

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Territorial and International Affairs**

The Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget (PMB), assisted by the Office of Policy Analysis, is responsible for: representing Interior in interagency trade policy deliberations, including the Trade Policy Review Group; providing policy analysis and coordination of significant environmental issues affecting resources on or near the U.S.-Mexico border; providing analytical support for U.S. government efforts to address trade and environment concerns in the OECD and World Trade Organizations so as to protect U.S. national sovereignty; and participating in U.S. delegations to international environmental negotiations, including the Biodiversity Convention, CITIES, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

The **Office of International Affairs**(OIA), under the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, conducts the following activities:

- Chairs the DOI International Activities Liaison Committee;
- Coordinates initiatives at request of the Secretary;
- Coordinates activities which affect more than one Bureau;
- Reviews and monitors Departmental agreements (about 160) with foreign countries and coordinates Departmental review of other Federal agency foreign agreements (Circular 175 Process);
- Hosts governmental officials from other countries;
- Prepares Departmental Reports on International Activities for OMB, State Department and USIA;
- Approves Visa Waivers for the Department;
- Serves as Point of Contact for the US-South Africa Committee on Conservation, Environment and Water, chaired by the Secretary;
- Administers the Partnership for Biodiversity PASA with the U.S. Agency for International Development and Peace Corps.

#### **DOI Activities in Foreign Countries**

Interior and its Bureaus currently have over 160 formal Agreements with 73 foreign countries and 17 multilateral agencies to conduct cooperative activities. The Department is most active in the following countries: Canada, Mexico, Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Panama, Brazil, Venezuela, Pakistan, Egypt and India.

#### **The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's principal international activities focus on the exchange of technical information and assistance between the Service and foreign wildlife agencies and organizations. Among the major activities are participation in the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (or Ramsar Convention) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES); implementation of the Western Hemisphere Convention; the U.S.-Russia Environmental Agreement (Area V); the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Basin;

and the U.S.-China Nature Conservation Protocol. Additionally, the Service carries out responsibilities under bilateral migrator bird conservation treaties with Russia, Japan, Mexico and Canada.

The Service continues its emphasis on international wetlands conservation efforts, working with the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Wetlands International Importance to facilitate transfer and exchanges of information and skills necessary for developing nations to conserve their wetland resources for sustainable use. The office will also devote substantial effort to enhancing the Service's many cooperative efforts with Mexico, which range from wetland habitat management to migratory bird management and research, from endangered species studies to wildlife trade and law enforcement. The Service will focus on maintaining and conserving biological diversity throughout Latin America via its educational and training initiatives designed for Latin American protected-area managers.

Under Section 8(a) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Service continues to use funds available through the Special Foreign Currency Program (P.L.480) and the U.S.-India Fund to provide technical expertise and assistance to regional and international institutions responsible for the maintenance of biological diversity, such as the Wildlife Institute of India. Through its efforts with the Agency for International Development, the Service is carrying out a five-year multi-task program to assist the Sri Lanka Department of Wildlife in enhancing its planning and management capabilities. The Service also manages international and domestic trade in wildlife and plants for conservation purposes and sustainable use programs under CITES, the ESA, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Pelly Amendment, the North American Free Trade Agreement, and related treaties and laws.

The Services Office of Management Authority communicates and cooperates with the CITES Secretariat in Switzerland and CITES management authorities in 130 other CITES member nations. It also administers grants and cooperative programs and regulates international trade under the African Elephant Conservation Act and Wild Bird Conservation Act.

### **National Park Service**

The National Park Service (NPS) offers technical assistance in heritage conservation in foreign countries, hosts multinational park seminars, and acts as the lead agency for implementation of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (P.L. 96-515) now ratified by 134 nations. The Service shares responsibility for implementing Service-wide international commitments mandated by public law, treaties, conventions, and bilateral agreements such as the Western Hemisphere Convention and the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol under the Wider Caribbean Protocol.

