



# Health, Ecosystems and Agriculture for Resilient, Thriving Societies (HEARTH)

*People flourish in healthy landscapes; conservation succeeds when local people benefit.*



Photo Credit: Northern Rangelands Trust, Kenya

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)'s HEARTH opportunity engages private sector partners to co-design integrated sustainable development activities that **conserve high-biodiversity landscapes and improve the well-being and prosperity of communities** that depend on these landscapes.

USAID and the private sector collaborate through HEARTH in nearly all development fields. These include natural resource management, climate change adaptation, emerging infectious disease control, maternal and child health, voluntary family planning, nutrition, farming, economic growth, energy, and governance. Investing in human well-being can reduce pressure on nature, while healthier ecosystems improve human health, food security and other development outcomes. The World Economic Forum 2019 Annual Report's top five global concerns for the next decade were all environmental risks, including "ecosystem collapse."

## PARTNERING FOR GREATER IMPACT

Sustainable development requires cross-sectoral commitments from local and global stakeholders, including the private sector, communities, governments, and civil society partners. To develop impactful partnerships that address complex development challenges, USAID brings together stakeholders to collaboratively design activities in priority landscapes, a process known as "co-creation."

In 2020, HEARTH and its partners will co-create activities in at least eight countries, resulting in partnerships in over a dozen landscapes. Additional sites will be added in 2021 and beyond. Co-creation enables both USAID and partners, especially the private sector, to identify key shared outcomes and refine indicators appropriate for each landscape that can measure biodiversity and human well-being impacts, such as improved forest cover and income and decreased disease.

## WHERE HEARTH WORKS

HEARTH currently supports landscape-scale partnerships **in these eight countries**, with additional sites under development:

- Bangladesh
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Zambia

## HEARTH OPERATIONALIZES BEST PRACTICES IN DEVELOPMENT

- **Advances cross-sectoral and market-based partnerships** to promote a strong enabling environment for businesses while developing solutions that benefit people and the planet, including transboundary collaborations where appropriate.
- **Leverages private sector markets, expertise, and resources** to deliver sustainable and scalable results. *Every dollar USAID contributes to HEARTH unlocks private sector investment of equal or greater value to maximize our collective impact.*
- **Generates and shares evidence about what works best** when integrating approaches across development sectors, and the impacts of the entire HEARTH effort.
- **Engages with beneficiaries at every step** to ensure HEARTH activities address the needs and concerns of local communities.
- **Embodies the objectives** of USAID's policies and goals on [Biodiversity](#), [Private Sector Engagement](#), [Indigenous Peoples](#), [Resilience](#), [Food Security](#), and [Global Health](#).

## HEARTH AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The current pandemic illustrates why activities such as HEARTH are vital. Most emerging infectious diseases in humans come from wildlife, largely a result of agricultural expansion and deforestation in highly biodiverse landscapes that bring humans and wildlife into direct or indirect contact.<sup>1</sup> HEARTH reduces risks of disease spillover and spread by creating sustainable economic opportunities that put less pressure on wildlife and their habitats and through increasing community resilience.

HEARTH is adapting to address challenges related to COVID-19, particularly the steep decline in international tourism that helps fund many partner country conservation efforts. HEARTH partnerships complement other USAID investments by enabling businesses and communities affected by the outbreak to rebuild better, diversify livelihoods, reduce environmental threats, and develop greater resilience to future shocks.

## LEARN MORE

Interested parties can find details on USAID's HEARTH partnership opportunity, including application requirements and deadlines, on [grants.gov](https://www.usaid.gov/grants) or email [hearthgda@usaid.gov](mailto:hearthgda@usaid.gov).



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1. Jones, K. E., Patel, N. G., Levy, M. A., Storeygard, A., Balk, D., Gittleman, J. L., & Daszak, P. (2008). Global trends in emerging infectious diseases. *Nature*, 451(7181), 990-993.