



BIOSPHERE RESERVES as Model Regions for Anti-Poaching in Africa (BRAPA)

Background

The illegal hunting of wildlife threatens the long-term viability of Africa's biodiversity and ecosystems. After habitat loss, wildlife trafficking is one of the greatest threats to animal and plant species worldwide, fueling a growing poaching crisis in Africa. Many species are also hunted for bush meat at an unsustainable rate, affecting the continued survival of those populations.

Introducing BRAPA

The Biosphere Reserves as Model Regions for Anti-Poaching in Africa (BRAPA) project will pilot approaches to counter the twin threats of poaching for subsistence and the illegal trade of vertebrate species in all of sub-Saharan Africa's biosphere reserves.

The BRAPA project was launched in December 2015. Project deliverables include:

1. An overview of the poaching situation in biosphere reserves;
2. Case studies outlining successful measures to combat poaching in biosphere reserves; and
3. The upgraded technical capacity of biosphere reserve managers to combat poaching.

Through this three-year effort, project implementer African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) will significantly reverse threats to biodiversity.

Project Plan

The BRAPA project aims to generate sustainable anti-poaching solutions that will have a long-term impact on Africa's wildlife.

To accomplish this, AWF will conduct an online survey for biosphere reserve managers about their anti-poaching challenges and successes. The survey allows the project to begin piecing together a more complete picture about the extent of illegal hunting being experienced at sites, the role of subsistence hunting in local livelihoods, the gaps in the legal frameworks and more.

Graduate students from African universities will then be engaged to analyse and compare case studies from five biosphere reserves, as part of their masters thesis work. AWF and BfN will publish the resulting thesis projects and share them with collaborating partners and the wider conservation community.

Finally, the project will build the technical anti-poaching capacities of biosphere reserve managers. This will be done through a workshop gathering select managers and a visit to a biosphere reserve to learn firsthand about successful cross-border anti-poaching operations. AWF will further produce policy briefs to show how biosphere reserves can serve as model regions for anti-poaching in Africa.



At a community meeting in Amboseli, stakeholders discuss anti-poaching problems and other wildlife issues.



Community scouts conduct a patrol in the Amboseli Biosphere Reserve near Mount Kilimanjaro in Kenya.



The illegal hunting of wildlife for bush meat is reaching an unsustainable rate.

With increasing poaching in Africa, there is a greater need for strong habitat protection and law enforcement.

Partnering institutions

The project is supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) with funds from the German Environment Ministry (BMUB).

The project advisory group comprises several institutions. These include:

- AfriMAB
- Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- FAO, Natural Resources Unit Management and Environment Department
- Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS)
- Germany Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)
- IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (SULi)
- Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF)
- UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme
- WWF/ TRAFFIC International

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