WHO WE ARE + WHAT WE DO

Space for Giants conserves Africa’s elephants and the landscapes they depend on

Space for Giants is an international conservation charity that protects Africa’s elephants and their habitats, while demonstrating the ecological and economic value both can bring. It uses science and best-practice to deliver conservation investment initiatives that attract new funding to protected areas. It supports national authorities to strengthen legal action to fight wildlife crime and protect animals in the wild. It uses technology it pioneered to reduce human-elephant conflict, and works with a wide range of individuals including academics, journalists, celebrities, philanthropists, and sports people, to bring new supporters to its cause. It is headquartered in Kenya, works in eight countries in Africa, and is registered as a charity in the UK and a non-profit in the US.

HOW WE WORK

Our integrated approach is the key to our success.

WILDLIFE PROTECTION

We know wildlife and wild landscapes can be valuable long into the future. But they must be protected today from urgent threats like poaching or poorly-planned development. We:

• Pay, train, and equip elite anti-poaching units
• Strengthen judicial action against wildlife crime
• Win indigenous support for conservation by tackling human-wildlife conflict
• Track collared elephants’ migrations

CONSERVATION VALUE

Elephants and their landscapes need to prove they have value derived from their protection not exploitation. The more we demonstrate these are precious resources that bring renewable benefits, the more support we’ll win. We:

• Secure new investment for protected areas
• Engage Africa’s political leaders
• Advocate our case to people with influence, including journalists and public figures
• Pioneer and contribute to leading research

CEO’S LETTER

Dear Giants,

It’s obvious that 2019 was the year that climate activism forced its way across the airwaves, into boardrooms, and onto agendas at global summits. No-one can today say they are unaware of the dangers to people and planet of ‘business as usual’, of unsustainably exploiting nature’s resources. At Space for Giants, we increasingly focus on proving that there is another path, one that matches development with sound ecological stewardship.

Nature-based businesses can conserve environments while increasing employment, boosting economies, and paying taxes. They drive benefits from conservation to indigenous communities, and help pay to protect Africa’s remaining wild natural places without draining precious funds from under-resourced governments. Our Conservation and Tourism Investment Initiatives - well underway in Uganda, and this year expanding into Gabon and Mozambique - guide governments as they build their wildlife and nature economies.

Those economies rely on natural assets, however: wildlife, and landscapes. Space for Giants has always been about protecting those. We continue to lessen the costs and increase the benefits for people living close to wildlife. We adapt the tactics of counter-terrorism to wildlife crime, to make anti-poaching operations lean and smart. And we ensure that legal action against suspected wildlife criminals is efficient and effective.

We pioneered this integrated approach with our work in Laikipia, Kenya, where we helped cut the number of poached elephants by up to 97% from peaks in 2012. In 2019, we doubled the number of countries where we now work, deploying that same toolkit, to eight. Together, they are home to 85% of Africa’s remaining savannah elephants and 50% of its forest elephants.

As we enter 2020, when species extinction will grab the headlines as climate did in 2019, Space for Giants is uniquely positioned to accelerate its impact, and its growth. We can only succeed thanks to the continued contributions of you, our extraordinary herd of old and new partners and donors - friends - and we look forward to your ongoing enthusiasm and support as we enter this critically-important decade.

Sincerely,

Dr Max Graham
CEO

Sources: IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group 2016; CITES-IUCN-Unep-Traffic 2013

Africa’s ivory crises

African elephant range

Elephant range ’heavily affected’ by human activity

2019 IMPACT REPORT SPACE FOR GIANTS

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Photography
Roshni Lodhia
R.J. Turner

African elephant range

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OUR WORK IN 2019

We doubled the number of countries where we operated in 2019. Together, these are home to 85% of Africa’s remaining elephants.

