



# Africa

“I dream of our vast deserts, of our forests, of all our  
great wildernesses.”

—Nelson Mandela

~ the mere word conjures images of great herds of wildebeest migrating across grassy plains, elephants and hippos bathing in mighty rivers, chimpanzees clambering through dense forest canopies. Africa’s legendary landscape retains much of its wildness and majesty, and many of its people still live close to nature and depend on its lands, waters and natural resources for their well-being.



# extraordinary habitats

As The Nature Conservancy launches and expands conservation programs in Africa, we approach the continent with both confidence and humility. With more than a half-century's experience, the Conservancy has developed the tools required to advance sustainable conservation in Africa. At the same time, the Conservancy will work closely with local partners and learn from the wealth of knowledge on this diverse continent where humans and wildlife have co-existed for thousands of years.

## INTO AFRICA

As author Peter Matthiessen observed, Africa represents “the last great redoubt of large wild creatures left on earth.” Africa's wildlife endures largely because of the vastness and resilience of its tropical savannas, aridlands, flooded grasslands and other extraordinarily diverse habitats. The Nature Conservancy recognizes that working in Africa is essential for the organization to accomplish both its goal of protecting exemplars of all major habitat types and its overall mission of protecting the diversity of life on Earth.

After an initial evaluation of the biological importance and political and economic conditions of potential sites, the Conservancy has focused on priority lands and waters spanning Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique and the Seychelles. The Africa Program is now assessing threats and opportunities elsewhere to determine where to expand our conservation programs and partnerships.

## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Africa faces a future of increasingly fierce competition for already limited natural resources. An expanding human population—expected to triple within 50 years—will test the resilience

## Guiding Principles

The Conservancy has built its Africa Program on three main principles:

- Working in partnership with local conservation organizations
- Connecting conservation with human well-being
- Transferring technical tools, skills and resources to partner organizations and projects

of the continent. And for conservation, in particular, the sheer size and complexity of Africa's 53 nations pose both challenges and opportunities.

Among the substantial opportunities offering renewed hope is the extensive network of established conservation lands. Many countries, however, would like access to additional training and resources that would enhance their management of protected lands. Moreover, tapping into public funding opportunities could provide leverage to empower Africans to protect ecological diversity while maintaining their livelihoods.

## Priorities

### AFRICAN GRASSLANDS AND SAVANNAS

From Kenya's acacia-studded savannas to the lush flooded grasslands of Tanzania and Zambia, Eastern and Southern Africa's dynamic landscapes harbor an abundance of large mammals found nowhere else on Earth. Working with established local conservation partners such as the African Wildlife Foundation, the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and the Northern Rangelands Trust, the Conservancy is focused on large, mostly intact landscapes that support mammal migrations and rare species. With such innovative methods as private-land acquisition and conservation-lease programs, the Conservancy seeks to preserve key wildlife corridors linking established protected areas.



## ARIDLANDS OF NAMIBIA

The desert mountains, gorges, plains and ephemeral rivers of Namibia's Kunene region harbor desert elephants, zebras, spotted leopards and a third of the world's remaining wild black rhinos. The Conservancy is supporting the Namibian government and on-the-ground partners partners such as Save the Rhino Trust and Round River Conservation Studies in creating and managing a new "people's park" linking Skeleton Coast and Etosha national parks. This effort builds on a successful community-based natural resource management program in the Kunene to form one of the world's largest protected areas—more than 15 million acres—preserving critical wildlife corridors, maintaining communities' sustainable use of natural resources, and offering a base for sustainable ecotourism ventures.

## HIGHLAND FORESTS OF EAST AFRICA

The highland forests of Africa's Eastern Rift Valley provide sustenance for local people and habitat for myriad species ranging from tree frogs to chimpanzees. The Conservancy is enhancing the work of local partners such as the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) and the Green Belt Movement (GBM). Our Adopt an Acre Program has provided targeted grants to help these partners protect and restore priority forests. We also are sharing technical expertise with both groups, helping GBM prioritize future tree-planting sites and conducting conservation-planning workshops with JGI for the Greater Gombe National Park ecosystem and the Masito Ugalla forest landscape in western Tanzania.

