

DIGNITY
TRUST
EQUITY



COMMUNITY PROTECTION



PREFACE

This year, Global Conservation developed a deep strategy and this public handbook on GC Community Protection and Global Park Defense, which focuses on the joint protection of national parks and indigenous territories, develops integral methodology, and provides multiple case studies on GC Projects in Community Protection.

Community Protection reinforces the Global Park Defense program by expanding protection to buffer areas, which often include communal forest reserves adjacent to endangered national parks where we work. Community lands are regularly targeted by, at minimum, illegal loggers, miners, wildlife poachers, and land clearing groups for coca plantations and new roads.

Community Protection uses Global Park Defense methodology, technology, systems, and training that are integrated with full assessments of community needs, conservation programs, ecotourism development, and national park coordination.

There are three types of protection and scientific conservation supported by Global Conservation:

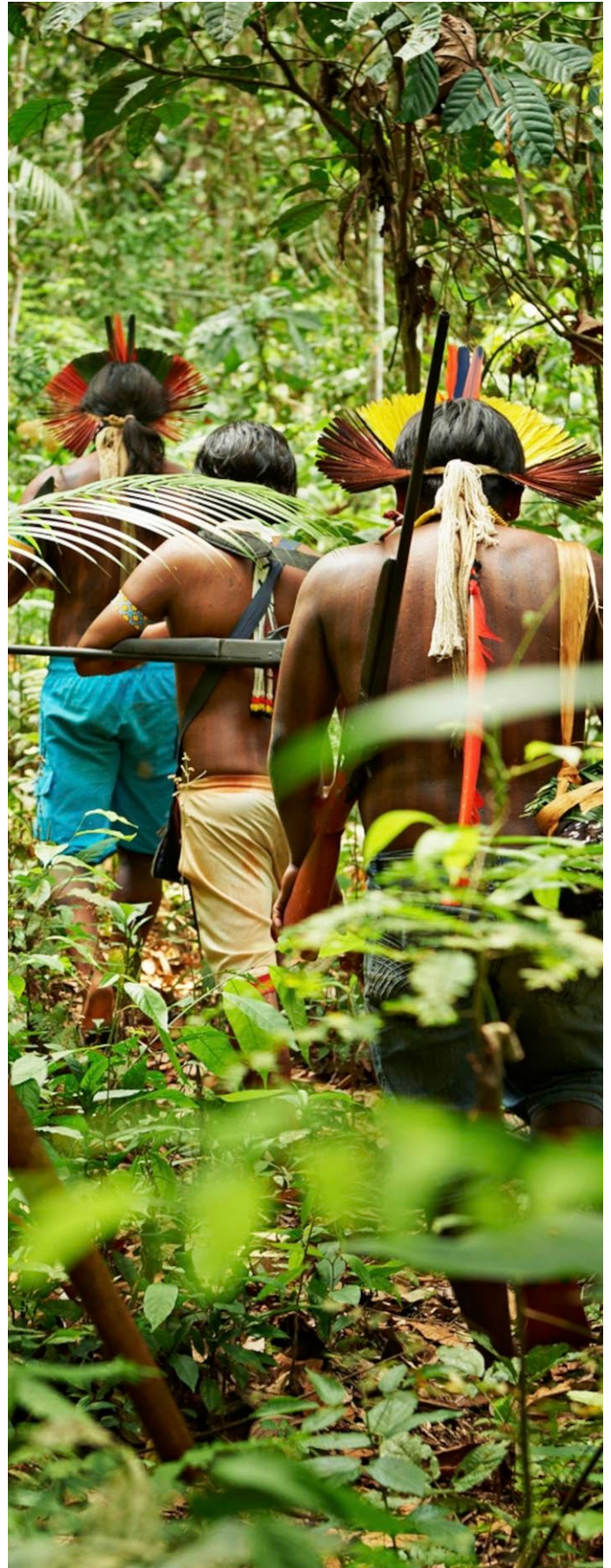
PURE PARK
HYBRID PARK-COMMUNITY
PURE COMMUNITY

The GC Community Protection Handbook works hand-in-hand with the Global Park Defense Handbook, expanding the range of tools available for park and wildlife protection in national parks and indigenous territories, whether land or marine.

Global Conservation has built a knowledge base from all of our GC projects and has evaluated the components of successes and challenges for our Community Protection. Building Trust, Respect and Dependability for local communities working in GC project areas is critical.

All Project Directors and Regional Directors of GC are now deeply involved in the deployment and assessment of how effective Community Protection is when paired with Global Park Defense.

By bringing stronger commitments from all government ministries, law enforcement, and private sector support for protecting endangered national parks, community protection quality and resources will also increase. This enables local communities to protect their own lands while getting Global Conservation support, well-deployed government matching funds, and longer-term sustainability.



**Flores, Petén
Guatemala**



Francisco “Paco” Asturias of Fundaeco is the director of Mirador National Park in Guatemala. (third from right) Asturias is our partner working to deploy Global Park Defense protection in Latin American parks.

These park rangers are fighting extraction industries inside the parks where they work. These activities are devastating and often organized by crime cartels including:

- FOREST BURNING & CLEARING
- ILLEGAL LOGGING
- ILLEGAL MINING
- WILDLIFE POACHING

By recruiting local citizens to be rangers and ecoguards, we are protecting parks while building community involvement.

With the protection of Global Park Defense and the support of local and indigenous communities, Global Conservation is saving endangered national parks around the world.

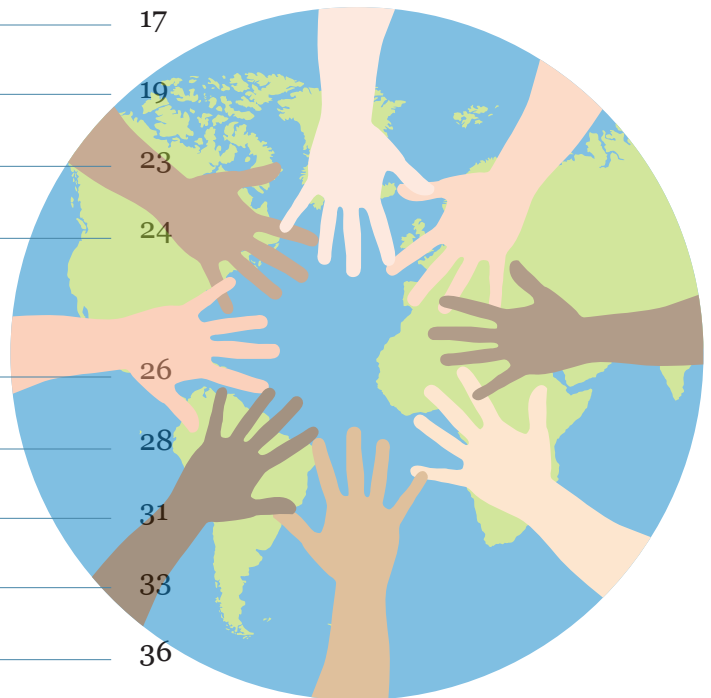
True community protection also requires the involvement and dedication of stakeholders, including government agencies, law enforcement and park authorities to lead these communities to brighter futures.



We aim to not only protect their ancestral lands, but to empower indigenous peoples around the world.

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Cover Photo: Global Conservation representatives and SERNANP park rangers are greeted by local residents in Sierra del Divisor National Park - Peru

INTRODUCTION

This handbook is Global Conservation's guide to Community Protection – how we can best work with local stakeholders to deploy Global Park Defense to protect national parks, indigenous territories, and marine protected areas in developing countries.

Local stakeholders can range from indigenous communities, 'campesinos', recent settlers, and immigrants to law enforcement officials in multiple sectors, including police, military, park rangers, marine wardens, and border security.

Working on our core principles of Dignity, Trust, and Equity, Global Conservation is deploying Global Park Defense for effective management and protection of ancestral community lands. Protection comes from Community Ecoguards, park rangers, and technicians, all working together with law enforcement to protect their natural ecosystems. We are bringing full transparency and consideration of the deep culture and ancestral knowledge of these communities to the process while supporting the communities' autonomy and self-determination.



Community Scouts build a new ranger station
Murchison Falls National Park - Uganda

OUR MISSION

To enable 'No Cut, No Kill' protection for endangered National Parks and World Heritage Sites through Global Park Defense

OUR VALUES

Global Conservation works to protect endangered national parks, indigenous territories, and marine protected areas in developing countries where we can support local people as the best stewards of their lands.

We work on the basis of three key values: Dignity, Trust, and Equity.

DIGNITY: Human dignity is inviolable. It must be respected and protected. The dignity of the human person is not only a fundamental right in itself, but it also constitutes the real basis of fundamental rights. The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights enshrined human dignity in its preamble: 'Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world.'

We promote the highest level of participation by the local community and encourage the formation of community-based organizations that empower local people to manage their own projects and lands adjacent to and within the endangered national parks where we work.

TRUST: We believe that reliability and long-term commitment are critical to build trust. By jointly planning and then delivering on our promises, Global Conservation is known as a trusted partner who sets the stage for long-term, productive relationships.

EQUITY: Equity is the quality of being fair and impartial. The term "equity" refers to fairness and justice and is distinguished from equality. Whereas equality means providing the same to all, equity means recognizing that we do not all start from the same place and must acknowledge and make adjustments to imbalances.



The Miloli'i Community are the caretakers of Hawaii's Last Fishing Village

HOW COMMUNITY PROTECTION HELPS US ACHIEVE OUR MISSION

Community Protection is built on the idea that socio-economic benefits and community engagement can alleviate poverty and improve human welfare while supporting conservation efforts and reducing threats to biodiversity. It brings together the people who actually live near or inside endangered national parks, indigenous territories, or marine protected areas, and involves them in the planning and decision-making from day one. Such indigenous and local communities are key players (and have power) in the decision-making and implementation of choices on the management of the ecosystems at issue, meaning that some kind of community authority exists and is capable of enforcing regulations.

Through honest conversations to discover the community's needs and values, as well as informing them about what benefits could come from conservation (like better living conditions or ecotourism), Global Conservation engages with all key stakeholders. By balancing the needs of the people with the needs of national parks, along with their forests, rivers, coastal waters, and wildlife, true community protection is possible.

Our relationships with local communities endure because they are built on a foundation of unqualified

respect, cooperation, and reciprocity. Every human community has different needs, and every species and location provide a different set of assets and challenges.

In order to protect endangered national parks, their gateways, and their buffer zones, we work closely with local communities and indigenous leaders, with respect to each location, to collaboratively plan for biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use. We believe that the knowledge and practices of indigenous and local communities are key to conservation. We also believe that traditional knowledge and western technology can work together to manage and protect ecosystems while strengthening communities.

Our investments transcend the boundaries of conservation and community development through programs that benefit rural communities, wildlife, and wildlands simultaneously. By balancing the traditional knowledge of local people with science and the latest advances in conservation technology, our work creates sustainable solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges. Our community-driven programs positively impact some of the planet's greatest biodiversity hotspots and last remaining wildlife strongholds.

COMMUNITY PROTECTION IN PRACTICE

Global Conservation acts as a catalyst to create community-based organizations in places where biodiversity is threatened. We bring positive vision and possible solutions to local residents, highlighting the uniqueness of their area's forests and wildlife, and then ask for their help to protect them. Local communities are able to utilize their generations-deep knowledge of the natural ecosystems where they grew up, which includes geography and unique or endemic wildlife, and combine that with cutting-edge resources and training to provide an extremely comprehensive protection strategy in addition to providing tourism opportunities.

