



Partnering with Kenya Wildlife Service

USAID/Kenya & East Africa



Northern Rangelands Trust
Kenya Wildlife Service, in partnership with the Northern Rangelands Trust, reintroduced the endangered black rhino to Sera Community Conservancy in May 2015.

Total funding to date: \$18.4 million

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OVERVIEW

Kenya is home to some of the richest biodiversity and most iconic landscapes in Africa. However, this natural heritage is threatened by increasingly sophisticated wildlife trafficking networks, the fragmentation of wildlife habitats, and uncoordinated wildlife policies at the national level. USAID/Kenya and East Africa is working closely with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to respond to these threats and scale up Kenya’s efforts to combat the illegal trade in wildlife.

USAID has been a strong supporter of Kenya’s wildlife sector since the 1970s and was part of a six-donor coalition that supported the establishment of KWS in 1990. Since then, USAID and KWS have had a long and successful history of working closely together for over 25 years, achieving major successes such as championing the community conservancy model and supporting the training of thousands of rangers.

AREAS OF SUPPORT

Priority Setting & Policy Reform – Kenya has recently made great strides in codifying conservation and wildlife protection into law, such as the 2013 Wildlife Conservation and Management Act. But gaps remain in subsidiary legislation to regulate the actual implementation of these laws. USAID is working closely with KWS and the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Natural Resources to identify and implement policies that will fill these gaps and 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 with KWS to assess the current status of wildlife trafficking in Kenya through a nation-wide consultative process and implement priority actions for KWS and other stakeholders in the fight against wildlife crime.

Wildlife Management & Protection – USAID and KWS are currently working together to develop a new five-year partnership to scale up efforts to combat wildlife trafficking. Under the partnership, USAID will support KWS to develop a master plan to guide national wildlife management in Kenya for the next 25 years. It will also build the capacity of KWS and other government agencies for improved investigation, enforcement, and prosecution of illegal wildlife trafficking. This includes supporting the operationalization of the KWS forensics lab, developing and refining subsidiary rules and regulations for recent conservation laws such as the 2013 Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, and supporting the institutionalization of ecosystem monitoring for improved decision making.

Interagency Partnerships – USAID is building a strong intergovernmental coalition to address the transnational threat of wildlife crime in line with the U.S. National Strategy for Combatting Wildlife Trafficking. 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 strengthen the capacity of KWS and create a strong interagency network to combat wildlife trafficking in Kenya and the wider East African region. Specific areas of support will include: ranger training, border inspections, land use planning, and managing Kenya’s implementation of the Convention on the Illegal Trade of Endangered Species (CITES).