



*Africa's biodiversity is being destroyed faster than nature can replace it, and the African cultural traditions that respected the environment as the source of life, are being forgotten. The table below explores the problems and causes of this environmental and cultural disintegration and the African Conservancy's programs that address them.*

What the Problems Are	Why the Problems Exist	What Actions Do We Take
<p><b>Decimation of wildlife</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poachers are killing many species of African wildlife to sell the meat and/or body parts on the local and international black market.</li> </ul> <p><b>Extinction of locally indigenous species</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Globally endangered species like the rhino and the wild dogs have become locally extinct.</li> </ul> <p><b>Habitat destruction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large-scale habitat destruction is happening in rural areas where Africans practice shifting agriculture and utilize forestry resources for fuel.</li> </ul> <p><b>Loss of traditional culture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The cultural practices that honored nature and maintained the human/nature balance required to preserve Africa's environment are being eroded as the young generations leave villages for city centers.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Food insecurity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural Africans have neither the means nor the access to commercial domestic meat. Black market meat is often the only available source of protein.</li> <li>Rural Africans have not been introduced to alternative agricultural and ranching practices that can be effective in solving the food security issue.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overpopulation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Availability of healthcare has reduced mortality across all generations, but very few if any provisions have been made to address the needs of a growing population.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ignorance of sustainability issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural Africans have not had the opportunity to learn about the sustainability issues that face them as they move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.</li> </ul> <p><b>Perceived lack of economic opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural Africans perceive that, other than through poaching, they have no means of generating income.</li> <li>This perception drives the younger generations to city centers, where they create a great demand for black market meat.</li> <li>Younger generations' migration from villages to cities creates a vacuum in the village's capacity to raise crops and livestock.</li> <li>Younger generations' migration from villages to city centers contribute to cultural disintegration as traditions that honor nature and maintain the man/nature balance are lost.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Prevention</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The AC is working with local rangers to increase the number of anti-poaching units and to define and deliver incentives for the local support of anti-poaching activities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Teach a man to fish...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through the creation of sustainable food stock ranching cooperatives, alternative agricultural practices, and an incentive-driven meat subsidy program, the AC is working to eliminate the need to poach for meat.</li> </ul> <p><b>Re-introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The AC is partnering with local agencies to repopulate National Parks with indigenous and locally extinct species.</li> </ul> <p><b>Education first</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The AC is working with Zambia's Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) to implement a wildlife education program. The program will empower young Africans to address environmental and wildlife sustainability issues and will make adult Africans aware of the consequences of continued unsustainable environment and wildlife use.</li> </ul> <p><b>Economic Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The African Conservancy is implementing programs that promote environmentally compatible economic opportunities to enable communities to return to a self-sufficient state. These programs include eco-tourism and the export of arts and crafts.</li> <li>The subsistence farming and ranching programs developed to address food security issues are being analyzed for potential expansion into small-scale economic development projects, such as cheese making and apiculture.</li> </ul>