



The Nature
Conservancy



AFRICA 2018

These are your stories.

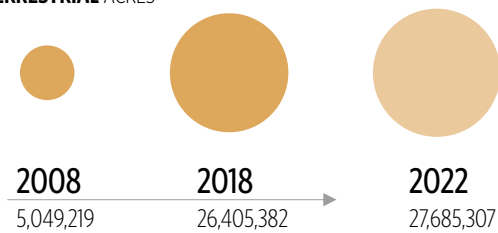
In these pages, “we” means our growing team of partners, scientists, fishers, wildlife rangers, government and business leaders, farmers, pastoralists, and many others alongside our determined staff.

And, of course, the foundation of all that we do together is **our generous supporters.**

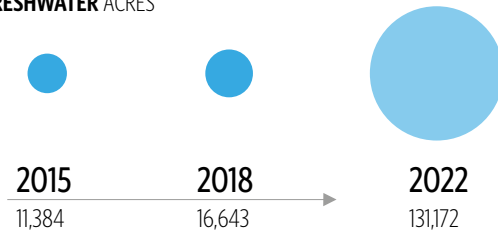
THANK YOU

ACRES UNDER CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

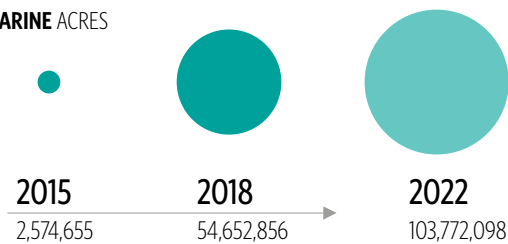
TERRESTRIAL ACRES



FRESHWATER ACRES



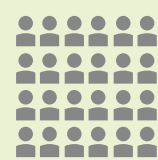
MARINE ACRES



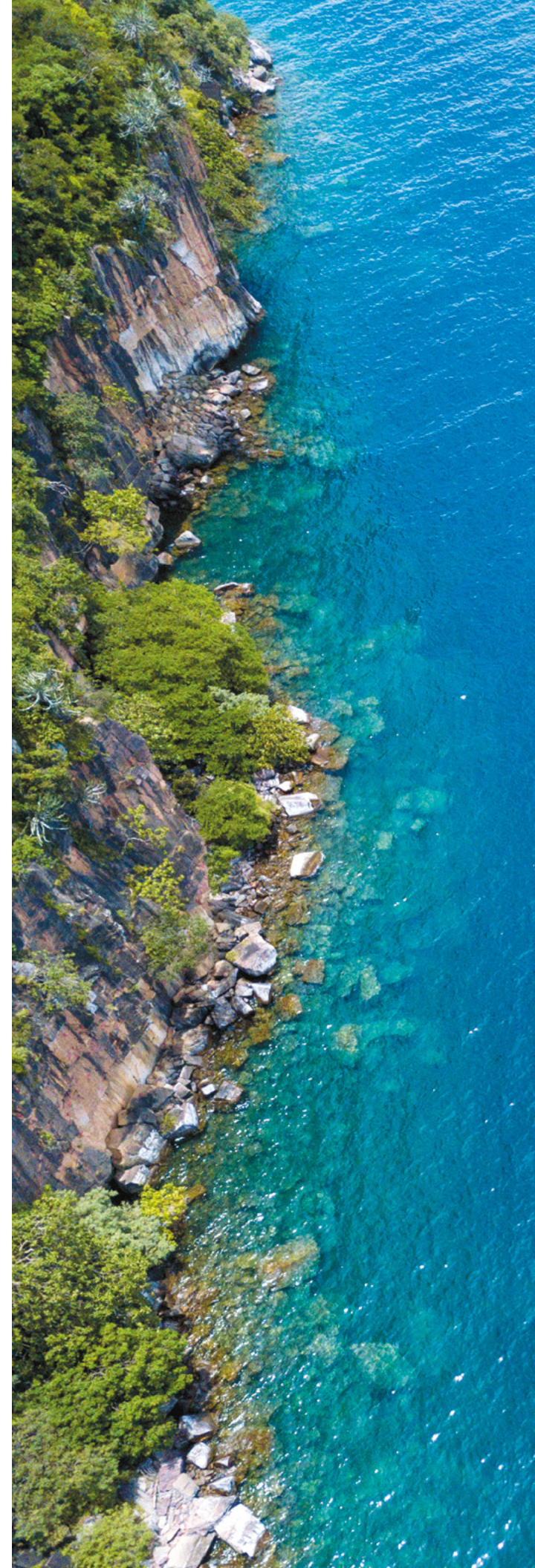
PEOPLE BENEFITING



2008
94,684



2018
1,152,545



LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

“We are ready.” Those words have been on the top of my mind since May when I traveled to Kigoma, Tanzania, for a four-day review of the Tuungane Project, a partnership with Pathfinder International.

While we’re focused on securing forest habitat for endangered chimpanzees and creating sustainable fisheries on Lake Tanganyika, they’re focused on improving the health of women and children by helping people plan their families. **Yet we’re an integrated team with a shared vision of success.**

We’ve come far in the last six years. More than 35% of forest habitat and 12 fish breeding sites are now protected. Twelve health facilities have been renovated, and 132 medical staff have been trained in emergency obstetric and newborn care.