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) within the NPS advises the Director on international issues, responsibilities and opportunities to meet the Service's international mission, obligations, and objectives. The OIA initiates, develops, manages and coordinates all Park Service international programs for exchanging information, data, and personnel with, and providing technical assistance in natural and cultural heritage resource management to other nations and organizations. It designs, manages and implements relevant foreign policy initiatives, projects and activities using external funding sources and in partnership with organizations such as the U.S. Agency for International Development, the World Bank, U.S.-owned foreign currencies, the U.S. Information Agency, the World Conservation Union, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, and the Department of State.

The OIA conducts and coordinates training programs in all aspects of heritage management for park and conservation personnel from other countries both in the U.S. and overseas and is most active in Latin America

and India. In Spain alone, park professionals have provided over 19,000 training days in the past five years and have trained the large majority of current national park system directors worldwide. It directs strategic international efforts to ensure the preservation, effective management and accurate interpretation of domestic natural and cultural resources shared with other nations such as transboundary ecosystems and sites commemorating ethnic origins.

### **National Biological Service**

The National Biological Service (NBS) provides international assistance in inventory, monitoring, and research relevant to the assessment, conservation, management and restoration of biological resources. It initiates and coordinates programs and projects for obtaining, sharing, and managing data and information to enhance the theory and practice of biological conservation, and to improve understanding of the effects of natural and human influences. It facilitates participation of U.S. scientists in international programs, projects, and forums for addressing scientific, technical, policy, and management issues relating to biological resources. The NBS participates in international training and assistance to strengthen the institutional, technical, and scientific capabilities of cooperating nations. It provides data, information, and technical assistance to support U.S. leadership in implementing international conventions, agreements, and cooperative monitoring and research networks relevant to biological conservation.

The NBS encourages cooperation with other nations that share biological resources with the U.S. (e.g., transborder ecosystems, neotropical migratory birds, migratory waterfowl), have ecologically similar conditions, or have biological resources that could help address threats to U.S. biota (e.g., biological control organisms for non-native species). The NBS is particularly active in Latin America, Europe, Russia, China and India.

### **U.S. Geological Survey**

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) provides cooperative international assistance in virtually all the major sciences and in matters concerning the earth and its environment. The USGS scientists assist in geologic and topographic mapping, as well as in the investigation and assessment of natural resources (energy, minerals, water, etc.). The Survey is at the forefront of research and practical efforts to reduce global natural hazards, with international expertise in earthquakes, volcanoes, ground failure (landslides, subsidence), and floods. It is also active in international training and institutional strengthening. The USGS is most active in Russia, Latin America, and the Middle East. [Additional information on USGS is included in the Department of Interior section.]

In the wake of the closing of the Bureau of Mines, some staff of its Division of International Minerals has been transferred to the U.S. Geological Survey and renamed the Office of Mineral Information. The Office is the focal point within the U.S. Government for the collection and analysis of comprehensive international minerals and materials information needed to assess the U.S. industry in the global market place in support of U.S. mineral and trade policy and to assess the availability of materials needed to support national defense requirements. It maintains a data base on mineral deposits, mines and processing plants world-wide and publishes an annual review of the mineral industries in 175 countries.

### **Bureau of Reclamation**

The Bureau of Reclamation provides reimbursable technical assistance and training in a variety of areas related to water resources management. Reclamation has been active in international cooperative efforts since 1910 in over 60 countries and has trained more than 5,000 water resources engineers and scientists from over 80 countries. The Bureau's domestic program involves the operation of water resources projects in the 17 Western states to benefit multiple uses which include agricultural, industrial and municipal, flood control, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, wetlands, hydropower generation, and water quality while supporting a wide range of environmental values. The Bureau is currently most active in Latin America, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

### **Bureau of Land Management**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) provides technical assistance in land use planning and environmental impact assessment procedures, land and mineral leasing, automated land information systems, land reclamation, and wildfire suppression. BLM is most active in China and trans-boundary projects on the U.S.-Mexican border. It leads DOI participation on the U.S. Desertification Convention.

