

Community-led approaches to tackling illegal wildlife trade

Case studies from the East African Community Region



About the project

For more information about this report, or the People not Poaching project, visit [www.https://www.iied.org/learning-action-for-community-engagement-against-wildlife-crime](https://www.iied.org/learning-action-for-community-engagement-against-wildlife-crime), or contact:

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Acronyms

AMC	Akagera Management Company
AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
CCA	Community Conserved Area
CRB	Community Resource Board
CWA	Community Wildlife Ambassadors
CWCT	Cottar's Wildlife Conservancy Trust
EAC	East African Community
FFI	Fauna & Flora International
GMA	Game Management Area
HWC	Human-Wildlife Conflict
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IFAW	International Fund for Animal Welfare
IUCN SULI	International Union for Conservation of Nature Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group
IWT	Illegal Wildlife Trade
KWS	Kenya Wildlife Service
KBP	Kipepeo Butterfly Project
LOC	Local Ocean Conservation
MWCT	Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust
MBOMIPA	Matumizi Bora ya Malihal Idodi na Pawage
MWCT	Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism
NRT	Northern Rangelands Trust
PA	Protected Area
REP	Ruvuma Elephant Project
RWCA	Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association
STEP	Southern Tanzania Elephant Programme
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
VGS	Village Game Scouts
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Associations
WLS	Wildlife Service
WMA	Wildlife Management Area

Introduction

Illegal wildlife trade (IWT) is a global conservation issue causing declines of many species of fauna and flora and threatening the livelihoods of people who depend on wildlife. A common approach to tackling IWT is to increase law enforcement efforts. The sheer scale of IWT points to the need for these 'militarised' styles of conservation, however top-down anti-poaching efforts often ignore, or alienate, local communities who can be the 'first line of defence' against IWT.

Community-based anti-poaching initiatives can include a variety of approaches, including:

- Establishing community ranger or game guard programmes
- Generating community benefits from tourism or trophy hunting
- Mitigating human-wildlife conflict (HWC)
- Supporting enterprise development
- Educating communities and raising awareness on conservation

There is no best practice approach to engaging communities in anti-poaching activities, with initiatives based on local contexts, taking time to implement. This is part of the reason they are overlooked – poaching is often seen as a crisis requiring an immediate response.

This compilation of case studies seeks to address this problem, by showcasing a wide range of initiatives that have engaged communities in tackling IWT using a variety of approaches in the East African Community (EAC) region (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda).

The case studies are drawn from a broader, global database called People not Poaching, hosted by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (IUCN-SULi). For more information, visit www.peoplenotpoaching.org

Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust

Summary

Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust (MWCT) was established in 2000 by the Maasai of Kuku Group Ranch as a grassroots conservation trust. The trust focuses on the Maasai landscape and the communities of Kenya's Chyulu Hills and operates as a non-profit entity. It aims to conserve the wildlife and cultural heritage of the region by focusing on initiatives that create sustainable economic benefits for the Maasai community, providing them with an alternative income source to intensive agriculture.

Country	Kenya
Location	The Chyulu Hills are located in Amboseli Tsavo region of Kenya, covering 12,000 acres across two conservancies
Species affected	African elephant

The approach

MWCT's conservation programme operates via lease payments for conservancy zones. The group negotiated and secured two management deals to protect a grassland habitat reserve and a critical wetland, totalling 12,000 acres, both of which lie within the migration corridor between the national parks (Amboseli and Tsavo West National Parks). These deals allow the community to be compensated for their stewardship of the local ecosystem, funding the creation of alternative livelihood options, which has been important in a cattle-dependent local economy that increasingly suffers from the impacts of prolonged droughts. Additionally, an ecolodge, where 95% of staff are employed from the local community, creates tourism revenue.

MCWT's conservation programme also supports predator monitoring and the use of community wildlife rangers. Over 100 Maasai community members are employed by the trust as game guards and predator monitors. The programme, which is carried out in partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), aims to prevent illegal activities, minimise HWC and monitor biodiversity in the region.

To further mitigate HWC, MCWT implemented an initiative called Wildlife Pays, which financially compensates herders who lose livestock to wildlife predation in exchange for their full participation in wildlife protection activities. The programme was started as a way of reducing revenge killing of wildlife and to generate a more positive attitude among the Maasai towards wildlife conservation. Surcharges levied on tourists visiting the area to see wildlife more than cover the annual costs of compensation, establishing a pioneering and sustainable new payment for ecosystem services model around the protection of wildlife.

Emphasis has also been placed by the trust on working to ensure the full and active engagement and participation of women in conservation and natural resource management activities. For example, four of the ten of the trust's Advisory Board members are women from the Kuku Group Ranch community. This is a relatively progressive achievement in the context of Maasai traditions.

The strategy

Strengthening disincentives for illegal behaviour

- Paid in money community scouts
- Strengthening and supporting traditional norms and sanctions against IWT

Increasing incentives for wildlife stewardship

- Tourism
- Lease payments
- Payments for ecosystem services

Decreasing the costs of living with wildlife

- Preventative measures to deter wildlife
- Financial mitigation measures

Increasing livelihoods that are not related to wildlife

- (Non-wildlife-based) enterprise development/support
- Provision of community-level benefits

Build and/or support a sense of community ownership or stewardship

Improving education and awareness

What has worked and why?

MWCT is demonstrating effective and creative solutions that protect local ecosystems and support a model for delivering long term benefits for rural communities. The trust has allowed the Maasai to continue their pastoralist way of life by combining conservation with sustainable livelihoods. Strong community approval for benefit sharing arrangements represents a key social component of the initiative's stability and long-term sustainability.

Importantly, the wildlife migration corridors between Amboseli and Tsavo have been fortified and protected, including a 79% decrease in wildlife poaching since 2013. As a result of the Wildlife Pays programme, predator mortality rates have massively reduced. By creating an incentive to engage in conservation efforts and abandon revenge killings, the trust has been able to effectively protect several charismatic predator species. Revenues from the ecolodge to the community have also been substantial, bringing new employment opportunities and improving wellbeing.

In addition, within its education programme, the trust supports 25 local primary schools and one secondary school, serving over 9,000 students. MWCT is the single largest employer of teachers in the area and the scholarship programme has also helped over 60 students. The health programme employs the area's only doctor, has trained over 100 community health workers and supports 5 health facilities, with over 17,000 patients seen in 2019.

Factors for success

- Effective and accountable community-based natural resources management institutions
- Transparent and accountable distribution of benefits to local communities
- Clear and tangible benefits to local communities from wildlife

Challenges

MWCT is primarily funded through outside donors. The trust recognises the need to create a measure of financial independence and self-sufficiency and is taking steps to explore innovative funding options that would reduce its reliance on philanthropy.

Find out more:

<https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/maasai-wilderness-conservation-trust>

Kipepeo Butterfly Project

Summary

The Kipepeo Butterfly Project (KBP) was started in 1993 to provide an alternative and sustainable income for the communities living near Arabuko-Sokoke forest in Kenya. Many of the people involved in the KBP were once illegal loggers or hunters, who now earn a much greater income in butterfly farming. The KBP has created a sense of community stewardship and communities are motivated to protect the forest.

Country	Kenya
Location	The Arabuko-Sokoke forest covers 162 square miles and is the largest block of natural coastal forest in east Africa.
Species affected	Timber

The approach

Butterfly farmers from the 50 villages around the forest trap batches of butterflies in the hope they will lay eggs, which will eventually turn into pupae that can be sold to international buyers from Europe. Farmers can earn up to 10,000 shillings each week during peak season, which motivates ex-loggers to join the business.

One of the key objectives of the KBP is to foster an increased awareness of the natural environment, which is achieved through an environmental education programme. Farmers are organised into community groups, with regular meetings to discuss production, marketing and welfare. In addition, producer associations of butterfly farmers are involved in forest protection and awareness raising of nature-based enterprises.

The strategy

Increased incentives for wildlife stewardship

- Legal trade

Increasing livelihoods that are not related to wildlife

- (Non-wildlife-based) enterprise development/support

Build/and or support sense of community ownership or stewardship

Improving education and awareness

What has worked and why?

Since KBP was launched illegal logging has reduced, with most loggers now coming from outside the community. Communities now see the importance of the forest and the average annual per capita income has grown, enabling them to set up alternative livelihood business with their income and educate their children. Butterfly habitats are also protected and KBP has managed to expand to other forests in Kenya.

