



Bull elephants in the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro landscape. Photo: Jeremy Gross

EAST AFRICA

IMPROVING COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY NATURAL RESOURCES IN EAST AFRICA

The East Africa region is endowed with rich biodiversity and natural resources that include iconic wildlife species, watersheds, arable lands, and minerals among many others across the six countries in East Africa. Broadly defined as natural capital, these resources are an important source of revenue and critical to East Africa's economic growth. The region's nature-based tourism industry, which is almost entirely dependent on wildlife and protected areas, contributes 7.5-10 percent of the GDP to the region and supports local communities who depend on natural capital for their livelihoods. Wildlife contributes both economically and intrinsically to the region's natural capital and is a critical asset for East Africa's future growth and sustainable development.

Biodiversity loss, habitat shrinkage, disruption of wildlife migratory corridors and illegal and unsustainable natural resources extraction, including wildlife poaching and trafficking, are among the major environmental and socio-economic threats in East Africa. The overall purpose of this three-year project is to strengthen EAC's institutional and technical capacities to effectively deliver its regional mandate on transboundary conservation and management of environment and natural resources. More specifically, the project seeks to strengthen the EAC's evidence-based decision-making, strategic and regulatory frameworks; enhance EAC's technical coordination and capacity building; and increase public awareness and participation at the regional level.

Our Work

USAID supports the EAC's priorities as enshrined in the EAC's 1999 Treaty and further elaborated in EAC's Vision 2050, the Sixth Development Strategy (2021-2026), the Protocol for Sustainable

Development of Lake Victoria Basin (2004), the Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources (2006), and the Transboundary Ecosystems Management Bill (2010), amongst other instruments. This project is aligned to USAID/KEA's Regional Development Cooperation Strategy (RDCS), 2017-2021, whose goal is to enhance East African-led sustainable economic growth and resilience.

The EAC's work contributes to USAID/KEA's Regional Environment project development document (PDD) that focuses on:

- enhancing the collaborative management and conservation of transboundary natural resources.
- increasing the perceived value of living wildlife.
- reducing wildlife poaching and trafficking.

The project is led by the EAC Secretariat and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC). The International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC), Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Environmental Incentives are supporting the EAC through implementation of the specific interventions under the expected project outcomes. Which include:

- (i) Strengthening and harmonizing regional policies, strategies, plans and legal frameworks.
- (ii) Improving the sustainable management of key transboundary landscapes.
- (iii) Enhancing the public awareness and participation of regional stakeholders; and
- (iv) Improving regional and bilateral collaboration on enforcement and prosecutions.

Achievements

- The proposed amendments to the EAC Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management (Amendments 2020) were adopted.
- Ninth Mara Day was convened on September 15, 2020 under the theme: "Conserve Mara Ecosystem, our Shared Prosperity." Mara Day raises awareness on the importance of conserving the Maasai Mara-Serengeti transboundary ecosystems.
- EAC hosted a webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on wildlife conservation in the region to raise awareness on the challenges and explore possible short and long-term recovery measures.
- EAC COVID-19 recovery plan with considerations for the environment, natural resources, food security and gender developed.
- COVID-19 Tourism recovery plan developed and adopted.
- Terms of Reference for formulating the ecological mapping and monitoring tool, the regional biodiversity strategy and action plan, and the EAC wildlife conservation and management policy were developed.

BUDGET: US \$1,182,184

DURATION: 2019-2022

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan Tanzania, and Uganda

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Secretariat Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)

COLLABORATING PARTNERS

International Union for Conservation of Nature Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC), Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), Environmental Incentives

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