## WEST INDIAN OCEAN

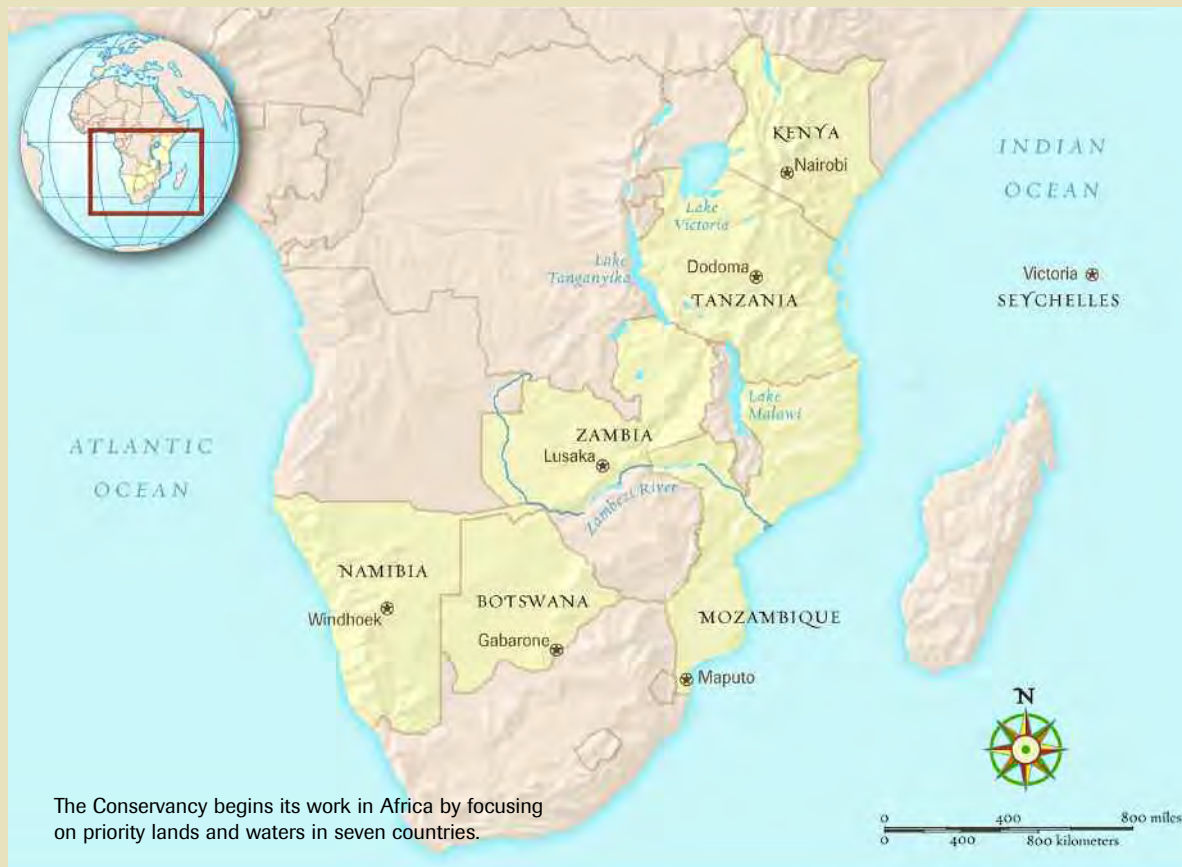
With huge stretches of coral reefs, mangrove forests, estuaries and island archipelagos, the West Indian Ocean supports a wide diversity of life—from sea turtles and sharks to people. The economies of many countries also are highly dependent on the region's marine resources, primarily for fishing, tourism and shipping. In the Seychelles, we are working with local governments to establish new marine protected areas and strengthen the management of existing areas. In Mozambique, we are assisting the national government and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in creating and ultimately managing Africa's largest marine protected area. The protected area will provide a foundation for multiple strategies to improve the fishery



