

# Conservation Investment

A large herd of wildebeest is crossing a river in a savanna landscape. The herd is dense and fills most of the frame, with many animals standing on the rocky banks and others wading in the water. The background shows a vast, open plain with a few acacia trees under a clear sky. The overall scene is a classic depiction of the African savanna.

BUILDING A NATURE-BASED ECONOMY TO ENSURE LANDSCAPES ARE FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE IN THE LONG-TERM

## Background

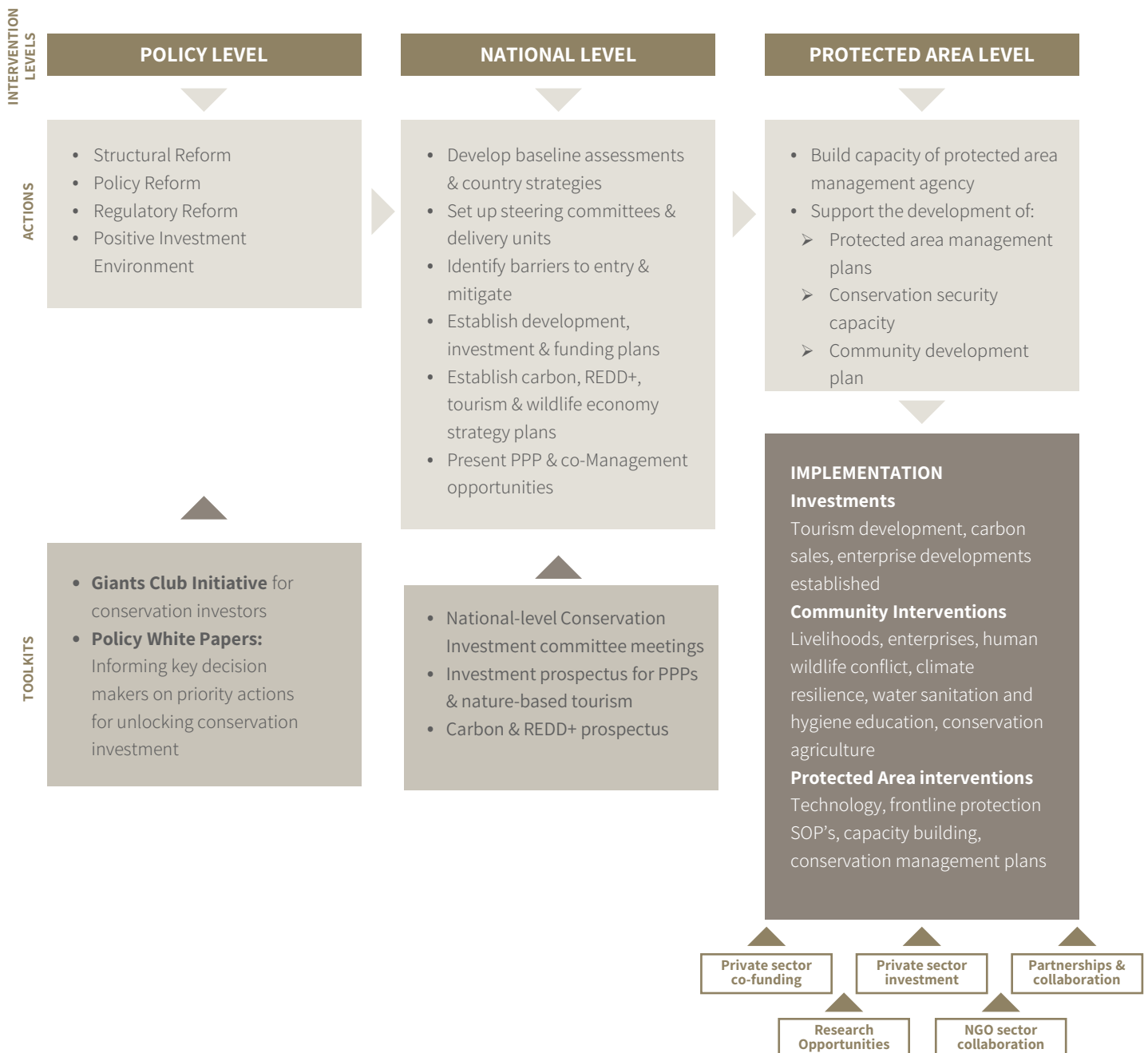
Africa is home to some of the most impressive ecosystems on the planet - from rainforests to deserts, marine environments to vast savannahs, massive water basins, rivers and lakes, mountain ranges. However, these natural landscapes are under threat as African countries are faced with a number of immense and often competing challenges: achieving sustainable economic growth amid rapid population growth, conserving and enhancing their biodiversity, and developing resilience to the growing threat of climate change. We are at a critical moment to invest in these ecosystems upon which life depends – human and wildlife – thus bolstering the ability of African countries to build resilient nature-based economies.

