



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



*Since 1980, the African elephant population has declined from 1.2 million to 430,000 and is under severe threat.
Photo: Juan Pablo Moreiras*

EAST AFRICA

INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND COMBAT WILDLIFE CRIME

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND USAID

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 networks that poach, move and sell illegal wildlife products target wildlife populations across borders, creating a complex problem that transcends national boundaries. 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 problem, USAID established the first 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 to enhance wildlife management and protection in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

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 use planning and 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. 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 combatting wildlife trafficking in which lessons and best practices can be shared across the region.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Funds worth 1.3 million have been provided to eight Kenya-based organizations for wildlife conservation and to counter wildlife crime. The grants focus on elephant and rhino protection, community engagement on counter wildlife crime, awareness and outreach, and organizational strengthening.
- Five East African government officials attended the World Conservation Congress held in September 2016, a highly-visible forum for global leaders. Their participation provided an opportunity for East African conservation leaders to contribute to decisions being made on biodiversity conservation and build stronger international networks to fight wildlife crime;
- Seventeen investigators from the Uganda Wildlife Authority, the Uganda Police Force and the Natural Resource Conservation Network were trained and equipped by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services on wildlife crime scene investigation.

Budget: \$7.6 million

Duration: 2015-2020

Activity Locations: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia

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 and Zambia
Ministries of Environment in Kenya Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia
Wildlife Authorities in Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Tanzania

USAID KENYA AND EAST AFRICA

Karen Freeman, Mission Director

MISSION CONTACTS

Juniper Neill, Chief – Office of Environment
+254 20 862 2000

jneill@usaid.gov

ONLINE

www.usaid.gov/east-africa-regional

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Twitter: @USAIDEastAfrica
Facebook: USAIDEastAfrica