

Conservation Landscapes

An aerial photograph of a wide, muddy-brown river meandering through a lush green landscape. The river is flanked by dense tropical forests and savanna-like areas with scattered trees. In the background, there are rolling hills and a vast, open plain under a heavy, overcast sky with dark, dramatic clouds. The overall scene conveys a sense of a large, natural ecosystem.

ENSURING MANAGEMENT OF KEY ECOSYSTEMS
THROUGH PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS

Background

Africa's vast network of protected areas includes some of the world's most iconic landscapes and species. These protected areas - with biodiversity spanning rainforests to deserts, miombo forests to savannahs - are part of complex planetary systems providing clean air, water, soil, crop pollination, carbon sequestration and hold the keys to climate resiliency and sustainable development. Some largely unexplored areas may even provide pharmaceutical breakthroughs and inspiration for engineering innovations.

Millions of people living in and around these protected areas depend on them for livelihoods. Historically, wildlife-based tourism in Africa generated an estimated \$70 billion, nearly 9 million jobs, and is a significant contributor to GDP and long-term economic development. Under the ever increasing human pressure for land, minerals, fuel and food - and the economics driving a \$20 billion illegal wildlife trade - these ecosystems are under extreme threat. Many only exist as fragmented portions of formerly immense natural corridors and intact landscapes. As the footprint shrinks, so too does the integrity and capacity of the landscape - and all of biodiversity within it. Some have been pushed past the brink and are now unrecognizable and unrecoverable. Others will disappear in the next decade. Waiting, debating, and not taking immediate action, will seal our collective fates and dramatically limit the ability for long term sustainability.

While the desire to protect nature based resources is clear, the actual achievement is more complicated. National protected areas depend on limited public budgets, need sustained and well-equipped human resources, and operating and policy environments that are conducive to effective management. With many competing needs, governments struggle to allocate sufficient resources. Private philanthropy is all too often piecemeal, creating additional challenges for long term planning and impact at scale. As a result, many protected areas are failing to fulfil their ecological, economic or social potential.

Space for Giants fills a critical systems gap by working with national wildlife authorities and other actors in a given landscape on an integrated approach to planning and investment. We seek to change the prevalent paradigm by supporting effective and active management of parks by non-governmental organisations (NGO). These collaborative management partnerships (CMPs) provide a flexible and agile approach that can provide financial, technical and managerial support based on the particular context.







CMPs have become increasingly popular in African conservation and leverage the respective advantages of public and private sector partners. The shared accountability and transparency attracts more private sector investment, and governments are able to enact policies that advance integrated planning and achievement of sustainable development goals.



Space for Giants' approach

With the aim of making protected areas financially viable and creating value for surrounding communities and countries as a whole, we provide technical and practical capacity to structure effective integrated solutions for collaborative management partnerships (CMPs) with national government wildlife and tourism authorities.

Key benefits include:

-  **National ownership is maintained.** Government remains accountable and has the financial and technical support to ensure protected areas are intact and integrated with overall national planning priorities, rather than being led by (often well intentioned) private interests
-  **Management is inclusive and responsible.** A local entity is created to ensure that all relevant stakeholders (government, community, technical experts, and private investors), are able to integrate their inputs and respective strengths.
-  **The efficiencies and innovations of the private sector** combine with political legitimacy and local knowledge in order to act quickly and at scale.
-  **Ability to attract philanthropic support** and social impact investment which injects resources into parks, while alleviating the burden on government.
-  **Take a long term view.** Over time, national capacity is built by embedding governance and management structures and processes that can stand the test of time, long after an NGO partner disengages.
-  **A well-managed area** not only provides stability and protection in the landscape, but stimulates local economies through a combination of direct employment, local procurement, enterprise opportunities and nature-based solutions, and an increased tax base.



