



AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP

Convening, Catalyzing and Communicating for Conservation in Africa

If everyone helps to hold up the sky, then one person does not become tired.

~ African proverb

The members of the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (www.abcg.org) work together, learn together and share together. ABCG was formed in 2000 to **tackle complex and changing conservation challenges**. We value **collaboration and information and resource sharing** as we pursue our **vision of Africa where natural resources and biodiversity are conserved in balance with sustained human livelihoods**.

Who is ABCG?

ABCG is comprised of 7 member organizations including:

- African Wildlife Foundation
- Conservation International
- the Jane Goodall Institute
- The Nature Conservancy
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- World Resources Institute
- World Wildlife Fund

In 2000, a Program Manager was hired to formalize activities, plan meetings around specific themes, and help disseminate information to African partners and others. The ABCG Secretariat rotates locations among its member NGOs. It was based at AWF from March 2000 to June 2001, at CI from July 2001 until June 2004, at WWF from July 2004 to November 2009 and is currently housed at TNC through July 2013. The staff of ABCG include a Coordinator, Natalie Bailey, and a Program Officer, Kamweti Mutu. In addition, we have greatly benefitted from many consultant, interns and colleagues over the years.

What does ABCG do?

ABCG works with the support of our members, and a generous grant from USAID's Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support program within their Bureau for Africa. Through this collaborative agreement, ABCG partners currently pursue

several key thematic issues including:

- The Future of Biodiversity in Africa
- Managing Extractive Industries to Protect Biodiversity
- Governance and Land Use/Tenure
- Biodiversity and Tropical Forestry Assessments
- Integrating Food Security and Biodiversity
- Addressing Global Climate Change
- Global Health and Biodiversity
- Forecasting and Building Capacity on Critical Issues

The following illustrates a sample of recent activities and products by our members:

- Policy brief: Managing Land for Mining and Conservation in the Democratic Republic of Congo

ABCG Activities & Products

To learn more, please visit the ABCG website (www.abcg.org), where you can join the listserv (ABCG resources and events as well as jobs are primary topics). ABCG is also on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ABCGconserve) and on Twitter (@ABCGconserve).

- A Global Review of National Guidance for High Conservation Value
- Increasing Agricultural Production, Conserving Natural Capital, and Strengthening Farmer

- Livelihoods: A Discussion of Landscape Management Options for Sub-Saharan Africa
- Avoiding Conflict and Balancing Trade-offs: Biodiversity Conservation in the Context of Competing Land Uses

- Report on the Investment Environment and Safeguards Applicable to Large-Scale Agricultural Investments in Uganda
- Climate Change in the Western Indian Ocean:

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A Situation Assessment and Policy Considerations

- Linking Biodiversity Conservation and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene): Experiences from Sub-Saharan Africa

ABCG has a growing presence in the conservation and development fields with diverse audiences, particularly conservation professionals based in Africa. Our mission of engaging emerging and high priority conservation challenges through catalyzing, communicating and collaborating with a spectrum of experts and stakeholders has guided our work (see box on Mission and Objectives).

Our three-part, web-based communications role serves to push information to our networks; to serve as a resource for those searching for relevant information; and to provide an interactive forum for the exchange and dialogue of conservation challenges and opportunities. More on the first point is the work ABCG imparts: ABCG members have produced substantive work

strategically targeting specific audiences for maximum effect; from field practitioners and natural resource managers to state officials through our network of e-newsletter subscribers and social media followers on Facebook and Twitter. In 2012, ABCG uploaded 90 documents featuring reports on toolkits, reviews, recommendations and best practices, and brown bag presentations, all based on our thematic tasks charged to member working groups. On the second point, ABCG's website reports over 26,000 downloads and 514,000 page views in the past twelve. Third, we incorporate social media as a way to amplify our announcements of events, publication releases and echo our members' outreach efforts as well. On our Facebook page, ABCG's impact includes an average of 50 daily total reaches for the past three months and over 360 likes, while our Twitter

Mission

ABCG's mission is to tackle complex and changing conservation challenges by catalyzing and strengthening collaboration, and bringing the best resources from across a continuum of conservation organizations to effectively and efficiently work toward this vision of Africa.

Objectives

- To promote information sharing networking, awareness, and experience among U.S. conservation non-governmental organizations working in Africa;
- To encourage information exchange and idea sharing with African partners;
- To identify and analyze critical and/or emerging conservation issues in Africa as priorities for both future NGO action and donor support; and
- To synthesize collective lessons from field activities and share them with a broader multi-sector community in the United States and Africa.

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stream has over 180 followers. Our website features text search and discussion tabs for conservation and development topics our visitors wish to post on a forum platform.



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