

# POLICY & ADVOCACY



The African continent hosts a stunning diversity of faunal and floral life. Africa is home to:

- One quarter of the world's 4,700 mammal species;
- More than 2,000 species of birds (one fifth of the world's total);
- At least 2,000 species of fish;
- Some 950 species of amphibian;
- More than 100,000 known species of insects, spiders and other arachnids; and
- Between 40,000 and 60,000 plant species (on the African mainland alone).

Boasting one eighth of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots, Africa's wild lands represent some of the last places on Earth to provide ecosystem goods and services necessary for economic development and human well-being. These habitats also provide water catchment services to a continent that is mostly arid. More than 40 percent of Africa's citizens lack access to safe and affordable drinking water, and demand for water will increase in the future.

## Africa's Opportunity

Africa is at an unprecedented economic, ecological and cultural tipping point. On the one hand, the continent's current rapid economic development has the potential to improve the lives, health, security and well-being of millions of people in poverty across the continent. On the other, unless this growth is led in partnership with Africans and grounded in the inimitable resources that are unique to Africa, we are all but certain to see growth sputter—then fail.

The African continent will not be able to prosper without its wild lands and natural resources. And Africa's critical natural habitats cannot exist without their wildlife species, as it is keystone species like elephants, great apes and carnivores that modify and sustain these systems. Through processes such as seed dispersal, grazing and regulation of grazers through predation, wildlife stimulates new tree and plant growth, modifies savannas and woodlands, and otherwise keeps ecosystems in balance.

The reductions experienced by Africa's large mammal populations in the past four decades are indicative of the continuing state of deterioration of the continent's biodiversity. The health of Africa's wildlife and wild lands is a visible natural proxy for how Africa as a whole will fare going forward. It is a measure of our ability to live in balance with our natural environment and commitment to sustainable economic development. Africa's wild lands should be protected so that they are large in geographic area, interconnected, representative and able to fulfill their ecological and socioeconomic roles.

But it is not too late to adjust course. We can solve the imbalance.

## Uniquely Positioned Stewards

Headquartered in Nairobi with African senior leadership, the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) is the primary advocate for the protection of wildlife and wild lands as an essential part of a modern and prosperous Africa.



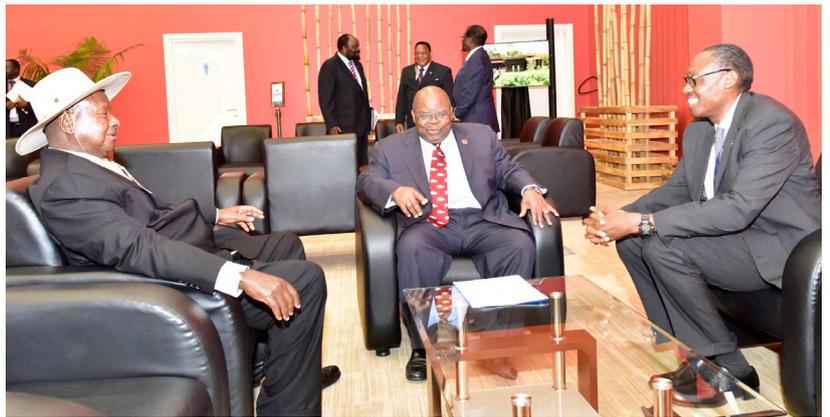


As the oldest and largest conservation organization focused solely on Africa, we are uniquely positioned to be Africa's conservation stewards. We are conservation practitioners, bridging science and public policy: AWF implements conservation projects in more than 14 countries across East, West, Central and Southern Africa. More than that, however, AWF advises African governments and businesses with workable, pragmatic recommendations for conserving our necessary natural resources and achieving sustainable development in Africa. AWF is building an unprecedented network of African influencers for conservation in more than 30 countries.

Already, our formal recommendation to promote wildlife and wild land conservation in Africa's development agenda was integrated into the African Union's (AU's) final Vision 2063 document. We have continued to deepen our relationship with the AU, having signed a partnership agreement to collaborate on conservation matters of importance to the continent. We have also forged strong ties with sub-Saharan Africa's various regional economic communities and African heads of state.

## Our Call

AWF believes that a future that uplifts all Africans is within our reach but only if we act boldly, decisively and with the utmost urgency.



*AWF President Kaddu Sebunya (top right and above right) has been meeting with heads of state across the African continent to advocate for wildlife and wild lands as a part of Africa's future.*



### Headquarters

Ngong Road, Karen  
P.O. Box 310, 00502 Nairobi  
+254 (0) 711 063000 | Fax +254 20 2765030

### United States

1100 New Jersey Avenue SE, Ste. 900  
Washington, DC 20003  
+1 202 939 3333 | Fax +1 202 939 3332

### United Kingdom

P.O. Box 74158  
London SE24 4BT  
+44 7981 183 103