



# THE GIANTS CLUB SUMMIT

15-17 March 2018 Kasane, Botswana



BOTSWANA



KENYA



UGANDA



GABON



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# SUMMARY OF THE GIANTS CLUB SUMMIT 2018

From the 15 to the 17 of March 2018, the second Giants Club Summit was held in Kasane, Botswana, in partnership with The Tlhokomela Trust. The Summit was held in the presence of His Excellency Lieutenant General Doctor Seretse Khama Ian Khama, one of four founding Presidents of the Giants Club, in his capacity as patron of The Tlhokomela Trust. The other Presidents of the Giants Club were represented by Minister Pacome Mubelet-Boubeya, representing His Excellency President Ali Bongo Ondimba, Cabinet Secretary Keriako Tobiko, representing His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta and Minister Ephraim Kamuntu representing His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni. Distinguished guests included the the UK Minister for Africa, world business leaders, key influencers, global philanthropists and conservation experts. There were three Giants Club Members in attendance Chelsea Congdon, Jody Allen and Trey Fehsenfeld.

The theme of the Summit was Investing in a World with Elephants. There were four key sessions: 1) The Battle to End the Illegal Ivory Trade; 2) Giving Wildlife a Value; 3) Threats and Opportunities for the Okavango River Basin and; 4) Mobilising Resources for Conservation in Africa.

## Lessons Learned

### 1. The Battle to End the Illegal Ivory Trade

While elephant poaching levels have reduced in East Africa, pressure on elephant populations in West, Central and Southern Africa remain high. As a consequence, the elephant poaching crisis is not over. The possibility of local extirpations of elephants in parts of West Africa is very high. Africa's forest elephants, a unique subspecies, are in huge trouble. Parts of Southern Africa are experiencing the highest levels of elephant poaching on the continent, including areas that have not been under threat in the past.

- An intelligence-led approach for anti-poaching is cost-effective and pro-active and yields the

greatest results in terms of the number and importance of suspects apprehended;

- Surgical interventions in the criminal trial process, especially in the form of support for prosecutors, results in improved conviction rates and an enhanced deterrence effect in cases of wildlife crime;
- Consumers of wildlife parts are often oblivious to the source of these parts and the consequences of their consumption;
- The Government of China is committed to ending its ivory trade. The ban on legal ivory trade, enacted at the end of 2017, has had a discernible impact on ivory prices and, arguably, poaching levels. However existing legal and illegal markets continue to create demand for ivory, and there remains continued pressure on elephant populations.

### 2. Giving Wildlife a Value

Most Protected Areas in Africa are under resourced and most of Africa's elephant range is unprotected

- Responsible tourism plays a critical role in justifying the continued existence and protection of wildlife and wild places to African governments and their political constituents. However there is enormous opportunity to scale up the positive impact of responsible tourism in conserving wildlife.

### 3. Threats and Opportunities to the Okavango River Basin

Most of the water feeding into the Okavango Delta and the Zambezi River System comes from the Angolan Highlands. Unless urgent action is taken, this critical water tower could be lost with devastating environmental consequences. There is major appetite from Government and the Conservation Sector to take action.

- War and associated inaccessibility has resulted

in the sources of some of Africa's greatest river systems which feed into the Okavango Delta, the Cuito and Cubango Rivers, in Angola, being left pristine;

- Pressure from hunters, farmers, illicit timber and mining operations and developers is placing the ecological integrity of these pristine river systems under major threat in the near to medium term;
- Wilderness-based tourism offers major potential as a source of revenue to offset the opportunity cost of effectively conserving the Okavango River Basin;
- A community-based approach is critical for securing local buy-in for conservation of the Okavango River Basin;
- Conservation organisations must be ready to work in partnership and support the Angolan government by providing financial, technical and expert resources to enact a plan for development of the region that ensures protection of this critical water source;
- A Water Fund could be a useful tool for supporting the Angolan Government to take positive action for conserving its portion of the Okavango River Basin.

### 4. Mobilising Resources for Conservation in Africa

The scale of the challenge involved in conserving Africa's remaining elephant populations and the landscapes they depend on is enormous. It requires transformative levels of financial, social and political capital.

- Conservation needs to look beyond philanthropy to other sources of capital if it is to succeed in both the short and long term;
- Communication around conservation needs to become much more sophisticated, mainstream and relevant to broader society if it is to contribute to mobilising social and political capital to achieve its end.