For most countries across Africa, the cost of maintaining and enhancing ecosystems is often beyond the resources available. Governments managing protected areas are often forced to choose between short-term economic gain and long-term conservation goals. As such, many protected areas exist only as “paper parks”, degraded land devoid of wildlife that can no longer be recovered. With significant flows of public and private sector investments, however, we can unlock the potential of remaining protected areas and build Africa’s nature-based economies to create long-term benefits for people and the planet.









# Conservation Investment Initiative

Our Conservation Investment Initiative unlocks flows of revenue and capacity to under-resourced protected areas so that they can support wildlife, their habitat and local citizens who depend on these areas and the biodiversity they hold - can survive. We assist national governments to build their country's nature-based economy through our conservation investment platform that seeks to transform protected areas into engines for revenue generation. Our role in such initiatives is to be a facilitator, honest broker and project driver.



# Conservation Investment Initiative

The Conservation Investment Initiative applies a three-pronged approach as details below and according to the above infographic:

- 1 Develop **national-level policy and regulatory solutions** to overcome barriers to responsible investments into the nature-based economy. This high-level involvement is leveraged by the Giants Club, our technical expertise and ever growing evidence base and our series of policy papers. The Giants Club's members include political leaders, philanthropists and business leaders working together to support the conservation of Africa's most important natural ecosystems. Current Presidents of the Giants Club include Botswana, Gabon, Mozambique, Rwanda and Uganda.
- 2 Promote **national-level conservation and tourism investment opportunities** to attract international and domestic investments into key protected areas, including enabling infrastructure for a nature-based economy. This has the following components:
  -  **Capacity building and growth** to support the countries protected areas authority and the national authorities that are key stakeholders in the conservation space;
  -  **Support the development of national protected area nature-based tourism development plans** through working at the highest level to determine development priorities, tourism circuits, infrastructure development and capacity needs within protected areas and their buffer zones.
  -  **Creation of a governance structure** under the Office of the President through the Giants Club with key agencies, Space for Giants and leading private sector project partners.
  -  **Identifying where and how to invest** through a critical assessment of the country's protected areas in terms of biodiversity value, management capacity, and social and political context.
  -  **Marketing the opportunity** by creating a prospectus of conservation investment opportunities in the country and then holding a high-level marketing forum, ideally hosted by the President.
  -  **Building an open and transparent investment process** through the delivery of an investment bidding process and an evaluation committee building on the processes and facilities already established by government agencies.
  -  **Building investor confidence and managing risk** by professionalising the country's nature-based tourism development & management plans, and providing a delivery unit to efficiently handle investor enquiries and the concession process.









# Conservation Investment Initiative

## **Leverage on Space for Giants existing portfolio of services and expertise**

- Evaluation and monitoring by providing a consistent system to ensure promises are kept and to assess the performance and social and environmental impact of the nature-based tourism businesses in the protected area.
- Address the Wildlife Justice and Rule of Law value chain to see where we can assist in building judicial capacity, strengthening policy, building capacity along the criminal justice chain from crime scene investigation methodologies all the way through to building capacity in prosecutions and sentencing and addressing the problems of illegal wildlife trade.
- Develop Human Wildlife Coexistence strategies to deal with human wildlife conflicts and how to shift those flash points into coexistence opportunities through mitigation techniques.
- Deploy strategic Frontline Protection tactics to anti-poaching so that wildlife criminals are deterred due to higher risks of apprehension or disruption.
- Unlock carbon credit opportunities for protected areas as a mechanism for generating long term sustainable income to help support those protected areas.

**3 Landscape level interventions:** directly investing in protected area landscapes to unlock major wildlife, biodiversity, tourism and enterprise opportunities to achieve sustainable development in a wider area.

### The Initiative has the following impacts:

-  **Protects biodiversity at scale, thereby helping combat the species extinction crisis**
-  **Prevents wildlife from the entering the illegal wildlife trade, thereby preventing future zoonotic pandemics**
-  **Supports livelihoods, thereby combating poverty**
-  **Maintains and values ecosystem services for sustainable development and human well-being**
-  **Combats climate change by protecting the sinks that sequester carbon**
-  **Enables African governments to effectively and efficiently fund and manage their protected area networks as a source of national pride.**

This envisioned conservation at scale is a game changer. It creates systemic change and positive transformation as we work with national protected area portfolios in each country, brokering engagement between the private and public sector actors. And ultimately, it creates durable value for all of us.