CONTINENTAL
Launch of Building Africa’s Wildlife Economy Working Paper series

GABON
• Human-elephant conflict strategy completed
• 20% more ‘smart’ elephant fence nationally
• 2020 Conservation Investment Initiative launched

ANGOLA
• 30 elite unit rangers selected for specialist training
• 6 elephants collared in key cross-border conservation area

BOTSWANA
• 20-ranger Rapid Response Unit created, trained, equipped, and deployed
• Specialist 4x4 supplied and modified
• Sentencing guidelines developed: 92% of convictions now lead to prison term, up from 15%

NAMIBIA
• National wildlife crime prosecution toolkit created and launched
• 31 prosecutors trained

KENYA
• 80km human-elephant conflict fence completed
• 130 frontline field rangers trained
• Ranger patrol app range increased 26% to 646 sq km / 327 sq miles
• New wildlife crime prosecution toolkit developed
• Assisted authorities to strengthen primary national wildlife legislation.

UGANDA
• First ‘smart’ elephant fence installed
• Concession bids assessed for $61m new protected area investment
• 199 prosecutors, investigators and magistrates trained

ZAMBIA
• 12-ranger Special Operations Anti-Poaching Unit created, trained, and deployed
• National wildlife crime prosecution toolkit launched

ZIMBABWE
• Baseline survey of wildlife crime trials
• Investigator training for 20 police and rangers
• Community scout unit programme launched
• 4 court monitors deployed
• National wildlife crime prosecution toolkit launched
• 40 prosecutors trained
Mobilising political, financial and technical muscle to protect Africa’s elephants and their landscapes

The Giants Club brings together African heads of state, business leaders, philanthropists, public figures, and scientists, to support Space for Giants to accelerate its impact. The four countries represented in the Club’s founding membership - Botswana, Gabon, Kenya, and Uganda - are together home to half of Africa’s savanna elephants and half of its forest elephants. The Club hosts exclusive membership events and the biennial Giants Club Summit.

**THE ARTS CLUB CONSERVATION DEBATE**

Extending the impact of pioneering conservation approaches requires new supporters globally. Space for Giants partners with The Arts Club in London to host a series of debates with very high level panelists to discuss evolving issues in conservation. The latest brought Kenya’s former environment minister, Judi Wakhungu, on stage with Namibia’s environment minister, Pohamba Shifeta, to discuss trophy hunting. Kenya opposes it, Namibia supports it.

**GABON CONSERVATION INVESTMENT INITIATIVE**

Home to more than half of Africa’s remaining forest elephants, gorillas, chimpanzees, pristine rainforests, and rarely-visited beaches, Gabon should be a tourist magnet. At the African Wildlife Economy Summit in Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, the second Space for Giants Conservation Investment Initiative was announced, to attract new businesses to support the Gabon government unlock the potential of their extraordinary conservation landscapes.

**THE ORMELEY DINNER**

Giants Club members were among the dozens of conservation supporters attending this annual fund-raiser hosted by Space for Giants CEO Dr Max Graham, Damian Aspinall, Zac Goldsmith, and Ben Goldsmith. The event gathers hundreds of people committed to supporting innovative and effective conservation organisations.

**LAUNCH OF WILDLIFE ECONOMY REPORT**

The Giants Club held a special reception in the unique setting of the Victoria Falls Steam Train to launch Space for Giants’ Working Paper, Building Africa’s Wildlife Economy. The event, on a restored 1924 steam locomotive pulling original carriages, was attended by ministerial delegations from Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, the Gambia, and the United Kingdom, the head of CITES Ivonne Higuero, executives from the World Bank, CEOs of a number of Africa’s leading nature-based tourism businesses, and Giants Club members including Sheila and Emily Walker.

**GIANTS CLUB MEMBERS’ DINNER**

Held at Syon House in central London, this was the annual gathering of the Giants Club in the presence of HRH the Duke of Cambridge. Established members and more recent joiners attended, with a number of high-profile conservation figures, to hear about developments in Africa’s conservation sector, and Space for Giants’ work in 2019 and focus in 2020.

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Every acre of land in modern Africa needs to prove its value. In emerging economies, the most compelling value is often short-term exploitation. But protecting natural landscapes safeguards resources that people and businesses need long into the future. We are increasingly focused on demonstrating conservation’s long-term economic as well as ecological benefits, and showing that investors are lining up to pump funding into green-growth sectors. That funding can help pay for conservation, easing the burden on governments with limited resources and other priorities.

