



Since 1980, the African elephant population has declined from 1.2 million to 415,000 and is under severe threat. Photo/USAID

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 elephant 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 East Africa and beyond, to enhance wildlife management and protection in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Madagascar, and Southern Africa.

By fostering government-to-government relationships, USAID, in partnership with DOI, is building African capacity to combat wildlife poaching and trafficking. The partnership will utilize DOI's expertise in law enforcement, investigations, ranger training, border inspections, and land management. USAID and DOI will work with African partners to enforce the agreements made under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), a treaty signed by more than 180 countries.

OUR WORK

Nationally, DOI specialists provide field-based support to help African agencies and USAID partners to better enforce, investigate, and prosecute wildlife crime. In addition, support is being provided for 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 USD \$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, Wildlife Crime Units, and organizational strengthening.
- **Advancing East African Leadership in Biodiversity Conservation and Resilience:** Support to civil society organizations to participate in East Africa 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 Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) were featured in *Community-Led Conservation at Kenya's Northern Rangelands Trust*, 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
- U.S. 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

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