After more than half the families in a village became “model households” demonstrating positive health and sustainability behaviors, we adjusted the measuring stick to create a “model village” that would advance progress across the entire ecosystem.

On the last day of the project review, we reported our progress to 25 visiting local government officials. Buhingu Ward Councilor Masoud Sibonja declared, “My village is ready. We want to be a model village. We cannot wait any longer. Change is happening too fast. **We are ready.**”

I realized that we’ve built not only demand for better land and fisheries management and demand for healthier reproductive lives, but also trust.

Driving localized impact, combined with influencing national policy, is key. We will ultimately be most successful if we pave the way for local people to shape a future that sustains them. This takes time — but when achieved, it’s a game changer.

I’m seeing the results of your support and our fantastic team, and I am excited for the future.

—MATT BROWN, Regional Managing Director, TNC Africa

LEGACY FOR AFRICA

“Private giving provides TNC with the solid foundation it needs to stay the course on the projects and the priorities they set, and to create enduring results. This generosity from supporters not only makes the work possible, it makes the right work possible.

I’m proud that the Africa Council became the first international trustee group to earn the status of Trustee Legacy Champions.

Our conservation dollars can go further here, and this underscores the council’s trust in TNC to make a lasting impact on the continent.”

—JOHN BERNSTEIN, TNC Africa Council Chair, has named the Africa Region in his estate plans, which enrolls him as a member of the Legacy Club.



“When I first heard that the Tuungane Project was a partnership between TNC and Pathfinder International, I was really surprised, but it makes so much sense.

I am blown away by how much it’s changing the lives of women and children. **You can’t protect nature if people aren’t healthy.**”

—CHRISTINE VERNIER, Oregon Chapter trustee and a founding member of TNC’s Africa Affinity Group for Women and Children

Learn how **you can make a lasting difference** in Africa: Contact Cori Messinger at cmessinger@tnc.org.

90% of the global population growth over the next 35 years will occur in Africa.

65% of Kenya's wildlife lives outside formal protected areas.

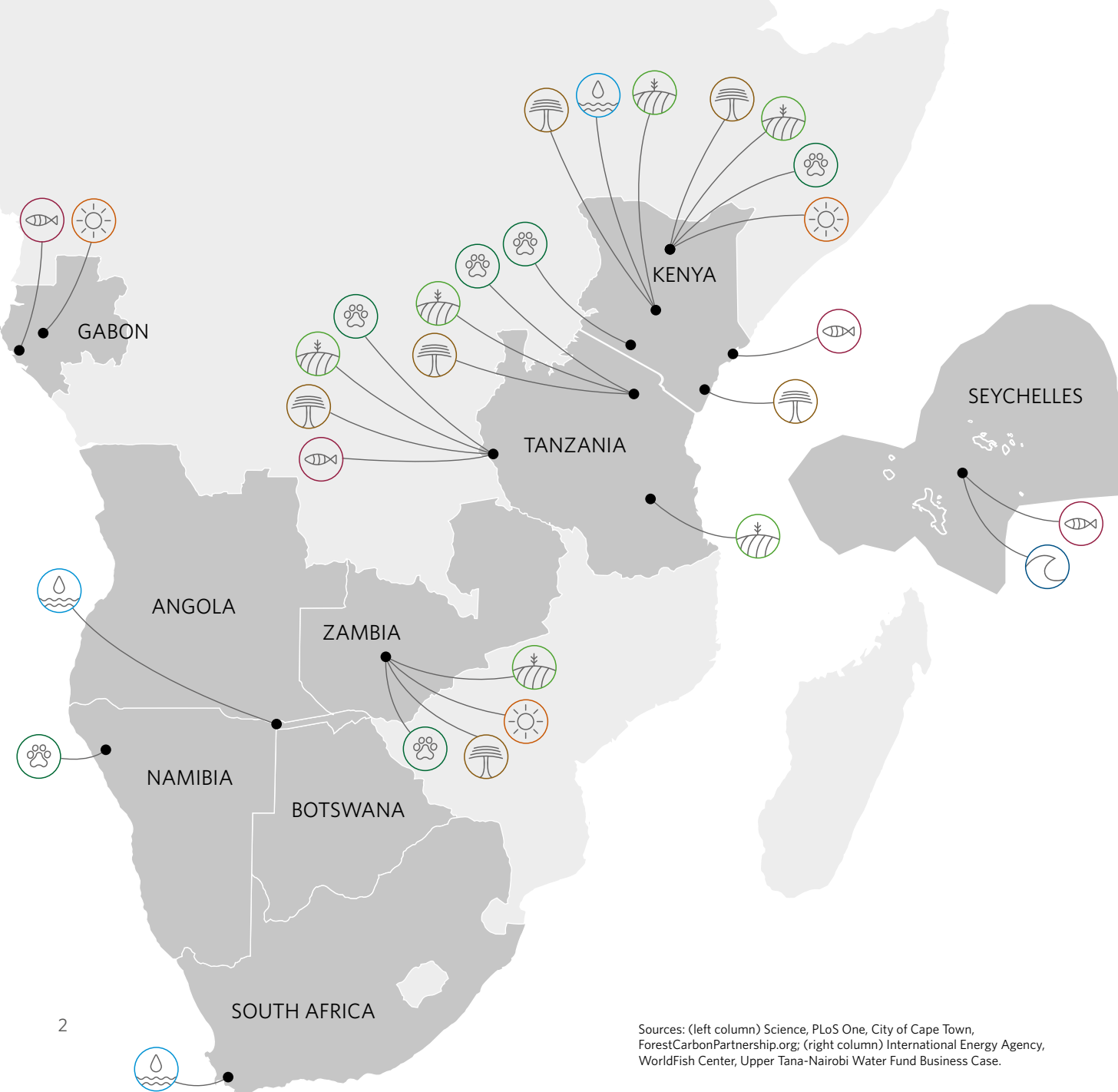
<20% is the level that Cape Town's reservoirs dropped to, prompting fears of "Day Zero."