In most places where we work, people have co-existed with wildlife for centuries, possibly millennia. In these regions, livelihoods are directly dependent on natural resources, but overexploitation in the last few decades has made people and wildlife more vulnerable, which now increases conflicts over already-depleted resources and drives illegal poaching of already-threatened wildlife species.

As human settlements continue to grow in rural areas, engaging local actors, including community elders, women, and youth, is absolutely necessary to help communities meet their social, economic, and conservation goals.

Engaging a wide demographic for each community also satisfies religious, identity, or cultural needs (e.g., honoring the memories of ancestors or the deities present in sacred sites, guarding burial sites, and protecting ritual and sacred places from external interference).

Global Conservation partners with local communities around endangered national parks to develop strategies for the sustainable use of arable land, forests, water sources, and pastures. This inclusive and participatory approach centers the perspectives of people who have always lived alongside wildlife, utilizing indigenous knowledge to simultaneously restore ecological integrity and drive local prosperity.

Many communities are turning to bushmeat hunting or illegal poaching to make a living, putting pressure on already dwindling wildlife populations. Our participatory conservation approach brings communities closer to long-term prosperity.

The objective of Community Protection is to actively involve and give agency to members of local communities in conservation efforts that may affect them and improve the lives of local people while conserving critical ecosystems through the creation of national parks or wildlife refuges.



COMMUNITY PROTECTION IN PRACTICE (continued)



Murchison Falls National Park Ecoguards - Uganda

For example, we hire people from local communities and indigenous tribes as Ecoguards, giving them dignified employment and elevating their community leadership role. The Global Park Defense program makes it possible for park managers, together with indigenous tribes, to protect their ancestral lands from colonizers and poachers.

Community Protection deploys game guards that provide the “boots on the ground” to deter, inhibit, or stop these illegal activities when they occur, and then alert the authorities to the presence of wildlife criminals in their areas. In the fisheries sector, removing illegal fishing nets from rivers in the north-east is important work carried out by community fish guards and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources inspectors. Similarly, natural resource monitors and community game guards (plus rhino rangers) in community forests and conservancies report any suspicious or illegal activities to the relevant authorities.

These efforts are known collectively as anti-poaching activities, whereby poaching (or logging, illegal fishing, etc.) activities are deterred, stopped, or reduced.

Law enforcement activities are linked to anti-poaching operations, as these cover every legal action from arrests to successful prosecutions. These activities are critically important to breaking up the criminal networks involved in illegal wildlife and timber trafficking.

Investigators search for links between poachers and traffickers, dealers, and others aiding and abetting these crimes. Successful prosecution requires close cooperation between investigators and prosecutors, while judges need to be aware of why this is an important issue in order to hand down appropriate sentences.

As Community Ecoguards, park rangers, and technicians all work together with law enforcement to protect their incredible biodiverse landscapes, a climate of trust and mutual support is developed. It's a win-win for conservation. To further our impact, we are sharing our goals and activities with communities in full transparency. At the same time, we defer to local communities on matters related to deep culture and ancestral knowledge while also supporting the communities' autonomy and self-determination as land managers.



Community Patrol Officer removing snare trap
Leuser Ecosystem - Indonesia

COMMUNITY PROTECTION IN PRACTICE (continued)

One of the key threats to conservation is wildlife crime, which includes all illegal harvesting and trading of animals and plants, and their parts. This illegal use can be at the subsistence level (e.g., hunting for food) or at the commercial level, whereby poachers, loggers, or fishers sell what they obtain. Commercial wildlife crime is of particular concern, as this illegal trade often escalates to organized crime levels and includes networks of criminals that are involved in other illegal activities, such as smuggling drugs, trafficking arms, and smuggling humans for slavery. Trafficking wildlife also directly leads to zoonotic pandemics and infection diseases.

Rhino horn, elephant ivory, pangolin scales and meat, and rosewood timber products all fetch extremely high prices in Eastern markets, although the people on the ground who poach or log illegally (thus taking the greatest risk) receive a tiny fraction of this value. Illegal fishing on a commercial level is usually done to supply African markets. From the perspective of Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), such illegal markets are effectively stealing high-value resources from communities, thus limiting current and future uses of the affected species and undermining community conservation efforts.

Community Protection envisions a level of co-management or joint management for a protected area. Co-management combines local people's traditional knowledge of the environment with modern scientific knowledge. This combined knowledge can lead to increased biodiversity and better management of the protected area. It's, therefore, crucial that we align with those who uphold the belief that maintaining the best health of our planet's ecosystems, rich in biodiversity, is essential to the security of global food production, fresh water, and ultimately, the Earth's climate.

The vast majority of the world's biological diversity exists in developing nations. In these regions, rural communities live alongside endangered species, holding the power to save these fragile plant and animal populations. We support local communities with resources and expertise to take meaningful action together as one effective entity.

The direct involvement of local communities in conservation programs is an approach that works. Communities must have a reason – often an economic one – to protect their wildlife. The key to success is creating sustainable employment opportunities, focusing on education, building capacity, and improving the quality of life for community members in ways that protect biodiversity.

Global Conservation catalyzes, facilitates, and empowers local people to manage and conserve natural resources within the social, cultural, and economic context of their communities. We share our model, Global Park Defense, openly, with the goal of global adoption of community-based park and wildlife protection.

Wildlife maintain all natural ecosystems on

Earth, and without them, major climate catastrophes are rapidly introduced relative to the affected area, thereby creating unsustainable and often life-threatening living conditions. So, by protecting wildlife, we are able to harmonize and create thriving human and wildlife communities.

When nature benefits, people prosper. We work with communities to identify win-win scenarios that benefit wildlife and people simultaneously. Identifying solutions that can make a real difference requires time, patience, and trust.



Above: A highly-endangered pangolin in Mana Pools National Park, Zimbabwe is the world's most trafficked animal.

GOALS IN COMMUNITY PROTECTION

Park & Wildlife Protection

SUSTAINABILITY

The ultimate goal of all our community protection programs is to achieve social, economic, and ecological resilience and self-sufficiency, so the initiatives can function independently without reliance on external finances or expertise.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

Through our work, we seek to ensure equity in the sharing of costs, benefits, responsibilities, recognition, and decision-making. Our community-based conservation efforts aim to protect the vulnerable and ensure no one is excluded from conservation-derived opportunities. Therefore, we take a socially inclusive, gender-responsive approach to foster cultural diversity and inclusivity for all groups.

PARTNERSHIPS

We build long-term relationships with local and international stakeholders, working collaboratively to share knowledge, methods, and tools.

EVIDENCE-BASED RESULTS

We engage in long-term monitoring and adaptive management with measurable outcomes that can be carefully evaluated.



Monitoring with the Crocodile Research Coalition
Turneffe Atoll - Belize

We support extensive baseline population studies of jaguars in Latin American parks



Jaguar in Calakmul
Biosphere Reserve - Mexico
Photo: Dr. Gerardo Ceballos

GOALS IN COMMUNITY PROTECTION (continued)

Community Conservation Initiatives

We aim for improvements in five areas.

BIOLOGICAL BENEFITS

Direct improvements for the species or habitat targeted for protection or for nature.

BIOLOGICAL RESILIENCE

Capacity to perpetuate biological benefits in the long term.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Tangible and intangible improvements to the local quality of life for people.

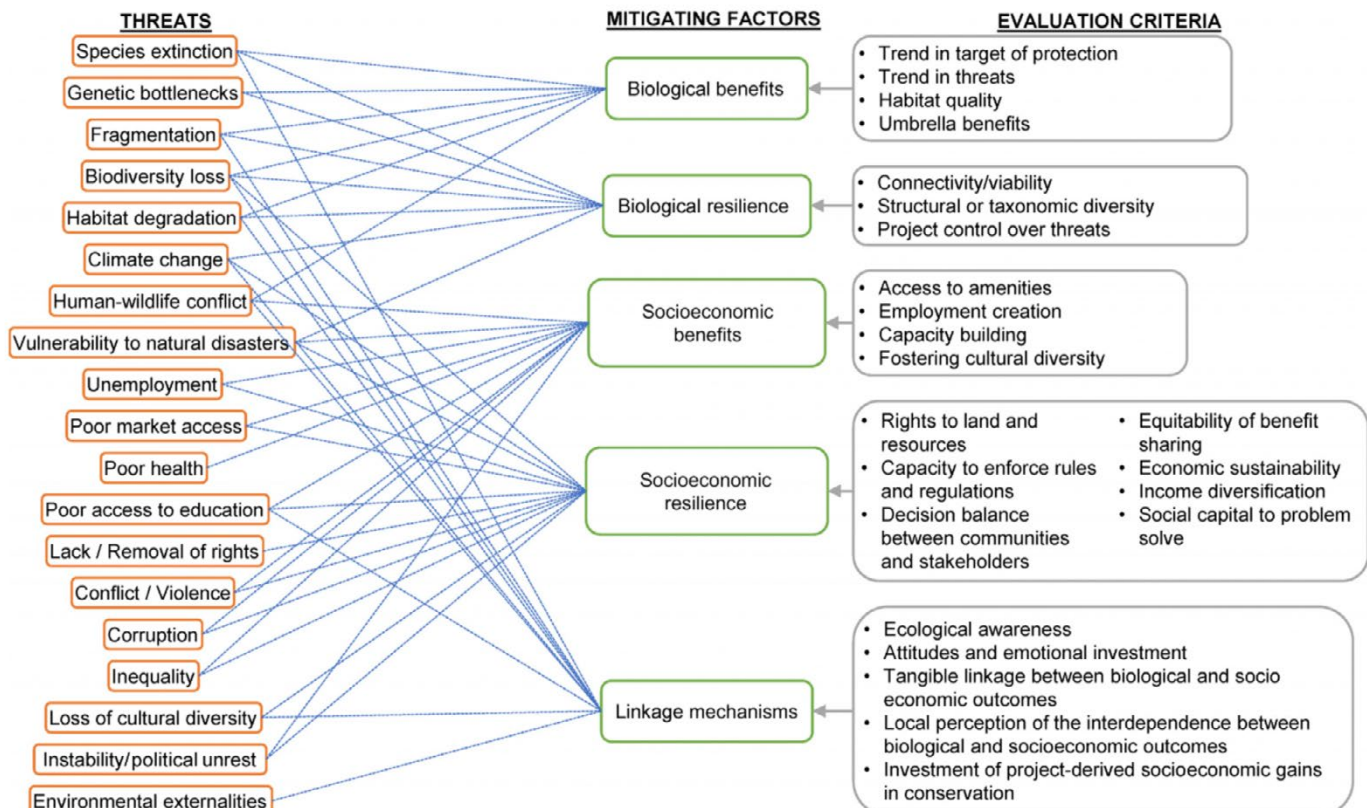
SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

Ability of these benefits to persist and continue yielding benefits over the long term.

LINKAGE MECHANISMS

Continued integration of development and conservation in each community.

SPECCS Framework for Community Protection



GOALS IN COMMUNITY PROTECTION (continued)

PRINCIPLES IN OUR WORK

- All cultures have nature stewardship traditions; we need to build on them.
- Nature and culture are interconnected, as are biodiversity and cultural diversity.
- Balancing conservation and the use of natural resources is possible and desirable.
- Indigenous peoples have a special role in conservation.
- The use of indigenous and local knowledge is essential.
- Rights and incentives are key drivers for conservation.
- Institutions and governance in conservation need to be multi-level and participatory.
- Diverse, flexible, and pluralistic conservation governance regimes help build resilience.



