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# Natural Resources Management

Developing and implementing multifaceted strategies to protect natural resources



# THE RTI DIFFERENCE

RTI combines the research expertise of a university, the innovation and implementation capabilities of a private enterprise, and the mission focus of a nonprofit. We develop and scale our approach to fit the local context.

## A RESEARCH-BASED APPROACH

We integrate our scientific expertise and the findings of RTI research into our technical approaches and implementation for more effective and sustainable projects.

Since 2018, RTI has pioneered the use of formative research to conduct focused social and behavior change communications campaigns that reduce demand for illegal wildlife parts and products in Asia. These campaigns have decreased by more than half the number of consumers intending to buy illegal wildlife products in Thailand, Vietnam, and China.

## PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

We consider where the private sector can make a big impact and forge partnerships to advance sustainable management of natural resources.

In places like Tanzania and the Philippines, we've created partnerships between the private sector, governments, and civil society to protect wildlife and biodiversity while enhancing local livelihoods and income from ecotourism, thereby creating incentives to continue these protections after the projects end.

## LOCALLY DRIVEN, SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE

We work with and through our wide network of local community-based organizations, civil society, government partners, and community counterparts to empower women, youth, and other marginalized groups.

In Uganda, we strengthened local systems to respond to community needs and ensure local communities and organizations lead sustainable development and conservation. For example, we fostered collaborations with indigenous organizations to bring their priorities into conservation dialogues.



# WHAT WE DO

We collaborate with local communities, governments, civil society, and the private sector on:

## Biodiversity Conservation

We protect natural ecosystems and biodiversity through advocacy, behavior change, research, environmental policy, and safeguarding land and indigenous rights, while also employing a market systems approach to enhance livelihoods.

## Climate Resilience

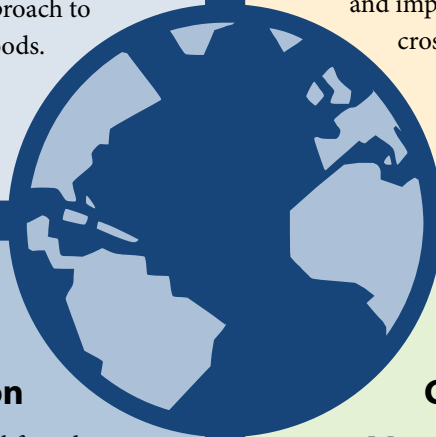
We implement approaches that enhance sustainable landscapes, reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions, and help us adapt to climate change. We integrate resilience into the design and implementation of our cross-sectoral work.

## Wildlife and Environmental Protection

We address wildlife and environmental crime and trafficking at every level by enhancing law enforcement and regional coordination, developing alternative incentives, and employing social and behavior change communication campaigns.

## Environmental Policy and Governance

We support evidence-based policy frameworks, enhanced institutional capacity, and coordinated efforts to protect and improve the management of natural resources, addressing the economic, natural, and socio-political complexities.



