



Counter-Wildlife Trafficking



USAID is working closely with local communities, national governments, and intergovernmental organizations to stop the poaching and trafficking of iconic species such as elephants.

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Budget through FY 2015: \$23.6 million

Key Partners:

Government of Kenya:
- Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
- Kenya Wildlife Service
- Kenya Forest Service

Implementing partners:

- Northern Rangelands Trust
- International Union for Conservation of Nature/ TRAFFIC
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. National Academy of Sciences
- East African Community

USAID Action in Kenya and East Africa

Wildlife crime threatens the security, economy, and biodiversity of East Africa as demand for products like elephant ivory and rhino horn continues to rise and poaching methods become increasingly sophisticated. International networks for poaching, transit, and sale of illegal wildlife products target wildlife populations across borders, creating a complex problem that transcends national boundaries. Kenya is currently the number one transit country for illegal wildlife products from Africa. East Africa's tourism industry, which depends heavily on wildlife and protected areas, brings over \$3.5 billion to the region each year; roughly \$1 billion to Kenya alone. The conservation and sustainable management of wildlife and habitats is therefore crucial to the region's long term economic growth and development.

USAID/Kenya and East Africa is taking urgent action in line with the U.S. National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking to enhance wildlife management and the enforcement and prosecution of wildlife crime. USAID's interventions in the region work through multiple angles in a holistic approach to address a problem for which there is no simple solution.

PROGRAM AREAS

Landscape-Level Protection & Enforcement – The community conservancy approach to conservation and improving livelihoods is now widely recognized as the best solution for managing wildlife outside protected areas in Kenya. Within the model, local communities create governance structures and benefit sharing agreements that ensure everyone has a stake in protecting wildlife, preventing trafficking, and reducing conflict and insecurity. USAID pioneered the community conservancy model in Kenya through its work with the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), which was founded with USAID support in 2004. NRT's highly sophisticated anti-poaching network works closely with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the Kenyan Police to achieve outstanding results: elephant poaching has been reduced by 43% since 2012 across more than 30 participating communities in northern Kenya. USAID is currently scaling up its work with NRT with additional assistance to expand and strengthen community conservancies across Kenya. In 2015, USAID will also roll out a new program of seed grants to community conservancies in two other crucial wildlife landscapes.

Science & Technology to Improve Investigation and Prosecution of Wildlife Crime – USAID is supporting innovative, action-driven research into new technologies and methods to improve wildlife forensics and enhance the

investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime. As part of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. Global Development Lab's Partnership for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER), USAID will award five research grants totaling \$1.5 million to Kenyan scientists to develop the use of forensics and molecular analysis at institutions in the region. These programs will strengthen the capacity of the Kenyan government to successfully prosecute wildlife trafficking and improve wildlife management. USAID's regional Planning for Resilience in East Africa through Policy, Adaptation, Research, and Economic Development (PREPARED) Project is also supporting the development of the SMART app, a data collection application to be used by government agencies and community conservancies to collect, analyze, and share information on poaching and human wildlife conflict in real time.

Policy Reform to Enable Conservation – USAID is supporting an in-depth assessment to identify and implement policies that will create an enabling framework for conservation. USAID's \$500,000 Wildlife Trafficking Response, Assessment and Priority Setting (W-TRAPS) project with TRAFFIC, the international wildlife trade monitoring organization, is working closely with KWS to assess the current status of wildlife trafficking in Kenya through a nationwide consultative process which will identify and implement priority actions for KWS and other stakeholders in the fight against wildlife crime. In September 2015, USAID will grant new awards totaling \$2 million to support analysis of the policies necessary for the successful operation of community conservancies, and develop an action plan to ensure that recent gains in conservation laws and regulations are not undermined by uncoordinated policy-making.

Intergovernmental Partnerships – USAID is building a strong coalition of governmental and intergovernmental agencies to address the transnational threat of wildlife crime. USAID/Kenya and East Africa has partnered with the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) on a five-year project which will utilize DOI's expertise in law enforcement, investigation, and prosecution to create a strong network of regional actors to combat wildlife trafficking throughout East Africa. USAID is also currently developing a new five-year partnership with KWS to scale up counter wildlife trafficking efforts in Kenya that will be closely aligned with Kenya's national priorities as well as USAID's new Country Development Cooperation Strategy 2014-2018. In the wider East African region, USAID is supporting the East African Community to develop a multi-year regional strategy to combat wildlife trafficking through the PREPARED program, which also helps to foster critical international cooperation on the management of transboundary ecosystems such as the Serengeti-Maasai Mara.