Find out more:

<https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/kipepeo-butterfly-project>

Watamu Turtle Watch

Summary

Local Ocean Conservation (LOC) monitors nests along the Kenyan coast and works with local fishers in a 'compensatory net release programme', which encourages fishers to release turtles rather than killing them. This hands-on approach is complemented by community outreach and education programmes.

Country	Kenya
Location	Watamu on the north coast of Kenya but much of LOC's core work takes place in the Malindi-Watamu Marine Protected Areas, with outreach programmes in Diani on the South Coast and further North of Malindi.
Species affected	Green Sea Turtle, Leatherback Turtle, Loggerhead Turtle, Olive Ridley Turtle

The poaching problem

Turtles are both targeted by poachers as well as caught as by-catch and killed. Products in trade include shells for international markets, and eggs and meat for consumption.

The approach

Watamu Turtle Watch was started by local residents in 1997 to protect nesting sea turtles and has since expanded to include activities along several areas of the Kenyan coast.

Turtle Watches - members of the local community patrol the beaches every night to keep the turtles and their nests safe. Nests that are particularly at risk are relocated.

Bycatch release programme – LOC work with over 400 local fishermen to encourage them to release, rather than kill turtles caught as by-catch. Fishermen notify LOC when sea turtles are accidentally caught and if healthy, LOC will release it back into the sea, with fishermen paid compensation for their time and effort.

Marine Environment Education programme – this consists of outreach sessions to schools, facilitating students to visit LOC's Marine Information Centre and practical conservation activities such as mangrove plantings and coastal clean-ups. The programme offers children the opportunities to learn about the importance of protecting local marine environments and this includes anti-poaching awareness.

Community Outreach - these programmes aim to address the relevant concerns and issues of local fishing communities, and to improve anti-poaching and sustainable fisheries work.

Alternative sustainable livelihoods – LOC actively encourage the groups they work with to engage in alternative income generating activities as there is a high dependency on fishing and tourism for livelihoods. Types of activity include farming, tree nurseries, beekeeping and gravel production.

The strategy

Strengthening disincentives for illegal behaviour

- Paid in money community scouts
- Performance-based payments/incentives for patrolling or guarding

Build and/or support a sense of community ownership or stewardship

Improving education and awareness

What has worked and why?

On average, LOC protects and monitors per year 50-60 nests in Watamu and 60-70 nests in Diani, meaning over 70,000 hatchlings have made it safely to the ocean. The bycatch release programme has also rescued more than 17,000 turtles. Outreach efforts have greatly increased community participation, with people regularly taking part in beach cleans and mangrove planting, as well as reporting on illegal activities.

A holistic, integrated approach is core to the initiative, and local people must buy into an idea, rather than be forced into it. Although this may take time, in the end, it is more sustainable. The programme is cost-effective, low tech, low key and at grassroots, and not promising things that might not be achieved or delivered has ensured that local communities have trust in LOC. Overall, LOC have created long-term relationships with people, rather than implementing one-off events, and their community liaison officers spend every day in the field, monitoring, mentoring and working with groups, which has been key to success.

Factors for success

- Sufficient time investment in building relationships and trust between the initiative and local communities
- Effective and accountable community-based natural resources management institutions

Find out more:

<https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/turtle-watch>

Kilitome Conservancy

Summary

The Kilitome Conservancy was established in 2008 by the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and Tawi Lodge and is situated on the eastern boundary of Amboseli National Park. AWF and Tawi Lodge lease the land from Kilitome landowners, with tourism revenue covering the lease fee as well as conservation activities. In addition, Tawi Lodge funds a community scout programme in the conservancy as a deterrent to poaching.

Country	Kenya
Location	Kilitome Conservancy is a 24km ² area forming a critical part of the wildlife corridor connecting Amboseli to the Chyulu Hills and Tsavo West National Parks.
Species affected	African elephant, African rhinos

The poaching problem

Elephants and rhinos have been poached in the area for decades, with rhinos nearly locally extinct. Elephant poaching was a serious problem until 2011 but has since declined, in line with the national trend of Kenya. It is believed that increased penalties and fines under the Wildlife Management and Conservation Act 2013 may have been a primary deterrent. Lions also sometimes killed in retaliation for livestock losses.

The approach

Kilitome was formed when AWF and Tawi Lodge entered into an agreement with the community to form a company with equal shareholding, negotiating a 15-year lease with Kilitome landowners. Under the agreement a tourism lease fee would be paid to the conservancy for use of the land. Guests at the lodge pay a one-off conservancy fee, which is used for lease fees and to support conservancy management and wildlife protection. The lease agreement furthermore provides for user rights for landowners in designated areas, such as firewood collection and grazing, but prohibits activities such as logging and illegal hunting.

In addition, community game scouts are paid a salary to carry out patrols and report trespassers and poachers. Scouts also gather intelligence on IWT activities, monitor the status of wildlife, respond to HWC incidents, as well as other community services. Scouts receive training and equipment, as well as rewards for successful apprehension of poachers. Also, a Predator Compensation Fund pays out in the event of livestock predation.

The strategy

Strengthening disincentives for illegal behaviour

- Paid in money community scouts
- Paid in-kind community scouts
- Monetary incentives for community intelligence
- Raising community awareness about wildlife crime penalties and sanctions
- Strengthening and supporting traditional norms and sanctions against IWT

Increasing incentives for wildlife stewardship

- Tourism
- Lease payments
- Policy/regulatory change to enable communities to benefit

Decreasing the costs of living with wildlife

- Preventive measures to deter wildlife
- Financial mitigation measures

Increasing livelihoods that are not related to wildlife

- (Non-wildlife-based) enterprise development/support

What has worked and why?

A workshop in 2017 confirmed that Kilitome community members believe that additional income from agriculture may have dissuaded some community members from engaging in poaching. For example, community members have discouraged outsiders from participating in illegal activities in the conservancy and the wider ecosystem and are quick to report their presence or any suspicious activity.

The Predator Compensation Fund appears to have been effective in reducing retaliatory killings for loss of livestock, however in the long term this might not be a sustainable option as it is dependent on external funding.

The underlying logic of Kilitome is that strengthening community engagement in law enforcement creates a strong disincentive against poaching. Informant networks and information sharing/law enforcement coordination occurs across the whole Amboseli, with scouts all hired from the local community, building trust as well as proving an effective intelligence system.

Factors for success

- Coordinated and coherent sectoral policies/legislation
- Supportive, multi-stakeholder partnerships with a shared vision

Challenges

The relationship between the wider community and the state-led law enforcement agencies is not strong and there is often a lack of trust, which may partly stem from historical grievances around the establishment of Amboseli. Also, the communities strongly feel that KWS and the county government should be paying the community scouts directly as they benefit most from their services.

There are expectations from the communities for tourism to generate much greater benefits to the community than is currently seen. Some feel that should the costs of wildlife continue to increase, and the benefits remain low or reduce further, then community members might begin to withdraw from the conservancy agreement and possibly start to turn a 'blind eye' to outside poachers.

Factors limiting success

- Lack of supportive national policy/legislation for devolved governance of natural resources
- Lack of long-term donor support that is flexible, adaptive and/or based on realistic time goals
- Unclear and intangible benefits to local communities from wildlife

Find out more:

<https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/kilitome-conservancy>

Il Ngwesi Group Ranch

Summary

A Maasai group in Laikipia, Kenya, established a community conservation area that balances the needs of local pastoralists with wildlife and operates an eco-lodge. The ranch is owned and managed by the local population of almost 7,000 Laikipiak Maasai pastoralists and has played a key role in a network of connected wildlife protected areas and corridors. The work at Il Ngwesi has focused on ensuring both the ecological integrity of the area as well as delivering tangible economic and social benefits to its Maasai members.

Country	Kenya
Location	Il Ngwesi Group Ranch is located in Mukogodo Division, Laikipia District and consists of 8,645 ha of community managed land.
Species affected	African Elephant

The poaching problem

By the late 1980s elephant populations were significantly reduced due to poaching and rhinos had disappeared from the area. The ecosystem was simultaneously under threat from deforestation for timber, fuel wood and agriculture, leading to increased local tensions between pastoralists and farmers.

The approach

Increasing threats to Maasai livelihoods and poverty in the area meant the security of Lewa, a privately-owned conservancy nearby was at risk. In response, the management team at Lewa, supported by KWS, encouraged the formation of a community conservation area within Il Ngwesi and the creation of an eco-lodge to generate revenue. Maasai elders and community leaders were engaged in the process and local people were trained as rangers.

