of such forests.

1 “(2) MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS.—

2 Each recipient of a grant under this subsection shall
3 participate in the ongoing management of the area
4 or areas protected pursuant to such grant.

5 “(3) MATCHING OF GRANT FUNDS.—Any

6 United States funding provided to a nongovern-
7 mental organization under this subsection should be
8 matched by an equal or greater amount of funding
9 from the nongovernmental organization. Such
10 matching funds may include funding provided by
11 other international donors, nongovernmental organi-
12 zations, philanthropic bodies, corporations or other
13 private entities, institutions of higher learning, the
14 Government of Haiti, or other non-United States
15 Government sources.

16 “(4) MINIMUM COUNTRY REFORESTATION

17 FUND PERCENTAGE.—Not less than 85 percent of
18 grant funds provided under this subsection shall be
19 spent on actual reforestation activities in Haiti,
20 which may include the protection of reforested areas.

21 “(5) RETENTION OF PROCEEDS.—Notwith-

22 standing any other provision of law, a grantee (or
23 any subgrantee) under this subsection may retain,
24 without deposit in the Treasury of the United States
25 and without further appropriation by Congress—

1 “(A) interest earned on the proceeds of
2 any resulting debt-for-nature exchange pending
3 the disbursements of such proceeds; and

4 “(B) interest for approved program pur-
5 poses, which may include the establishment of
6 an endowment, the income of which is used for
7 such purposes.

8 “(6) SUNSET.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority to
10 award grants under this subsection shall termi-
11 nate on the date that is 5 years after the date
12 of the enactment of this Act unless the Presi-
13 dent determines and certifies to Congress
14 that—

15 “(i) the grant program under this
16 subsection has been effective in meeting
17 the goals of the Haiti and Armenia Refor-
18 estation Act of 2018; and

19 “(ii) the Government of Haiti has
20 committed to returning land in Haiti to
21 long-term sustainable forests.

22 “(B) RENEWAL.—If the President makes a
23 certification under subparagraph (A), the au-
24 thority to award grants under this subsection
25 may be renewed for 1 additional 5-year period.

1 **“SEC. 478. PILOT PROGRAM FOR ARMENIA.**

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

8 “(b) REVIEW OF LIST.—The President shall—

9 “(1) analyze the areas on the list submitted by
10 the Government of Armenia under subsection (a);
11 and

12 “(2) seek to reach an agreement with the Gov-
13 ernment of Armenia for the restoration and future
14 sustainable use of such areas.

15 “(c) DEBT FORGIVENESS AGREEMENT.—

16 “(1) DEBT FORGIVENESS.—The President is
17 authorized to forgive debt owed to the United States
18 by the Government of Armenia in exchange for com-
19 mitments by the Government of Armenia—

20 “(A) to restore forests identified by the
21 Government under subsection (a); or

22 “(B) to develop plans for sustainable use
23 of such forests.

24 “(2) MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS.—
25 The Government of Armenia shall participate in the

1 ongoing management of the area or areas protected
2 pursuant to such debt relief.

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

9 “(4) TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority to offer
11 debt relief under this subsection shall terminate
12 on the date that is 5 years after the date of the
13 enactment of this Act unless the President de-
14 termines and certifies to Congress that—

15 “(i) the debt forgiveness pilot pro-
16 gram under this subsection has been effec-
17 tive in meeting the goals of the Haiti and
18 Armenia Reforestation Act of 2018; and

19 “(ii) the Government of Armenia has
20 committed to returning land in Armenia to
21 long-term sustainable forests.

22 “(B) RENEWAL.—If the President makes a
23 certification under subparagraph (A), the au-
24 thority to forgive debt under this subsection

1 may be renewed for 1 additional 5-year pe-
2 riod.”.

3 **TITLE III—ADMINISTRATIVE**
4 **PROVISION**

5 **SEC. 301. DELEGATION.**

6 The President, or the Administrator of the United
7 States Agency for International Development or the Sec-
8 retary of State, acting as the President’s delegate, may
9 draw on the expertise of the United States Forest Service
10 and the United States Agency for International Develop-
11 ment in designing and implementing programs under this
12 Act relating to reforestation, watershed restoration, and
13 monitoring of land use change.

14 **SEC. 302. DETERMINATION AND MONITORING OF FOREST**
15 **LEVELS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief of the United
18 States Forest Service, in consultation with the Adminis-
19 trator of the United States Agency for International De-
20 velopment, using the latest available Landsat data, shall—

21 (1) determine the current level of forest cover
22 in Haiti and the current level of forest cover in Ar-
23 menia, expressed as a percentage of each country’s
24 total land mass; and

1 (2) submit this information to the appropriate
2 committees of Congress.

3 (b) UPDATES.—The Chief of the United States For-
4 est Service, in consultation with the Administrator of the
5 United States Agency for International Development, shall
6 submit an annual report to the appropriate committees of
7 Congress that contains an updated determination, using
8 the latest available Landsat data, of the level of forest
9 cover in Haiti and the level of forest cover in Armenia.

10 (c) USE OF DETERMINATIONS.—Each determination
11 under subsection (a)(1) and each updated determination
12 under subsection (b) shall be used for the purposes of set-
13 ting and achieving the goals described in section 2(b)(3).

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