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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 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 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 which provides support beyond East Africa, 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. 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 combatting wildlife trafficking in which lessons learned and best practices can be shared across the region.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Create Strategic Partnerships:** Funds worth USD 1.3 million have been provided to seven Kenya-based organizations for wildlife conservation and to counter wildlife crime. This includes support for the National Wildlife Conservation Strategy of Kenya, elephant and rhino protection, community engagement on counter wildlife crime, awareness and outreach, and organizational strengthening.
- **Advance East African leadership in Biodiversity Conservation and Resilience:** Support to East African government officials to represent East Africa at high level forums, including: the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in September 2016 to contribute to decisions being made on biodiversity conservation and build stronger international networks to fight wildlife crime; the 2016 CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP) to advocate for a number of proposals related to elephants, pangolins and other species; the Conference on Biological Diversity which resulted in 14 key decisions on conservation of biological diversity; and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- **Leverage DOI Technical Areas:** Law enforcement agencies in Uganda, Malawi and Tanzania have been trained and equipped by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in crime scene investigation and evidence collection to increase prosecutions on illegal wildlife crime. Department of Interior technical assistance is being provided to USAID implementing partners and the Kenya Wildlife Services on rangeland management, research and monitoring, geographic information systems, law enforcement and forensics research.
- **Collaboration, Learning, and Analysis:** Rangers from the Kenya Wildlife Service participated in the World Ranger Congress in May 2016 to increase their skills and provide them with the opportunity to share their experience and learn from the experience of their global colleagues.

Budget: \$10.7 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

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