The purpose of the eco-lodge, which opened in 1996, is to encourage sustainable land management and therefore conserve the area's flagship wildlife species. The lodge stimulated the development of further conservation-based enterprises, including cultural bomas and community-run camp sites. Revenues generated by initiatives are reinvested into infrastructure projects, for example water projects, schools, educational scholarships and health outreach services. In addition, women are supported to enhance their skills through beadmaking, and training in leadership and governance

The strategy

Strengthening disincentives for illegal behaviour

- Paid in money community scouts

Increasing incentives for wildlife stewardship

- Tourism

Increasing livelihoods that are not related to wildlife

- (Non-wildlife-based) enterprise development/support
- Provision of community-level benefits

What has worked and why?

Conservation has been strengthened in the area, in part due to wider efforts from partners in the Laikipia District. A milestone was achieved in 2002 when an orphaned black rhino was relocated to Il Ngwesi along with two adult white rhinos. Other species are increasing, such as elephants, giraffes, zebras and warthogs, reflecting improvements to ecosystem quality.

Ecotourism is the main source of funding for community projects, with 40% of net profit reinvested in community development. Income generation has also supported the creation of women's groups who make and sell handicrafts. Il Ngwesi has also increased income through improved land management, which has helped communities to mitigate losses from drought. For example, during the 2008-2009 drought, communities bordering Il Ngwesi lost only 40% of their cattle, compared to 90% in other parts of Kenya.

A portion of money is set aside every year for an educational bursaries scheme, where youth are funded to attend secondary school and university. Water systems and a health centre have been built, and communities have access to a mobile health clinic.

Community participation is fundamental to the long-term sustainability of Il Ngwesi and many of the early successes were based on the communities benefitting from a diversified income source. By giving the group ranch inhabitants a voice and a vote, the initiative ensured a strong degree of local ownership and tangible socioeconomic impacts also gained the support of the community.

Factors for success

- Long-term donor support that is flexible, adaptive and/or based on realistic time goals
- Effective and accountable community-based natural resources management institutions
- Clear and tangible benefits to local communities from wildlife

Challenges

Although a black rhino arrived in 2002, the ranch was not awarded a second rhino, causing frustration on the part of Il Ngwesi's wardens, with bureaucracy and policy changes cited as a reason. Community support is not assured, with population growth and unpredictable weather patterns increasing tensions over land use for wildlife conservation versus livestock grazing.

Factors limiting success

- Lack of coordinated and coherent sectoral policies/legislation
- Lack of clearly defined tenure or resource use rights

Find out more:

<https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/il-ngwesi-group-ranch>

tenBoma

Summary

tenBoma is a wildlife security initiative that safeguards the iconic African elephant and other species, led by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). tenBoma - meaning ten houses - is inspired by an African community security philosophy that if ten houses look out for each other, the broader community is safer. Similarly, IFAW partners with local communities, governments and enforcement agencies like KWS to create a coordinated system of eyes and ears that can monitor, predict and prevent poaching and other threats to wildlife.

Country	Kenya
Location	tenBoma works across multiple landscapes, with a primary area of focus within the Amboseli ecosystem
Species affected	African elephant, hippo, rhino

The approach

The initiative embeds specialised advisors and mentors within communities who can witness illegal activity and create an integrated conduit for information, reporting and analysis, which drives highly effective enforcement operations to stop the wildlife trafficking cycle and dismantle criminal networks.

A range of strategies that engage local communities have been utilised, for example, training and employing community scouts; the provision of scholarships to local people to become more educated in wildlife conservation, and thus more employable in this field (e.g. as rangers or as safari tour guides), and increasing alternative livelihood options (e.g. fish farms, bee-keeping, cattle management). Raising the level and understanding of conservation and the IWT is also undertaken.

The strategy

Strengthening disincentives for illegal behaviour

- Paid in money community scouts
- Non-monetary, in-kind incentives for community intelligence
- Raising community awareness about wildlife crime penalties and sanctions

Increasing incentives for wildlife stewardship

- Tourism

Decreasing the costs of living with wildlife

- Preventative measures to deter wildlife

Increasing livelihoods that are not related to wildlife

- (Non-wildlife-based) enterprise development/support
- Provision of community-level benefits

Build and/or support a sense of community ownership or stewardship

What has worked and why?

Poaching has decreased in the area – in some places to zero incidents. Overall, the programme helped to facilitate a reduction in poaching in the Tsavo Conservation Area by 43% since 2015 and by 84% since 2014.

tenBoma has a bottom-up approach and as a result created strong, on-going relationships with communities, which has proven critical for its success. Local communities are integral in identifying key indicators of wildlife crime. Those on the ground are often closest to the physical locations where criminal networks operate and building relationships of trust with these communities is critical. In addition, bringing communities into the conversation of income generating and wildlife conflict mitigation strategies has been crucial for developing sustainable, long-term solutions.

Factors for success

- Long-term donor support that is flexible, adaptive and/or based on realistic time goals
- Supportive, multi-stakeholder partnerships with a shared vision
- Sufficient time investment in building relationships and trust between the initiative and local communities
- Devolved decision-making power so local communities have a voice in creating or co-creating solutions
- Transparent and accountable distribution of benefits to local communities

Challenges

Factors limiting success

- Lack of supportive national policy/legislation for devolved governance of natural resources

Find out more:

<https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/tenboma>

The Greater Kilimanjaro Landscape

Summary

The Greater Kilimanjaro area is a critical region for elephant, lion and other species. Effective collaboration between local communities, NGOs and national wildlife authorities has proven successful in anti-poaching efforts, and more broadly in protecting the region's wildlife. The project, which brings together communities, the African Wildlife Foundation, Big Life Foundation, Kenya Wildlife Service, Tanzania Wildlife Division and Tanzania National Parks, started in 2001.

Anti-poaching activities are seen as one element in a programme which is also focussed on developing community-based tourism, community capacity building, grazing management, livestock improvement and compensation schemes for loss from wild animal predators.

Country	Kenya, Tanzania
Location	The Kilimanjaro landscape is a mosaic of ownership and land use. Protected areas include Amboseli, Kilimanjaro, and Chyulu Hills National Parks; there are community lands and Wildlife Management Areas; private land includes former group ranches that have been subdivided and are held in title by Maasai.
Species affected	African Elephant

The poaching problem

Poaching is driven by the rising consumer demand for ivory – mostly in Asia – and the presence of corruption in the region. Poachers are mainly outsiders, with local Maasai rarely involved.

The approach

Throughout the area, community engagement in wildlife protection is integral to formal anti-poaching programmes.

The strategy

Strengthening disincentives for illegal behaviour

- Paid in money community scouts
- Monetary incentives for community intelligence

Increasing incentives for wildlife stewardship

- Tourism
- Trophy hunting

Increasing livelihoods that are not related to wildlife

- Provision of community-level benefits

What has worked and why?

Poaching has declined - between 2013 and 2014 the Kenyan side recorded a 54% decrease in elephant poaching, while there has been no known elephant poaching on the Tanzanian side since 2012.

The key to the project's success lies in its collaborative partnership and a holistic approach to conservation. The parties have succeeded in leveraging each other's skills and resources, while recognising specific roles and responsibilities. Anti-poaching activities are seen as one element in a programme which is also focussed on developing community-based tourism, community capacity building, grazing management, livestock improvement and compensation schemes for loss from wild animal predators. The integration of these varied activities results in protection of wildlife and land in a way that directly engages and benefits local communities.

In addition, working as a wildlife scout, as a guide or in a tourism facility all confer prestige, as well as offering training and an income. Local people receive training, revenue from tourism, revenue from hunting (in Tanzania), management engagement and leadership roles (on Group Ranch and Wildlife Management Area committees), ownership of tourism facilities, and social benefits such as water services, schools, bursaries and medical facilities. Another significant factor is that the region is mainly inhabited by Maasai pastoralists whose traditional way of life depends on open rangelands. Conservation activities help to maintain these rangelands, as well as creating additional jobs and revenue through tourism.

Find out more:

<https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/greater-kilimanjaro-landscape>

Olderkesi Wildlife Conservancy

Summary

The conservancy scheme is based on giving the local community financial incentive - lease payments - to ensure wildlife protection within the conservancy area, by preventing poaching and stopping the fragmentation of land for farming. The conservancy is managed by two trusts: Cottar's Wildlife Conservancy Trust (CWCT) and Olderkesi Wildlife Community Trust. These two groups have worked closely together for over 20 years to create a vital, truly sustainable conservancy management plan.

