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PROTECTING HARD-WON GROUND:

**USAID EXPERIENCE AND PROSPECTS FOR
BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN AFRICA**

17 September 2008



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BATS and the “30 Years Report”

- Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support for USAID Bureau for Africa
 - Chemonics International
 - Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group
 - US Forest Service International Programs
- An analysis and characterization of the evolution of USAID-supported biodiversity interventions in Africa during the last twenty years
- ABCG Horizons / Scenario planning to identify future programming and investment priorities



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Principle Sections

- Section II: Epochs and Themes in 30 Years of USAID Biodiversity Programs in Africa
 - USAID Programming Epochs
 - Cross-Cutting Themes
- Section III: Challenges for the Future
 - Globalization
 - Climate Change
 - Links between Health and Conservation
 - Conflict and Security
 - Population Growth



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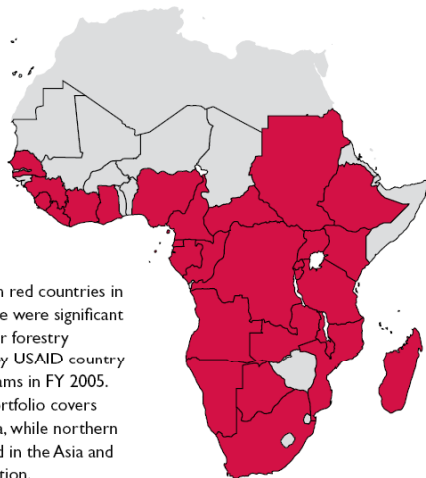
USAID Programming Epochs

- Agroforestry and energy
- Integrated conservation and development projects
- Community-based natural resource management
- Broad landscape approach
- Multi-sectoral conservation approaches

