



Conservation, crime and communities:

The Greater Kilimanjaro Landscape, Kenya and Tanzania

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This case study was originally prepared as a background documents for the symposium “Beyond enforcement: Communities, governance, incentives and sustainable use in combating wildlife crime”, held in South Africa from 26 to 28 February 2015.

The case study was originally published as part of the compilation *Conservation, crime and communities*, published by IIED (2015) <http://pubs.iied.org/14648IIED> (ISBN: 978-1-78431-140-7)

Related project: Community-based wildlife management as a tool to tackle illegal wildlife trade: www.iied.org/community-based-wildlife-management-tool-tackle-illegal-wildlife-trade

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At a glance

COUNTRY	Kenya and Tanzania
LOCATION	Greater Kilimanjaro Trans-Boundary Ecosystem; protected areas, community lands and private land
SPECIES	African Elephant (<i>Loxodonta africana</i>)
ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE CONTEXT	Severe risk of ivory poaching
TYPE OF POACHERS	Locals hired by middle-men
TYPE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN TACKLING IWT	Community rangers/eco-guards Community intelligence gathering
CONSERVATION INCENTIVE MECHANISM	Revenue-sharing from tourism Conservation jobs Enterprise development

The story so far

The Greater Kilimanjaro area – a 25,623 km² transboundary landscape that spans the Kenya–Tanzania border – 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. Joint transborder patrolling, increased coordination amongst all parties, mobile units and sharing of intelligence has resulted in a poaching decline. Between 2013 and 2014 the Kenyan side recorded a 54 per cent decrease in elephant poaching, while there has been no known elephant poaching on the Tanzanian side since 2012.

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, such as group ranches and Wildlife Management Areas (WMA); private land includes former group ranches that have been subdivided and are held in title by Maasai. The whole area is home to around 1,930 elephants, as well as other animals, such as lions, cheetah and black rhino.

Strong wildlife protection laws exist in both Kenya and Tanzania, but there remains a growing threat of elephant poaching in the area. This 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 current value of ivory in Beijing is US\$2,100 per kilogramme; a local poacher receives less than US\$200 per kg.

Wildlife is owned by the government

In both Kenya and Tanzania, wildlife is owned by the government, and there are provisions in both countries for local communities to earn benefits from wildlife.

In Kenya, outside protected areas, communities have land tenure rights via group ranches (which are communal lands leased by the government) and private land held by Maasai. In both cases,



Community scouts (AWF)

communities earn financial benefits from wildlife on the land through tourism fees, conservation fees, bed-night fees at tourism facilities, and other activities, such as walking safaris.

In Tanzania, on village lands, communities can set up Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) where they manage both land and wildlife, and can reap the benefits from wildlife-based tourism. Unlike Kenya, Tanzania permits consumptive – as well as non-consumptive – use of wildlife.

In this policy context, communities on both sides of the border in the Kilimanjaro area are partially dependent on wildlife, based on tourism. A decline in wildlife, therefore, has an impact on jobs and income. Consequently, communities generally stand to benefit from legislation to tackle illegal trade in wildlife.