Country	Kenya
Location	Olderkesi Wildlife Conservancy is an important corridor between the Loita/Ngurman hills and the Maasai Mara National Reserve.
Species affected	African Elephant, Lion, Leopard, Maasai Giraffe

The poaching problem

All wildlife in Olderkesi is threatened by poaching and land use change. Most poaching in the area is to supply the local market with meat, however, the same poachers may also kill elephant for ivory if they get a chance, using poisoned spears and arrows. In addition, a small group of specialists operate in organised gangs.

The approach

The conservancy scheme is based on lease payments that are competitive with alternative land use, such as agriculture and domestic livestock grazing. It provides the local community with a financial incentive to ensure wildlife protection within the conservancy area, by preventing poaching and stopping the fragmentation of land for farming.

CWCT, as lessee, applies control of land use and pays the Maasai elders (the lessors) who act on behalf of all the community members. If payments are reduced, due to infringements, it is up to the elders to police and fine culprits (who are usually members of their community or local area). CWCT raises money to cover the conservancy lease, management and operations by charging entry fees to tourism partners and from benefactors. The conservancy has a team of locally sourced scouts and liaises with formal ranger units when evidence of poaching is found. The Maasai community supports these operations, which help ensure they get their full lease payments.

The strategy

Strengthening disincentives for illegal behaviour

- Paid in money community scouts
- Performance-based payments/incentives for patrolling or guarding
- Strengthening and supporting traditional norms and sanctions against IWT

Increasing livelihoods that are not related to wildlife

- Lease payments

Increasing livelihoods that are not related to wildlife

- Provision of community level benefits

What has worked and why?

Positive early indicators included a rise in the game count in the conservancy area, and the halting of fragmentation, fencing and farming. Long term success will depend on whether the community decides that land for wildlife is economically worthwhile over time, and whether the rewards are worth the risks of protection.

CWCT has built schools, provided medical services, employed rangers from the community, installed radio communication networks, built water troughs for cattle, and provided bursaries and local assistance to protect local cedar forests from predatory logging.

100 per cent buy-in is key to success, especially in pastoral communities, and this can take time, however collective decision-making process means that results are likely to be more lasting than deals struck with individual landowners.

Find out more:

<https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/olderkesi-wildlife-conservancy>

Northern Rangelands Trust

Summary

The Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) was started in 2004 and is a membership organisation owned and led by 39 community conservancies in northern and coastal Kenya, covering over 40,000 km². The purpose of NRT is to help build and develop community conservancies in order to enhance livelihoods, build peace and promote wildlife conservation.

Country	Kenya
Location	Northern and coastal Kenya
Species affected	African Elephant, Black Rhino, Green Turtle, Hawksbill Turtle

The poaching problem

Poaching of elephants in Kenya for ivory reached a peak in 2012. Now, in the community conservancies the number of poaching incidents has been reduced to zero. However, there are a rising number of elephant deaths in retaliation to HWC. To address this, NRT are working with the communities to explore mitigation solutions in conflict hotspots.

The approach

Community conservancies are proving increasingly effective as partners in the fight against ivory poachers in Kenya. Much of the area covered by the community conservancies is critical habitat for elephants. The reason they are effective in conservation is linked to the broader benefits the conservancies bring to local communities. In essence, these well governed, community-owned and autonomous institutions are set up with the aim of improving social wellbeing, land management and wildlife conservation.

Conservancies represent constituent communities who own a defined area of community land, either legally or traditionally. Collectively, the landowners ensure the rights and responsibilities of conservation and share the benefits from conservation among the community.

As well as directly involving communities in anti-poaching operations, NRT established a Conservancy Livelihoods Fund in 2015 to enable conservation activities to have more direct, tangible livelihoods benefits to community conservancy members. Projects link livelihood impacts to wildlife conservation and to date over USD \$3 million has been provided for projects across member conservancies.

Additionally, in 2019, NRT resourced a strategic focus on gender mainstreaming. In 2020 they worked with all conservancies to understand where gender gaps exist, with the aim to promote culturally appropriate solutions for all conservancy members to benefit from conservation and livelihood activities. This produced a gender action plan (2019-2021) outlining how NRT and the member conservancies can support communities to achieve gender equality.

The strategy

Strengthening disincentives for illegal behaviour

- Paid in money community scouts
- Monetary incentives for community intelligence
- Strengthening and supporting traditional norms and sanctions against IWT

Increasing livelihoods that are not related to wildlife

- Tourism

Decreasing costs of living with wildlife

- Preventative measures to deter wildlife

Increasing livelihoods that are not related to wildlife

- (Non-wildlife-based) enterprise development/support
- Provision of community level benefits

Improving education and awareness

What has worked and why?

The NRT model has managed to reduce elephant poaching to zero in 2020, from a high of 103 in 2012. Unfortunately, cases of human-elephant conflict are on the rise, and this will be a key focus of NRT's wildlife strategy in the coming years. Incidents of turtle poaching on the coast have also decreased and at Sera Rhino Sanctuary, there has been zero poaching of black rhino incidents since its inception in 2015.

Socio-economic impacts include employment of over 1,300 permanent staff, over US\$1 million provided in funding for community enterprises, and educational and health infrastructure. In more general terms, community conservancies have become highly effective and respected institutions bringing tangible benefits to the people they represent, as well as a significant force in countering IWT.

The inclusive nature of conservancies is key to their influence and success. They do not set up boundaries between people and wildlife, nor do they exclude other people from using the land. Inherent in their structure and organisation is the capacity to resolve local issues and ensure that the outcome is upheld.

Factors for success

- Supportive, multi-stakeholder partnerships with a shared vision
- Effective and accountable community-based natural resources management institutions
- Clear and tangible benefits to local communities from wildlife

Challenges

Funding constraints and financial sustainability – running costs are high and investment needs a minimum ten-year timeline The recent down-turn in tourism due to Covid-19 in Kenya has further reduced available funding.

Find out more:

<https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/northern-rangelands-trust>

Saving Grey Crowned Cranes in Rwanda

Summary

The Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association (RWCA) uses a holistic approach to address key conservation issues affecting Rwanda's wildlife. Their particular focus is the grey-crowned crane, an endangered bird species poached most commonly for the illegal pet trade. RWCA have implemented outreach programmes throughout the country, including media campaigns and environmental youth clubs, to raise awareness of the importance of conservation and protecting the crane in particular. Each year, RWCA carry out a crane census, with numbers of individuals increasing per year.

Country	Rwanda
Location	RWCA is active throughout Rwanda, although they work particularly in the biodiversity hotspots of Rugezi marshland and Akagera National Park.
Species affected	Grey Crowned Crane

The poaching problem

Grey crowned cranes are trafficked for the illegal pet trade. Throughout Rwanda there is a general lack of awareness of the crane's endangered status and the laws protecting the species. Crane eggs and chicks are usually poached by local people to make money for their families.

The approach

RWCA uses community outreach programmes alongside crane rehabilitation to raise awareness of threats to the species, stabilise their population, and improve local livelihoods. They primarily work with local communities around important crane habitats – Rugezi marshland and Akagera National Park. These communities have high levels of poverty and it's RWCA's aim to tackle the dual problems of illegal trade and habitat loss at its source through activities such as education, law enforcement and supporting alternative sources of income.

Education campaigns - Community campaigns hope to increase awareness of grey crown cranes and to change traditional beliefs surrounding their use and status. Key conservation messages are promoted alongside quizzes and competitions, with each event reaching up to 1000 people. In addition, an Educational Arts Programme has been set up for children living near Rugezi marsh to promote the protection of the grey crowned crane and Youth Environmental Clubs have been started in communities near Rugezi marsh and Akagera National Park.

Community conservation agreements - these agreements require community members to commit to conservation actions in return for benefits. Conservation actions include protecting crane breeding sites or providing information on illegal activities.

Community Conservation Champions - champions are recruited from communities at biodiversity hotspots throughout Rwanda. There is now a network of 30 champions, who volunteer to conduct field visits, record crane sightings and work with other local stakeholders to protect the species and deliver key conservation messages.

Marsh Rangers - RWCA have recruited over 30 men and women Marsh Rangers from within communities around Rugezi marshland. The rangers patrol the marshland, monitoring the crane population and reporting on illegal activities, as well as educating community members on key conservation messages. The rangers also work with local leaders to increase law enforcement efforts and raise awareness of existing laws related to conservation. Annual workshops with the rangers, local leaders and conservation champions also provide a space to discuss any challenges to do with conservation that have arisen within the community.

Crane rehabilitation - RWCA has worked with the Rwandan Government to register all captive cranes in the country, with many individuals released back into the wild in Akagera National Park. RWCA has

also set up a sanctuary for the birds that weren't healthy enough to be released, called Umusambi Village.

