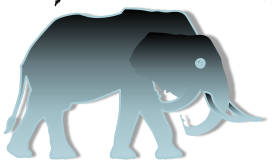
How does it work?

- NGOs and government work with tourism lodges to create performance payments
- Monitoring, recording and reporting on wildlife numbers and being rewarded for proven increases, or presence of wildlife in land set aside (e.g. corridors)
- Establish a national wildlife credit fund
- The fund pays communities directly for improvements in wildlife numbers or habitat
- based on agreed performance measures and evidence
- Impact investors buy credits or bonds in wildlife (e.g. rhinos) and receive payments for results, e.g. breeding success

Seven keys to success

1. Clear and transparent standards
2. Equitable benefit sharing
3. Robust monitoring & data collection
4. Learning from similar programmes
5. Local government engagement
6. Trust and relationships
7. Diverse targeted buyers

What are Wildlife Credits?



- If financial incentives reward communities for living with wildlife, then they will protect them.
- This value should be transferred to the people who are at the frontline of protecting nature.
- Payments are only made upon performance.
- Communities receive fair and efficient payments, and may invest these in salaries or infrastructure.
- The end result is less conflict between people and wildlife, less poaching and functional wildlife movement corridors.

Advantages & Strengths

Enabling legislation exists
Significant improvements in income and infrastructure
Technology and partnerships exists to enable monitoring and tracking of funds
Potential investors are available
Early experiments are promising
Benefits for climate change and Carbon sequestration
Large tracts of community conserved lands exist
Intermediaries are bypassed
Significant benefits to nature

Risks and uncertainties

Uncertain land rights
Poor access to start-up credit
Retention of control by government
Low institutional capacity
Inexperienced communities
Inflated expectations
Skepticism and mistrust
Elite capture of funds
Eroding local knowledge & traditions
Neglect of low-profile species
Environmental unpredictability (droughts, floods, fires)

Financial viability

- Participation in wildlife co-management has great potential to improve livelihoods
- New practices & finance mechanisms being experimented with and institutionalized
- Potential to compensate for opportunity cost, linked to lease costs of land
- Startup seed funding is important
- Impact investors are important partners
- Transparency of returns on investments is feasible through viable monitoring dashboards, remote imaging and cameras
- Wildlife credits should be ONE OF the livelihood and revenue streams of local communities - part of a bundle of livelihood assets

Enabling context

- Enabling legislation
- Knowledge & technology support
- Technology for tamper-proof smart contracts
- Willing investors
- Mobile phone networks
- Available land and wildlife populations

Supporters & Partnerships

- Technology partners
- Willing investors
- Tourism industry
- Government
- Learning partners
- NGOs & facilitators