

# Sustainable Investments for Conservation – The Business Case for Biodiversity

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## The U.S. approach to biodiversity protection and the role of the private sector

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## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants Program
  - More than 650 HCPs cover 600 separate species on about 41 million acres
- Wildlife Without Borders
  - Developing country capacity building
  - Endangered and migratory species conservation
  - Strategic habitat and natural area conservation
  - Environmental outreach, education and training



## Verde Ventures

- Funded by OPIC, the International Finance Corporation and The Starbucks Coffee Company
- To date, Verde Ventures investments have supported:
  - Site-based protection of 305,000 hectares of key biodiversity habitat
  - Indirect protection of an additional 2.6 million hectares in protected areas adjacent to project sites
  - Support to businesses which employ 13,500 people working in project sites in 12 countries.



## Environmental Defense, FedEx & Eaton Corporation

- The FedEx E700 hybrid electric truck
  - Decreases particulate emissions by 96 percent
  - Travels 42 percent farther on a gallon of fuel
  - 18 hybrids already deployed
  - FedEx plans to roll out 75 more nationwide within a year



## Goldman Sachs and the Wildlife Conservation Society



- Winner of the “U.S. State Department's 2006 Award for Corporate Excellence”
- Goldman Sachs endowed a gift of 680,000 acres of wilderness in the Tierra del Fuego to the Wildlife Conservation Society for a national preserve

## Blue Ridge Highway Parkway Project

- The Conservation Trust for North Carolina
  - Works with landowners to protect properties along the Blue Ridge Parkway
  - Protects properties through
    - purchase or donation
    - conservation agreement
- National forests narrowly bound 190 of the Parkway's 469 miles on both sides, but most of the spectacular natural lands within view are privately owned



## Summary

- The United States is one of the strongest forces for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the world.
- The United States supports
  - a robust network of domestic biodiversity protection programs
  - deep international engagement to foster biodiversity, particularly in the developing world.