52% of forest degradation in Africa is a result of unsustainable wood fuel harvest.

57% of people in sub-Saharan Africa lack electricity.

400 million Africans depend on fish as an essential source of micronutrients.

60% of Nairobi residents do not have access to a reliable water supply.



PLACE + STRATEGY

Change is coming quickly in Africa. Together with our partners, **we need to work faster, smarter, and bigger.** So we are evolving our approach to blend site-based work with cross-cutting strategies that address some of the most complex, urgent pressures on nature. More than ever before, we are drawing on the full power of TNC's global network of scientists and practitioners to bring the most effective ideas and to drive rapid replication of successes.

WILD

To secure vast, wild places, we work with the people who live in them. Rural communities often lack rights to own and benefit from their natural resources, a situation that drives poverty, poor resource management, habitat conversion, and poaching. Our strategy — **Protect Integrated Landscapes** — focuses on increasing community resource rights, strengthening management skills and institutions, and increasing livelihood benefits.

OCEAN

In the Western Indian Ocean, conflict among competing uses (e.g., artisanal and commercial fishing, oil and gas development) is causing degradation of marine resources. Our strategy — **Expand Ocean Protection and Resilience** — centers on protecting vast areas of high-priority habitat by blending science, multi-stakeholder negotiations, government relations, and innovative financing.

WATER

Unsustainable land use practices impact the availability, reliability, and quality of water flows on which people, wildlife, and ecosystems depend. Our strategy — **Protect Source Waters** — is designed to foster replication of public-private partnerships that proactively invest in restoring and securing priority watersheds while benefiting rural communities.

ENERGY

Nations are struggling to attract investments and meet sustainable development goals without sacrificing critical wildlife habitat and ecosystem services. Our strategy — **Power Africa Sustainably** — aims to equip sub-Saharan African countries with science-based solutions to maximize the deployment of low-impact and low-carbon renewable energy and infrastructure projects.

FARM

An expanding and unsustainable agricultural footprint is the largest single threat to habitat and wildlife. Our strategy — **Sustainably Intensify Agriculture** — aims to reduce habitat conversion, improve soil health, and minimize harm to freshwater resources by sustainably intensifying smallholder production, influencing siting, and helping large farm operators adopt sustainable practices.

FISH

Escalating demand for fisheries products is driving overfishing and destructive practices. Through our strategy — **Improve Fishery Health** — we are working with fishers, industry, and governments to improve monitoring, expand sustainable community-based management practices, and create market incentives that reward sustainable fishing practices.

FOREST

As the world's largest consumer of wood, primarily for cooking and heating, Africa has some of the world's highest rates of deforestation — the leading land-use-based contributor of carbon emissions globally. Our strategy — **Conserve and Restore Working Forests** — targets reducing deforestation and forest degradation and increasing reforestation.

Sources: (left column) Science, PLoS One, City of Cape Town, ForestCarbonPartnership.org; (right column) International Energy Agency, WorldFish Center, Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund Business Case.

WILD | SAVING NATURE, HELPING PEOPLE

In some of the most expansive remaining wild places, we are racing to stitch together communally owned lands, private lands, and government-protected areas into landscapes that support both people and wildlife.

2018 HIGHLIGHT | Integrated Solutions

KENYA | In the wide-open grasslands in the north and the Maasai Mara in the south, centuries of coexistence between people and wildlife are fraying into conflict. With the population growing exponentially, ever-larger herds of livestock are out-competing wildlife for grass.

We are teaming up with strong partners to give wildlife the healthy, secure habitat it needs, to provide ample grass for livestock, and to help local people benefit from conservation, because here, improving lives is not an afterthought. It is the key to progress that will endure.

COMMUNAL LANDS CONSERVATION

Building on our support of the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), we brought resources and close mentoring to the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association and the Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA), including shepherding the building of a new MMWCA headquarters.

Further, a new partnership with Communities Health Africa Trust (CHAT) enabled them to provide vital services to 32 new communities, reaching 15,736 people with integrated family planning and environmental health information and providing 1,760 individuals with HIV/AIDS testing and counseling.

PRIVATE LANDS CONSERVATION

By securing four new plots of land in pinch-point locations, we linked Loisaba Conservancy — 56,000 acres of habitat secured and sustained by TNC — to Mugie Conservancy in Laikipia County, creating a 100,000-plus-acre unfenced migration corridor for elephants and other species.

PEACE AND SECURITY

New funding enabled the hiring of 21 more rangers at Loisaba and provided more necessities, such as rations for NRT-West rangers, boosting security for wildlife and stability in the region.