**Inaugural Wildlife Economy Summit**

Space for Giants helped to develop and organise Africa’s first Wildlife Economy Summit, with the African Union and UN Environment, in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Four Heads of State, senior ministerial delegations, and 700 delegates attended, focusing on the economic opportunity that sustaining natural landscapes and wildlife brings. We provided the key research paper to the Summit, designed to support Africa’s governments as they build their nature-based economies. Barriers to new businesses would be removed, the Summit heard, and greater attention given to green growth and sustainable use of natural resources.

**Gabon Investment Initiative builds on Uganda’s success**

The idea behind our Conservation and Tourism Investment Initiatives is simple: investors want to back nature-based enterprises that protect wildlife and habitats, bring jobs, and build economies. We guide governments to build the capacity and transparent bureaucracy to attract those new businesses. We’ve supported Uganda to raise an expected $61m for five key national parks. Now Gabon has invited Space for Giants to do the same there, to help develop 13 National Parks to protect 50,000 forest elephants and 30,000 gorillas. Separately, we signed an MOU with Mozambique’s government to advise on their wildlife economy strategy.

**Loisaba: Proving the concept**

Loisaba Conservancy was the first major habitat Space for Giants helped secure. Four heads of state attended the summit we helped organise. Back row, from 2nd left: H.E. President Masisi of Botswana, H.E. President Hage Geingob of Namibia, H.E. President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe, and H.E. Edgar Lungu of Zambia.

**Seeding conservation success in Kenya**

Space for Giants helped establish the Loisaba Conservancy in Laikipia in 2014, a 57,000-acre protected area, with our ongoing support, proven the model of conservation as a driver of economic as well as ecological value in this critical landscape. In 2019, for the second year running, not a single animal was poached. Tourist visits - which help drive Loisaba’s financial self-sufficiency - grew 40%, wildlife sightings increased, and the number of people from surrounding villages employed at Loisaba. Space for Giants partnered with The Nature Conservancy, San Diego Zoo, Northern Rangelands Trust, Lion Landscapes and Elewana to support Loisaba Conservancy’s conservation efforts.

“Space for Giants is a crucial partner in the Laikipia landscape. They have over the years complemented our efforts and contributed to critical conservation, including landscape linkages, movement patterns and corridors, conflict hotspots, and mitigating human-elephant conflict. They have helped KWS reduce wildlife crime and we cannot overlook the immense partnership and assistance in capacity building on wildlife prosecutions, wildlife security, and enforcement and attending to various elephant conflict and mortality incidences.”

**DR FRED OMENGO**
Senior Research Scientist, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Mountain Conservation Area, Kenya

“The inaugural Wildlife Economy Summit set an agenda for wildlife management work across Africa. It was marked by constructive dialogue and a sense of commitment to finding common ground in building an effective African Wildlife Economy. We look forward to engaging with Space for Giants further.”

**MAXWELL GOMERA**
Head, Biodiversity and Land Branch, Ecosystems Division, UN Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Employees</th>
<th>245</th>
<th>245 employees in 2018/2019</th>
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<th>0 animals poached in 2018/2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elephants sighted per km</td>
<td>40% increase</td>
<td>2018 - 1.0 / 2019 - 1.3</td>
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<td>Invasive species removed</td>
<td>150% increase</td>
<td>2018 - 10,989 / 2019 - 23,800</td>
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Our very foundation was scientific research, with major academic studies of elephant movements in increasingly human landscapes. We continue to collar and track elephants to inform policy, and train rangers to use new technology to guide conservation management. In 2019, we began pioneering research on human-elephant conflict with forest elephants, and produced the first of a series of Working Papers to help build Africa’s wildlife economy.

Conservation landscape patrolled

SMART conservation

Combining the latest technology and training, rangers are now able to enforce conservation rules, monitor elephants and collate data to help managers plan the most effective conservation management. Rangers using Cybertracker

Elephants we collared move regularly across borders

MONITORING ELEPHANTS’ INTERNATIONAL MIGRATIONS

Partnering with the National Institute for Biodiversity and Protected Areas (INBAC), we collared three bulls and three female elephants in Angola to help plan the best policy and operations to protect elephants in Africa’s largest cross-border conservation area, KAZA.

