



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Conservation is **PEOPLE**



An indigenous Surui man participates in a USAID-supported reforestation and sustainable-management project in Rondonia, Brazil. Photo: Surui Reforestation Project/Jose Caladas.

One-third of the world's poorest people are indigenous and therefore crucial partners in achieving sustainable development. Indigenous people and rural communities throughout the world depend on nature for income, food, medicine, fuel, and as an important part of their cultural and spiritual identities. USAID's conservation programs encourage the participation of local communities, including indigenous peoples, incorporating traditional knowledge, strengthening institutions, and respecting historic lands.

WHAT USAID IS DOING

USAID engages local and indigenous peoples through community-based conservation. This approach is at the heart of USAID's work. By increasing the economic returns from conservation, communities are more likely to take care of local ecosystems. USAID working together with local and indigenous communities is protecting parks, caring for coasts, managing fisheries and forests, improving land use, and building conservation enterprises. These partnerships:

- Strengthen indigenous and local institutions for improved resource management and accountability
- Promote economic development and diversify livelihoods
- Gather information about natural systems and support community conservancies and rangers who combat poaching
- Provide health, education, and nutrition services
- Advance gender equality

DID YOU KNOW?



Nearly a quarter of the Amazon basin is designated as indigenous territory.

USAID works with indigenous groups around the world to both secure access and rights and improve their capacity to manage the forests and rivers they call home.

USAID'S WORK IN ACTION

CONSERVING AMAZON TERRITORY WITH CARBON CREDITS

When the Paiter-Surui people of the Brazilian Amazon wanted to generate income while maintaining a healthy, standing forest in their 625,000 acre territory, USAID lent a hand. In 2013, the Surui Forest Carbon Project became the first indigenous-led project to sell credits on the voluntary carbon market. Proceeds from the sale of 120,000 tons of carbon credits will fund monitoring and management of Surui territory, an area about half the size of Grand Canyon National Park, important for threatened and endangered species including the giant river otter, harpy eagle, and jaguar. Funds will also be invested in conservation enterprises such as ecotourism and sustainably harvested forest products that generate income for the Surui's 1,300 people.

DID YOU KNOW?

The USAID-supported **Global Forest Watch** is an online, satellite-based forest monitoring and alert system that **helps users like the Surui to detect and protect against deforestation.**

CONSERVING RANGELANDS AND WILDLIFE

By giving communities the rights to manage and benefit from natural resources, community-conservancy projects achieve several goals at once: wildlife protection, economic growth, and peace and strengthened democracies. More than 280,000 people in Northern Kenya have benefited from increased security in the region as well as greater participation in management of the area. Through USAID's partnership with Northern Rangelands Trust, there are now 26 community conservancies that cover more than 6 million acres in Kenya, that successfully manage livestock, water, pasture, and wildlife.



Families rest in the shade while Northern Rangelands Trust community rangers pass by on patrol in Kenya. Nature-based enterprises and improved management earned about \$1.3 million in 2013 in an area with low annual incomes and few economic options. Photo: Northern Rangelands Trust

DID YOU KNOW?

Biodiversity, especially wildlife and productive rangelands, **is important for the livelihoods of more than 30 million Kenyans,** or three quarters of the population.