



AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION®

www.awf.org



Land and Habitat Conservation

Loss of habitat is the single greatest threat to most African wildlife. Africa's species need open spaces to live, move, propagate and ultimately thrive. This is particularly true of the continent's elephant, lion and other unique species who roam over vast distances. To save wildlife, one must save land. In this spirit, the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) works with stakeholders to bring more land under conservation and pursues a large-landscape conservation strategy in all of the African Heartlands.



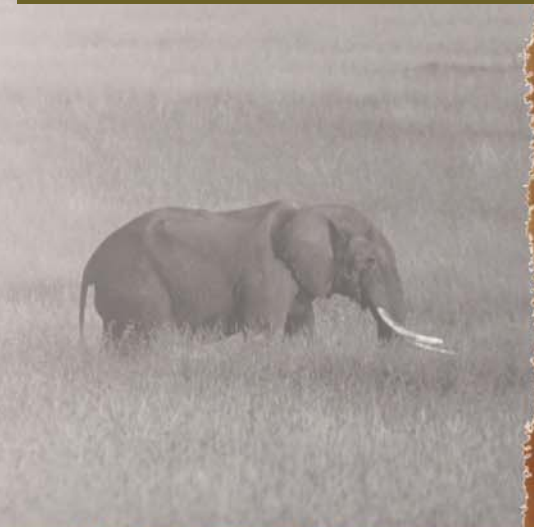
What is an African Heartland?

Far larger than any park or reserve, an African Heartland combines national parks, local villages, public and private lands into a large, cohesive conservation landscape. To qualify as a Heartland, the landscape must not only be the home to key wildlife populations and habitats, but have the potential to sustain these populations well into the future. In addition, the landscape must be able, or have the potential, to adequately leverage natural resource-based activities to significantly contribute to the livelihoods of the local people. AWF has defined eight Heartlands throughout central, eastern and southern Africa.

Land and Habitat Conservation at Work

The need for landscape-level conservation is the inspiration for AWF's African Heartlands Program. Working with governments, local villages, private interests and national parks, AWF uses a variety of approaches to bring public, community and private lands under conservation. These approaches include supporting protected areas, engaging in land-use planning and creating private trusts. These efforts help secure wildlife movement corridors, habitat linkages, dry season refuges, and dispersal areas that are critical for the conservation of wildlife and their key habitats.

In some cases, AWF signs agreements with landowners to ensure sustainable management of areas of land. In other cases, AWF helps landowners form land trusts to secure land for long-term conservation. AWF also works with national park and other protected area authorities to support planning, management, law enforcement and monitoring, and transboundary collaboration around major parks. Activities have included development of general management plans, construction of staff housing and water facilities, and improvements to visitor services.





AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION®

Examples of AWF's success in land and habitat conservation include:

■ **Kenya Land Conservation Trust, Kenya**

In 2005 the first national trust in Kenya's history – the Kenya Land Conservation Trust (KLCT) – was incorporated. Owned by local Kenyan communities and facilitated by AWF, the KLCT acts as a player in the private marketplace, creating economic incentives and brokering agreements to encourage conservation-friendly use of private lands. Through the KLCT, communities can negotiate easements on private land for wildlife, compensate individual landowners for opportunity costs, and purchase land outright. With the formation of this Trust, an entity focused wholly on conservation now exists in Kenya with all the rights of a private landowner. The KLCT will continue to conserve critical areas such as wildlife migratory routes and dispersal areas, important forests, wetlands, and fragile marine systems.



■ **Cubo Community Nature Reserve, Mozambique**



In the Limpopo Heartland, AWF has helped the Cubo community acquire the land rights for a 12,000-hectare (29,652-acre) community nature reserve, the first such project in Mozambique. With AWF facilitation, a Common Property Association was formed and registered to manage the land and represent community interests in future community-public-private partnerships. AWF is now providing more support to the community to ensure the reserve can sustain long-term conservation and enterprise management. The community has applied for an additional 41,000 hectares to expand the reserve and make it more ecologically viable as a community protected area.

■ **Manyara Ranch, Tanzania**

The Manyara Ranch is located in the Kwakuchinja corridor, a key area for wildlife dispersing from the Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks in Tanzania. When the ranch was designated for sale as part of a government privatization drive, AWF facilitated the formation of the Tanzania Land Conservation Trust to hold Manyara Ranch for conservation, improved livestock production, and tourism. Over the past two years, AWF has raised and invested more than \$2 million in the rehabilitation of the ranch. During this period, the vegetation and security of the ranch have greatly improved and wildlife numbers are increasing. Ranch management has rebuilt important dams and the livestock herd is increasing in value. The TLCT is rebuilding the Manyara Ranch primary school at a new site on the periphery of the ranch. A new investment in tourism that will create jobs, local revenue sharing, and taxes is in the works. The ranch now plays a critical role in securing the economically important Tarangire-Manyara ecosystem.



■ **Community Land Trust, Zambia**

When AWF started working with communities in Zambia, it was difficult to develop conservation and enterprise development strategies because communities feared that they would lose their lands to the government if they entered into leases with the private sector. To address this concern, AWF helped five Zambian chiefdoms form local community land trusts to safeguard their land and ensure long-term community ownership. AWF is working with these trusts to bring nearly one million hectares under conservation to protect crucial migratory corridors and dispersal areas and to conserve important areas around the Zambezi River. AWF is also supporting the trusts in forging partnerships with the private sector for tourism development that will benefit the communities.

www.awf.org	Headquarters	Washington DC, Office
	Britak Centre Mara Ragati Road P.O. Box 48177, 00100 NAIROBI, KENYA Tel: +254 20 2710367 Fax: +254 20 2710372 africanwildlife@awfke.org	1400 Sixteenth Street, NW Suite 120 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036, U.S.A. Tel: +1 202 939 3333 Toll free: +1 888 494 5354 africanwildlife@awf.org

Photo Credits: Carlo Kleberg, Craig R. Sholley, Art Wolfe and Paul Thompson