Space for Giants' approach

Establishing collaboration management partnerships typically involves the following steps:

1. Establishing a dialogue with potential state or private entities to secure mandates to co-manage protected areas.
2. Setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) e.g, foundation, trust, non-profit company to govern long term management, reflective of various public and private stakeholders.
3. Develop a five-year business plan that takes into account:

- 🐘 **Governance and institutional arrangements**
- 🐘 **Management requirements**
- 🐘 **Land use**
- 🐘 **Infrastructure**
- 🐘 **Law enforcement**
- 🐘 **Stakeholder engagement**
- 🐘 **Habitat and wildlife management**
- 🐘 **Community engagement, partnerships and development**
- 🐘 **Tourism development**
- 🐘 **Diversified income generation opportunities**
- 🐘 **Capital and operational requirements and costs**

4. Collective approval by the Board of the SPV so that all parties take part in the management and decision making process.
5. Secure funding for the project implementation through philanthropy and innovative commercial funding mechanisms such as carbon, enterprise development and tourism.
6. Set up an operational implementation team to deliver the business plan.
7. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation and learning to inform adaptive and accountable management against long-term targets.



Our work and Target Landscapes

We chose which landscapes to work on based on a number of factors:

- 1** An invitation and mandate from the national government and wildlife authorities to work collaboratively to achieve a meaningful conservation outcome. Without government support - across multiple ministries - it is difficult to make an appreciable or sustained impact.
- 2** The ecological significance of the area in terms of biodiversity and scale. We give preference to those that help expand or preserve natural corridors. We prioritize parks that are categorized as IUCN Category 2 (National parks), Category III (park managed for conservation of natural features), Category IV (habitat or species management areas) as well as RAMSAR sites (internationally significant wetlands).
- 3** The ability of the landscape and biodiversity to be restored and the threats mitigated. There are some areas that have degraded or fragmented too much to be viable or whose costs are prohibitive and could be better used to protect other protected areas.
- 4** The social mandate from local communities and leaders who agree to work with Space for Giants and our partners. We approach each new landscape through dialogue and prioritize those areas where our support is needed and requested.



Loisaba / Suyian

Two adjacent private conservancies of 410km² (101,313 acres) in the Laikipia landscape of central Kenya which provides critical grassland habitat for large terrestrial mammal species, including elephant, black rhino, wild dog, lion, leopard and the Grevy’s zebra. This project involves the acquisition of Suyian Ranch which borders the south of Loisaba to expand the area under integrated management by 178km² (44,000 acres), as well as the introduction of black rhino, scaling up enterprises with associated conservation and community benefits.

Location Kenya

Size 410km² (101,313 acres)

Key partners The Nature Conservancy, Laikipia County Government; Kenyan Wildlife Service (KWS)

Capital requirements USD 10.5 million

Annual operation expenditure USD 1 million p.a

Time to financial viability 4 Years



Achievements to date

- 🐘 Permission granted by KWS to reintroduce indigenous black rhino in Loisaba.
- 🐘 Pioneered a unique conservation management model that balances 2,896+ livestock (cattle) with wildlife for long term sustainability.
- 🐘 96 rangers trained and deployed resulting in zero poaching incidents since 2018.
- 🐘 40% growth in tourism which has helped drive Loisaba’s financial self-sufficiency, increased wildlife sightings as well as increase in the number of people from surrounding villages employed at Loisaba.
- 🐘 Introduction of mobile phone-based real time monitoring and data collection on ranger patrols, people’s perceptions of conservation, human-wildlife conflict incidents, wildlife distribution, threats to wildlife, etc.



Meru Greater Kora Conservation Area

The Meru Greater Kora Conservation Area encompasses the Meru and Kora National Parks covering 2,657km² (656,559 acres) in Kenya. The area has a high degree of ecological interdependence, especially with regard to large mammal movements. The landscape contains a huge variety of vegetation types, mainly due to variations in soil type and rainfall across the area, including woodland, bushland, grassland, wooded grassland and swamps. As a result, the area provides protection for a large diversity of species.

Location Kenya

Size 2,657km² (656,559 acres)