### **Minerals Management Service**

The Minerals Management Service manages the mineral resources of the U.S. outer continental shelf and collects and distributes bonuses, rents, and royalties from companies that lease and produce minerals from Federal land, both onshore and offshore, and from Indian lands. Specialists can provide assistance in marine-related subjects (e.g., environmental assessment, response to production-related oil-spills, safety of structures, boundary determinations, and hard-minerals mining) as well as certain general subjects (e.g., royalty management, evaluation of oil and gas potential, and involvement of the public and other constituent groups in the decision-making process). The Service is most active in Canada and Russia.

### **Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement**

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement contributes to resource development by conducting research and providing technical expertise in environmental planning for surface mining and in the development and application of technology for reclaiming mined land. The Office is most active in India and Indonesia.

### **Information Available from Territorial and International Affairs**

- Center for Disease Control Health Summaries and International Traveler Handbook
- Country background files (holding cables on issues/actions/events relevant to DOI)
- DOI and Federal Register Statutes on Exchange Visitors and J-1 Visa Waivers
- DOI Database of Staff Foreign Travel
- DOI Departmental Manual section on international travel and activities
- DOI International Agreements, list of, and copies of most
- DOI Quarterly Reports for Foreign Travel by Bureau Staff
- International Affairs Calendar
- Post Reports from the U.S. Embassies in foreign countries

- Tips for Travelers to Mexico, Central & South America (State-Department-issued)
- Travel Warnings and Consular Information Sheets (State-Department-issued)
- Trip Reports of foreign travel by DOI state (over past six months)
- US Government Per Diem rates for Foreign Cities and Countries

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Bonnie Cohen  
Assistant Secretary / PMB  
Tel: (202) 208-4203  
Fax: (202) 208-4561

Brooks Yeager  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Tel: (202) 208-6182  
Fax: (202) 208-4561

Kathryn Washburn  
Director, Office of  
International Affairs  
Tel: (202) 208-3101  
Fax: (202) 501-6381

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of International Affairs  
1849 C Street, NW ms4426 MIB  
Washington, D.C. 20240

### **Department of the Interior HomePages**

Territorial and International Affairs: <http://info.er.usgs.gov/doi/territorial-International-Affairs.html>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: <http://www.fws.gov/>

National Park Service: <http://www.nps.gov/>

National Biological Survey: <http://www.nbs.gov/>

U.S. Geological Survey: <http://info.er.usgs.gov/doi/usgs.html>

Bureau of Reclamation: <http://info.er.usgs.gov/doi/bureau-of-reclamation.html>

Bureau of Land Management: <http://www.blm.gov/>

Minerals Management Service: <http://www.mms.gov/>

Office of Surface Mining: <http://info.er.usgs.gov/doi/office-of-surface-mining.html>

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## **U.S. Geological Survey**

The fundamental mission of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is to ensure the availability of policy-relevant earth science data and information for the nation, in partnership with Federal, state, and local organizations. USGS programs focus on multidisciplinary studies to address the most critical issues facing the United States, and are organized to address four major areas of emphasis: natural hazards, the environment, natural resources, and information and data.

The USGS carries out international activities as complements to its domestic programs, under authorization provided in the revised USGS Organic Act, and in the Foreign Assistance Act and related legislation. Under these acts, the USGS may also conduct programs which have been initiated by the U.S. Department of the Interior or other Federal Agencies, such as the Department of State (DOS) and the U.S. Agency for International Development, and which these Agencies consider to be in the best interests of the U.S. Government.

International scientific programs conducted by the USGS provide opportunities to: 1) compare geologic and hydrologic systems and mapping science technologies in foreign countries with those in the United States; 2) acquire information on mineral and energy resources and other earth science information of interest to the U.S. Government; 3) support U.S. foreign policy goals by providing technical assistance to counterpart agencies in foreign countries; 4) provide benefit to the U.S. private sector by gathering and distributing information necessary to make informed investment decisions; and 5) broaden and increase the scientific knowledge of USGS scientists.

