



Interagency Partnership: U.S. Department of the Interior

USAID/Kenya & East Africa



Karl Stromayer, U.S. FWS

White rhinos, an endangered species threatened by poachers, are protected in Kenya's Lake Nakuru National Park.

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Budget through FY 2015: \$4.6 million

Key Partners:

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

USAID/Tanzania

USAID/Uganda

U.S. Implementing Partners:

- U.S. Department of the Interior
 - o Fish and Wildlife Service
 - o National Park Service
 - o Bureau of Land Management
 - o Geological Survey

BACKGROUND

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 the poaching, transit, and sale of illegal wildlife products target wildlife populations across borders, creating a complex problem that transcends national boundaries. To protect the region's wildlife in line with the U.S. National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking, USAID/Kenya and East Africa has established the first U.S. interagency agreement in the world specifically focused on combatting wildlife trafficking: the Partnership to End Wildlife Trafficking in East Africa. This agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior will utilize U.S. government expertise in a comprehensive program to enhance wildlife management and protection in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and the region.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Partnership will utilize DOI's expertise in law enforcement, investigations, ranger training, border inspections, land use planning, and managing the Convention on the Illegal Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) to develop skills and create a strong network of actors to combat wildlife trafficking throughout the East African region. The government-to-government relationships that DOI can foster will help build institutional capacity to fight wildlife crime in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. This work will be augmented by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service law enforcement attachés posted at Embassies in the region.

Nationally, DOI specialists will provide field-based support to agencies to better enforce, investigate, and prosecute wildlife crime. In Kenya, DOI's work will build on USAID's 20-year history of cooperation with the Kenya Wildlife Service and inform future planning in the wildlife sector. Regionally, the USAID-DOI partnership will build on field work and existing initiatives to establish a network of actors working to end wildlife trafficking. Transboundary linkages will also be established between source and demand countries in Africa and Asia using lessons learned from similar DOI projects in Asia and Central America.

Using the technical expertise and opportunities for greater collaboration provided by DOI, USAID/Kenya and East Africa will lead the development of a regional counter-wildlife trafficking program that will encompass bilateral missions across the region.