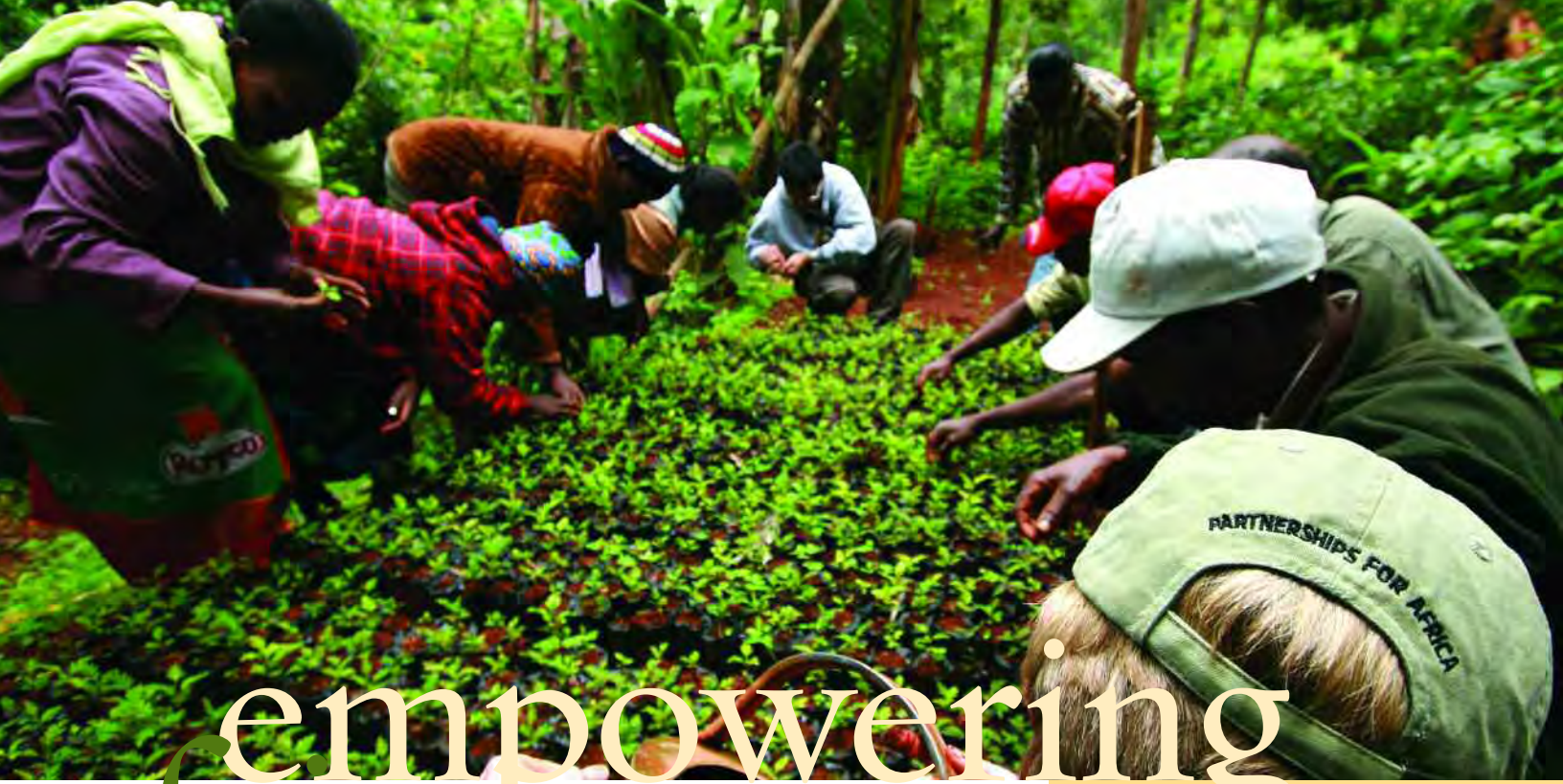
and conditions for the 40,000 people whose livelihoods depend on it.

## ZAMBEZI RIVER

Home to iconic African wildlife such as hippos, Cape buffalo and elephants, the Zambezi River's rich fresh-water ecosystems include dambos, tropical floodplain grasslands and the magnificent Zambezi Delta. Facing increased demands for hydropower and commercial agriculture, the Zambezi needs creative solutions to ensure its waters will continue to provide habitat for wildlife and sustenance and electricity for communities. The Conservancy is exchanging ideas and methods for restoring natural river flows with WWF Zambia and with the Zambezi River Authority and other water management agencies in the river basin. We are also working with the African Wildlife Foundation to enhance the capacity of governments and local communities to manage protected areas along the river.



The Conservancy begins its work in Africa by focusing on priority lands and waters in seven countries.



# empowering africans

## Working in Partnership

All of the major international non-governmental conservation organizations now work in some part of Africa, while numerous local organizations have instilled themselves deeply into specific issues and places. The Nature Conservancy seeks to complement and bolster the efforts of these diverse partners.

The Conservancy brings a unique array of assets to the table, from financial resources to scientific expertise to technical assistance with conservation and management plans. We seek to maximize our conservation impact in Africa by joining these resources with the established presence and homegrown knowledge of our varied partners.

## About The Nature Conservancy

Since 1951, The Nature Conservancy has worked around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. It's *how* we work that has made the Conservancy successful:

- We work across the USA and in more than 30 countries—from Australia to Zambia—with partners in communities, governments, businesses, and other non-profits—in other words, people like you.
- We work with local communities to protect their lands and livelihoods, from indigenous tribes in Colombia to soy farmers in Brazil to fishing villages in Jamaica.
- We build conservation knowledge and skills, helping establish training programs in such places as the Amazon, Mexico and Indonesia.
- We pursue non-confrontational, practical solutions to conservation challenges.
- We are a science-based organization, with more than 700 staff scientists.

Our history of success and our partners give us great hope for the future. Together, we can overcome the challenges ahead to help enhance the well-being of Africa's people and to conserve some of the most extraordinary lands and waters on Earth.

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The Nature Conservancy 

Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

*The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.*

COVER: Wildebeest at Sunset, Amboseli National Park, Kenya © Charles Robertson

PAGE 2, TOP: Kunene region, western Namibia © Anand Mishra/TNC; BOTTOM: Zebra in the Crater Highlands of Tanzania, Africa © Kenneth K. Coe

PAGE 3, TOP: West Indian Ocean © Matt Brown/TNC; BOTTOM: Conservation partners, Kitengela, Kenya © Anand Mishra/TNC

BACK COVER: The Conservancy is working with the Green Belt Movement and local communities to help restore Kenya's forests © Anand Mishra/TNC

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