The strategy

Strengthening disincentives for illegal behaviour

- Paid in money community scouts
- Non-monetary, in-kind incentives for community intelligence

Increasing incentives for wildlife stewardship

- Tourism

Increasing livelihoods that are not related to wildlife

- Non-wildlife-based) enterprise development/support

Build and/or support sense of community ownership or stewardship

Improving education and awareness

What has worked and why?

Post-release monitoring of the birds through an annual census showed that in 2020 there were 881 grey crowned cranes across Rwanda, up from 394 in 2014. An evaluation of RWCA's education activities for school children showed a positive impact on their attitudes to the environment, including taking crane eggs from the wild. The activities also resulted in more children understanding the threats faced by the cranes and an increase in those saying they would take action if they saw someone else trying to take crane eggs.

Recruiting rangers from within local communities has strengthened RWCA's community model of protection of Rugezi marshland. Both this and extensive outreach campaigns have contributed to attitude and behaviour changes within local communities.

Find out more:

<https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/saving-grey-crowned-cranes-rwanda>

Bringing back wildlife to Akagera National Park

Summary

In 2010 African Parks and the Rwanda Development Board came together to establish the Akagera Management Company (AMC) to jointly run Akagera National Park in Rwanda. The park's wildlife had been severely impacted by the civil war, but since the introduction of effective law enforcement in Akagera in 2010, poaching is at an all-time low, allowing the tourism industry to prosper. This in turn has created local employment opportunities, funded community development projects and more generally strengthened ties with the local communities surrounding the park.

Country	Rwanda
Location	Akagera National Park covers an area of 1,122km ² and is the largest protected wetland in central Africa.
Species affected	African Elephant, Black Rhino, Hippo, Lion, Giraffe

The poaching problem

In 1997, following the civil war, the area of Akagera was reduced by two-thirds to allow for resettlement. This increased HWC and led to high-rates of deforestation and poaching. Since 2010 and the introduction of new management, poaching has dramatically reduced. The few poaching incidents that do occur are usually carried out by people who live further away, not by the communities surrounding the park.

The approach

The AMC's approach is a combination of strengthened law enforcement and community engagement efforts. Community engagement activities include environmental education, compensation for HWC, employment, access to revenue sharing and infrastructure development, for example:

- The communities have initiated an informal process of reporting potential poaching incidents to local authorities and law enforcement officials. A financial incentive is provided in exchange for this evidence-based intelligence on poachers.
- AMC is continuing to develop the park's tourism offering, ensuring that communities feel the benefits through revenue sharing and employment, and from the strengthening of local economies by purchasing material and services locally. Locals living in communities surrounding Akagera receive 30% of shared revenue from Rwanda's three national parks.
- Communities have formed fishing cooperatives and are permitted to fish in Akagera's lakes and sell their catch at local markets and in Kigali. The income generated from these cooperative serves as an incentive to stop poaching.
- Several infrastructure projects have been undertaken, including the construction of schools, health clinics and libraries, and the provision of better access to water.

The strategy

Strengthening disincentives for illegal behaviour

- Monetary incentives for community intelligence
- Raising community awareness about wildlife crime penalties and sanctions
- Strengthening and supporting traditional norms and sanctions against IWT

Increasing incentives for wildlife stewardship

- Tourism
- Policy/regulatory change to enable communities to benefit

Decreasing the costs of living with wildlife

- Preventative measures to deter wildlife
- Financial mitigation measures

Increasing livelihoods that are not related to wildlife

- Non-wildlife-based) enterprise development/support
- Provision of community level benefits

Improving education and awareness

What has worked and why?

Since 2010, poaching has dramatically decreased, partly because communities receive tangible benefits from the park. For example, in 2013, nearly 2,000 snares were removed from inside the park, dropping to just 25 in 2019. The reintroduction of flagship species has been a great success, with tourism revenue increasing by over 1000% from 2010 to 2019.

Anecdotal evidence from local community members suggests buy-in has massively increased, and that many of them no longer poach inside the park – these ex-poachers have been very influential in changing behaviours and in leading the informal intelligence network. Similarly, as communities now benefit from the park's resources, for example through the fishing cooperatives, they now take action to prevent poachers entering the park.

Effective partnerships with the communities surrounding Akagera are critical for long-term success, so it's important to invest in activities that ensure communities receive benefits from the park.

Factors for success

- Supportive, multi-stakeholder partnerships with a shared vision
- Transparent and accountable distribution of benefits to local communities
- Clear and tangible benefits to local communities from wildlife

Find out more:

<https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/bringing-back-wildlife-akagera-national-park>

Fauna & Flora International - South Sudan Programme

Summary

Fauna & Flora International (FFI) provides support to the South Sudan Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCT), encompassing the Wildlife Service (WLS), and local communities through technical expertise and direct funding for the improved conservation management of three of the country's protected areas (PAs) in Western Equatoria State.

Country	South Sudan
Location	Three PAs in Western Equatoria State, south west South Sudan. The areas lie between the ecoregions of the forested Central Africa and the savannah East Africa, near the watershed of the Congo basin and the White Nile.
Species affected	Chimpanzee, Common duiker, Pangolins

The poaching problem

As South Sudan emerges from decades of civil war, under-development is pervasive. Arms are prolific among the population and food insecurity, reaching the level of famine in parts of the country, has resulted in a population turning to what natural resources are easily available to them.

The approach

As the Government agency responsible for PA management, the MWCT/WLS lead efforts in combatting poaching. FFI's role is to provide support to the WLS by providing equipment, resources and training.

Additionally, they provide equal support to local communities and certain members selected by the community leaders, referred to as Community Wildlife Ambassadors (CWAs). The training FFI provides includes covering the subjects of PA management, South Sudan wildlife laws, biomonitoring and patrol procedures, handling of live animals and wild meat, and practices/techniques for mitigating HWC. FFI also supports livelihood projects among local communities which involves improved education, small enterprise facilitation, and livestock and agriculture development.

FFI is supporting the establishment of a Community Conserved Area (CCA) which will act as a buffer zone around two of the three PAs, increasing sustainable, subsistence natural resource use and has the potential of payment for ecosystem services and tourism. The local communities will have legal land tenure of the CCA – a policy change which FFI is facilitating and will afford local communities increased ownership and food security.

The strategy

Strengthening disincentives for illegal behaviour

- Paid in money community scouts
- Paid in-kind community scouts
- Raising community awareness about wildlife crime penalties and sanctions
- Strengthening and supporting traditional norms and sanctions against IWT

Increasing incentives for wildlife stewardship

- Subsistence resource access/use
- Policy/regulatory change to enable communities to benefit

Decreasing the costs of living with wildlife

- Preventative measures to deter wildlife

Increasing livelihoods that are not related to wildlife

- Provision of community-level benefits

Build and/or support sense of community ownership or stewardship

Improving education and awareness

What has worked and why?

FFI's unique model of empowering both the WLS and CWAs has proved very effective in reducing poaching for several reasons. It provides employment, resources, infrastructure and training to areas where few such opportunities exist, garners local support for the conservation of the area, and augments the WLS force with (wo)manpower, local knowledge and expertise. This model has been particularly beneficial in strengthening governance structures of the game reserves for reasons of accountability and consistency among all relevant stakeholders. Simply, this support has helped the WLS and local communities achieve improved PA management and reduced IWT.

Establishing the model of employing community members as CWAs has been extremely effective. An example of its success is that in 2016-2017 there were periods of insecurity where armed militia groups were present in the area around the game reserves and the WLS, as an armed branch of the government, was not able to maintain a presence at the ranger post. The CWAs and local community protected the game reserves with force or non-compliance with militia groups.

Managing good partnerships is a crucial activity in FFI's programme operations and continued investment in these relationships is one of the main reasons for FFI's longevity in the region and its popularity. The government and community leadership structures have a degree of fluidity and the political climate can change quickly. Social norms and a lack of developed communication systems dictate that the in-person meetings are necessary and the most effective form of relationship management. FFI is expected to provide constant updates and attend meetings, all varying in their degree of formality. These exchanges are time consuming and often personally demanding but they are rewarding, and results are normally immediate.

Factors for success

- Supportive, multi-stakeholder partnerships with a shared vision
- Sufficient time investment in building relationships and trust between the project and local communities
- Devolved decision-making power so local communities have a voice in creating or co-creating solutions

Challenges

Ambiguity in national legislation regarding wildlife conservation/ natural resource use/ labour laws, as a result of South Sudan's recent independence, proves a challenge in ensuring compliance and securing supportive legislation.

