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Winding nearly 14,000 kilometers, the Mara River is a vital source of life in Kenya and Tanzania. It traverses the towering Mau Forest, wanders through tea plantations and growing settlements in the upper Basin, and waters the rangelands of Maasai pastoral communities. The river also sustains the region’s stunning biodiversity, from forest ecosystems to the wildebeests migrating between Serengeti National Park and Maasai Mara National Reserve.



But as mounting risks threaten the water security of the region, the health of the Mara is at stake. The three-year Sustainable Water for the Mara activity (SWM), an effort of the Sustainable Water Partnership (SWP), will improve water security in the Mara River Basin.

## SWP OVERVIEW

Funded by USAID and implemented by Winrock International, the five-year global SWP program provides sophisticated solutions to the water problems facing international communities. Our team of globally recognized partners — Tetra Tech, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI), World Resources Institute (WRI), CEO Water Mandate and mWater — provides beneficiaries with access to a wealth of technical expertise and field experience. SWP is implemented through a Leader with Associates cooperative agreement, managed by USAID’s Bureau of Economic Growth, Education and Environment (E3)’s Water Office.

### FUNDING LEVEL:

\$2.5 Million

### DURATION:

October 2017- September 2020

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The CEO Water Mandate



## SWM ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

The Sustainable Water for the Mara activity will support national, sub-national, and regional governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in the Mara River Basin to safeguard access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, socioeconomic development, and the protection of ecosystem services. Led by Winrock International and Tetra Tech, with technical expertise provided by SEI and IHE-Delft Institute for Water Education, the three-year activity will:

- Provide science, tools and capacity building to improve water decision-making at transboundary, national and sub-catchment levels;
- Help develop a basin-wide water allocation plan; and
- Improve on-the-ground water security in at least two priority sub-catchments, including Nyangores in Kenya's Bomet County and the Mara Wetlands in Mara Region, Tanzania.

## INTERMEDIATE RESULTS

**SWP's activity in the Mara improves water security at transboundary, regional and local levels and has so far:**

- Advised Tanzania's Ministry of Water and Irrigation to develop its first-ever Water Allocation Planning guidelines.
- Initiated the development of a water allocation plan in Tanzania's portion of the Mara Basin by conducting an abstraction survey to determine current and future water uses.
- Started building a basin hydrological model using the WEAP decision support system and trained over 40 Kenyan and Tanzanian decision-makers and technical staff on its use.
- Arranged and is now carrying out several partnerships with WWF, GIZ, and other donor activities to achieve higher impacts.