### **Major International Activities**

#### **Natural Hazards**

Studies designed to forecast and mitigate geologic hazards, including the monitoring of volcanoes and research on earthquakes and seismicity, were major ongoing activities during fiscal years 1994 and 1995. Activities continue under the Interagency Volcano Disaster Assistance Program (VDAP), in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. The primary goal of VDAP is to reduce the loss of life and economic losses in countries experiencing catastrophic volcanic eruptions.

The Worldwide Earthquake Risk Management Program was completed in 1995. Geologic hazard assessment and mitigation programs continue under the Earthquake Mitigation Training Program. VDAP volcano-monitoring studies were conducted in the Philippines, Montserrat, British West Indies, Mexico, and Zaire.

In cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Airline Pilots Association (ALPA), the USGS continues to seek ways to inform and educate the aviation community about the nature of volcanic hazards and to promote air-travel safety by mitigating and minimizing the effects of airplane encounters with volcanic ash.

In support of the United Nations' International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), the USGS helped develop the "U.S. National Report to the IDNDR World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction" and the report "Natural Disaster Reduction: A Plan for the Nation," which responds to the IDNDR goal to develop national programs for natural disaster reduction as a core to the IDNDR international effort.

The USGS continues a multilateral program to establish seismic stations and to coordinate studies under the Global Telemetered Seismic Network Program. Bilateral earthquake and related geophysical studies with Jordan, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia, the People's Republic of China, Armenia, Ukraine, and Russia are underway or were recently completed. These studies are designed to monitor earthquake activity, with the goal of predicting earthquakes and mitigating their effects. In addition, several of these seismic stations are being incorporated into the United Nations' efforts to establish an effective nuclear test ban monitoring regime.

### **The Environment**

Water resource assessment and research programs have been completed or are being conducted by the USGS in the People's Republic of China, France, India, Japan, Hungary, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, and Sweden. Studies of ground water availability and origin are also underway in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Training courses in ground-water assessment and in water data collection and interpretation were provided to participants from India, China, Korea, Argentina, and the UAE. A training course in water data acquisition systems was also presented jointly by the USGS and Canadian specialists to participants from Israel, Jordan, Palestine Autonomous Territories, and Egypt.

Activities involving applications of remote sensing to surveying and mapping continued under the Protocol with the People's Republic of China. This program includes the transfer of technology in geographic information systems (GIS) and digital cartography to aid in modernizing and standardizing China's topographic mapping operations. It also includes the application of remote sensing to environmental studies and the utilization of global positioning systems data to improve global models.

A CD-ROM was also produced containing digital raster graphic images (DRG's) of five 1:50,000 scale topographic maps in the Dry Valleys of Antarctica. Digital line graphs for the same maps were also included in the CD-ROM.

The USGS Global Change and Climate History Program has completed a comprehensive reconstruction of environmental conditions during a warm interval in the Pliocene period (about 3 million years ago). The results of experimental modelling indicate that the average global temperature during this period was about 2 to 3 C warmer than at present. This work was a cooperative effort involving university and government scientists from Canada, Russia, Iceland, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

The USGS has conducted two multi-year programs with several U.S. Universities (funded by NSF) and the Russian Academy of Sciences to: 1) acquire a paleoclimate record from cores of sediment from Lake Baikal, and 2) conduct a large multichannel seismic reflection survey of the deep structure of the Baikal Rift. These projects have produced a valuable record of climate change in Eastern Siberia which extends back 250,000 years, and have also yielded insights into the evolution of rift zones in the earth's crust.

The USGS is also cooperating with the Russian Federal Service for Geodesy and Cartography (ROSKARTOGRAFIA) in a U.S. State Department funded program to develop an environmental GIS database of the Lake Baikal drainage basin. This program has established two UNIX-based GIS facilities at ROSKARTOGRAFIA institutes in Moscow and in Irkutsk, and has provided PC-based GIS systems to regional environmental committees in Irkutsk, Chita, and Ulan Ude. The GIS will cover an area of approximately 2.5 million square kilometers at a scale of 1:1,000,000, with additional coverages of selected areas at larger scales. The completed GIS will provide local officials with the tools to make more informed decisions on land-management and environmental protection issues.

