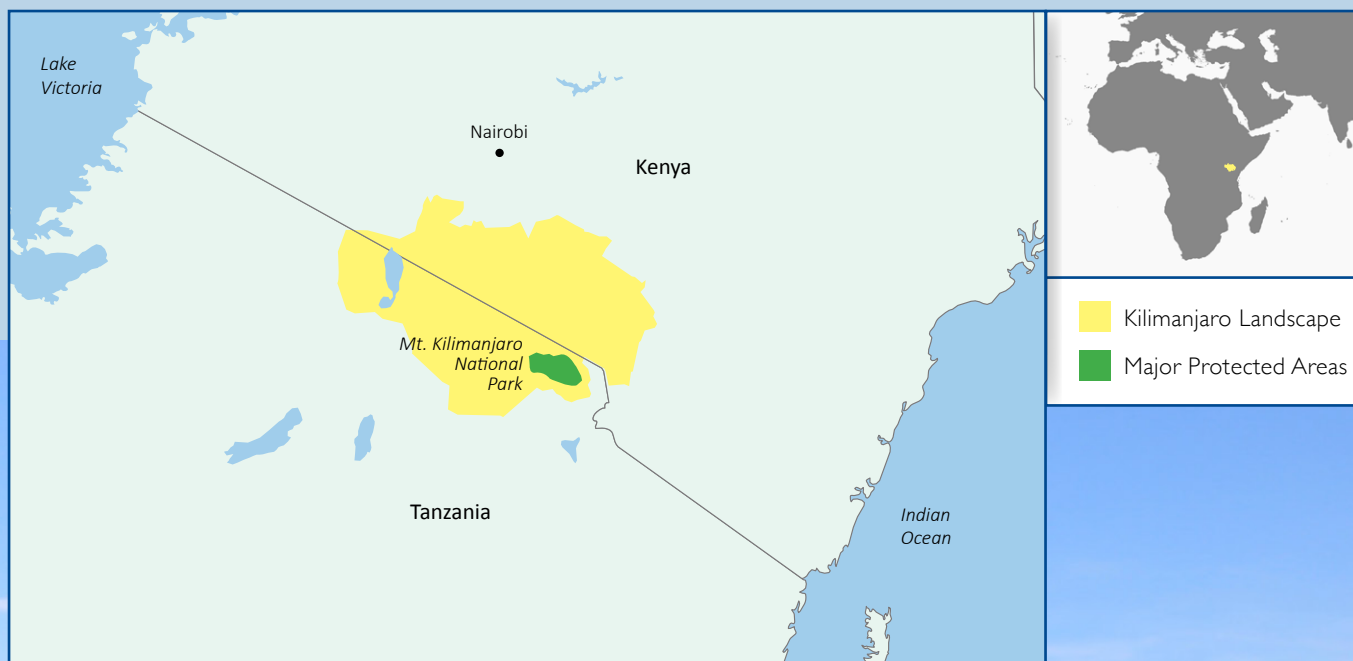




USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SCAPES LANDSCAPE PROFILE:

KILIMANJARO LANDSCAPE



KITTENDEN OUTPOST, KENYA 2014: A community scout surveys the landscape from Kittenden Outpost, Kenya. Photo by Matthew Erdman for USAID

THE KILIMANJARO HEARTLAND AT A GLANCE

- The Kilimanjaro landscape covers 2.3 million hectares, connecting southern Kenya and northern Tanzania.
- The project was implemented by the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), which partnered with communities and dozens of organizations in both countries.

THE PLACE AND THE PEOPLE

Eastern Africa's Kilimanjaro landscape is a sprawling and complex ecosystem with a range of climatic and geographic features, such as afro-montane vegetation, dry forest woodlands, open savannah and wetlands. Spilling over both sides of the Kenya-Tanzania border, it is recognized around the world for its megafauna. Elephants are among its most noteworthy inhabitants, but it also hosts endangered black rhinoceroses and wild dogs, and it is a breeding habitat for many bird species such as flamingos. Large predators include lions, leopards, cheetahs and striped hyenas, while ungulates include kudu, giraffes, gerenuks, eland and oryx. In Kenya, important areas include Amboseli National Park and seven large Maasai group ranches. In Tanzania, they include Kilimanjaro and Arusha National Parks, several community-managed wildlife management areas, Lake Natron and the low-lying savannas of Longido.

The people who live in the region are primarily Maasai pastoralists who traditionally have moved with their

livestock following seasonal migration patterns. Times are changing, however, and more sedentary Maasai's group ranches are evolving as there is increasing subdivision of land parcels. Many Maasai households are turning to agriculture along swamps and the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro. In the last three decades, non-Maasai have arrived with similar aims, growing crops and building fences to hold livestock.

Wildlife and livestock in the Kilimanjaro need to migrate to survive. They require that distant places be naturally connected through ecological corridors and that valuable sites, such as springs and swamps, be protected. Yet, the dual trends of expanding agriculture and subdivision of land ownership are impeding the free and natural movement of both wildlife and livestock under the care of pastoralists. This, in turn, contributes to human-wildlife conflict, one of the primary sources of unease in the region.