PROTECTION AND LIVLIHOODS

- Tourism Opportunities
- Small Business Development
- Jobs and Employment
- Food Security

TYPES OF COMMUNITY PROTECTION

- Community Conservancies
- Community Forests
- Community Fisheries
- State Protected Areas
- Tourism Concessions





African Bush Elephant with Calf
Mana Pools National Park - Zimbabwe
Photo: Ondrej Prosicky

DIAGNOSTIC QUESTIONS

When setting up Community Protection within the Global Park Defense framework, we ask a number of questions:

- **Is the exclusion, or the control of access, of potential users difficult in the project area?**
- **Are there clear boundaries that define the resource to eliminate open-access conditions?**
- **Are there clear context-appropriate rules and a recognition that no one set of rules will be suitable for all areas?**
- **Are there collective-choice arrangements through which participants gain a stake in and participate in the creation of the rules and governance structures?**
- **Is there monitoring of resource use by appropriators to address issues of subtractability and the status of resources?**
- **Are there graduated sanctions for appropriators who violate agreed-upon rules?**
- **Are there platforms for low-cost, effective conflict-resolution mechanisms to address conflicts among appropriators or between users and officials?**
- **Is there political space for appropriators to devise their own institutions?**
- **Are there nested institutions to provide a hierarchy of governance structures?**
- **What horizontal linkages (across the same level of organization) and vertical linkages (across levels of organization) exist in the study area?**



Akashinga Rangers
Murchison Falls National Park - Uganda

The
Guardian

DIAGNOSTIC QUESTIONS (continued)

- Are there boundary organizations involved in the project that can play bridging roles across levels of organization?
 - Does the project allow for pluralism by recognizing a diversity of perspectives?
 - Does the project foster the building of mutual trust among the parties?
 - Does the project accommodate local, traditional, or indigenous knowledge?
 - Does the project recognize a mix of methodological approaches and tools that allow for broad stakeholder participation and deliberation?
 - Are there platforms for deliberation?
 - Does the project use a diversity of modes of communication for deliberation?
 - Does the project foster the development of different skills among stakeholders, particularly for those who have usually been excluded or marginalized?
 - Does the project undertake capacity building and development of skills for strengthening horizontal and vertical linkages?
 - Does the project report back to the community and other parties on its findings?
 - Has the project invested enough time and resources in capacity building, trust building, and mutual learning?
-



Conservation goals must be aligned with indigenous people - Baan Klang, Thailand Photo: Deepunu DeporBand

RECURRING CHALLENGES



INAPPROPRIATE LAND USE

A lack of coordinated land-use planning and unsustainable land-use practices reduce income options and threaten ecosystem health.

CONSERVANCY MANAGEMENT

Conservancy structures and management processes should continue to be improved to optimize efficiency and maximize community benefits.

SUPPORT NETWORK

New approaches to conservancy support are needed, as the success of the conservancy movement is driving growth that is overstressing the ability of NGOs and governments to provide sufficient support.

RECOGNITION OF THE VALUE OF WILDLIFE

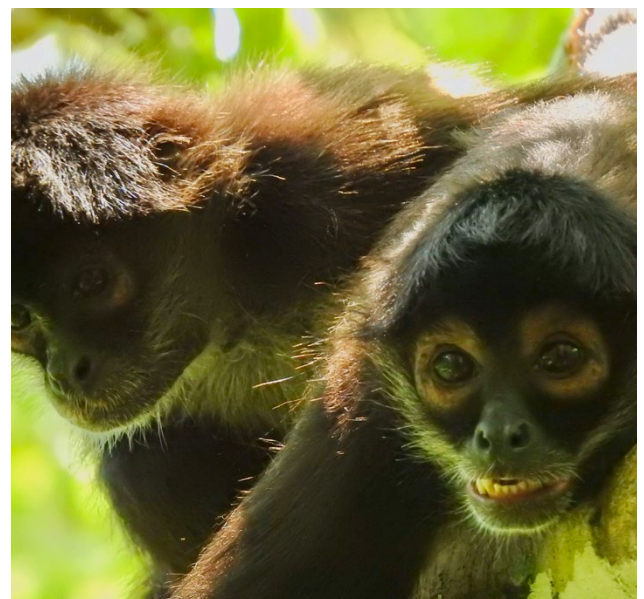
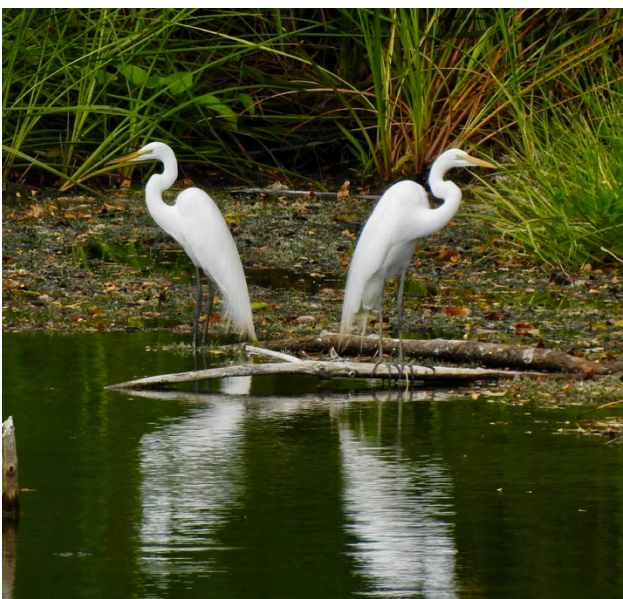
Increased understanding of the true value of wildlife and the benefits of CBNRM amongst all stakeholders can greatly enhance development.

COMMERCIAL POACHING

The possibility of organized poaching of high-value species such as black rhinos and elephants poses a direct threat to conservancies.

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

The conflicts caused by elephants and apex predators need to be mitigated more effectively.



COMMUNITY ECOGUARDS

Training Community Ecoguards to Leverage Local Knowledge for Conservation

Communities have a unique, comprehensive knowledge of their own landscapes and wildlife. That is why Global Conservation believes in working to support the people who already live in key landscapes to protect their own resources.

As in many other communal conservation areas across the continent, GC equips the Community Ecoguards that work with park authorities and law enforcement with advanced anti-poaching tools, ecological monitoring technology, and satellite communications. This allows them to deploy enforcement and wildlife conflict mitigation strategies. Global Conservation combines valuable knowledge of their homeland with conservation technologies to boost their careers and safeguard biodiversity.

In Kidepo, GC-funded Community Ecoguards are monitoring carnivore populations to prevent human-wildlife conflicts and they're also protecting wildlife, like elephants and rhinos, from poachers.

Local communities play a vital role in the fight against wildlife crime. However, engaging communities to support wildlife conservation activities is often challenging and, in most cases, takes a long time. With GC's help, it will be possible for communities to take charge of project activities by assisting in the development of strong community institutions at project locations that represent community voices, adhere to democratic procedures, and encourage the acquisition of project management skills.

The community comes together at Mana Pools National Park in Zimbabwe as members of the Bushlife organization and Community Ecoguards tranquilize a lion for relocation



Five Ways Governments and Conservation Partners Can Support Community-Centered Conservation

1. BUILD TRUST-BASED NETWORKS OF PEOPLE TO COLLABORATE FOR CONSERVATION

When governments, communities, environmental NGOs, or other partners work together, they have a positive influence on conservation outcomes because levels of trust increase. For example, increased social engagement and the sharing of different types and sources of knowledge has been shown to strengthen relationships and networks of collaboration.

More participation by community members, their representation in decision processes, greater compliance, and strong local leadership are all linked to better ecological and biodiversity outcomes. But networks that are based on trust need support from external partners and should reflect community-level priorities..

2. PROMOTE EQUITY AND GENDER EQUALITY

Various international human rights agreements protect equity and promote equality for different groups, such as women or vulnerable communities (in terms of access to natural resources). However, structural barriers, including a lack of access to markets or cultural stigma, remain in place and undermine the efforts of community members — particularly women — to protect the biodiversity they depend upon.

Women must be ensured opportunities (and be fully supported) to develop and apply their own solutions to the conservation dilemmas they face. This requires a greater understanding of the conservation concerns of women and recognition of the value they add to conservation decision making.

Members of the famed Akashinga Rangers, an all-woman team of some of the best park protectors in Zimbabwe





Past injustices must be addressed in modern policies to avoid internal conflict and support conservation

3. SUPPORT RECONCILIATION AND REDRESS

Past social injustice in conservation, such as land grabs and strict conservation enclosures, is characterized by forced displacement and exclusion. These experiences have exacerbated conflicts within and among local communities, and negatively influenced support for conservation initiatives.

4. ADOPT A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

Social justice is crucial to the success of conservation efforts in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and is not getting the attention it deserves.

Rights-based approaches in conservation, like the right to information or the right to security and freedom from discrimination, are becoming more widely promoted as a way forward for equity and reconciliation in conservation initiatives. A rights-based approach means much greater transparency about who gets access to critical

Strategies to promote reconciliation and redress for past injustices must be placed firmly on the conservation agenda across all levels — international, regional, and local. This means recognition of local and indigenous land and resource rights must be prioritized.

resources and habitats, and who has the ability to participate meaningfully in decision-making.

Transitioning to rights-based approaches is particularly important for local and indigenous communities because it enables local stewardship and improves conservation outcomes. There are examples of progress, but this transition requires a commitment to power sharing and increased collaboration from government and private actors, which is still rare.

COMMUNITY ECOGUARDS (continued)

5. RESPECT AND REVITALIZE LOCAL RULES FOR DECISION MAKING

The importance of long-standing local rules that determine when, where, and how much of a natural resource is used is now widely acknowledged.

In practice however, greater respect for local rules or customary systems of resource use is still needed. Many of these long-standing rules also require revitalization and support from partners.

Efforts to revitalize indigenous languages are one way forward. So are initiatives to rebuild local rule-making systems, like the practice of sasi laut, a form of community-based coastal resource management in parts of Indonesia. This focus on customary rules also means that alignment with rights-based conservation approaches are crucial, along with a focus on reconciliation as a pathway to conservation in the post-2020 framework.



Almina Kacili - Indonesia
Photo: Garry Lotulung

A practitioner of the ancient Sasi Laut, a tradition for community marine protection

CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1.** As a Park Authority and Park Ranger, I will faithfully abide by all laws, rules, regulations, and policies governing the performance of my duties, and I will commit no act that violates these laws or regulations or the spirit or intent of such laws and regulations while on or off duty.
- 2.** In my personal and official activities, I will never knowingly violate any local, state, or federal law or regulation, recognizing that I hold a unique position of public trust that carries an inherent personal commitment to uphold laws and the integrity of my profession. For these reasons, I understand that this code places special demands on me to preserve the confidence of the public, my peers, my supervisors, and society in general.
- 3.** I will not knowingly commit any act in the conduct of official business or in my personal life, which subjects the Park Authority to public censure or adverse criticism.
- 4.** While a park protection officer, I will not accept outside employment that will in any way conflict with law enforcement interests, jeopardize the activities or mission of the park, or that gives the appearance of conflict.
- 5.** As a law enforcement officer, I will conduct all investigations and law enforcement functions assigned to me impartially and thoroughly, and report the results thereof fully, objectively, and with accuracy.