A leopard conservation project led by San Diego Zoo Global, and a lion collaring initiative led by Lion Landscapes — both in partnership with TNC and Loisaba — are using technology to help people and carnivores coexist more safely.



“There are a lot of benefits of conservation nowadays. If you go to Kirimon, in my constituency, you will find pregnant mothers in labor who have to walk or hitch a motorbike for 20 kilometers to the nearest dispensary, because there is no transport. Then she gets there and finds the one nurse has gone out. Conservation investors must do even more to help people like those mothers.

It is good that TNC is bringing support for primary healthcare, such as supplying vaccinations and family planning. When people can access real benefits, that will turn their minds. **They will fully understand that conservation is not just about wild animals; it's also about human beings.**”

—SARAH LEKORERE, Member of Parliament for Laikipia North

“Rations may seem like a small thing, but **it's made a huge difference.** Before, the rangers would use their own money to buy food while on patrol. I've seen improved attitudes, job performance, and attendance rates. We've already seen a drastic reduction in incidents of insecurity.”

—MICHAEL MUGO, Nkoteiya Community Conservancy Manager

“We chose to support The Nature Conservancy's work in northern Kenya because **we see the value of taking a holistic approach to conservation.**”

—MOLLY McUSIC, President, Wyss Foundation





2018 HIGHLIGHT | Growing Local Support

ZAMBIA | Kafue National Park is encircled by a wildlife buffer zone, but people live here, too, and policies to protect habitat for animals are backfiring. Deforestation for cropland, illegal poaching, and human-wildlife conflict are on the rise. To save the park, TNC is not only improving security and fire management inside, but also helping surrounding communities benefit sustainably from their natural resources.



Zambian photographer GARETH BENTLEY captures the story of a breakthrough many years in the making:

“A gray, damp dawn breaks as our long-suffering car crawls over bone-jarring potholes on the road between Livingstone and Sesheke. Every few hundred meters we pause at a lake-sized puddle and ponder the depth and range of the dangers within. At last, we turn onto a wet, muddy road toward Mulobezi, eventually arriving nearly 10 hours later.

As we pull up to Choonzo Village the next morning, a young girl, Florence, looks up from tending breakfast. We warm our hands by the flickering fire and laugh at dogs’ antics as they compete for the lumps of *nshima* she throws.

We spend the morning with Martin Nalubamba and his family. The older boys make henhouses out of straw and branches. The smaller boys milk the goats. We’re joined by two young mothers, Wave (pictured top left) and Dorothy, who are carrying firewood on their heads and their babies on their backs.

Most people here are subsistence farmers, but the soil is extremely sandy, rainfall is erratic, and markets are several days’ journey away. **Up till now, they’ve benefited very little from their primary resource — the forest they live in.** For decades, private companies have held rights to harvest timber for export, creating some local jobs but on a scale that has little effect on lifting this community out of poverty.

This year, after a long, complex effort led by TNC, **officials granted the first-ever timber license for a community neighboring the park.** I enjoy listening to TNC Zambia Director Victor Siamudaala’s (pictured above left) excitement about how TNC will help local leaders create a business plan, and how the income will make an immeasurable difference to residents.

The next day, we meet a team from the main sawmill as they identify a suitable *mukwa* tree for harvesting. Thunder rumbles in the distance and within minutes, heavy raindrops are pouring down on us.

I drape a rain cover over my camera and keep shooting. The chainsaw roars to life and within a minute or two, the towering tree leans, falls, and crashes to the ground. In the rain, the sap seeps out from under the bark, red as blood. I am unprepared for my emotional response to witnessing a tree that is likely well over a century old lying at my feet.

I understand, though, that if managed sustainably, harvesting a few trees like this one will leave more forest standing and change the lives of thousands of people here for the better. **That is as it should be. That makes sense.**”



2018 HIGHLIGHT | Growing Local Leaders

TANZANIA | Across 7.6 million acres of grasslands in northern Tanzania exists a complex puzzle of wildlife, villages, livestock, and farms — all in need of space.

We are working with nine partners in the Northern Tanzania Rangelands Initiative (NTRI) to tackle this challenge from many angles, each bringing special expertise to shared strategies.

BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION

This year, we helped Randilen and Makame Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) to create five-year resource zone management plans, and began supporting a third WMA. Enduimet WMA lies in an elephant migration corridor between Amboseli and Kilimanjaro national parks, but farms and settlements are encroaching to feed a growing population.

When a farmer loses half his year’s crops in one elephant raid, it’s not unusual for locals to kill an elephant — often not even the original offender — out of revenge, creating conflict with the elephants we are trying to protect.

We worked with partners to develop an action plan to reduce human-wildlife conflict, improve security, increase tourism revenue, and build the skills of local leaders. We are providing the newly hired WMA manager with the resources he needs to lead Enduimet to financial and ecological sustainability.

NTRI Partners

Carbon Tanzania | Dorobo Fund | Honeyguide | Maliasili | Oikos | Pathfinder International | Tanzania People & Wildlife Ujamaa Community Resource Team | Wildlife Conservation Society

SUSTAINABLE GRAZING

Twenty-nine pastoralists attended a practical rangelands and livestock management training course at the Mara Training Center in Kenya. They will now create management plans with their communities to enhance grazing areas for livestock and wildlife, protect migration corridors, and produce economic benefits.

