

Land

Wildlife needs space to live, move, and, ultimately, thrive. As human population grows and infrastructure develops, however, land in Africa is being increasingly compromised.

Loss of habitat is one of the greatest threats to Africa's wildlife. African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) understands that with smart planning and sound conservation, there can be appropriate infrastructure development, economic development at all scales, and protected areas for wildlife. We work with partners at all levels to bring public, community and private land under conservation.

Proven Approaches

Our proven approaches to increasing land under conservation and improving management include:

- Establishing protected areas;
- Creating community conservancies;
- Establishing wildlife corridors;
- Land protection through payment for ecosystem services;
- Establishing Wildlife Management Areas;
- Developing binding land-use plans; and
- Supporting protected areas through infrastructure development, law enforcement and monitoring.

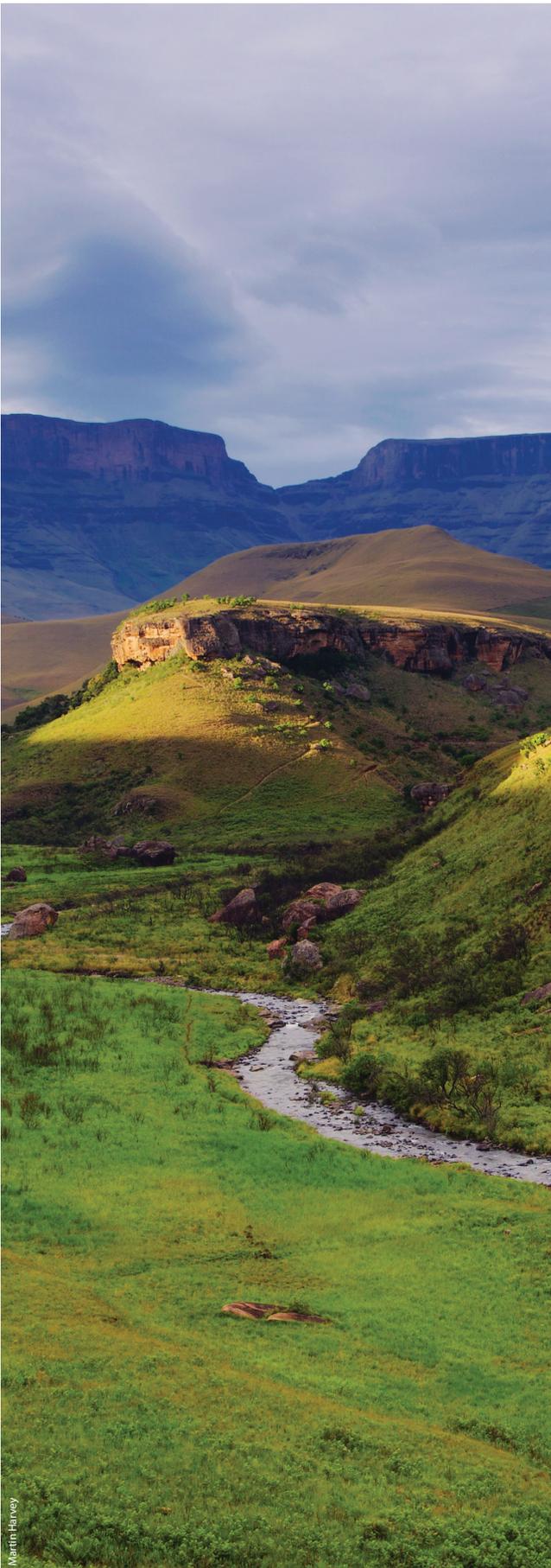
Case Studies

Lomako–Yokokala Faunal Reserve, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

- **Conservation issue:** Bonobos and other wildlife were threatened by poaching, loss of habitat through land conversion and human encroachment.
- **Solution:** AWF helped the local community establish a 3,625 km² community faunal reserve, which hosts a suite of important species including the bonobo. AWF established a scientific research center in the reserve, and the community is employed in protecting the reserve. In 2012, AWF, at the request of another community, helped create a second faunal reserve in the landscape.