Key partners Kenya Wildlife Service

Capital requirements USD 7 million

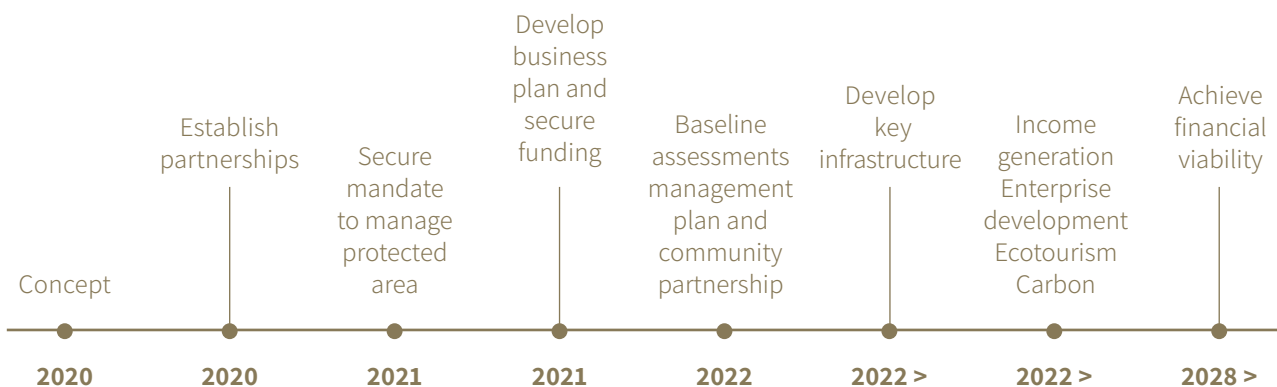
Annual operation expenditure USD 3 million p.a

Time to financial viability Year 6



Work done to date

At the request of the Cabinet Secretary for Wildlife and the Director General of Kenya Wildlife Service, SFG supported a total aerial count across 3000km² as part of our baseline assessments. From this, SFG developed a new management plan and has put together the required documentation to support the national parks being made available for investment and co-management as a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) by early 2022.



Pian Upe Wildlife Reserve

Two adjacent private conservancies of 410km² (101,313 acres) in the Laikipia landscape of central Kenya which provides critical grassland habitat for large terrestrial mammal species, including elephant, black rhino, wild dog, lion, leopard and the Grevy's zebra. This project involves the acquisition of Suyian Ranch which borders the south of Loisaba to expand the area under integrated management by 178km² (44,000 acres), as well as the introduction of black rhino, scaling up enterprises with associated conservation and community benefits.

Location Uganda

Size 5,867km² (1,449,767 acres)

Key partners Uganda Wildlife Authority

Capital requirements USD 8 million

Annual operation expenditure USD 1.5 million p.a

Time to financial viability Year 7



Work done to date

- 🐘 Through the Giants Club and Conservation Investment Initiative, Space for Giants has been mandated to strategically develop conservation and tourism with the government of Uganda since 2017.
- 🐘 In 2020, Space for Giants entered an MOU with the Uganda Wildlife Authority to establish the process towards a PPP agreement for the co-management of the Pian Upe Wildlife Reserve.
- 🐘 Developed a 5-year business plan to develop, fund and operate the Pian Upe Wildlife Reserve.
- 🐘 Undertook an assessment of the carbon potential of the Reserve with the objective of carbon credit sales and developed a pre-feasibility study for the carbon project development.



Rangeland Restoration Trust

Development and management of an Integrated Management Area near Beitbridge, Zimbabwe for wildlife through landholder agreements and long-term leases across private and government-owned land. The landscape forms part of the Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area with long-term potential for wildlife and tourism and aims to regenerate rangelands while re-establishing wildlife migration corridors. Project activities and opportunities include:

- 🐘 Develop and manage initial 700km² (172,974 acres) Integrated Management Area for wildlife
- 🐘 Future expansion to 6,700km² (1,655,606 acres) into communal land through leases, profit-sharing or other arrangements;
- 🐘 Establish a diverse portfolio of commercial ventures that create jobs and contribute to the local economy;
- 🐘 Drive investment in community-led enterprises and initiatives that address broader economic development needs;
- 🐘 Introduce climate-smart regenerative agriculture practices to strengthen food security and resilience;
- 🐘 Expand the area managed for wildlife to re-establish one of the biggest wildlife migration corridors; Improve quality of life, food security and access to health and education for communities.

Location Zimbabwe

Size 6,700km² (1,655,606 acres)

Key partners Rangelands Restoration Trust

Capital requirements USD 5 million

Annual operation expenditure USD 2 million p.a

Time to financial viability Year 5



Work done to date

MOU has been agreed between SFG and the Rangelands Restoration Trust with the objective to develop a co-management agreement over the next 12 months



Luwire Conservancy, Niassa Special Reserve

The Luwire Conservancy is located within the Niassa Special Reserve in northern Mozambique and contains the largest concentration of game in the country. Luwire is a prehistoric wilderness with incredible diversity by geography, flora and fauna – and includes one of the largest miombo woodlands in the world, as well as granite inselbergs, open savannah, wetlands, river floodplains, and riverine forest.