## **Natural Resources**

### **Petroleum Resource Studies**

The World Energy Resources Program is an extension of the USGS's domestic oil and gas assessment program. The program's objectives are: 1) to determine the probability of undiscovered resources of conventional oil and gas in priority regions of the world using similar methodology as used in the U.S. National Assessment, and 2) to provide a global context from which U.S. domestic resources can be evaluated. Products generated by the program are assessments of prioritized regions or provinces, compiled in digital form using a Geographic Information System (GIS) format. The program is currently engaged in cooperative efforts in Russia, Ukraine, Columbia, Israel, Jordan, Croatia, and Yemen.

With funding from the USAID, by the end of 1996 the USGS will have established seven petroleum-geology technical-training facilities and in Russia and Ukraine and trained their staffs. Three types of facilities are being established: petroleum geochemistry laboratories (Moscow and Tyumen, Russia); seismic-processing facilities (Moscow and Tyumen, Russia, and Kiev, Ukraine), and GIS laboratories (Moscow, Russia). In cooperation with the USGS, these facilities will produce and release technical reports, digital databases, and maps to promote and facilitate investment decision making by the private sector. USGS also will work with these facilities to develop cooperative geologic projects aimed at an improved understanding of Russian and Ukrainian petroleum geology and the resource potential of their petroleum basins.

### **Coal Resource Studies**

With funding from USAID, the USGS is conducting a cooperative program of coal exploration and resource assessment with the Armenian Department of Underground Resources. The goals of the program are to train and equip Armenian geologists to assess the quantity and quality of coal resources in Armenia and to use the resulting data in mine planning and utilization. The program will provide the equipment and training necessary to conduct all aspects of a coal exploration and development program, including exploration drilling, geophysical logging, geochemical analysis, and coal database development and utilization. The 3-year program will provide Armenia with the means to continue to explore for coal and to independently determine the best means of developing the country's coal resources.

A USAID-funded effort is also underway in Kyrgyzstan, with the goals of evaluating the state of knowledge of Kyrgyzstan's coal resources, and advising the Kyrgyzstan government in developing long-term plans and policies for the rational development of their coal industry.

### **Mineral Resource Studies**

Mineral resource assessments and other studies on the genesis of mineral deposits have been completed or are underway in cooperation with the following countries: Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Mauritania, Peru, The People's Republic of China, Poland, Russia, Spain, Venezuela, and the former Yugoslavia. The USGS also maintains a permanent mission in Saudi Arabia to advise and assist the Saudi Directorate General of Mineral Resources on the assessment of, and exploration for its non-fuel mineral resources. These programs provide knowledge of the availability of minerals critical to the U.S., assist foreign countries in the development of their mineral resources, and train foreign nationals in modern resource assessment techniques and methodologies.

Following the abolishment of the U.S. Bureau of Mines, the international minerals information function housed in this Bureau was transferred to the USGS. Former USBM programs in this area and counterpart programs in USGS are currently undergoing a review to determine objectives and workplans for a future integrated effort.

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Gordon Eaton  
Director  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Reston, Virginia 22092

Paul P. Hearn, Jr.  
Chief, International Programs  
Geologic Division  
Tel: (703) 648-6287  
Fax: (703) 648-4227  
Email: phearn@usgs.gov

Anna Lenox  
Chief, International Water Resources Programs  
Water Resources Division  
Tel: (703) 648-5053  
Fax: (703) 648-6687  
Email: alenox@usgs.gov

Cynthia Cluck  
Acting Chief, Branch of External Coordination  
National Mapping Division  
Tel: (703) 648-4645  
Fax: (703) 648-5755  
Email: ccluck@usgs.gov

USGS HomePage: <http://info.er.usgs.gov/doi/usgs.html>