

GLOBAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM

PROJECT: Combating Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trafficking in Kenya Through an Integrated Approach



Image by Valentina Storti / Flickr

OVERVIEW

Project Sites: Maasai Mara and Tsavo landscapes (as well as the Greater Amboseli and the Laikipia-Samburu landscapes)

Species Focus: Elephants, rhinos, buffaloes, giraffe

Total Project Cost: US\$3.8 million

Executing Partner: Ministry of Environment, Water, and Natural Resources, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

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CONTEXT

Kenya's biodiversity is amongst the richest and most diversified in Africa. It harbors a wide variety of wildlife in its 50 national parks and diversified private, state, and trust lands. Wildlife is key to Kenya's tourism sector, which accounts for over 12% of the national GDP. Kenya has lost more than half of its wildlife resources over the last three decades. Competing natural resource utilization, escalating human-wildlife conflicts, and systematic poaching of elephants and rhino and the subsequent trafficking of wildlife products, continues to be the major threats to Kenya's wildlife. These threats have serious implications for the country's development and tourism-based economy, including the one from the Maasai Mara, Amboseli and Tsavo Ecosystems.

Kenya is committed to conserve its wildlife, and is implementing wide-ranging anti-poaching operations and supporting community-led conservancies. Kenya's government has also implemented a number of policies for improved land and wildlife management, including the National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP). The country is a participating state in CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force and is a priority beneficiary of the CITES National Legislation Project.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

The GWP Kenya project aims to combat poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking in Kenya through an integrated approach. The project's main components are:

- Strengthening capacity for effective illegal wildlife trade governance in Kenya
- Reducing poaching and illegal wildlife trade in threatened species in Tsavo and Maasai Mara Ecosystems
- Strengthening Community Wildlife Conservancies in Tsavo and Maasai Mara Ecosystems

PROJECT FOCUS

- Establishment and support to Community Wildlife Conservancies (Small Grant Facility; capacity building; pilot revenue-generating options)
- Develop and implement Ecosystem Management Plans for Tsavo and Maasai Mara ecosystems through participatory approaches
- Management agreements for Transfrontier Conservation Areas
- Interagency community wildlife security hub and antipoaching task force established
- National strategy to combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade

