



## Ensuring Essential Support for Vulnerable Communities: African Parks' Response to USAID Funding Cuts

**Recent U.S. foreign assistance cuts have put approximately USD 9 million of African Parks' 2025 budget at risk.** This abrupt loss jeopardizes essential livelihood programs, ranger salaries, and conservation efforts across multiple sites, directly impacting the people who depend on these landscapes and the wildlife they harbour. Critical funding intended to empower local communities, strengthen law enforcement, and safeguard biodiversity is now in question.

**Parks like Chinko (24% of FY 2025 budget) and Garamba (26%) are especially vulnerable**, while the shortfall also affects Odzala, Siniaka Minia, Pendjari, Zakouma and others. Without these resources, crucial operations—ranging from community development, biodiversity protection and infrastructure maintenance—face severe disruption.

We continue to explore alternative funding avenues to prevent a rollback of the progress achieved—maintaining consistent support for the local communities and conservation efforts is essential if we are to preserve these ecosystems and safeguard the future for the people and wildlife that share them. However, the gap remains significant. Below is an overview of the USG funding at risk for each park across the AP portfolio:

Park	USG				Totals	2025 Budget	% of Park Budget
	INL	USFS	USFWS	USAID			
Chinko			354,937	2,532,068	2,887,005	11,917,698	24%
Garamba				3,307,263	3,307,263	12,714,265	26%
Liwonde	109,495				109,495	4,056,318	3%
Majete	65,570				65,570	2,633,290	2%
Nkhotakhota	152,743	7,000			159,743	2,643,712	6%
Nyungwe		20,000			20,000	3,723,971	1%
Odzala	382,651		610,634		993,285	7,235,700	14%
Parc W	259,679		112,565		372,244	6,230,751	6%
Pendjari	169,550		116,260		285,810	6,230,815	5%
Siniaka Minia	76,346		58,165		134,511	2,000,000	7%
Zakouma	277,122				277,122	5,535,372	5%

Our top priority is ensuring continuity for mission-critical activities. We are using emergency reserves to keep rangers in the field and protect essential livelihoods, helping preserve stability and resilience for the communities involved.

**Your donations will go to our programs impacted by the cuts:** By contributing to ensure continuity of essential activities and/ or advocating for alternative funding sources, you can help us protect these parks and support the communities that rely on them. Every dollar invested in conservation yields a multiplier effect—sustaining livelihoods, safeguarding wildlife, and fostering resilience in some of Africa's most vulnerable regions.

Below is a snapshot of immediate needs across the parks most affected by the funding cuts.

Park	Highest needs
<b>Garamba</b> <b>Total gap:</b> <b>\$3.3M</b>	<p>Garamba urgently needs robust operational and community-focused support to address ongoing security threats, cross-border pressures, and limited infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Livelihood and Engagement Programs:</b> Sustainable development initiatives that build trust and shared benefits between GNP and local communities, reducing conflict and poaching incentives.</li> <li>• <b>Aviation and logistics:</b> Reliable air support and supply chains are critical for responding swiftly to threats, transporting rangers, and delivering essential supplies across remote areas.</li> <li>• <b>Ranger Operations and Law Enforcement:</b> Garamba's extensive landscapes demand a well-equipped and motivated ranger force to address poaching threats and maintain security.</li> </ul>
<b>Chinko</b> <b>Total gap:</b> <b>\$2.8M</b>	<p>Chinko's immediate needs include robust operational and community-focused support and will be crucial to navigate regional insecurity, transhumant pastoralism, and weak governance, ensuring both local wellbeing and wildlife conservation across this vast and remote landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aviation and logistics:</b> Given Chinko's vast and remote terrain, reliable air support (helicopter or fixed-wing) is crucial for patrolling, rapid response, and staff deployment.</li> <li>• <b>Ranger salaries:</b> Well-trained and fairly compensated rangers are the frontline of conservation and community engagement in challenging conditions.</li> <li>• <b>Ranger Operations and Law Enforcement:</b> Reliable air support and supply chains are critical for responding swiftly to threats, transporting rangers, and delivering essential supplies across remote areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Odzala</b> <b>Total gap:</b> <b>\$1M</b>	<p>Priority needs for Odzala include reinforced operational support and strengthened local partnerships to ensure cohesive conservation efforts, which are vital to protect both the park's biodiversity and the communities that depend on it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ranger Operations and Law Enforcement:</b> Salaries, training, equipment, and patrol logistics to maintain security and protect biodiversity.</li> <li>• <b>Aviation and Logistics:</b> Aircraft maintenance, fuel, and supply routes to ensure rapid deployment across challenging terrain.</li> <li>• <b>Community Livelihood Engagement:</b> Initiatives that foster local support, reduce human-wildlife conflict, and improve economic opportunities.</li> </ul>
<b>Parc W.</b> <b>Total gap:</b> <b>\$0.4M</b>	<p>In Parc W priority funding needs include ranger operations, anti-poaching technology, and livelihood projects—to contend with mounting pressures on wildlife and local resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ranger Salaries and Training:</b> Personnel costs as well as specialized training to retain skilled staff.</li> <li>• <b>Anti-Poaching Technology and Equipment:</b> Communication devices and patrol gear.</li> <li>• <b>Community Outreach and Engagement:</b> Education programs, alternative livelihoods, and conflict mitigation initiatives.</li> </ul>
<b>Pendjari</b> <b>Total gap:</b> <b>\$0.3M</b>	<p>Pendjari's high priority needs range from well-equipped ranger units and improved infrastructure to community-led development programs—to combat poaching, mitigate human-wildlife conflict, and sustain local livelihoods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Law Enforcement and Patrols:</b> Well-equipped ranger teams, advanced training, and reliable patrol vehicles.</li> <li>• <b>Infrastructure and Access:</b> Road and facility maintenance to support park operations.</li> <li>• <b>Community Development Programs:</b> Projects that enhance local livelihoods, build trust, and promote conservation awareness.</li> </ul>
<b>Zakouma</b> <b>Total gap:</b> <b>\$0.3M</b>	<p>Zakouma's urgent needs include strategic investments in aviation, law enforcement, and community outreach—to manage complex security challenges and protect one of Africa's most iconic wildlife reserves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aviation and Rapid Response:</b> Helicopter/fixed-wing support for remote patrols, emergency rescues, and supply runs.</li> <li>• <b>Law Enforcement Support:</b> Salaries, equipment, and ongoing training to combat poaching and maintain security.</li> <li>• <b>Livelihood Projects:</b> Community-driven programs (e.g., sustainable agriculture) to boost local incomes and reduce pressure on wildlife.</li> </ul>
<b>Siniaka Minia</b> <b>Total gap:</b> <b>\$0.1M</b>	<p>Siniaka Minia urgently needs targeted interventions including improved ranger capacity and infrastructure to strengthened community-driven conservation programs—to ensure a stabilized region and the protection of critical habitats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ranger Deployment and Equipment:</b> Core funding for patrols, uniforms, and basic field supplies.</li> <li>• <b>Infrastructure Upgrades:</b> Better road networks and ranger posts to improve mobility and safety.</li> <li>• <b>Community Livelihood Initiatives:</b> Targeted projects to foster community support and alleviate economic dependence on wildlife exploitation.</li> </ul>