Build bridges for lasting community connections.

There are many unfortunate instances where conservation, development, and other projects are implemented without community input. While well-intentioned, implementation without inclusive and purposeful community engagement can lead to missteps that cost time, trust, and resources – resulting in project failure or damaging its long-term sustainability.

The ACTIVE™ approach ensures that communities drive the decision-making for their futures.

Developed by African People & Wildlife, ACTIVE™ is the culmination of nearly 20 years of on-the-ground experience partnering with rural communities to achieve successful, long-term conservation outcomes. The ACTIVE™ acronym encapsulates the vital steps we take to foster collaboration: Access, Connect, Team, Implement, Verify, and Evolve.

If your organization or initiative is looking to empower communities while making an impact, learn how the ACTIVE™ approach can pave the way for enduring partnerships.
OPPORTUNITIES

African People & Wildlife offers the following ACTIVE™ learning opportunities:

1. PRACTITIONER WORKSHOPS

General and in-depth training opportunities via webinars and select venues introduce best practices for partnering with local people and the ACTIVE™ Community Engagement methodology.

2. ONSITE SHARED LEARNING & RETREATS

Strategic team building, learning, and immersive field experiences are offered at the Noloholo Environmental Center, African People & Wildlife’s headquarters in northern Tanzania. Participants can choose to interact with community-based projects through a variety of learning lenses and meet with local people who have benefitted from the ACTIVE™ process.

3. CUSTOMIZED CONSULTING SERVICES

We provide tailored consultancy services to individual organizations and groups based on their specific challenges, needs, and objectives for community engagement. We work alongside organizations to design, support, and provide technical expertise as they partner with local communities.

“I appreciate this gateway of trust you’ve developed with the people by starting the process with their vision.”

“In one word, I’d say I feel enriched after this experience.”

“I feel embraced by this team and by the communities you work with.”

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Every ACTIVE™ learning experience reflects the results of a training needs assessment, making it highly responsive to your organization’s goals.

- **Context Analysis and Emerging Issues**
  Reflect on the unique threats and opportunities of your social, political, and ecological situation.

- **Community Engagement Principles**
  Explore approaches to working with local communities with proven tips and tools.

- **Inclusive Stakeholder Participation**
  Learn how to co-design activities, map local stakeholders, and select community champions.

- **Measuring Impact with Communities**
  Develop a community data collection model to track and assess your program outcomes.

- **Hands-on Field Visits**
  Meet with community members and observe ACTIVE™ engagement principles in action.
EXAMPLE LEARNING LENSES

In addition to the following areas of expertise, our ACTIVE™ team supports a range of program areas and practitioners, from cultural heritage to community development.

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT PREVENTION

Learn how to leverage the traditional knowledge and expertise of local people to co-create solutions that uplift livelihoods while conserving wildlife. The innovations that result from such collaborations are effective, sustainable, and culturally appropriate.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Visit projects that involve working hand in hand with rural communities to monitor, measure, and safeguard natural resources. As participants and decision-makers in conservation programs, community members are dedicated to the success of their efforts.

SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Experience enterprise development programs that uplift livelihoods, protect the environment, and reinforce the value of local wildlife species. Through supportive workshops that promote self-sufficiency, program beneficiaries are prepared for long-term entrepreneurial success.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Learn how to develop shared learning experiences and seminars that provide the technical resources, expertise, and support for community members who aspire to lead their own conservation projects or become valued staff and field team members. This lens also emphasizes the importance of youth environmental education.

RECENT TRAINEES

• Botswana Wild Bird Trust
• Frankfurt Zoological Society
• National Geographic Okavango Wilderness Project
• Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority
• Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority
• Tanzania National Parks Authority
• Tanzania Horticultural Association
• Trias East Africa
• World Monuments Fund
• Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP)
  Tanzania

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Community-driven conservation comes alive in Angola with ACTIVE™ support.

Angola’s Lisima landscape has been cared for by the Luchaze and Chokwe peoples for centuries. Their deep understanding of the ecosystem and traditional beliefs about the lakes, forests, and rivers make them invaluable stewards. The National Geographic Okavango Wilderness Project (NGOWP) recognizes the importance of community-led efforts to conserve this area’s vital resources, which is why it adopted African People & Wildlife’s ACTIVE™ approach.

To build capacity for community engagement within their team, the NGOWP enlisted our help to design and lead a socio-economic baseline assessment, learn the fundamentals of the ACTIVE™ methodology, and develop visioning workshops to be held in local villages. Visioning workshops aim to identify common goals between the project and the community, respecting diverse perspectives, goals, and languages while planning for the future.

We organized an onsite retreat at the Noloholo Environmental Center for the NGOWP team to receive training in ACTIVE™ principles and processes. The experience included site visits to witness sustainable livelihood programming, observe community data collection, and attend a village feedback meeting at one of APW’s Community Technology Centers.

Equipped with new skills and tools, the team returned to Angola and conducted visioning workshops in three villages involving 176 people. They used the ACTIVE™ methodology to identify key subgroups and local champions, and the shared goals developed in the workshops now offer a concrete roadmap for the collaboration — leading to greater project sustainability.

African People & Wildlife is proud to play a role in creating a strong foundation for community-driven conservation that uplifts human wellbeing and indigenous knowledge. We continue to build on these positive outcomes by offering ACTIVE™ support to additional NGOWP partners like Botswana Wild Bird Trust as well as other organizations across Africa.