

Southern Tanzania

Southern Tanzania is a region of rapid transformation. The government of Tanzania and partners are investing in the Southern Agriculture Growth Corridor (SAGCOT) to expand agricultural production and improve infrastructure linking producers to markets. Southern Tanzania also holds some of the world's richest biodiversity, which could be the core to a safari circuit on scale with that of the North.

This mix presents a unique opportunity to bring conservation and agriculture together at a landscape scale to deliver agricultural systems that safeguard biodiversity and maintain ecosystems that sustain both people and wildlife.

Inspiring Wildlife

Situated at the interface between the southern and eastern African ecological zones, Southern Tanzania boasts nearly 50 percent of the world's remaining lion population, large elephant numbers, chimpanzees and antelope, including the rare puku, lesser kudu, sable, roan and greater kudu.

Tanzania has taken great strides to protect critical habitat in the south by establishing three of Africa's largest protected areas: Selous Game Reserve and the Ruaha and Katavi National Parks.

Vital Economy

Southern Tanzania is also of vital economic importance to Tanzania, providing more than 60 percent of the country's installed electrical grid energy capacity and 80 percent of the country's hydropower.

The agriculture belt includes Iringa, one of the "Big Four" regions of Tanzania producing a surplus of food for the country. The corridor tops lists in production of potatoes, tomatoes, onions, tea and softwood timber products. This agricultural production is poised for significant growth over the coming decade with planned SAGCOT investments.

Historically agriculture and conservation have been viewed as opposing land uses that are mutually exclusive and detrimental to each other. Conservationists have viewed agriculture as a threat to biodiversity, citing habitat conversion, pesticide use and fertilizer runoff into waterways as central to biodiversity loss across the globe. The agriculture community views conservation as a threat to future development, as potentially productive lands are put under protection and wild animals stray into crop land and kill livestock.

The African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) sees things differently. Agricultural systems and ecosystems are interdependent, and Southern Tanzania is positioned to set the scene for a new vision for how landscapes can maintain conservation and agriculture in harmony.

Our Approach in SAGCOT

AWF is engaging in the transformation of African agriculture to ensure that emerging systems sustain and protect Africa's globally important wildlife and the ecological processes that underpin life on





the continent. AWF's agriculture strategy aims to address the threat that agricultural and livestock systems pose to habitat and wildlife in large landscapes and, where possible, transform agriculture into an opportunity for securing critical habitat for wildlife while improving the lives of people.

In Tanzania, AWF works with local partners, such as the Agriculture Research Institutes, Rungwe Avocado Company, Kilombero Valley Teak Company, Udzungwa Forest Program and Tanzania Forest Conservation Group to design and deliver agricultural practices that safeguard biodiversity and maintain and restore ecosystems. This is done through:

- Enhanced management of the network of large conservation areas;
- Landscape connectivity by securing “mega-linkages” through land management tools such as payments for ecosystem services, community conservation, and Wildlife Management Areas and through careful planning of intended infrastructure developments; and
- Incentive structures that deliver economic value for conservation and sustainable land and water management through tourism and sustainably intensifying agriculture.

AWF is pleased to be part of the Sustainability and Inclusion Strategy for Growth Corridors in Africa (SUSTAIN-Africa) programme, led by IUCN and supported by the government of the Netherlands. SUSTAIN offers a remarkable opportunity to design and deliver water and food security, land resources and climate change resilience through the development of improved and diversified farm, forest and wetland production that links local communities to new business opportunities.

In SAGCOT, AWF is expanding smallholder outgrower networks, building conservation practices into agriculture value chains, contributing to the Inclusive Green Growth process and providing input into the Strategic Regional Environmental Assessment. We continue to deepen our involvement in this transformative opportunity for Africa through carefully designed interventions in the corridor and ensure lessons are informing the design and development of other growth corridors across the continent.



AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION®

Headquarters

Ngong Road, Karen | P.O. Box 310, 00502 | Nairobi, Kenya
+254 (0) 711 630 000 | fax +254 20 2765030

Mbeya Program Office

Iyunga Block LL 121 | Mbeya, Tanzania
+255 784 768422 | fax +255 27 254443

Ifakara Program Office

P.O. Box 277 | Ifakara, Morogoro - Tanzania
Mobile: +255 742 317 754