



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR
INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



DOI-ITAP EAST AFRICA

Volume 1, Issue 1: June 2016

Partnership to End Wildlife Trafficking



Update of DOI-ITAP's work in East Africa

Wildlife crime threatens the security, economy, and biodiversity of East Africa. International networks for the poaching, transit, and sale of illegal wildlife products target wildlife populations across borders, destabilizing security efforts and creating a complex problem that transcends national boundaries. To protect the region's wildlife in line with the U.S. National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking, USAID Missions in East Africa—currently Tanzania, Kenya and East Africa, and Uganda—have created the Partnership to End Wildlife Trafficking in East Africa with the U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP). This agreement will strategically leverage DOI expertise in support of USAID's work in the region to counter widespread, pervasive, and well-organized wildlife trafficking activities. For more details on the partnership, [click here](#).

News

Secretary Jewell strengthens partnerships in Kenya



In January 2016 U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, co-chair of President Obama's Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking, traveled to Kenya to meet with senior government officials to discuss U.S.-Kenyan cooperation to combat wildlife trafficking, manage natural resources, and conserve biodiversity. During her official visit Secretary Jewell signed two Memoranda of Understanding: with USAID and [Kenya's Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Authorities \(MENR\)](#) and with the [Kenya based non-governmental organization Northern Rangelands Trust \(NRT\)](#).

Under the MOUs, DOI will deliver technical expertise and equipment to strengthen the work of the Kenyan Government and civil society to combat wildlife trafficking. Secretary Jewell stated, "by strengthening our strategic partnership with Kenya, we will work together to crack down on this illegal trade that is threatening to wipe out entire species and push others to the brink of extinction. This is an international problem that requires international solutions and we will continue to work with concerned African leaders who have shown the leadership and commitment to put an end to wildlife trafficking." Press

from the [U.S.](#), [Kenya](#) and [China](#) covered the trip which also included visits to South Africa and Gabon.

Secretary Jewell stated, “By strengthening our strategic partnership with Kenya, we will work together to crack down on this illegal trade that is threatening to wipe out entire species and push others to the brink of extinction. This is an international problem that requires international solutions and we will continue to work with concerned African leaders who have shown the leadership and commitment to put an end to wildlife trafficking.”

DOI-ITAP conducts technical assessments in Uganda and Tanzania

As critical source countries and transit points for illicit wildlife goods, Tanzania and Uganda are on the front lines of the illegal wildlife trade. To effectively combat the trade it is essential to identify present challenges and opportunities for improving programs that address wildlife trafficking. Two teams staffed by specialists in a breadth of subject areas completed assessments in Uganda and Tanzania on the status of current anti-poaching and wildlife trafficking interventions by government agencies and NGOs. The findings were similar in both countries; a focus on wildlife law enforcement, CITES implementation, and regional information sharing on wildlife trafficking is the surest way to build capacity to end wildlife trafficking. Based on this, DOI-ITAP has recommended technical assistance to augment ongoing work addressing law enforcement operations, providing training on investigating wildlife crime and intercepting wildlife products. DOI-ITAP will also provide support through guidance and training focused on improving institutional awareness of and compliance with CITES. Finally, DOI-ITAP will work to increase information sharing on wildlife trafficking work and law enforcement by fostering linkages between source, transit, and demand countries.



African conservationists and wildlife managers sponsored for regional conference

In January 2016 DOI and USAID sponsored the participation of 20 conservationists and wildlife managers from Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya to participate in the fifth international Pathways conference, in Kenya. The conference and training program is designed to address issues related to human-wildlife conflict, wildlife governance, and community-based conservation. Pathways Kenya gathered leading thinkers of more than 200 scientists and practitioners representing 27 countries. The training took place at the Mount Kenya Safari Club in Nanyuki, Kenya, and was organized by Colorado State University's Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Department. The sponsored participants represented various NGOs and community-focused conservation organizations in East Africa. The training helped build capacity for on the ground wildlife conservation, and provided valuable opportunities for African participants to transfer knowledge and experiences and to develop innovative wildlife management practices.



Support from DOI-ITAP for USAID/Kenya and East Africa Environment Office

Project Manager for DOI-ITAP's work in East Africa, Colleen Castle, worked at USAID's Mission in Kenya during the summer of 2015, supporting the work of the Environment Office. This included reviewing applications for the PEER grants USAID/Kenya and East Africa disbursed via the Global Development Lab as well as contributing to information gathering and other efforts related to President Obama's visit to Kenya last July. Congressional Guests of the President, including Senators Jeff Flake (left) and Chris Coons, above, observed the habitat and animal conservation efforts at Nairobi National Park and the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, as they met with conservation leaders from the government and civil society. Ms. Castle also met with partners to begin coordination on counter-wildlife crime activities that DOI-ITAP will carry out both bilaterally in Kenya and in the region.

International Ranger Training Course



The DOI-USAID Partnership to End Wildlife Trafficking sponsored ten rangers from Kenya to take part in an International Ranger Training Course put on by Colorado State University's Center for Protected Area Management from May 12-21, 2016. Selected participants from the Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service, and the Northern Rangelands Trust visited protected areas in Colorado and Utah. The parks and reserves visited included a wide range of habitat types managed by federal, state, tribal, and local governments, and NGOs. The variety of protected area management categories, governance types, and types and levels of tourism activities in the sites provided participants with excellent opportunities to learn about a wide array of management approaches. The group learned about law enforcement, land management strategies, working with adjacent local communities outreach, and education.



Following the training, participants attended the International Ranger Federation's 8th World Ranger Congress in Estes Park, Colorado. The five-day event brought together protected area professionals from across the globe to learn new skills, share knowledge, create lasting partnerships, and be inspired by their colleagues.

With over 250,000 protected areas on the planet, trained rangers play a key role in protecting park resources, providing security to visitors, building and maintaining protected area infrastructure, and carrying out outreach activities for local communities. Having ten rangers from Kenya participate in the training and World Ranger Congress, with contemporaries from around the world,



contributed to rich discussions about both successful initiatives and challenges faced by rangers and protected areas around the world.



For more information on the DOI-USAID Partnership to End Wildlife Trafficking or any of DOI-ITAP's work around the globe please contact Colleen Castle at:

Colleen_Castle@ios.doi.gov.