



The Environmental & Cultural Disintegration of Africa

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

What the Problems Are	Why the Problems Exist	What Actions Must be Taken
<p>Habitat destruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large-scale habitat destruction is happening in rural areas where Africans practice shifting agriculture and utilize forestry resources for fuel. <p>Decimation of wildlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poachers are killing many species of African wildlife to sell the meat and/or body parts on the local and international black market. <p>Extinction of locally indigenous species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Globally endangered species like the rhino and the wild dogs have become locally extinct. <p>Loss of traditional culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Overpopulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>Food insecurity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Africans have neither the means nor the access to commercial domestic meat. Black market meat is often the only available source of protein. Rural Africans have not been introduced to alternative agricultural and ranching practices that can be effective in solving the food security issue. <p>Ignorance of sustainability issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Africans have not had the opportunity to learn about the sustainability issues that face them as they move into the 21st century. <p>Lack of economic opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Africans perceive that, other than through poaching, they have no means of generating income. This perception drives the younger generations to city centers, where they increase the already large demand for black market meat. Younger generations' migration from villages to cities creates a vacuum in the village's capacity to raise crops and livestock. 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. 	<p>Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AC is working with the Zambian Wildlife Authority and other local stakeholders to protect Zambia's natural assets. <p>Teach a man to fish...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable food stock, ranching cooperatives, alternative agricultural practices, and an incentive-driven meat subsidy program, must be developed to eliminate the need to poach for meat and the economic incentive derived from the bushmeat trade. <p>Re-introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships with local and international agencies must be created to repopulate National Parks with indigenous and locally extinct species. <p>Education first</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AC is working with Zambia's Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) to implement a wildlife education program in Zambia's Northern Province. 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. <p>Socio-Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The African Conservancy supports socio-economic development projects undertaken by local, regional and global stakeholders. Projects include food subsidies, education, and health care delivery. Small-scale economic development projects, such as road maintenance, brick and tile making, cheese making, apiculture, and subsistence farming and ranching are also being analyzed for potential deployment.