Building Africa’s Wildlife Economy

Space for Giants, with UN Environment and Conservation Capital, produced a major Working Paper on the economic value of nature-based tourism in Africa’s State Protected Areas. It aims to show how countries can create an enabling environment for sustainable nature-based tourism investment, to diversify and grow economies, strengthen livelihoods, and enhance ecological resilience.

Conservation Science

Our first Working Paper

Impact: Conservation Value

Impact: Conservation Value

Campaigns and Advocacy

Alongside its programmes to protect elephants and their landscapes, Space for Giants recognises the need to reach more people with stories about conservation and its value. That includes existing supporters, to increase their engagement, but also others who may be sceptical or critical. Conservation is widely misunderstood in many places where we work. Our programme with specialist African journalists is designed to change that. We also continue to welcome the support and engagement of a number of high-profile advocates who help amplify the story of our work to their international audiences.

Journeys for Giants

Journeys for Giants is our commercial safari and expedition-planning arm. All profits are put back to Space for Giants’ work. This year we welcomed a series of high-profile and corporate supporters to see our work in Kenya and southern Africa, as part of exclusive holidays. Spending time with our key staff and seeing our progress creates long-lasting engagement and helps influential individuals tell our story to their networks and fans.

Supporting African Conservation Journalism

Now in its second year, our African Conservation Journalism Fellowship expanded to Uganda in 2019. It mentors and supports journalists to cover key topics in greater depth. Already, the Fellows reach a potential audience of nearly 30 million Kenyans and Ugandans. Our partnership with ESI Media means their best work appears on independent.co.uk, reaching a global audience of 102 million readers with stories of African conservation told from an African perspective. One Fellow, Caroline Chebet, has increased the number of conservation stories she wrote from two to 22 to 90, in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Broadcasts from another, Dan Kaburu, led to Kenya banning logging while it tackled forestry-sector corruption.

Impact: Conservation Value

Our Fellows have extensively covered Space for Giants’ work

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People and wild animals live ever closer in modern Africa. In some places, human-elephant conflict kills more elephants than poaching. In 2019, we completed a major fence to keep elephants out of farmers' fields in Kenya and built new ones in Gabon, Uganda, and Botswana. In Gabon - home to most of Africa's forest elephants - we helped write the first national human-wildlife conflict strategy. We are seeing intense interest in our approach from several Heads of State in southern Africa, home to most remaining savannah elephants.

West Laikipia Fence Completed

Laikipia in Kenya is one of Africa’s worst human-elephant conflict hotspots. Farmers were losing up to $1m a year in crop raids. Retaliation made human-elephant conflict the leading cause of elephant deaths. In 2019, we finished an 80km fence, with support from the Leopardess Foundation, Laikipia County Government, and the British Army Training Unit in Kenya. Miriam Mwangi’s farm lies behind the fence.

“We have a productive partnership with Space for Giants that leads to outcomes neither organisation on its own would achieve. We provided materials for human-wildlife conflict mitigation and Space for Giants provided fencing and monitoring expertise. This enables us to achieve our objectives quicker and more cost effectively.”

Njenga Kahiro, Director Water, Environment and Natural Resources, Laikipia County, Kenya

President Museveni launches the fence

FIRST UGANDA FENCE LAUNCHED

Uganda’s president, Yoweri Museveni, asked us to work with the Uganda Wildlife Authority to instal fencing at Queen Elizabeth National Park. In 2019, he launched the first 10km (of 40km). Farmers report elephant raids dropping from nightly to nil. That makes elephants safe from retaliation. “I have planted cassava, sweet potatoes, and bananas for the first time in years,” says farmer Kizza Joseph. “They are the valuable crops but there was no point planting them until now because elephants always came and ate them. Last season, my earnings rose 75%, and I could comfortably pay school fees for my children.”

“Space for Giants constructed a demo fence in a high crop raid area. It is good that they introduced this version of fence to us, and with proper maintenance and monitoring it could be very effective. This will greatly reduce spending on compensation.”

