



Elephants in Samburu, Kenya. Photo: IUCN/SSC AfESG

## KENYA AND EAST AFRICA

### Conserving Natural Capital and Enhancing Collaborative Management of Transboundary Resources in East Africa (CONNECT)

The East Africa region has rich biodiversity and natural resources that transcend national boundaries. These include vast landscapes, iconic wildlife species, watersheds, arable lands, minerals etc. Broadly defined as natural capital, these resources are an important source of economic revenue and critical to East Africa's economic growth. The region's nature-based tourism industry, which is almost entirely dependent on wildlife and protected areas, contributes 7.5-10% of GDP to the region and supports local communities depending on the natural capital for their livelihoods. Wildlife contributes both economically and intrinsically to the region's natural capital and is therefore a critical asset for East Africa's future growth and sustainable development. Loss of habitats and species, the disruption of wildlife migratory, poaching, and wildlife trafficking are major threats in East Africa.

The purpose of the Conserving Natural Capital and Enhancing Collaborative Management of Transboundary Resources in East Africa (CONNECT) is to strengthen the conservation and management of transboundary natural resources including wildlife and landscapes in the region. The project seeks to strengthen East African Community (EAC's) institutional leadership to deliver on its regional mandate and commitments to conserve and manage shared environment and natural resources in East Africa. The project works to strengthen existing regional conservation initiatives through generating evidence-based information, innovative methodologies, tools, and best practices for the benefit of the EAC Partner States and their citizens. The project has these result areas:

- Collaborative conservation and management of transboundary natural resources enhanced.
- Perceived value of living wildlife increased.
- Wildlife poaching and trafficking reduced.

## Our Work

The project activities are geared toward improving conservation and management of natural capital in the East African region. Key intervention areas include:

- (i) Provision of technical assistance to the East African Community (EAC) on the formulation and implementation of regional transboundary natural resources management policies, strategies and legal frameworks.
- (ii) Building the capacity of local communities for better engagement in transboundary community-based tools and methodologies for combatting illegal wildlife trade in transboundary landscapes.
- (iii) Strengthening cross-sectoral decision making for sustainable development of transboundary natural resources management in the East African region.
- (iv) Promoting the role of women and youth in combating illegal wildlife trade.
- (v) Increasing political support on the economic and intrinsic value of wildlife and natural ecosystems.
- (vi) Conducting an in-depth research and analysis on the Patterns of Use of Threatened Wildlife in East Africa.
- (vii) Supporting the development and application of the Eastern Africa Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange (TWIX).
- (viii) Supporting the establishment of a Regional Forum for Wildlife Prosecutors in East Africa to enhance wildlife law enforcement in East Africa.
- (ix) Enhancing existing initiatives on combatting wildlife crime and good governance at critical transit ports in East Africa.

## Key Outcomes

The project is contributing to the improved conservation and management of natural capital in East Africa. Expected outcomes include:

- Strengthened regional environment and natural resources management policy process (dialogue, formulation, harmonization, implementation and learning) for evidence-based decision making.
- Improved sustainable management of key transboundary landscapes.
- Increased awareness of the economic and intrinsic value of living wildlife.
- Reduced demand for wildlife products.
- Improved regional and bilateral collaboration on enforcement and prosecutions of wildlife crime.

The project is implemented by a consortium of regional organizations led by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) through the Eastern and Southern Regional Office (ESARO) in partnership with Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC) and Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF). The project is implemented in collaboration with and policy guidance from the EAC Secretariat and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC).

### BUDGET:

\$4,900,169

### DURATION:

2019-2023

### ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Eastern African Region  
EAC Member States of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and other strategic countries in the region.

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)- Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO)

### KEY PARTNERS

- Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC)
- Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- East African Community (EAC)

### USAID CONTACT

Brian Otiende  
Program Management Specialist-Biodiversity and Water  
Environnement Office  
Tel: + 254 20 363 2012  
Email: [botiende@usaid.gov](mailto:botiende@usaid.gov)

### IUCN CONTACT

Leo Niskanen  
Regional Technical Coordinator  
Conservation Areas and Species Programme  
Tel: +254 20 249 3561/65  
Email: [Leo.Niskanen@iucn.org](mailto:Leo.Niskanen@iucn.org)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: [usaidkea@usaid.gov](mailto:usaidkea@usaid.gov)  
Website: [www.usaid.gov/east-africa-regional](http://www.usaid.gov/east-africa-regional)  
Facebook: USAIDEastAfrica  
Twitter: @USAIDEastAfrica