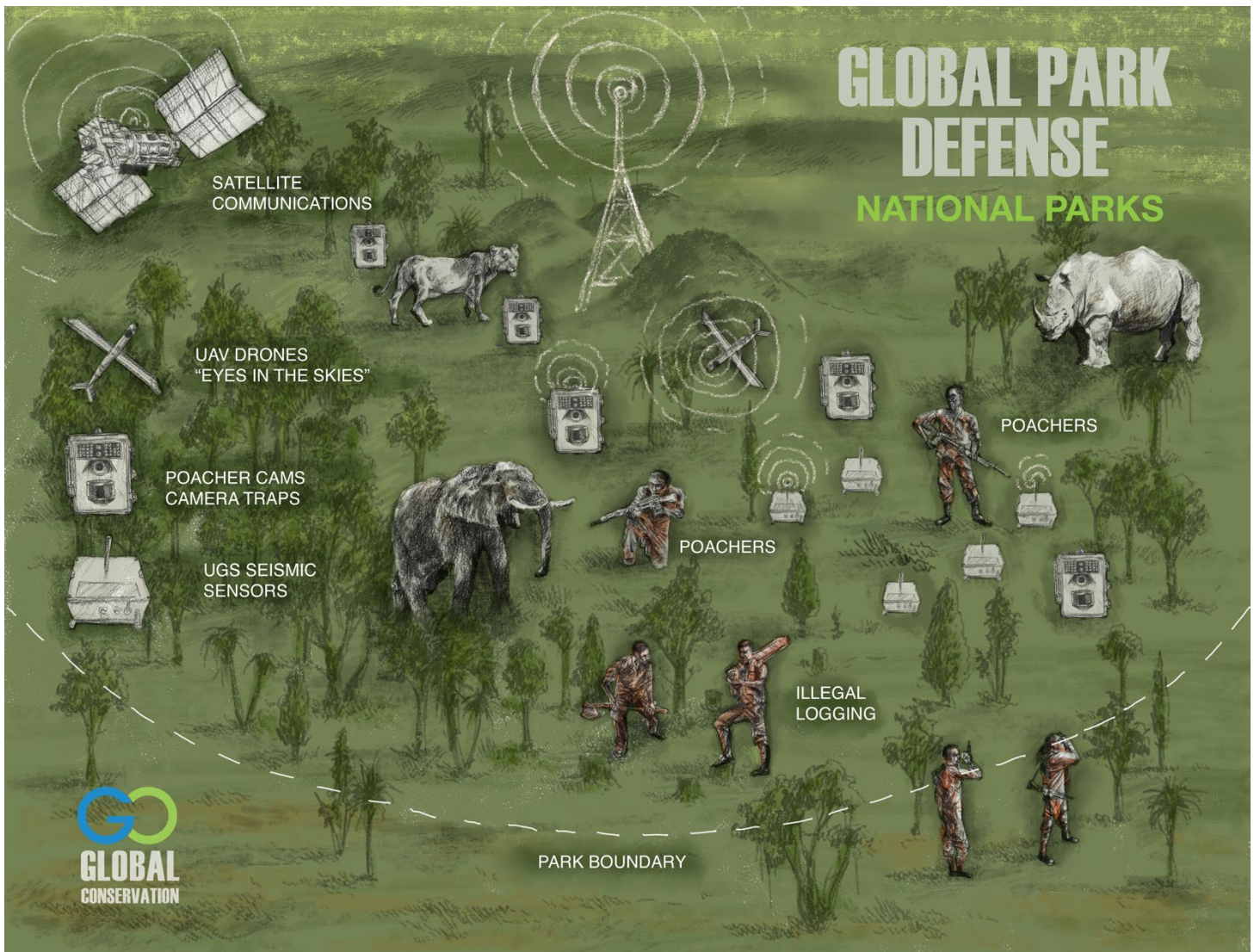
Ngarchelong Marine Wardens - Palau Northern Reefs, Micronesia

CODE OF CONDUCT (continued)

- 6.** In the investigative process, I will be judicious at all times, and I will release information pertaining to my official duties, orally or in writing, only in accordance with the law and established policy.
- 7.** I will accept nothing, even of the slightest value, including favored treatment of any kind, from anyone on my own behalf or behalf of another person, recognizing that acceptance may result in a conflict, or give the appearance of a conflict, with my official duties or with in my effectiveness as a law enforcement officer.
- 8.** I will abide by all rules, regulations, and policies of the Park, including those relating to health, safety, and technical expertise requirements of my position.
- 9.** I will use only the amount of force that is objectively reasonable to accomplish the mission of the Park and Park Authority.
- 10.** Supervisors will not give, and law enforcement personnel will not comply with, orders they know to be in violation of criminal laws. Where question or dispute exists over such an order, both the supervisor and subordinate will direct the matter to the next level of supervision for resolution.
- 11.** I understand this Code of Conduct is in addition to requirements imposed on me and applicable to all employees as cited in the regulations governing responsibilities and conduct of employees.



GLOBAL PARK DEFENSE METHODOLOGY



Our program, called Global Park Defense (GPD), is a multi-year method to achieve “No Cut, No Kill” protection and financial sustainability for continued preservation.

Global Park Defense increases ranger patrol and park protection effectiveness in critical ecosystems. GPD is a scalable system with technology and training tailored to each park, dramatically increasing the effectiveness of rangers and park authorities to protect their world heritage.

There are four stages of Global Park Defense:

- PLANNING
- PARTNERSHIPS
- PROTECTION
- SUSTAINABILITY



A group of approximately 20 people, mostly men, are gathered on a grassy riverbank. Many of them are wearing bright orange safety vests and helmets, suggesting they are part of a rescue or conservation team. They are standing in a loose circle, looking towards the center. The river is wide and has a muddy, brownish-green color. The background is filled with dense green tropical forest. In the foreground, there are large, vibrant green plants, including banana leaves and other tropical foliage, which partially obscure the view of the group and the river. The overall scene is set in a natural, forested environment.

CASE STUDIES

Lobo Community at Rio Blanco
Sierra del Divisor National Park - Peru
Photo: Hilton Nascimento



A Peruvian coca farmer inspects his crop. Crime inside park boundaries can be reported by Community Ecoguards.

SIERRA DEL DIVISOR NATIONAL PARK - PERU

CASE STUDY

Joint Patrols by Communities, Marine and Police:

Global Conservation is funding the deployment of Global Park Defense in Sierra del Divisor National Park, a newly established 3.3 million-acre national park that protects an immense expanse of Peruvian Amazon rainforest from illegal logging, coca plantations, mining, and wildlife poaching.



As illegal logging roads in Peru reach towards Brazil, indigenous people are threatened. Photo: Mongabay

CASE STUDY (continued)

In a historic first, we recently secured approvals and began the first joint patrol operations in Peru between the national park, marines, communities, and the police against illegal coca plantations and illegal logging using UAV drones, satellite communications, and SMART patrols.

Sierra del Divisor National Park is one of the greatest refuges for biodiversity on Earth, with thousands of species of fauna and flora, storing more than 500 million tons of carbon dioxide. This is equivalent to over half the annual 1 billion tons of CO₂ emissions from cars in the USA. The region comprising Sierra del Divisor is home to around 20 indigenous communities and provides food and water for more than 230,000 people. Sierra del Divisor National Park is also a great asset for Peruvian development and will be a major contributor towards Peru's efforts to reduce carbon.

Given its vast territory, equivalent to 1.5 times the size of Yellowstone, protecting Sierra del Divisor from rapid deforestation is difficult. Consequently, Global Conservation is supporting community-based patrolling to enable surrounding villages to protect their own lands and the park from illegal logging and land clearing by coca producers.

The Global Park Defense program is focused on the Southern Gateways to the national park, including ranger training, surveillance cameras on rivers and trails in the park, SMART Ranger Patrols, aerial and UAV drone surveillance, and targeting patrols based on satellite and aerial monitoring to increase the effectiveness of forest and wildlife protection.

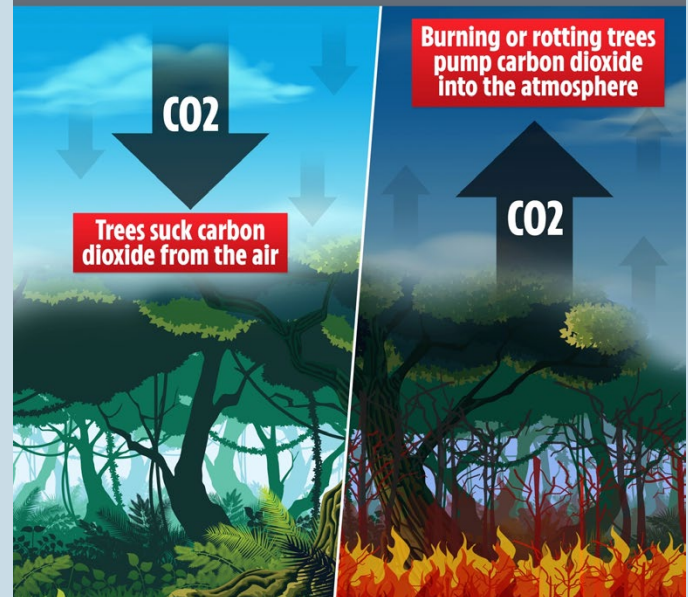
Marine-supported high-speed river patrols make rapid deployment possible, reducing length of typical patrol from 6-8 hours into the park down to 2 hours. UAV Drones are used by the Marines and Communities to assist patrol security and surveillance, and for mapping illegal land clearing.

Global Conservation is focused on five areas in deploying the Global Park Defense program to protect the forests and wildlife of Sierra del Divisor National Park:

1. Systems and Equipment
2. Surveillance and Monitoring
3. Training and Capacity Building
4. Community Ecoguards
5. Carbon for Forests & Sustainable Financing

AMAZON TO BECOME SOURCE OF CO₂

The Amazon rainforest helps absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. By 2035, deforestation and wildfires could mean the region tips from absorbing carbon to becoming a source of emissions.



Protecting this park requires constant river patrols



A NASO girl on her ancestral land in the park. The 2021 indigenous land rights victory makes her future brighter.

LA AMISTAD INTERNATIONAL PARK - PANAMA

CASE STUDY

The NASO People of Panama:

Global Conservation kicked off a new project with the Naso People to protect La Amistad International Park. Working with the Amazon Conservation Team, government park authorities, and a 60 person Indigenous Protection Force, Global Conservation will deploy Global Park Defense to protect over 400,000 acres of intact, pristine, highly biodiverse forests and wildlife habitats.



CASE STUDY (continued)

Covering nearly 800,000 acres of the Talamanca Mountain range, PILA is the largest and most remote nature reserve in Central America. It is an incredible biodiversity resource for both the region and the world, harboring about 20% of Central America's species diversity.

This amazing landscape is threatened by hunting, illegal extraction of resources, forest fires, land tenure issues, and the propagation and trafficking of illicit drugs.

All of these contribute to loss of habitat, resulting in escalating conflicts between jaguars and livestock and between peccaries and farmers. Weak cell and internet service interfere with the ability to respond efficiently to illegal activity.

Global Conservation's collaboration with the Naso People is core to our work in park and wildlife protection. This Global Park Defense program provides funding, equipment, and training for Naso Protection Teams working closely with the National Park Authority, Border Police, Department of Justice, and Environmental Police to stop illegal land invasion, land clearing, illegal logging, and wildlife poaching in the Naso Kingdom.

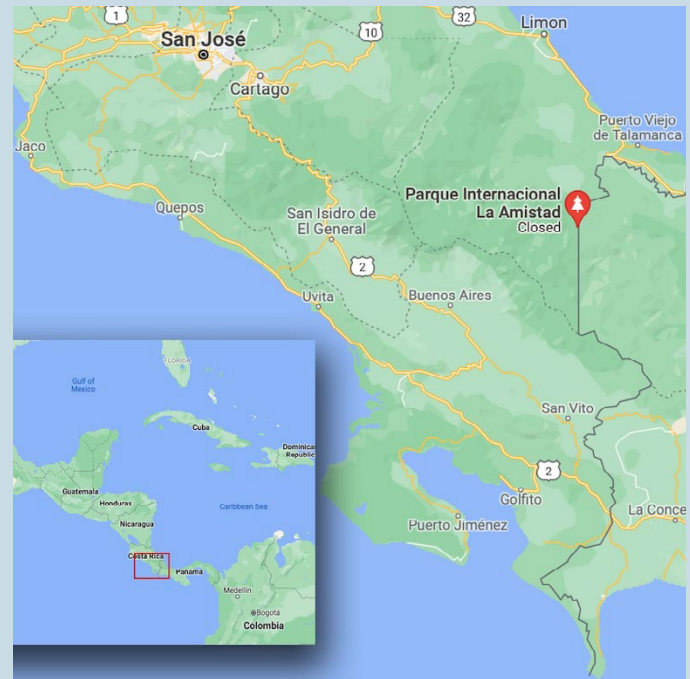
Currently, Global Conservation is providing Global Park Defense training for the national park to improve the capacity of La Amistad rangers to organize patrols using SMART systems, and to strengthen the community ranger program with the Naso People.

We are working with the King of the Naso, Reynaldo Santana, and Council of Seven Communities of the Naso Kingdom to solidify areas of cooperation for protecting the forest and wildlife of the Naso Kingdom and PILA.

Our support will include:

1. Communications
2. Surveillance
3. SMART Patrolling
4. Community Teams
5. Ranger Stations
6. Uniforms, Boots and Equipment
7. Training

The Amazon Conservation Team is a key partner on this project.



King Reynaldo Santana of the NASO People



Global Conservation's first mission to PILA in 2021

CASE STUDY (continued)

Priorities for deploying Global Park Defense this year in PILA include:

Expanding the number of Community Rangers and enabling the 60-strong Naso Protection Force with equipment, systems, and training

Design a camera trap network based on coverage and accessibility

Provide firearms training for park rangers covering safety, maintenance, and shooting

Procure equipment for extended patrols, including hammocks, packs, and flashlights

Establish joint patrols between Costa Rica and Panama

Provide satellite internet for remote bases and an internet booster for the main office command center

Analyze flyover and satellite imagery to identify trails, deforestation, or possible hunting camps

Implementing Global Park Defense in La Amistad is critical for protecting Central America's last intact primary forests and declining populations of jaguars and endangered white-lipped peccaries, as well as conserving some of the most unique habitats in Central America.

About the NASO People and their Indigenous Land Rights

In 2021, the Naso people of Panama won the rights to ancestral territory in a landmark court ruling. Under this ruling, the tribe will now help manage two national reserves, including PILA. Evidence has shown that indigenous people are often the best stewards of their land. In fact, deforestation rates in Naso are only a fraction of those in areas protected by the Panamanian government.

Panama's Supreme Court ruling upholds the claim of the Naso people to create a semi-autonomous territory covering 400,000 acres of ancestral land. The indigenous Naso, who number about 3,500, live in villages, grow subsistence crops, maintain their own forests and native language, and elect their own monarch.

While PILA will continue to exist, it will now be managed jointly by the Naso and the Panamanian government. "This is an act of justice that will restore tranquility to the Naso by securing our land," says the King of the Naso, Reynaldo Santana. "We will be able to continue what we know best and what our culture and way of life represents: taking care of our mother Earth, conserving a majestic forest, and protecting the country and the planet from the effects of climate change."

The Naso people say conservationists should be applauding the decision, as they are best positioned to exclude land invaders and stop the advance of cattle ranching.

Community Protection, at its core, is an integrated program combining the strengths of local communities with a proven Global Park Defense methodology, technologies, systems, and biodiversity science.





Ashaninka children need our help to protect their ancestral homelands in the Peruvian rainforest

OTISHI NATIONAL PARK - PERU

CASE STUDY

Indigenous Community Protection:

At the invitation of the government of Peru and two local indigenous communities, we have begun deployment of Global Park Defense for Otishi National Park in the province of Manu, in Madre de Dios, along with two adjacent indigenous communal reserves.



CASE STUDY (continued)



In 2002, following 18 years of constant struggle, part of their ancestral territory was recognized as a natural protected area, called the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve. Global Conservation will work with both the Otishi National Park authorities and the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve to improve forest and wildlife protection, while enabling indigenous land use and game harvesting.

Their territory is the basis of their existence, as it is the space for their “Vida plena” (full life), which includes all areas where they hunt, fish, cultivate and gather, and where they develop the social and spiritual aspects of their lives. Their ancestral lands host some archaeological remains which illustrate the deep, millennium-long relationship that these peoples have with the Madre de Dios region.

In response to continual invasions from coca plantations, mining, illegal logging, and land clearing in the 1980s, the indigenous communities created a multi-ethnic alliance called *Federación Nativa del Río Madre de Dios y Afluentes* (or FENAMAD for short) to protect and preserve the ancestral territories of the Harakbut domain.

Our common objective is the conservation of the biological diversity and ecosystems of the Cordillera Vilcabamba in order to preserve the stability and integrity of the soils and the water of the Ene, Tambo, Apurimac, and Urubamba rivers, and for the direct benefit of the indigenous communities adjoining these sacred rivers.





Members of the Ik Tribe gather in Kidepo Valley National Park - Uganda

KIDEPO VALLEY NATIONAL PARK - UGANDA

CASE STUDY

Community Conservancies:

A community conservancy is a community-based organization created to support the management of community-owned land for the benefit of livelihoods. They are legally registered entities, governed by a representative Board of Directors and run by a locally staffed management team.



CASE STUDY (continued)

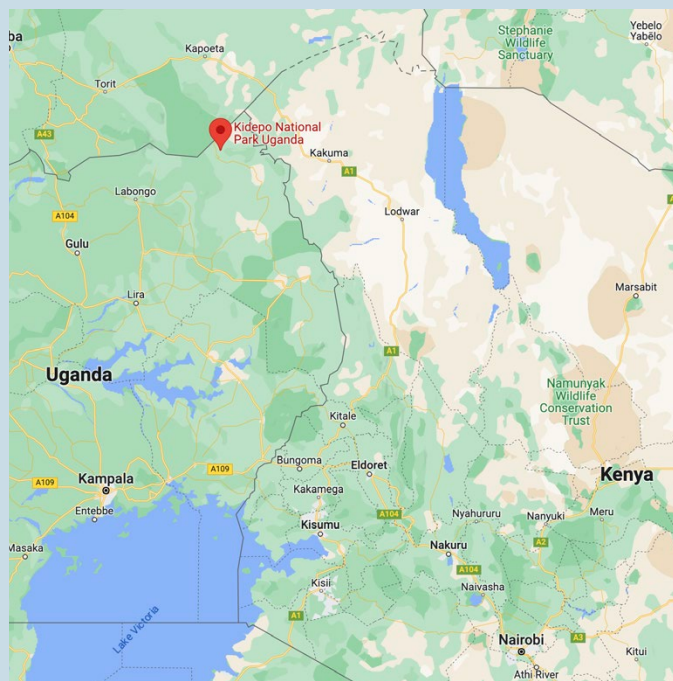
Working with Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) to integrate Community Conservancies into National Park Protection

NRT is a leading NGO in Africa working to establish community conservancies in Uganda for the first time. NRT works to improve governance and representation for their members by building on traditional, indigenous cultural structures and empowering women and youth in particular to become agents of change.

Good governance enables livelihoods and development projects to be owned, driven, and maintained by indigenous people, as well as providing a solid point of contact for donors or investors.

By having conservancies provide a specialized framework and the right incentives, indigenous groups can better manage rangelands and fisheries, safeguard the unique fauna with which they coexist on the landscape, and enhance regional peace and security. Additionally, conservancies provide means for business development, assisting in economic diversification and growth.

Conservancies are investing in community policing to complement government agencies in order to ensure a human-centered approach to improving wildlife protection and safety.



NRT is empowering indigenous women to become agents of change. Photo: Annie Spratt

CASE STUDY (continued)

To provide a community-led approach to conflict resolution and wildlife conservation, all NRT member community conservancies collaborate closely with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), the National Police Service, local government officials, and NRT itself.

Each member conservancy employs a team of scouts from local communities who are then trained to play a vital role in monitoring endangered wildlife species by conducting anti-poaching patrols, raising conservation awareness in their local communities, and acting as community wildlife ambassadors.

Many conservancies are home to multiple ethnic groups, and all have equal representation in the scouts' teams. In Kenya, there are 1,033 conservancy scouts across the NRT member conservancies. In Kidepo, we are building the community conservancies around the 14 tribes living in and around Kidepo Valley National Park, Uganda. We expect to have over 400 scouts trained by 2024.

NRT runs Wildlife Response Units (WRUs), which are subservient to its member conservancies, the Kenyan government, and law enforcement. NRT employs seven wildlife response units, which operate on a regional level under the leadership of the National Police Service and KWS, focusing primarily on wildlife protection when called upon by the Government.

The units represent the ethnic diversity of the communities they serve, which exhibits one of their greatest strengths. Working under the ethos of a community policing model, they collaborate closely with the authorities. Together, the wildlife response units and conservancy scouts are supporting an unprecedented, landscape-level community policing initiative, which is improving security for both wildlife and people.

Kidepo has a history marred with ethnic conflict and insecurity, which have hindered development, perpetuated

poverty, and disrupted lives for years. Now, the stakes are higher with the growing competition for dwindling natural resources, the ready availability of illegal weapons, and an unsteady political climate. There has never been a more critical time to support communities in the north of Uganda to build peace.

To effectively build peace between ethnic communities, it requires both reactive and proactive approaches to conflict.

That is why NRT's peace program focuses on an indigenous-led approach that facilitates the engagement of conservancy managers, local elders, interfaith religious leaders, youth, and women with county and national governments to facilitate peace meetings, empower peace champions, and promote nonviolent conflict resolution.

Effective and strategic community peacebuilding is built on a foundation of inclusive consultation throughout the process. At each phase, priority is given to listening to the community and intentionally seeking out different voices. Community perspectives and priorities set the agenda for each subsequent meeting and activity.

The relationship conservancies have with the NRT creates a neutral platform to bring people together for dialogue, offering an alternative dispute resolution option to violence.

Community members are engaged in different peace-building activities, and peace ambassadors are recruited and trained to help prevent conflict among their peers. Most are from conflict hotspot areas and have been instrumental in addressing intertribal conflicts, thereby averting livestock raids through early warning systems, gathering information, intercepting retaliatory attacks, supporting and leading negotiations, and leading reconciliations in the community.



Northern Rangeland Trust Wildlife Response Unit



Masai Warriors in traditional dress at the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater

NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA - TANZANIA

CASE STUDY

Warriors for Wildlife:

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area (8,292 km²) in northern Tanzania represents one of the world's greatest and most important reservoirs of large mammal biodiversity, including a significant number of wild species targeted by the illegal wildlife trade.



CASE STUDY (continued)

Part of the world famous Ngorongoro-Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site where human communities reside alongside magnificent wildlife populations. With large tracts of wildlife habitat and corridors also supporting communal land use, the landscape is porous and remains a particularly critical area for collaboration between protected areas and village authorities that seeks to mitigate the risks and negative impacts associated with the illegal wildlife trade.

Poverty and livelihood factors are important issues when it comes to poaching, illegal wildlife trade, and human retaliation against wildlife. Poverty levels in rural areas of Tanzania are estimated at 33%.

With support from Global Conservation, African People & Wildlife (APW) and partners, including the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) and local communities, will foster communication and collaboration between trained, rapid response anti-poaching teams managed by the protected area and a specialized network of community Warriors for Wildlife, creating an enabling bridge between local pastoralists and wildlife authorities.

