

AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP



PHE drama group performing in the community. Photo Credit: Nelson Mmari, TNC

Global Health Linkages to Biodiversity Conservation:

Population Health and Environment

Achieving an integrated vision of global health that links the health of wildlife populations, humans, domestic animals, and ecosystems.

CONTEXT

There are strong linkages between biodiversity conservation and human health, the health of domestic animals, and ecosystem health. People and nature co-exist together with numerous benefits recorded from having a harmonious relationship. Focusing on the synergies between human health and ecosystem health and including a wide spectrum of development and conservation targets, such as the sustainable management of natural resources, improved livelihoods, food security, and nutrition, can lead to more effective biodiversity conservation while simultaneously improving conditions for local people.

OVERVIEW

The [Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group \(ABCG\)](#), through its thematic working group, [Global Health Linkages to Biodiversity Conservation](#), provides methodological guidance to advance a vision that incorporates health outcomes into biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. ABCG accomplishes this by developing integrated Population, Health and Environment (PHE) guidelines that identify and develop synergies between critical ecosystem services, and human health and well-being, and trialing these guidelines in two pilot sites in Western Tanzania and Southeastern Cameroon.

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

ACTIVITIES & STRATEGIES

The main activities for achieving objectives are: 1) analyzing existing integrated PHE projects, and identifying best practices and promising approaches through a comprehensive literature review, and; 2) piloting activities in Western Tanzania and Southeast Cameroon to explore the interrelationships and interdependencies between PHE, which combines actions to reduce deforestation, while improving food and nutrition security and conserving watersheds.

The inclusion of women and marginalized populations, such as the poor and youth in decision-making processes is particularly important in relation to human and ecosystem health, and represents a key component of promoting best practices in PHE activities.

Southeast Cameroon

In Southeast Cameroon, [World Wildlife Fund](#) (WWF) is implementing a pilot project in Lobéké National Park. The project is focused on introducing project stakeholders and partners from the health, nutrition, and agriculture sectors, to the integrated PHE approach. Activities include: gathering data on perceptions, attitudes and practices around food and nutrition security; training of Health Scouts to conduct campaigns on health, nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); and the relevance of these sectors to the protection of the environment.



Strengthening women's capacities and harvesting plantain in Mamebele village, Cameroon. Photo Credit: Olivier Njounan, WWF-Cameroon

Western Tanzania

Through the [Tuungane project](#), a collaborative project between [The Nature Conservancy](#) (TNC) and [Pathfinder International](#), TNC is building capacity through a Model Household (MH) Initiative that includes MH motivator trainings, awareness-raising for recruitment of new MHs, household food security training, and empowering women and girls through improving livelihoods. TNC encourages institutions implementing PHE and other stakeholders to integrate activities and join the [Tanzania PHE Network](#).

[The Jane Goodall Institute](#) (JGI) is working to build outreach capacity for key decision makers and donors on increasing their knowledge of the benefits of integrated PHE approaches. To support these efforts, JGI, facilitates the establishment of the western region Tanzania PHE Network that seeks to increase understanding and support for PHE in the region. Also, JGI is organizing a knowledge exchange visit by district staff, community volunteers, and members of the Tanzania PHE Network to visit the Tuungane Project.

Southern Tanzania

African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) is an implementing partner under the IUCN led [SUSTAIN-Africa](#) initiative to implement [Sustainable Development Goals](#) in African growth corridors. In the Kilombero and Ihemi clusters within the [SAGCOT corridor](#), AWF is engaging members of the Tanzania PHE Network to learn how best practices can be integrated into AWF's program to improve synergies for better PHE outcomes.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

By implementing and promoting effective approaches that integrate biodiversity with improved global health, ABCG expects to: 1) build multi-sectoral partnerships to ensure that biodiversity conservation and human well-being outcomes are achieved in tandem, 2) strengthen the evidence base of successful examples that integrate biodiversity conservation and development for USAID and other stakeholders, and 3) incorporate PHE into conservation and development planning.

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