

Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG)

ABCG's mission is to tackle complex and changing conservation challenges by catalyzing and strengthening collaboration, and bringing the best resources from across a continuum of conservation organizations to effectively and efficiently work towards the vision of an African continent where natural resources and biodiversity are securely conserved in balance with sustained human livelihoods.

www.abcg.org



Formation of ABCG

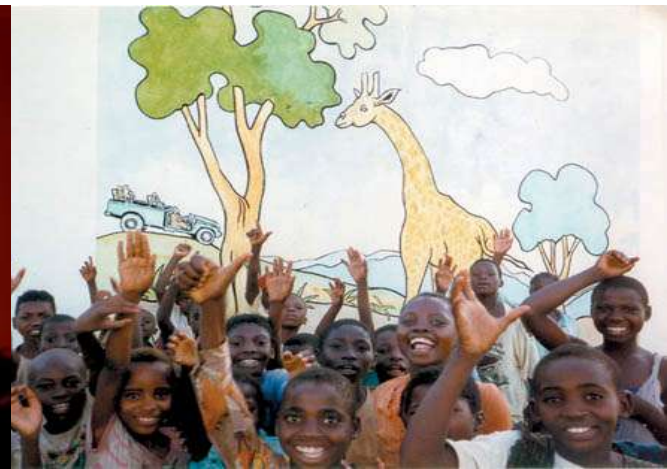
- **Why Started:** Neutral forum to explore emerging and high priority issues affecting African conservation, share lessons learned, and seek opportunities for collaboration
- **When:** 1999 to ?
- **How:** Africa program staff decided to work together
- **Where:** Washington, Africa, and Int'l Conferences
- **What:** Meetings, Analysis, Listserv, Website, Materials, Capacity Building, and Linkages with other sectors

Key issues- HIV/AIDS & Conservation Linkages, USFWS MENTOR Fellowship Program on illegal bushmeat exploitation in Eastern Africa, USAID BATS (Future of Biodiversity in Africa, Extractive Industries, Emerging Infectious Diseases, Human Rights, etc.)



ABCG's Organizational Culture

- **Formality:** very informal, no bylaws, no voting requirements, functions as a community of practice where people participate when interested in issues discussed
- **Identity:** little name recognition, no logo, and rotation to always be thought of as a collaboration & not a separate NGO
- **Focus:** emerging & high priority African conservation issues that are always changing
- **Membership:** 8 major international conservation NGOs
- **Size:** 1 part-time staff (Coordinator) til 2003 then 1 full time (Program Manager) & visiting African Humphrey Fellows



ABCG Activities and Functions

- **Communications** – emails to ABCG Core Members, listserv, website, factsheets, reports
- **Coordination** – initiated by ABCG Program Manager, but collaborative approach (meetings at one NGO, chaired by another, with speakers from another), flexibility
- **Decision Making** – informal, no set rules, decisions by those participating
- **Accountability** – to ABCG members, African partners & donors



**HIV/AIDS and the Environment:
Impacts of AIDS and Ways to Reduce Them**
Fact Sheet for the Conservation Community

ABCG Costs and Funding Sources

1999: informal gatherings by ABCG Members

2000: \$75,000 = \$50,000 MacArthur + \$ 25,000 BSP/USAID
(ABCG Secretariat based at AWF)

2001, 2002, & 2003: \$240,000 MacArthur (at CI)

2004 & 2005: \$188,000= \$150,000 MacArthur + \$38,000
CEPF (at WWF)

2006: \$70,000 ABCG Membership Fees + Consultancies (at
WWF)

2007 & 2008: \$750,000 = \$225,000 USFWS, \$500,000 USAID
+ \$25,000 ABCG Membership Fees (at WWF)

2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, & 2013: proposed USAID extension
+ ABCG Membership Fees (considering joint WWF and TNC)



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**CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM
PARTNERSHIP FUND**

ABCG Successes and Challenges

- **Achievements** – new NGO staff join ABCG and participate, among first to share info. on HIV/AIDS and Conservation Linkages, Human Rights, USFWS MENTOR Fellowship Program and USAID BATS collaboration, well regarded meetings with large turnouts, leveraged time & resources
- **Struggles** – funding, avoiding competition with members for resources, keeping busy people engaged, IUCN Resolution on HIV/AIDS and Conservation not implemented
- **Evolve or End** – multiple issues, multiple opportunities