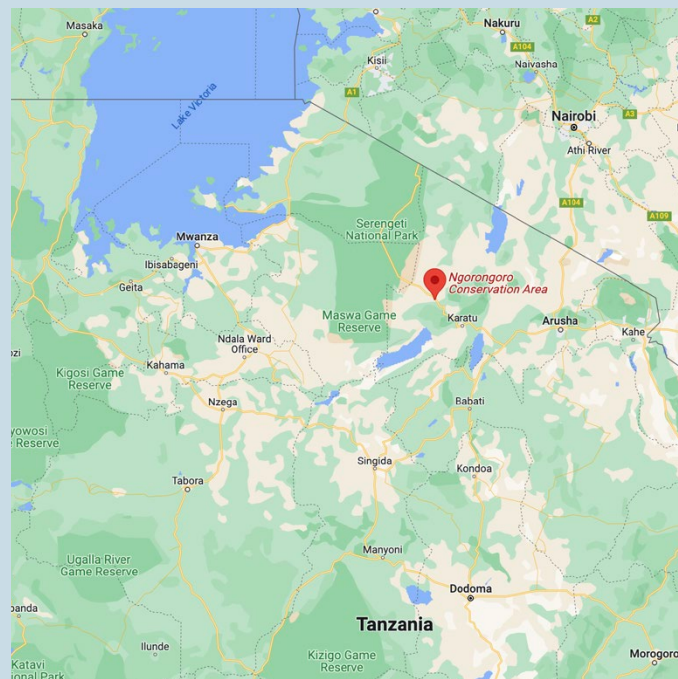
Global Conservation's support of this important project is an investment in one of our world's most diverse and ecologically important places, ensuring the continued development and methods of the best conservation practices that marry strong community engagement and wildlife protection with technology-based solutions.



African People & Wildlife

An Investment with Impact— Project in Brief

The Warriors for Wildlife project works with the NCAA to train and support up to 12 zonal, rapid response anti-poaching teams, who will also specialize in APW's unique community engagement approach. Enhanced community involvement and outreach facilitate improvements in human-wildlife conflict mitigation, sustainable natural resource management, and critical species monitoring and protection — in this case, with an emphasis on big cats, elephants, and rhinoceroses.



CASE STUDY (continued)

Strengthened, proactive, and protected area patrol teams — equipped with state-of-the-art technology informed by the Global Park Defense model — who engage productively with local community members are more effective at reducing illegal activities while mitigating human-wildlife conflict; a key factor influencing local people's perceptions of the link between wildlife benefits and wildlife conservation. The NCAA anti-poaching teams will enhance their community engagement while carrying out their law enforcement responsibilities by increasing capacity in risk management and dispute resolution.

The NCAA rapid response teams will also work hand in hand with a network of community Warriors for Wildlife, who serve as local human-wildlife conflict mitigation, who serve as local human-wildlife conflict mitigation officers, thereby playing a pivotal role in preventing retaliation against wild animals and offering guidance and solutions for peaceful coexistence. They also act as the local eyes and ears on the ground reporting illicit wildlife activities. With approval from the NCAA, this warrior network will also feed critical data to the special Rhino Protection Unit in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, improving the monitoring and protection of rhinoceroses that disperse out of the crater by activating community members as rhino conservationists and benefiting from APW's experience in supporting community scouts.

Joint teams will be created using motivated young Maasai men from the 'warrior' age group working with NCAA rangers proficient in tracking. Together, team members will locate any outlier rhinoceros in the forest highlands or dispersal corridors to allow the authorities to make more informed and timely decisions regarding their protection.



Warriors for Wildlife reporting critical data



This black rhinoceros is on the IUCN Red list as "Critically Endangered" and under immediate threat of extinction

CASE STUDY (continued)

Critical project funding will target trainings, anti-poaching patrol costs, support for Warriors for Wildlife, data collection, and key equipment and technologies.

African People & Wildlife's programs and priorities reflect our commitment to an inclusive and holistic approach to biodiversity conservation, which is accomplished hand-in-hand with our partners that are comprised of government authorities, local communities, and NGOs. They include a wide range of interrelated initiatives in natural resource management, wildlife and habitat conservation, human-wildlife coexistence, sustainable and local micro-business development, and environmental education.

Because of our efforts, rural Tanzanians are implementing and leading community-driven conservation projects and initiatives across six critical landscapes of unparalleled ecological significance. More than 100 local community guardians conduct all monitoring, tracking, and anti-poaching efforts associated with the protection of critical wildlife species and habitat, directly contributing to a sustained increase in wildlife populations over the past nine years.

Human-wildlife conflict has dramatically decreased as a result of community-driven solutions that balance traditional knowledge with cutting-edge science and technology, reaching more than 17,150 rural people. Local governments in more than 20 communities (representing 100,000+ people) have mobilized to make timely, sustainable decisions about the management of their own grasslands and livestock, embracing an approach that emphasizes the combined value of social, economic, and ecological returns.

Key project activities and needs supporting NCAA rapid response anti-poaching teams and community Warriors for Wildlife in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area include:

Training NCAA zonal rapid response teams in effective community engagement and human-wildlife conflict mitigation

Supporting NCAA zonal rapid response teams with state-of-the-art equipment and wildlife monitoring systems, as well as regular field training in anti-poaching

Building a community network of Warriors for Wildlife for anti-poaching and human-wildlife conflict mitigation support, supplied with state-of-the-art equipment and regular training

Providing technology, resource, and equipment support, including laptop computers, tablets, smart phones, GPS, data packages, radios, monitoring platforms (e.g., EarthRanger), trail cameras, and wildlife surveillance packages

Anti-poaching patrol support for routine and rapid response to all incidents — regular patrols, poaching incidences, human-wildlife conflict, and community emergencies





African forest elephants drink from a creek off the Dja River

DJA FAUNAL RESERVE - CAMEROON

CASE STUDY

Greater Dja Biosphere Reserve:

Protection of the Dja World Heritage, a Win-Win Collaboration between Global Conservation, the Ministry of Forestry and the Local Community.

Case Study by Oliver Fankem - Conservation Biologist and
Global Conservation Director for Central Africa



Oliver Fankem (in red) with Ranger Patrol - Dja Faunal Reserve - Cameroon

CASE STUDY (continued)

Southeast Cameroon Rainforest Complex, comprised of Dja Faunal Reserve, Ngoyla Reserve, and Nki National Park, covers almost 2 million hectares of moist lowland forest in the south and east of Cameroon. It encompasses the core Dja Biosphere Reserve and a wider periphery zone mosaic of forestry concessions, agricultural land, mines, and community forests.

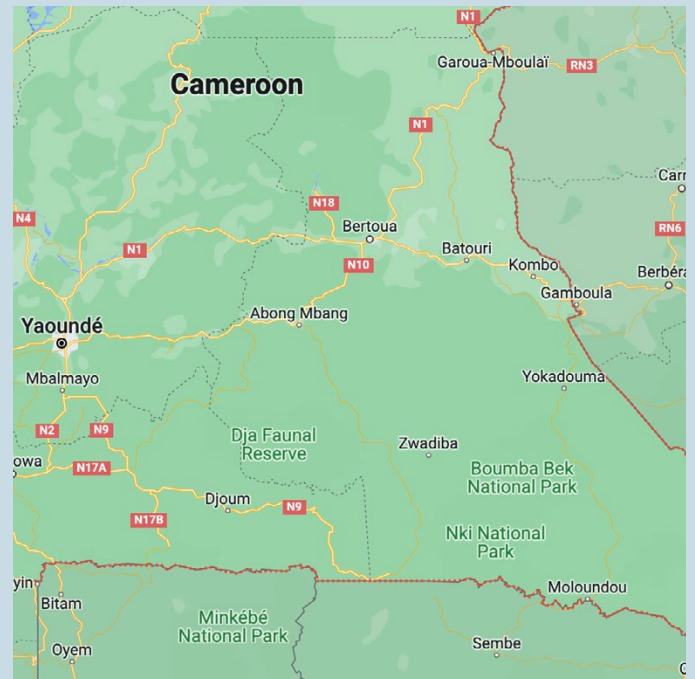
This landscape is richly diverse, identified by the IUCN as a priority site for threatened species such as the African elephant, western gorilla, and common chimpanzee, and is home to indigenous forest peoples. It is globally recognized for its importance, becoming a UNESCO world heritage site in 1987. Despite this, the Dja complex faces serious threats to protecting its biodiversity, retaining the integrity of the wider ecosystem, and maintaining its global status.

Forest elephants (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*) of the central African forests are a species on the edge of extinction. The last 15 years have seen a massive upsurge in poaching for ivory across Africa, driven by the directly related surge in global demand for ivory, with the most recent years being the worst on record. These Central African forest elephants have been particularly affected, with an estimated decline of over 60% in the 10 years since 2001.

Global Conservation's area of work is holding the last major intact tropical forest in Cameroon, which was once home to a vast majority of the country's African forest elephant population and has dropped significantly over the last 20 years, primarily due to poaching and wildlife trafficking. The Dja site hosts around 300 remaining individuals.

The overall challenges facing the protection of the Dja and its wildlife are exacerbated by a lack of capacity, both in terms of resources and skills, to cover a large and relatively remote area. That is why protection for the Dja must also consider the communities who live there and rely on the resources the forest provides. As such, they are representatives both as partners for sustainable management of the area and as key stakeholders who are present in any strategy for the Dja.

GC has been working in Cameroon since 2021 to address the situation by aligning a strong counter-wildlife trafficking (CWT) project framework with the organization's already developed Global Park Defense (GPD) model.



Right: Dja Community Guardian Team

CASE STUDY (continued)

GPD is GC's 5-year model for park and wildlife protection that combines community protection, SMART patrolling, surveillance, patrol operations, intelligence gathering, and arrest and prosecution support in a proven methodology to reduce environmental crime in national parks.

The GPD is deployed in Cameroon through:

Strengthening capacity (training, equipment) for site-based protection by MINFOF Law enforcement officers in the Dja, Ngoyla and Nki complexes

Increased patrol coverage and frequency in important areas for wildlife, which also helps to collect baseline information

Enabling cross-border collaboration and information sharing to investigate and disrupt transnational wildlife poaching

Explore carbon financing mechanisms

Engaging local communities in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade

The last point, which refers to the communities in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade, is based on the assumption that community members are the hardest hit by such massive poaching and industrial bush meat production. Indeed, the areas where the forest's equilibrium is most disturbed are also the places where the residents obtain their food, medicine, building supplies, and spiritual connections to the forest and its wild inhabitants. Therefore, these communities are now willing to denounce and prevent the depletion of their resources and values.

Although local communities hunt wildlife and gather non-timber forest products in forests, including within the PAs, it is done and practiced in a way that preserves the forest. Current GC negotiations with local communities integrate the win-win model, and discussions are opened with forest officials so that community ancestral spiritual rituals are accepted by the government to reach an agreement with the indigenous Baka people of the landscape.

The underlying idea under the negotiation is to allow the whole Baka community to perform their yearly initiation ritual called "Ejengi," which is done through the offtake of one elephant.

If this idea passes through all steps, the Baka people will, in return, collectively join the fight for elephant protection as a way to contribute to the maintenance of their cultural values and access to their Gods. Also, this means all Bakas (usually used as elephant trackers during elephant poaching raids) will still continue to help battle against traffickers decimating elephant populations, which are seen as working against the future of their community as a whole.

In addition, local communities are reputed to hold extensive knowledge of not only local ecology but also wildlife crime, including how traffickers and hunters operate and how corruption manifests itself on the ground. Therefore, GC Cameroon will consult on the Ejengi idea and prioritize ranger interventions to use community local knowledge within the Dja Ngoyla Nki complex in an adaptive manner for improving conservation outcomes.