Jan Dekoker, Senior Wildlife Warden (Projects) Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Botswana
WILDLIFE LAW AND JUSTICE

Successfully bringing an end to wildlife crime needs as much attention to activities in the courtroom as it does to operations in the field. Our sector-leading wildlife justice work grew significantly in 2019, building on work in Kenya and Uganda and expanding into southern Africa. In each place, our proven approach follows the same template: review existing legal frameworks, adapt and launch with the national authority our prosecution ‘rapid reference guide’ toolkit and train key judicial officers how best to use it, then conduct key surveys of baseline court data before introducing monitoring of ongoing cases to evaluate progress. Where we pioneered this in Kenya, the Director of Public Prosecutions credited our input with helping to drive a tripling of wildlife crime convictions.

KENYA LEADS THE WORLD WITH ‘KNOW YOUR CUSTOMER’

The majority of wildlife crime prosecutions are still focused on poachers and low-level middlemen rather than bigger players higher up the criminal networks.

Why don’t the bigger fish end up in court? Chief among the reasons is that it is currently very hard to identify the source of seized consignments of illegal wildlife or forestry products, or to track precisely where they were heading.

Agents and brokers facilitating transactions and shipments are not compelled to collect sufficient information, and what they do collect is rarely comprehensive enough for investigations that may start long after the transaction.

Space for Giants is supporting Kenya to lead the world in adopting our proposed Know Your Customer initiative to close these loopholes. New legislation would compel import-export agents, shippers and brokers to ‘know their customers’, and carry out the same checks on their business as banks must for financial transactions. Kenya’s Director of Public Prosecutions will co-host with Space for Giants a major inception event with 19 different agencies in early 2020.

Laws do not currently compel shippers to track customers.

“Space for Giants has helped our work to become like a well-oiled machine. Their focus on engaging stakeholders means we have legally empowered investigators, police, and prosecution teams, enabling us to strengthen our relationship with these multiple law enforcement stakeholders. We have seen the quality of our work as Speak Out for Animals as well that of law enforcement agents improve, and the quality of prosecution of wildlife cases in Zimbabwe has also tremendously improved.”

EVER CHINODA,
Executive Director, Speak Out For Animals, Zimbabwe & Namibia

“The partnership between UWA and Space for Giants has been phenomenal. Space for Giants has built the capacity of investigators, prosecutors and judicial officers to expeditiously handle wildlife crime cases. The Rapid Reference Guide for Investigators and Prosecutors developed in partnership with Space for Giants has become an everyday point of reference for everyone involved in the fight against Wildlife Crime.”

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In 2019, we tripled the number of specialist rangers we trained for elite anti-poaching units, focusing on supporting law enforcement authorities in southern Africa, home to more than half of the continent’s savannah elephants. Deploying intelligence-led and proactive operations has a far greater impact than ever more boots on the ground. We continued programmes in central Kenya, in 2019 training 130 frontline rangers, and led moves to incorporate human rights modules into all law enforcement training we undertake.

“Engaging with Space for Giants has been hugely rewarding and positive. The Specialised Anti-Poaching Unit has already apprehended poachers and illegal wildlife traders. Communities tell us perpetrators have an increased perception of risk versus reward. This, along with alternative livelihoods, will help reduce poaching to a minimum.”

SPORT BEATTIE, Founder and CEO, Game Rangers International, Zambia

“Space for Giants took great care to identify the most effective conservation partners so every dollar goes to direct-action initiatives improving law enforcement, boosting community involvement, and ultimately protecting wildlife. With Space for Giants’ support, we are helping to resuscitate Chizarira National Park by increasing law enforcement capacity and engaging surrounding communities.”

DR NIALL MCCANN, Conservation Director, National Park Rescue, Zimbabwe

“Angola has worked hard to restore wildlife and restructure its protected area system. Space for Giants’ intervention has been very valuable. Collaring elephants greatly helped understand their movements and improve strategies for combating poaching. Creating the rapid intervention unit will enhance Field Rangers’ ability to act against poachers. Space for Giants has demonstrated their commitment and their determination to support our Protected Areas System.”

