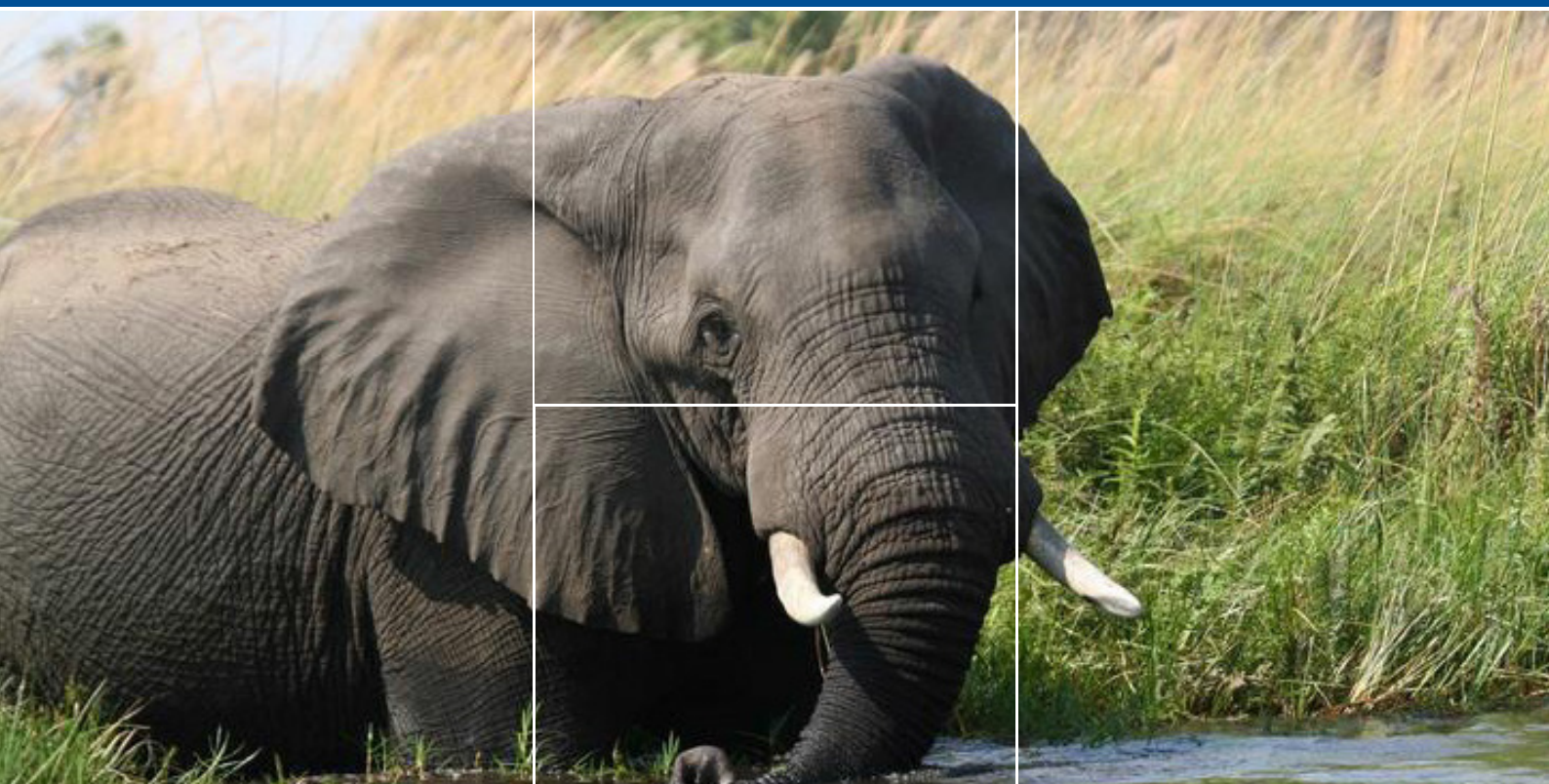


Conserving Natural Capital and Enhancing Collaborative Management of Transboundary Resources in East Africa (CONNECT)