# Our Work and achievements

- 🐘 Hosted Conservation Investment Summits in Uganda and Zimbabwe
- 🐘 Secured mandates with the governments of Kenya, Gabon, Uganda, Mozambique and Rwanda to implement the Conservation Investment Initiative
- 🐘 Developed National Conservation Investment strategies and investment prospectus for Gabon, Mozambique and Uganda
- 🐘 Developed and published a white paper on “Building a Wildlife Economy”
- 🐘 Facilitated the creation of a framework for trading Mozambique’s verified carbon credits
- 🐘 Developed several landscape level PPP’s (Public Private Partnerships), tourism investments, carbon credit projects, conservation management plans, sustainability plans, business plans
- 🐘 Secured a co-management agreement for Pian Upe Wildlife Reserve in Uganda
- 🐘 Facilitating the process for Kenya to undertake its first PPP’s in select conservation areas
- 🐘 Securing multi-million dollar investments for new ecotourism concessions in Uganda's protected areas network
- 🐘 Facilitated the launch of Gabon's new destination marketing campaign, <https://www.discovergabon.com/>
- 🐘 Delivered an assessment of gorilla tourism in Uganda in order to improve revenue generation and economic upliftment








# Endorsement from government of key partner

“ANAC is delighted with the progress made under this collaboration, highly valuing its partnership with Space for Giants, who have added huge value in achieving the objectives of the Business Unit and thus contribute to pave the way to build a strong and sustainable conservation economy in Mozambique.”

**MATEUS MUTEMBA**

Former Director General, Administração Nacional das Áreas de Conservação Mozambique

## 2025 Strategic Roadmap

1. By 2025, Space for Giants will be a well-known entity for supporting African governments to build their nature-based economies.
2. The Conservation Investment processes will be underway in at least five African countries that are rich in wildlife and biodiversity. Target countries include:
  -  Gabon
  -  Uganda
  -  Mozambique
  -  Kenya
  -  Rwanda
3. Deliver new sustainable finance and improved management solutions through ecotourism concessions and PPPs to at least 250,000 km<sup>2</sup> of protected area.

## Key Partnerships

Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux (ANPN), Gabon; Administração Nacional das Áreas de Conservação (ANAC), Mozambique; Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS); Rwanda Development Board (RDB).



# Required Funding Support

The investment to undertake our work as well as to achieve our strategic goals is as follows:

Geographic region	Description	Annual Budget (USD)
Uganda	<p>Implementation of conservation investment initiative in partnership with UWA that unlock nature-based tourism investments in the protected area network, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct regular inter-ministerial committee meetings to promote nature-based tourism</li> <li>• Monitoring and facilitating tourism concession processes to ensure professionalism and high-quality operators in country</li> <li>• Roll out of activities related to maximising revenue generation from gorilla tourism development</li> <li>• Promoting PPPs in Uganda for protected area management</li> </ul>	81,800
Kenya	<p>Implementation of conservation investment initiative in partnership with KWS, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion and development of the potential opportunity of Meru Greater Kora PPP development and investment process, including investment prospectus</li> <li>• Continuation of support for nature-based tourism investments in Kenya</li> </ul>	97,000
Gabon	<p>Delivery of a national ecotourism development plan and building an enabling investment environment in partnership with ANPN Gabon and multiple government agencies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of a national ecotourism development plan, including build enabling environment</li> <li>• Launch and roll out of the Gabon Destination marketing campaign</li> <li>• Giants Club trips to Gabon for influencers, media and investors</li> <li>• Planned bench marking exercise with Gabonese government delegation to Kenya</li> <li>• Continued support to the Delivery Unit for the investment pathway of nature-based tourism concessions</li> <li>• Continue with initiatives for improvement of domestic aviation</li> <li>• Improvements to the Gabon e-visa system</li> </ul>	127,000
Mozambique	<p>Implementation of conservation investment initiative in partnership with ANAC Mozambique, including a national tourism investment prospectus to deliver the wildlife economy</p>	42,000
Rwanda	<p>Implementation of conservation investment initiative in partnership with RDB, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of a national investment prospectus to deliver the wildlife economy</li> <li>• Supporting RDB and the Rwandan Government with the establishment of their conservation company (Rwanda Conservation Company) and provision of relevant support services</li> </ul>	177,000

Total

\$524,800

