



Gorillas with the Rushegura group in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. This group was one of the first in the area habituated for gorilla tracking tourism. Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda. Photo: USAID

USAID/KENYA & EAST AFRICA

ECONOMICS OF NATURAL CAPITAL IN EAST AFRICA

The Economics of Natural Capital in East Africa project supports USAID Kenya and East Africa and the East African Community's (EAC) strategic priorities for harmonization of policy and legal frameworks, sustainable management of key transboundary ecosystems, anti-poaching, and combating wildlife trafficking, and learning and leadership for biodiversity conservation.

OUR WORK

CHALLENGE

Wildlife contributes both economically and intrinsically to the East Africa region's natural capital. Therefore, it is a critical asset for East Africa's future growth and development. Many priority landscapes and wildlife habitats in East Africa are crossed by political boundaries, making it critical for the nations to work together on the survival of wildlife and the habitats they depend on.

Weak regulatory frameworks, lack of political will, and inadequate stakeholder capacities have enabled increased illegal and legal harvesting of natural capital at unsustainable rates. Climate change is also projected to exacerbate land use changes and increase population pressures on a shrinking natural capital base.

Awareness about the economic and intrinsic value of wildlife remains low. Therefore, in order to prioritize sustainable conservation and management, there is a need to increase the real and perceived value of East Africa's natural capital.

APPROACH

At the core of the Economics of Natural Capital in East Africa project is the understanding that a regional effort is needed to address national-level problems that are exacerbating the decline in wildlife populations and habitat loss. This project has a strong focus on strengthening the EAC regional policy dialogue and the evidence base on transboundary natural resource management and biodiversity conservation.

The Economics of Natural Capital in East Africa project will provide research, data, and economic analysis on the current and potential value of natural capital in East Africa to the EAC, partner states, regional governments and institutions, civil society organizations, and end users. By leveraging a rigorous assessment on the value of natural capital to create evidence-based outreach materials for targeted audiences and conduct extensive stakeholder engagement, the Project will enable these institutions, organizations and communities to better engage in evidence-based policy analysis and advocacy functions on conservation and management of natural capital.

Implementing partners, Environmental Incentives, and Anchor Environmental Consultants will closely collaborate with technical experts from the EAC Secretariat, EAC Member States, conservation organizations, and private sector actors to:

- a) co-developing natural capital assessments,
- b) generate evidence-based material from the assessments,
- c) support stakeholder learning and advocacy,
- d) facilitate results-based dialogue grounded in best practices for the conservation sector, and
- e) support specific decision-making processes by building regional and local capacity to produce and interpret natural capital information to better manage and demonstrate economic value of wildlife.

By increasing the perceived value of living wildlife, the Economics of Natural Capital in East Africa project will help foster the collaborative management and conservation of transboundary natural resources and contribute towards the reduction of wildlife poaching and trafficking. Hence support the collective goals of USAID and the EAC of enabling policy environment for improved conservation and management of natural capital in East Africa.

BUDGET:

\$2.94 million

DURATION:

2019-2022

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS:

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

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

- Environmental Incentives, LLC (Prime)
- Anchor Environmental Consultants

KEY PARTNERS

East Africa Community

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