About the CONNECT Project

Conserving Natural Capital and Enhancing Collaborative Management of Transboundary Resources in East Africa (CONNECT) is a project which aims to strengthen the conservation and management of natural resources shared by East African countries including wildlife and landscapes popularly referred to as transboundary natural resources. The project seeks to strengthen East African Community (EAC's) institutional leadership to deliver on its regional mandate and commitments to conserve and manage shared environment and natural resources

in East Africa. By strengthening existing regional conservation initiatives through generating evidence-based information, innovative methodologies, tools, and best practices, EAC Partner States and their citizens will reap the benefits of their natural resources.



Why does it matter?

The wealth of East Africa is in its natural resources that cut across national boundaries. From the vast landscapes, iconic wildlife species, water catchment areas, arable lands, minerals and so much more. These resources are an important source of economic revenue and critical to East Africa's economic growth. The region's nature-based tourism industry, which is almost entirely dependent on wildlife and protected areas, contributes 7.5-10% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to the region – this is the total value of goods produced and services provided annually. Communities in the East African countries especially those who live in and around natural resource rich ecosystems depend on the natural capital for their livelihoods.

Why Now?

Wildlife contributes economically, socially and culturally to the region's natural capital and is therefore a critical asset for East Africa's future growth and sustainable development. However, despite the enormous benefits, loss of habitats and species, the disruption of wildlife migratory and dispersal corridors, poaching, and wildlife trafficking are major threats in East Africa.

What are we doing?

- We provide technical assistance to the East African Community (EAC) on the formulation and implementation of regional transboundary natural resources management policies, strategies and legal frameworks.
- Together we are building the capacity of local communities to better engage and enable them use community-based tools and methodologies to help combat illegal wildlife trade in.
- We are strengthening cross-sectoral decision making for sustainable development of transboundary natural resources management in the East African region.
- We are promoting the role of women and youth in combating illegal wildlife trade.
- Increasing political support on the economic and intrinsic value of wildlife and natural ecosystems.
- We are conducting an in-depth research and analysis on the Patterns of use of Threatened Wildlife in East Africa.
- Supporting the development and application of the Eastern Africa Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange (TWIX).
- To enhance wildlife law enforcement, we are supporting the establishment of a Regional Forum for Wildlife Prosecutors in East Africa.
- Enhancing existing initiatives on combatting wildlife crime and good governance at critical transit (marine) ports in East Africa is core to our work.

Our Goals

The project is contributing to the improved conservation and management of natural capital in East Africa. Expected outcomes include:

- Strengthened regional environment and natural resources management policy process (dialogue, formulation, harmonization, implementation and learning for evidence-based decision making).
- Improved sustainable management of key transboundary landscapes.
- Increased awareness of the value of living wildlife.
- Reduced demand for wildlife products.
- Improved regional and bilateral collaboration on enforcement and prosecutions of wildlife crime.
- Enhance collaborative conservation and management of transboundary natural resources.
- Increase the perceived value of living wildlife.



White-bellied pangolin-An endangered species found in Africa. It is subject to widespread and often intensive exploitation for bushmeat and traditional medicine.



African Elephant – listed as vulnerable, poaching has traditionally been the major cause of its decline.



Giraffe-Currently listed as vulnerable, the four major threats to Giraffes are habitat loss, civil unrest, illegal hunting and ecological changes.

Partners

The project is implemented by a consortium of regional organizations led by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) through the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) in partnership with TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF). The project is implemented in collaboration with, and through policy guidance from, the EAC Secretariat and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC).

PROJECT BUDGET: \$4,900,169

DURATION: 2019-2023

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS: Eastern African Region - EAC Member States of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and other strategic countries in the region.