Factors limiting success

- Lack of supportive national policy/legislation on sustainable use of natural resources
- Ineffective and unaccountable community-based natural resources management institutions
- Unclear and intangible benefits to local communities from wildlife

Find out more:

<https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/fauna-flora-international-south-sudan-programme>

The Ruvuma Elephant Project

Summary

Since 2011, PAMS Foundation has supported over 200 Village Game Scouts (VGS) and rangers to undertake regular patrols. Thanks to the dedication of these scouts, their community leaders and the assistance of the government, these areas are becoming a safer place for elephants. In addition, PAMS supports local farmers to erect chilli fences and is developing alternative income opportunities for local communities.

Country	Tanzania
Location	The Ruvuma Elephant Project covers a 2,500,000 ha area of Tanzania between two protected areas: the Selous Game Reserve, in the south of the country and the Niassa National Reserve, just across the border, in Mozambique.
Species affected	African Elephant

The poaching problem

The area has extremely high levels of elephant poaching. Poachers are mostly local, with operations financed and organised by outsiders.

The approach

The Ruvuma Elephant Project (REP) was established in 2011 by PAMS Foundation. The goals are to establish a reliable picture of elephant status and threat in the area, to understand seasonal movements, control poaching, to ensure law enforcement and prosecution is a real deterrent, and to reduce elephant mortality due to human-elephant conflict.

Community engagement in combating ivory poaching boils down to three types of action on the part of local people: they act as informants, they act as guards, and they change their own behaviour. The project actively facilitates all three. In return, the people get paid for information, and for carrying out tasks. They get help to protect crops and sell the chilli peppers which are used for crop protection. They are also rewarded for good performance in law enforcement.

The strategy

Strengthening disincentives for illegal behaviour

- Paid in money community scouts
- Monetary incentives for community intelligence

Decreasing the costs of living with wildlife

- Preventative measures to deter wildlife

Increasing livelihoods that are not related to wildlife

- Non-wildlife-based) enterprise development/support

What has worked and why?

Results show that the REP managed to curb elephant poaching in the area. In the three and a half years after the project got underway, the impact on poaching was greater than nearly any other unit or

project in Tanzania. Interventions led to the seizure of 1,582 snares, 175 elephant tusks, 805 firearms and 6 vehicles. Law enforcement activities have also led to the arrest of over 500 people.

The REP explains its success by having a strong focus on working closely with communities to achieve reciprocal support and participation, joint patrols and operations, and intelligence-led activities both in and outside the protected areas.

Those involved in the REP believe that the project works because the area is protected by multiple agencies, rather than a single authority. Multiple agency involvement increases transparency which hinders corruption.

Another key factor for success is the high levels of community engagement, which is integrated into and supported by formal law enforcement. This aspect of REP strategy is based on the premise that local involvement in commercial poaching is a manifestation of other problems: lack of viable alternatives, lack of understanding of the importance and value of conservation, and lack of good relationships. All these causes need to be recognised and addressed before there can be any long-term progress.

Factors for success

- Supportive, multi-stakeholder partnerships with a shared vision
- Sufficient time investment in building relationships and trust between the project and local communities
- Devolved decision-making power so local communities have a voice in creating or co-creating solutions

Challenges

- The proximity of the project area to a long, porous national boundary.
- Working within funding and capacity constraints.
- The sheer scale of the opposition; the poachers' weaponry and tactics.
- Limited resources and equipment available for the community scouts.

It is important to not raise expectations of communities and then be unable to deliver on those expectations. Promising less and delivering more has proved to be an effective approach to win the support of communities. Equally, it is important to be sincere, reliable and timely in all dealings.

Sometimes the path of least resistance is not the path that is right. It is critical not to compromise on principles or do anything that could be legally used against you in the future – even when this might provide a short-term fix. Similarly, don't limit your friends and allies to a single source. Successful projects require support from a wide variety of sources if they are to be sustainable in the long term.

Factors limiting success

- Lack of long-term donor support that is flexible, adaptive and/or based on realistic time goals

Find out more:

<https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/ruvuma-elephant-project>

Strengthening the capacity of Wildlife Management Areas to increase wildlife protection in northern Tanzania

Summary

Honeyguide Foundation is working in partnership with three Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and one Canine Unit across northern Tanzania, to build capacity for community-based anti-poaching efforts. The focus is to help communities from these programme areas to protect their lands and wildlife from illegal or unsustainable use. To do this, Honeyguide is supporting the management teams of each programme area by providing training and financial help, conducting awareness raising, and incentivising conservation using VGS.

Country	Tanzania
Location	Three WMAs within the Tarangire-Manyara ecosystem
Species affected	African Elephant

The poaching problem

Honeyguide has been working with the 3 WMAs since 2015 (or before), when poaching of elephants for ivory was more widespread throughout Tanzania. An average of 2-3 elephants a year were poached in each of these WMAs, usually by local people hoping to increase their income. Currently, there is no elephant poaching in the WMAs, with the last incident reported in May 2015. It is thought that the programme has contributed to this success.

The approach

The main objective of the programme is to elevate community-led wildlife protection in the WMAs against illegal or unsustainable use. Each WMA has member communities, who each contributed land towards the designation of the WMA. The employees of each WMA should all come from these member communities, including to form the leadership and management teams. Honeyguide works closely with these teams to build capacity to manage poaching within each WMA.

The key activities are:

- Training VGS on anti-poaching techniques. Support involves guiding management teams on best practices of community-based wildlife protection, providing equipment and paying salaries where needed. VGS are from the member communities of each WMA and are paid a monthly salary for patrolling, alongside additional rewards for arrests or seizures plus performance-based bonuses.
- Reducing costs of wildlife protection for the WMAs, as this currently accounts for 60-75% of WMA management expenditure.
- Designation of a grazing area for cattle in the dry season and wildlife in the wet season. Honeyguide is helping to pilot this method to encourage coexistence between livestock and wildlife. VGS patrol the area in the wet season to ensure the grass is healthy for when the cattle return in the dry season. Honeyguide has also implemented a toolkit to deter wildlife from destroying crops and raiding wildlife.
- Supporting community anti-poaching teams to liaise with government departments such as the Tanzania National Parks Authority and Wildlife Division regarding anti-poaching activities.
- Supporting WMAs to create Community Investment Funds to formalise the process of directing tourism and hunting revenue to development projects.

The strategy

Strengthening disincentives for illegal behaviour

- Paid in money community scouts
- Performance-based payments/incentives for patrolling or guarding
- Monetary incentives for community intelligence
- Raising community awareness about wildlife crime penalties and sanctions

Increasing incentives for wildlife stewardship

- Tourism
- Trophy hunting
- Lease payments
- Payments for ecosystem services

Decreasing the costs of living with wildlife

- Preventive measures to deter wildlife
- Reactive measures to deal with problem animals
- Physical separation of people/livestock and wildlife

Increasing livelihoods that are not related to wildlife

- Provision of community-level benefits

Improving education and awareness

What has worked and why?

The community-based anti-poaching model of the programme has had a significant impact on wildlife in the WMAs, with no elephants poached in all the areas Honeyguide works since 2015.

Although no formal study has been undertaken on community attitudes, observations and ad hoc information indicate that attitudes towards wildlife and conservation have massively improved.

The programme shows that community-led anti-poaching can be effective, especially when best practice is applied where communities are the primary stakeholder and are involved in designing and developing ideas – this is particularly important as poachers tend to come from local areas.

Factors for success

- Sufficient time investment in building relationships and trust between the project and local communities
- Devolved decision-making power so local communities have a voice in creating or co-creating solutions
- Effective and accountable CBNRM institutions

Challenges

A key challenge is access to consistent donor funding, as a drop in donors leads to delayed or cancelled work. A lack of sufficient operational resources, such as vehicles is also a challenge. In addition, government contributions and investments in WMAs has been limited.

Factors limiting success

- Lack of supportive national policy/legislation for devolved governance of natural resources
- Lack of coordinated and coherent sectoral policies/legislation
- Lack of long-term donor support that is flexible, adaptive and/or based on realistic time goals

Find out more:

<https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/strengthening-capacity-wildlife-management-areas-increase-wildlife-protection-northern-tanzania>

Matumizi Bora ya Malihai Idodi na Pawaga (MBOMIPA) Wildlife Management Area

Summary

Matumizi Bora ya Malihal Idodi na Pawaga (MBOMIPA), Swahili for “Sustainable Use of Wildlife Resources in Idodi and Pawaga,” is an association of 21 villages in the Pawaga and Idodi Divisions in central Tanzania. MBOMIPA works with over 50,000 people on sustainable natural resource management and anti-poaching. The association established a community-run WMA in 2007 and promotes wildlife-based livelihoods to ensure biodiversity conservation.

