



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



The Mara River Basin is an important transboundary watershed of Lake Victoria shared between Kenya (65 percent) and Tanzania (35 percent). USAID supports conservation outreach efforts in the Mara wetlands.

Photo: TetraTech/ARD

EAST AFRICA

PLANNING FOR RESILIENCE IN EAST AFRICA THROUGH POLICY, ADAPTATION, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (PREPARED)

The livelihoods of East Africans largely depend on access to and protection of their natural resources, including wildlife. When those resources are threatened, poverty grows. Rising temperatures, fluctuating rainy seasons and extreme weather events affect many in the region, especially those engaged in agriculture, fishing and pastoralism. These factors diminish incomes and impair access to food, health care, electricity, safe drinking water and sanitation services – undermining and potentially reversing development progress.

The PREPARED program works with the East African Community (EAC) and its Partner States to adopt resilient strategies that can lessen the impacts of a changing climate. PREPARED strengthens the management of freshwater ecosystems shared across borders (between local governments or countries) and improves access to and supply of drinking water and sanitation services. This activity also pilots innovative approaches to reduce the staggering level of wild animal poaching and has introduced new monitoring tools to mitigate human-animal conflicts that can destroy farmers' crops and livestock.

OUR WORK

Understanding climate variability will help government officials in the region better predict, understand, plan for and adapt to potential impacts of future climate events. Historical climate data is critical for improving climate modeling and forecasting. To preserve this data, PREPARED has introduced a user-friendly software, called GeoCLIM, which allows the national meteorological departments to access data to understand climatic trends and build datasets.

Managing natural water resources is important to maintain access to water and reduce conflict over water use. USAID supported the development of the first transboundary agreement to manage the Mara River Basin between Kenya and Tanzania. Delegates of the Mara River Basin Joint Technical Committee engaged in an exchange visit with the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission, based in Botswana. During the visit, Kenyan and Tanzanian government representatives learned how to effectively manage a highly functional transboundary river basin organization.

PREPARED is improving access to and management of safe water. Through better customer engagement, local water providers in Uganda are helping more people gain access to services, while reducing the loss of water due to leaks, theft or metering errors.

This activity developed a Wildlife Information and Landscape Data (WILD) mobile phone application to help rangers collect information about poaching and human-wildlife conflicts. Additionally, chili pepper fences were planted and environmentally friendly barriers ('bomas') were constructed to reduce damage to crops by wild animals.

BUDGET \$40 million

DURATION
2012 – 2018

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

East African Community Partner States including Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Tetra Tech/Associates in Rural Development

KEY PARTNERS

East African Community (EAC) Climate Change Coordination Unit (CCCU) and Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC); the Intergovernmental Authority on Development's (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC); the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET)/U.S. Geological Survey (USGS); the Regional Center for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD); U.S. National Air and Space Administration (NASA-SERVIR); Big Life Foundation; Escape Foundation; Tanzania People and Wildlife Fund; Honeyguide Foundation and Strathmore University

ACHIEVEMENT SNAPSHOTS

- 214,354 hectares of biological significance under improved management
- 14 regional climate change adaptation tools developed, tested or adopted
- 1,510 people received better service from improved drinking water sources in Jinja and Iganga, Uganda
- 30 years of temperature and rainfall data from 90 weather stations saved in Tanzania

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