



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



EAST AFRICA

ENVIRONMENT

East Africa is home to some of the most spectacular wildlife and ecosystems in the world. When managed properly, these vast yet fragile lands contribute greatly to national and regional economies and improve the lives of local communities.

The pressures of population growth, climate change, cross-border wildlife poaching and trafficking, and disjointed management of shared natural resources threaten East Africa's conservation efforts. Habitats and wildlife in East Africa cross political boundaries, which means a coordinated regional effort is needed to ensure their survival.

CONSERVING EAST AFRICA'S NATURAL CAPITAL

USAID is partnering with the East African Community (EAC) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature on a program to strengthen regional leadership and encourage East African countries to develop similar policies for their shared natural resources. By supporting efforts to determine the economic value of these resources and identify biodiversity priorities, USAID's partnerships help decision-makers develop and enforce effective policies.

USAID is partnering with the Walt Disney Company, the U.S. Department of State, WildlifeDirect, and local partners in East Africa on *National Geographic Kids 'Team Sayari,'* an African educational entertainment platform to inspire kids to care about nature and empower them with the knowledge and skills to conserve and protect it. This partnership includes not only programming but school activities and community outreach – it aims to build a foundation for long-term behavior change among children and youth.

USAID is also working with Earth Journalism Network/Internews to increase awareness in East Africa of the importance of conservation and combating wildlife crime. By providing promising East African journalists with mentorship, training, and other vital support, the partnership aims to improve and expand reporting on threats to conservation and wildlife.

COUNTERING WILDLIFE CRIME

Wildlife crime threatens the security, economy, and biodiversity of East Africa. International networks for poaching, transit, and sale of illegal wildlife products target wildlife populations across borders, creating a complex problem that transcends national boundaries.

In line with the U.S. Eliminate, Neutralize and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act, USAID is supporting the East African Community and development partners to enhance wildlife management and improve the enforcement and prosecution of wildlife crime in East Africa. New tools, such as the Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange, help law enforcement officers in the region share information to stop wildlife crime.

USAID has also partnered with UNDP to reduce maritime trafficking of wildlife at key East Africa ports. The project focuses on strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies and coordination with the private sector to prevent, detect, and intercept wildlife trafficking.

USAID has an interagency agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) for a nine-year project that utilizes DOI's expertise in law enforcement, investigation, and prosecution to address the transnational threat of wildlife crime. The partnership provides expertise and training on wildlife protection, law enforcement, and prosecution at national levels in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

BUDGET: FY 2022

\$7 million

KEY GOVERNMENT PARTNERS:

East African Community, Ministries of Tourism and Wildlife, Ministries of Environment and Forestry, and Regional Development Authorities

KEY IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

- USAID missions in Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, and South Sudan
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Wildlife Authorities in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania
- U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Forest Service
- International Union for Conservation of Nature
- World Wild Fund for Nature
- TRAFFIC
- Environmental Incentives, LLC
- Internews
- WildlifeDirect
- Wildlife Conservation Society

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