MIGUEL XAVIER, Technical Advisor of Luangwa-Luangwa and Mavinga National Parks, National Institute of Biodiversity and Conservation Areas, Angola

Training covers physical fitness as well as class sessions on proactive anti-poaching

“Protecting Africa’s largest cross-boundary conservation area

The Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA) is the size of Spain: 500,000 sq km across parts of five countries. It’s home to Africa’s largest remaining elephant populations, planet-protecting biodiversity, and economic ‘green growth’ opportunities. Wildlife crime cartels are trying to establish a foothold here. In 2019, Space for Giants, with support from the European Union, Bestseller Foundation, and the MISK Foundation, trained elite ranger forces in three countries. “I liked the new tactics we learned,” says Senior Wildlife Ranger II Tumisang Lobelwane from Botswana’s Department of Wildlife and National Parks. “This training is an amazing thing Space for Giants is doing. With the work that they’re doing for KAZA, it’s really a good thing, it’s making a big difference.”

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PROTECTING AFRICA’S LARGEST CROSS-BOUNDARY CONSERVATION AREA

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DR NIALL MCCANN, Conservation Director, National Park Rescue, Zimbabwe

“Angola has worked hard to restore wildlife and restructure its protected area system. Space for Giants’ intervention has been very valuable. Collaring elephants greatly helped understand their movements and improve strategies for combating poaching. Creating the rapid intervention unit will enhance Field Rangers’ ability to act against poachers. Space for Giants has demonstrated their commitment and their determination to support our Protected Areas System.”

MIGUEL XAVIER, Technical Advisor of Luangwa-Luangwa and Mavinga National Parks, National Institute of Biodiversity and Conservation Areas, Angola

PROTECTING AFRICA’S LARGEST CROSS-BOUNDARY CONSERVATION AREA

The Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA) is the size of Spain: 500,000 sq km across parts of five countries. It’s home to Africa’s largest remaining elephant populations, planet-protecting biodiversity, and economic ‘green growth’ opportunities. Wildlife crime cartels are trying to establish a foothold here. In 2019, Space for Giants, with support from the European Union, Bestseller Foundation, and the MISK Foundation, trained elite ranger forces in three countries. “I liked the new tactics we learned,” says Senior Wildlife Ranger II Tumisang Lobelwane from Botswana’s Department of Wildlife and National Parks. “This training is an amazing thing Space for Giants is doing. With the work that they’re doing for KAZA, it’s really a good thing, it’s making a big difference.”

“Engaging with Space for Giants has been hugely rewarding and positive. The Specialised Anti-Poaching Unit has already apprehended poachers and illegal wildlife traders. Communities tell us perpetrators have an increased perception of risk versus reward. This, along with alternative livelihoods, will help reduce poaching to a minimum.”

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This year will be critical for the long-term preservation of Earth’s natural biodiversity. With each year that passes, it becomes ever more obvious that every acre of land in increasingly-crowded Africa needs to prove its economic value. Many of those acres already have immense ecological value. But as economic growth surges, it is financial reward that’s most urgently prized. Our focus in 2020 will be to prove that conserving natural spaces secures financial as well as environmental benefits for generations to come.

The key thing is biodiversity: the natural balance of many species existing in a particular ecosystem. In October 2020, world leaders will gather in Kunming in China, for a once-in-a-decade meeting to update global targets designed to protect that natural balance. We plan to increase our focus on programmes that accelerate that global mission. This includes our Conservation Investment Initiatives, to bring fresh funding to under-resourced protected areas so they and the biodiversity they hold can survive. It also means expanding our proven wildlife protection activities to safeguard biodiversity in the first place.

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OUR PARTNERS

SPACE FOR GIANTS IS PROUD TO COMBINE ITS EFFORTS WITH A HUGE NUMBER OF BRILLIANT ORGANISATIONS.

OUR SUPPORTERS

A GIANT THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO GAVE LARGE OR SMALL IN 2019, INCLUDING:

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OUR SUCCESS PROTECTING AFRICA’S ELEPHANTS AND THEIR LANDSCAPES IS ONLY THANKS TO PEOPLE LIKE YOU. EACH CONTRIBUTION SMALL OR LARGE ADDS UP.

You can support or work by:
- Giving a one-off or regular donation
- Fundraising for us
- Joining a Journey for Giants
- Adding your elephant to the March for Giants
- Leaving a legacy to Space for Giants

Full details at spaceforgiants.org/support-us

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

CONTACT
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