

# AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP and CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION



**The Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group** comprises seven international conservation NGOs who share the goal of working collaboratively, efficiently and effectively to further a sustainable future for the African continent. 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.

**ABCG has prepared a report evaluating its members' respective experiences in climate change adaptation in Africa.** Preliminary findings of this work were presented at a Washington, DC workshop in July 2011 that brought together key climate change adaptation staff from each ABCG member organization, as well as representatives from partner organizations and donors. The report offers a comparison of approaches and tools for adaptation utilized by ABCG member organizations -- the first such analysis of a set of adaptation projects for biodiversity conservation in Africa -- and provides a comprehensive set of lessons learned and recommendations for future work on climate change adaptation for both ABCG members and the wider conservation and donor community.

## ABCG members & projects considered

**African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)** Mountain gorilla vulnerability assessment in Rwanda, Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo.

**Conservation International (CI)** Vulnerability assessment and feasibility test of implementing recommended adaptation measures in Madagascar; and **CI/Conservation South Africa (CSA)** Climate Action Partnership in South Africa.

**the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI)** Gombe-Masito-Ugalla Project in Tanzania to develop long-term adaptation strategies for on the ground implementation in and around key protected areas.

**The Nature Conservancy (TNC)** Western Tanzania Project to develop Ecosystem-based Adaptation strategies for on the ground implementation across western Tanzania.

**Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)** Albertine Rift Climate Assessment in Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania and DR-Congo; and Western Indian Ocean Coral Reef Program in coastal and island nations.

**World Resource Institute (WRI)** World Resources Report and ARIA Policy Assessment.

**World Wildlife Fund-US (WWF-US)** Mangrove Resilience to Climate Change project in Tanzania and Cameroon; and with the WWF-Network: Madagascar vulnerability assessments and testing of adaptation measures.

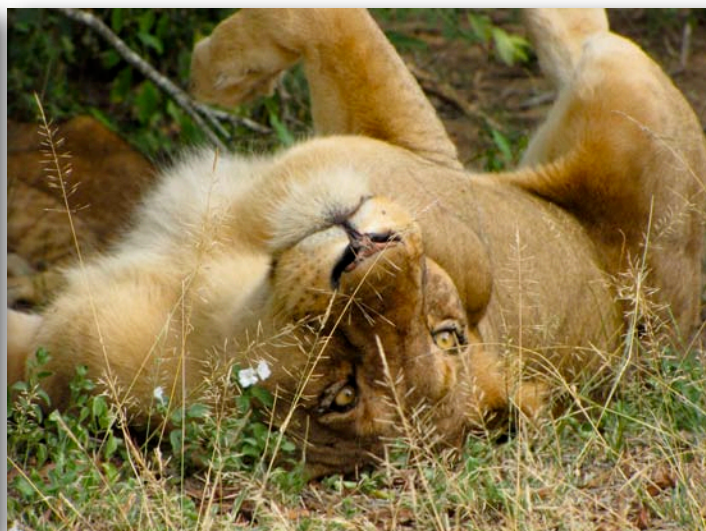
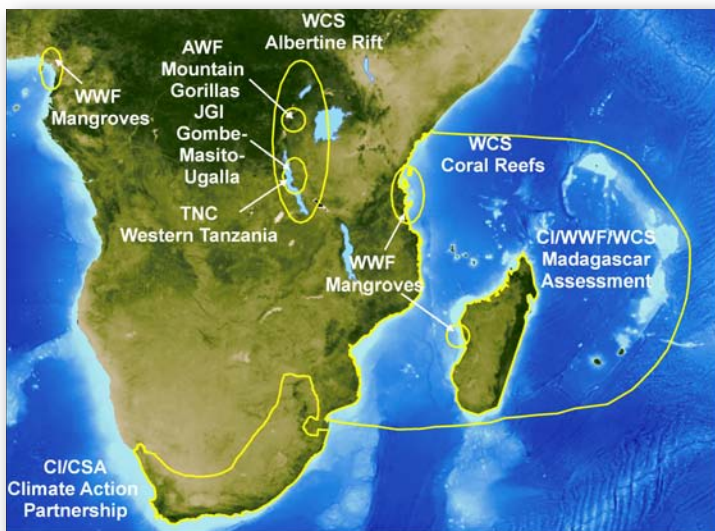


## *Climate change and Africa*

*The progress achieved over many decades of conservation efforts in Africa is increasingly threatened by climatic changes forced by increasing greenhouse gas concentrations and land surface changes. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, many parts of the African continent have high vulnerability to climate change-related stresses, and yet have a very low adaptive capacity. It is now widely recognized that climate change will exacerbate existing environmental degradation in Africa, threatening the rich diversity of plant and animal species as well as the livelihoods of large populations of subsistence farmers and fishers.*

For more information  
visit [www.abcg.org](http://www.abcg.org)





## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

### *Data, Analysis and Modeling*

Support the financing and installation of research-grade weather stations in sites of primary concern for biodiversity conservation, in data-void regions and where monitoring is already ongoing with inadequate systems.

Share climatological data among national governments, conservation, development, climate monitoring and climate change communities is essential to fill data voids.

Use scenario building exercises with scientists and stakeholders with relevant experience and local knowledge to consider how outcomes may vary and what actions would be appropriate for different combinations of factors driving environmental responses to climate change.

Critically assess model projections for plausibility, utility, and opportunities for improvement by persons with relevant knowledge of the species or ecosystems under consideration.

Convene workshops to share lessons learned on use of models and modeling results to help improve their application in climate change adaptation initiatives.

### *Project Design and Execution*

Utilize an adaptation framework to help conceptualize project design, tailored as needed to explicitly include the role of people in project activities when conducting adaptation work in Africa.

Incorporate Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) approaches into existing climate adaptation field projects where applicable, and conduct monitoring of such approaches to adaptively manage and refine them over time.

Hold forums for local decision makers, donors and ABCG members and their partners to identify strategies for designing actions that ensure effective implementation.

### *Project Monitoring and Evaluation*

Develop guidance recommendations for conservation practitioners on how to integrate monitoring information into adaptive management.

Develop specific recommendations for policymakers and donors regarding support needed by partners to ensure that adaptation genuinely is a process of

learning from actions and developing improved but realistic data gathering and knowledge management.

Work collaboratively to ensure sustained funding for long-term monitoring beyond the duration of normal funding periods.

### *Working with Donors*

Use the findings of this report to inform key funders with programs in Africa of priorities through outreach activities such as workshops.

### *Other Recommendations for Broader Interests*

Incorporate comprehensive consideration of the implications of population growth and demand for resources into climate change adaptation work in Africa.

Increase research attention, funding and training around the issue of disease dynamics and epidemiology under climate change in Africa.

**DOWNLOAD THE REPORT AT**  
[www.abcg.org](http://www.abcg.org)



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