
Manuscripts Support Research on Wildlife Conservation

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University of Florida biology and environmental science graduate students have the opportunity to study African anthropology, geography, history, language, and politics. Many students apply an interdisciplinary understanding to the community management of wildlife conservation in Africa first in project teams and then as graduate practitioners. Now an established principle worldwide, the community management approach was first implemented by the Galana Game Management Scheme in colonial Kenya and later expanded by the Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) in Zimbabwe. As African Studies librarian, I have had the pleasure of supporting teaching and research programs relating to wildlife conservation by facilitating the acquisition, arrangement, and description of several outstanding donations of rare and unique primary resources documenting these historic waypoints in sustainable wildlife conservation.

The *Graham and Brian Child African Wildlife and Range Management Collection* details CAMPFIRE operations implemented in communities across Zimbabwe. It reflects program growth through annual reports, educational and promotional materials, and subsequent external critiques. Researchers will find the *Ian Parker Collection of East African Wildlife Conservation* offers similar documentation of the implementation and eventual failure of the Galana Scheme, along with even more extensive research materials on the ivory trade. The *Records of the East African Professional Hunters Association* offer a glimpse into the operations of a private group that from 1934-1974 was influential in the development of wildlife conservation practice, opposition to poaching, the creation of wildlife tourism, and in framing Kenya's game laws.

These are among the most substantial and significant primary resources available on the history of African wildlife

conservation. Combined, almost 150 archival document boxes contain nearly 100 linear feet of gray literature reports, diaries, financial records, correspondence, government documents, maps, ephemera, research data, photographs, and digitized video. In addition to providing materials essential for research into the history of community conservation strategies in Africa, these related but distinct manuscript collections document over 100 years of conservation law history in the British Empire, wildlife policy implementation across colonial Africa, change in practices following national independence, and impacts on animals (elephants, rhinoceroses, crocodiles, and hippopotami) as observed by game wardens, professional hunters, ranchers, and researchers.

Included materials were authored by game and park officials, the US Agency for International Development, non-government organizations such as World Wildlife Fund, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, International Union for Conservation of Nature, trade groups, consultants, and

academics. They address topics including hunting practices, community relations with parks, overpopulation and herd culling, banning the international trade in ivory, controlling poaching, corrupt government practices, game ranching, fish farming, environmental degradation, and disease control. More details on these collections are available online, with links to research finding aids: <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/spec/africanwildlife/> Also available there are links to selected digitized items: the Elephant Data Sheets project (currently transcribing biological data to machine readable format), and an extraordinary 40' x 3.5' hand drawn map of hippopotamus herds below the Nile River's Murchison Falls, as counted from the air.

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