Country	Tanzania
Location	MBOMIPA is Tanzania's biggest community-based wildlife management association. The WMA comprises 777 hectares of land along the southern border of Ruaha National Park.
Species affected	African Elephant, Lion

The poaching problem

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Tanzania lost half its elephants and nearly all of its population of black rhino from poaching, and other species were similarly affected. Poaching continues today throughout Tanzania although at a reduced level.

The approach

MBOMIPA was legally recognised as a community-based association 2002, becoming the first Indigenous conservation and development organisation of its kind in Tanzania. It is governed by a general assembly, who appoint four committees to oversee planning and finance, discipline and tourism, law enforcement and infrastructure.

The objectives of the association and the WMA are:

- To conserve and use the natural resources, particularly wildlife, forests, and fisheries, in the WMA and the 21 villages.
- To provide awareness and education on the environment, natural resources and on vital issues such as disease.
- To provide amenities such as schools, hospitals, dispensaries, water, and other social services.
- To market products produced from the WMA.

To prevent HWC there are designated specific agricultural and livestock areas in the buffer zone of the WMA and living fences are used to support food security by protecting crops from elephants and other wildlife.

Since 2018, the Southern Tanzania Elephant Programme has supported VGS in MBOMIPA WMA. The three teams patrol for at least 21 days each month and are provided with wages, food and fuel supplies. All the patrollers use GPS to map coverage and outcomes, and to measure and enhance patrol effectiveness.

The strategy

Strengthening disincentives for illegal behaviour

- Paid in money community scouts
- Paid in-kind community scouts
- Raising community awareness about wildlife crime penalties and sanctions

Increasing incentives for wildlife stewardship

- Tourism
- Trophy hunting
- Subsistence resource access/use
- Policy/regulatory change to enable communities to benefit

Decreasing the costs of living with wildlife

- Preventive measures to deter wildlife
- Physical separation of people/livestock and wildlife

Increasing livelihoods that are not related to wildlife

- (Non-wildlife-based) enterprise development/support
- Provision of community-level benefits

Build and/or support a sense of community ownership or stewardship

Improving education and awareness

What has worked and why?

The WMA has generated income and jobs from hunting and tourism, with surplus income invested in local infrastructure, improving community wellbeing. As a result, farmers now have better access to markets for their crops, and wells have provided villagers with potable water. Profits have also been used to fund dispensaries and towards the construction of a health centre, which has increased access to basic health services.

A secondary school was built in the village of Idodi, significantly increasing the number of children receiving education at this level. The establishment of agricultural and livestock use zones has also reduced HWC and provided an example of how to integrate communities and communal land in landscape-level approaches to protecting biodiversity.

These benefits are gradually changing attitudes towards conservation and wildlife as members see the impact of wildlife profits being invested in community projects. Villagers have also changed land management practices in an effort to avoid further HWC.

The VGS patrols resulted in the arrest of 13 suspected poachers in 2019, greatly enhancing the security of the WMA. In addition, the amount of wildlife sightings recorded by VGS on their patrols increased from 2018 to 2019.

MBOMIPA's constitution highlights the importance of including women in leadership and decision-making positions. Ecotourism has provided women with greater income-generating opportunities, specifically in the production of handicrafts. Their ability to produce their own sources of income is empowering because it increases confidence, independence, skills, and social status.

MBOMIPA is a legally recognised WMA working in collaboration with the Tanzania Wildlife Division and the Tanzania National Parks Authority and this legal framework provides the association with legitimacy. This is a crucial building block for future sustainability.

Factors for success

- Supportive national policy/legislation for devolved governance of natural resources
- Coordinated and coherent sectoral policies/legislation
- Supportive, multi-stakeholder partnerships with a shared vision
- Devolved decision-making power so local communities have a voice in creating or co-creating solutions

Find out more:

<https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/matumizi-bora-ya-malihai-idodi-na-pawaga-mbomipa-wildlife-management-area>

Increasing Capacity for Anti-Poaching and Enhancing Human-Elephant Coexistence

Summary

This project, led by the Southern Tanzania Elephant Programme (STEP) aims to strengthen the capacity of wildlife authorities in Rungwa-Kizigo-Muhesi Game Reserves to combat wildlife poaching through support of aerial surveillance, ground patrols and increasing ranger capacity. It also aims to enhance human elephant coexistence via building community-run beehive fences, establishing Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) to facilitate access to loans and credit, initiating community-led elephant monitoring networks and conducting awareness days.

Country	Tanzania
Location	The project takes place in and around the Rungwa-Kizigo-Muhesi Game Reserve (15,200km ²), part of the larger Ruaha-Rungwa ecosystem (45,000 km ²) in southern Tanzania.
Species affected	Abbott's Duiker, African Elephant, Bushbuck, Common Duiker, Dik-Dik, Greater Kudu

The poaching problem

Villagers around the protected areas are involved directly and indirectly in poaching. Around the reserves, people living in villages close to the protected areas illegally collect meat, honey, timber and/or fish in order to sustain their daily needs.

From extensive ground experience, it has been observed that there is sometimes collusion with poachers from other regions, especially where ivory is involved. Members of local communities might be involved as trackers, skimmers and couriers of ivory.

The approach

The main strategy is to 1. enhance anti-poaching capacity by supporting rangers and VGS from both air and ground with data optimisation, training and facilitating community involvement in key protected areas in Southern Tanzania and 2. Support human-elephant coexistence. Specifics include:

1. Improving ground and air patrols in terms of coverage and data collection.
2. Improving the ability to enforce laws related to IWT through increasing capacity for rangers to apprehend culprits by regular vehicle and foot patrols, training and donation of remote surveillance equipment.
3. Livelihood protection and enhancement through beehive fences (crop protection and household income diversification): By improving livelihoods, STEP hopes that tolerance for the presence of elephants will increase.
4. Livelihood protection and enhancement through VSLAs. By making households more resilient, the impacts of human-elephant conflict are less damaging.
5. Awareness raising events to provide fundamental education about elephant behaviour, the drivers of human-elephant conflict and how to stay safe around elephants.
6. Monitoring of human elephant interactions through collection of data about crop, tree and food store damage incidences as well as elephant use of village water sources around and in the village land.

The strategy

Strengthening disincentives for illegal behaviour

- Raising community awareness about wildlife crime penalties and sanctions

Increasing incentives for wildlife stewardship

Decreasing the costs of living with wildlife

- Preventive measures to deter wildlife

Increasing livelihoods that are not related to wildlife

- (Non-wildlife-based) enterprise development/support

Build and/or support a sense of community ownership or stewardship

Improving education and awareness

What has worked and why?

Using local community members to support with monitoring of elephant activities has worked well. STEP enrolled 3 residents to monitor elephant movements within community land. The monitors collect data on crop and food stores damage incidences, use of village water sources and tree damage by elephants.

Monitoring indicators relating to human-elephant coexistence showed that incidents of both crop and food stores' damage have decreased. This may suggest a concurrent improvement of tolerance among members of the communities living with elephants (assuming that crop damage is a driver of low levels of tolerance). In addition, in 2019, 19 farmers accessed loans that supported business establishment and agricultural activities.

Through facilitation of a large education and awareness raising campaign centred around a football tournament, Tembo Week exposed more than 10,000 people to information about elephant behaviour and how to stay safe around elephants. In addition to football matches, the film nights, community trainings and trainings at schools reached more than 10,000 people. These events have potential to amplify important messages and a simple knowledge retention survey showed that an average of 79% of respondents retained knowledge regarding several key aspects of elephant behaviour and safety around elephants.

STEP makes an effort to connect with key stakeholders on the ground to create a shared vision for its work, working closely with village, ward and district-level government. This approach means that STEP has strong relationships with the communities in the areas they work.

Factors for success

- Supportive, multi-stakeholder partnerships with a shared vision
- Sufficient time investment in building relationships and trust between the initiative and local communities

Challenges

Several of the human-elephant conflict mitigation methods that were trialled have not worked due to climatic and market factors. A considerable challenge has been that very little donor funding is available for trying things. It is available for scaling things that work. However, different contexts require different interventions and new contexts require trialling interventions before they can be scaled.

For example, beehive fences faced the challenge of low occupancy due to prolonged dry periods and short bursts of heavy rain, limiting the flowering of key tree species and reducing water availability to support bee activities.

