

Our Approach: Caring for Wildlife



AWF provides resources, training, and technical expertise to ensure wildlife thrive in their natural habitats across the continent.

We focus on twenty species unique to Africa that, according to science, represent the ecological health of an ecosystem—large carnivores, elephants, rhinos, hippos, giraffes, and great apes—as well as species at particular risk in countries where we work, such as pangolins.

We map biodiversity to determine the most important places for negotiating space for wildlife and conduct wildlife research and modeling to better understand population changes over time. We use this data to determine primary threats and necessary interventions. In addition, we equip and train rangers to monitor wildlife and human activity during patrols, bolster anti-poaching rapid response, and support wildlife authorities in the prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of wildlife crime.

Defining Success by 2030

▶ WILDLIFE POPULATIONS

Across its landscapes, AWF stabilizes or increases significant percentages of continental wildlife populations:

50% Elephants

100% Ethiopian Wolves

60% Great Apes

60% Lions

82% Giraffes

75% Rhinos

▶ POACHING & TRAFFICKING

Poaching & trafficking in AWF landscapes are reduced by 80%

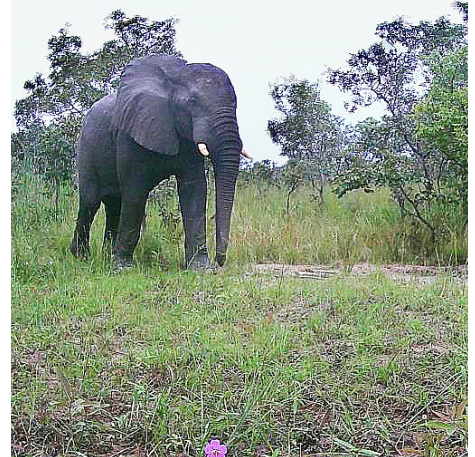
What We Do

- ▶ Use cutting-edge technology and scientific analyses to identify the threats and necessary interventions to ensure wildlife thrive in key habitats.
- ▶ Stop wildlife crime by training partners to detect, investigate, and prosecute traffickers.
- ▶ Provide resources and tools for monitoring activities and reducing human-wildlife conflict.

AWF in Action

▶ Building Safeguards for Wildlife: Cameroon

As one of the last refuges for savanna elephants, maintaining biodiversity in the vast Faro National Park (FNP) requires significant capacity from the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), Cameroon's wildlife authority. FNP faced significant challenges threatening the area's wildlife, including poaching and illegal fishing. In support, AWF recruited, trained, and equipped eco-guards to expand anti-poaching patrols. In addition, we worked to update critical infrastructure, including roads and an airstrip, so that patrols could have better access to the park. Increased patrols and infrastructure access resulted in the arrest of 89 poachers and traffickers; the seizure of 74 weapons, 959 bullet rounds, and 551 traps; and the seizure of 2,000 kilograms of wildlife products.



▶ Using Science and Policy to Conserve Species: Kenya

In Kenya, infrastructure development, climate change, and fresh water availability are threatening wildlife habitat and creating competition for resources between wildlife and people. The story of the black rhino offers a ray of hope. Its national population in Kenya declined from around 20,000 in 1970 to fewer than 400 in the mid-1980s. Tsavo, the Kenyan side of a transboundary landscape shared with Tanzania, is home to nearly one-fifth of Kenya's black rhino population, making it a crucial area for the critically endangered species. AWF scientists helped to develop Kenya's Black Rhino Action Plan, the official government strategy for conserving the species. It targets a national population of 2,000 by 2026. At a growth rate of over 5% each year, the population is on track to reach that target.



▶ Supporting Eco-Guards in Protected Areas: Democratic Republic of the Congo

In FY23, with funding from the European Union, AWF trained and supported eco-guards and scouts across three protected and conserved areas in the DRC, including the Bili-Uele Protected Area Complex, an area about the size of Switzerland. In the remote forests of Bili-Mbomu (an 11-square-kilometer section of the Bili-Uele complex), eco-guards literally risk their lives while on patrol. As a part of AWF's Wildlife Judicial and Prosecutorial Assistance Program, trainings include ecological monitoring, wildlife law enforcement, and rights-based training to ensure their work respects the local communities in and around the complex.



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