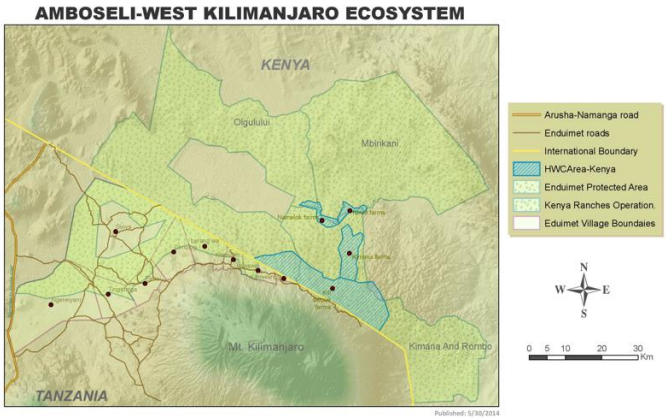
Greater Kilimanjaro initiatives to enhance community participation in the sustainable conservation of the trans frontier ecosystem and wildlife

In partnership with the European Union

Sept 2019

The project's goal is to secure an ecologically and economically thriving landscape that supports both people and wildlife, and is resilient to future stress from climate change and human population growth.



Key Information

Sector: Conservation

Lead Partner: OIKOS EAST AFRICA

Other Partners: AFRICA CONSERVATION CENTRE, ISTITUTO OIKOS

Budget: EUR 1,439,289 (EU contribution 1,151,431 EUR)

Duration: 2017 - 2020

Background

The southern Kenya-northern Tanzania borderland area is one of the richest in Africa for wildlife and biodiversity.

The region spans 16 parks and reserves, but support of wildlife populations relies heavily on seasonal dispersal and migration in areas outside the protected areas. These same areas are also supporting pastoralist communities.
Increased livestock density, land use changes, fencing and climate change are the biggest threats to the survival of people, livestock and wildlife in the Greater Kilimanjaro ecosystem where rangeland's productivity declined over 30% in recent years.

The project theory of change

The project is built on several decades of work with communities to increase their commitment and ability to protect wildlife. It is designed to integrate traditional values and knowledge with rigorous data informed decisions.

Project Details

Stretching across southern Kenya and northern Tanzania, the project is set in the Greater Kilimanjaro ecosystem, one of the most wildlife-rich and iconic places of the world. Here wildlife migrates from protected areas to dispersal areas which fall outside protected areas. These connectivities are vital for wildlife to keep a viable genetic pool and healthy populations.

The project will increase community participation in wildlife protection by increasing economic benefits arising directly from the presence of wildlife and by reducing the vulnerability of communities co-existing with wildlife. Connectivities will be better protected thanks to improved land use and wildlife protection.

By providing technical support to introduce innovative and culturally acceptable economies the project aims to diversify existing livelihoods, boosting the potential of the communities to manage their natural resources.

The project supports in particular women and youth, who will be trained in Marketplace Literacy, milk production and milk value chain, vegetable leather tanning, and tourism enterprises.

The project will review and adapt land use management plans and promote new conservancies (Kenya), will support Enduimet community-based wildlife management area in Tanzania, reduce human-wildlife conflict and improve crop protection, reinforce existing economies, and facilitate the trans-boundary dialogue between key stakeholders.

A particular focus in Kenya will be given to key, but under supported, wildlife corridors such as the Ilianguranyoni-Maparasha which is presently threatened by poaching and illegal tree cutting.

Expected Results

The project is working on 3 different levels of intervention: improve land use management and governance; increase community wellbeing and economic benefits from wildlife enterprises and reduce wildlife conflict and wildlife crime through education, communication and wildlife protection. Three main results are expected by the end of the project:

1) Wildlife movements within the greater Kilimanjaro-Amboseli Ecosystem are secured by enhancing community participation in conservation of the transboundary Minimum Viable Conservation Areas (MVCAs) and connectivities.

2) Community participation in Transboundary Conservation is incentivised, through wildlife based enterprises and livelihood development and conflict is reduced through mitigation measures

3) Wildlife crime decreased through education, communication and collaboration between cross border key stakeholders.

…some numbers:

300 women will learn how to engage with the marketplace;
300 women will be trained in milk production and value chain;
45 young people will learn how to develop and manage a community-led wildlife based tourism enterprise;
40 women will learn how to tan leather with natural techniques and how to produce leather artisanal products;
6 new wildlife based tourism products will be developed and promoted;
7000 students will be engaged in conservation education programmes;
60 rangers will receive additional training and 6 ranger posts will be better equipped.

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