

INTERNATIONAL MARINE TURTLES OF MYSTERY

QUICK STATS

- ✘ **CONFERENCE:** Spending
- ✘ **TEAM:** Environmental Protection Agency
- **FUMBLE:** \$59 million spent over four years on international conservation
- **HOW TO RECOVER THE BALL:** Leverage private efforts, where they exist, on conservation, instead of investing taxpayer dollars

Using tax dollars collected from hard-working American families, the federal government made its species conservation efforts international.

Beginning in 1988, the federal government created several international species conservation funds to provide technical assistance for species conservation, law enforcement, and habitat conservation, for species including elephants, great apes, and marine turtles.¹⁶⁹ All of these efforts cost American taxpayers millions of dollars. In the last two years alone, the federal government

has put over \$18 million toward these programs.¹⁷⁰

RECOVERY

Responsible species conservation and stewardship of the land is an admirable and accomplishable goal. However, the fund received nearly \$89 million from private partners from 2008-2012.¹⁷¹ Congress should stop funding this international conservation program, which is more than capable of raising funds on its own. An admirable goal does not make it a national interest. With an almost \$19 trillion national debt, this program cannot be justified.

[For more information on Multinational Species Conservation Agreements, please visit:](#)
[U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Multinational Species Conservation Acts](#)
[CRS Report: International Species Conservation Funds](#)