CREATING CONNECTIONS

TNC and partner Maliasili began the second cohort of the African Conservation Leadership Network (ACLN), bringing together emerging leaders from nine organizations based in Kenya, Namibia, and Tanzania. The ACLN aims to strengthen conservation’s organizational leadership and foster peer-learning.

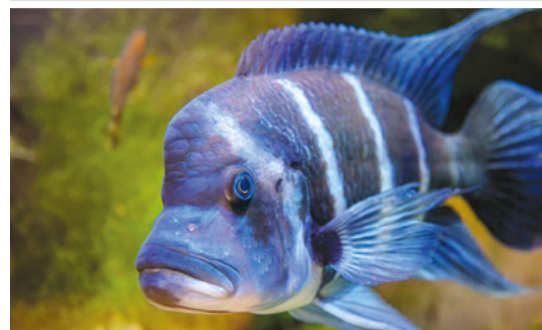


“The ACLN sessions have shifted my view of leadership, and the trust that’s been built among participants **formed a strong foundation for deep collaborations** and partnerships going forward.”

—SAM SHABA, Program Manager, Honeyguide

FISH | EMPOWERING CHANGE

By improving monitoring and data management, we can help local communities return to sustainable practices that will secure their fisheries resources for the future.



2018 HIGHLIGHT | Crisis Averted

TANZANIA | The Tuungane Project, a partnership with Pathfinder International, along with local government agencies and communities, is addressing the interconnected challenges of population, health, and environment on the shores of Lake Tanganyika. We are not only improving fishing practices and keeping forests standing for chimpanzees, but we are also helping local people through better access to reproductive healthcare, improved sanitation, and education.



TNC Africa Director of Monitoring and Evaluation CRAIG LEISHER shares a 2018 success story:

“Lake Tanganyika has been isolated for 10 million years, and **the result is lots of piscine weirdness**. The strange shapes and colors of the lake’s fish would be at home in a Dr. Seuss book. The lake’s cichlids can be found in aquariums all over the world [like this humphead cichlid, at right].

When fishermen began switching from traditional kerosene lanterns to LED lights to fish at night, we designed a study with the Tanzanian Fisheries Research Institute and the University of Wisconsin to determine the potential impact.

We found that fishers using LED lights caught an average of 31% more fish. LEDs emit more blue light, which penetrates deeper in the water, attracting more plankton and fish. When a few fishers began using LEDs so powerful they needed generators on their boats, **a boom-bust fishing crisis seemed imminent**.

With our findings in hand, we recommended that the Tanzanian government limit the size of LED lights and ban the use of generators. The government agreed, and **these rules are now part of fisheries regulations**. Fishers are generally supportive of the new regulations because they understand that LED lights could ruin long-term potential for short-term gain.”

2018 HIGHLIGHT | Reef Rangers

KENYA | Instead of camouflage uniforms and sturdy boots to do their jobs, rangers for coastal conservancies need snorkels and flippers. They also need specialized training to patrol and monitor fish, corals, and other species. Sixteen reef rangers completed an intensive course led by TNC, NRT, and other partners.

“Our rangers are not only equipped with security and anti-poaching skills, but they can now conduct scientific monitoring, which is **crucial for conservation of precious marine ecosystems**.”

—MOHAMED SHARIF, Kiunga Community Conservancy Manager

2018 HIGHLIGHT | Taboo “Tabou”

GABON | When many fishers first noticed declining fish stocks in Lake Oguemoué, they began to worry.

Then they started organizing — not an easy feat in rural Gabon, what with its unreliable cellphone network, far-flung villages, and local politics. **And not everyone agreed that the changes in the lake were real.**

In 2012, local partner Organisation Ecotouristique du Lac Oguemoué (OELO) began helping loose groups of fishers form legally recognized associations, and TNC then provided technical expertise and resources to collect fishing data.

The data turned the anecdotes into evidence: The lake was becoming dangerously overfished due to improperly sized nets, a lack of breeding area restrictions, and harmful practices such as *tabou* (hitting the water with a stick to frighten fish toward nets).

This year, we reached a turning point.

Through a collaborative and consultative approach, the government, the communities, and the partners crafted Gabon’s first inland fisheries management plan, which became official in July.

The plan includes delineating protected fish breeding areas, creating community patrols, and increasing monitoring and evaluation.

The new rules also address replacing problematic monofilament nets, which break easily and result in fish becoming entangled in discarded netting. As an incentive to get fishers to comply, TNC and OELO disbursed 25 multi-filament nets to members of sustainable fishing cooperative Amven, leaders in promoting sustainable fishing practices, with more to come for locals who agree to abide by the management plan.



“Our parents did not use those monofilament nets, and there were lots of fish then. Our generation started using them, and it took a toll. If we stop using these monofilament nets, **we might have catches as our elders did before.**”

—MARTIAL ANGOUÉ, Amven accounts auditor (pictured left)



FARM | PLANTING BETTER

Experts say that Africa has the potential to produce four times more food on land already being farmed, so our ambitious goal is to empower farmers with science that can help them feed more people and protect more habitat.

2018 HIGHLIGHT | More Food From Less Land

TANZANIA | Agricultural development is in full swing in southern Tanzania. But without the right resources, many farmers get very low crop yields, driving them to develop even more land. As farms continue to expand out and not up, wildebeest, zebras, and other species are running out of space.

