



SCALING UP CONSERVATION SUCCESS WITH SCAPES

A USAID Cooperative Agreement with the WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY (WCS)

Scaling up Conservation Success with SCAPES is a 5-year Leader with Associates (LWA) cooperative agreement to WCS funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Wildlife Conservation Society Transboundary Landscapes supported by SCAPES:

- **Greater Madidi-Tambopata Landscape:** Bolivia and Peru
- **Daurian Steppe:** Mongolia, Russia and China
- **KAZA:** Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe

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Scaling up Conservation Success with SCAPES is one of four 5-year Leader with Associates (LWA) cooperative agreements that have been funded by the United States Agency for International Development under its “SCAPES-Sustainable Conservation Approaches in Priority Ecosystems” program. WCS’s overarching goal is to conserve biodiversity and secure the livelihoods of the rural poor through targeted site-based and policy initiatives at globally important sites for biodiversity conservation. Taking action to abate threats that risk the loss of biodiversity, depletion of ecosystem goods and services, and increased impoverishment of marginalized resource-dependent communities is central to WCS’s mission of saving wildlife and wild places.

SCAPES AND WCS

Our WCS strategic plan is helping us to mobilize expertise and resources to address four global conservation challenges: adaptation to climate change; sustainable extractive industries; secure human livelihoods; and healthy wildlife and ecosystems. Implementation of SCAPES activities will help us address many of these challenges, as well as give us the opportunity to scale up effective conservation to new people and places, resulting in greater ecological, social and financial sustainability.

A long-term commitment to landscapes and seascapes allows WCS staff the time to develop and nurture networks of people, organizations and agencies committed to protecting species, habitats and ecosystem goods and services. These constituencies for conservation are critical to developing legitimate resource and livelihood governance systems that can function effectively across landscape and seascape scales. By directly engaging local to national to international stakeholders in these networks, we are able to encourage the social changes needed to manifest new policies and practices that conserve, rather than deplete, biodiversity. These networks provide the forum for introducing innovative approaches, such as marketing of eco-friendly natural products and REDD carbon credits. They are also critically important to identifying, and scaling up adoption of, best policies and practices to new people and new places.

SCAPES GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The principal goals of the WCS SCAPES program are to conserve biodiversity and to secure the livelihoods of the rural poor through targeted site-based and policy initiatives at globally important sites for biodiversity conservation. WCS is building on the USAID Global Conservation Program’s decade-long tenure which enabled partners to explore landscape-scale conservation approaches that consider complex and integrated social, economic and ecological factors.

USAID SCAPES support enables us to adapt and extend our efforts to scale-up across boundaries to meet the ecological needs of wildlife, and to capitalize on our accumulated knowledge to address the interrelated needs of adequate governance mechanisms, key supportive policies and the development of efficient market-based financing of conservation and development.

All USAID SCAPES programs address four critical elements: 1) taking a threats-based approach to address conservation issues; 2) implementation with the aim of achieving financial, social and ecological sustainability; 3) implementation that emphasizes adaptive management; and 4) program successes are identified and scaled up to increase conservation success at these sites and within the global conservation community as a whole. WCS views these USAID SCAPES elements as essential, interdependent components of successful conservation efforts. Each is critical for a positive and sustainable long-term impact on biodiversity conservation at a landscape or seascape scale and to secure local livelihoods, and all are integrated into the activities that WCS is implementing, with SCAPES support, within the following three landscapes of global biodiversity importance.



A veterinary fence in the KAZA Landscape.
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“BEYOND FENCES”: POLICY OPTIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY, LIVELIHOODS AND TRANSBOUNDARY DISEASE MANAGEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The conservation community’s best efforts to support trans-frontier conservation areas in southern Africa could be rendered moot by one threat: the physical barriers created by miles and miles of animal disease control fences that currently make any real transboundary connectivity impossible. WCS proposes the creation of an enabling environment to resolve the inherent conflict between the Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) vision of vast conservation landscapes and current regulatory approaches that depend on extensive fencing to control Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs). While the specifics of southern Africa are unique, the general conflict between disease management and conservation objectives is widespread in landscapes around the world.

The focus of the SCAPES “Beyond Fences” effort is one of southern Africa’s major transfrontier conservation areas – the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA), at the verge of becoming perhaps the world’s largest conservation-oriented landscape. The development of TFCAs to further the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development through the harmonization of transboundary natural resource management is a priority for SADC (the Southern African Development Community).

Across the SADC region, transboundary disease issues negatively impact both biodiversity and livelihoods. Using health as an entry point, WCS will bring cross-sectoral experts and policy makers to the table to explore new options for controlling TADs and for policy interventions that could support both conservation and development objectives. WCS will build on its AHEAD (Animal & Human Health for the Environment And Development) model and the experience gained in the Great Limpopo TFCA over the past 6+ years. Scaling up the approach across the region will continue to build collective knowledge and technical capacity which can be applied to the evaluation and better understanding of a pervasive set of complex and interrelated conservation, health and livelihood challenges.

Our approach is to foster consensus, across disciplinary and sectoral jurisdictions, on a policy framework as part of efforts to ensure a foundation of transparent governance that concurrently addresses local, national and transboundary policies and practice. A key role that WCS will play is as an ‘honest broker’ and convener.