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## Key Priorities for Action

1. Scale up investment in frontline protection to ensure elephants are adequately protected, with a focus on intelligence and prosecutions through an inter-agency approach.
  2. Support the responsible wildlife-based tourism sector, with soft capital and an enabling investment environment, to play a major role in conserving high priority wildlife landscapes.
  3. Support the Angolan Government and its conservation partners to protect the Okavango River Basin.
  4. Strongly encourage Europe and all other jurisdictions to close remaining legal and illegal ivory markets.
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Left to right: Cabinet Secretary Keriako Tobiko, Minister Tshekedi Khama, Dr Max Graham, President Khama, Minister Ephraim Kamuntu, Minister Pacome Moubelet-Boubeya, UK Minister for Africa, Harriett Baldwin.

## Financial Commitments

- \$300,000 for improving prosecutions and sentencing in Uganda from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US Department of the Interior, with matched funding from Space for Giants.
- \$2 million from the EU and matched funds to train law enforcement personnel in the KAZA region.
- \$2 million 'Challenge Fund' created by Giants Club members to match funding commitments for conservation of elephants and their landscapes in Giants Club Countries.
- \$1.5 million of new work by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime to combat wildlife crime in priority countries in Africa.
- Up to \$200,000 from Space for Giants and the African Wildlife Foundation for technical support to secure responsible conservation and tourism investment into Uganda's Protected Area Network.
- \$200,000 to build capacity along the criminal trial process in Botswana from The Wild Lives Foundation.

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**Total Financial Commitments  
Announced at the 2018 Giants  
Club Summit: \$ 6.2 million**

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## Additional Key Actions

1. Support by the Giants Club to nominate wildlife rangers for Paradise International Foundation Ranger Awards (50 to be awarded each year from 2018 to 2028).
  2. The next Giants Club Summit to be held in Gabon in 2019.
  3. The first tourism concessions to be offered to responsible investors following the Giants Club Conservation and Tourism Investment Forum held in Uganda will be advertised on May 15.
  4. The Giants Club African Journalism Fellowship programme, will recruit 24 fellows in its first year, increasing coverage in Africa, and amplifying African voices in the international debate about wildlife protection and nature conservation internationally.
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The Summit was held in the presence of His Excellency Lieutenant General Doctor Seretse Khama Ian Khama.

## President Khama signs Avaaz Campaign Calling on EU to Ban Ivory

The Presidents of Botswana, Gabon and Uganda, along with representatives of 29 other African nations, joined one million people worldwide in signing a petition demanding Europe closes its ivory market.

President Khama took to the stage at the Summit to add his signature to the other Giants Club presidents who had backed the civil society petition organised by the global campaigning movement Avaaz. Botswana has the highest population of elephants in Africa.

Bert Wander, Campaign Director at Avaaz, thanked the Giants Club for its support for the campaign. He said: "European officials told us they couldn't ban ivory because not enough African leaders wanted them to. Now we're going back to them with signatures from more than 30 countries where most of Africa's elephants live to ask if they have any other excuses. The truth is there are none - the rest of the world is turning its back on the ivory trade. Why not Europe?"

*Note: The Presidents of Botswana, Uganda, and Gabon signed the petition. Kenya signed via the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and the remainder of the countries signed via the African Elephant Coalition.*

## Media Exposure

The Giant's Club Summit was attended by 39 media outlets generating broadcast, online and print exposure, reaching millions of people globally.

The media outlets include: The Independent, BBC, The Guardian, Agence France-Presse (AFP), Al Jazeera and many local and regional outlets.

## March for Giants Campaign

A virtual herd of interactive elephants travelled across social media platforms making "live" appearances on digital billboards worldwide – as part of a global movement to protect elephants. The March for Giants campaign was officially launched at the Summit in Kasane to stand beside Summit leaders and demand that world leaders speed progress to beat poaching forever.

March for Giants involved the sponsoring of thousands of unique elephants, uniting citizens, celebrities, and companies in unique activism to keep up the pressure to end poaching, while amplifying global support for Africa's fight to protect elephants in the wild.

To date there have been more than 473,000 twitter impressions and supports from stars including: Alice Eve, Anna Friel, Mark Hamill, Richard Branson and Rita Ora.

The March for Giants campaign has appeared in press coverage in nationals including the Evening Standard, The Independent, The BBC and Business Daily.

Space for Giants has committed to continuing the March for Giants campaign up until the Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade in London on 10 to 11 October 2018 and thereafter, until each and every African elephant that is alive secures sponsorship for life.



President Khama signing the petition with Bert Wander, Campaign Director of Avaaz.



Interactive conservation demonstrations were held before the Summit.



The Giants Club Summit held in Kasane, Botswana.



Thank you to all of our sponsors for their generosity

Thank you to the Tlhokomela Trust and The Government of Botswana for helping to organise and host The Giants Club Summit in 2018

