



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



*Samburu USAID is working closely with local communities, national governments and intergovernmental organizations to stop the poaching and trafficking of iconic species such as elephants.
Photo credit: Northern Rangelands Trust*

KENYA AND EAST AFRICA

COUNTERING WILDLIFE CRIME

As demand for products like elephant ivory and rhino horn continues to rise and poaching methods become increasingly sophisticated, wildlife crime threatens the security, economy and biodiversity of East Africa. International networks for poaching, transit and sale of illegal wildlife products target wildlife populations across borders, creating a complex problem that transcends national boundaries. Kenya is currently the number one transit country for illegal wildlife products from Africa.

East Africa's tourism industry depends heavily on wildlife and protected areas and brings over \$3.5 billion to the region each year; roughly \$1 billion to Kenya alone. The conservation and sustainable management of wildlife and habitats is crucial to the region's long term economic growth and development.

OUR WORK

In line with the U.S. National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking, USAID is taking urgent action to enhance wildlife management and the enforcement and prosecution of wildlife crime in East Africa.

ACTIVITY AREAS

LANDSCAPE-LEVEL PROTECTION & ENFORCEMENT

The community conservancy approach to conservation is now widely recognized as the best solution for managing wildlife outside protected areas in Kenya. Local communities create governance structures and benefit sharing agreements that ensure everyone has a stake in protecting wildlife, preventing trafficking, and reducing conflict and insecurity. USAID pioneered the community conservancy model in Kenya through its work with

the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), founded with USAID support in 2004. NRT's highly sophisticated anti-poaching network works closely with KWS and the Kenyan Police to achieve results: elephant poaching was reduced by 53% compared to 2012 across more than 30 participating communities in northern Kenya. In 2016, USAID scaled up its work with NRT to expand and strengthen community conservancies across Kenya. USAID has rolled out a new program of seed grants to community conservancies in the Maasai Mara in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION

USAID supports innovative, action-driven research into new technologies and methods to improve wildlife forensics and enhance the investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime. As part of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. Global Development Lab's Partnership for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER), USAID awarded five research grants totaling \$1.5 million to Kenyan scientists to improve local capacity for DNA analysis and molecular genetics in support of wildlife crime prosecution. USAID's regional Planning for Resilience in East Africa through Policy, Adaptation, Research and Economic Development (PREPARED) Project supported the development of an innovative wildlife data application — called "WILD" — that allows government agencies and community rangers to collect, analyze and share real-time data on human-wildlife conflict and poaching, making protection efforts more effective. WILD is currently being rolled out in 10 community conservancies around the Maasai Mara reserve.

POLICY REFORM TO ENABLE CONSERVATION

USAID's Wildlife Trafficking Response, Assessment and Priority Setting (W-TRAPS) project with TRAFFIC, the international wildlife trade monitoring organization, worked with KWS to produce an assessment report in May 2016 on the scope and scale of illegal wildlife trade in Kenya and its links to trafficking networks in the East Africa region. The report identifies priority actions for KWS and other stakeholders in the fight against wildlife crime. It is being used as a roadmap for long-term engagement with USAID partners and provides other donors and governments with information essential to combat the illegal wildlife trade. In September 2015, USAID granted a new award to TNC in partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association to support national-level policy analysis to strengthen the legislative framework for community conservation in Kenya.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS USAID is building a strong coalition of governmental and intergovernmental agencies to address the transnational threat of wildlife crime. USAID has partnered with the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) on a five-year project which will use DOI's expertise in law enforcement, investigation and prosecution to create a strong network of regional actors to combat wildlife trafficking throughout East Africa. USAID is also working in partnership with KWS to scale up counter wildlife trafficking efforts in Kenya that will closely align with Kenya's national priorities and USAID's Country Development Cooperation Strategy 2014-2018. In the East Africa region, USAID is supporting a global environmental security program with INTERPOL to enhance transcontinental collaboration on combating wildlife crime. USAID's partnership through the PREPARED program, works more broadly on biodiversity conservation to foster critical international cooperation on the management of transboundary ecosystems, such as the Serengeti-Maasai Mara.

Budget FY2015: \$23.6 million

Key Government Partners:

Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources,
and Regional Development Authorities
Kenya Wildlife Service
National Museums of Kenya

Key Implementing Partners:

USAID Uganda and Tanzania
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. National Academy of Sciences
East African Community
Smithsonian Institution
University of Minnesota
International Center for Insect Physiology
and Ecology
International Union for Conservation of
Nature/TRAFFIC
The Nature Conservancy
Northern Rangelands Trust
Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies
Association
Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association

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