Land use and land selection dynamics (particularly unregulated expansion of settlements) has created conflict between humans and wildlife, specifically in the forms of crop damage and human death. Due to limited infrastructure and interaction in peripheral areas, there is little knowledge exchange and new immigrants lack localised information about elephant corridors.

Another struggle has been with low participation, mistrust and a lack of transparency among members and their leaders in the VSLAs, due in part to not frequent enough follow up. Low participation resulted in a lower amount of money available for lending, limiting the perceived value of VSLAs. In general, frequent and dynamic monitoring and evaluating is critical for any field-facing project.

Factors limiting success

- Lack of coordinated and coherent sectoral policies/legislation
- Lack of long-term donor support that is flexible, adaptive and/or based on realistic time goals
- Ineffective and/or untrustworthy community leaders

Find out more:

<https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/increasing-capacity-anti-poaching-and-enhancing-human-elephant-coexistence>

Singita Grumeti Fund

Summary

Working in partnership with Singita, the Grumeti Fund's mission is to contribute to the conservation of the Serengeti ecosystem, its natural landscape, and its wildlife. Active conservation management, collaboration with local communities, technological innovations and the deployment of hands-on conservation and law enforcement professionals allows Grumeti to achieve tangible change and sustainable results.

Country	Tanzania
Location	Singita Grumeti concessions are found in the western corridor of the Serengeti ecosystem (350,000 acres of land that forms a critical buffer zone for the iconic Serengeti National Park).
Species affected	African Elephant, Black Rhino, Lebombo Cycad, Modjadji Cycad

The poaching problem

Elephant poaching for ivory is a constant and increasing concern. Retaliation in response to HWC is also present, exacerbated by the reliance of the local communities on small-scale agricultural enterprise, which makes them vulnerable to any losses sustained by wildlife. Killing and funnelling animal products into IWT can compensate for these losses.

Lebombo and Modjadji cycad are threatened by illegal harvesting for private collections (horticultural trade) and trade in traditional medicine.

The approach

The Grumeti Fund employ a team of 100 game scouts. All of these men come from the local communities bordering the concessions, and the vast majority have a history of poaching involvement. In addition, a Joint Intelligence Unit relies upon on a network of informers from the surrounding villages and communities to provide them with invaluable intelligence on poacher movements. This is of critical importance to ensuring anti-poaching work is proactive rather than reactive.

UPLIFT (Unlocking Prosperous Livelihoods for Tomorrow) is a community outreach programme designed to enhance the livelihoods of individuals living along the boundary of the concessions. UPLIFT employs a three-pronged approach to enhance livelihood security: assisting youth to achieve higher levels of education; increasing income generation opportunities; and promoting the peaceful coexistence of wildlife and humans.

Educational support is provided in the form of scholarships for secondary school, vocational studies and education within the conservation and tourism sectors. Across all the Grumeti Fund educational programmes, girl's empowerment is a key focus. The Fund's focus on education extends to the environment and the critical role each individual plays in minimising their impact on the earth's limited resources.

In 2019, Grumeti partnered with Raizcorp, a South African-based organisation that specialises in business development as part of a Rural Enterprise Development programme. This involves two key activities: Guiding and Village Learning. Guiding provides intensive one-to-one business support with 11 entrepreneurs participating in 2019, whilst Village Learning programme provides weekly sessions on how to build and develop both business and personal skills.

The strategy

Strengthening disincentives for illegal behaviour

- Paid in money community scouts
- Paid in-kind community scouts
- Non-monetary, in-kind incentives for community intelligence

Increasing incentives for wildlife stewardship

- Tourism
- Lease payments

Decreasing the costs of living with wildlife

- Preventive measures to deter wildlife
- Reactive measures to deter wildlife

Increasing livelihoods that are not related to wildlife

- (Non-wildlife-based) enterprise development/support
- Provision of community-level benefits

Improving education and awareness

What has worked and why?

Wildlife monitoring shows an increase in key herbivores, including a four-fold increase in the elephant population, with no elephants poached in 2019. Carnivores, such as lions and leopards, have also grown in number. 120 former poachers have been converted to game scouts, with over 7000 arrests made due to efficient anti-poaching and intelligence initiatives. Investing time in building relationships has been critical for the development of intelligence networks.

Local communities have become environmental ambassadors and their attitude towards wildlife has changed for the positive, with over 45,000 people reached through more than 30 education initiatives in 2019.

Capacity building, awareness campaigns and benefit sharing are all key to effective community engagement. There needs to be win-win outcomes for both conservation and community development. When local communities receive conservation benefits and are involved in conservation, they will support conservation and become part of the initiative.

Factors for success

- Long-term donor support that is flexible, adaptive and/or based on realistic time goals
- Supportive, multi-stakeholder partnerships with a shared vision
- Sufficient time investment in building relationships and trust between the initiative and local communities
- Clearly defined tenure or resource use rights

Challenges

It is important to further strengthen the financial and technical capacity of relevant authorities, and to enhance collaboration between key stakeholders, to effectively fight poaching.

A large number of local households benefit from employment opportunities and development programmes. Linking these benefits to the presence of wildlife, however, is a major challenge. In addition, basic land use planning policies are in place (e.g. prescribed buffer zones to minimise HWC, dedicated grazing areas with rules for access) but are largely unenforced and not monitored.

Factors limiting success

- Lack of supportive national policy/legislation on sustainable use of natural resources
- Lack of coordinated and coherent sectoral policies/legislation
- Unclear and intangible benefits to local communities from wildlife

Find out more:

<https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/singita-grumeti-fund>

Increasing community engagement to tackle wildlife crime in Murchison Falls National Park

Summary

The project, led by IIED and partners Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Village Enterprise and Wildlife Conservation Society, aimed to address the factors leading to wildlife crime in Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP), to promote community engagement as an important complement to law enforcement, and to build the institutional capacity of UWA's Community Conservation Unit.

Country	Uganda
Location	Murchison Falls National Park is the largest national park in Uganda.
Species affected	African Elephant, Lion, Pangolins

The poaching problem

In MFNP the majority of species are caught for bushmeat markets, although there is also evidence of opportunistic poaching of high value species, such as elephants, lions and pangolins. The key drivers of poaching are poverty, HWC and a lack of income earning opportunities.

The approach

This project had two main components:

1) Implement community engagement programmes based on 5-year, multi-stakeholder park-level action plans:

Support existing community-based wildlife scout programmes by establishing new community enterprises to generate non-poaching income and to complement HWC mitigation activities, such as beekeeping to both deter crop-raiding and provide income. These enterprise programmes were implemented in HWC and IWT hotspots, where HWC mitigation programmes needed improving. Ex-poachers were targeted where possible.

Activities included supporting households with mentoring, training, micro-grants and saving groups, with the aim of empowering people to sustain their business in the future.

2) Build institutional capacity of UWA's Community Conservation Unit to support the plans and increase its recognition within UWA HQ as an effective, strategic and necessary complement to law enforcement efforts.

The strategy

Strengthening disincentives for illegal behaviour

- Unpaid (voluntary) community scouts
- Paid in-kind community scouts

Decreasing the costs of living with wildlife

- Preventative measures to deter wildlife
- Reactive measures to deal with problem animals

Increasing livelihoods that are not related to wildlife

- Non-wildlife-based) enterprise development/support

What has worked and why?

It has been reported that scouts are now an efficient and motivated group, responding quickly to incidents of crop-raiding. They are respected and recognised within their communities and maintain strong relationships with UWA Park Community staff.

Enterprise development has enabled 50 scout households, plus an additional 130 households to receive support to establish enterprises and associated business savings groups. Socio-economic monitoring surveys indicate that within one year, households had increased their average daily meal consumption and average weekly protein consumption, decreasing their likelihood of falling below the poverty line.

In 2020 Village Enterprise also initiated a Model Conservation Village within an area of high HWC and this has helped households to increase their income from growing and selling chillies.

Find out more:

<https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/increasing-community-engagement-tackle-wildlife-crime-murchison-falls-national-park>

The scale of illegal wildlife trade (IWT) internationally is a conservation crisis and tackling it is seen as a race against time. As a quarter of the world's land is owned or managed by communities, they must be central to conservation efforts – and community engagement is already internationally recognised as important to the global effort to tackle IWT. But because community engagement strategies are complex and take time to implement, not enough initiatives are being supported.

This compilation of case studies seeks to address this problem by showcasing a wide range of successful initiatives from the East African Community Region that have engaged communities in tackling IWT in different ways. However, these need to be scaled up and scaled out, learning from experience and adapting approaches to fit specific contexts and to meet specific challenges.



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Project Materials

**Biodiversity, Natural Resource
Management**

Keywords:
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