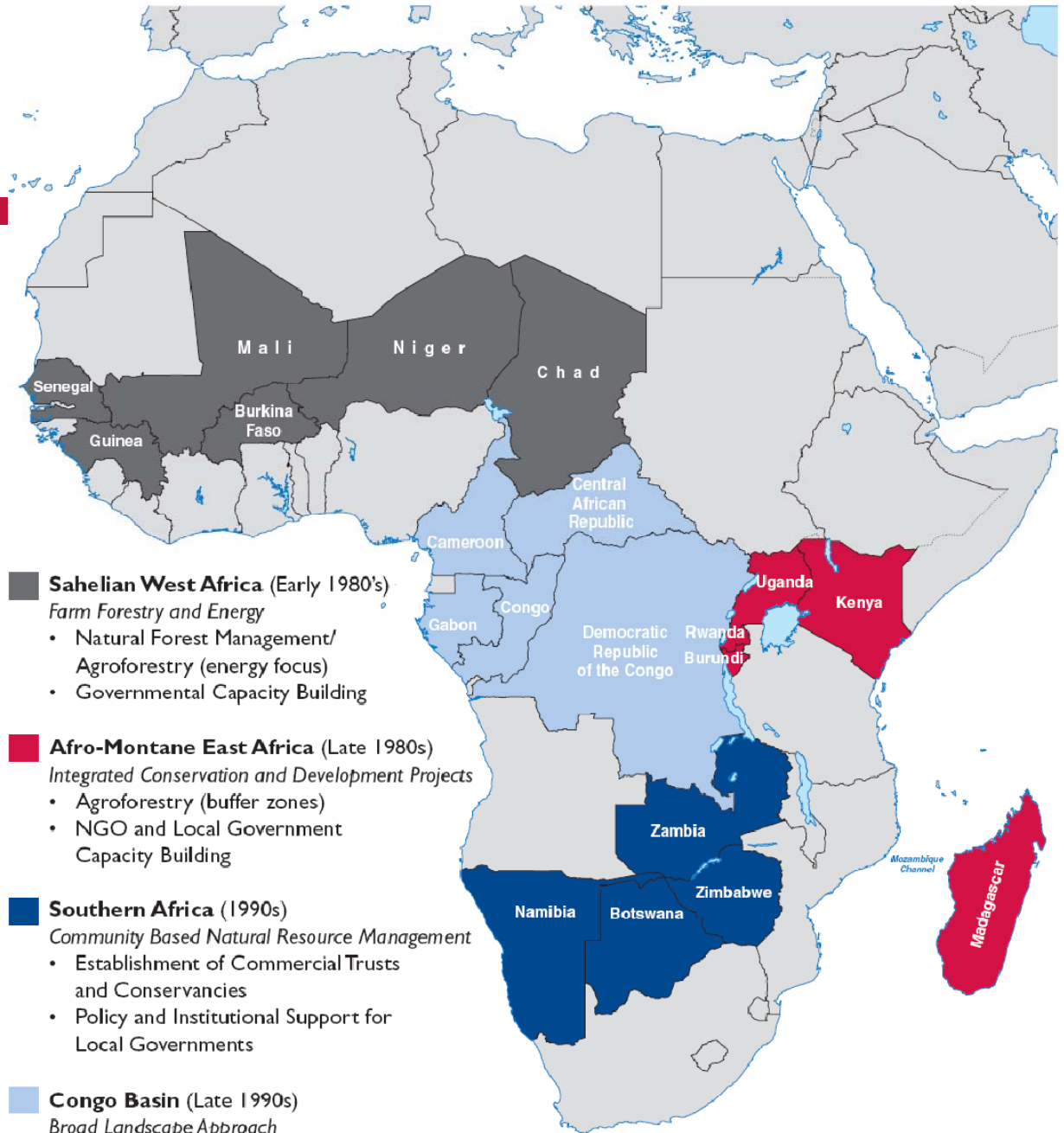


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“Roving Spotlight” of Programming Epochs



This map shows in red countries in Africa where there were significant biodiversity and/or forestry activities funded by USAID country or regional programs in FY 2005. USAID's Africa portfolio covers sub-Saharan Africa, while northern Africa is described in the Asia and the Near East section.



- Sahelian West Africa (Early 1980's)**
Farm Forestry and Energy
 - Natural Forest Management/ Agroforestry (energy focus)
 - Governmental Capacity Building

- Afro-Montane East Africa (Late 1980s)**
Integrated Conservation and Development Projects
 - Agroforestry (buffer zones)
 - NGO and Local Government Capacity Building

- Southern Africa (1990s)**
Community Based Natural Resource Management
 - Establishment of Commercial Trusts and Conservancies
 - Policy and Institutional Support for Local Governments

- Congo Basin (Late 1990s)**
Broad Landscape Approach
 - Protected Area Management
 - Economic Integration of Public and Private Interests



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Agroforestry and energy

- Driven by the global energy crises, the Sahel drought of 1972 to 1984, and fuel-wood / charcoal shortages
- FAO-led Tropical Forestry Action Plans (TFAPs) gave support to commercial, plantation, and community forestry.
- BD conservation not a target, but USAID gained valuable understanding of biology of forest systems for later programs
- Senegal Reforestation and Anti-Desertification Project
 - Launched in the late 1970s driven by fuelwood shortages in Dakar area
 - Large areas were cleared for eucalyptus and other fast-growing exotics
 - Villagers were paid for planting but had little interest beyond



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Integrated conservation and development projects

- Underlying assumption - rural poverty drives degradation
- Worked around PAs and gave explicit attention to economic activities designed to provide & reduce encroachment
- Sought to balance environment & development by improving living standards & NR management in biodiversity-rich areas
- Benefits often restricted to adjacent populations, too low for loss of resources, or not linked to conservation
- Uganda Bwindi Impenetrable Forest
 - Nature-Based Community Development
 - Hesitant to habituate gorillas for ecotourism
 - Conservation within & development without by different organizations



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Community-based natural resource management

- Focus on land/resource tenure, ownership of natural products, and decision making authority
- In Southern Africa mainly focused on wildlife: hunting provides by far the largest source of revenue for the communities.
- In Sahel mainly focused on trees, forest products, and forest tenure - if communities benefit, they will manage sustainably
- Living in a Finite Ecosystem
 - Facilitated CBNRM legislation (Wildlife and tourism revenues)
 - 50 Conservancies registered
 - Built network of support organizations and associations



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Broad landscape approach

- Strict protected areas play a crucial role, but are insufficient to ensure viable populations and other conservation goals
- Typically includes PAs, adjacent communities, unprotected wildlife areas, & commercial lands (forest, ag, settlements)
- Considers broader conservation & policy issues, economic decisions about public and private resources at different levels: landscape, local, regional, national, and even global
- Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment
 - 20-year USAID initiative with three strategic phases
 - Operates in nine Central African countries
 - Broad base of African partners and transfer of responsibilities



