



The Haiti and Armenia Reforestation Act of 2018



A densely forested region of Tavush Province

PURPOSE

This environmental legislation seeks to promote healthy and sustainable forest growth and to support the adoption of effective, long-term forestry strategies, policies, and practices in both Armenia and Haiti.

This bill would authorize the President to provide both Armenia and Haiti with grants and debt forgiveness to reverse the effects of deforestation and to meet specific targets for the restoration of forest cover.

DELIVERABLES

- Increase Armenia's forest cover to at least 12% of its total land mass within 10 years of the enactment of this bill.
- Increase Haiti's forest cover to at least 7% of total land mass within 10 years of the enactment of this bill.

ARMENIA: HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Archeological data indicates that approximately 35% of the territory of present-day Armenia was originally forested.

Less than 12% of Armenia's territory was covered in forest in 1990; less than 6% was covered by 2016. This decrease in forest cover is anthropogenic, related directly to human activity.



Volunteers in Lori Province investigating illegal logging

WHY HAITI AND ARMENIA? The governments of Haiti and Armenia are undertaking meaningful efforts to expand forest cover and implement sound forestry practices, but are in need of financial and technical support to realize their full forestry potential.

AREAS OF ACTIVITY

The specific aim of U.S. assistance would be the development and implementation of nationally appropriate policies to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, improve forest management and natural regeneration, and increase annual rates of afforestation and reforestation.

Targeted areas for U.S. support include:

- Fire reduction
- Sustainable land use management
- Agricultural productivity
- Forest law enforcement
- Timber tracking systems
- Cooking fuel substitutes
- Tree-planting initiatives
- Market-based solutions (including the international carbon-offset market)



Fire damage to Armenia's Khosrov Forest (2017)

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

This legislation promotes the participation of local Armenian communities in:

- Creating local jobs establishing, protecting, and managing forests.
- Collaborating to analyze biodiversity and ecosystems integral to sustainability.
- Cooperating on conservation, clean water, and sustainable agroforestry.

DEBT FORGIVENESS. - The President is authorized to forgive debt owed to the United States by the Government of Armenia in exchange for commitments by the Government of Armenia:

- (A) to restore forests identified by the Government under subsection (a); or
- (B) to develop plans for sustainable use of such forests.

ARMENIAN DEBT TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

According to the 2017 Annual Foreign Credit Exposure Report, the total debt owed by the Government of Armenia to the United States Government is \$16.1 million.