Community engagement integral to formal anti-poaching programmes

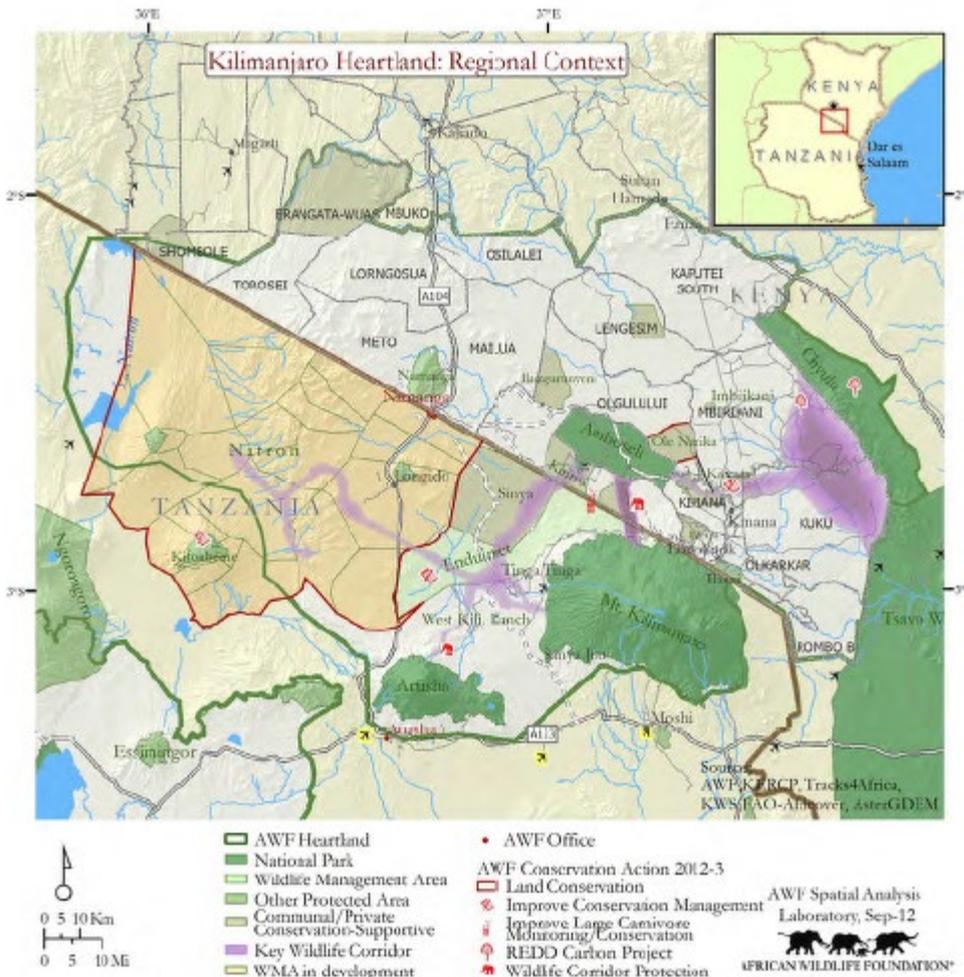
The recent Kenya Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013 sets a minimum penalty of US\$220,000 (KES 20 million) and/or life imprisonment for crimes relating to endangered species. Other legislation applies for related offences including money laundering, anti-corruption and economic crimes.

In Tanzania, the 2009 Tanzania Wildlife Conservation Act is the main statute to control poaching, hunting and trade, although Zanzibar is exempted from its application. Within parks, the 2002 National Parks Act controls hunting and poaching, with penalties determined by the endangered status of the animal concerned.

The Forest Resources and Management Act is also relevant to illegal wildlife trade, but penalties are lenient.

Throughout the area, community engagement in wildlife protection is integral to formal anti-poaching programmes. The Big Life Foundation, with support from the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), and working closely with Kenya Wildlife Service and the Tanzania Wildlife Division, oversees anti-poaching in the region.

Big Life – whose senior staff include individuals drawn from the local



communities – provides training and coordination for 200 community scouts who provide routine surveillance, anti-poaching and monitoring activities on community and private land.

Trans-boundary wildlife protection is coordinated by AWF.

What works and why?

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.

The local communities themselves fulfil a number of roles. Their members are wildlife scouts and guards; they also serve as community committee managers and leaders (e.g. on Group Ranch Committees and WMA Committees) with overall responsibility for programme management and implementation.

Conservation jobs are highly popular. Working as a wildlife scout, as a guide or in a tourism facility all confer prestige, as well as offering training and an income.

There are risks involved in anti-poaching activities – notably from possible encounters with armed poachers – but also from dealing with the difficult community relations that arise if a local person is killed by elephants.

Generally speaking, such risks are balanced by the benefits of community engagement in wildlife protection. They receive training, revenue from tourism, revenue from hunting (in Tanzania), management engagement and leadership roles (on Group Ranch and WMA 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.

Challenges

- The benefits from wildlife-based revenues do not impact every member of local communities; a single community poacher can have a negative impact.
- Population increases in the area means more pressure on wildlife, and more opportunities for human-wildlife conflict, with resulting animosity towards wildlife.
- Opportunity costs increase as agriculture expands into the area's wetlands, floodplains and rivers, with resulting sub-division of land for crop production.
- The increase in demand and rising price of ivory creates a significant incentive for community members to poach.
- The Tanzanian Wildlife Division is slow to release funds that are collected in WMAs and due back to the communities.

Lessons learnt

- Community engagement in wildlife protection needs professional management from experienced anti-poaching specialists.

- Consistency – in terms of funding, benefits, engagement and management – is key.
- Long term commitment – and therefore funding – is needed to identify and develop community conservation scouts, to maintain a presence in the region and to ensure a sustainable effect on wildlife conservation.

COULD THIS WORK ELSEWHERE?

The trans-boundary element of the programme could be replicated. A similar holistic approach to conservation could be applied in areas with potential for wildlife-based tourism and other conservation activities that bring benefits to local communities.