Sekute Community Conservation Area, Zambia

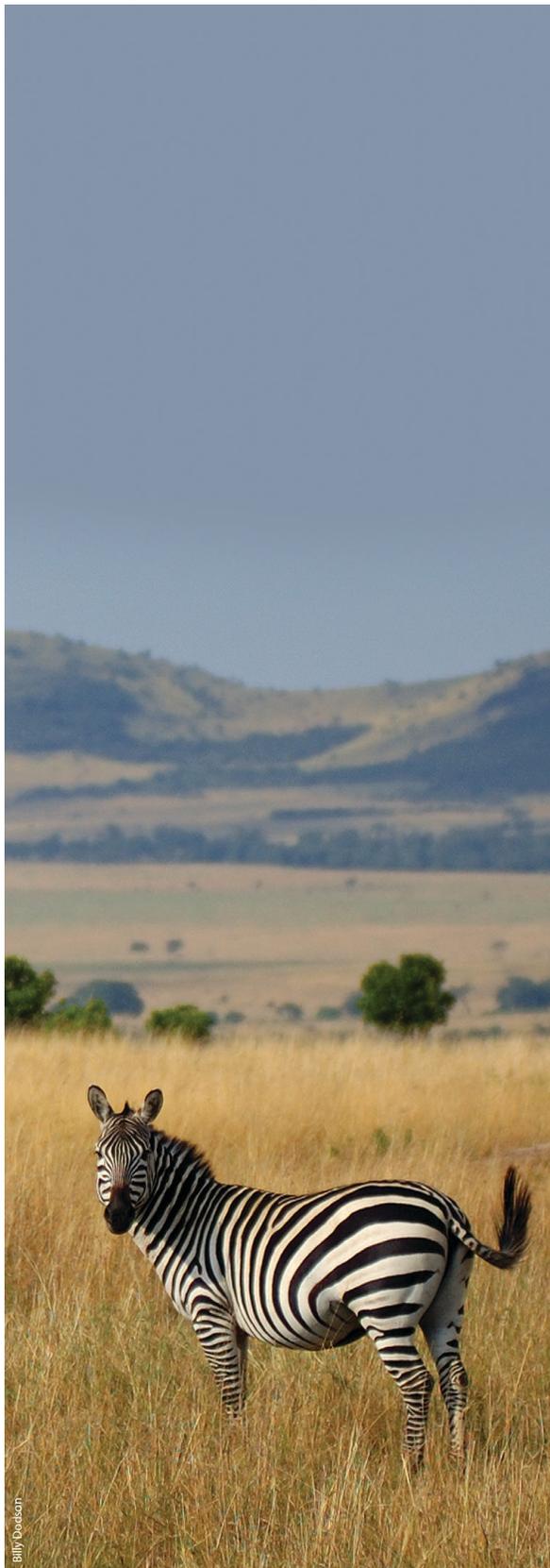
- **Conservation issue:** Population growth, agriculture and tourism-related construction threatened elephant corridors in this part of southern Zambia.
- **Solution:** AWF worked with the Sekute Chiefdom, the land-owner, to establish a 20,000-hectare community conservation area that is monitored by community scouts and protects a significant elephant corridor that links Botswana to Zambia across the Zambezi River. In exchange, AWF provided community benefits, including construction of a brand-new primary school and a high-end fishing lodge that brings tourism revenue to the community.



Martin Harvey



AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION®



Amboseli Land Lease Program, Kenya

- **Conservation issue:** In recent decades, the land in this ecosystem has been fragmented and sub-divided into small pieces, parceled out to individual landowners and obstructed by fences and agricultural development.
- **Solution:** AWF has worked with communities just outside of Amboseli National Park to “lease” their land for conservation. The landowners receive direct payment for protecting the rangeland and keeping their land open for wildlife movement—a payment for ecosystem service. To date, more than 1,000 landowners have willingly set aside 25,000 acres of land for wildlife to roam through the conservation lease program.

Burunge Wildlife Management Area, Tanzania

- **Conservation issue:** In northern Tanzania, communities are living closely with wildlife, resulting in human–wildlife conflict. Meanwhile, reliance natural resources was degrading the ecosystem. Because of land tenure, communities lacked the ability to enter into arrangements to benefit from wildlife and tourism.
- **Solution:** AWF helped a group of villages establish the Burunge Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The WMA set aside key areas for conservation and allows the local communities to benefit from income generated from wildlife-based tourism. Community revenue has since increased tenfold from tourism fees, and communities have used the resources to support social infrastructure, including schools, clinics, village offices and water supply. The 2012 disbursement to the community amounted to US\$300,000. In addition, dozens of residents are employed as village game scouts and staff at local lodges. Burunge WMA has also seen an increase in wildlife and vegetation.

Congo Landscape, DRC

- **Conservation issue:** During the civil war, many people fled into the DRC’s forests, where they would be safe from the fighting and still have ready access to fuelwood, food through bushmeat and agriculture, and other natural resources. The encroachment of humans upon wildlife habitat, however, was leading to deforestation, forest degradation and a decline in wildlife.
- **Problem:** AWF worked with communities to develop land-use plans that delineated areas for forest conservation and other land uses. In exchange for abiding by the land-use plans, AWF provided the community with agricultural support as well as a linkage to markets, one of the greatest challenges in this remote landscape. Through satellite imagery, AWF has been able to see a decrease in forest fires and timber harvesting as a result of these land use plans.



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