Greater Kilimanjaro Trans Frontier Conservation Area

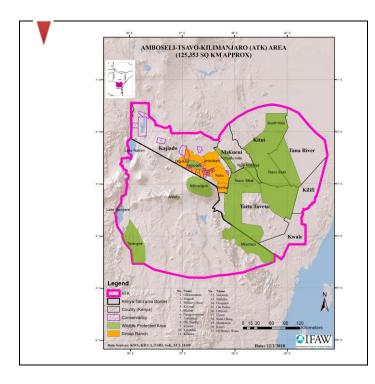
Strengthening Community Support for Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching



In partnership with the European Union



The Project seeks to promote and strengthen the establishment and sustainable management of the Greater Kilimanjaro Trans Frontier Conservation Area (GKTFCA). The Project will engage and empower communities in wildlife management and law enforcement to combat poaching and associated wildlife trafficking.





Key Information

Sector: Wildlife Conservation Lead Partner: Stitchting IFAW

Other Partners: AWF, Big Life Foundation

Budget: EUR 1,643,567 (EU funding 1,200,000)

Duration: 2018 - 2019

Background

The Greater Kilimanjaro Trans Frontier Conservation Area (GKTFCA) is a critical region for elephant, lion, rhinoceros and other regionally significant wildlife and is recognized as a Key Landscape for Conservation (KLC) by the European Commission (EC, 2015).

The landscape spans the border of Kenya and Tanzania and includes significant protected areas as well as extensive human settlements. Pastoralists such as the Maasai have shared this landscape with wildlife for generations. However, population growth and lifestyle changes, including the expansion of agriculture, have altered the balance within which people and animals have coexisted. Added to these changes are the pressures of expanding infrastructure and development, such as roads, railways, and mining, which divide the ranges of far-roaming megafauna and increase interactions with people often leading to conflict.

Human wildlife conflict (HWC) has negative repercussions for both people and wildlife as people lose crops, homes, and sometimes their lives and may retaliate by killing wildlife.

Project Details

The Project seeks to promote and strengthen the establishment and sustainable management of the Greater Kilimanjaro Trans Frontier Conservation Area (GKTFCA). This will be accomplished through a partnership of IFAW, Big Life and AWF that will engage and empower communities in wildlife management and law enforcement to combat poaching and associated wildlife trafficking.

The underlying methodology is a bottom-up approach to conservation and wildlife security.

- Better planning and management of natural resources will help improve the livelihoods of local communities.
- Mitigating human wildlife conflict particularly in the form of crop raiding and livestock predation will help protect local populations' livelihoods assets while at the same time increasing their acceptance of living with wildlife.
- Employment of community rangers will provide much needed jobs and income for communities.

The main means proposed for implementation include a comprehensive package of expertise, trainings, techniques and, technology.

- The trainings will be tailored to fit resource needs and existing skill levels while the techniques have a record of proven success in countering poaching, wildlife trafficking and human wildlife conflict.
- The technology, which will optimize the ability to visualize threats to wildlife, can interface with a multitude of platforms and will bridge the divide between cyber and physical domains.

Expected Results

Activities conducted so far:

- A pre-inception meeting and inception meeting held in January and March respectively attended by representatives from IFAW, AWF and Big Life
- Joint cross border patrols:
 - One in Tsavo-Mkomazai comprising AWF community rangers and KWS rangers
 - Two in West Kilimanjaro/Amboseli comprising Big Life community rangers and KWS rangers
- On-going activities:
 - Conducting research on the most appropriate and accessible data collection, mapping and analysis software for community rangers
 - Identifying all types of standard ecological monitoring data templates currently in use in GKTFCA and developing best fit for stakeholder and community needs
 - Creating a repository of geospatially enabled data and information key to the management of human wildlife conflict and attendant wildlife crime in the GKTFCA that harmonizes the data from West Kilimanjaro and Tsavo-Mkomazi
- Planned activities:
 - Establishing community monitoring data collection protocols through the expansion and use of smart phones and the improvement of reporting protocols by Community Rangers
 - Coordinating the collection, consolidation and analysis of community monitoring and mapping data in the Greater Kilimanjaro Trans Frontier Conservation Area (GKTFCA)







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