CASE STUDY (continued)

The process was commenced with two communities (one Bantou and one Baka) in the Eastern sector of the Dja World Heritage Site, with the establishment of a win-win partnership between GC and these two target communities. The goal is to assist them in collecting data on illegal wildlife trade activities while they are performing their routine work in the forest, such as collecting non-timber forest products, medicinal plants, etc., to help secure the periphery and the core area of the Dja.

All target communities involved in the Dja landscape have been engaged, with Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) procedures being followed and an agreement reached. A quick evaluation of similar approaches to implementation was carried out, and it turned out that Sapelli (www.sapelli.org), which is an open-source tool for data collection across language or literacy barriers through highly configurable icon-driven user interfaces, was used in our target communities.

The GC team adapted the Dja Sapelli project to include the new communities' specific requirements for testing following our initial meetings. The goal, objectives, strong points, and disadvantages of the approach were discussed alongside various concerns. Following this, relevant points were re-discussed and agreed upon before the Sapelli project was uploaded to the GC community's donated smartphones.



CASE STUDY (continued)

The training of the community started with the general presentation of the software to the whole assembly, followed by splitting them into groups and walking through the interface. Later on, the participants were split into smaller groups of 2–3 people, with a phone handed to each. In addition to being guided through the process of taking records, groups were observed as they navigated through decision trees, with hesitations, queries, questions, and clarifications needed noted.

We also later worked on a protocol providing a mechanism for individual community members to decide whether they wanted to be involved. Community protocols also enabled those involved to propose how Sapelli could be used, including where the phone will be kept, how often individuals will take the phone, and how the risks of involvement can be minimized. This new campaign started in June 2023 and followed up on part of the work ZSL carried out in the landscape to include women in the process, as they are mainly the ones involved in NTFP activities. To date, there are over 56 documented illegal activities, including 43 photos and audio recordings of human activities in community areas around the Dja Wildlife Reserve.



These communities' data has allowed GC to map out and understand new areas targeted by poachers within the Dja World Heritage Site. As a return to community participation, GC has acquired PP woven bags for non-timber forest products and has identified a buyer in the capital city to buy these NTFP at a good price. In addition, GC will provide expert training in NTFP initial processing (nut cracking, drying, etc.) as well as transportation to the capital city. The next step will be to have women in the community fully trained in the use of the tools and mechanisms through which they can monitor and report on natural resource use in their area as well.

Eastern Dja Community Guardians Enact Response Against Poaching

GC is working with Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLC) in the Eastern Sector of the Dja as a community lands Guardian. The philosophy is to integrate local communities into the overall PA protection and conservation scheme by using their forest knowledge and skills to directly detect and remove snares meant for wildlife.

Since the beginning of 2023, GC and Dja Conservation have put in place a snares removal system whereby all suspects caught with bushmeat and other wildlife products collected illegally using snares are requested as part of the prosecution case handling by the Dja forest officer in command to go back in the areas where bushmeat was taken out from. Once the area has been identified, the ranger team, accompanied by the community land guardian, will go back into the hunted area to remove all active traps. These Baka, along with local Bantou community guardians, have so far been able to remove over 1,560 snare traps. They feel empowered as they contribute to securing their ancestral lands, thus making them valuable collaborators in our endeavor to clean up the forest using adaptive and innovative approaches.



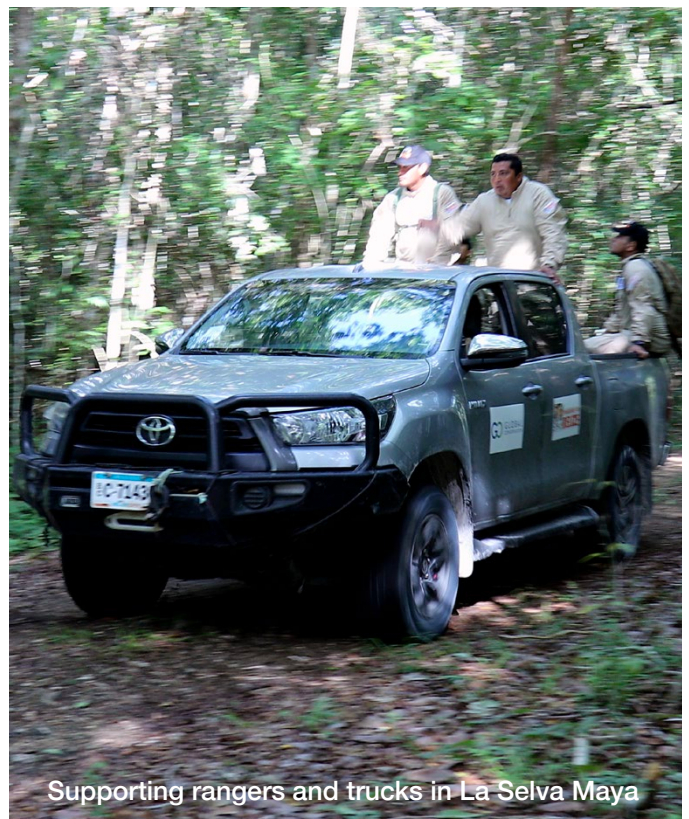
TOURISM

Tourism is one of the most powerful ways for local communities to see tangible benefits from wildlife & habitat conservation. Not only do lodges, camps, and adventure operators provide jobs to local people, but the revenue to conservancies from overnight stays and entry fees support core operations (such as ranger salaries & vehicle maintenance) and social projects for the entire community (such as education & health). There are currently six lodge operators in six NRT member conservancies.

Conservancies provide a framework for investors to ensure they are working with and have the support of local communities. Agreements with tour operators made through conservancies help to ensure that the needs and concerns of communities are met and that investments are sustainable and responsible.



Ecolodge at Calabash Caye - Turneffe Atoll, Belize



Supporting rangers and trucks in La Selva Maya



Conservancies help ensure that the needs and concerns of communities are met



M3 Mobile Marine
Monitor radar site

MARINE PARKS

Punta Santa Elena National Park - Ecuador
Photo: WildAid

EXPANDING GLOBAL PARK DEFENSE IN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Expanding our efforts into ocean ecosystems, GC is deploying around the world, including in developing countries and UNESCO World Heritage sites. GPD locations include Palau, Mexico, the Philippines, Cuba, and Indonesia. In California, Research and Development sites have been established at Cal Poly, UC Santa Barbara, and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego. We deploy M2 and M3 radar systems that detect and track vessels in near-shore protected areas. They also provide critical data and records of illegal activities for proactive law enforcement.

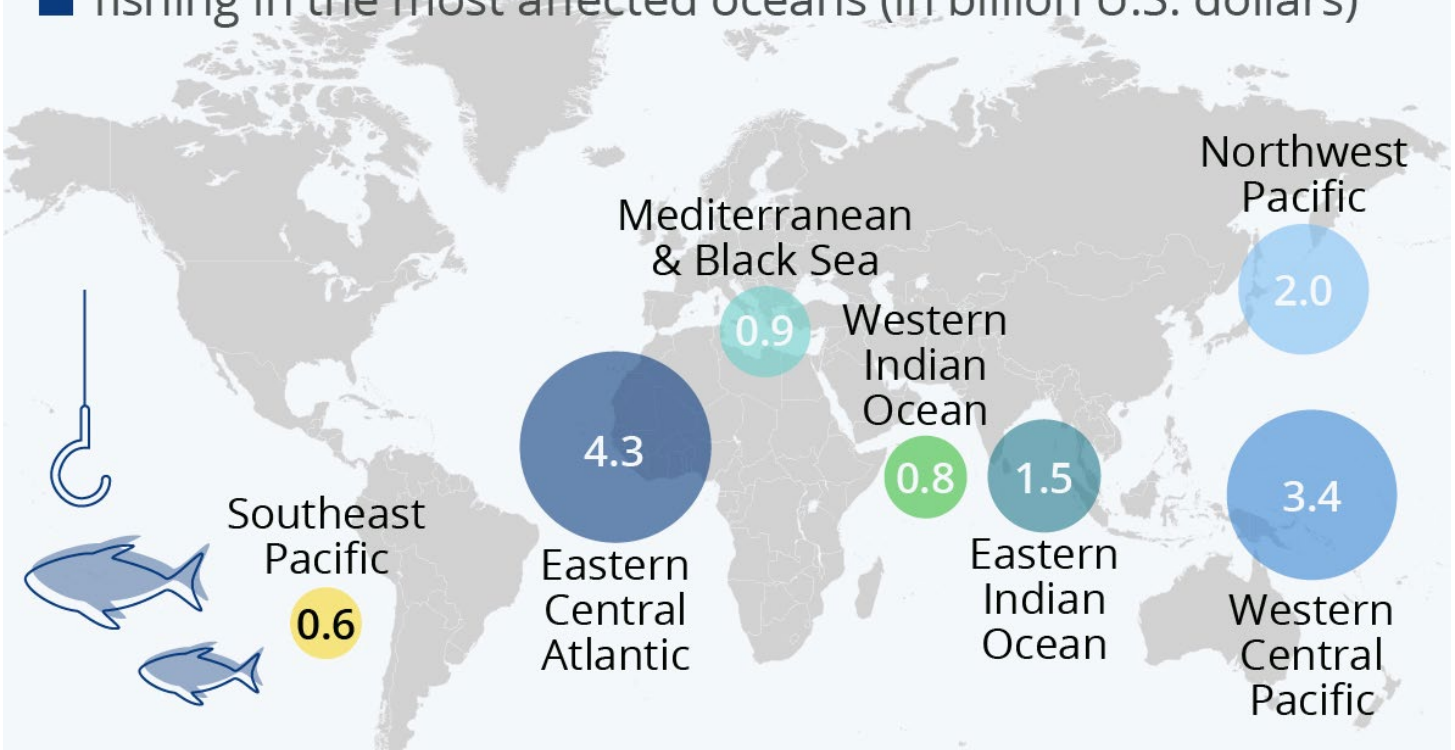
Illegal fishing accounts for 20% of all marine life taken from the world's seas. The result is billions of dollars in lost revenue for millions of people who fish legally or are fully dependent on living within marine ecosystems.

Violators are being caught, arrested, and prosecuted; illegal fishing boats are being scuttled; previously endangered MPAs are being saved; and fisheries are being replenished, thereby providing food and income for communities.

We're engaged in a multi-year process of assessment, systems deployment, marine warden capacity building, and community involvement in endangered marine sanctuaries providing more jobs and better ecotourism opportunities for the affected communities. There are over three dozen assessments underway globally.

