

Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER)

Kenya: Wildlife Protection

PEER Program Overview:

The Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) program supports local, development-focused researchers who generate knowledge to inform critical policies and provide evidence for program planning. PEER researchers build strong partnerships with US government-funded researchers; train future researchers, innovators, and entrepreneurs; and develop relationships with local communities. Through a cooperative agreement between the National Academy of Sciences and the USAID Global Development Lab, PEER aims to build research capacity in USAID host countries. U.S. government research partners include the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, the Smithsonian Institution, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Geological Survey. In the last four years, PEER has supported over 160 scientists in over 40 USAID host countries.

PEER aims to:

- Advance quality research that will fill critical evidence gaps facing USAID host countries;
- Strengthen human and institutional research capacity in developing countries, thus enabling local solutions to context specific challenges;
- Build collaborations between local research institutions, host country governments and eight U.S. Government research agencies;



A Call to Protect Wildlife

In its fourth Cycle, PEER is supporting research related to strengthening ecosystem management, law enforcement, legal systems and prosecution capacity with the ultimate aim of promoting wildlife conservation and combating wildlife poaching and trafficking to preserve Kenya's natural biodiversity. American and Kenyan scientists are working together on this priority, and research results of this competitive call will be action-oriented in order to influence policies and programs in Kenya to reduce incidence of wildlife poaching and trafficking.

PEER is implemented through a cooperative agreement with the National Academies of Science; please visit www.nas.edu/peer for more information.

For information on the U.S. Global Development Lab, visit our website at: usaid.gov/GlobalDevLab/about

To learn more about PEER, email usaidpeer@usaid.gov

PEER Kenya Wildlife Projects:

“Enhancing Elephant Conservation & Protection in East Africa with Molecular Genetic Tools”

PI: Moses Otiende , **Kenya Wildlife Service**;

USG Partner: Samuel Wasser and David Schindel; **Smithsonian Institution**

“DNA Barcoding to Combat Wildlife Crime”

PI: Henry Ndithia, **National Museums of Kenya**;

USG Partner: David Schindel, **Smithsonian Institute**

“Enhancing Conservation of African Buffalo & Rangeland Habitat through Molecular Investigations of Foot-and-Mouth Disease at the Wildlife-livestock Interface”

PI: Frances Gakuya, **Kenya Wildlife Service**;

USG Partner: Andres Perez, **University of Minnesota**

“End of the Road for Illegal Bushmeat Trade in East Africa: Establishing Transboundary Surveillance by High Resolution Melting Analysis of Vertebrate Molecular Barcodes”

PI: Lillian Wambua, **International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology**;

USG Partner: Scott Miller, **Smithsonian Institution**

“Use of DNA Technology in Combating Illegal Trade and Promoting Conservation & Sustainable Use of Plants in Kenya and Tanzania”

PI: Beatrice Khayota, **National Museums of Kenya**;

USG Partner: David Schindel, **Smithsonian Institution**