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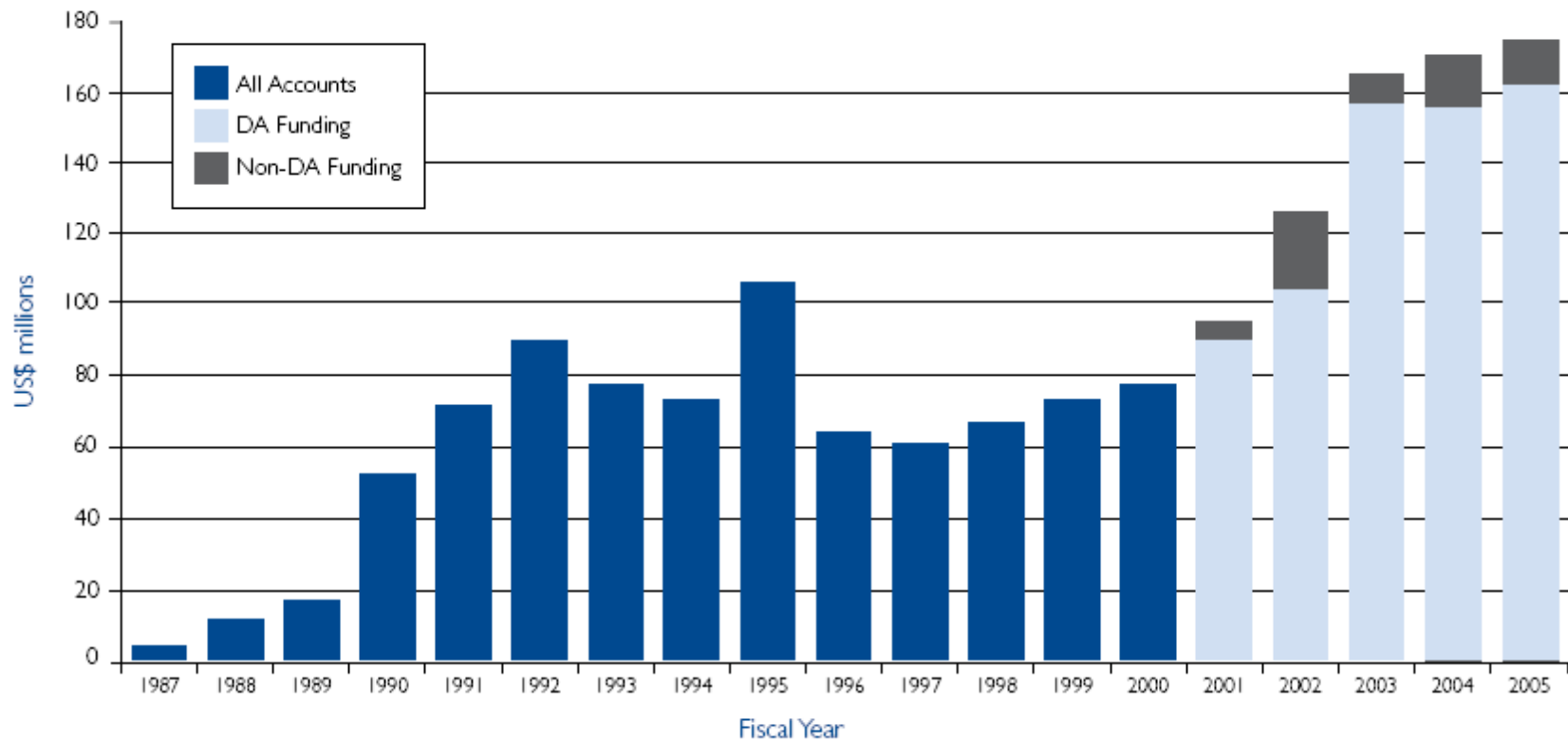
Multi-sectoral conservation approaches

- Work with other sectors including health, agriculture, & governance, and new mechanisms including PPPs and Grades and Standards
- Recognition of community needs, holistic approach may be the most effective, & trends in government financing
- Several forms: conservation as a primary goal, secondary goal, or acknowledged as holistic element for other objective
- Extractive Industry Partnerships in Guinea
 - Chimpanzees in the Boké Region: continuation of USAID support
 - Mineral Exploration in Forests & Highlands: GDA for BD assessments
 - USAID to help define direction & ensure integration of conservation



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USAID Funding of Biodiversity Conservation



*Dis-aggregated figures for DA and non-DA funding are only available from FY 2001 onward.



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Conclusions

- An initial focus on individual species and PAs programming has consistently broadened to now include: diverse & large-scale landscapes & partners, extensive participation, & wide range of economic strategies & assistance mechanisms
- The coming challenges are interrelated & self reinforcing and can come quickly with potentially dramatic impacts on BD
 - For example: climate change undermines food production capacity, and population growth increases demand, conflict over resources is more likely, which may further undermine food production increasing pressure on wildlife habitat.



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Recommendations

- Conservationists need to make a concerted effort to show policymakers how to connect conservation to high priority issues such:
 - Governance
 - Economic growth
 - Conflict
 - HIV/AIDS

Use the opportunity provided by community-based conservation to provide a context for improving governance.



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Recommendations

- To maximize the success of conservation programs, USAID/donors need to be sure that :
 - Stakeholders are engaged in all phases (design, implementation, and monitoring)
 - Financial returns are sufficient to compensate communities for the loss of resource use
 - Financial returns are directly connected to conservations activities



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How do we make conservation relevant to African communities which depend on the land/resources of interest?

Although wildlife conservation may in the end never be able to pay for itself, it is clear that where the success of conservation is linked to the welfare of a community, programs are much more likely to succeed.



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Thank you