The Oceans Suffering Most From Illegal Fishing

Average annual gross revenue loss from illicit marine fishing in the most affected oceans (in billion U.S. dollars)



Max. of range, average of 2005-2014. Assuming that 50-80% of illicit commercial & 10-30% of illicit artisanal catch is traded

Source: Sumaila et al. Illicit trade in marine fish catch and its effects. Science Advances (2020)

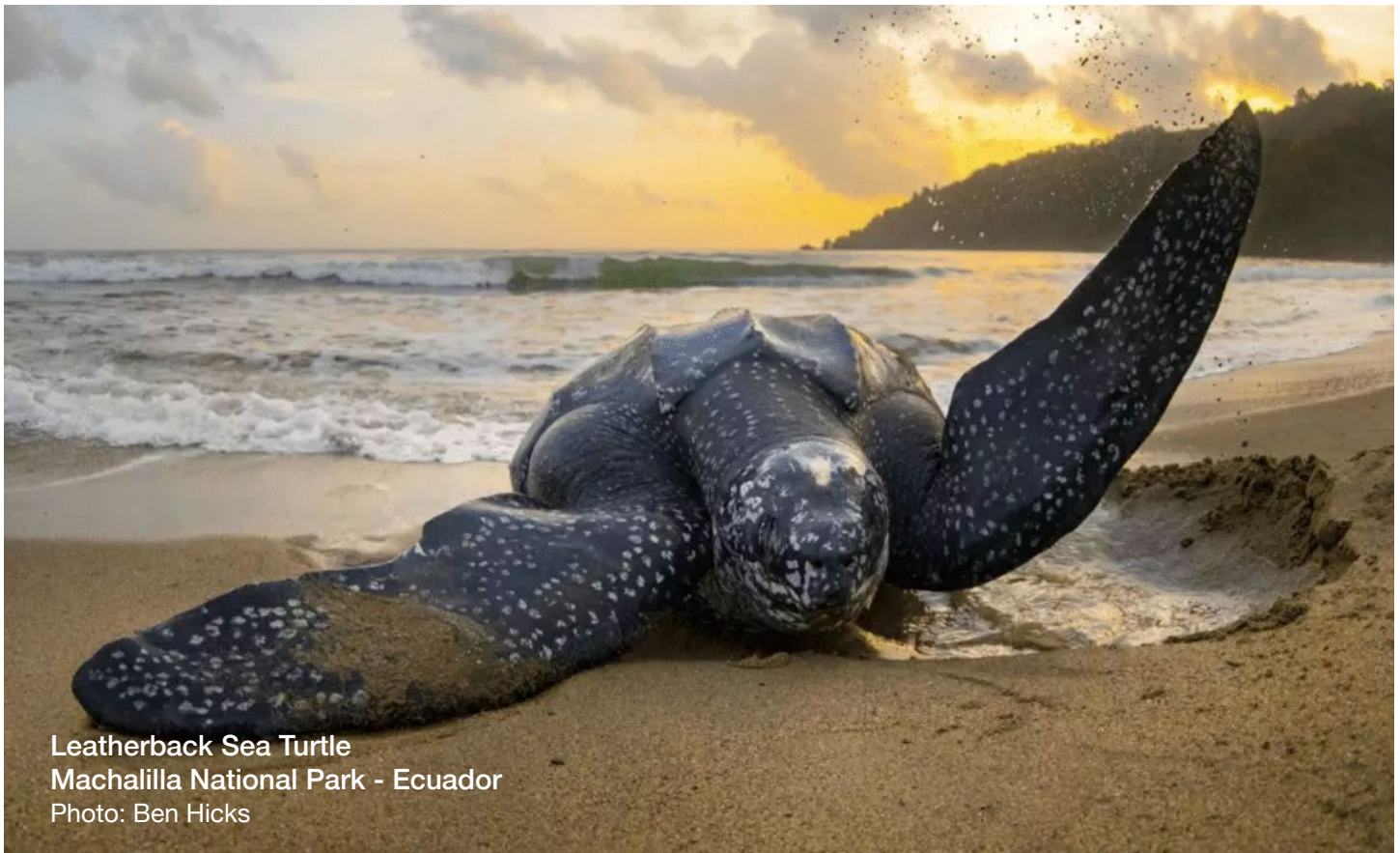


Global Conservation is working to deploy park and wildlife protection in the world's most endangered marine national parks and UNESCO World Heritage Sites in developing countries, where we are especially focused on coastal fisheries and intact marine ecosystems.

Our Global Park Defense system for marine applications in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) is deployed all over the planet. Primary components of our marine GPD system include:

- M2 MARINE RADAR MONITORING
- UAV DRONE SURVEILLANCE
- LONG RANGE CAMERAS
- MARINE WARDEN PATROLS





Leatherback Sea Turtle
Machalilla National Park - Ecuador
Photo: Ben Hicks

MACHALILLA NATIONAL PARK - ECUADOR

CASE STUDY

Funding for WildAid:

In January 2021, a nest of endangered leatherback sea turtles hatched near Machalilla National Park, representing the first successful nesting of the species in Ecuador in nearly 40 years. Ecuador's coastal MPA Rangers have been successfully working to end the practice of killing sea turtles.



Almost 700 Chinese fishing boats are registered for jumbo squid catches off the Ecuador coastline

CASE STUDY (continued)

To support these efforts and deter illegal fishing, Global Conservation funded WildAid Marine's deployment of a new Mobile Marine Monitor (M3) radar system to improve the protection of Ecuador's coastal MPAs. The M3 plays a critical role in strengthening enforcement throughout the coast to significantly limit the ability of illegal fishers to move undetected from one MPA to the next, helping support a regional enforcement approach, which is essential for work within Ecuador's coastal MPAs.

The M3 radar is now fully operational at Punta Santa Elena National Park, an area rich in biodiversity and habitat for nesting seabirds, turtles, coastal birds, and other marine wildlife. The M3 is providing 24/7 surveillance, enabling real-time response from the park's rangers to stop and board illegal fishing vessels in the no-take zone, especially at night.

Since May 2021, the M3 technology has led to the identification of 30 infractions and six seizures of illegal catches and fishing activities in the National Park. We also procured a dedicated vehicle to transport the M3 between sites and developed a comprehensive regional patrol strategy, supporting patrol costs when most needed.

Brendan Tougher of Protected Seas who helped develop the M2 Marine Monitor radar system works on the mobile M3 system for Global Park Defense



Sadly, turtle egg consumption is still a local tradition





Caye Bokel with M2 Radar Station
Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve - Belize
Photo: W.J. McKay

TURNEFFE ATOLL MARINE RESERVE - BELIZE

CASE STUDY

Saving the Mesoamerican Reef:

A land and seascape consisting of a network of highly productive flats, creeks, and lagoons dotted by more than 150 mangrove islands, Turneffe Atoll in Belize is home to more than 500 species of fish, 65 species of stony corals, sea turtles, manatees, dolphins, seabirds, and other wildlife.



CASE STUDY (continued)

Turneffe is one of the most important and pristine marine ecosystems in the Mesoamerican Reef, serving as a model for other coastal and island MPAs. Its diverse marine and terrestrial ecosystems are considered to be outstanding globally. Surrounded by deep ocean, with seven broad ecosystems and thirteen fine ecosystems identified and mapped, most coastal and marine ecosystems are well represented at Turneffe Atoll.

Turneffe exemplifies the high degree of ecosystem interconnectivity that is key for healthy, productive reef systems, with seagrass and mangroves growing in close proximity. Within the conservation zone of the Marine Reserve, commercial fishing is not allowed. No-take recreational activities, such as snorkeling, SCUBA diving, and kayaking, are permitted within this zone. Sport fishing is allowed, but only with a valid license and only as catch and release.

Global Conservation is supporting the deployment of Marine Monitors on the north and south ends of Turneffe Atoll to provide 24/7 monitoring for real-time response to potential illegal activities, both day and night, along with baseline scientific fish population studies to measure impact.



Ranger using M2 radar

Snorkeling & diving are allowed in the no-take zone



JARDINES DE LA REINA - CUBA

CASE STUDY

The Power of Protected Areas:

Jardines de la Reina, sometimes called “Cuba’s Coral Garden,” is one of the last major intact marine protected areas in the Caribbean. Its name means Gardens of the Queen, named by Christopher Columbus after Queen Isabella I of Spain.



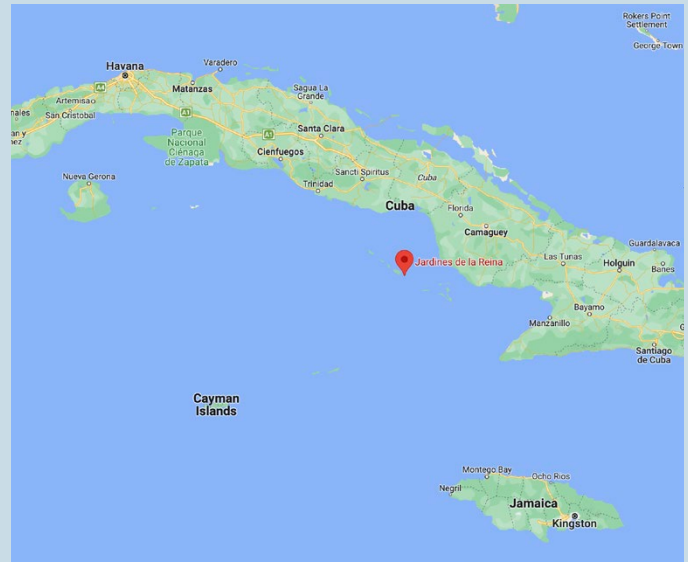
CASE STUDY (continued)



Decomposing sea turtles caught in a poacher's net



Ecotourism supports locals in Camagüey, Cuba



This archipelago covers about 684,000 hectares and is a testament to the power of protected areas: since Jardines de la Reina was protected in 1996, fish numbers have increased by 30–50%, and it's the last refuge for critically endangered sharks, groupers, and sea turtles in Cuba. Along the shore, labyrinthine mangrove forests serve as nurseries, protecting the young fish.

This pristine habitat is a wellspring of fish that helps populate surrounding areas, guarding this region against threats like overfishing and pollution. The park also contains saltwater crocodiles, marine mammals, three sea turtle species, and black corals, which are thought to be among the oldest organisms in the world; some are over 4,000 years old.

Global Conservation deployed the Marine Monitor on-board a donated 100-foot vessel, The Spree, a gift from Aggressor Fleets CEO Wayne Brown. Using The Spree as the main base of operations for Ministry of Fisheries officers, Global Conservation funded the ongoing patrol operations to interdict illegal fishing from coastal towns and villages coming across the channel for 6–9 hours a day to illegally fish and poach marine wildlife like turtles.



SAFEGUARDING AND ETHICS

At the start of project implementation, GC will provide all project stakeholders with a copy of its Safeguarding Policy. As a project partner, APIFED will also be required to adhere to all guidelines set forth in the policy.

Global Conservation publishes a detailed Community Protection handbook (2022) which compliments Global Park Defense (2020), including Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policy.

Community members, partners GC employees and contractors will be all fully aware and undertake online training with review by GC Project Director, Regional Director and Executive Director.

Access to Global Conservation's Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct is included in on our website – <https://globalconservation.org/methodology/>

Individuals can raise a concern by contacting Global Conservation website and Executive Director directly, or the Project Director or Manager - email and/or phone number will be published in each of the project communities, also with a unique address for individuals who wish to submit a concern anonymously.

Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct issues are investigated by the Executive Director. All documents, interview notes, emails, and other supporting information will be documented and maintained online for all Global Conservation projects.

Partner Management for Success - prior to project implementation, GC will meet with APIFED and other partners to carefully review all organizational policies. Prior to receiving funds, GC Partners will be required to sign an agreement regarding its commitment to adhering to GC Safeguarding, Whistleblower, and Code of Conduct policies. GC will ensure APIFED and other GC Partners uphold these policies.

CODE OF CONDUCT:

GC adheres to a strict Ethics Policy, which includes a zero tolerance policy to any human rights abuses. GC requires all employees, volunteers, contractors, and partners to abide by guidelines set forth in this policy.

GC is committed to follow access and benefit sharing best practices where legislation is incomplete, use Prior Informed Consent principles with communities, and always respect the rights, privacy, and safety of people affected directly and indirectly by the organization's efforts.

Additionally, 100% of the project's key personnel will be locals, ensuring the inclusion of strong leadership and participation from the communities, as well as incorporation of their perspectives, interests, and local knowledge. Local input and traditional knowledge will be leveraged, in particular for project activities involving the NTFP initiatives.

GC will also ensure that the ecotourism component of the project will be designed and implemented so that local communities maintain ownership, rather than outside investment or stakeholders.

Furthermore, this project meets all legal and ethical obligations and will follow appropriate procedures related to the collection, storage, and use of personal data of all participants and staff.

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For more information, please visit globalconservation.org



Karamojong Village
Kidepo Valley National Park - Uganda