Fortunately, science-based solutions are within reach. Working with thousands of Africa's smallholder farmers has allowed us to test and improve sustainability methods. Now, we are linking up with TNC's global network of experts to tackle agriculture on a larger scale.



"When I bought my farm eight years ago, my maize corn yield of 3 metric tons per hectare (mt/ha) shocked me in disappointment. I was hoping for at least 6 mt/ha.

I invited in soil experts, who found that my soils were highly acidic, so I applied heavy treatments of lime. The next year my yield was 6 mt/ha, then 8, and it now approaches 11. I've shared with TNC that these soil health and yield gains are technically possible for small farmers here, but **there is a lot of work to do.**"

—OTTO ULYATE, a farmer in southern Tanzania

2018 MILESTONES

46% of 2,563 farmers trained on climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices within Tanzania's Tuungane Project area have adopted them, well above the 30% target for a three-year period. Farmers using CSA increased their maize productivity an average of 50% last year, helping to reduce pressure on habitat for the country's largest chimpanzee population.

22,472 coffee, tea, and produce farmers on sloping or steep land in Kenya's Upper Tana watershed have voluntarily enrolled to receive conservation tips via text messages, creating a fast-growing network of sustainability influencers.

A **\$70 million** grant from the World Bank to support the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) initiative is the largest of many new investments into the sector that TNC is guiding toward environmental sustainability by providing science-based decision support tools and compliance monitoring.

FOREST | PLANTING MORE

Africa has vowed to restore 100 million hectares of degraded forest landscapes by 2030. We are helping leaders in government and business to plant the right trees in the right places, and keep more of the continent's healthy forests standing.

2018 HIGHLIGHT | More Heat From Fewer Trees

KENYA | Eighty percent of urban households in sub-Saharan Africa use charcoal, and wood fuels are expected to remain the region's dominant source of energy. This mass consumption threatens Africa's forests, and respiratory infections — mainly from smoke inhalation — are Africa's leading cause of death.

TNC partnered with the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) on pioneering research to understand what kinds of sustainable charcoal work best and that people will actually use.

More than 25 tree species, bamboo, and briquette combinations were tested, along with four different kiln technologies. Cooking tests revealed that, in general, the fastest growing species, like bamboo, **burn for only half the time of slower growing, indigenous species.** So while a mother might use bamboo charcoal to make morning tea, it would likely not provide enough heat for cooking traditional grains.

We are looking holistically at how to make the entire charcoal value chain more sustainable. This data, along with data from a TNC-funded economic review of different charcoal techniques, will be used to guide policymakers and investors.

In addition, we are developing an innovative impact investment vehicle — the "Tree Fund" — aimed at stimulating private-sector tree planting.

2018 MILESTONES

A **30-year** contract between NTRI partner Carbon Tanzania and Makame Wildlife Management Area — following TNC-supported carbon and wildlife assessments — will create a sustainable source of revenue and protect key wooded habitat in the largest and most species-diverse community-protected area in Tanzania.

25 women completed the first harvest of bamboo in a pilot project with partners in Maragua, Kenya. TNC will use the results as a model to scale economically viable, bamboo-based land restoration.



"The improved kilns use **less wood to create more charcoal** than traditional kilns, which also release a lot of smoke. If the community can keep using improved kilns, it means we'll exploit fewer wood resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

—EMILY KITHEKA, KEFRI scientist



OCEAN | GROWING BLUE

Using our success in Seychelles as a springboard, we are going big: delivering ocean planning and protection on national and regional scales across the Western Indian Ocean.

Just below the surface of the Western Indian Ocean is a world in perpetual motion, with slow-waving sea fans, darting triggerfish, gliding rays, and clumsy dugongs. Understanding and protecting this other world is crucial: It is also the bank and the grocery store for the millions of people on the islands above.

Through a newly expanded marine program, we are building on our work with community conservancies in Kenya and the successful debt-for-conservation swap in Seychelles to protect even more marine diversity and build blue economies.

2018 HIGHLIGHT | Cooler Conservation

SEYCHELLES | This year, Seychelles declared 81,000 square miles of new marine protection areas — the first half of its commitment in the swap — and achieved a milestone in making a tangible impact: The Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) awarded the first six grants to grassroots projects.

One recipient, Green Islands Foundation, is monitoring both threatened species and those that artisanal fishers worry are on the decline, including various species of groupers, sharks, and rays, and working to change behavior to secure that underwater bank for future generations.

“

For a long time, fisheries management in Seychelles has been done with a top-down approach, and we wanted to try something different. Fishermen often don't want to sit in a formal setting. **So we find fishermen where they gather** on the beach, we bring out a cooler of drinks, and we just talk to them. We talk about what the project is trying to achieve, what measures they want in place, and how they can be included in decisions about these species.

We'll look at the monitoring results and ask: 'What are you willing to do to reduce your impact on that species?' If we find they are catching only juvenile hammerheads, for example, we'll ask if they would agree to release sharks under a certain size.

I think the outreach part of research is important. Conservation should not be done in isolation. You might discover a new frog species, but people aren't excited, because they think it doesn't affect them. You have to show them why it matters.”

—WILNA ACCOUCHE, General Manager, Green Islands Foundation

ENERGY | GROWING GREEN

We are developing cutting-edge science and drawing on proven models to help generate more energy with less impact on nature.

