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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



## TANZANIA

# USAID BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

### BACKGROUND

Tanzania is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world, with more than 55,000 species of flora and fauna, including lions, elephants, whale sharks, and baobab trees. Given Tanzania's level of development and the reliance on agriculture by 65 percent of the population, Tanzanians' livelihoods are inextricably linked to natural resources, which offer a foundation for sustainable development, stability, and long-term growth. USAID focuses on conservation and emphasizes enhancing livelihoods of local communities linked to the environment through tourism, private sector collaboration, co-management, and inclusive development. Through the USAID Biodiversity Conservation Program, USAID partners with the government and people of Tanzania to improve environmental governance and natural resources management. It develops and supports key national environmental policies while promoting community conservation initiatives.

## CHALLENGE

In Tanzania, population growth, agricultural expansion, and climate change threaten biodiversity and can negatively affect rural livelihoods. Tanzania has lost at least one-third of its natural environments in the past few decades, meaning a loss of animals, flora, and other living things needed for a healthy planet. For example, Tanzania has one of the highest deforestation rates in Africa. Due to this loss, the number of species and their population sizes have decreased in Tanzania. In the past decade, the number of threatened species in Tanzania has tripled.

## GOALS

- Protect wildlife and support the ecological connectivity and resilience of biologically diverse landscapes and seascapes.
- Strengthen local organizational capacity and engage communities in natural resources management and land-use planning.
- Foster partnerships among communities, government, civil society, and the private sector to ensure stakeholders have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.
- Increase economic benefits to communities from nature and conservation.
- Strengthen conservation law enforcement capacities for the conservation and sustainable use of resources.
- Support national and international partners to end wildlife trafficking.
- Engage the private sector to promote economic opportunities and more sustainable livelihood options.
- Promote gender equity and female empowerment, including activities to end gender-based violence, reduce stigmas related to gender, and increase access to finance.

## CONTACT

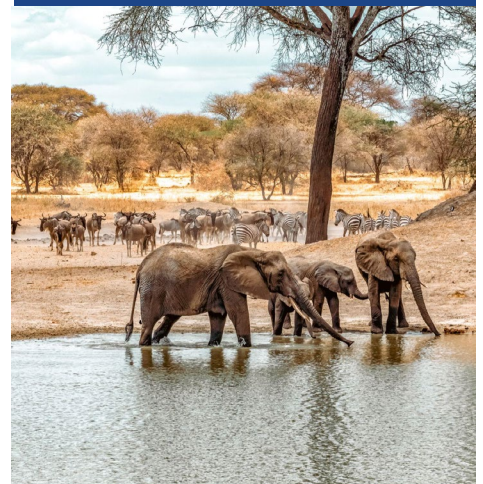
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## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2015-2024

**5 million hectares**  
under improved natural  
resource management via  
local land use plans and forest  
protection.

More than **550,000**  
people increased their  
family incomes via  
sustainable natural resource  
management or biodiversity  
conservation-related  
businesses.

More than **23,000**  
Land Tenure  
Certificates issued to  
communities and individuals  
living around protected areas.



Further information is available at [www.usaid.gov/tanzania](http://www.usaid.gov/tanzania) and USAID/Tanzania social media sites.