Location Mozambique

Size 4,550km² (1,124,329 acres)

Key partners Luwire Wildlife Conservancy; ANAC; Wildlife Conservation Society

Capital requirements USD 2.5 million

Annual operation expenditure USD 2 million p.a

Time to financial viability Year 5



Work done to date

Space for Giants are working with the Luwire management team to seek new funding sources to allow the full development of the potential of this magnificent reserve.



Boma National Park

Boma National Park is one of the largest reserves on the continent, and is home to some of the world's most awe-inspiring wildlife migrations. The landscape's grassland ecosystems exhibit strong environmental gradients with pronounced short and long term variations in biomass production and distribution, related to seasonal flood dynamics. This characteristic drives movements of antelope and other species between areas of varying ecological resource availability on a seasonal basis. These seasonal wildlife movements, mostly of white-eared kob but also of sympatric Mongalla gazelle, constitute one of the world's few large-scale migrations of terrestrial mammals of outstanding universal value. This is a unique phenomenon that consists of a species assemblage that is completely distinct from antelope migrations elsewhere. The flora and fauna in this region forms a unique ecosystem of its own kind, and of great importance for conservation.

Location South Sudan

Size 22,800km² (5,634,003 acres)

Key partners Wildlife Conservation Directorate of the Government of South Sudan; Ministry of Environment, Wildlife Conservation and Tourism

Capital requirements USD 5 million

Annual operation expenditure USD 2.5 million p.a

Time to financial viability Unlikely, possibly from carbon sales and specialised tourism in Year 8



Work done to date

Space for Giants have conducted a site visit and completed a rapid assessment for this area. The team are now developing a funding strategy and have started engagement with the Government towards a co-management PPP.



2025 Strategic Roadmap

- 1** By 2025, Space for Giants will be involved in the co-management of at least 5 protected areas in Africa, representing at least 50,000 km² (12,355,269 acres) in total, directly supporting the conservation of some of the continent's most important natural ecosystems.
- 2** The long term goal within each of these protected areas will be to reach financial and management sustainability.
- 3** Assess a further 10 key protected areas to bring under co-management, based on ecological significance and level of threat.

Key partnerships

Space for Giants works closely with the protected area authority both in central head office roles and landscape level wardens and park managers. Active partners include Administração Nacional das Áreas de Conservação (ANAC) in Mozambique, Instituto Nacional da Biodiversidade e Áreas de Conservação (INBAC) in Angola, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), and the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), the Rangelands Restoration Trust (RRT).



Required funding support over next 5 years

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

Department programme	Description	Capital requirements (USD)	3 year operating budget (USD)	3 year budget (USD)
Suyian Landscape, Kenya*	Acquisition of ranch and incorporate with Loisaba Implementation of key development and management activities as per business plan	10,500,000	2,300,000	12,800,000
Meru Kora Landscape, Kenya	Implementation of key development and management activities as per business plan, including infrastructure, reintroduction of wildlife, enterprise development, training and capacity building, and management	7,000,000	10,000,000	17,000,000
Pian Upe Landscape, Uganda	Co-management of Pian Upe Wildlife Reserve Implementation of key development and management activities as per business plan	3,600,000	4,300,000	7,900,000
Rangelands Restoration Trust, Zimbabwe	Implementation of key development and management activities as per business plan	5,000,000	7,000,000	12,000,000
Luwire Landscape, Mozambique	Implementation of key development and management activities as per business plan	2,500,000	7,000,000	9,500,000
Boma Landscape, South Sudan	Implementation of key development and management activities as per business plan	5,000,000	8,600,000	13,600,000
New project and opportunities development	New project development. Identification of co-management opportunities of new protected areas in target countries and landscapes. Development of Assessments, Pre-feasibility Studies and draft Business Plans.		200,000	200,000
Total		\$33,500,000	\$39,400,000	\$72,900,000

*Per agreement, we must secure the capital funding within one year of contract signature