Through this policy intervention, WCS will contribute to the overall SCAPES goal of conserving biodiversity and securing the livelihoods of the rural poor through the following objectives: 1) the creation of an enabling environment for enhanced cooperation among conservation, agriculture and

public health experts and authorities (within and between the KAZA countries), anchored through a series of consultative working meetings; 2) the identification of mechanisms for controlling TADs without complete reliance on current fencing approaches, using expert groups to analyze potential scenarios involving alternative tools and policies; and 3) informing and influencing cross-sectoral policy responses which support both TFCAs and control of TADs.



Takana women and Kantuta Lara (WCS) learning from an experienced handicraft maker in the Greater Madidi-Tambopata Landscape. © R. Wallace/WCS

GREATER MADIDI-TAMBOPATA LANDSCAPE: GOVERNANCE FOR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS ACROSS NATIONAL BOUNDARIES

Poorly planned large-scale development projects and timber extraction across the Greater Madidi-Tambopata Landscape in Bolivia/Peru threaten to overtake significant progress in establishing good governance systems that support indigenous peoples’ land tenure rights and capacity to manage their lands. We propose to align conservation and development objectives by raising the value of intact forest, and the incentives for forest conservation, through ecological and economic monitoring systems that assure sustainability through adaptive management and, when favorable, eco-certification of indigenous enterprise products. Our prior work in this transboundary landscape positions us extraordinarily well to address this challenge to biodiversity conservation and sustainable local livelihoods. In the Greater Madidi-Tambopata Landscape, WCS will refine and share lessons learned on gathering and using resource monitoring information for adaptive management of governance systems to effect conservation, and scale them up to other groups, nations and the broader conservation and development communities.

This project will contribute to the SCAPES goal of conserving biodiversity and securing the livelihoods of the rural poor by ensuring that governance authorities, from indigenous communities to national agencies, have the tools and resources to effectively adapt their management plans and actions, as identified threats are brought under control and unforeseen threats appear. By building the capacity of indigenous communities and protected area agencies to track, synthesize, and review the effectiveness of their actions, and adapt them when conditions change, WCS will contribute to the social, financial and ecological sustainability of the natural resource enterprises of the Takana and other indigenous communities and to the improved management of protected areas. These two key actions are fundamental for this vast transboundary landscape to meet the challenge of sustainability.

In the Greater Madidi-Tambopata Landscape, WCS has two objectives: 1) to put in place systems so indigenous community natural product enterprises can become ecologically and financially sustainable; and 2) to build adaptive management capacity to conserve biodiversity, improve livelihoods and maintain flows of ecosystem services within indigenous territories and transboundary protected areas.



Ochirkhuyag Lkhamjav (WCS) discussing the location of an iron-mining site in the Daurian Steppe with Protected Area Administration Specialist N. Gangerel. © K. Didier/WCS

GOVERNING 'FUGITIVE RESOURCES' ACROSS NATIONAL BOUNDARIES: WILDLIFE MIGRATIONS, ILLEGAL TRADE AND HABITAT FRAGMENTATION IN THE DAURIAN STEPPE

The Daurian Steppe, one of the last intact temperate grassland ecosystems, stretches across Russia, Mongolia, and China. It contains over 2,000 km of international borders, numerous protected areas in border regions, and multiple international transit corridors and wildlife migration routes, including three major migratory bird flyways. The jewel of

this grassland is Mongolia's Eastern Steppe, which is home to over a million Mongolian gazelle – the last large population of migrating ungulates in Asia, and the reason for the Daurian Steppe's designation as an IUCN-WCPA Critical Global Region and a WWF Global 200 Ecoregion. The Eastern Steppe provides essential resources for livestock herders (30% of Mongolia's population) whose livelihoods depend directly on the grassland and its wildlife. The contiguous regions of the Daurian Steppe in Russia and China are critical for the social, political and ecological connectivity of the steppe ecosystem. A holistic, transboundary approach is critical for the conservation of ecological processes and services (e.g., great migrations, rangeland production), complete assemblages of steppe wildlife and biodiversity, and the natural resources upon which many livelihoods depend.

By extending the lessons learned over 20 years working in Mongolia to neighboring Russia and China, WCS will enhance governance capacity to address the three main threats facing the Daurian Steppe: illegal and unsustainable hunting and wildlife trade; habitat fragmentation and degradation from poorly planned development and overgrazing; and wildlife/livestock disease transmission. Building governance capacity within Mongolian and transboundary partners will help ensure the long-term sustainability of the Steppe landscape while securing rural livelihoods.

This project will contribute to the SCAPES goal of conserving biodiversity and securing the livelihoods of the rural poor by: 1) building a transboundary political constituency for collaborative conservation and development planning and implementation across the Daurian Steppe; and 2) scaling up an effective community-based model for wildlife and livestock management. In five years, we expect SCAPES-supported activities to lead to greater harmonization of policies and initiatives across the Daurian Steppe, active implementation of transboundary agreements related to the conservation and management of the region, and broad adoption of the community-based model for sustainable management of wildlife and livestock.

SCAPES is a program with multiple cooperative agreements (to the Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wildlife Fund, African Wildlife Foundation and Pact). Within WCS, Conservation Support works closely with our three landscape leaders and has overall management responsibility for the SCAPES cooperative agreement to WCS (No. EEM-A-00-09-0007-00). For more information about the WCS SCAPES, please contact Dr. David Wilkie at conservationssupport@wcs.org.

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The contents of this publication are the responsibility of WCS and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States government.