

# RUAHA-KATAVI LANDSCAPE PROGRAM

OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY &  
CRITICAL WILDLIFE HABITAT**  
THROUGH **SCIENCE, PROTECTED  
AREA AND WILDLIFE CORRIDOR  
MANAGEMENT, AND COMMUNITY  
CONSERVATION**



**WCS**

DISCOVER PROTECT INSPIRE

# THE RUAHA-KATAVI LANDSCAPE

Nearly three times the size of Switzerland, the Ruaha-Katavi Landscape is one of the largest intact savannah ecosystems in Africa.

With support from USAID (through the WCS Southern Highlands & Ruaha-Katavi Protection Program - SHARPP) and private benefactors, our focus is on supporting core protected areas and safeguarding wildlife corridors and buffer zones across the landscape. We improve natural resource management, diversify community income and ensure the effective protection of elephants, all supported by scientific research and monitoring.





- **115,000KM<sup>2</sup>** RUAHA-KATAVI LANDSCAPE
- **2 NATIONAL PARKS, 6 GAME RESERVES**
- **CRUCIAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS**
- **20 MILLION PEOPLE** RELY ON GREATER RUAHA RIVER FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
- MORE THAN 85% OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES DEPEND ON REGION'S **NATURAL RESOURCE BASE**

**THREATS:** POACHING, HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT, FIRES, AGRICULTURAL ENCROACHMENT & GRAZING, CHARCOAL PRODUCTION, WILDLIFE DISEASE, MINING



# AN ELEPHANT ECOSYSTEM

Ruaha-Katavi is one of the most important areas for elephant in Africa. These majestic animals are a keystone species, integral to the survival of the ecosystem and crucial to the livelihoods of communities within and around it.

Elephants once populated almost the entire continent, but now only remain in pockets of protected habitat. Tanzania is home to the second largest elephant population in Africa after Botswana.





■ HISTORICAL RANGE


■ CURRENT RANGE

## RUAHA-RUNGWA TAWIRI ELEPHANT CENSUS

### POPULATION ESTIMATES

2015: 15,836  ± 4,759

2013: 20,090  ± 3,282

2009: 34,664  ± 4,178

2006: 35,430  ± 4,183



## WCS TANZANIA ELEPHANT WORK

- RUN THE **2ND LONGEST ELEPHANT RESEARCH PROJECT** IN AFRICA
- **IMPACT** OVER HALF TANZANIA'S ELEPHANTS (26,000)
- CO-PRODUCED **NATIONAL ELEPHANT MANAGEMENT PLAN**
- HAVE THE **BIGGEST ELEPHANT CONSERVATION PORTFOLIO** OF ANY NGO IN TANZANIA



# WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Effective protection of wildlife in the Greater Ruaha ecosystem is crucial given high levels of poaching, and challenging given the remote landscape, limited infrastructure and governance challenges. The illegal trade in ivory is complex and well funded. Agricultural encroachment and human wildlife conflict are issues across the whole landscape.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT** is a major challenge, which WCS is addressing in several ways:



## 'SMART' LAW ENFORCEMENT

Monitoring system has been introduced in Ruaha and Katavi National Parks, Waga WMA and is now being extended to selected game reserves.



## CONSERVATION DOGS

WCS has established a detection / tracking dog unit to assist TANAPA and other wildlife authorities in intercepting and detecting illegal consignments of ivory, arms, ammunition etc in and around Ruaha National Park.



## NEW VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT

provided to TANAPA & the Tanzania Wildlife Authority.



## RAPID REACTION TRAINING & PATROL SUPPORT

has been organised by WCS to improve ranger capacity, with 3 special reaction units established and mobilised. Radio systems and equipment support is also provided.



## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

to Wildlife Division, TANAPA, Regional police & Zonal Anti-poaching units.



## AERIAL MONITORING & POACHING DETECTION

The WCS Cessna 206 supports wildlife authorities across the Ruaha-Katavi landscape, protecting & monitoring wildlife and identifying threats.



## CRIME SCENE MANAGEMENT, CHAIN OF CUSTODY TRAINING & PROSECUTION SUPPORT

has been provided for Wildlife Division staff, rangers and law enforcement personnel



# COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

Given the intrinsic link between the environment and sustainable development, conservation must meet both human and ecosystem needs.

WCS has helped set up four **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS** around Ruaha and Katavi National Parks. These are protected areas managed by local village associations, that aim to improve community livelihoods while also safeguarding wildlife and habitat through improved natural resource management.

**PROTECTING HUMAN LIVELIHOODS  
RELIANT ON AGRICULTURE,  
IRRIGATION & TOURISM**





# WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

The identification and protection of wildlife corridors is increasingly vital as growing human populations expand their impact on the landscape.

WCS is **MAPPING, MONITORING & PROTECTING** crucial links between wildlife populations and habitats, especially between Ruaha and Katavi National Parks. Ensuring genetic viability, seasonal grazing and mitigating human-wildlife conflict, corridors are essential to community livelihoods, the national economy, the tourism industry and ecosystem survival.



# SCIENCE & EDUCATION

Baseline data on wildlife populations and the threats they face is essential for conservation.

WCS supports **AFRICAN WILD DOG RESEARCH** and has established a long-term **VULTURE MONITORING PROGRAM** in partnership with North Carolina Zoo. Seasonal counts and satellite telemetry have revealed key insights into vultures range and movements as well as demonstrating the profound impact of poisoning on the ecosystem.





# WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

## VULTURE MONITORING

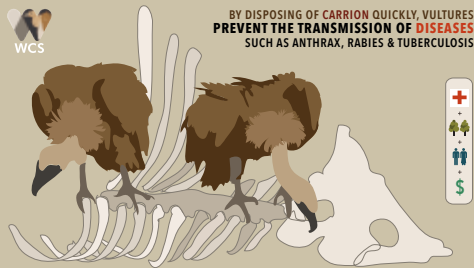
Our research shows Ruaha-Katavi is a stronghold for 4 endangered vulture species and demonstrates the threat posed by poisoning - both retaliatory intending to kill carnivores and intentional to hide poaching.

WCS is supporting education, community engagement and law enforcement based on this research.



WCS works closely with government and wildlife authorities to enhance conservation, protected area management, law enforcement and environmental policy.

Community involvement in all our work ensures sustainable development through protecting livelihoods derived from natural resources. We partner with private sector organisations to deliver training and other services, a range of academic institutions to further research and other NGOs to increase conservation impact.



BY DISPOSING OF CARRION QUICKLY, VULTURES  
PREVENT THE TRANSMISSION OF DISEASES  
SUCH AS ANTHRAX, RABIES & TUBERCULOSIS





PHOTOS by Tim Davenport, Julie Malner, Aaron Nicholas, Claire Bracebridge & Alexis Pfeiffer



# WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT TANZANIA'S WILDLIFE

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