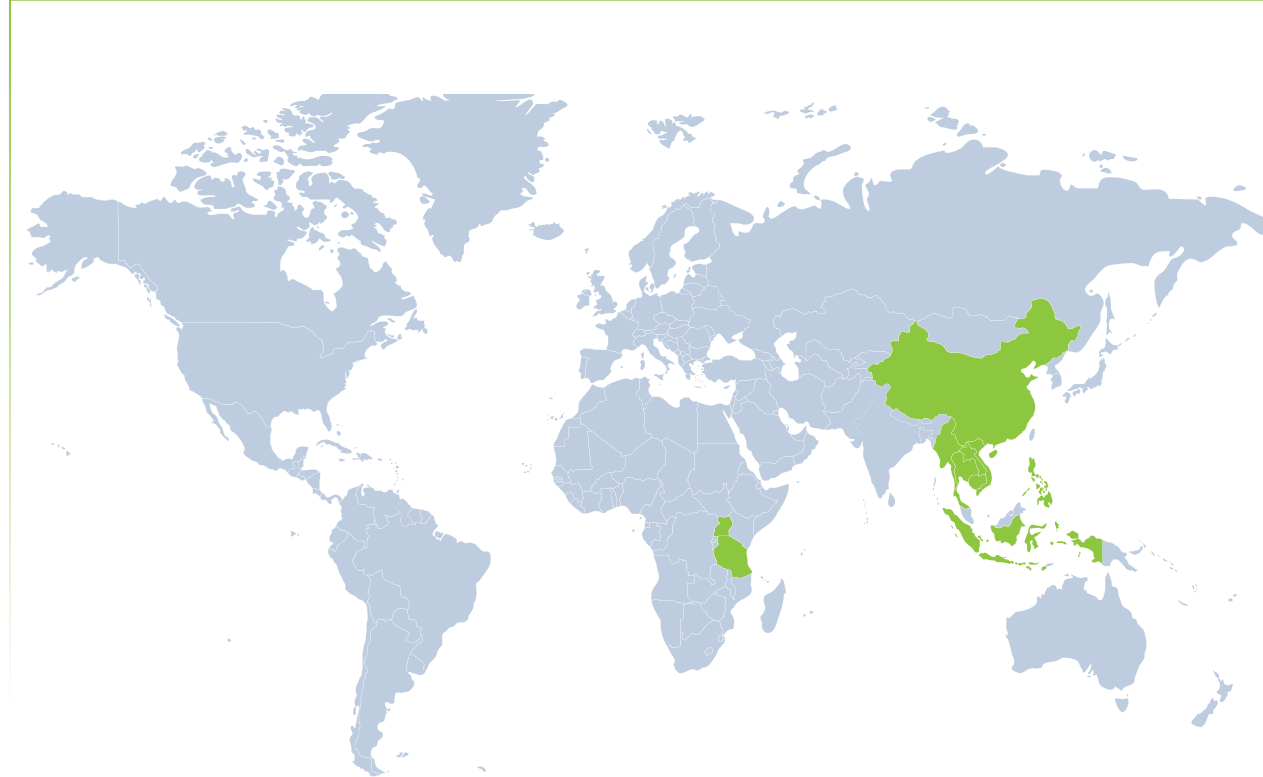
## USAID Uganda Biodiversity for Resilience Activity (B4R), 2020–2027

- Collaborates with the government and local communities to strengthen natural resource management, resulting in the improved management of 350,647 hectares of land.
- Partners with local ecotourism and agro-forestry companies to scale conservation efforts, generating over \$250,000 in annual revenue.
- Advances financial independence and social capital among women and youth community wildlife rangers, with over 500 integrated into village savings and loan associations.
- Improves community resilience to climate change through a carbon credit program, providing tangible benefits to community members who manage forests in the Kidepo Valley Landscape.

## USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili (“Preserve Natural Resources”), 2021–2026

- Strengthens the capacity of local stakeholders, including helping 25 civil society organizations and 36 public institutions effectively plan and implement conservation actions.
- Facilitates access to over \$710,000 in loans and market connections for 11,779 sustainable small business entrepreneurs.
- Leverages over \$5 million in private sector investment through conservation partnerships.

### Recent natural resources management efforts:



## USAID Philippines Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes (SIBOL), 2020–2025

- Trains over 7,000 people to improve the management of natural resources and sustainable landscapes and strengthen conservation law enforcement.
- Improves management of over 1 million hectares of biologically significant ecosystems through new tools and practices.
- Collaborates with communities to guide green reconstruction plans to restore over 150,000 hectares of forest damaged by Super Typhoon Odette in 2021.

## Tanzania Land Use and Climate Study, 2023

- Interviewed over 240 local leaders, technical experts, and community members on land use.
- Used satellite data to compare forest loss rates before and after land use plan implementation.
- Resulted in a set of recommendations, shared with communities, for strengthening the effectiveness of land use planning and its impact on climate outcomes.

## End Wildlife Crime Project (EWC), 2024–2029

- Partners with 12 local organizations to apply new tools, technologies, and/or practices that improve biodiversity conservation and sustainable ecosystems management.
- Trains over 150 citizens and law enforcement officers to apply improved conservation law enforcement practices.
- Convenes local stakeholders to coordinate regional alliances and networks that combat illegal wildlife trade and environmental crime.





# HIGHLIGHTS

Through recent projects, we have worked with local partners to:

Reduce by



the incidences of human-wildlife conflict in target geographies of Tanzania

Reduce by over



the number of consumers intending to purchase wildlife products in 3 Asian countries

Improve management of over



hectares of terrestrial and marine ecosystems in Africa, Asia, and Latin America

Mobilize over



in investment for sustainable landscapes, biodiversity conservation, and natural resource management

Reduce a projected



metric tons of global greenhouse gas emissions through 2030

## MORE INFORMATION

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RTI International is an independent, nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition. Clients rely on us to develop solutions that demand an objective and multidisciplinary approach—one that integrates expertise across the social and laboratory sciences, engineering, and international development. We believe in the promise of science, and we are inspired every day to deliver on that promise for the good of people, communities, and businesses around the world.

For more information, visit [www.rti.org](http://www.rti.org).



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