



*Kamungi Scouts training for the Wildlife Ranger Challenge in the Kamungi Conservancy in Tsavo West National Park. Photo credit: Tsavo Trust.*

## EAST AFRICA

### INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND COMBAT WILDLIFE CRIME

Wildlife crimes threaten the security, economy, and biodiversity of East Africa. Demand for ivory, Rhino horn, and Pangolin meat and scales continues to rise as poaching methods become increasingly sophisticated. International criminal networks that poach, move, and sell illegal wildlife products target wildlife populations across borders, creating a complex problem that transcends national boundaries and further compromises the security and stability of the region. East Africa has emerged as a global hub for illegal wildlife trafficking and environmental crime in a black market that generates up to \$213 billion each year. To address this complex issue, USAID established the first-ever U.S. interagency agreement in the world to combat wildlife trafficking – the Partnership to End Wildlife Trafficking in East Africa. This agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) is a comprehensive program which provides support to enhance wildlife management and protection in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Madagascar, and Southern Africa. By fostering government-to-government relationships, DOI, in partnership with USAID, is supporting capacity-building to combat wildlife poaching and trafficking. The partnership accesses DOI's expertise in:

- law enforcement, investigations, and inspections.
- ranger training and protected areas management.
- sustainable tourism in rural communities.
- climate science and clean energy.
- using cutting edge technologies to strengthen the effectiveness of wildlife habitat management; and
- enhancing Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) scientific management authorities' capabilities.

## OUR WORK

Regionally, DOI specialists provide support to East African agencies and USAID partners to better enforce, investigate, and prosecute wildlife crime. In addition, DOI provides support through scientific research and tourism development to encourage conservation. Regionally, professional relationships are being developed between a network of actors, including source and demand countries in Africa and Asia, USAID bilateral missions, national governments, intergovernmental organizations, and conservation organizations. These relations are helping to build a community of practice on combating wildlife trafficking in which lessons learned and best practices can be shared across the region.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Creating Strategic Partnerships:** Funds worth \$5.7 million have been provided to 15 East Africa-based organizations for wildlife conservation and to counter wildlife crime. This includes support for elephant and rhino protection, community engagement on counter wildlife crime, conservation journalism, environmental education, awareness and outreach, and Wildlife Crime Units.
- **Advancing East African Leadership in Biodiversity Conservation and Resilience:** Support to civil society organizations to participate in high-level forums, including: the 2019 CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP) to advocate for a number of proposals related to elephants, pangolins, Pygmy Chameleons, African Rosewood, and the closure of domestic ivory markets, among other proposals; and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- **Leveraging DOI Technical Areas:** DOI technical assistance is being provided to USAID implementing partners and the Kenya Wildlife Services for monitoring, geographic information systems, law enforcement, and forensics research. Over the course of two years, technical experts at DOI's U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) have developed a mapping tool for Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) to remotely detect changing rangeland vegetation conditions over large areas.
- **Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting:** Leaders and community members from NRT were featured in *The Story of NRT*, a documentary focused on celebrating the innovative approaches to developing resilient community-led conservation in Kenya. Leadership and community members from NRT spoke on a panel at the documentary launch at the National Geographic Society.

**Budget:** \$17 million

**Duration:** 2015-2022

### Activity Locations:

Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Madagascar, and South Africa.

### Implementing Partners:

U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Geological Survey  
National Park Service

### Key Partners:

USAID missions in Kenya/East Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Madagascar, and South Africa. Ministries of Environment in Kenya Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Madagascar, and South Africa Wildlife Authorities in Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania, Madagascar, and South Africa

### MISSION CONTACTS

SarahJean Harrison, Deputy Director  
Office of Environment  
Tel: +254 203 632 342  
Email: [sharrison@usaid.gov](mailto:sharrison@usaid.gov)

### DOI CONTACTS

Ethan Taylor  
International Technical Assistance Program  
U.S. Department of the Interior

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Website: [www.usaid.gov/east-africa-regional](http://www.usaid.gov/east-africa-regional)  
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