



Elephant movements connecting with the key Ruaha-Rungwa protected area complex follow the natural wildlife corridors created by key rivers such as the Mzombe, Rungwa, Kilulu and Koga. Photo Credit: Aaron Nicholas, WCS.

TANZANIA

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS AND RUAHA-KATAVI PROTECTION PROGRAM (SHARPP)

The Southern Highlands and Ruaha-Katavi Protection Program (SHARPP) landscape is one of Africa's key wildlife strongholds, comprised of two national parks, three game reserves, one nature forest reserve as well as game-controlled areas, community wildlife management areas and village lands. Working with three regions, three districts and nine communities, the overall strategy is to improve management and protection of connectivity to conserve East Africa's largest remaining elephant population, other key landscape species and the ecosystem services upon which communities depend.

With the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) as the implementing partner, work is focused on two national priority areas of connectivity linking Ruaha-Rungwa with protected areas to the north and west, supporting a landscape elephant population of over 20,000.

SHARPP has four activity objectives:

Objective 1 - Establish political will for wildlife corridor conservation: The activity engages with key stakeholders and partners to assure coordination and alignment for the collective goal of ensuring the improved management of the two national priority wildlife corridor areas.

Objective 2 - Develop and support wildlife corridor management plans. The activity is adopting a participatory forest management approach to assure the improved connectivity management of village lands. This process assures the formal decentralization of forest (and hence physical wildlife corridor habitat) management and user rights to the nine local communities.

Objective 3 - Build adaptive management capacity for wildlife corridor conservation. SHARPP assesses effective corridor management through tracking a broad range of metrics including rates of unplanned natural habitat conversion to agriculture, the status of elephants and other key species and prevalence of illegal

activities. Building the capacity of local communities to monitor such indicators is a key focus of SHARPP.

Objective 4 - Increase benefits to local communities for wildlife corridor conservation. While conservation education will aim to build awareness regarding the wider benefits of wildlife corridor management (improved management of ecosystem services, reduced human-wildlife conflict etc.), SHARPP also seeks to develop other revenue and benefit systems including initially, performance-based conservation and good governance payments, organized bee-keeping programs as well as other benefits associated with establishing two Village Land Forest Reserves, one in each wildlife corridor area.

RESULTS¹

Wildlife and Habitat:

- Over 433,000 hectares committed to wildlife connectivity management by the nine villages.
- Connectivity for elephants improved.

Wildlife Corridor Management & Governance:

- Nine formal Village Land-Use Plans elaborated and approved by the National Land-Use Planning Commission, now under ratification.
- 20 Village Game Scouts trained at government recognized training wildlife institute.
- 145 people trained in sustainable natural resource management (including a total of 81 Village Natural Recourses Committee).
- 17 institutes/committees/associations with improved capacity in land and water management.
- 18 laws or regulations that address biodiversity conservation officially adopted.

Other Wildlife Corridor-Related Benefits:

- 9 villages benefited from Conservation and Good Governance Performance payments.
- 600 community beekeepers trained.

BUDGET

\$10,600,100

DURATION

September 2014 – September 2022

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Singida, Tabora and Mbeya, in three open areas -Rungwa North, Piti East and Rungwa-Mzombe

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

The Wildlife Conservation Society

OTHER PARTNERS

Tanzania National Park, Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority, Tanzania Forest Service, the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute, Association for the Development of Protected Areas, President's Office Regional and Local Administration.

USAID CONTACT

Munezero Kanyangemu
Project Management Specialist –
Biodiversity
+255 746 700 820
mkanyangemu@usaid.gov

PARTNER CONTACT

Richard Ndaskoi
Chief of Party - EENT
+255 767 986 815
rndaskoi@wcs.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Website:
www.usaid.gov/tanzania
Facebook: USAIDTanzania
Twitter: @USAIDTanzania

¹ All figures are correct as of December 2020 unless otherwise stated and pertain only to the re-aligned wildlife corridor linked activities conducted under SHARPP since September 2019.