



AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP



Virunga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo. Photo Credit: ABCG

The **Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG)** is a coalition of seven US-based international conservation NGOs with extensive field programs in Africa: **African Wildlife Foundation, Conservation International, the Jane Goodall Institute, The Nature Conservancy, World Resources Institute, Wildlife Conservation Society, and World Wildlife Fund.**

NEED

Biodiversity conservation in sub-Saharan Africa is becoming increasingly complex as social, economic and political pressures on biodiversity and natural resources grow. At the same time, resources available to address the myriad threats to the region's biodiversity are inadequate. These conditions have created a landscape in which strategic alliances are an appropriate and effective response. By accessing the wide-ranging networks and expertise of our member organizations throughout sub-Saharan Africa, ABCG is in a unique position to address critical conservation and development issues through integrated, long-term strategies.

- 1) Identifying and prioritizing emerging and high-priority conservation issues affecting sub-Saharan Africa;
- 2) Fostering technical and information exchange through partnerships with African institutions and civil society, to design and test innovative approaches and build communities of practice, and;
- 3) Synthesizing collective lessons from field activities and sharing them with a broader multi-sector community in the United States and Africa for data-driven decision-making and policy integration.

OUR APPROACH

ABCG works collectively to promote the best in integrated conservation and development programming to protect biodiversity in sub-Saharan Africa by:

TASK ACTIVITY AREAS

In its current phase from 2015-2018, ABCG members are focusing on four critical issues that strongly influence the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation efforts: 1) land and resource tenure rights, 2) land use management, 3) managing global change impacts on biodiversity, and 4) linkages between global health and biodiversity.

The **Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group** is supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to advance the understanding of critical conservation challenges and their solutions across sub-Saharan Africa.

Land Resource and Tenure Rights

The success of the biodiversity conservation objectives is contingent on the rights of individual land owners, as well as the collective rights of people. This working group develops and tests strategies to promote greater land rights and resource management authority among local resource users. This increases incentives for communities to practice sustainable natural resource management, thereby conserving wildlife, grazing areas, and forests.

Land Use Management

Impacts of climate change, socio-economic dynamics and expanding infrastructure on biodiversity are not consistently incorporated into land use planning and management decisions. This working group assesses the extent to which conservation is integrated into designing and prioritizing investments. It develops approaches to incorporate equitable and environmentally-smart alternatives into land use decisions; ensuring that investments in conservation consider not only present conditions, but also probable future scenarios.

Managing Global Change Impacts on Biodiversity

A major oversight of most climate change assessments to date is the inadequate consideration of indirect impacts on biodiversity. This working group is documenting how



Open Data Kit training in Tchimpaunga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Center, Republic of Congo. Photo Credit: ABCG



Participants mapping resources within their village during model household motivator training. Photo Credit: The Nature Conservancy

human communities are being impacted by changes in weather and climate, how they are responding, and how their responses impact biodiversity. Community surveys are being conducted in multiple sites across sub-Saharan Africa to gather this data, which will be mapped against observed and projected changes in climate. Combined with an extensive literature review, the results will be used to identify ecosystem-based strategies that reduce human vulnerability to climate change while benefiting nature.

Global Health Linkages to Biodiversity Conservation

Given the direct linkages between biodiversity conservation and human, wildlife, and ecosystem health, this working group provides guidance to advance the incorporation of health outcomes into biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. This is achieved by: 1) piloting water, sanitation and hygiene integration to reduce the impacts of infrastructure and pollution on freshwater ecosystems, and 2) employing population, health and environment guidelines to develop synergies between critical ecosystem services and human health and well-being.

Emerging Issues

A fifth working group identifies and develops strategies to combat new and rising threats to biodiversity by employing a small grants mechanism to pilot targeted responses. ABCG members work with local African institutions to build capacity for effective conservation interventions.

For more information about ABCG, please visit www.abcg.org

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