While many developed nations, such as the United States, are working to repair damage done by poorly planned energy development, many African countries have the chance to prioritize renewable approaches from the start.

We are seizing the opportunity to help leaders avoid putting wind turbines, hydropower dams, solar panels, and other infrastructure in the places that wildlife needs most.

Our Africa team aims to bring world-leading expertise in spatial science for comprehensive energy plans that create the least harm to people and nature, the least financial risk to investors, and the greatest economic opportunities for communities.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS | New Science Unlocks Better Options

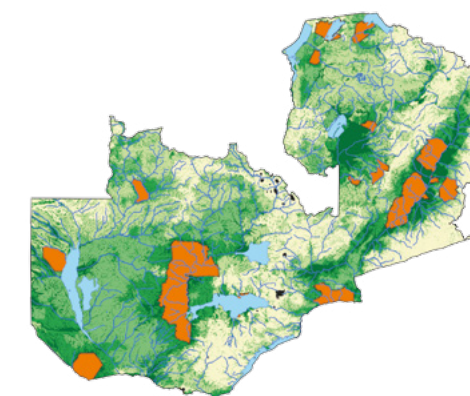
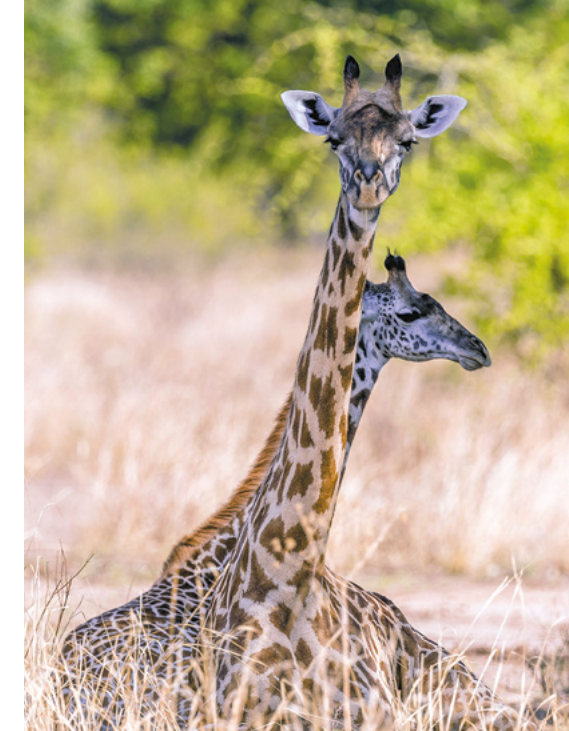
GABON | To reduce pressure on still-wild rivers, we are assembling a wealth of data to help government and industry increase hydropower generation sustainably. For example, newly installed flow gauges are plotting the rise and fall of river levels, as well as water speed, turbidity, and sediment load. The information is shared with energy authorities to help optimize hydropower from existing facilities, and plan for better and less-impactful projects in the future.

ZAMBIA | Through a three-year effort with the Zambian government to analyze reams of research — from aerial wildlife counts to remote sensing of distribution of cropland — TNC created a first-in-Africa, national-scale Conservation Value Map to guide sustainable development, including identifying areas that are the better choices for new energy investments. This science is now being used by the team that is implementing Zambia's National Energy Strategy.

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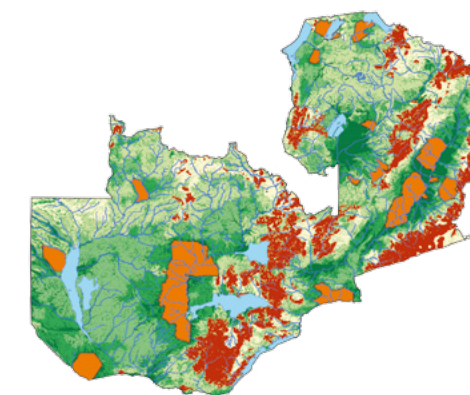
This map is not only important information on the nation's valuable environmental assets, but is also **a state-of-the-art spatial planning tool** that will be instrumental in achieving the government's goals on socioeconomic development, biodiversity conservation, and addressing climate change, among others.”

—JEAN KAPATA, Minister of Lands, Natural Resources, and Environmental Protection, Zambia



Conservation Value Map of Zambia

- National parks
- Land with highest ecological value
- Land already converted



- Converted land areas that also have the greatest potential for land-based renewable energy development



WATER | SAVING THE SOURCE

We are drawing on TNC’s world-leading expertise in conservation finance to create public-private partnerships that generate sustainable funding for source water protection.

KENYA | Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund

In fast-growing Nairobi, water comes out of the tap just twice per week for most of its 4 million citizens. TNC scientists determined that fixing farms and forests in the Tana River watershed will improve water quality and quantity at half the cost of water treatment and new infrastructure — and create additional benefits for people and nature.

PROGRESS TO DATE

5,285 farmers received rainwater harvesting pans, which keep more water in the river and increase food security and income.

500,000 trees were planted toward our goal of 2 million to enhance wildlife habitat and reduce erosion.

\$7.5 million endowment fundraising effort was launched to enable long-term success at the scope of the entire watershed.

