



The US government donated a fleet of 26 new vehicles donated to the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The vehicle handoff was part of the Kenya Wildlife Protection and Conservation Program, a three year grant awarded to KWS by USAID. Photo/USAID

KENYA

Kenya Wildlife Protection and Conservation Program

The wildlife sector in Kenya is facing extreme pressure through habitat fragmentation and degradation, encroachment, and wildlife crime including poaching. These issues need to be addressed urgently if the future of wildlife and the important wildlife-tourism industry is to be sustained. Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) is a State Corporation whose overall mandate is to conserve and manage wildlife in Kenya. The corporation manages approximately 8 percent of the total land mass in Kenya that consists of 23 national parks, 31 national reserves and 6 national sanctuaries, 4 marine national parks and 6 marine reserves. With the enactment of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (WCMA) in 2013 and enhanced collaboration with security enforcement agencies, Kenya has made great progress combating wildlife trafficking and poaching. However, despite these gains, the threats to conservation still remain high. Inadequate financing for KWS operations, limited capacity of technical staff, and insufficient equipment puts additional pressure on KWS to fulfill its mandate.

OUR WORK

The Kenya Wildlife Protection and Conservation Program (KWPCP) builds on the gains made over the years by KWS in protecting wildlife while also addressing new strategic priorities. The program supports implementation of key actions from the WCMA, KWS's devolution strategy, wildlife industry governance and internal reforms. KWPCP's overarching goal is to support KWS in conserving wildlife, natural ecosystems and biodiversity inside and outside state-protected areas. Under this program USAID's support is focused on three areas:

ACTIVITY AREAS

ENABLING POLICY ENVIRONMENT

A key objective of the KWPCP is to create an enabling policy environment for wildlife protection and conservation. This will be undertaken through three main activities: i) Development of wildlife conservation and management plans, strategies and guidelines; ii) Strengthening of anti-poaching and wildlife trafficking operations; and iii) Development of a national wildlife conservation status report.

TECHNICAL CAPACITY BUILDING

The KWPCP continues USAID's support for KWS's effort to combat wildlife trafficking and poaching in Kenya and beyond. The program supports the KWS Forensics Laboratory for wildlife crime. The first of its kind in East Africa, the laboratory is developing a genetics database to identify seized wildlife contraband to support the prosecution of wildlife crimes. The laboratory uses DNA-based forensic analysis to differentiate bush meat from domestic animals to counteract the bush meat trade. The KWPCP will help equip the Kenya Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Academy at Manyani. The Academy is a central training facility for KWS staff, wildlife conservancies' community rangers, local and regional security and conservation agencies.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT

Currently, KWS is using antiquated computing, financial and accounting systems that do not meet the needs of the organization; surveillance equipment is insufficient and operations suffer as a result. The project is supporting KWS to develop standard operating procedures to build organizational capacity. Other key program activities include developing a monitoring and evaluation system for KWS to audit performance and review strategies, implementing a new revenue collection system and aligning KWS's devolution strategy with the WCMA.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Major achievements under the KWPCP include: i) Procurement of security vehicles that were deployed to rhino hot spot areas ii) Development of Protected Area Management Plans for Kora and Lake Turkana National Parks iii) Dry season aerial surveys for Tsavo and Laikipia-Samburu-Meru-Marsabit ecosystems iv) Procurement of Sequencer and Thermal Cyler v) Procurement of camping gear for the KWS Law Enforcement Academy (LEA) (vi) Procurement of ICT equipment for Finance and KWS-LEA and various trainings carried out to build KWS Capacity.

Budget: \$5 million

Duration: September 2016 – 2019

Activity Locations: key wildlife areas inside and outside the state-protected system

Implementing Partner:

Kenya Wildlife Service

Key Partners: County governments, law enforcement agencies (Police, Judiciary, Customs, Immigration), Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association

USAID CONTACT

Ben Wandago
Biodiversity and NRM Specialist
Environment Office
Tel: +254-20-363-2000
Email: bwandago@usaid.gov

PARTNER CONTACT

Edwin Wanyonyi
Deputy Director, Strategy and Change
Tel: + 254-020-203-3244
Cel: + 254-727-341-612
Email: ewanyonyi@kws.go.ke

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: usaidke@usaid.gov
Twitter: @USAIDKenya
Facebook: USAIDKenya
Website: www.usaid.gov/kenya