KENYA, 2014: Members of the Sienna women's group gather to discuss their livestock project in Kenya. Photo by Matthew Erdman for USAID

THE CHALLENGE

The Kilimanjaro was one of nine transboundary landscape-scale efforts under USAID's Sustainable Conservation Approaches in Priority Ecosystems (SCAPES) project. In the Kilimanjaro, AWF improved land management, facilitated the conservation of key species, bolstered nature-based enterprises, and encouraged transboundary collaboration between Kenya and Tanzania.

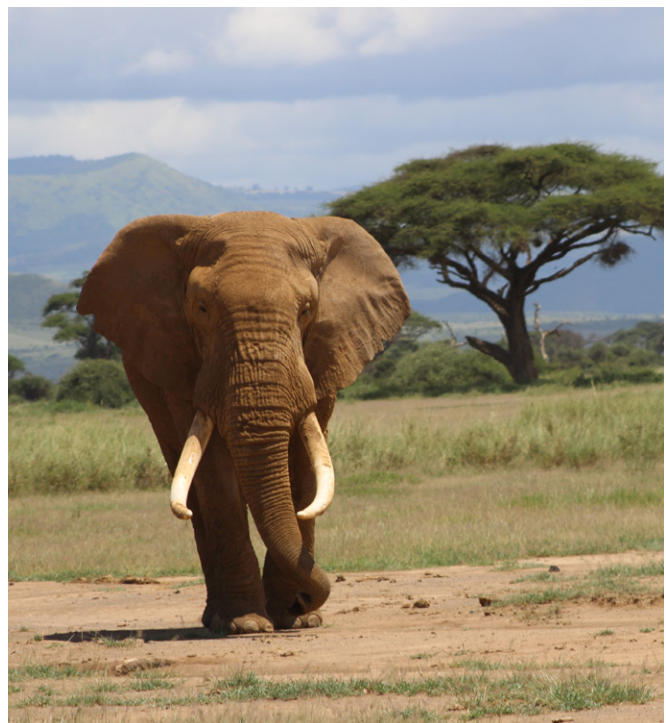
By working with national parks, Maasai group ranches, community conservancies and wildlife management areas (WMAs), the project expanded the amount of land under improved management by a factor of nearly 100, from 9,709 hectares to 905,139 hectares. Part of this success was due to a land lease protection program, through which 1,335 landowners were paid to conserve their land rather than sell it to outside speculators. The project helped negotiate several leases, ranging from 2 to 10 years in length. In Tanzania, the project promoted the WMA concept, in which land is specifically designated for livestock, tourism and hunting enterprises, to secure community land for conservation. One example was the Enduimet and Lake Natron WMAs, which together account for 216,308 hectares.

To reduce human-carnivore conflict, the project introduced improved predator-proof bomas — modern livestock enclosures of plastic poles. Dozens were built in group ranches in Kenya and WMAs in Tanzania, resulting in a 96 percent decline in predation incidences. The project also created a Predator Consolation Fund, which provides financial recompense for those whose livestock are killed by predators such as lions. This reduces the desire for revenge killings and has helped the lion population slowly recover in the region.

To diversify rural livelihoods, AWF encouraged livestock production and tourism. In Kenya, the Amboseli Livestock Marketing Association, an umbrella organization, helps livestock owners keep abreast of good practices and marketing strategies. Among other activities, it lobbied local government for the completion of the Mbirikani slaughterhouse, thus creating a more stable local market that will increase household incomes. The project also helped with the construction of tourist lodges, the profits from which are planned to support

the operational costs of WMAs and contribute to community education, healthcare and bore holes. The Enduimet WMA in Tanzania, for example, received more than \$380,000 from photographic tourism, lease agreements and hunting concessions between 2009 and 2013. The Elerai tented camp generated \$440,000 between 2009 and 2014.

The project improved transboundary conservation by working mostly with government officials, but also national parks, community conservancies, group ranches and WMAs in both countries. Conservation corridors were created to link Amboseli, Chyulu and Tsavo National Parks. Joint security meetings between scouts and wildlife officials were held annually, as were monthly joint operations and anti-poaching patrols. Joint cross-border wet and dry season censuses were conducted for large herbivores and carnivores, which helped to understand their movements, distribution and population trends. Thanks to the use of mobile scouts, informers and intelligence reports, fewer lions were lost to revenge killings and fewer elephants died at the hands of poachers.



KENYA, 2014: The elephant: icon of the Kilimanjaro landscape and severely imperiled by illegal trade. Photo by Matthew Erdman for USAID

THE LESSONS

Long-term sustainability of conservation action and plans is still of concern in the Kilimanjaro landscape. Although many of the project's efforts were successful, it will be a challenge to maintain them without continued outside assistance. Community scouts, WMAs and Predator Consolation Funds, for example, will require extended commitment from donors or local governments unless other means of financing, internal to the communities, becomes viable. Land leases also need to be long term and generous enough to ensure that landowners remain dedicated to conservation practices.

KENYA, 2014: Community managed lands in Kenya provide critical grazing habitat for wildlife near Kilimanjaro.
Photo by Matthew Erdman for USAID