SOUTH AFRICA | Greater Cape Town Water Fund

TNC scientists see the potential to reclaim 50 billion liters of water for the drought-stressed city each year — that is three full months’ supply — by removing water-thirsty invasive plant species and restoring wetlands, enabling more of the area’s scant annual rainfall to filter into aquifers.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

173 acres in the Atlantis aquifer — a key source of water for the region — have been cleared of Australian acacias, giving native fynbos species, such as protea (pictured left), a chance to return.

7 sub-catchments were identified as top priorities in new TNC-led research that pinpoints conservation actions that will yield the highest water returns.



“Moha Soft Drinks has three plants in Addis Ababa bottling for PepsiCo, and one of those already has no water. We are shuttling water from another location, or we are using boreholes. There is not a municipal supply. We can’t continue like this. **We have to see if there is another alternative.**”

—BEZUNEH FOLE, Moha Soft Drinks Industry, TNC Water Funds workshop participant

Water Fund Replication

About 350 million Africans lack reliable access to clean water. As others focus on improving infrastructure, TNC is working to secure sources — rivers, lakes, and aquifers. Our goal: a dozen water funds operational or underway by 2025. By equipping municipalities in high-conservation-value geographies to use our water fund model, we can have the greatest continental impact in the shortest amount of time.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

9 African nations were represented at a pioneering TNC-hosted training workshop to share knowledge and jump-start source water protection projects from Morocco to South Africa.

5 new water fund steering committees are now in place to replicate the progress in Cape Town and Nairobi.

BOTSWANA | Okavango Basin

Each year, rainwater flows 1,000 miles from the Angolan highlands through a tiny sliver of Namibia, transforming Botswana’s Okavango Basin into a desert oasis teeming with wildlife, including Africa’s largest elephant population.

Proposed water infrastructure projects could remove as much as half the water that annually flows to the delta.

We are supporting a new coalition of partners, including the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission and the National Geographic Okavango Wilderness Project, to establish a source water protection strategy for one of Earth’s most breathtaking wildernesses.



THE WEIGHT OF WATER

It is an iconic African image: a woman carrying a heavy bucket of water on her head, both hands free to greet neighbors, make calls, or hold on to her child. But even when she arrives home, the weight of the water remains on her shoulders. Countless women, from both remote villages and major cities, struggle to access clean, reliable water for cooking, bathing, and sanitation.

For women who are heads of their household, lower income due to gender inequality often keeps water solutions out of reach.

Scientists for the Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund found that these households are more dependent on farming — and therefore on water — for income, and they have lower food security.

In response, the Water Fund now provides a larger subsidy to these women — about 25% of farms in the project area — toward the costs of soil and water conservation, such as rainwater harvesting pans.



“The little idea the Water Fund gave us has grown into something we are doing for our living.”

—ELENA KINYUNA (pictured back cover) put manure in her water pan for fertilizer and to feed fish that she sells.

“With the water pan, I can harvest a month before the other farmers, so the price is better. With the profits I made, I bought a car, which I use to take tomatoes directly to market instead of selling to a middleman. **I’m a farmer and a businesswoman!**”

—MERCY WANGECHI MWANGI (pictured center bottom) used to have to rent a riverside plot and buy fuel for an irrigation pump. A water pan enabled her to move back to her family farm upslope and irrigate her crops for free.

“The water pan helps me have enough water to cultivate cabbages and tomatoes, and to keep my coffee trees watered during the dry season. I also learned about terracing. I didn’t know how to conserve soil and water, so **I would lose most of my good soil when it rained.** Slowly, bit by bit, I have expanded my farm.”

—GLADYS WANGECHI (pictured above left) won Kenya’s “Best Woman in Agriculture” award in 2017.

A FORCE FOR NATURE

Protecting Africa’s lands, waters, and wildlife will take an unceasing commitment, and we cannot do it alone. Here are three ways we are creating more advocates for nature:

Spreading Great Ideas: Delegates from Kenya’s Pate Marine Community Conservancy participated in a TNC-supported learning trip to Madagascar, equipping the group to develop new practices, such as sea cucumber farming, and propelling the concept of community-led fisheries management across the Western Indian Ocean.

Strengthening Partners: Twenty-five new rangers, hired with TNC support, are helping monitor the world’s largest free-ranging black rhino population in Namibia’s Kunene region, increasing the area patrolled by 58% over 2017.

Connecting People to Nature: The Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund engages youth by hiring interns and runners to help more farmers implement conservation measures, and this year it hosted a fifth annual water-themed race for students.



“Getting firsthand experience has made me confident that I want to pursue conservation as a career. I learned the huge role agricultural practices have in conservation. Farmers are the custodians of these lands, and everything they do impacts nature.

I hope all Kenyans learn that conservation is not just a boring, self-conscious responsibility; **it’s an investment in the future** and comes with its own benefits, like food security and clean water.

—JANELISPER WAITHIRA (pictured opposite, bottom right) is one of five graduate interns who added energy and enthusiasm to the Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund team.

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES | Because of you, we have made tremendous progress — and there is so much more to do. There has never been a more crucial time for nature-lovers around the world to step up for Africa. To help create a bright future for nature and people, contact Cori Messinger at cmessinger@tnc.org.



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The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.

Wito wa The Nature Conservancy ni kuhifadhi ardhi na maji ambayo maisha yote hutegemea.

La mission de The Nature Conservancy est de protéger les terres et les eaux dont toute vie depend.

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